

The Newsletter

Insight, Primesite, Foresight

Issue #5



Editorial – November 2010:

Everyone is living with the quiet expectations of Christmas and the mad rumblings of Christmas shopping. The air is crisp and the autumn tones are leaving the trees and peppering the ground. The mornings hang fog over the landscape - bringing dripping dampness and tantalising glimpses of shrouded scenery. What a lovely time of year.

The wonder of the autumn often gets into our competitions. It seems to be a particularly good year for yellows this year. Browns were particularly good last year. Invest some of your time in the autumn every year and you will see from your shots that different weathers and conditions on the ground bring different colours. Autumn is certainly a magical time of year. It is also a great time for the photographer. Have fun with your camera.

Damon - MCC Secretary

Email the MCC Secretary
mccsec@marlowcc.org



Buy items on Amazon via the club website. The Amazon search box on our home page is there to help the club. Enter the search you want and it takes you to Amazon. For each purchase you make the club gets a small income too. It costs you nothing. It helps the club to raise funds. Have a go and help our club raise some money from your Christmas shopping.

Light Work by Margaret Warren

Saturday, the 30th October, saw Rosie, Barbara, Anne, Angela and myself travelling to the Hilton Hotel, Basingstoke. The venue is of one of the Regional Training centres for Experience Seminars. Experience Seminars have a lecture team dedicated to giving the best possible training on Canon EOS cameras. The training is promoted and recommended by Canon. The lecture team have all had long careers with Canon.

We were enrolled on a level 2 course. Understanding your digital EOS Part 1 - basic overrides. It was aimed at those who have a basic familiarity with an SLR camera. We looked at essentials to fully utilise the features of our cameras. These included: ISO utilisation; Auto-White-Balance preset overrides and the relationships between shutter speeds, aperture and ISO settings. Depth of field was clearly explained, with examples - we learnt how it could best be controlled, using three key factors that affect it.

We were also introduced to Picture Styles, Program Mode and why we use it. Understanding of the TV, AV, M and A Dep modes were discussed, together with techniques required for specific areas of digital photography.

The course started at 10am. We were well provided for with regular breaks and a finger buffet lunch. The lecturer used a power point presentation with interactions for questions from us at any time and use of cameras to show various set ups.

We were all encouraged to ask questions informally on the course topics at any time and in the breaks. This was designed to allow us to raise questions with the lecturer specific to our own type of photography. We finished the session about 5.15pm with the practical help and theoretical

information we had been given, buzzing round in our heads.

There is a second part to this course. Some of the group were returning the following day. Personally, I need to digest what I have learnt and practice the settings. I want them to become second nature to me before moving on to the next part.

We were given the training manual covering the day and also have access to a course PDF presentation online.

It was a very enjoyable day; things have become a lot clearer in my mind. I hope the same goes for the others. We will be having our own discussions in the days to come to make sure we all have understood what we learnt.

Look out all of you; we might become great photographers yet!

The Club Website

Make sure you check the website regularly to ensure that you are up to date. Keep your eye on the "What's New" page. There are many new things happening in the club and looking over the blog and the forum are one way to ensure you are keeping up with things that are happening.

Competition rules are found on the site. Remind yourself of the proper rules for submitting photos every competition. If you don't submit correctly it makes life very difficult for the competition secretary. He has a lot of photos to put into the software for a competition. To correct a lot of entry file names add a great deal of work. After all you would not want your entries rejected because you used the wrong format of file name for a picture.



See the club website at:

<http://www.marlowcc.org>

Rose Bowl

Every year the club takes part in a local interclub competition called the Rose Bowl. The first competition this season was last week. Our Chairman, Jim Robson reports...

"MCC won the first round of the Rose Bowl last night at Henley. Congratulations to those who selected our images this round and also congratulations to the authors whose sum total resulted in this victory".

"I didn't follow convention and run a cumulative total, preferring to do it my way! "It was not possible to comment on all the authors that were given feedback, so this is a few of them only" ...

"Poppies" (Ray Reeder) – Splendid rendition of a poppy field, one of the best seen (by the Judge)

"Waddesdon Reflection" (Tony Ketley) – Would like to have seen it cropped more to get more of the reflection in the frame

"After the rain" (Nick Taylor) – Image would be more classy if in monochrome. If it had of been submitted in monochrome it would have scored 20.

"My favourite colour" (Anne Walker) - Lovely velvety quality of the flower

"Damsenfly" (Margaret Warren) – Lovely velvety quality of the flower, never seen a shadow of an insect as good as this

"Finnish Sunset" (Ray Reeder) – Like the quality of the snow, brightness of the sun well handled, shadows good (not blue), enjoying this picture, a lot to talk about.

