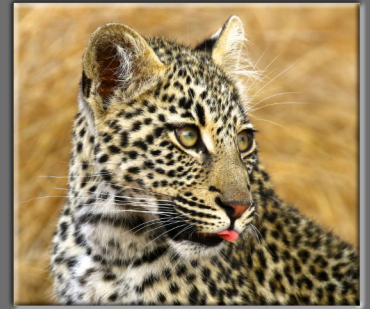




HYTHE DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Photographs of the Year 2019
chosen by
Sue Chapman ARPS, CPAGP

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was with some trepidation that I took over the Chairmanship of the Club at the beginning of 2019. I was acutely aware that my predecessor, Eddie Manly, had expertly guided the Club from small beginnings in Saltwood in 2011 through to the successful Hythe District Photographic Club that now exists.

Despite a nightmare start at the January meeting when technology failures resulted in a somewhat chaotic meeting, both I, and more importantly the Club, survived! Indeed the Club has continued to grow and at the time of writing, 57 members had signed up during 2019, and attendances at meetings continues to grow and we now regularly attract over 40 members and visitors a month.

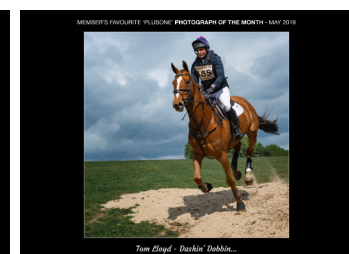
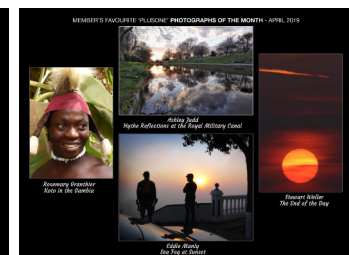
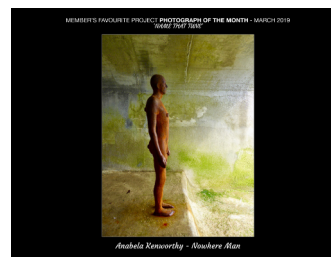
This success is built on the Club's founding principles of providing a forum where members can share their photographs for everyone to enjoy. We do not indulge in competitions or formal judging, but rather we try to provide a platform for members to enjoy taking photographs, irrespective of their experience or the equipment they use. Indeed, it is especially pleasing to see so many excellent photographs taken on camera phones and compact cameras. It is also gratifying that experienced members so willingly share their knowledge and experience to help us all develop our skills.

Throughout the year we have retained the meeting format that has been successful in the past and as the Club continues to grow I do not anticipate moving away from this tried and tested formula. Our principle activities have been;

PRESENTATIONS

Through a mixture of outside speakers and Club members we have enjoyed a broad range of presentations including "Photographing the Southern Right Whale", "Seals, Seascapes and Coastal Wildlife", "East Kent Churches", "Why RSPB Dungeness is so Unique", "Advanced Digital Editing", to name just some. We will endeavour to provide a similar eclectic mix in 2020. Club members who have given their time free of charge to prepare and make presentations during 2019 include James, Vince, Tom, Peter and Andy. Not only do we benefit from your experience and expertise, but also your willingness to assist, without charge, helps strengthen the Club's finances. Grateful thanks to you all.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH 2019



PROJECTS AND PlusONE

The bedrock of the Club has been the invitation to members to submit photographs on a set subject each month. Support for this has steadily increased throughout the year with an average of 50 Project submissions each month. Subjects have ranged from "Kent Wildlife", "Food", "Lines, Shapes & Circles", to "Name That Tune: Beatles Song Titles". The most popular Projects were "Churches" and "Birds" which both attracted over 60 photographs each. These, together with varied selection of PlusONE photographs provided a stimulating and very enjoyable photographic feast and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://hythedistrictphotographicclub.jimdo.com/project-gallery-2019/>

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH

The number of Club and Facebook members voting for the favourite photograph each month, from the two categories, has increased as the year has gone on. I hope this trend continues for although we are not a competitive Club, I am sure we all are encouraged if our photograph gains favour with the membership. It was noticeable this year how many of the favourites chosen were taken on phone cameras, which is a trend I am sure will continue.

