



Windlesham and Camberley Camera Club

www.wandccameraclub.org.uk

HOLD IT!

Newsletter Issue 8 for Finals Night 27th May 2009

Chairman's Chat

One year on and trying to keep up with the pace, we have had a lot going on, and plenty more still to do, but it keeps you on your toes and till now I am enjoying my role as Chairman. As mentioned in my report for the AGM I am very lucky and privileged in having such an active and supportive group of committee members, - perhaps that's the reason I am enjoying myself!

I hope you will all agree that we have provided a good mix of evening programmes and outings and events during the past year. It felt almost as though we didn't have a closed season for we have packed so much in. Each of our 'out of season' events was very well attended and I believe particularly emphasises the social side of our Club. It is pleasing to see members introducing their partners not only to the social activities but as fellow members, - though some of us might be thinking that maybe it was not such a good idea when the 'other half' starts beating you in competitions!

Of course, the challenge ahead of us now is to keep the ball rolling and try and maintain the momentum, I know that Janet has once again put together a very varied programme for next season and I am sure we will not disappoint you. At the time of writing this chat we have not yet finally decided on the venues and subjects for our summer season, we do however have a good selection of suggestions provided by you to choose from and they will be listed separately in this issue of "Hold It!"

I would make particular mention of our forthcoming exhibition "Surrey Heath Old & New" being held at the Surrey Heath Museum in September. It would be ideal if we could display a photograph by every member so if you have not already done so, please take advantage of the better weather between now and the 8th of July and give us your best shot!

When Jenny and I first suggested a Club holiday in 2007 we had no idea that the theme might continue, but continue it has. First to Bulgaria, then to Hungary last year, and now back to Bulgaria again on 30th May this year. It doesn't stop there however for we are already planning a trip to Denia in Spain during March next year, specifically timed to see and photograph the amazing Fallas fiesta. To date we have 26 members booked to join the holiday.

I like to try and end any report or occasion on a 'high', and I am very pleased to be able to do so on this occasion. Due to a short stay in hospital, our Hon. Secretary, Alan, for the very first time, was not able to attend our AGM in March, - I did tell him that I wasn't very impressed, particularly as it was my first AGM as Chairman! However, as it turned out it proved an opportune time for you all to express your admiration for his dedication as Secretary to our Club. It was estimated at the AGM that Alan has been Secretary for at least 22 years. It is actually 30 years!

Much to my pleasure, there was a proposal from 'the floor' that Alan should be awarded the highest honour that the Club is able to give; there followed a unanimous acceptance of this proposal which has resulted in Alan being awarded Honorary Life Membership of Windlesham & Camberley Camera Club. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Alan and offering our sincere thanks for all that he has done, and continues to do so, for our Club.

Mike Cliff has kindly written a short tribute to Alan elsewhere in this edition.

Mike Hillman

Congratulations to this season's winners

Photographer of the Year	- Carol Drew
Print of the Year (Div.1)	- Carol Drew
Projected Image of the Year (Div.1)	- Carol Drew
Print of the Year (Div. 2)	- Alan Filby
Projected Image of the Year (Div. 2)	- Bernie Cawson
Audio-Visual Competition	- Mike Reed ARPS
Best New member	- Helena Whittaker
Frank Wickenden Trophy	- Mary Filby
Manx Cup	- Roger Hoyle
President's Award	
for Services to the club	- Janet Barton

A results sheet giving details of all entrants' scores will be given out with this newsletter.

Programme for next season

In August you will be sent an e-mail with full details of the programme for September 2009 - May 2010.

A printed copy of the programme will be available at the first meeting on Wednesday 3rd September.

Summer outings and Summer School

Full details are given on page 2 of this newsletter and will be on the club website (in the Calendar section).

Summer contacts

Chairman: mikehillman@talktalk.net (Tel: 01276 471152)

Hon. Secretary: alan@smEEKS.f9.co.uk (Tel: 01276 23994)

The Club will be 75 years old in 2010

Our club was founded as Windlesham Camera Club in 1935 and has thrived continuously since then apart from a period during the war. The committee is considering ideas for commemoration of the 75th anniversary. See Page 6 for further details.

