



NEWSLETTER

April 2014

In this issue: **Hello from the Editor** (once again).
Important Stuff (Not a lot, but worth taking note.).
Events and Shows (Talks, Shows, Workshops, Exhibitions, etc).
For Sale & Wanted (Your used equipment please).
Photo Gallery (Some of ~~our best~~ my work!!!).
Useful Info, Tips & Enquiries (Things that may help).
Photographic Opportunities (Dates not to miss, including Easter!!!).
Sayanara (...and its goodbye from him).

Happy Easter Everyone **

Gheesh, you'll have to be very bored to read all this stuff – but a word of warning: If you dare put off reading the forthcoming **Photographic Opportunities**, then you'll miss a lot of good chances this coming Easter Weekend

** Am I still allowed to refer to Easter in print, or is it not politically correct anymore?

I was thrilled that Jane White won the Exeter Camera Club annual print competition for the second year in a row. And for those that don't know, Jane uses an iPhone and her iPad Tablet for taking photographs. Congratulations Jane.

Important Stuff

Where on Earth are we? John Baker has been looking for a practical method to assist us in finding exact locations that is far more reliable and accurate than using only a Postcode. One system he considers worth a try is called 'Mapcode' which provides a very short address for any location on Earth. It seems quite easy to use and is accurate within a few metres. So please take a look, feedback to the club committee would be much appreciated on this issue. **Direct link:** [Mapcode](#)

Committee Meeting Synopsis: None this month, we didn't have a meeting ;o)
The next committee meeting is on 13 May, So if there are any issues you would like raised, please mention it to one of us before then. (You'll recognise committee members by the small white placard hung around their necks on a Thursday evening.)

Events and Shows

- **Exhibition:** 'British Wildlife Photography Awards' at the RAMM museum, Queen St, Exeter. 26 March - 20 July. Free and Open to anyone. More info – [HERE](#).
- **Show:** 'Digital Imaging Show' at Sandy Park on 17 September 2014
Free and Open to anyone but you need to register. More info – [HERE](#).

- **Workshop:** 'Dartmoor Springtime Workshop'. 3 days - £450
LANDSCAPE - MACRO - DIGITAL PROCESSING - ADVANCED OR BEGINNER
Friday 30th May - Sunday 1st June 2014 with David Clapp.

The workshop is based in a fabulous location just 15minutes from the moors, based in a fabulous 14th century ale house, snug in a valley in sleepy South Devon!

Whether expert or beginner, there is something for everyone. Expect technical and compositional advice as well as evenings of lively conversation and post processing assistance guaranteed. More info - info@davidclapp.co.uk)

For Sale & Wanted (Your used equipment please).

Canon 5d Mk2. I am selling my Canon 5D Mk2 body. It has shot 10,000 frames, is in good condition, and works perfectly. I will include a couple of batteries and a 16Gb memory card. I'm asking £950 ono for it. If anyone is interested, contact me as follows; Nigel Cheffers-Heard, 0771 261 4514. 3 Vuefield Hill, Exeter. EX2 9NW.

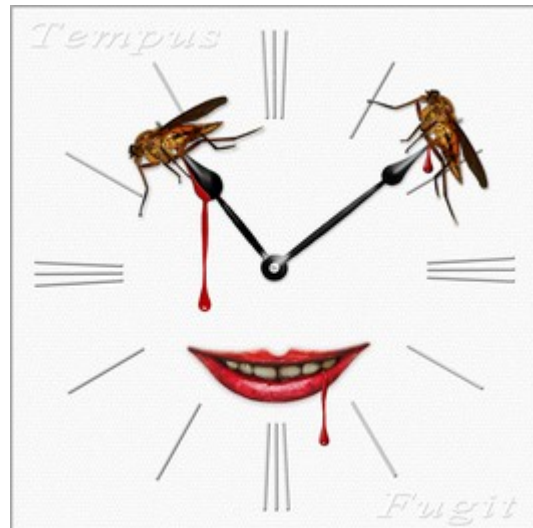
Photo Gallery

As no one else sent a photo in this month, here's another one of my recent images (Yes it's still good to be editor):

Created for the ECC April Visual Art group meeting entitled 'Time':

'Time-Flies' by Adrian Harris.

If you would like to submit an image, please keep the files down to a manageable size. For your convenience I would suggest a maximum file dimension similar to that submitted for club projection: Max 1,400 pixels wide, and 1,050 pixels tall. **JPG's only** and **please** keep the file size to less than 400kb.



And now a man who takes proper photographs... our very own Mehran Ellis collecting the Knightshayes Trophy after winning the *WCPF Competition* with his image 'Airborn'.



'Flight' by Mehran Ellis.



Mehran with the Knightshayes Trophy.

Useful Info & Enquiries

I was asked to précis important snippets from various sources, so here we go...

WCPF March Newsletter highlights...

