

Hexham & District Photographic Society  
Newsletter October 2009 - Issue 30

**CHRISTMAS BUFFET**

The Christmas buffet last year was such a success that we are doing the same again this year. The date is Tuesday, 22 December 2009 and it will be in Newton Community Hall. The aim is to have very similar types of food such as salmon, home cooked ham, roast chicken/turkey, coronation chicken etc, jacket potatoes, salads and lots of desserts.

Obviously to achieve this I will need your help and I am looking for volunteers. Last year saw many of you willing to help and I am hoping this will be the case this year. Please let me know as soon as possible if you want to be involved.

I am hoping we can keep the cost down to £7 per head which is terrific value considering the selection of food/drinks that will be on offer.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Our next assignments are:

**17<sup>th</sup> October at Pickering, North Yorkshire for the WW11 re-enactment.**

Alan will meet everyone outside the main entrance of Pickering railway station at 11.00.

It may be useful if those willing to share their cars could let me know so that we can reduce the number of vehicles as parking in Pickering may be difficult so car share is an obvious answer.

**The images from this assignment will be shown on 19<sup>th</sup> January; please let Alan have your images and comments by no later than 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

**7<sup>th</sup> November at Gilsland Spa Hotel**

Roy will meet at the Gilsland Spa car park 10:00, I have checked with Barry's wife Elizabeth & there should not be any problems in parking, it will also be handy for people to use facilities (toilets, coffee, food & drink). We will then process down a steep path towards the river Irthing (strong shoes or boots would be advisable), going on through a small wood which leads to the bridge, from there we will split up if people wish, I will lead a party on to the Kissing Stones (made famous by Sir Walter Scott).

We will meet back at the car park at 12:00 & go to the Spa for refreshments & discuss about the assignment, if some people would wish to carry on they would be more than welcome to do so.

**The images from this assignment will also be shown on 19<sup>th</sup> January and Roy will need the images and comments by 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

Our "roving reporters" have sent the following reports from recent assignments.

### Beamish

The weather forecast was quite awful; wind and heavy rain but Bob is made of strong stuff and decided that cancelling the assignment was not an option.

8 hardy members turned up just as Beamish was opening its doors. The weather was not as bad as was forecast and anyway there are plenty of photographic opportunities inside the various buildings.

There was a special steam event during the day with opportunities to be a train driver for a fiver, the old steam coaches running round the town and various forms of steam vehicles around the town.

As is always the case at Beamish, the staffs are always quite happy to have their photographs taken and even the cross saddleback pig called Miss Winky obliged at the Home Farm.

Bob had initially decided that images from this shoot were to be monochromatic but because of the lighting conditions on the day he changed the criteria to creative colour.

**The prints and comments from this assignment are due by 13<sup>th</sup> October and will be shown on 27<sup>th</sup> October.**

### Istanbul

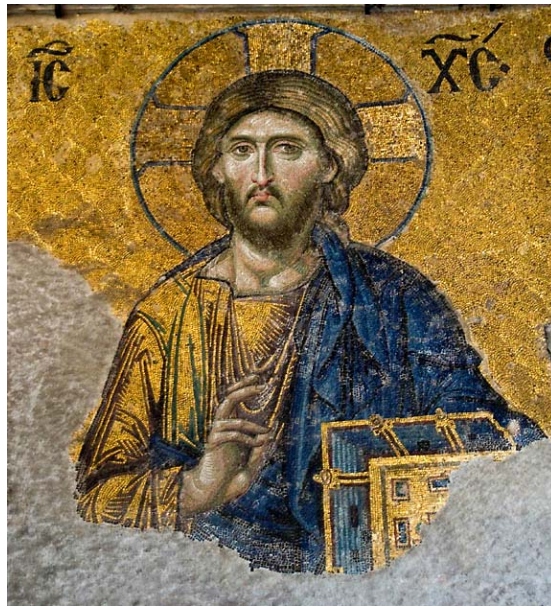


Figure of Christ - Deesis Mosaic Aya Sofya

There were at least 27 extra cameras in action in Istanbul recently when members of Hexham Photographic Society, plus partners spent an exciting 5 days in this vibrant city.