Set subject competition

The chosen theme is "**AGE AND DECAY**" for digital projection. Your entries should depict age (i.e. old age) and decay in the same image. "I would like the challenge of Age & Decay. I think this would give enormous scope for creativity."
David Hacker

Disposable Camera Competition

During the summer you need to take photographs on each of the three themes: **PEOPLE, COUNTRYSIDE and BUILDINGS**.

The first picture should be a self-portrait to identify the film.

When processed (via the club) you will be able to choose which image of each of the themes you wish to enter in the competition. Take the camera with you wherever you go so as not to miss any opportunities. Return your camera to Janet or John by 7th October this year.



Trophies to be awarded tonight for our 2008 - 2009 season

Newsletter sponsored by

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New Year Dinner

It was a very cold evening, the hoar frost looked wonderful on the floodlit shrubs, the venue was Camberley Heath Golf Club on Saturday 10th January 2009. This was the evening of the club's New Year Dinner.

About 40 of us were welcomed into the impressive Club House for pre-dinner drinks, after which we took our seats to enjoy a delicious meal. The menu was extensive, with an excellent choice of starters and main course and some people (I mention no names) even had three helpings of dessert! Of course, lots of banter and laughter ensued, with Leo taking many photos including the official group shot. Thanks were extended to Graeme Parker for organising such a superb evening - even arranging a dusting of snow for our homeward journey!

Jenny Hillman



Photo: Leo Kennedy

Letter from the Bellinghams

We have now been in our new Canadian home for a year, how time flies. We are enjoying our Napanee Camera Club, though we miss the banter from WACCC especially from the back "that wouldn't be John Collard would it?!" On a serious note we will always be grateful to all at WACCC for the encouragement, advice, help and friendship given to us. In order to put this into practice we decided to take a photography course on how our cameras work. Now we are raring to go and hopefully produce some better pictures. Thank you WACCC.

This summer our Napanee Camera Club will have a BBQ and a couple of outings. Also it is the club's 25th Annual Competition and once again photos will be on display at the Museum for the month of October which will be open to the public. Our diary still has spaces for visitors, it would be great to see you and there is plenty of parking - even for a coach. Our very best wishes to you all.

Roger and Pauline



Alan Meeks

It was in 1972 that we first met Alan. Previously he was a member of Camberley Pictorialists.

After his graduation from Southampton University, he and Sheila lived and worked in the United States for about four years, before their return to this country. When he joined the club, I well remember the slides which he showed of parts of America which they had visited. One particular sequence, I think was called, Cactus Pete. Shortly after joining us, he became our Cine Section Leader. When the M 3 was under construction, he made a very appropriate film, called "Death of a Wood" of the changes along Chobham Common.

He took over as our Secretary in 1977. At this time he was employed by Shell Research at Egham, and soon after became involved with Video. Weddings soon became a frequent Saturday job with all of the attendant visiting, editing, and producing final copies for those involved. This often included filming in some famous locations, which were not always local. Soon after, he was moved to Shell International, the Company H.Q. on the South Bank. This meant that the tedious problem of commuting daily, to and from London was added to his daily schedule. This, he took on along with all the other ramifications as parent, our Secretary, and the ever extending list of weddings.

As we have seen at club evenings, the locations and personalities he has met are many. He still is very involved with photography at local schools, filming plays and of activities at Heatherside, and our club activities. He helped produce a DVD regarding the history and closure of Elmhurst Ballet School and its later relocation to Birmingham.

Alan has kept ahead of all the technological changes that have confronted him in this period, from printing our programmes, his darkroom, the use of films and slides and the transition to the digital era. That the video cameras especially have shrunk in size, but now with more and extra buttons has meant Alan has needed to keep abreast of such changes. He has dropped out of club competitions as all the other aspects keep him more than busy.

