

# The Newsletter

Insight, Primesite, Foresight

April 2011 - Issue #10



## Editorial

It is probably true to say that the weather has been unseasonal this April – almost a full blown summer by UK standards. On a trip to Cornwall the weather seemed sublime. It certainly made my photography easier with many ‘golden-hour’ moments. It is just lovely to see the glow of evening on cliffs and in reflections from the sea. I hope you have all taken advantage of the weather to have fun with your camera too.

Back in Marlow things have moved on. During April we have covered a lot of ground - the club seems to be thriving. We have had some really good meetings. There have been two practical’s and new members continue to come along to meetings despite the season nearly being over. Meetings are well attended and keen, active interest is shown by all. What a great club! And, it is all down to a great membership. So, collective applause all – because we are worth it!

I am looking forward to the May programme. There is the start-of-Month early session on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 7.30pm - an introductory session on Tripods. Dick Fielding is running a trip to The Hawk Conservancy on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The AGM is coming up too. And, to top those, there is an annual competition. It looks like there is going to be an interesting end to the season. After that the weekly “George and Dragon for a flagon” season starts. I am looking forward to that too...

**Damon Guy**

Email the MCC Secretary  
[mccsec@marlowcc.org](mailto:mccsec@marlowcc.org)

## Use Amazon – help the club



**Help M.C.C make a little money.** If you use Amazon via our search box on the website, you can earn us a little commission.

## Back-up, back up, BACKUP...

Hobby photographers, even professionals, tend to not take adequate back-ups. Often they have a copy of all their photos on one hard drive, maybe a few on a CD or DVD.

Hard drives regularly fail or corrupt. Software errors and other computer systems cause problems with them too. For safety consider a backup strategy.

Why do you need a strategy? I frequently hear, “I don’t have anything valuable on my hard drive”. Then, almost in the same breath, “Can you help me get my data back,” as soon as their system fails. There would be no pain or need to ask that question if they followed a backup strategy.

I have prints and negatives of family history, my business and my personal interest spanning my life. Now it is nice to look back, sell images, or have pictures for my children to keep. I had a picture of my grandfather. It was taken when, as a cabin boy, he stood on the deck of his first ship in 1909. That print had great personal meaning. I had a scan of it as a backup to the print. Then the original print was accidentally destroyed. So I lost an irretrievable family heirloom when my only digital copy was lost in a hard drive failure in 2001. Lesson learned !

Here is a working strategy. Aim to have at least three working hard drives...

1. A primary backup drive. You save your work on this drive.
2. A secondary drive. Keep close by your

working drive - back up to it daily or after each edit/download. This is your first emergency port-of-call.

3. The third drive should be in a remote location (another site). Backup to this weekly. In the event of a fire you will only lose one week's new files.

These drives are in addition to the primary hard drive on your computer. External hard drives can be detached from the main computer to protect against malware nasties and computer failure. They are vulnerable too. So replace each drive on a three-year rolling programme.

The strategy is not expensive. If your pictures are not valuable why spend hundreds or thousands of pounds on camera equipment? In fact, hard drives are quite cheap these days.

Commercial DVDs/CDs are 'pressed', a different method to computer recordings. Undamaged pressings can survive 20 to 60 years. Recorded DVDs/CDs are short lived. They are heat-etched on to the disc. The heat-sensitive layer is very vulnerable. Digital archivists only keep DVDs/CDs for a temporary life of say 5yrs in temperature controlled conditions. Remastering to a new disc later is not advised as digital quality degrades over time. Recording standards vary and they cannot be used on all computers. If your old CD drive crashes you may not be able to use your discs. DVDs and CDs are NOT a safe or viable archive/backup method.



Flash drives/Memory sticks are incredibly fragile technology. Small memory units are easily lost or damaged. Old flash drives/memory keys fade and fail - more so than hard drives. Backup to them, but be sure to keep other types of backup in more substantial systems. Run them on a computer regularly to refresh them (at least

annually); keep them in regular, cool temperatures; do not use them daily (put them in a safe); replace them regularly (every 2 years). Their low capacity also means they are very poor vessels for a serious archive.

Protect your photo collection. One day you may want to look back. Or your children's children may want to look back. If you do it right you will be remembered...

For long term backups it is best to use the "LOCKSS" principle or similar...

### Lots of Copies Keep Systems Safe

There really is no other way of going about this... you must have multiple backups for safe long-term retention.

If you want to know how to do the actual backups here is an application I use:

<http://allwaysync.com/>

In summary, use **LOCKSS**, at least three hard drives, backup daily/weekly; replace them regularly and keep them separated.

I hope all that helps until some better, more reliable, technology comes along.

**Damon**

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## The Club Website



This month we have had a very active site. There are new pictures on the front page and the galleries, 18 blog entries, a number of forum entries, a new page about the schools competition and sundry additional information like competition results. So are you keeping up with it all?

Make sure you sign up for the "Photographing Hawks Trip" on the forums. There is still time to join the trip.

