



BSCC NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 3

June/July 2011

COMMENT

By the time this is published another season has passed.

The trip to York is over and done with, more later...

Club and external competitions have been won and lost ... must try harder next year.. But what makes a winning photograph ??

I know I enjoyed last years season, and was very surprised at the end result of it all.

The AGM has been held, new officers elected, along with other new resolutions and amendments to the Club competition requirements for mono and colour prints for next years club competitions.

There will be a REDUCTION

to 6 Mono and 6 Colour images. whilst the Digital Image requirement remains UNALTERED.

Yes less ink and paper, a reduction in expenses for all who enter both competitions.

It is hoped that the reduction in images for each class will encourage members to enter BOTH competitions and also maintain the standards achieved last year or surpass them !!

I know I am struggling to find 6 good mono subjects from all my past photos and those taken this year.

But I took the following in Hatfield Forest a couple of weeks ago !!



What a magical place !!

We'll enjoy the summer break and come back refreshed with wining photographs !!

PS Has any one seen Peter Pan ?

CLUB OUTING YORK APRIL 2011

The much anticipated group visit to York for club members and partners/friends has come gone all too quickly.

Comments from those who attended are very positive.

The weather could not have been better and the club

was well supported !!

What a city, night life interesting and photo calls too many to count.

The Minster was worth a visit but difficult to photograph due to too many people.

The City Walls a great walk

on the Saturday offering many views of York.

The National Rail Museum well worth a visit.

Its surprising who you bump into !!

Yes the Hogwarts Express was there as well as Geoff !!

Inside this issue:

Comment	1
York Trip	1
Photo Walks	3
Workshop	3
Club Dinner	5
Diary Dates/Events	6
Vote of Thanks	6
Internet Links	6
Committee 2011/12	7
Colour Task	7
In Memoriam	8

**BISHOPS STORTFORD
CAMERA CLUB**

**MEETS WEEKLY ON TUES-
DAYS FROM SEPTEMBER TO MAY,
7.45 FOR 8.00 P.M.
AT::**

**HOCKERILL SPORTS & SOCIAL
CLUB
BELDAMS LANE,
BISHOP'S STORT-
FORD,
HERTFORDSHIRE
CM23 5LG**

WEBSITE:



You Called Madam !!



Hogwarts Express

Other highlights included a Ghost Walk, which had us on edge, poor old Guy Fawkes.



Emma Ghost Snapping !!

This was followed by a candlelit supper at The Black Swan, which has the somewhat dubious honour of being Britain's most haunted pub.

A group photo follows together with a moody shot of York Minster taken by Jim.



Many thanks to Emma for arranging the outing which was enjoyable and also the weather .

Emma will be in contact with all for copies of Photos for the first meet of the next season. 10–20 photos per person for a slide show to kick start us all.

Next Year its BERLIN or Bust !!. So start saving now !!

And yes Geoff enjoyed the NRM, as I did !!





PHOTO WALKS

Andrew Macpherson has advised the following:

The worldwide photo-walk will be over the weekend of October 1&2 this year

Suggestions/help from members would be greatly appreciated. If the past few years are anything to go by, it'll be a bit early for full autumn colours, but a route should encompass that possibility. Finishing spot with light refreshments required ...

Ideas to Andrew please

The following are provided by Emma of a photo walk arranged by Andrew to Much Hadham Blue Bell Woods in April.



On the way ...

And in the woods ..



If there are any more planned outings please let me know and I will circulate them to members.

WORKSHOP

Is the Clubs intention to include a workshop article or Photo Shop tips in each Newsletter.

This months workshop has been prepared for the Newsletter by David Woods.

Please feel free to email me any tips or articles that you want to pass on.

Available resources to us NOW are:

Photographic Magazines donated by members —Great articles and tips can found within them.

Useful internet links for the link section would be appreciated.

“Our Club has much to offer each member singly or as a group. If we learn to share we can all grow together and benefit each other and the Club as a whole”

DIGITAL WORKSHOP— LEVELS ADJUSTMENTS

In this workshop I will look at setting up the Levels Adjustment Layer by using the eye dropper tools contained within this very useful adjustment and ensuring that the absolute values of 0,0,0 for black and 255,255,255 for pure white are not output/used in the final image.

