

Hexham & District Photographic Society Newsletter January 2010 - Issue 32

PHOTOGRAPHY IN PUBLIC PLACES

The article below was published in the January RPS monthly journal. There have been lots of letters in national newspapers in recent days so I thought this may be of interest to you.

PHOTOGRAPHY IN PUBLIC PLACES

The Society has had a number of queries in recent weeks relating to taking photographs in public places, and has put advice on the issue on its website at www.rps.org/news/story/141, along with a link to the Metropolitan Police website, at www.met.police.uk/about/photography.htm. At this location, the Metropolitan Police reiterates that:

- Members of the public and the media do not need a permit to film or photograph in public places, and police have no power to stop them filming or photographing incidents or police personnel.
- Officers do not have the power to delete digital images or destroy film at any point during a search.
- Any officer making an arrest for an offence under Section 58a of the Terrorism Act 2000 must be able to demonstrate a reasonable suspicion that the information was of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.
- It should ordinarily be considered inappropriate to use Section 58a to arrest people photographing police officers in the course of normal policing activities, including protests, as without more, there is no link to terrorism.
- If someone distressed or bereaved asks the police to stop the media recording them, the request can be passed on to the media, but not enforced.
- In the early stages of investigation at incident scenes, evidence gathering and forensic retrieval take priority over media access, but, where appropriate, access should be allowed as soon as is practicable.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

This year's Christmas buffet was the best yet. The food was excellent with many choices and my thanks to all of you who cooked such wonderful food.

We were fortunate that Josephine Turner was able to play the piano for us during the evening and the carol singing at the end of the evening topped off a superb night.

A lot of work goes into the Christmas buffet and I would like to thank all helpers.

ASSIGNMENTS

Our "roving reporter" sent me the report below from Roy's assignment to Gilsland

"A large group of members met in the car park of Gilsland Spa Hotel for Roy's Assignment. The weather was a little cold but the sky held a promise of sunshine on the way.

Roy invited us to split up into groups and travel in different directions or keep together if we preferred. We started off down the slope towards the Spa and realised how very slippery it was, I for one was glad of my Wellingtons and as I glanced around I saw most sensible people in walking boots.

At the bottom of the hill some turned right to photograph the spa and yours truly struggled to set the tripod up and when by the time a picture had been taken everyone had disappeared across the bridge in search of moody woodland shots. The sun came out at this point and the river was dappled with lovely light coming through the trees. Tripods could be seen within the woods as people concentrated on getting a fine shot of a fern or nearer the water's edge, the flowing water.

Some went a little further in the direction of the stepping stones, but the ground became extremely muddy and at least one person had a tumble or nearly lost a shoe.

Of all the assignments this for me was the most challenging. Along with others I wondered whether to opt for a fast or slow shutter speed to catch the fast flowing water as it tumbled over the rocks in the gentle sunlight or whether to up the ISO in the darker woods.

Most met for a coffee afterwards in the spa hotel and it was good to hear everyone's experiences"

The images from this assignment as well as Pickering WW11 re-enactment will be shown on 19th January 2010.

DILSTON CASTLE & CHAPEL

The next assignment will be held in January. The date is not yet set in concrete but will be 16th, 23rd or 30th January. This will depend on the weather and a decision on the date will be made at the club initially on 12th January.

I will be leading the assignment and I have arranged with one of the trustees at Dilston Castle/Chapel that we can visit for a 2 hour period, probably 11am - 1pm. The castle and chapel will be opened especially for us. We will also have access to the newly renovated bridge (over Devil's Water) and carriageway just below the castle.

I have agreed with the trustee that as we are being given special access to this site we will let them use some of our images for postcards. They are like so many organizations trying to make money to keep them going and it must be appreciated that we would be doing this on a voluntary basis without any financial gain.

SOUTH TYNE AREA PROJECTED IMAGE COMPETITION

Annually we compete in the South Tyne Area competition with clubs such as Whickham, Ryton, Winlaton, Gateshead, South Shields and Wylam.

This year's competition was hosted by Ryton and judged on 24th November. Hexham won by a margin of 7 points. Our entry was as follows:



Robin - Graham Dixon

26 points



Winter Light - Chris McIlreavy

28 points



Tynemouth - Veronica Congleton LRPS

25 points



Braving the Storm - Bob Turner ARPS

25 points



Goth Girl - Leo Palmer FRPS

28 points



Havana Car Wash - Carol Palmer ARPS

29 points - Overall 2nd Place

HEXHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC WEBSITE GALLERY

Since I last mentioned the website gallery we have had a few more submissions but nothing that equates to our total membership.

Maybe as a new year's resolution you could send up to 20 images to Bob or if you already have work on the Gallery and want to update it please send images to Bob on a CD or via email. Size 1024 x 768 max at 300 dpi saved as a jpg file quality 10.

Carol