



Towcester Camera Club

2009 Programme of Events Autumn & Winter



Towcester Camera Club meets on alternate Wednesdays from 8 till 10pm in the Methodist Meeting Room, Bradden Road, Greens Norton, Northants. (Map on back page)

Membership is open to anyone interested in photography. Our skills range from some who don't even own a camera to some very experienced and accomplished photographers.

Meetings are very relaxed and friendly. Emphasis is on sharing and learning practical techniques, both from each other and from a selection of specialist lecturers, on a wide variety of topics.

Visitors are always made very welcome. There is no charge for an initial 'taster' meeting, so come along & find out more about us.

Sept 9	Informal Participation	'Children's Versatility Challenge' and Versatility Challenge for all
Sept 23	Informal Participation	Competition Print Selection Evening
Oct 7	Robert Skears LRPS	Portraits and practical studio work
Oct 21	Competition Night (AT PAULERSPURY)	Annual Print Battle with Olney Club
Nov 4	Steve McGill	On safari in the Gameparks of Africa
Nov 18	Keith Leedham FRPS EFIAP FIPF	Audio visual compilation techniques
Dec 2	Sharing (2 of) our skills	'Learning about Landscapes' and 'Mirror lens techniques'
Dec 16	Informal Participation & Christmas Party	Our best shots of 2009

Our programme includes lectures by experts in particular fields of photography and plenty of opportunities to show and discuss your own photographs at our informal participation evenings. This season's programme also introduces a series of hands-on workshops so that we can help each other to learn new practical techniques.

Sept 9 Informal Participation

**'Children's Versatility Challenge'
and Versatility Challenge for all**

For a couple of hours before the usual start time (from 5.30 to 7.30pm) there is a special **'Children's Versatility Challenge'**

Participation is open to the under-16 year old children/grandchildren of existing members.

Please do note that it is very important that all children attending are accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.

Even if you are not actually bringing a child to participate, do come along early anyway and support the meeting if you can. You never know what you might learn from seeing the world through the eyes of children.

The 6 titles for the **'Children's Versatility Challenge'**

1. The beauty of nature
2. A man-made pattern
3. One colour stands out
4. Sunset (or Sunrise!)
5. Something with water in it
6. Animal antics



Participants can enter one photograph for each title (so the maximum would be 6 pictures). Have fun, give encouragement but do try not to take over!.....

Adults will get a chance later on in the same evening – with the same titles - at the usual meeting time.

Sept 23 Informal Participation

Competition Print Selection Evening

There are only 2 annual competitions that our club traditionally enters. One is the Print Battle against Olney and the other is the countywide Terry Chapman Memorial Competition. During this meeting we will somehow try to come to an agreement about which of our very many wonderful images should be put forward for these competitions. Please bring along your own favourites (no more than 6 please) – and don't feel intimidated if you haven't ever entered a competition before. Remember that judging is a very subjective skill.....if you like it then the judge might like it too (or, even if we all think it is fantastic.... the judge may still hate it!) All selected pictures will have to be printed and mounted for display, so it would be ideal if you are able to bring along a ready printed version.

If you'd prefer to bring your images on a memory stick to be projected then that's fine too. There will still be just enough time for you to get them printed if they are selected. (Deadline is 1st Oct for the Terry Chapman entries).



Robert's main 'thing' is shooting people. He trained in the early 80's, using 'light' you can't see - shooting people on the inside as a career, then for a hobby, from the outside!



Or put another way x-ray by day and Nikon by night and weekends

His interest in Photography started when he began his first job at the Royal Dental School in Leicester Square. With lots of time and a ready supply of buildings and monuments he thought he'd have some fun. So armed with a 50mm lens and Pentax ME Super he began, what has developed into a consuming passion. Over the years he has used Chinon, Bronica, Canon, Fuji, finally settling onto Nikon with a mix of Sigma and Nikon lenses.

Robert doesn't know why he got into shooting people ...he says they are more difficult to persuade to sit for you - a bowl of fruit doesn't fidget, whine, take ages to do its hair and then moan that's not its best side, etc... But that's what he got into and he has been going on courses ever since. (.....continued)
....Eventually the obligatory studio set up loomed and he bought a sweet little Bolite. Last August he bought Gemini 500 heads, which are now his main choice, although he has been looking more favourably on the 'Strobist' approach lately.

Robert shoots a lot for the larger theatre groups in Milton Keynes, doing Programme shots and Publicity for PR and Posters as well as the dreaded dress rehearsals! He has set up "pseudo's" in church halls; redundant churches, several areas around the OU theatre foyer; two canteens; various halls that become rehearsal spaces at night; Salcey forest and even inside Woburn Abbey. His next costumed PR shoot is planned for the sham castle at Stowe for 'Beauty and the Beast'.