PHOTOSHOOT & OUTINGS

Successful and well supported trips were organised to: St. Leonard's Church, Lympe Castle, Pegwell Bay Seal Safari and Wildlife Trip, and Wyckhurst Gardens. These trips provide a sociable and relaxed opportunity to take photographs, share skills and experience, and improve technique. More are being planned for 2020. The Photoshoot Gallery can be viewed at the following link:

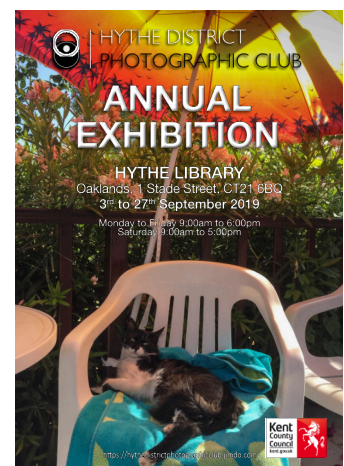
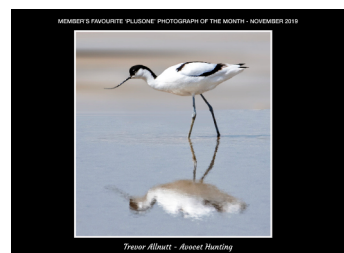
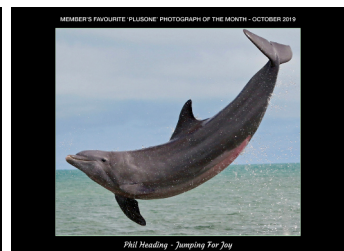
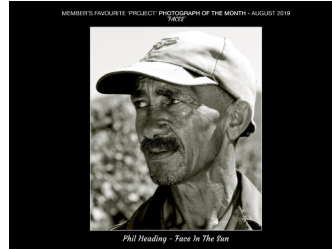
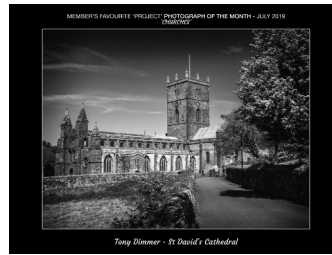
<https://hythedistrictphotographicclub.jimdo.com/photoshoot-galleries/>

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

This was held at Hythe Library in September and attracted much favourable comment from the public and library staff. It was well supported by Club members with 43 prints on display of which 7 were sold. We are indebted to Trevor, who not only undertakes the onerous duties of Club treasurer but also collates and resizes all members Project submissions each month. Yet he still found time to collect the exhibition prints, attach mirror plates to the frames, and then mount the photographs at the library, and take them down at the end of the exhibition. Sincere thanks for all you do for the Club, Trevor.

Another Annual Exhibition is already confirmed for September 2020.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH 2019



PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The growth of the Club is in no small way the result of the immense amount of work James has put into publicising our activities through the distribution of professionally produced meeting posters which are currently distributed to around 13 locations each month as well as being uploaded to the club website and posted via a number of social media sites.

The Club's website has been revised by James during the year making it easier to navigate whilst increasing the content. Our Facebook page has seen a noticeable increase in activity and now has over 130 (full and guest) members.

James's contribution to the Club through his technical expertise is indispensable. He devotes a huge amount of time to the Club including the preparation of all the meeting slides. I am personally extremely grateful for the time, patience and effort he puts in trying to make me look competent in the Chairman's role!

FINANCES

The Club's finances have improved and remain strong. Whilst the cost of external speakers is always a constraint, improved meeting attendances and increased membership have helped grow the revenues.

In the light of this sound financial position it is proposed that the annual membership fee remains at £15 for 2020, and the meeting charge at £3. As before, student membership will remain free.

SPONSORSHIP

We are grateful to Bev Saunders who has taken over sponsorship from long time supporter **DEVICE** (formerly "The Camera Shop Hythe"), through her business **EDGE** Framing. Her support, both practical and financial is much appreciated.

COMMITTEE

Six committee meetings were held during 2019 to help plan the programme and to streamline processes for running Club activities. The Club would not function without the tireless hard work of James, Trevor, Kate, John, and Rosemary. Their unstinting support has been invaluable to me as they have tried to keep me on the "straight and narrow".

The success of the Club is a tribute to their enthusiastic support. Thank you for your help and guidance throughout 2019.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the help given to the Club by Tim Cudby, who not only ensures the venue is set up appropriately for each meeting, but also is tolerant of our frequent time overruns. He also had the good sense to become a Club member earlier in the year!

FINALLY

None of the success we have seen during 2019 would have been possible without the enthusiastic involvement of Club members who have supported the activities with such enthusiasm and regularity. I am particularly indebted to Kate and the members who have volunteered to man the kitchen and provide the refreshments at each meeting.

You have all provided memorable photographs and special moments throughout the year. Thank you all.

Phil Heading
Club Chairman

<https://hythedistrictphotographicclub.jimdo.com>
www.facebook.com/groups/824710414258709/

