



Towcester Camera Club

Programme of Events Autumn & Winter 2010



Towcester Camera Club meets at the Methodist Hall in Greens Norton 8-10pm on alternate Wednesday evenings and warmly welcomes anybody who enjoys photography as a hobby. Our main aim is to help our members to have some fun with their cameras. There is always a very friendly atmosphere at meetings, often there is some truly awe inspiring photography to share and sometimes members are gently pushed (very willingly!) beyond their usual 'comfort zone' into tackling exciting new challenges.

Our members have a very wide range of photographic interests and ability and most find that they thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to share ideas and learn techniques from each other and from visiting speakers.

Autumn & Winter 2010

Sept 8	Versatility Challenge (Children's Challenge first at 5.30pm)
Sept 22	Competition Prints Selection Evening
Oct 6	John Winchcomb Creative Flash
Oct 20	Volunteers "Let me show you some of my photographs"
Nov 3	James Rudd My Experiences as a Local Photojournalist"
Nov 17	Mike Lane FRPS "My latest Wildlife images from around the World"
Dec 1	Participation Go on! Break all those rules!
Dec 15	Christmas Presents for All

New members are always welcome: If you think that you may like to join us, do come along to any of our meetings to see what we're like. There is no charge for your first meeting and if you do then decide to join, membership is very affordable.

Sep 8

Versatility Challenge (Children's Challenge first, 5.30pm)

As last year's 'Children's Versatility Challenge' was so well received, we have decided to do it again, starting at 5.30pm, for a couple of hours before the main meeting. One photo for each title – prints or digital.

1. Far away in the distance
2. Wild and/or dangerous
3. Something interesting just at my eye level
4. Very multi-coloured
5. A face full of feeling
6. Whatever the weather

Bring photos (and children!) to a special '5.30pm early start' first meeting back after the summer break.

Open to the under 16 year old, fully supervised children/grandchildren/nephews/nieces etc. of members.



There will be a refreshments break at about 6.30pm and we aim to be finished by 7.30pm and then follow on at the usual meeting time 8pm, with adult members showing their own interpretations of the same titles.

Adult members who are not bringing any children to the early session are most welcome to attend early too. Last year's meeting was quite entertaining and you may be surprised at what you could learn!

Sep 22

Competition Prints Selection Evening

Traditionally we are not a competitive club, but we do have a go at a couple of competitions each year. This meeting will be a selection evening for our club's print entries for the Terry Chapman Memorial Competition, which is open to any photographic club in Northamptonshire and is to be held at Irchester on 30th October. There is no set subject for this competition and at this stage, your photographs can be shown digitally, but if selected they would need to be printed and mounted.

Our selection procedure is based on our club's all-inclusive policy, whilst democratically attempting to submit 9 prize winning prints. Sounds easy? It isn't!! But the selection process is usually enjoyable and well worth having a go at, especially if you have never entered any of your photographs into a competition before.

The judge for this year's Terry Chapman Memorial competition is Colin Southgate FRPS who is a member of Harpenden Photographic Society.

Our speaker this evening is going to show us how to use flash lighting more creatively. Although convenient, the in-built camera mounted flash is very unsatisfactory to the photographer. Instead we will be looking at using off-camera flash. The consequence of this is that the camera auto flash / auto exposure functions will not work. This is actually a blessing, once we understand how to work without them.

Some of the important aspects which will be discussed are:

- The sun and the sky – Understanding lighting essentials
- Setting the colour temperature (camera white balance)
- Deciding on the best lighting for a subject or desired effect – based upon the substitute model
- Assessing lighting contrast
- Setting the exposure
- Softening the light
- Dynamic back lighting

John will demonstrate practically how various lighting effects can be manipulated using a simple one flash setup, in conjunction with diffusers and reflectors. Armed with this knowledge and probably minimal extra expense, you should be then able to recreate the same effects yourself.

We have some very talented photographers amongst our membership and some have even volunteered to take to the floor! This meeting has been set up to allow several of our more reticent regulars (who possibly would not want to undertake to fill a whole evening) to show us some of their favourite work.

Tony Vaughan will show ‘Le Mans Old Town’

Bill Jordan will show ‘Though I say it myself.....these aren’t too bad!’

Paul Haisman has recently started doing some wedding photography and will bring in some of his work.