This is mentioned in many books and tutorials found on the inter net today. I have used this to great effect on my images in the past, as well as a Curves Adjustment Layers.

My target in this article is to set Blacks to the value of 6,6,6 and whites to the values of 250,250,250.

In both Photoshop CS3, 4, 5 and Photoshop Elements use the drop down menu Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Levels or click on the half black, half white circle then select Levels. You will now see three eye droppers together, one black, one mid-grey and one white.

Double click on the BLACK eye dropper to bring up a new window and input the following values in the R, G, B boxes 6,6,6. Then click ok.

Now double click on the WHITE eye dropper to bring a further new window and input the following values in the R, G, B boxes 250,250,250. Then click ok.

You will then be asked to confirm these values as the new DEFAULT targets



for this adjustment tool.

Confirm this and you are now set to go.

To use these new values via the eye droppers tools in the Levels Adjustments with an image, you will need to first click on the black eye dropper and then click on a part of the image you consider to be the blackest area.

Then do the same with the white dropper on the whitest part of your image.

This should then ensure a good range of shades from 6 to 250 when printing your image.

As a bonus for this issue, to encourage entries in the Mono Chrome I offer the following additional methods of Converting Colour Images to Black and White Images.

Photo Shop CS3,4, and 5.

Method 1

1. With the image open as the 1st Layer or Background Layer select The Channels Tab

2. Place the cursor over the RGB channel icon hold down Control (PC), CMD (MAC) and click the RGB icon.

Note a marching ant selection appears which represents the white to mid grey tones

3. Go to the Menu and Select>Inverse to make the selection represent the mid grey to black areas

4. Create a new blank layer

5. Click on the layer mask icon. This will paste the selection into the new layer mask

6. Make a copy of the first layer or background. Shortcut Control J (PC), CMD J (MAC) and rename 'Black & White'

7. Desaturate the named layer Menu commands:

Image>Adjustments>Desaturate

8. Go to the layer mask layer and click on left layer icon

9. With the layer mask layer still active fill using the paint bucket with the colour BLACK

10. Then experiment with blend modes and layer opacity levels to achieve the best effect.

Method 2

Colour to Mono using LAB Color

1. With image as the background layer

Via the Menu select Image/Mode/LAB Color

2. Select The Channels Tab then select the Lightness layer

3. Via the Menu select

Image/Mode/Greyscale/Discard on the prompt other channels confirm with OK

4 Then select the Channels Tab Grey icon. Hold down Control (PC), CMD (MAC) and click on the grey icon

5 From the Menu Select/Inverse

6 Create a new layer

7 Add a layer mask

8 Click layer icon in colour mask layer This is the Left Icon

9 Then from the Menu Select Image/Mode/RGB Select No to flatten image when prompted

10 Then from the Menu Select Edit/Fill/Colour and Then Select Black

11 Adjust blending mode to achieve best effect

Photoshop Elements all Versions

Photoshop offers set methods for converting to black and white. My preferred method is the following. This method was used to produce my image of Broughty Ferry Castle in the 2010/2011 season.

1 Select the Layers Panel

2. Add a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer. Set the blend mode to Color and make no adjustments at this stage

3. Create a second Hue/Saturation adjustment layer and move the saturation slider all the way to the Left – 100%. This will now desaturate the image.

4. Select the first Hue/Saturation layer and move the Hue Slider to left. Watch the tones of the image as you move the slider. Blues will be stronger towards – 100%

5. Further effects can be added to the image by adding a new layer between the 2 Hue and Saturation Layers. Set the blend mode to OVERLAY.

6. Set the swatches in the tools to panel to their default values by pressing "D"

7. Select the Gradient Tool and in the Options Bar select the Foreground (Black) to Transparent and Linear Options.

8. Drag the gradient to the desired position (sky/foreground)

9. Lower the opacity of the layer to decrease the effect. Duplicate the layer to increase the effect.

10. Dodging and Burning can be applied via a new layer filled with 50% grey and the blend mode set to OVERLAY. Paint directly on this Layer using Black to burn (darken) and White to dodge (Lighten) the image.

