

# The Newsletter

Insight, Primesite, Foresight

Issue #4



## Editorial – October 2010:

October is here and with it some variable weather. Do you all do your photography outside? This year I am going to keep up my hit rate doing some still life inside. Perhaps you have winter pursuits that keep you glued to your cameras. How about telling us what you intend to do with your camera during the winter season? Indoors or out I am sure that your interests will be close to the hearts of the rest of us. So, put a few words to paper to keep us informed.

What's "still life" anyway? Find out on Tuesday 12 October. That night we are running a practical session. We are going to base the session around basic techniques and some of the things you can do to practice and get some great shots. So bring your camera and let your imagination run wild. Oh, and if you have some ideas why not bring along something you would like to photograph too. We can all have a go, do some practice and see the results.

Damon - MCC Secretary

Email the MCC Secretary  
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**Buy items on Amazon via the club website.** The Amazon search box (shown above) is on our website home page. Enter the search you want and you go to Amazon. After that the club gets a small return for every purchase you make. It costs you nothing. It helps the club to raise funds.

## Is there art in pushing a button?

Our 'thing' - what we do with funny little boxes, is not straight forward. It's not an easy thing to do well. Photography actually demands a lot of attention, practice, skill and thought. Good photographers have a good 'eye'. They have gained it – this 'eye' - over years thinking through the process and practice as well as devoting time to nurturing the skills and knowledge. More experienced photographers develop a 'style'. What such an individual comes up with in their photographs are 'well seen' and if they capture the essence of the scene make a 'well composed' picture.

I suppose that I understand these words I have just written. After all I have been inside the context of them in competitions and in my reading. I have been a Marlow member for four years and taking pictures for many years before that when I was not a club member. So I am guessing that I have now got some sort of style and some skill as well as something of an 'eye'.

My son plays for HWRFC. I spent this morning standing beside a rugby pitch. My SLR poised and my eye keenly locked onto my eyepiece. I found myself picking scenes to shoot because they framed well, or captured the moment. I swung my gear back and forth as the vagaries of the game demanded my attention changing my settings to suit the context.

The team won a great victory. But something was different. I took 39 photos. I muffed up five. The rest were a credible bunch of photos. Not competition standard I admit. However, my son commented "great shots dad". So I did something right. Funny thing though, I only took 39 shots. On many past games I have exceeded two hundred. Was I doing a more artful job? Did my high hit-rate come from well honed skills and an artists 'eye' 'seeing' the shots? Maybe I am

more of a photographer now than when I returned two hundred shots in a game with a hit-rate of say ten good shots.



Scrum down at High Wycombe Rugby Club

Sadly the pressure that kept my shot-rate down was not artful. It was a low battery; an unattended-to detail from last weekend.

Photographers from the time of film felt the expense of every shutter release. Their restraint led to a lower hit-rate. Did picking and choosing shots make them better, more artful, workers?

I fear the answer to whether there is art in a button-push will elude me. It must be left for those we deem to be 'artists'. My thoughts are really for those who have just joined our Camera Club. The most important thing about today was how much I enjoyed myself. My son enjoyed re-living his game too.

Do photography because you enjoy it. Do it for no other reason – art will follow.

### The Club Website

As we have now got the season underway you should check the website regularly to ensure that you are up to date. Keep your eye on the "What's New" page.

The site is refreshed on a regular basis with explanations, and interesting things to read and information about the club.

Competition rules are found on the site. Please make sure you follow the rules for submission. Your entries may be rejected.

Ray Reeder, our webmaster, has made sure that lots of our pictures have gone up on the site. Check to see if any of yours have been posted.

The blog is underway now. We are looking for contributions. Think about something you would like to say about one of our evenings at the club - then post a blog.

See the site at:

<http://www.marlowcc.org/>



### How many pictures per year...

I had hoped that we would receive lots of responses to my call last month. I asked how many how many pictures people took in a year. I had surprised myself by taking more than 13,000 last year. One other member took about 4,000. Another took about 3400. Am I the weird one? Or do some of you take as many as I do? Let's have some more estimates.