There is certainly plenty of potential in Robert's portfolio to make for a fascinating session as he shows us how exactly how he sets the scene for a practical portraiture session.

www.shotz4u.co.uk

**Oct 21 Competition Night
(AT PAULERSPURY)****Annual Print Battle with
Olney Camera Club**

This year we are hosting our annual friendly competition and as our membership has recently grown in size, the meeting is to be at the larger Paulerspury Village Hall, just south of Towcester, instead of our usual cosy little venue. Our rivals from Olney have been invited to come along there and show us their best photographs. The past few events have been a very close match..... Which club will win this time? Come along and enjoy the action. There are always countless tips that you can glean from a judge's own considered opinion.

Oct 24 ***Competition Night***
(AT IRCHESTER)

***The 8th Terry Chapman
Memorial Competition***

This event is organised annually by Rushden & District Photographic Society and entry is open to all Northamptonshire Camera Clubs.

Venue : Irchester Village Hall, Irchester, Northants, NN29 7AW

Viewing is 6-7pm and judging starts at 7.15pm. There is an admission fee of £2/person. All profits from the event are donated to the Oncology Unit at Northampton General Hospital.

The judge this year is Ann Miles FRPS from Cambridge.

Nov 4 Steve McGill

On safari in the Gameparks of Africa

It is with great pain and the utmost reluctance that our very shy & modest Treasurer, Steve McGill has eventually agreed to show us some of his photographs from his latest safari. Having had a sneak preview of some of them, he should be justifiably proud of showing them!



Knowing Steve, it will be mostly birds and animal photos with quite a bit of inside information about how he actually managed to catch the shots. This will be a meeting well worth coming to (even if the football is on!) – Who knows? Steve may even be distracted enough to forget to collect the subs! Now that wasn't actually a promise!

**Nov 18 Keith Leedham FRPS
EFIAP FIPF**

Audio visual compilation techniques



Last autumn we were shown some brilliant audio visuals by Keith Leedham, who is a National AV judge and an International AV Festival Committee member.

Keith has kindly agreed to come back and tell us a bit more about how to get started actually putting an audio visual together.

Prepare to be totally inspired, even enough to make your own AV!

And keep Dec 9th free..... all will be revealed later!

Dec 2 Sharing (2 of) our skills

'Learning about Landscapes' and 'Mirror lens techniques'

It is one of the strengths of our club that our members are more than happy to share their knowledge with each other. This evening is one such event where we will be hearing from 2 of our own members what they have learnt about a particular skill.

Anne Gray was enlightened when she went on a landscape photography course in the Lake District. She will take us through some of the very useful steps she now employs to improve her landscape photography.



Andy Hooker has been experimenting with the very unusual creative effects that can be achieved using a mirror lens. He will explain how it works and will show us some of his mirror lens images.

Dec 16 Informal Participation & Christmas Party

Our best shots of 2009

More details to come out as the nights draw in, but the general opinion last year was that a pre-meeting Christmas meal was a very good idea! Whether or not you can arrive a bit earlier than usual to have a meal, the meeting will be a relaxed gathering with some festive food & drink and an opportunity to share your favourite photographs of the year.



Feb Towcester Library

Exhibition of our prints

We have our traditional opportunity to exhibit members' prints during the month of February in the Towcester Library. More details nearer the time but start thinking about what you would like to show.

At all Informal Meetings.....

Towcester Camera Club
Trading Table

Your old kit could be somebody
else's upgrade!



Following a successful trial run last season, the 'Trading Table' will be available again at all those meetings where there is no guest speaker.

The 'Trading Table' is an area where any relevant 'items for sale' can be displayed prior to the start of the meeting - to be haggled over either then, or during the break. All transactions are to be made directly between individual members and all items remain at all times, the full responsibility of their current owner!

NEW! Practical Workshops
(AT PAULERSPURY)

Studio Lighting/Colour Management/
AudioVisuals/Basic Photoshop

By request, there is to be a monthly practical photography workshop session which will be held at Paulerspury Village Hall.

The idea is that some of our more experienced members will volunteer to lead a practical, hands-on session on a particular topic. These will be interactive sessions, with only a limited number of members attending, to enable those interested to actually get involved themselves. Some of the topics already suggested are listed. Fuller details will be given out at meetings (and in the regular reminder email which goes out to members) when you will have an opportunity to book a place.

If these sessions are successful, the topics covered will be repeated or expanded where possible, to suit demand. To test the viability of this new venture, the venue has been booked, initially only for the next 4 months.

It is now up to all of us to participate/volunteer/request topics.

2009 Workshop dates (all Wednesdays, 7.30-10pm) and topics are:-

Sept 16	Studio Lighting	Paul Haisman
Oct 14	Basic Photoshop	(to be confirmed)
Nov 11	Colour management	Ajit Negandhi
Dec 9	Audio Visuals	Bill Jordan

