



# Windlesham and Camberley Camera Club

[www.wandcccameraclub.org.uk](http://www.wandcccameraclub.org.uk)

## *HOLD IT!* Issue 6 for Finals Night 30th May 2007

### Chairman's Chat



Once again we approach the official end of the Club year although we will have the chance to meet up on two occasions each month between now and September 5th when we recommence our regular weekly meetings.

Our club has continued to prosper, several new members having joined us recently. I hope they, and you, have enjoyed the many and varied meetings devised by the Programme Committee.

Summer outings in 2006 were successful in their own way despite the extreme weather during the visit to Crofton and Wilton windmill, (See Mike Hillman's commentary on outings later in this Newsletter).

Ray Acland, who did a sterling job as Competition Secretary, moved house recently but cannot tear himself away from our meetings. John Collard has taken on his role. My thanks go to the Committee for the support they give to me. I would also like to thank the club as a whole for the kindness and good humour that members bring to each and every meeting.

I would also like to mention the very kind gift sent to us by Edward Mendell, our President Emeritus. The package of lapel badges for each member complete with the club emblem in green on a gold background was a wonderful surprise and a thoughtful gift that we will all wear with pride.

I hope you all have a really great summer taking images that we will all enjoy seeing next season and I look forward to seeing many of you at some of our summer events. Roll on September 5th!

Annie Searle



### Don't forget the following Summer Activities

#### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

Evening visit to Windsor Old Town. Meet at Queen Victoria's statue at 6.30 pm.

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

BBQ at David Kemp's home for all who have pre-booked.

#### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Eddie's Summer School (club room 7.30 pm.)

#### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Canal walk from Odiham. Meet at car park over bridge past Water Witch pub at 6.30 pm.

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Day outing to Amberley Working Museum (near Arundel). Includes a Railway Gala. For details see panel on the right.

#### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

Eddie's Summer School (club room 7.30 pm.)

#### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

To be announced by e-mail

#### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

Eddie's Summer School (club room 7.30 pm.)

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A day trip to Exbury Gardens (near Beaulieu, Hants) is planned for early next season, possibly 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> October. Details later.

#### Summer contacts

[annie.searle@bopenworld.com](mailto:annie.searle@bopenworld.com)

Tel: 01420 544946

[mikehillman@talktalk.net](mailto:mikehillman@talktalk.net)

### Congratulations to this year's trophy winners

Photographer of the Year	- Carol Drew & Leo Kennedy
Print of the Year (Division 1)	- Leo Kennedy
Slide of the Year (Division 1)	- Carol Drew
Print of the Year (Division 2)	- Craig Dickson
Slide of the Year (Division 2)	- Maureen Kennedy
Audio-Visual Competition	- Mike Reed
Best new member	- David Hacker
Frank Wickenden Trophy	- Carol Drew
Manx Cup	- Derek Elkins
President's Award for Services to the club	- John Hill

### The club day outing to Amberley Working Museum will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July. ([www.amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk))

As well as the normal activities the museum is holding a Railway Gala with steam, diesel, petrol and electric locos in action plus model railways and preservation displays and a grand parade at 3 p.m.

Group rates are £7.70 adults, Children £4.50, over 60s £6.70 for bookings(over 10)..

**Please email Annie ([annie.searle@bopenworld.com](mailto:annie.searle@bopenworld.com)) with numbers and category of tickets required by 27<sup>th</sup> June as advance booking is required for these rates. Pay on the day.**

### Set Subject Competitions

SLIDES (Digital Projection) - "CIRCLES" - on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007

PRINTS - "MOTION" - on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008

### Programme for next season

In August you will be sent an e-mail with full details of the programme for September 2007 - May 2008. A printed copy of the programme will be made available at the first meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Make sure the Secretary (01276 23994 or [alan@smeeks.f9.co.uk](mailto:alan@smeeks.f9.co.uk)) has your correct e-mail and postal address as well as your telephone number.



## **Letter From America**

*Over the past couple of months I've spent considerable time going through many thousands of slides in preparation for donating my entire collection to the University of California, where they will have a permanent place in their photo library.*

*Hour after hour, I've been absorbed with these images, both by projecting them and by examining them on a light box.*

*Often I've become lost in remembrances of glorious past adventures – in Papua New Guinea, Madagascar, Antarctica, and more than fifty other countries in just twenty years.*

*In my reminiscences I travel to isolated villages in Ethiopia, on elephant back in Assam's high grass forest, on a slippery glacier in Alaska – and in these moments I'm free of my wheelchair; viewing the world through the viewfinders and lenses of my memories.*

*Photography is more than an art, more than a technology. It is a pursuit that can add meaning and fulfillment to life. May each of you find your own lives more gratifying each time you capture another image of our world.*

*Your fellow member, Edward*



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## **Club Outings 2007**

There were three evening outings during our summer shut down period, of which Jenny & I were able to attend just two. Holidays keep getting in the way!

