

HYTHE DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - JANUARY 2020 "TIRE & ICE"</p> <p>Trevor Allsatt - <i>Tires Rocked in Ice</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - JANUARY 2020</p> <p>Anna Willmott - <i>You Can Never Have Enough Berets</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - JULY 2020 "FROM YOUR ARCHIVES"</p> <p>Graham Dowdsen - <i>Emmeline Man</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH - JULY 2020</p> <p>Graham Dowdsen - <i>Rita's Calling</i> Phil Hoading - <i>Shell of Victor</i></p>
<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY 2020 "BIBBLYSCOPE"</p> <p>Jude Otto - <i>Falkstone Meduct</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY 2020</p> <p>Tom Elloyd - <i>Onwards & Upwards</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - AUGUST 2020 "SICHERMETTES / SHADOWS"</p> <p>Jude Otto - <i>Sea Bandstand</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH - AUGUST 2020</p> <p>Ashida Newberry - <i>Our Morning Dovecote</i> Trevor Allsatt - <i>Three Young Kittens</i> John Taylor - <i>Room with a View</i> Sandra Bushell - <i>Sweet Pea Morning Dew</i></p>
<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - MARCH 2020 "SPEAKING & DOORWAYS"</p> <p>Ken Connell - <i>House Proud</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - MARCH 2020</p> <p>Trevor Allsatt - <i>Startled Startlings</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2020 "RUBBERDOLLY / CORROSION"</p> <p>Sandra Bushell - <i>Rust on Rust</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2020</p> <p>John Taylor - <i>Rooney Castle</i></p>
<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2020 "SOUND EFFECTS"</p> <p>Andy Smith - <i>Don't Stand so Close to me - The Police</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2020</p> <p>Graham Dowdsen - <i>Battersea Lone Tree</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - OCTOBER 2020 "FOUND ON THE FORESHORE"</p> <p>Tom Elloyd - <i>Disappearing Derelicts Dungeness</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH - OCTOBER 2020</p> <p>Trevor Allsatt - <i>Washed up Apple</i></p>
<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - MAY 2020 "SPRING IS HERE!"</p> <p>Sandra Bushell - <i>Jackdaw and Apple Blossom</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - MAY 2020</p> <p>Andy Smith - <i>Tulips in the Garden</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2020 "TOOK TO THE SKY"</p> <p>Brian Webster - <i>Muirn Sunset</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2020</p> <p>Graham Dowdsen - <i>Shut Me</i> John Taylor - <i>Frangula Tree</i></p>
<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - JUNE 2020 "TOWNS ON THE LINE & BUBBLY ECONOMIC REACT"</p> <p>Peter Savage - <i>Dymchurch Beach</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - JUNE 2020</p> <p>Brian Webster - <i>Photographing The Photographers</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE PROJECT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER 2020 "POUNCE"</p> <p>Trevor Allsatt - <i>Monkey Muzzle</i></p>	<p>MEMBER'S FAVOURITE 'PLUSONE' PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER 2020</p> <p>Ashley Judd - <i>Ready for Action</i></p>

MEMBER'S PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH 2020

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

'The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, but leave us nought but grief and pain'

The words of Robert Burns are an appropriate summary of 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on people's lives, causing heartache, grief and uncertainty for so many. Sadly it would seem that we enter 2021 facing the same challenges.

Against that background, the difficulties faced by our Club need to be kept in proportion, but it is nevertheless true that our intended programme was severely disrupted and we have had to adapt as the months rolled on. Thankfully we ended the year in rude health having completed a full programme, albeit not the one originally envisaged.

We are fortunate that our hobby of photography could continue despite the restrictions on social mobility. Indeed being able to go out with the purpose of taking photographs was, for many of us, an antidote to the loneliness of lockdown and the limiting of social interaction.

So whilst we have been unable to physically meet since March, we have been interacting online as words like webinar, Webex, and Zoom became part of our lexicon.

REVIEW MEETINGS

The core activity of the Club has always been the monthly meeting where we have reviewed the monthly Project and PlusONE submissions from members. After March these reviews took place online. These meetings were enthusiastically supported and regularly attracted about 50% of the members. Projects included, "Taken on my One a Day Exercise Walk", "Song Titles", "Found on the Foreshore", and "Dusk to Dawn". The standard of photographs was very high, and there was an increasing trend towards monochrome images, and a further increase in the number of images taken with phone cameras. These welcome trends were reflected in the voting for 'Photographs of the Month'.

In some ways the online meetings seemed to encourage more comments and technical information sharing than previous face-to-face meetings, which is an encouraging trend. After all, learning from experts amongst the membership is key to us being able to develop our skills.

