

# Infinity

Newsletter of Hanham and Kingswood Photo Club

## **Editorial**

Issue Fifteen - April 2024

This is the fifteenth edition of Infinity. April, it is officially spring, happy Easter. We have had a couple of rain free days recently (managed to cut the lawn) let us hope that the weather improves. The English seem to have an obsession with weather, whenever you greet someone the first thing we both comment on is the weather, why??

We come to the end of the competition season on 17th April, with the Print and Digital image of the Year Competition. We have seen some very good images from the members over the last twelve months, I believe the judge will have a difficult job selecting award winners. Just a reminder that competitions start all over again on the 15th May with the Bristol and Avon Competition, entries must have been taken in the BS and BA postal code areas within the past twelve months. On the 5th June it is the first quarterly competition. ( Handing in date is 15th May )

This month we have an article by a regular contributor to the newsletter, Peter Weaver. Peter has written an article on different lenses and focal attachments and there uses.

I am sure there are other members who have something interesting to write. There must be a wealth of information you could share with the members. Help me out, I am sure someone has a short story of your holiday exploits, past experiences, trips you plan in the future, club outings, competition news, future events which may appeal to members. Jokes, funny stories, cartoons, nothing is off limits. Send your stories etc. for publication to :- **theeditorhandkpclub@gmail.com** The deadline for newsletter articles is 24th of the month..\_

## **Chairman's Chatter**

April, the clocks have gone forward, which is making for lighter evenings, ideal for the club outings Peter has organised.

One very important meeting this month is the AGM., I know this is not one of your favourite meeting of the year, and it is easy to find an excuse not to attend. H&K Photo Club has just completed its first full calendar year since the amalgamation of KPS. & HPS. For a new club formed out of the members of two, for want of a better word, competing Societies, it has been a very successful year. There was always an underlying agenda by some members of both societies that it would not work, and there would be a them and us situation, but from what I have witnessed there has been a very cordial atmosphere, and members from both Societies have mixed very well giving us a lively and vibrant club. Whilst other clubs have been losing members and ceasing to exist we have increased our membership throughout the year, so we must be doing something right. Getting back to the AGM., the club has a stable future both financially and with the number of members going forward.

It is in all of our interests to keep it that way and build on it. As I mentioned in the last newsletter we only have very small committee, and should one or two of them stand down the club would be in trouble, this is what has caused the demise of some clubs recently. We have a very good committee, they work well together and each one of the officers goes over and above in their efforts for the club, however we could do with a couple of more members volunteering to come onto the committee. The key positions which need filling are, outside competition secretary, equipment secretary and committee member without portfolio. If any member is interested in getting involved with the administration of the club, please let me or anyone of the committee know. You will not be thrown in the deep end, there will always be someone to guide you until you feel confident with your duties.

### **Quarterly Competition No. Four**

This is the final round of the competition when the overall winners of both the print and DPI categories will be revealed. Fourth quarterly award winners are listed below together with the overall final top three places of the competition.

The judge John Taylor gave very positive comments and some useful suggestions whilst judging our images. He was impressed by the standard of the images and commended the members.

We now wait until the 17th April when the print and digital image of the year will be announced.

### Fourth Quarterly Results

<u>DPI's</u>		<u>Print's</u>	
1st	Andy Haynes	1st	Geoff Mallin
2nd	Julie Kaye	2nd	Geoff Mallin
3rd	Peter Weaver	3rd	Derek Webber
Highly Commended	Steve Hallam	Highly Commended	Derek Webber
" "	Tom Sharp	Commended	Geoff Mallin
" "	Keith Sheppard	"	Steve Pickering
Commended	Sue Bennett		
"	Kim Pickup		
"	Peter Weaver		

### Overall Winners Prints

1st	Geoff Mallin	55 points
2nd	Derek Webber	41 points
3rd	Kim Pickup	26 points

### Overall Winners DPI's

1st	Steve Hallam	33 points
2nd	Peter Weaver	32 points
3rd	Kim Pickup	30 points

### **Tony Cooper ARPS. AWPf - Don McCullin Retrospective**

This was an evening many of us looked forward to and Tony did not disappoint, it was an excellent evening. Tony talked to us this evening about Don McCullin the Somerset based world famous photographer known particularly for his war photography. Tony knows Don personally so he was able to relate many unknown facts about him. Tony who is known for his dry wit and laid back approach always researches his subject thoroughly and this evening was no exception, at the end of his talk you were left with a feeling that we had just had a condensed biography of Don McCullen. We saw Dons early images, from when he was learning his trade, the images taken at many of the war zones he covered, finishing with some local landscapes.

## **Malcolm Sales QUEP, ARPS, ABIPP - An Introduction to Smartphone Photography**

Malcolm joined us on zoom this evening from his home in Rushcliffe. Using a range of free Apps. Malcolm demonstrated how to manipulate your Smartphone images into quality photographs. I believe that most of us were surprised with how a Smartphone image can be improved using free software. Malcolm did use some AI. which would not be acceptable in photographic competitions, but it is acceptable for your own personal use. A very interesting and enlightening evening.

