



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

Nov 14th - Monthly Competitions – People (from September), Beginners Portfolio, and Creative in Camera
- Arthur Kingdon presenting on his trip to Coll

Dec 12th - Monthly Competitions – Anenomes, Open Portfolio

NEXT EVENT

Tuesday Nov 14th: Monthly Meeting

The Meeting (start time 2000hrs) will be at our normal venue - The Casson Centre, Rodway Road, Patchway, BS34 5DQ ([map](#)) It is easiest to access it via Durban Road, off Highwood Road. The Casson Centre is the left hand part of the Patchway Community Centre, immediately next door to the Patchway Town Council Offices. There is off-road parking adjacent to the Centre and further spaces along Rodway Road, near to the local Spa shop.

The monthly competition theme is 'Creative in Camera'. If you are unsure about the theme then contact Pete, otherwise send your digital files to Pete by midnight on Sunday November 12. There will also be our annual Beginners Portfolio which is for three individual images, which do not have to have a common theme but should preferably show a range of techniques. Contact Pete if you need guidance on what constitutes a 'Beginner' or look on the Competition Rules page. We will also have our 'People' competition which was held over from September. Unsure about entering? Even if you don't feel you have any winners, send some in to benefit from the audience feedback - it's an ideal way to learn.

With three competitions, there will only be time for a short presentation and this will be by Arthur Kingdon on his recent trip to the Island of Coll

RECENT EVENTS

October Meeting

Monthly Theme Competition – Animal Behaviour

There were 25 entries for this popular theme.

In solid first place with 7 votes was an excellent shot of mating toads in Cromhall Quarry by Trevor Rees.





In second place was Mark Drayton with a shot from Bali of a Moray being cleaned by two different shrimps.

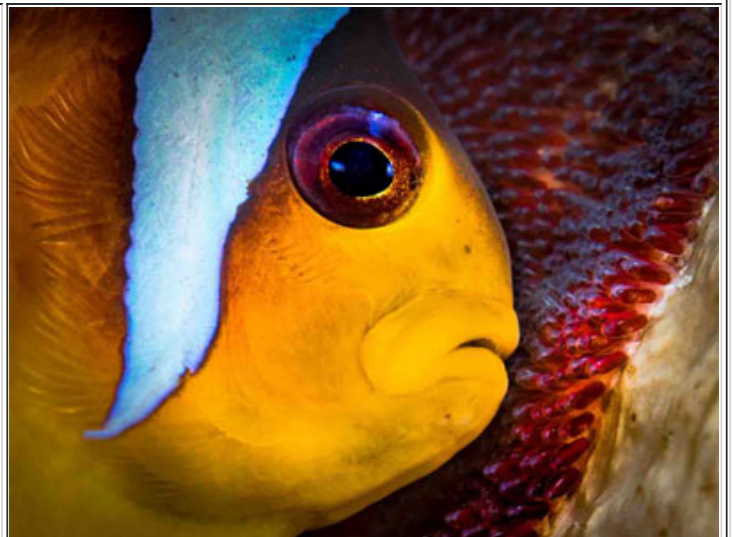
There were four entries tied for thirdplace:

Kirsty Andrews with a shot of an Octopus feeding on a razor clam from the Shetlands



Will Clarke with a rare image of a Basking shark in shallow water

Mark Drayton with an Anemone fish oxygenating its eggs





Arthur Kingdon with a shot of a Wolfeel from Fantasy Island, in Canada.

Presentation - Big Beasts, and Crazy Techniques by Nick More

Nick More is a photographer who hasn't been on the scene too long, but his images are making an impact. He's only been shooting underwater for four years, although he's logged over 2000 dives in his career, and generally makes several trips a year to exotic locations.

Nick explained how his addiction to underwater photography, and entering competitions started on a course with 'Duxy' in Egypt. Nick's first attempt at entering a competition at the tail end of that trip bagged him a win with a very credible shot of a turtle over a reef. He's been hooked ever since and is quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with in the UK.

Nick emphasized that his most important shot on any dive was of his hand, with an extended arm. He uses this technique to ensure that the exposure is right before, and then went on to say he's got a penchant for deep blue backgrounds, similar to Alex Mustard's images.

Nick shared an array of images of large subjects from salt water Crocodiles from Cuba, to Blue Sharks off the coast of Penzance. All of these were high quality.

Nick has built up a reputation of producing stylized images using panning techniques. He shared many competition worthy images of sharks, admittedly among his favorite subjects.

He explained the settings he uses, and the technique:

Front Curtain Sync

Two strobes with diffusers off to freeze the subject

F18-f22 – 1/8th to 1/15th

ISO 200 (Nick advised, he's heard that this is the ISO sweet spot for the Nikon D500)

Front curtain allows you to ensure that your composition remains intact, and he starts his panning from tail to head, which produces some very ethereal images, which he believes are 'Marmite' shots.

He's certainly on his way to establishing his own style of photography.

The audience at BUPG were all enthused by Nick's talk, and safe to say many of us were envious of the quality of Nick's work.

Nick's comments:

My talk was entitled Big Beasts and Crazy Techniques.

I focused on traditional lighting and shooting techniques for shooting large animals underwater, I presented wide angle images of subjects such as sharks, turtles, mantas and crocs, from around the world, including the UK.

In the immortal words of John Cleese, I then introduced something completely different and challenged the audience with alternative techniques such as slow shutter speed panning shots, swirls & whirls and zoom blur. I presented similar subjects shot with these creative techniques to contrast against the more traditional techniques

to try and demonstrate that using these methods, allow images to stand out against the crowd of samey pictures flooding social media and competitions.

These types of pictures divide opinion & I described them as marmite images. I particularly enjoyed the interaction with the knowledgeable BUPG audience and was happy the feedback allowed the images to spark debate & discussion.

There is a follow up talk to this, entitled Small beasts & even crazier Techniques, that id love to come back to Bristol to present in future!

Regards,

Rob