Damon Guy

### Photography? What Photography?

By John Newth

My wife and I are fairly recent retirees. We often wonder how we ever found time to work over the last fifty years, let alone bring up a family (how often has that been said). Retirement has been the dawn of a multitude of free-time opportunities, for so long just a distant thought.

So far all our holidays have had good weather. We've had some great photo opportunities. Wishing for the same this year I hoped for some good club competition material too.

I have a great friend who I trained with 47 years ago. Later we both left the company that first brought us together - he went abroad. We remained in touch over the years getting together whenever he visited the UK. Retired, he and his wife now live in

the UK some of the year returning to Indonesia for the winter months.

Recently we met up in Bath spending a truly wonderful day. Bath was our first marital home. When you live in a city with spectacular architecture and culture it just becomes the norm after a while. Returning so many years later, Bath is truly majestic. It is not only a major UK tourist attraction also a photographer's paradise. I own a fantastic camera and a very recently purchased upgrade lens made my equipment wish-list complete. What could possibly go wrong!

Must be an age related thing, I forgot to take the camera.

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### **National Portrait Gallery...**

An interesting place to visit for photographers is the National Portrait Gallery. It is one of the few museums that really celebrate photography and photographers for their own sake and for the quality of their work. There are many exhibitions over the year of interest to photographers. This year you should take a special interest. In the new year we will have a portrait competition. So try this exhibition for size...

### **From Where I Stand: Photographs by Mary McCartney Until 13 February 2011 Admission free**

This display celebrates the publication of McCartney's first book, *From Where I Stand*, in October 2010. Twelve photographs are being shown from her archive of informal portraits of friends, family and famous subjects including Helen Mirren, Sam Taylor Wood with the Chapman Brothers, Gwyneth Paltrow as Madonna and Tracey Emin as Frida Kahlo.

<http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/display/from-where-i-stand-photographs-by-mary-mccartney.php>

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### **Marlow Camera Club - the big stories as they arrive...**

Our Club has a long history of working with the Town Council to help them with recording local events and. The shots we provide are used by the Town Council for a variety of purposes and promotion of the

town in general. We provide a genuine public service and give pleasure to many local people.

The Town Council has generously provided grants to Marlow Camera Club on many occasions in the past. This year is no exception. So the work we do to provide photographs directly benefits the club.

### ***For the following events we have been asked to provide photographic cover. Can you help?***

1. Marlow Town Council would like MCC to cover the Remembrance Service and Parade at the War Memorial, Marlow. The actual service starts at 10.45 am but there is a parade of veterans etc from the British Legion in Station Approach at around 10.30 am. An Order of Service is currently being prepared and will be issued soon.

2. Marlow Town Council would like MCC to cover the "Carols on the Causeway" where Father Christmas will be in his grotto from about 6.30pm until 7pm. The main carol service starts about 7 pm and is expected to finish at 8 pm - weather permitting!

3. Marlow Thames Rotary Club is running a Santa's Fun Run in Higginson Park on Sunday 5th December. Last year they raised £15,000 for charitable causes. This year they are hoping to get 1250 entrants who will run the 3 mile circuit around Marlow, starting and finishing in Higginson Park. The event starts at 10am. There will be plenty of photo opportunities before-hand.

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### **And Finally...**

#### **... Contributions?**

There were some good contributions for this edition of the newsletter.

Many thanks go out to those who did send me something to publish. To



those who did not send me anything – lets have something this month!

#### **... a joke.**

A journalist photographer was caught out in a rain shower when he saw a dark gloomy

house. While he was drying off in the house he heard scary sounds and saw a ghost coming towards him. He grabbed his camera to take pictures. The ghost asked him what he was doing, he said "I just want to take your picture for the newspaper." The ghost was glad for the exposure and posed for the photographer. When his film was all done he thanked the ghost and rushed to his office to get the film developed. When he saw the results he was terribly disappointed that they all came out black - they were all underexposed. The moral of the story is: The spirit was willing but the flash was weak.

**... a revealing website.**

Buying new gear can be both daunting and pricey. So you want to make sure that you get the right thing for you – to help to enjoy your photography. Looking for what you want is sometimes a nightmare. This website can help. Sometimes a little over the top, but always useful when choosing your next purchase...

<http://www.dpreview.com/>

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