Jeannie Waite has promised to surprise us

A.N.Other volunteer(s) might show ‘Subject of their/your(?) choice’

Feel free to gather about half an hours worth of your photographs together and book yourself into the next vacant slot.

James Rudd runs <http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/nn12> he is a hyper local publisher, providing an online daily news and what's on guide for Towcester, Brackley and South Northants.



James came back to photography with the launch of this site having spent many years working in high end graphic reproduction for publishers including Condé Nast, National Magazines, IPC and high quality catalogues including Laura Ashley, Next Directory and John Lewis.

James will be talking about how photography works in his business, why its important and how he goes about it. His business had diversified to now include press and event photography for a growing roster of clients.

Picture Nigel Heath. www.shotsport.co.uk

Mike Lane is a full time wildlife photographer specialising in birds and mammals. Although he travels to foreign lands a great deal, his main love is British wildlife. He says that he gets far more satisfaction photographing humble wrens and chaffinches than exotic parrots in distant rain forests. Nevertheless, he enjoys the travel and has spent long periods in Canada, Australia, Spain and India. Other trips have included the Shetlands, The Gambia, Botswana, Tanzania, Namibia, Israel, Florida, Poland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Hungary, Czech Republic, Venezuela, Iceland, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus and the Oman.



Mike says that he has four interests in life. Wildlife, photography, travel and computers. In today's digital age they all combine very well into one interest. In an ideal world he would spend all his time travelling, photographing wildlife and emailing out the processed pictures. Economics force him to spend too much time at his desk, but the internet is allowing him to travel and to run the business on the move.

We are lucky to have caught Mike in between his frequent travelling sessions and he has agreed to bring his computer to show us a selection of some of his latest images. With such a variety of habitats amongst Mike's impressive list of recent destinations, what we'll see at this meeting is bound to be a fascinating glimpse of the world's wildlife.



Life is just full of rules which we all gradually learn to obey and photography is no exception. Most rules are there for a good reason but sometimes it doesn't hurt to just go ahead and do your own thing, if you think it will work.

This purpose of meeting is to get you thinking about what 'the rules' actually are and to challenge you to prove that you can still produce a decent image by blatantly ignoring the usually accepted conventions. This could also be a good learning exercise for some of our less experienced members, who may be able to pick up some new helpful guidelines to follow.

Be prepared to bring in at least 3 photographs as positive evidence, with your supporting defence of what the rule should be and why you decided to break it. Just in case you are having a blank moment trying to remember any of the rules....how about 'The rule of thirds', 'Don't point your camera into the sun', 'Never work with children and animals', 'Don't talk to strangers', 'Always use a tripod at slow shutter speeds'there are umpteen rules around when you start thinking of them - all just waiting for you to enjoy being totally rebellious and blow them away!

Christmas is a time for giving, so they say. It is very nice to receive something too though, isn't it? After this meeting there are still 10 days before Christmas so you might just want to revise your Christmas present (to give or receive) list. Everyone has a favourite photographic gadget/software/technique. Maybe you regularly use something which you find very useful. It could even be something quite cheap and simple which others may just not have thought of.

This meeting is a chance for you to share some of the things that you have found to be the most helpful to your photography. I know that our members are a pretty resourceful bunch so I'm hoping that we will get a whole mixture of clever ideas, fancy techniques and indispensable items.

Don't worry, you don't actually HAVE to give all the items you bring to your hard working Committee, we will let you take them back home again!

Practical Workshops

(Held at Paulerspury)

Dates & Topics to be announced as they are arranged – volunteer leaders still needed

Following the very successful 'trial' practical workshops which were held for the first time last Autumn, it is intended to try to keep these useful sessions running.

Workshops are led by our own members who have particular skills or interests that can be shared with smallish group of fellow members who are keen to learn.

From the previous workshops it is likely that there could well be fairly regular meetings of a Studio group and an Audio visual group and Basic Digital Editing is always in demand. Details will be given out as soon as the relevant workshop leaders set them up.

Photography Days Out

Exciting venues and opportunities are planned

From time to time we are offered the chance to make a block booking for a day out for a session of specialised photography. Places are often limited for these events and are offered first to members at meetings.

There is a 'Birds of Prey' Day with Mark Sisson at Welshpool planned for 12th November 2010. This one is fully booked.

Other days out will be announced as they become available.

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Trading Table

Your old kit could be somebody else's upgrade!



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

