

Hexham & District Photographic Society Newsletter January 2009 - Issue 22

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to all of our members.

ASSIGNMENTS

The next assignment takes place on Sunday, 8th February 2009. Meeting in Chinatown, Newcastle at 11-00am. The work from this assignment will be shown on 24 March so if Bob could have your images by no later than 3rd March. Bob will let you know the maximum number of prints required on 8th February. There will be a variety of events during the day and these are listed on Hexham's website.

March sees us going to Alnmouth and this will be on Saturday, 22 March. More details will be available on the notice board.

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.

SYLLABUS

There is a change to the syllabus and this is as follows:

20 January is now "Talking Techniques"

We have an evening scheduled on 7 April titled "Image Interpretations". This is where a few of our senior members work up images that have been taken by other members and put their interpretation to each of the images. We now need you all to let us have a couple of your images for use in this talk. The images should be just as you have taken them and put onto a CD. Please let Leo have the images by no later than 3 February.

4 GO TO PRAGUE

Keith, Olive, Leo and me decided we would like to revisit Krakow for the Christmas Markets but Easy jet was having none of that and cancelled their daily flights, so we opted for Prague. We arrived at our hotel which looked wonderful to be given the "bad/good news" scenario. Bad news the hotel had no water; good news we would have an even better hotel!!! The hotel was right in the Old Town Square right opposite the Church of our Lady before Tyn. Keith and Olive were given their customary suite in fact it was so big they had to rest after just walking across their lobby! Our room although smaller had the most amazing views of the Old Town Square with all the Christmas Markets and a Christmas tree in front of the church which must have been 80 feet high.

At 6pm on our first evening the lights in the square were switched off as the official tree lights came on. It was magical. The Old Town Square became a mass of humanity - it took us 25 minutes to cross the square, on other evenings it took 2 minutes.

We had planned several outings for the 4 days we were there and hoped to see some of the places we had missed on our last visit as well as revisit some old favourites. Charles Bridge was a definite must and as snow was forecast we were getting up early to have that special shot. Fortune was not favouring the brave this time as we didn't get any snow and the bridge was encased in scaffolding. If you are planning a trip to Prague in the future the scaffolding will be in place until October 2010.

Another disappointment was the Lennon wall which no longer has the head of Lennon. It seems to have become a more general graffiti wall.

Walking over Charles Bridge one morning we noticed a market on the street called Na Kampe; we had never seen a market in this area and went to check it out. We had stumbled into 19th century London. There were lots of people in period costumes, shops which we had never noticed previously (false fronts), horses and carriages and a wonderful foggy atmosphere created by fires burning in grates. There was a Czech/Italian film company shooting David Copperfield. We spent hours watching and the actors were all happy to be photographed although they were only prepared to let you have one formal photograph of each actor.

We all had a wonderful 4 day break and hopefully bagged some good images. We ate delicious food, sampled excellent local wine, had lots of laughs and the weather was very good with clear sunny cold days but not the promised snow. All in all a perfect short break. Prague Christmas market is highly recommended, the smells of local hams, sausages chestnuts and wild boars being roasted at the market stalls are unbelievable. The music and the beautiful Christmas Carols being sung by international choirs drifting across the Old Town Square is quite moving and the general atmosphere of Christmas make for a wonderful experience

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

The event held on 16 December was very successful. The Hall was perfect for the buffet and with the candles and low lights making a very welcoming and relaxing atmosphere. The food was wonderful and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I think table swapping also worked very well giving us the opportunity to talk to lots of people.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB IMAGE COMPETITION (ICIC)

After the second round of this season's competition, which we won, we are joint top of our group.

Congratulations to all those who had work in this round of the competition, especially Bob Turner who gained an Award of Merit with "Agony & Ecstasy."

Our winning entries are shown below:



"Bee" - Graham Dixon



"Broken Tusk" - Alan Helmore



Award of Merit
"Agony & Ecstasy " - Bob Turner ARPS



"Tynemouth" - Veronica Congleton LRPS



"Mist Rising" - Leo Palmer FPPS FPSA



"Monument" - Leo Palmer FRPS FPSA

HEXHAM COURANT

Mavis and I had a meeting with Helen Compson, Chief Reporter for the Courant who wanted to write an article about the society. We gave her lots of information, both current and historical along with some images. She is hoping to get the article published in the next couple of weeks so do keep looking in the Arts section for the article.

Some of you may have noticed that the results of the last 2 competitions have not been published in the Courant. The Courant feel that articles listing winners of competitions such as photography, flower arranging, etc are not of interest to their readers. Helen suggested that articles more likely to be published would be individuals gaining success in RPS distinctions or winning a major photography competition, or the society winning a major competition such as the ICIC or the NCPF annual competitions.

Anything you want me to include in the next newsletter please give me details by 31 January.

Carol