



VIEWFINDER



Hemel Hempstead Photographic Society

Viewfinder is the monthly journal of photography for and by members of the **Hemel Hempstead Photographic Society** (otherwise known as HHPS).

Intro:

Welcome to the first issue of **Viewfinder** for the new season 2023-2024.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Philip Byford, who died unexpectedly on August 19th. Philip was the editor of **Viewfinder** for many years and worked diligently to bring items of news, club activities, and contributions on a range of photographic topics from members to members.

Taking over the editorship from Philip is a daunting prospect since he had been doing it without fail and to a high standard for many years. For the time-being, at least, I'll keep to the same format that Philip developed, and will probably use some of his content while I ease my way into it.

Having done the layout for my own articles which I then passed on to Philip (he sometimes had to tweak or re-arrange things a little) I know it's not always straightforward, so please bear with me if the first few issues (at least!) don't look quite as accomplished as Philip's. He will be greatly missed.

Jim Turner, Editor

In this issue

First and foremost there's a tribute to Philip Byford by Richard Anthony, with a selection of Philip's photographs which scored highly in club competitions (Philip sometimes bemoaned the fact that competition judges often gave his images lower scores because they were "record shots". I think these images show that he was capable of more than just "record" shots).

There is also an introduction from our new Chair, Uly Jorimann, who, as she points out, is also the Members' Rep, a role she has filled for a number of years; while Rob Harley reports on the HHPS stalls in the Old Town and at the Boxmoor Festival.

Finally there is a selection of images from last season's award winners, which showcases the range of styles and genres practiced by members.

Back Issues and Contributions

Previous editions can be viewed and/or downloaded from the Viewfinder page of the HHPS web Viewfinder Archive, which goes back to 2016. There you can also find the Viewfinder Index which has been updated to include links to all the articles from January 2016 to March 2023, listed under three headings - date, author, and topic.

Content from any member for future editions is always welcomed, whether short, helpful, snippets, or longer articles (preferably illustrated with photos) of one or more A4 pages, and they can be about any photographic topic. A variety of contributions is always welcome.

A Tribute To Philip Byford

d. 19th August 2023



Sadly Philip passed away in Watford General Hospital on Saturday 19 August having suffered two haemorrhages in the brain 11 days earlier whilst at one of his favourite lunch-time venues, Tring Garden Centre.

Philip joined HHPS in October 2011 and became a loyal, hardworking Member. Over the years he only missed one Monday meeting, one Committee meeting, and one work group when he had volunteered to help clear the store cupboard - unusually for him he had forgotten to check his diary! He did, however, make amends by remembering for the next session.

In January 2016 Philip took on the role of Viewfinder Editor, a position he had held ever since, developing our “newsletter” into the excellent monthly journal it has become. When discussing Viewfinder Philip once told me he often spent in excess of 12 hours a month working on it!

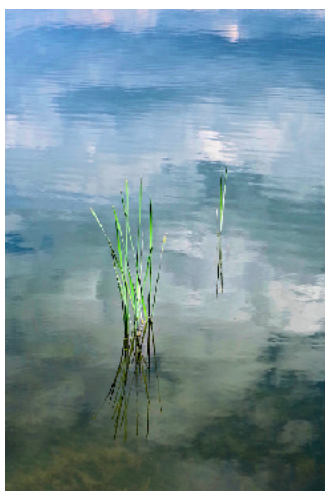
The quality of Viewfinder, together with the numerous other contributions Philip made to HHPS, was recognised at the end of the 2021-22 season when he was awarded The President’s Cup.

My earliest memory of talking to Philip was at one of the “extra” meetings we used to hold, this particular session being to do with image manipulation. Philip had an image of a lovely smiling bride on his screen. I asked if it was his daughter and was advised “no, just a friend’s daughter, I’m not married”. He said he was stuck for ideas on how to manipulate the image so I suggested, a bit tongue in cheek, he could black out one of the bride’s front teeth. He liked the idea and tried it out, and though it certainly did nothing to improve the image he found it a useful exercise. From that time we became good friends, sharing amongst other things, a similar sense of humour.

Since moving into the Salvation Army Hall for our meetings Philip was responsible for getting everything ready for our interval refreshments. He volunteered to do this on the condition that he did not have to take a turn at manning the refreshment table in the interval as he did not want to miss any of the meeting whilst getting the refreshments ready. He was also responsible for ensuring there was always a supply of tea, coffee and especially biscuits.