- Margaret Collis introduces her 'MY PHOTOGRAPHIC WORLD' on page 5.
- 26/27th April Print Tutorial Days in detail from page 8.
- useful tips on Composition from Andy Beel on page 13.
- World Record challenge in Princesshay Exeter ...details on page16.
- plus other spurious articles :o)

For more info, [HERE](#) is your direct link to the WCPF Newsletters.

The WCPF website is well worth a visit as it contains a host of useful information for South West Photographers. So ensure you have a browse around - www.wcpf.org.uk

Tips

This **TIP** section is still just a brainstorm, and due to the enormous lack of contributors, this months tip is aimed at those who may require a little help getting a bit more 'oomph', out of their images.

Tip1: FX Software- Topaz & Nik Picture FX Software...

Many people in our club if asked would confirm that they use some sort of photo-enhancing software to make their images look 'so gorgeous'. This maybe using layer masks to add textures, or special programs to create HDR images and add frames, or more frequently to extract more detail, convert to black & white, or just give 'that little bit extra punch'.

Although many have these extra programs integrated or linked through their 'more normal' editing software such as Photoshop, Lightroom, or Elements, to name but a few. Some may not realise that often photo enhancement programs are available as stand alone programs and can be bought and run in independently without expensive editing software being needed.

I often use some of Topaz Labs software (Topaz Adjust) for adding a little punch where needed to colour images and prefer Nik (Silver FX) software by Google for my Black & White conversions.

Bought as collections these can still be quite expensive, but good things have happened in the last few years which help a little - or in some cases a lot. The complete Nik Collection was bought by Google and the price dropped by many hundreds of pounds to around £99. And although that may sound expensive, each one of the Nik pieces of software used to cost about £300 a piece. The snag is though, that I don't think you can now buy any of the Nik software other than by buying that whole collection at one go!

Now if you are still in shock at that price - and after all £99 is still a lot of money - the Topaz could be the way to go. Topaz in their wisdom have opted to sell each of their photo enhancement pieces of software individually at very reasonable prices. Better still, if you time it right and grab a special offer, their prices frequently have a %30 or more

reduction. Topaz Adjust which I love, does great contrast, detail, and color adjustments and is available currently for around £30 and some of their FX programs are less than £20.

...and for previous 'Topaz Detail' customers, in case you do not know already, Topaz has just released a free Topaz Detail 3.2 upgrade.

Direct link to Topaz Labs website... <http://www.topazlabs.com>

Direct link to the Nik Collection website... <http://www.google.co.uk/nikcollection/>

Tip2: 31-tips-for-taking-the-perfect-wedding-photo Great tips and they are very amusing. Click [HERE](#) and enjoy.

Tip3: How to photograph a pride of lions with a Nikon D800E.

...and this certainly is an interesting use for a camera – Weblink [HERE](#).

Photographic Opportunities

A variety of upcoming dates where you may want to take your camera...

For Nature Lovers:

It is now Puffin time on Lundy. Puffins have been seen since mid April this year and will hopefully stay around until July. So if you are keen to see some get your trip booked soon. H'mm, just a thought, would Lundy be an idea for an ECC trip?

How to get there... By boat from April to October. The MS Oldenburg sails three or four times a week from Bideford or Ilfracombe in north Devon. More details via Lundy Shore Office 01271 863636 and www.lundyisland.co.uk

Also for those who like birds – and red squirrels. Brownsea Island near Poole is a superb place to visit this time of year and one of my personal favourites ...if you have a very long lens! **How to get there...** Regular ferries run from Poole and Sandbanks to Brownsea all day. (PS. Some interesting and rather expensive properties to be seen at Sandbanks!)

The Exeter Festival of South West Food & Drink: Friday 25th to Sunday 27th April. Exeter Castle & Northernhay Gardens. Plus Festival After Dark Party Nights on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday which include food, ale and live music.

Long list of various 'Easter Photo Ops' here....

APRIL

18 April. Lands End Trial Date: Classic Car and Motorcycle Trial. Free to watch. More info including best viewing locations - www.themotorcyclingclub.org.uk

18 April. South Devon Railway Easter Transport Extravaganza at Buckfastleigh. Classic vehicles, Fairground rides & historic Steam & Diesel trains. More info - www.southdevonrailway.org

18 April. HSCC (Historic Sports & Classic Car Club) Circuit Racing at Thruxton, Andover.

18 - 21 April. Torbay Easter Hockey Festival. Penwill Way, Paignton. Devon.

18 - 21 April. South Devon Railway - Easter Gala 'Delivering the Goods' (Steam & Diesel). Steam loco 46521 visiting, Plus vintage vehicles on Sunday and Monday.

19 April. Plym Valley Railway, Steam Train brake van rides. Details - www.plymrail.co.uk

5 - 21 April. Anderton and Rowlands Fun Fair on Paignton Green.

19 April. 'The Dartmouth Express'. Steam locomotive 'Britannia'. London to Kingswear.

Times:	out / return	Paignton	12:00 / 17:30
		Westbury	09:35 / 20:15
		Kingswear	13:00 / 16:45

19 – 20 April. Pageant of Transport, Beach Lawns, Weston-S-Mare.