He has been our very effective Secretary now for about 30 years. He is a regular contact for club members with technical problems and seldom is unable to give a practical solution to one's questions. The Club, at their recent AGM, (possibly the only meeting when Alan was absent), decided to honour him and duly accorded him Life Membership of the Windlesham and Camberley Camera Club. *Mike Cliff*

Club Outings and Summer School programme

- Wed June 10th** Walk round Farnham town centre. Meet at 7.00 pm at The Waggon Yard car park, Downing Street
- Wed June 24th** Summer School 7.30 pm in the club room. New members' print display and discussion
- Wed July 8th** Barbecue at The Half Moon, Windlesham from 7 pm.
- Wed July 22nd** Summer School 7.30 pm in the club room. Mike Morley's presentation "Digital photography - pictures from numbers"
- Wed Aug 5th** Evening visit to be arranged
- Sun Aug 16th** Day trip to Museum of Rural Crafts, Tilford near Farham
- Wed Aug 19th** Summer School 7.30 pm in the club room. Print mounting and PAGB slide presentation "Chasing the Light"

Contact Mike Hillman or Alan Meeks for further details.

If you need to contact other members of the club the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary have a full list of addresses and telephone numbers.

Monitor Profiling Service

Do you slave away over a hot computer to get your images looking great on your monitor only to find, when you print them out, that they are not the same as you saw on the screen?

Do you waste expensive ink and photopaper trying to get the print to match the screen image?

Do you waste precious time and increase your blood pressure at the same time?

For the modest sum of £15 I will come to you, check your monitor and software settings, produce a colour profile for your monitor so the colours you see on it are to the correct standard and provide advice on obtaining appropriate colour profiles for the printer/ink/photo paper combination you want to use.

You will then be able to obtain prints that match the monitor screen and enjoy your hobby even more.

Please contact John Hill 01189 735978



Finals Night 2008
Trophy Winners
for 2007-2008 season



Carol Drew (Frank Wickenden, Manx, Slide Division 1 & Photographer of the Year), Jean Hoyle (Highest Scoring Newcomer & Slide Division 2, Peter Nicholson (AV Competition), Mary Filby (Print Division 2), John Davies (Print Division 1) and Steve Hurst (President's Award)



The Trophy and the Club's winning panel of 8 prints in Yateley Camera Club's Francis Spooner 8x8x8 competition on 17th May 2009. Photo: Mike Morley



Disposable Camera competition 2008-9
L-R John Baker (Judge), Maureen Kennedy, Carol Drew, Roger Hoyle, Mike Hillman



AV competition 2008-9
Mike Reed ARPS



Ten Years ago our Late President, Edward Mendell presented Mike Reed with his trophy for Division 2 Print of the Year. Mike also won Photographer of the Year (for the fourth time!)

Competition Divisions 2009 - 2010

Based on this year's competition results and in line with the need to maintain an appropriate balance between the two divisions the committee has assigned the following members in Division 1 for next season's competitions. All other competitors will enter in Division 2.

Prints

Bernie Cawson
John Collard
Craig Dickson
Carol Drew
John Evans (P)
Mike Fielding
Alan Filby (P)
Mary Filby
John Hill
Mike Hillman
Ian Hoskins
Roger Hoyle
Leo Kennedy
Peter Nicholson
Mike Reed

Projected Images

Bernie Cawson (P)
John Collard
Rod Downing
Craig Dickson
Carol Drew
Mary Filby (P)
Jean Hoyle
Roger Hoyle
John Hill
Jenny Hillman
Mike Hillman
Leo Kennedy
Maureen Kennedy
Mike Morley
Peter Nicholson
Mike Reed

(P) = Promoted

Committee for 2009 - 2010

<i>Chairman</i>	- Mike Hillman
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	- Roger Hoyle
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	- Carol Drew
<i>Programme Secretary</i>	- Janet Barton
<i>Competition Sec. & Assistant</i>	- John Collard & Rod Downing
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	- Alan Meeks
<i>Studio Group Leader</i>	- John Hill
<i>Digital Imaging Group Leader</i>	- Craig Dickson
<i>AV Group Leader</i>	- Mike Reed
<i>Other Members</i>	- Bernie Cawson, Mike Morley, - Mike Clift

The Editor would like to thank all members who provided photographs or text for the Newsletter and apologises if space restrictions prevented your item from being included. I offer particular thanks to Mike Hillman who has provided many of the articles for this edition of HOLD IT! This is an indication of the wide range of activities that Mike has organised and that he carries out tirelessly for the club. Alan Meeks

Club Holiday to Hungary

Our second Club holiday, this time to Lake Balaton in Hungary on June 17th, got off to an interesting start when we all checked into our overnight hotel at Stansted, for it could well have been the original Fawley Towers. No-one manning Reception and when the waiter was asked what the fish was on the menu he went to the freezer and brought back a frozen chunk to show us. He told us he had just flown in from Bangladesh or somewhere like that a couple of days previously. Anyway we had a good laugh and set the scene for the rest of the holiday.