The first occasion in June, the one we did not attend, was a visit to the Hog's Back Brewery - considered by some to be a good opportunity for a booze up rather than a photographic event. However we gather from those who did attend, that it was a very interesting evening which included a guided tour and the opportunity for that pint. There were obviously some photo opportunities, for at least two images were entered for the Summer Outing competition on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

For the July outing to Windsor Great Park it proved to be a lovely warm and sunny evening but with a bit of confusion at the start as some of us found ourselves waiting in the wrong car park. Contact was made after we saw the others walking away from us in the distance. It so happened that photographic opportunities were rather limited but still a few of us managed to grab a few shots, some of which also appeared in the Outings competition. We ended the evening in the time honoured fashion with a beer and a packet of crisps at The Crispin.

Probably the least successful (photographically) was the August evening at the Hatches in Frimley Green. It was not without incident and we had more laughs than photographs. Again it was a lovely evening weather-wise, with a pleasant evening sky and a few birds on the lake. We realised early on that nobody had actually admitted to suggesting the venue and so we were effectively leaderless. The only generally agreed element was that we would end up at the Quay's pub. In the event, one group walked one way around the lake and the other, including Jenny & myself, walked the opposite way. We were well assured that we would find our way to the pub as our Hon. Secretary had previously mapped out the route with his hand held GPS. We have photographic proof that GPSs do not always work and we almost had to find our way by navigating by the stars! We did make it to the pub in good time though and rounded off the evening with a drink while sitting out on the veranda overlooking the lake.

The outings schedule culminated one Saturday in September with an all day visit, arranged by Annie, to the Crofton Pumping Station situated about six miles from Marlborough in Wiltshire. There were plenty of photographic opportunities here as Crofton has two Cornish Beam engines, one of which is apparently the oldest in the world and is still capable of performing its original function of providing water to the summit of the Kennet & Avon Canal. We were given an excellent introduction to the history and workings of the Station by one of the volunteer guides, however, before he could end his talk, the heavens opened and we all rushed inside. There were some great opportunities to use our cameras, including firing up the boilers and the operation of the beam engines. It was still tipping down outside and Annie had arranged the opportunity for a pub meal in the local village, to be followed by a visit to Wilton Windmill, just a few miles away.

The journey to the pub along the country lanes was quite dramatic, the roads were flooded and some began to doubt whether their cars would make it through the water. We did all make it and had an enjoyable lunch before moving on through the still driving rain. The Wilton Windmill, built in 1821 and restored to full working order in 1976, is the oldest working mill in Wiltshire and for many miles around. Some of us bought bags of the stone-ground 100% wheat-meal flour produced at the mill. Again we were given a very interesting introduction to the history of the mill by one of the volunteers and were also able to experience the movement in the "Cap" of the windmill created by the strong winds outside.

The volunteers had opened their café for us and we all partook of a nice cup of tea and a cake before wending our way home after a very wet but enjoyable day out. Both venues provided plenty of photographs for the Summer Outing Competition. Our thanks go to Annie for arranging the day.

*Mike Hillman*

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## **Disposable camera project**

*The object is for every member to submit one image from each of the following three subjects for a competition:*

**People** - could be a family member or members or interesting people you see while on a day out.

**Countryside** - may be anything from a landscape to a wild flower.

**Buildings** - you might choose anything from a stately home to a garden shed.

It's up to you to use your imagination

The first image **must** be your portrait just for identification purposes.

All cameras must be returned by 3<sup>rd</sup> October to John Collard who will arrange for processing to be carried out. Prints and CDs will be prepared so that you may choose your images for entry into the digital projection competition on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**Remember to keep the cardboard covering to the camera as this acknowledges that processing has been pre-paid.**

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*Congratulations to Peter Nicholson and John Collard who were recently awarded the distinction of LRPS, thus joining Mike Reed, Leo Kennedy and Ray Acland.*



**Finals Night May 2006**

**Finals Night May 2006.** Vice Chairman Mike Hillman presents trophies to Carol (Manx Trophy), Derek (Photographer of the Year and Print of the Year Division 1), Mike (Slide of the Year Division 1), Ray (Slide of the Year Division 2), Roger (Best Newcomer - with William Watson not shown) and Leo (Frank Wickenden Plate). Other winners were John Evans (Print of the year Division 2 and AV), Roy Allen (AV). President's Trophy to Madeline Harris  
 Photos - John Hill and Leo Kennedy

Some members who attended our traditional exhibition at the Lightwater May Fair



**Derek Elkins receives the 2007 Manx Trophy from John Holmes ARPS** Photo Leo Kennedy



**Mike Reed winner of the 2007 AV competition judged by David Campbell-Burns ARPS** Photo: Mike Hillman



**Carol Drew receives the 2007 Frank Wickenden Plate from Bob Turner FRPS** Photo Leo Kennedy



**Mike and Bernie at the tea bar**



**Members relaxing during the break at an RPS AV day in Wokingham**



**Lunch hosted by our President Emeritus, Edward Mendell, during his visit to the UK in July 2006**



**Manx Trophy short-listed photographs arranged on our display easels newly refurbished and expanded by Roger Hoyle**



**Crofton**

Summer outings  
 Where is everyone?