11. A final Level Adjustment can then be made if required at the top of the Layers Stack.

12. Colour can be added back into the image by duplicating the background layer and dragging it to the top of the Layers Stack. Set the blend mode to COLOR and reduce the opacity as required for the black and white effect to show through.

CLUB EXHIBITION AND DINNER

The Club and Exhibition Awards were presented at this years dinner, which was enjoyable and the Digital Images were well presented by Geoff. The music accompanying them was interesting and matched the images well.

David Steel made a very interesting speech on how we could develop as a club and expand our skills base. Street Photography was one area mentioned.

The expectations for judges accommodation and requirements were outlined by David, the Committee were relieved

that these were for the early days of inter club competitions — (You want what ??? First Class Travel, Five Star Hotel and Chauffer driven cars !!)

Many thanks to all who helped set up the room and to Jean for arranging the venue and all the trimmings!

Next years dinner will be at the same venue in a larger room.

The date will be advised in the program me for next year. Please come if you can.

The following are some of the photographs taken at the awards evening by Emma.

For copies etc please contact her at the next club meeting.



George Dann, David Steel



David Steel, Andrew Macpherson



David Woods, David Steel



Kevin Scott, David Steel, Barbara Egerton, and John Godfrey

DIARY DATES AND EVENTS

Bishops Stortford Carnival Saturday 18/06/2011.

We have a stand at this years Town Carnival and as a club we have a golden opportunity to take photographs and have them displayed in the Tourist Information Office, Council Offices and Brochures for Bishop Stortford.

Help will be required for the stall and photography during the Procession, Afternoon. Please pass details to Emma or any Committee Member if you can assist.

Mid Summer Dinner—Contact Bill Edwards

Booked for the Red Lion, Finchingfield 21/06/2011 7:30pm for 8:00pm .

Come early and photograph this attractive Essex village, Duck Pond, Windmill etc



VOTE OF THANKS

On behalf of all members I wish to thank the committee of the club for their efforts in arranging the Club Meetings, Judges, Workshops, Social Events and Outings during 2010/2011 season.

And finally on behalf of the Committee many thanks to our members for your support of the club during 2010/2011 and being part of a varied and we hope much enjoyed season.

USEFUL INTERNET LINKS

HDR Photography

www.stuckincustoms.com - Travel Photography in HDR and HDR Tutorials

captainkimo.com - Travel Photography and HDR Tutorials

Photoshop Goodies

www.psdbox.com - Photoshop freebies

Photographic Magazine Sites

Www.photoradar.com - Photographic Site—Reviews and Tutorials.

Photoshop Tutorials

www.thelittlephotoshop.co.uk— Photoshop tutorials

Www.computer-darkroom.com Photoshop tutorials

The internet is a source of amazement to us all. There is so much knowledge out in "the cloud" it is often hard to find. The following links have proved useful to members. It must be noted that the Club have no responsibility for the recommended links content

COMMITTEE 2011/2012

The Committee for the 2011/2012 season is as follows:

Chairman	Jim Jones
Vice Chairman	Emma Evans
Hon Secretary	Bill Edwards
Hon Treasurer	Janet Hosford
Hon Membership Secretary	Geoff Eldridge
Hon Programme Secretary	Jean Platt
Hon Competition Secretary	Janet Hosford
Committee Members	David Woods
	Andrew Macpherson
	Michael Higgins
	Kevin Scott
	1 vacant position.

PHOTO TASK (WAS COLOUR TASK)

Subjects for 2011/2012

Agriculture

Architecture

Shadow

World in Motion

Dereliction

Antiquities

Tree Architecture

Fire

Any ideas ??? !!!



ALF TOWELS IN MEMORIAM

Many of us will be aware of the passing away of Alfred Towels during the 2010/2011 season.

My lasting memory of Alf is from our November Workshop and how he interacted with the two models, and boy did he make them smile !!

Yes we have lost a valued member who shared his knowledge with all.

The photograph that follows shows Alf at "work" at this workshop.



As a Club we have benefited from Alf in many ways over the past years and we thank Lucy, his wife, for donating the collection from his funeral to the Club.

At the AGM it was decided that this memorial fund be used to purchase new studio equipment for the Club.

This fund is open to further donations from members.

Please see Janet if you are able to contribute in memory of Alf.

Thank You

Jim