

Hexham & District Photographic Society Newsletter February 2009 - Issue 23

ASSIGNMENTS

The next assignment takes place on Sunday, 22 March 2009 and George is leading this assignment to Alnmouth. More details are available on the notice board.

Keith will be leading 2 sports assignments within the next few weeks but as yet dates are not available until he checks out fixtures lists. One assignment will be to a rugby match and the other a hockey game. Numbers have to be limited to a maximum of 15 so if you are interested please see Keith. Keith will give everyone a briefing about how to take sports images.

FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT

I am in the early stages of planning another of our foreign trips and this year I hope to take a group to Istanbul for 4 nights. Istanbul is a wonderful place with half the city in Europe and the other half in Asia. I propose we stay in the Sultanahmet area which is the old city and easy access of all the main historical sites. This trip is either towards the end of September or early October. We will have to fly from Luton Airport with Easy jet and I propose that we hire a coach to take us to Luton. **I am sure there are some you who have knowledge of private coach hire using a local company and if you could let me have details I would be very grateful.** I have no real idea of cost yet but the flights are about £80 return at the moment and reasonably good hotels range from about £60-£80 per night per room which also includes breakfast. Turkey is still good value and the food is excellent in Istanbul.

Places will be limited to 24 and I will need a firm commitment from anyone who wishes to go on this trip as soon as possible.

PRINTS FROM ASSIGNMENTS

Images from the Chinese New Year will be shown on 24 March so if Bob could have your images by no later than 3rd March. **The maximum number of prints per person for this assignment is 3.**

Prints from the Whitby and Corbridge assignments should be given to Leo/Carol no later 3rd March. For the **Whitby assignment a maximum of 3 prints** are required and for the **Corbridge assignment a maximum of 2 prints.** This ensures that all prints are shown on the evening which will be 14 April 2009.

Our Roving reporter has sent me the reports of our last 2 assignments.

CORBRIDGE

A happy group met in the car park beside the river to take part in an assignment led by Carol on a very cold but beautiful sunny day. Everyone went their separate ways to take the shots they fancied but it was arranged that they would rendezvous in a café a couple of hours later.

One member was seen taking shots of the ducks along the river bank. The light was very special and the ducks, either wanting to pose or looking for food, were all around. During the morning different members kept bumping into each other and two were very interested in the 'Red Light district'. Jackie was pounced upon to be a model and two members were fascinated by a lumberjack. Some photographers went inside the church with tripods and some found the wreath on the market cross inviting.

It will be interesting to see how many different shots there are taken in such a small village. It was a very enjoyable assignment and I for one got my 'photo' of the week for my Year in the Life project.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

This was probably one of the most exciting assignments I, personally have been on.

There were approximately 20 members present and although I did not see everyone during the morning, I am sure there will be some fantastic prints produced.

As always the photographers went their own way, meeting occasionally to compare ideas and views. At first it seemed rather quiet, as the parade had been delayed due to a car parked in an inconvenient place. During this period it was quite easy to focus on a single person and hope to get a good shot. As the day developed it became more difficult as more and more people, photographers, huge lenses, plus dragons, lions and children emerged.

This was probably the coldest day this year, if not ever, that I have ever experienced. By mid day even our bones were cold.

Bob had suggested we all meet at the Chinese gate at 1pm. Sadly some members had left earlier, either because they had commitments or because of the severe cold.

However seven intrepid members braved the cold to go in search of a hot drink.

Thereby hangs another story.

It was difficult to find a place for a hot coffee, the first place we tried, said "Sorry We only do main meals"..... they were empty, Not put off we headed further, Saw a café open, but totally empty. We went in....

Yes the café was devoid of customers but what.....the stairs led down to another world....We were totally amazed, some of us had never seen so many fruit machines in our lives. Playing the machines were some very ordinary housewives, they were either taking a break after shopping: men, just taking a break: and others I will pass by. However, one of the assistants came over and asked if she could help. We said we were looking to have a coffee. "No problem," she said, "White, black, with sugar, without?" What a treat! We all had what we wanted and then she asked, "Would you like a sandwich? "

Such hospitality! And she would not take a penny from us!

Apart from all this, we all got some super shots.....I hope.

SYLLABUS

There are 2 changes to the syllabus and these are as follows:

17 February is now Betty Hargreaves with *CONTRASTS OF INDIA*

24 February is now Rosi Bowyer with *ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA*

WORKSHOP

We intend to hold another one day workshop on 8th November 2009. This will be more advanced than the one last Sunday. We would like your ideas about what to include although we cannot promise that we can use all your suggestions. Please either email you suggestions to me or complete the document on the notice board.

Anything you want me to include in the next newsletter please give me details by 28 February

Carol