Though a very keen and competent photographer Philip had, by his own admission, a limited range of subjects he would shoot and he would only capture images he personally liked, fully accepting that very often they were not the type judges of our League Competitions liked to see. This did not stop him entering all of the League Competitions, and some of the others, as he enjoyed sharing his images with other members. He was always very interested in viewing the images submitted by other members even though these were generally not within his subject range.

A selection of Philip's photographs



Philip and I used to exchange emails, often referencing our latest photographic exploits and sharing images. The last one I sent Philip was of a burnt-out fish-and-chip shack-type restaurant at Southwold Harbour - his comment "Sad about the chippy; I always ask for my fish and chips to be well done but that seems to have gone a bit too far" was typical of his droll sense of humour.

In our 2022-2023 Annual Awards Commentary Philip's images for Group B Colour Prints gained First, Second and Third places, a suitable "epitaph" I think especially considering the title of one of them, "We will remember them". I am sure that like me you will remember Philip as the cheerful, helpful, friendly and kind person he was.



We Will Remember Them
by Philip Byford



In Memoriam
by Philip Byford

The first day after a death
The new absence is always the same.
We should be careful of each other,
We should be kind while there is still time

Philip Larkin

From the Chair:

A big welcome to a new season of the camera club, and especially to the new members. I hope you will all find it enjoyable and interesting.

I may be chairperson, but I am also members' rep, so I am here to listen to members' queries and feedback and represent them on the committee. You can, of course, talk to anybody in the club if you need help with something.

We have started the 2023-24 season with some excellent evenings, and I hope you have enjoyed my talk on my 2018 trip to the USA. I have other talks like this up my sleeve, if people are interested, but I promise there will be more scenery and less historical architecture in them, for those who enjoy spectacular landscapes.

We have lots of varied club nights ahead, and competitions, if you like those. Everything is designed to help you enjoy and improve your photography, which is what we are about.

By the time you read this, I will hopefully have had my interview with Emyr Williams on Radio Dacorum. This is to give the club publicity in the community and beyond. If you have missed it, I will provide details of how you can listen to it on catch-up.

Ully

[You can hear a recording of Ully's interview with Emyr on the Radio Dacorum website www.radiodacorum.org.uk and choosing the pop-out player. You can find Ully's show from the Catchup option at the bottom. - Ed.]



News and Information

Meetings:

The majority of meetings will be scheduled for the Salvation Army Hall. However, it is still possible for circumstances to change, e.g. an event planned at the hall might be changed to a Zoom meeting at short notice. Consequently, be aware of any special announcements, usually posted on the web site and sent via email and/or on WhatsApp, which might indicate a change of location and/or activity.

The first meeting of the season began with the presentation of awards for the various categories from last season. The list of winners is in the June issue and a selection of images can be seen below.

In the second half of the session members showed photographs they had taken during the summer, from the end of the last season to the end of August. There were some excellent images, some of which, no doubt, will be seen again in League competitions.

The second meeting in September was an opportunity for members to show photographs which had a special meaning for them. These ranged from the personal to significant points on their photographic journey

In the third meeting Uilly gave a fascinating presentation of her trip around the capitals of seven States on the USA's eastern seaboard in 2018. It was interesting to see the range of architectural styles, with some buildings dating from the early days of British and European settlement in the late 17th and 18th centuries. What was also striking was how colourful many of these old buildings were.

The final meeting in September was a demonstration of various editing tools. Emyr Williams showed how Snapseed and Photoshop Express could be used to edit photographs on your phone; Steve Ballard showed some of the features of Affinity Photo and Rob Harley demonstrated some key features of Adobe Lightroom for those who prefer to do their editing on a computer. All three presentations generated a lot of interest, with a number of questions, and contributions from members who had varying degrees of expertise in using them, particularly Lightroom. Since there was a lot of ground to cover (and Lightroom and Affinity in particular have a lot of features) it was felt further sessions on specific elements would be helpful.

HHPS Stall

The HHPS stall made two outings to encourage new members. The first was before the start of the season, on 3rd September, in St Marys Church Hall in the Old Town; the second was on 23rd September at the Boxmoor Festival. Both were organised by Brian Burgess, with various members "on duty" at different times of the day, from 11.00am to 3.00pm.