Our hotel in Keszthely, the Hotel Helikon, was situated on the shore of Lake Balaton. It had large, clean and comfortable rooms each with a balcony overlooking the lake. The food was plentiful and I believe was acceptable to all of us. We were blessed with virtually continuous sunshine for the whole week.

Our itinerary included a guided walk around the town of Keszthely with a visit to the fabulous Festetic Palace, the result of which encouraged all of us to re-visit the palace later in the week to attend a recital by world famous pianist Szokolay Balazs and his equally talented wife and students. This proved to be a very enjoyable evening.

Other guided tours included a visit to a nature reserve on the shore of Lake Balaton, and a full day in Budapest. The final visit was to the Porcelain Factory in Herend where we shown around the factory and witnessed the artisans meticulously moulding and hand painting the porcelain designs. On our last day we decided to take a boat trip on the lake, enjoyed a couple of hours on shore in one of the lake-side villages and then, courtesy of Mike Reed, managed to negotiate a free train ride for OAPs back to our hotel!

Mike Hillman

Letter from America

One of the perks of being a professional photographer is the flexibility to travel throughout the year to some amazing destinations. I just returned from a 4-day visit to the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The canyon is over 446km long, ranges in width from 6.4 to 29km and is over 1.83km deep. Carved out by the changing flow of the Colorado River over a six million year period, you can view nearly 2 billion years of the Earth's geological history.

If you're planning a visit, the locations for photography are endless. Take a helicopter ride over the canyon, take a boat trip down the Colorado River, travel by mule down treacherous unpaved paths or hike down to the canyon floor on foot. The national park system has provided railings in the most popular areas for panoramic viewing, but I recommend a leisurely stroll along the rim to find your own private place to sit and reflect on the grandeur you see before you.

The contrast between brilliant sky and canyon shadows can make photography challenging, especially for digital shooters with little dynamic range to work with. The light and shadows change constantly throughout the day, but the hour before sunset gives a brilliant show of radiant color and elongating shadows across the canyon walls that can't be missed. Be sure to include a haze filter and polarizing filter in order to bring out the magnificent colors in the canyon walls.

The Grand Canyon is also a fantastic destination for night time photography. The location within Grand Canyon National Forest and surrounding desert land keeps light pollution to a minimum.

If you're planning a trip to America, you can't miss the Grand Canyon. It's like nothing else I've ever seen on my travels, and you simply cannot comprehend its vastness until you see it in person. Shannon Belletti
shannon@bellettiphotography.com

Magic Circle Visit

In September 2008 a group of members and guests enjoyed an outing to the Magic Circle Headquarters in London. The evening included a tour of the magic museum with a talk explaining the 100-year history together with some of the myths behind past performances. We were then asked to form small groups in the Devant Room and invited to participate in a series of close-up tricks performed by the Magicians at our tables. Refreshments were then served before we took our seats in the Theatre for the highlight of the evening when various Magic Circle members performed some amazing tricks combined with great humour, which left us all spellbound, not to say aching with laughter. Everyone agreed it was a most enjoyable evening and I would like to thank Mike and Jenny Hillman on behalf of the group for organising the event. *Graeme Parker*

Exhibition at All Saints' Church Lightwater May Fete

Once again the club produced a fine exhibition of prints and digital images at All Saints Church Fete in Lightwater. In total 88 prints were displayed from 27 contributing members. As always, we ensured that everyone who submitted a print had it on display. After the battle last year in trying to hammer pins into the boards belonging to the church, we borrowed some from Yateley. Mike Hillman kindly collected and returned them. We were rather bemused as he pulled out bundles of wood from his camper van. As there were no instructions it took a while to erect them. Thanks to all of you who wrestled with the stands. This all took place on the Friday afternoon. Whilst this was happening I judged the entries for the Parish competition and prepared the board for their display. It was a shame there wasn't a bigger entry, but there is always next year!