"Joe" (Shirley Arnold) – Marvellous face, would love to spend a day in the studio with him, sepia works – lovely, gentle, kind expression. Epitomises a Grandpa

"ReadySet" (Sarah Duffy) – Excellent, creative. Crop ZOGGS out – its distracting. Image should be sold to Zoggs.

“I’m watching you” (Rita Ashby) – Like the fact that the author “went in” close to the horse. Makes you want to stroke the horse’s main. Good job, well done.

“The Usual Suspects” (Paul Vine) – Monochrome works and makes it look classy. Like the idea. Well thought out image.

“Ray’s poppy nearly won the best of the night but a startling rose from another Club pipped him”.

“Micki Aston, the judge for the night, clearly likes monochrome images. That is a point to bear in mind for 1st March 2011 when she comes to MCC to judge!

It sounds like it was an interesting night at Henley. Thanks to Jim for the report of this competition. Well done to the authors.

The movement workshop...

I think that everyone who went to the movement workshop the other week were impressed with the great opportunity. Margaret Warren often contributes some really dynamic photographs to our competitions. She sent some of her shots in for the newsletter. Thanks Margaret. Here are three of them.



This year your committee have tried to bring more practical work to our programme. We are happy to do more of this sort of thing. If you have ideas that could be used in practical sessions please let us know. We can work on them as possible sessions later in the season.

For those who missed the workshop...

...A report by Steven Galvin

The evening started with Ray and Steven introducing the theme. The evening had evolved into portraiture, movement, still life, macro, circus skills, and general chit-chat evening.

Using light tent members enthusiastically started to photo a very irritating toy chipmunk singing "Good Vibrations" while it manfully waved a surfboard in the air. Moving onto snapping an even more irritating miniature animated golf bag that hurled back musical insults at the members. Shooting at different shutter speeds the aim was for members was to experiment. Capturing different amounts of movement in controlled circumstances is not easy while preventing their feet from tapping to music, and from throwing the golf bag across the hall.

More challenging for members was the experiment in trying to capture images of water droplets splashing into a bowl. If anybody was successful then they deserve a very big prize!

While most members kept warm inside some of the more adventurous were outside photographing a circus performer enthusiastically twirling flaming props wildly

around his head. It was all very safe, honestly, and the flaming twirling allowed Pippa to discuss the members how using different shutter speeds influences the composition of the movement.

On the small table-top "still life" studio members practiced macro photography on toy cars. Then they moved on to experimenting by panning their cameras past the cars in the light tent. This was to simulate the cars moving. Imaginative results were obtained by horizontally rotating cameras on their tripods to steady them in their vertical axis.

Towards the end of the evening the studio background and lights was invaluable when members wildly filled their memory cards with images of the three circus performers. There was juggling, a variety of props, and twisting, twirling hula hoops.

All in all members had a good time practicing using their cameras in unusual circumstances and pushing back the frontiers of their knowledge. There was lots of chat and many a laugh and giggle. Hopefully they were taking photos that will be useful in future competitions as well.

Thanks go to Ray and Pippa for coming up with all the ideas, bringing the gear and giving useful advice. Pippa came up with the idea of inviting the circus performers along. They made the evening a considerable success. Our thanks go to Steven Galvin for running the session.

And Finally...

... Contributions?

Thanks for some great contributions for this edition of the newsletter.

Many thanks go out to those who sent material for publication. To those who did not send me anything – lets have something this month!



... a museum

One of our members, Shirley Arnold, visited the 'River and Rowing Museum' at Henley. You can find the website for the museum at: <http://www.rrm.co.uk/> Shirley was impressed with the exhibits. "The museum often has great exhibitions". She also points out that "one ticket lasts for a year, free parking and a good restaurant in a superb museum". Thanks Shirley.

... a Frame anyone?

'DIY Framing' is a local company supplying frames, board, frame materials, and all manner of tools and frame associated items. It is a great shop which was formally based on a farm near the M40 heading out of Slough. Just a little inaccessible then! Now they have moved to a new location on the trading estate in Cressex, High Wycombe. It is worth a visit. The website is: <http://www.diyframing.com/>

...Santa's fun run...

On Sunday 5th December 2010 at 10am is the Santa's Fun Run in Marlow. As the name implies, it's organised as a fun event for entrants and spectators alike. Dressed in bright red Santa costumes, runners provide the town with a glorious spectacle at the start of the festive season. And because this is the season of giving, it is also a charity event, raising funds for local deserving causes. You can find out more on: <http://www.santasfunrun.org/event.html> Jim Robson, our chairman, is looking for photographers for the event. Contact him on Club night and volunteer or send an email to: chair@marlowcc.org

...Are you kidding?



Some photographers are crazy...