The stall at St. Marys Church Hall



The stall at the Boxmoor Festival was as well organised by Brian as on the 3rd September. This was despite the overnight rain meaning the marquee was very wet and was dripping in the area of our stall (when the weather outside was sunny with clear skies!). The stall was open to the public from 11:00 to 15:00. During the first half, Emyr and I helped Brian to run the stall; during the second half Clare was there to help run the stall. Lai was busy elsewhere but still supplied Clare with cakes to keep us sustained. New member Roger was amongst the visitors to our stand. The footfall was good (much better than the 3rd Sept) and we had quite a lot of positive conversations with prospective members. I understand this continued during the second half (after I had left). There is a good chance we will have some new members join as a result.

From Rob Harley

Images:

[Please note: For a better view of the images in Viewfinder, your PDF Reader software should allow you to zoom in. Depending on the size and quality of your screen, the resolution of the images here should enable you to have a good view when the pages are magnified by at least 3x or 300%.]

A Selection of images from last season's award winners

Colour Prints



Disintegration
by John Humphrey



Winter Sunset Reflection
by Philip Byford

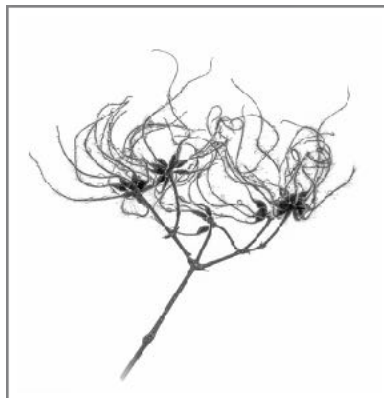


Soft Light In Autumn
by Jim Turner

Mono Prints



Eryngium
by John Humphrey
(Print Of The Year)



Old Man's Beard
by Richard Anthony



A New Beginning
By Jim Turner

Projected Images (DPIs)



Woodland Walk, Mist
and Golden Light
by Jim Turner



Symmetry
by John Marshall



Bee
by John Humphrey



On The Ropes
by John Marshall
(DPI Of The Year)

Reminders

9th October - Submit 3 images for first DPI competition (16th October).

23rd October - Register 3 prints for first Colour Print competition (30th October). NW Federation External Competition Round 2 hosted by HHPS.

26th October - External Competition (Park Street Landscapes DPs)

31st October - Rosebowl External Competition Round 1 (Zoom event)

Outro:

This first issue of the season has been necessarily short. As we get further into the season it will showcase more of your images from competitions and, hopefully, more articles from you, the members.

If you want to explore further some of the editing apps presented in the session on 25th September (or other software such as Paintshop Pro, Photoshop Elements, On1 or Topaz Photo AI), or you use one or more of them and want hints and tips on how to get the best out of them, you can usually find someone on YouTube who will be able to tell you what you want to know.

Two of the landscape photographers I follow on YouTube have web-based courses that you can subscribe to. Although they are oriented towards landscape photography many of the techniques they demonstrate can be used on most images (bearing in mind that there are many ways to achieve the same ends).

Mads Peter Iverson - <https://madspeteriversen.teachable.com/p/photoshop-for-landscape-photographers>

Nigel Danson - <https://www.nigeldanson.com/masterclass>

Matt Kosklowski has been teaching Photoshop and Lightroom skills for many years, and has worked as an Adobe Ambassador and with On1, as well as hosting a Photoshop and Lightroom channel with Scott Kelby who has written many books on the subject. Matt also has a YouTube channel on which he demonstrates new Photoshop and Lightroom features whenever there is a new release :

Matt Kosklowski - <https://mattk.com/course-list/>

Jim, Editor

Contributions

If you have any stories to share, or any useful hints and tips to pass on to other members, please think of Viewfinder. It would be great to have a different member's article every month.

Perhaps you have an image, or a set of images, that tells a story, or demonstrates a photographic technique or the use of a much-loved piece of equipment; or illustrates an interesting place or an unusual scene. If there is anything photographic that you would like to describe or explain for the members, consider submitting something for inclusion in a future edition. You need only to supply a text and the images, and I will put it all into a suitable format for Viewfinder.

If you have something to contribute, please email me using the address in the footer and/or discuss it with me at a Monday meeting. Thank you.

Snippets....

Food For Thought

Without touching my subject I want to come to the moment when, through pure concentration of seeing, the composed picture becomes more made than taken. Without a descriptive caption to justify its existence, it will speak for itself.

Ernst Haas

All art should have a certain mystery and should make demands on the spectator. Giving a sculpture or a drawing [*or a photograph?*] too explicit a title takes away part of that mystery so that the spectator moves on to the next object, making no effort to ponder the meaning of what he has just seen. Everyone thinks that he or she looks but they don't really, you know.

Henry Moore