**Windsor**

**Guess who?**

## Club Holiday to Bulgaria

In the last edition of 'Hold It' we wrote about our planned visit to Bulgaria in June and were seeking a few more participants, - well, it seems that advertising does work for we have since increased our group by an additional four members.

There will now be 14 of us flying off on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Jenny & I are, of course, eager that the holiday will prove to be as fulfilling for everyone as were our two previous experiences. We recently had a get-together with the group at which we sorted out transport arrangements to the airport and various other queries that came to mind. We also took the opportunity to have a fore-taste of some Bulgarian wine.

We all agreed that if the spirit and general enthusiasm of the get-together was a pre-cursor of what is to come, then we are in for a good time. Watch out for a plethora of Bulgarian photographs next season!

*Mike and Jenny Hillman*

*Editor's Note: Following Mike's recent Hospital visit he has been advised not to undertake the planned trip. However*

## Thoughts on a Panel

Several members in the club have asked me why I decided to try for an RPS Distinction. The glib answer is because Eddie nagged me into "having a go". After he convinced Ray to submit a panel and following Leo's success with his, they pressured him to do the same. Quite how some of that flak came my way I know not, but the rest, to coin a phrase, is history.

I must confess that in the early stages it was done more to keep Eddie company i.e., a moral supporter, but the more I got into it the more I began to enjoy the challenge. Many of us submit our work to the vagaries of a Judge's opinion (with the intent of avoiding demotion or gaining promotion in our league system) only to go home disappointed with the mark. Having started on the Panel process I began to realise that here was a chance to attempt something that was outside my comfort zone. Not only did the quality of each print have to be good enough to pass the critical opinion of five or six judges at the Assessment, but the Panel itself had to hang together i.e., Portrait and landscape formats have to balance as does colour harmony.

Many club members have prints that have scored high marks in competition in their archives and initially I thought it would be a case of taking ten prints out of mine, reframing to ensure all frames were the same size and submitting. The idea seemed sound at the time, but proved to be a little naive. I had attended two Panel assessments (Leo's and Eddie's) and been to workshops (with Eddie) as an observer so at least I had a reasonable knowledge of what was required.

In very brief terms I started by selecting about 20 prints from the drawer and laying them on the floor to see how they gelled re colour and format. Ended up with about 7!! Back to the archives to try to fill specific gaps or match colours. Had several printed, some in reverse, to ensure the Panel had "ends" to it. Took the whole lot, including reserves, to see a Panellist (Jack Bates) on a 1 to 1 basis as I couldn't attend a Society Workshop (due to attendance limitations) before the date I'd booked for the assessment at Bath. Favourable comments, but a couple of recommendations, re formats and swaps which I actioned. Fortunately, for my sanity, the Panel proved successful.

In hindsight an enjoyable exercise. At least enough to contemplate going for the ARPS. It might not happen, but it's a target/challenge.

Brighton camera club run their own workshops for Distinction candidates (13 members showed panels at Bath) and although we don't seem to have that sort of enthusiasm, should any member even think about trying, we now have a nucleus of members who would be only too happy to advise. Go for it - you might just enjoy the experience.

*John Collard*

## Exposure Compensation

Having been a photographer for 40 years, it was long overdue to put it to the test and see what real photographers thought of my efforts. It was, therefore, with no little fear and trepidation that I entered the "holy" sanctum of the W&CCC. Over the years I have given many presentations to small and large audiences, I have been through many staff appraisals, but the first Print competition was terrifying. That was my print standing up there in front of the club standing out like a sore thumb; not just because it was mine but the size! Clearly I had got it wrong; maybe, I thought, size mattered or then being so "big" myself, I had not noticed my print was twice the size of anyone else's! Oh well it was all relative! As the judge approached this photographic monstrosity, I was filled with dread, what would he think? Exposure? Composition? Printing? Presentation? Then the famous words "I'll see that one later". Oh heavens, I thought, not knowing what it meant. I was filled with dread, thinking back murky to school days, I'm in for it now. Not so Bunter old chap, the score may not have been 180 but who cares, he liked it. The score was respectable and, for once, there was no detention or six of the best! Actually as I recall, it was one of the six of the best prints in class! So I had arrived.

The club is great; I am really pleased you let me stay after my initial probationary period. But now I have been sent away to the Eastern Front, humbly scratching a living to feed the photographer's habit. I was honoured to be invited to speak to the club one evening. I hope I was able to inspire some alternative ideas on presenting your work. I am plugging on with further volumes of photographic images. Finally I want to thank you, the club, for inviting me to be a committee member. As you can see I have been away for many of the recent meetings, away in body but not in spirit.

I hope I can break out in the evenings and early mornings to take some pictures. The East of England has some wonderful images. Sometimes, when client meetings get a bit heavy, the mind does drift off - that windmill on the edge of the Norfolk Broads would look fantastic in the misty sun rise - can I get the swan into the foreground? (not too many bird pictures). Now, about exposure compensation .....

*David Hacker*

## New Website

Steve has been working hard on the re-vamped website. Please support this project by accessing the preview of the new site and providing your input. Register at [www.stevehurst.org.uk](http://www.stevehurst.org.uk)