21 April. The Crash Box & Classic Car Club Easter Monday Car Display at Teignmouth.

25 - 27 April. Exeter Festival of South West Food & Drink.

26 April. The Great Britain VII Tour: Steam Locomotives... 'Down Train':

London 'Bulleid Pacifics' to Exeter; Pulled by a 'Castle' plus a 'Hall' to Truro.

27 April. The Great Britain VII Tour: Steam Locomotives... 'Up Train':

Falmouth to Bristol with a 'Britannia' + 'Castle'.

28 April. Exercise Tiger, Anniversary Commemorations. Torcross/Slapton Beach, South Devon. Historic Military Vehicles on display. More info - www.exercisetigerslapton.org

MAY

2 - 4 May. BMAD Motorbike Festival 2 - 4 May. Paignton Seafront.

Stunt Bikes, Freestyle, BMX, & great live bands, plus a beer tent.

2 - 5 May. Abbey Hill Steam Rally Yeovil. Steam Engines, Classic Cars, Motorcycles, Tractors, Stationary Engines, Vintage Caravans and Organs, Military Vehicles, Commercial Vehicles, etc.

9 - 11 May. Thundercats (powerboat surf racing) at Watergate Bay, Cornwall.

More details and full race calendar - www.thundercatracing.com

10 – 12 May. Dart Music Festival, Dartmouth.

11 May. VSCC Wiscombe Park Hill climb. Vintage & Historic race car hillclimb at Wiscombe Park, Nr Honiton. More info - www.vsccl.co.uk

11 May. South West Enduro Championship Off-road MC racing: Enduro Sprint - CMXC. More info - www.camel-valemcc.net/events.htm

16 - 18 May. Dart Music Festival. Dartmouth.

22 - 24 May. Devon County Show, Westpoint Exeter. Details - www.devoncountyshow.co.uk

24 May. 'Devon Biggest Street Celebrations'. Classic car show within the biggest street opening celebrations in Devon including a street market, concert, bands, trials & competitions. Abbrook Park (Kingsteigton?) TQ12 3PS.

23 - 26 May. OCRDA Powerboat Racing. Beacon Quay, Torquay.

24 May. IWA National Trailboat Festival, Grand Western Canal, Tiverton.

24 - 26 May. Launceston Steam & Vintage Engine Rally. Trebant Farm, Altarnun Launceston.

26 May. South West Enduro Championship Off-road MC racing: Storridge Woods - Xmoor MCC, Exmoor. More info - <http://www.xmoor.co.uk>

JUNE

7 - 8 Jun. Weston Super Mare - Beach Moto X.

13 – 15 June. The Edge Race Cup. Kite surfing at Exmouth seafront. More details [HERE](#).

15 June. The 5th Ringtons Velo Vintage. Exmouth to Exeter vintage cycle ride in period costume. Short Route: Exe Trail Cycle Path along the Exe estuary.

Long Route: Includes East Budleigh & Woodbury. More info - www.velovintage.co.uk

JULY

11 - 13 July. Tiverton Balloon Festival

12 - 13 July. Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering.

18 – 19 July. Exeter Foresight presents 'Photography World'. You are invited to bring your camera to this two day event in Princeshay in Exeter. Lots of photo opportunities are setup, plus the ISCA Historical Photographic Collection displayed in Bedford Square. (Full details are shown on the attached **Exeter Foresight** document)

26 July. Mid Devon Show, Tiverton

AUGUST

1 - 8 August. Sidmouth Folk Week.

2 - 5 August. Paignton Championship Dog Show, Westpoint Exeter.

15 - 17 August. Beautiful Days Festival, Escot Park.

If you are aware of some forthcoming events that might interest cub members please do let us know. My email details are at the end.

Sayanara

A BIG THANK YOU... to all those who kindly volunteer each club night helping to setup and pack away the chairs, tables, projection equipment, etc. And also to those who make tea, coffee and wash and clean up every week. Your efforts are much appreciated.

For those that do not know, there is no rota for any of this work. Any club member who wishes to assist is welcome to roll their sleeves up and join in.

On this note, whilst being inducted as a key holder for the Cardinal Newman Centre, the manager pointed out that we - the Exeter Camera Club - leave rather a lot of crumbs and bits of silver paper on the floor every week. I have to admit, I presumed there would be a hired cleaner for the centre. Well it appears there is, but she comes in just before our club evening starts and we get the venue at a 'good rate' because we are meant to do our own cleaning. So if someone would like to grab a mop or brush at the end of the evening it would be very helpful, as this task has to be done before we can lock up and go home!

Finally... I would like to say well done to the club members who attempted to jury-rig a digital projection system, so that everyone could see the competition prints on judgement day. Although this was only partially successful on the evening, a lot was learned and it was felt that with more development a setup along those lines will eventually succeed. And an especially big thank you to Mehran who risked his DSLR on the evening (I say risked, as DSLR sensors run very hot and even the best with built in video capabilities are currently limited to a 30minutes maximum 'on' time).

Adrian Harris