## **Don Bishop ARPS - Visions of the Landscape**

This evening Don showed us some of his outstanding landscape photographs. Don who lives in West Huntspill travels all over Great Britain, taking his landscapes, seascapes, mountains, rivers and snow scenes, he is very meticulous ensuring the lighting is just right, going back to the same location several times until he achieves the image he wants. not forgetting Dons passion Railway photography. He also showed us many images of steam trains taken at locations selected by Don when on his railway trips. This is how Don got into photography some 35 years ago via his railway hobby and wanting to record trains. This was an exceptional evening with some first class images shown by Don, which was appreciated, and enjoyed by all who attended.

## **Hanham and Kingswood Photo Club Zoom Details**

We try and zoom all of our meetings where appropriate, subject to technical issues. The code is always the same.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81475977522?pwd=SHQ1TE5xWkY4R3pzUlpPUh0cUhuQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 814 757 7522 **Pass Code** 72Vy8n

## **Program Matters - April**

**Tea Rota** - There is an updated Tea Rota on the Club website and on the notice board.

3rd April Peter Weaver & Mike Abrahams

17th April Keith Sheppard & Phil Oates

10th April Linda & Richard Parker

24th April Russell Lawrence & Brian Hacker

**Please liaise with each other with regard to who brings the milk/Biscuits. If for some reason you will be unable to attend the club when it is your turn on the rota, could you please either swap places with someone on the rota, or find someone to take your place. Thankyou.**

## **3rd April - Studio Evening**

This will be an instructional evening on how to set up and use studio lights to get different effects on the sitter.

## **10th April - Show & Tell Evening**

Have you taken many images of something different or very creative which you are concerned about entering the image in a competition because of the judge's comments. Tonight is your opportunity to show these images. We need at least six members to give a 10 minute presentation on any photographic subject, this is an ideal opportunity to show those images that are languishing in the back of the cupboard.

## 17th April - **Print & Digital Image of the Year**

All of the members which has received awards in the quarterly competitions are judged again to find the overall winning images.

## 24th April - **Annual General Meeting**

This is the members opportunity to select the administration committee, and propose any changes that would benefit the club. This is your evening, please come along.

**Procedural Reminder** - The agenda and any resolutions (Duly proposed and seconded) shall be displayed on the notice board at the club meeting room at least fourteen days in advance of said meeting in addition to email, telephone, letter, or verbally at the next regular meeting of the club.

Any matter, including change to the constitution, which a member requires to discuss at the AGM. shall be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary no later than fourteen days before the date of the meeting with a copy of said matter being posted on the club notice board for at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

## Thursday 25th April - **Presentation by Hanham & Kingswood Photo Club to Norton & Radstock Photographic Society at their club house.**

I believe that we have at least six of our members giving a presentation, it is hoped that other members will come along to support them.

## [Future Club Outings - Details of all outings are also on the club website](#) [Club Outings - 2024](#)

### **Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th June - Black Country Museum & Dudley Zoo**

Peter is organising a weekend trip to Dudley to visit The Black Country Museum on Saturday, then Dudley Zoo on the Sunday.

Obviously you can choose to visit something else. With this trip Peter is not booking your accommodation. Cynthia has recommended The Premier Inn in Kingswinford, which is not too far away, it has a Beefeater restaurant on site.

The Premier Inn, Dudley road, Kingswinford Dudley, DY6 8WT

Sat Nav.directions - DY6 8WT

What three words [///hint.market.tries](#)

Please book your accommodation and the attractions tickets well in advance, both can be booked up early. This should be a chance to get some really good images. Please let Peter know if you are intending to come along.

### **Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th October - Ironbridge & Much Wenlock**

Four days in Shropshire in a beautiful part of the country. Lots to see including Blists Hill Victorian Town, Attingham Park (National Trust) and the many attractions within Ironbridge itself. Peter will be staying longer but he will be organising events over the three days.

Peter is looking to book good quality reasonably priced accommodation for all, could you let Peter know by 31st December 2023 if you would be coming along. If you want to book your own accommodation nearby, that's fine.

This is an ideal area for some good photographs together with the social element.

## **My Accessories** - Peter Weaver

You might have the latest camera with all the up-to-date features but the quality of the image is determined by the quality of the lens you use. You do not have to buy the same manufacturer's lens for your camera. If you have the correct adapter you can choose, say a Sigma lens on your camera. Look closely at the independent lenses, as some are better than others. Also some systems change lens mounts and type of lenses with an upgrade- eg. Canon DSLR lenses are different to those used on their mirrorless cameras, so you need to buy an adapter.

Do not forget that with cropped sensors the focal length increases so the figures in the following apply to full frame sensors.