Saturday morning was bright and sunny. The hall was a hive of activity, especially on the stage, as yet more of you put up the prints. It was an excellent representation of our club's work. A large number of people came up on to the stage and were all very complimentary. Some even showed an interest in coming along to a club evening. Alan had set up the projector and screen so those having refreshments could enjoy our work whilst sitting down! He had also set up a television to show the same images. This was particularly well received as the colour was better and more easily seen.

My grateful thanks go to all of you who helped with the exhibition, particularly Alan. The boot of his car is like a bottomless pit of all things known to be needed as well as those we didn't think we'd need! My thanks also go to those of you who submitted prints and images. Next year we hope to put on an even better display using the stands and digital images in a slightly different way. That's if we are invited again! *Annie Searle*

Exhibition at the Surrey Heath Show at Frimley Lodge Park

On 2nd May 2009 the Club mounted an exhibition at the Surrey Heath Show in Frimley Lodge Park. This is only the second year that this Show has been running, and whilst we were invited to participate in the inaugural year of 2008 we declined to do so because the date clashed with our long-standing venue at All Saints' Church, Lightwater. However, we decided this year, that the Club had enough prints to display and more than enough enthusiastic members to hold an exhibition at both venues!

Members of the Club swung into action, with teams of volunteers organised for both events. I was in charge of organising the Frimley Lodge Park display and I would like to thank everyone for their commitment and involvement on the day. We weren't quite sure what our set up was going to be, and I was panicking on the Friday before thinking we wouldn't be able to display enough prints. I phoned Mike Morley to see if he had a block of wood we could put along the back of a table to rest prints against. "Leave it with me" he said, and the next morning he had made an impromptu stand which clamped to Janet's table a treat. We discovered that although we were in the marquee we were the first stall inside and were next to the open front! The wind looked likely to be a problem but my tablecloth pinned to the back of Mike's stand worked well as a windbreak – but we still had to rush around righting prints that had blown over, on a fairly regular basis! With our Club easels and some photo stands from my son we were able to display 50 prints at a time – changing them around at lunchtime so everyone's print got an airing - literally.

Club volunteers obviously loved it so much on the stand that when their "hour" was up they stayed on, meaning we had a large number of Club members throughout the day. The stand was extremely popular, the day stayed sunny, if somewhat windy, and I was impressed by the attention our display attracted. People were extremely complimentary, and genuinely interested in our images. Many asked questions about their cameras, digital imaging etc, and there was always a Club member on hand to offer advice. We ran out of the leaflets Alan produced and have hopefully attracted one or two new members. My idea of a Visitors Book proved useful, with nothing but positive comments written down.

Altogether it was a very successful and enjoyable day, and the time just flew by. I was almost reluctant to pack up at the end. None of this would have been possible without the brilliant team that is Windlesham and Camberley Camera Club.
Carol Drew

Extracts from Letters to the editor

Helen Buller writes: *I joined the club just for ME!! (Not for husband, or children or anyone else). A few years ago I saw one of the club's exhibitions at Watchetts Park and I thought 'some of my pictures are as good as some of those'. Now I am retired I feel free to pursue one of my passions - PHOTOGRAPHY. Already I have learned a lot from the club and I am eager for more. Hopefully I can also give to the club.*

John Wade writes: *Very pleased with the majority of speakers. The standard of work produced is very high, as it should be, but there doesn't seem to be much innovation. Everyone seems to be an expert in their own sphere and this results in repetitious work usually of an inanimate nature (bird/flower/mountain/buildingetc). Be good to see people get out of their comfort zones. Otherwise excellent.*

Club Events and Outings



Windlesham Arboretum walk - Summer 2008



Mid-Thames AV day at Wokingham
Jeff Wagner (3rd left)



Janet, Carol & Mike Morley at our exhibition at Surrey Heath Show



Lightwater Fete
Photo competition winner



Club trip to Ryewater Butterfly Farm



Museum Curator
Sharon Cross
signs the visitors' book



The Mayor of Surrey Heath
Councillor Alan Whittart



Surrey Heath Show
She gets everywhere!