The AGM is coming up and there may be things you will need to discuss before the meeting. We will make sure that information

is posted for you to keep up to date. Don't miss it and wonder why you did not have your say!

<http://marlowcc.org/>



Some of you may remember mention in the last issue of the [365Project](#). I have been doing the project for over a month now. Some of you may have seen my posts on [Facebook](#).

The [365Project](#) is a sort of diary. Every day you post one photograph in your album. Anyone can look at them. Registered members can comment on your posted shots. Comments are positive, although you can ask for critical appraisals. People have an interest in getting others to look at their shots because they get feedback. If people don't like a shot they don't comment.

The ethos of the site is to post a new photo every day. In all honesty most people cannot possibly achieve that. In the 37 days of my project I have put in three 'fillers' when I was not able to do a photo. Generally, once hooked, you really try to get that daily shot. I must say it is a great thing to do because it makes you get your camera out and go for it. Most days most people make the effort. Some just leave some days blank. Generally people keep posting.

When you like members' photos you can 'follow' them. Then a list of the latest posts from your 'follows' comes up on your home page. There are also helpful articles, blogs, competitions (for fun) and lots of help and advice from members. It is a caring-sharing community. There is a common aim throughout – to have fun with your camera. Much like our club really.

You can 'Fav' a photo if you really like it. This is a signal to the author that they have a really good shot. You also get a gallery of Favs selected to look back on. Lots of member views and positive comments indicate a good shot too. If there are no comments from your followers you probably have a duff picture. This is all useful feedback. Members with hundreds of followers are the ones to watch. Their

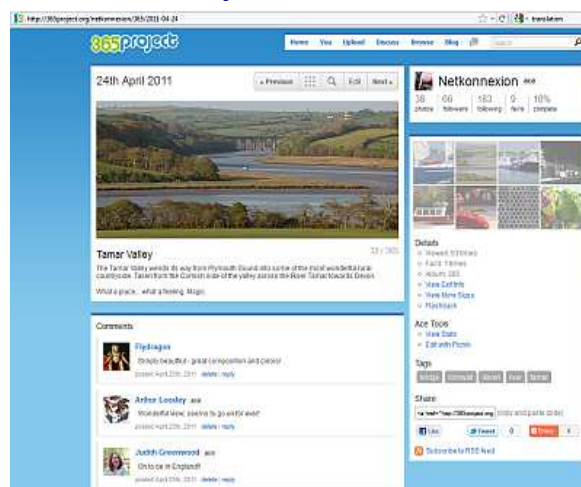
photography is generally more developed. Creativity is the name of the game. The more creative photographers are much watched by other members. Great ideas abound and there is lots to try out.

The standard of photography is variable. Complete beginners through to professional photographers are all there. This is a great way to learn and everyone develops during the year. It is safe and supportive so you have no need to be shy. You can look back over everyone's past shots as well as your own so you can follow progress. Many people elect to go past 365 days.

The [365Project](#) is a great way to share your work. This week [365Project](#) exceeded 1 Million photos. It is quite a big community. You learn a lot, get support and spend time looking at a very wide range of images. It's fun. You make lots of friends. It is an experience I thoroughly recommend.

If you fancy a go, or want to have a look you can click over to my page...

[365Project/Netkonnexion](#)



If you want to join its free. You can enhance your account by a small payment (about £12) but lots of people don't take that step. You don't need to identify yourself, although you can if you want. I just reveal 'Netkonnexion'.

Come on over and give it a try. If you 'follow' me I will 'follow' you back... Sharing pictures is what it is all about.

Damon.

## Photographic Associations information Finals Day

[The Chiltern Association of Camera Clubs](#)  
Finals Day is on Sunday May 8th 2011 at Amersham Community Centre. The Audio Visual competition will be in the afternoon and the final round of the Rose Bowl will follow. A poster on the CACC website.

### [Photographic Alliance of Great Britain](#)

Inter-Federation Print Comp. & Exhibition - We need prints for the PAGB Inter-Club Competition. Poster on the web site. This is a competition for individuals entering through their club. Please bring them along to the Finals Day and hand to Les Spitz. Contact Les direct on 0208 866 2342.

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### And Finally...

Please think of contributing to this newsletter. Got any good, bad or ugly news? We would love to see it or read it.

### Contributions?



### Good websites...

I keep a close eye on a number of photographers on Twitter. For some great portraits and travel photography see:

[alohal.com](#)

and, for a really good blog from (I think) the same photographer:

[pointofutterance.com](#)

If you are into golf here is some photography advice on [PointOfUtterance](#)

Another site I like is this one. Interesting techniques and shots...

[LightStalking](#)

... Enjoy.

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### ...A quote

“When you buy a 1/4-inch drill bit, what you really need is a 1/4-inch hole. Clients don't need photographers, they need photographs”.

Bill Westheimer

## ...and 3 photography funnies

*Get to where the action is...*



*Get a shot of that elusive bird...*



*Have you got all the equipment you need..?*