We were all amazed by the number of people everywhere we went. There were local vendors persuading you to buy a carpet or in one case a leather jacket! That young lady had

to turn one of our male members into a bigamist!! We heard hundreds of tourists talking in languages I had never heard before, Imams calling the faithful to prayer, shoe shine boys offering to clean your sandals, cars hooting, seagulls screaming, multiply this by a thousand and you may have some idea of the buzz around us.

We divided into smaller groups to visit the beautiful mosques one of which the Hagia Sophia had for many years been a Christian church but is now a museum. The ISO of the cameras had a busy time changing up and down as we went in and out of these buildings.

Another day and a favourite with some members was to the awesome Topkapi Palace, the main residence of the Sultan and his court. The harem was mind blowing, imagining those poor concubines sealed up within those rooms with only a small space in the open air for exercise. Some photographers had a wonderful time with their cameras when several American girls posed for shots in this area.

A visit to Istanbul could not be complete without a walk over the Galata Bridge to explore the old winding streets where the walls were adorned with graffiti. At least two members took exactly the same picture at different times of the day. It was on this side of the bridge that I heard a Henri Cartier-Bresson picture could be.....nearly re-produced, the problem being the steps are now adorned with pot plants.

On our last day we had a memorable sail on the Bosphorus Sea and Golden Horn, not many of us knowing where one started and the other ended, but it was fun to sail along the European coast one way and the Asian coast the other.

Many of us explored the marvellous bazaars. I don't think any carpets were bought but I know some pottery, spices, Turkish delight and a little black negligee found their way into suitcases bound for England. I even nearly bought a very large snow white garlic bulb that was pointed out to me by a certain lady until we realised it was some kind of orchid!!

Evenings were spent trying the various restaurants in the city and certainly some shocks were had when the bill was produced.

One evening a large group went to a special evening to watch a group of Whirling Dervishes. I have been to many local dancing displays over the years but I have never seen anything quite so interesting as these men. They are a sect of Islam taught to love everything and they whirl as a remembrance to God. Although we were in a restaurant and not in a Holy place I found the whirling quite staggering and counted 300 twirls on the right foot. I am sure this evening was enjoyed by everyone present.

All these experiences helped to make this a wonderful memorable holiday and there were only a couple of upset tummies and a very sore, self inflicted toe.

A big thank you to Carol for such successful organisation, she even managed to arrange fresh salmon for lunch on the flight out.....now.....**Where Next!!!**

The images from Istanbul will not be shown until 13<sup>th</sup> April so you all have plenty of time to produce some excellent prints. Leo will let you know later when he needs the prints.

## South Shields

Nine fearless photographers met at Captain's Wharf, South Shields, which was the windiest place in the U.K. on the windiest day of the year. At first it seemed rather an ordinary day, but it just got better and better.

After photographing the Spirit of South Shields and the steel boats the group moved on to the famous Groyne lighthouse, where, in the incredible wind several of these intrepid photographers walked along to take wide angle shots of this remarkable structure. The Weebles were next and one lady suggested that one of these amazing sculptures looked as if he was spending a penny!!

A little further on along the coast beside the Sand Dancer Hotel we decided to stop to photograph the extremely brave wind surfers who were speeding along the waves in a breeze that they told us was blowing at 47 knots, they soon had to stop a while because it was just too windy.

Then it was off to Souter lighthouse for some great shots. We started to drift apart here as some wandered into the cafe for a little nourishment and others had bought a little lunch with them. Help was given willingly to suggest where it was possible to get the best shots of the lighthouse, but before that one photographer had lain down on his tummy to get the most unusual angle.

I then went with another couple to the fairground area where we saw boys on BMX bicycles; they too said it was too windy for them to show off their best moves; however they looked good enough to me.

I think there maybe some interesting images from this assignment.

**The images/comments from this assignment are needed by 15<sup>th</sup> October for showing on 27<sup>th</sup> October. Sorry for the tight deadline but this assignment had to be rearranged from August.**

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Leo who was awarded a Silver medal in this year's Royal Photographic Society's International Exhibition for an image called "Looking Out". This image was taken on the Chinese New Year assignment and just proves how useful assignments days can be.

Further congratulations to Leo who has been awarded the Excellence of the Photographic Society of America (EPSA). This distinction is awarded to photographers who have had over 200 different images accepted over 1000 times in International Exhibitions throughout the world and has only been awarded to 47 people throughout the world.

Carol