"It's a bit smaller this year Leo"
Annie at Lightwater Fete



Wild Arena competition
3rd December 2008



Club trip to Hungary

The Magic Circle



Ali Bongo with
Maureen and Leo



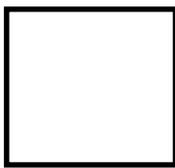
Listening In at Wisley



Before the concert - Hungary



Alan Shaxon
Magic Circle President



The Late Ali Bongo

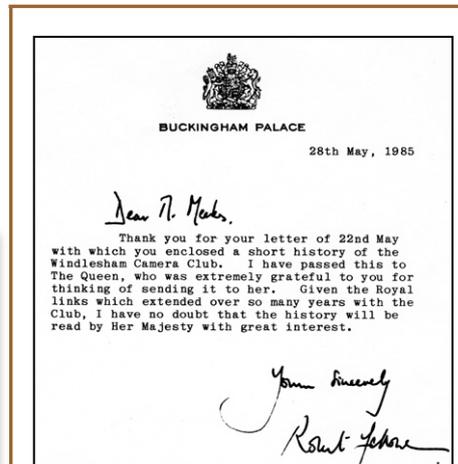


Guess who at the skittles evening!



Roger Hoyle demonstrates Holography &
Thermal Imaging 20th May 2009

An example of Mike
Morley's craftsmanship at
John Hill's studio evening



Letter received in 1985



Photographs by Leo Kennedy, Mike Hillman, Carol Drew, Graeme Parker, Mike Cliff, Ian Hoskin, Paul Barrow, Alan Meeks, Bernie Cawson

Founding of the Windlesham Camera Club

According to Windlesham Parish Magazine the Windlesham Camera Club was formed on 5th June 1935 in the Rectory Room with Mr. J.C. Hayward as the Chairman/Secretary (and driving force for many years thereafter). At the following meeting "many beginners learnt how easily and cheaply gaslight prints can be made at home without a darkroom." In January 1936 it reported "The Duke of Connaught has graciously consented to become our Patron".

In November 1935 an exhibition of 243 photographs by 55 members was staged in the village. Mr. F. J. Mortimer F.R.P.S. Editor of the "Amateur Photographer" congratulated the club on having attained a membership of 94 in its first year. However the club was criticised that it was too ambitious and gives far too much for its subscription of 2/6!

In October 1936 it was reported that His Majesty The King sent a message wishing the club every success in their work. In April 1937 Capt. W. T. Lindsay had been elected President and had offered a Challenge Cup for the October Exhibition. (This is the very cup that we still award for Photographer of the Year. The first inscription on the silver cup reads 1937 – HUBERT M. BOND)

In 1948 the club was honoured to receive Royal Patronage of Princess Elizabeth who opened the 1949 exhibition held in Camberley's Working Men's Club.

Sometime in the 1950s or 60s wider influence of the club was recognised by the inclusion of Camberley in its name.

There is much historical information hidden in files and paper held by the current Honorary Secretary some of which was used to compile a video programme about the club at the time of its 60th anniversary in 1995. This was shown recently at the club and it is hoped to update it in due course.

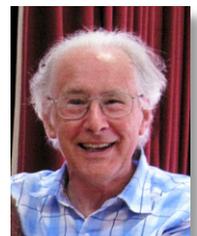
Meanwhile another milestone, the 75th Anniversary, will be reached in 2010. Your committee is currently considering ways in which this will be commemorated, for example we are reviewing the possibility of inviting a high profile photographer to present a show of his/her work at a suitable venue which we would then advertise on a ticketing basis to the general public and other photographic clubs. We will of course keep you all informed of any developments as and when any firm recommendations are made.