### **Standard Lens**

A fixed focus lens, say 50mm. I started out with one of these lenses and only being able to use one of these made me think a lot more about my photography. You have got to move to the correct viewpoint. These lenses are often faster, eg. up to f1.8 or f1.4.

### **Zoom and Fixed Focal Length Lenses**

Many people disagree with what they want in their camera bag. Some people only use fixed focal length lenses such as 24mm, 35mm, 100mm, 200mm, etc.

These lenses whilst some consider offer better image quality do restrict you if you need to get a different viewpoint relatively quickly. If you do not know what you are going to photograph your camera bag will be full with lots of lenses and sometimes to get the photograph you want you will have to keep changing lenses. Zoom lenses offer you the flexibility although the widest aperture on these lenses are f4, or f5.6, are not as wide as some fixed focus lenses, unless you decide you want to spend some extra money.

### **Standard Zoom**

This typically covers 28mm to 70mm, so 28mm is towards the wide angle and 70mm. towards the telephoto. This is the standard lens for me and is suitable for most photographic subjects.

### **Wide Angle Zoom and Wide Angle Standard Lenses**

Mine is 16-35mm, particularly useful for landscapes where you might want to include more of the scene. It also allows me to make more use of foreground interest.

### **Mid-Range telephotos or Mid Range Standard Lenses**

Covers 70mm to 200mm. Very useful if you need to get closer to your subject but are unable to walk there.

With the longer lenses you run the risk of getting an image suffering from shake but these days more lenses offer image stabilisation and also some cameras do as well. This can give you an extra four or five stops or more. With portraits these lenses enable you to take images of your subject without 'crowding' and your landscapes you can compress the view.

### **Long Telephoto Lenses**

For example 300mm to 500mm. These lenses are much more expensive and you should only buy these if you think you will need to use these lenses often enough. They are heavy to carry around.

### **Macro Lenses**

These offer great detail and a shallow depth of field but require a lot of care to use successfully.

### **Close-Up Lenses**

These look like filters and screw onto the front of the lens.

## **Shift and Tilt Lenses**

Used often in architectural photography to correct converging verticals. The camera back is kept parallel to the building and the lens is tilted in the same way as rising front movement of some technical cameras.

## **Mirror Lenses**

Used for long focal lengths and usually with a fixed aperture, which some people find is too slow and they can be fairly fragile.

## **Fish-Eye Lenses**

These can cover 360 degrees and give a drastic, distorting effect. Very much a special effect lens.

## **Adapters**

Very useful, you can extend the length of your lens such as 1:4 or 2.

There are a few decisions you need to make when deciding which lens to take with you. If you own several lenses your camera bag could become heavy and make your walk uncomfortable. It does depend on the photographic subject you will be shooting. I have spent the most that I can afford on my lenses, but I do intend keeping them for the rest of my life and used well should help me get some great photographs. It would be remiss of me if I did not mention.....

## **Compact Cameras**

More and more photographers are ditching their heavy bag of DSLR's and selection of lenses and opting for a compact camera. These are lighter smaller and can produce equally if not better results than DSLR's. Technology has moved forward in recent years and the compact camera of today is very high spec, full frame sensor, far more pixels than you need, live view finder, and compact telephoto lens.. This was led by Fuji initially, followed very quickly after by Nikon, and Canon ect. The latest offering from Fuji is the Fujicoulour Rippla-1ST, mirrorless digital camera. This has an X-Trans CMOS 26 million pixel full frame sensor, a stabilised body with a live view finder, and a LCD touch screen with all the adjustment you could possibly need. File formats Raw, JPEG, TIFF, ect. High speed processor, built in flash. What is unique about the body, it is the first camera to use an alexa type voice control to change the settings, ie. ISO, aperture, speed, single, or multiple shot, one or two stop compensation, in fact all of the camera settings. The body coupled with a interchangeable 28mm to 270mm f2.8 compact zoom lens weighs only 990 grams, which is currently on sale for £1750, you may find it cheaper elsewhere. One body, plus one lens, you cannot travel much lighter than that. For those of you who are in the market for a new camera it is worth looking at a compact camera, I believe this is the way forward.

## **Funnies**

We ordered a Chinese takeaway from a local place (I won't name them). I have just been to pick up my order and as I was driving home I heard the bags rustling and moving!! What's going on ?? My first thought was something had got in the bag, I thought I could see a little pair of eyes peering out at me. I was driving so I leaned forward, picked up the bag and put it on the passenger seat and there it was again, more rustling and little eyes looking out from behind the prawn crackers. I thought it's got to be a rat or a mouse or something, so I carefully pulled the bag down, and there it was.....

A Peeking Duck

I needed a new password containing eight characters.-

So I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

I went to the zoo yesterday and saw a piece of toast in a cage. I asked the keeper "What it was"  
He replied "Bread in captivity"