Alan Meeks

Honorary Life Member

When I first joined the club early in the 1970s little did I realise how all consuming it would become. The club had given me the opportunity to meet a fine group of people with wide-ranging interests in photography. With my interests in the moving image my first committee role was as Cine Secretary but this soon evolved into Hon. Secretary. I have always tried to give back to the club at least as much as I have benefitted. A big 'Thank You' to everyone who attended the recent AGM at which you decided to award me the great honour of Honorary Life membership of the Club. Also thanks to Mike Clift (who joined the club years before I did) for the obituary published in this newsletter.

Alan Meeks

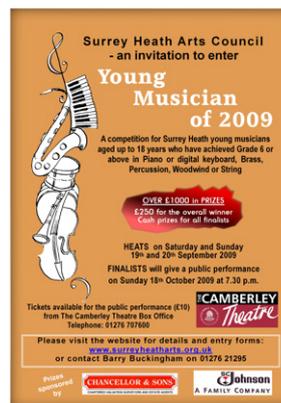


Surrey Heath Arts Council

Our club is affiliated to the Arts Council which aims to foster and promote artistic understanding, appreciation and knowledge among the inhabitants of the Borough of Surrey Heath. As the camera club's representative, your Hon. Secretary assisted in the planning of last year's Young Musician competition and is helping to promote this year's event.

The competition is open to musicians up to 18 years of age who have achieved Grade 6 in piano, brass, string, percussion or woodwind. Heats will be held on 19th and 20th September and a public performance of the Finals will be staged at the Camberley Theatre on 18th October.

If you know of anyone who might qualify please suggest that they visit the website www.surreyheatharts.org.uk or contact Alan Meeks for Rules, Entry Forms and copies of the leaflet shown here.



Surrey Heath "Old and New" Exhibition

Don't forget our exhibition to which many members have contributed prints will be open to the public from 23rd September to 17th October at the Surrey Heath Heath Museum, Knoll Road, Camberley. Bring your friends and tell everyone about it. Full details at the start of our season on 2nd September.

Surrey Heath Museum Action Group

Having been asked by Sharon Cross, the curator of the Surrey Heath Museum, to present our exhibition "Surrey Heath Old & New" in September, the committee decided to give further support to the museum by joining the "Friends of Surrey Heath Museum", a fund-raising group of individuals and organisations.

Much to the concern of the Friends and other users of the museum such as groups, societies and organisations, budgeting cuts by the Surrey Heath Borough Council have placed the future of the museum in some considerable doubt; this has led to the formation of the Surrey Heath Museum Action Group (SHMAG).

The objectives of SHMAG are not fund raising, they are to promote the museum and actively lobby the Borough Council to ensure its future with even larger and better facilities. Regular meetings are held and I agreed to represent our club at these meetings. In furthering the promotion of the museum, the Group has been able to negotiate with the Borough Council the alternating free rental of two of the empty shops in Main Square in Camberley for the purpose of displaying exhibits from each of the affiliated groups. In our case this would be a display of our photographs.

We have one major obstacle to overcome - the shops have to be manned by volunteers from the affiliated groups. It is estimated that some 40 volunteers will be required in order to get the show on the road. Hopefully some of you might be prepared to offer your services, please let me know if you are able to help.

Mike Hillman

Club Holiday to Bulgaria

Twelve of us will be flying out from Heathrow on Saturday 30th May for our third club holiday. Following the success of our first holiday, and by popular demand, we are off to Bulgaria again with the British Bulgarian Friendship Society and have managed to secure the services of Assen Ignatov again as our tour leader. We will have our own bus with plenty of room and hopefully the same friendly driver.

Assen proved to be very popular on our first visit, he is a keen photographer and naturalist and we are all looking forward to meeting up with him again. Our itinerary introduces us to two of Bulgaria's beautiful mountain ranges, the Rhodopi and the Balkan, also known as Stara Planina. Jenny and I have been to the Rhodopi region before and have selected what we consider to be some of the most dramatic and scenic locations.

We are further promised mountain scenery, pretty villages, monasteries, the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Site of Plovdiv Old Town, flowers, birds, butterflies, folklore, crafts, and wine and food which nicely fits the title of our holiday, "Another Taste of Bulgaria".

Maybe we should extend apologies in advance for perhaps another plethora of photographs from Bulgaria!

Mike Hillman