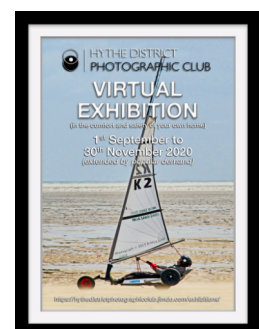
WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS

We started the year with a talk and A/V by Phil about the 'Goodwood Revival' and in February our guest speaker, Howard Smith, gave a presentation 'Britain Through the Eyes of Picture Post'. This proved a popular and nostalgic look at Britain through the 1950s. This was followed, in March, by Andy giving an illustrated talk 'Getting the Best from your Camera'. These meetings also incorporated the monthly project reviews. Sadly these were the last physical meetings for the year, as lockdown was imposed. However monthly project meeting reviews continued online for the rest of the year in addition to 'new' online workshops and presentations as a separate meeting each month covering: 'Composition', 'Triptychs', 'Editing Techniques', 'How to Create an Audio/Visual' amongst others. One innovation that was well received was a 'Q&A' evening where member's questions were answered by a panel of 'expert members'.

None of these activities would have taken place without the help, and commitment of Tom, Andy, James, Anne, Graham, and Kate. We are indebted to them for giving up their time to help the Club. We are very fortunate to have you 'on board'.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

This was scheduled for September at Hythe Library, but as the venue was closed, this became another casualty of the pandemic. Undaunted, the exhibition switched to going online, and 70 photographs were professionally presented on the Club's website and available for viewing from September to the end of November. With a very large number of virtual visitors this has proved popular with the wider public, to the extent that CommunityAd magazine wanted to publish a feature article on the exhibition in their November Sandgate & Folkestone edition.



This again was a victim of lockdown and will now be published in January 2021 but will contain an exclusive link to the Club website where the exhibition will again be available for viewing to readers of the magazine.

Thank you to all the members who contributed images to the exhibition. Hopefully 2021 will present an opportunity to hold a retrospective of the prints already prepared and the opportunity to stage a new exhibition at the Hythe Library in September 2021.

PHOTOSHOOTS

Our planned programme was hardest hit by the restrictions. Limitations on the size of groups able to meet, and social distancing rules, made it impossible to organise any formal photoshoots. However, on an informal basis, some members were able to join up at Lydden motor racing circuit in September, and again, at Headcorn aerodrome.

Photoshoots are important as a way of enjoying each other's company and learning new skills. They will feature strongly in 2021 as soon as we have the freedom to go out as a group.



James Willmott - Headcorn Aerodrome, Pilgrims Hospice Wing Walk



Phil Heading - Lydden Hill, Historic Racing Drivers Club

PUBLICITY

The Club has been extensively promoted through social media, and with posters in local businesses, which has enabled us to continue to attract new members, despite the difficulties we have faced. Anne's work on the Club's WhatsApp® group has been much appreciated providing a forum for members to interact and importantly, be made aware of local photo opportunities at short notice. Thanks, Anne, for setting it up.

ANNUAL REVIEW

Traditionally the Club has invited an external photographic judge to make a selection from the years project photographs submitted by members, which are shown, and discussed at the December Annual Review meeting.

In a departure from this format it had been planned that a 'panel' of members would make the selection this year to ensure that there was a broader selection of members images represented in the review. Whilst the panel had been working throughout the year on this, it was not possible to hold the review as planned as the Hythe Sports Pavilion remained closed, and the format not suitable for an online meeting. It is hoped that the review can take place as soon as face-to-face meetings resume, hopefully in or before April 2021.

In the meantime I would like to thank the 'panel' of Eddie, Kate, Chris and Tom for all the hard work they have put into the project, and look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour as soon as possible.

SPONSORSHIP

The Club does rely on sponsorship to help balance the books, and we are indebted to 'Edge Framing' in Saltwood who provided support in 2020. Bev proved to be a good friend of the Club and I am grateful to her for her help. For 2021, the Club's 10th anniversary year, I am delighted to say we have secured a sponsorship agreement with 'Hythe Life' magazine, which is published quarterly and has a readership of 25,000 local residents. This new partnership offers a great opportunity to promote the Club to a wider audience and we will be developing joint initiatives throughout the year to the benefit of both parties.

FINANCES

Ironically the pandemic has meant that the Club's finances have remained healthy. Whilst we have not collected the monthly meeting fee from members since March, neither have the Town Council charged us for the Pavilion since the first lockdown. Nor have we had the opportunity to invite outside speakers on a regular basis, and thus have saved on speaker's fees. However we have still had to meet website and insurance costs and inevitably these increase year on year.

It is acknowledged that members have not been able to enjoy the 'full Club experience' this year, which is why we plan to offer a reduced fee for 2021 at £10 and £5 for each additional household family member. A membership fee 'holiday' will also be introduced and the annual membership charge will not be collected until April 2021.

COMMITTEE

The committee have 'met' regularly, most memorably on one occasion on a glorious summer's day in Trevor's garden. Socially distanced of course! Most meetings have been online, and at short notice, as we have constantly had to react to changing circumstances and amend the programme.

I am hugely indebted to John, Anne, Kate, Trevor and James, for their help and support in running the Club. They have given up their time without complaint, to ensure we have been able to keep the Club running. Trevor has the unenviable task of collating the member's project submissions each month. This involves resizing of images, checking titles and ensuring they are in a size appropriate for projection at meetings and online. All this is in addition to managing the membership records and Club finances. Thank you Trevor, your help is invaluable.

And then there is James! It is his energy and technical prowess which enabled the Club to switch seamlessly from face-to-face, to online meetings. He also handles the publicity with the professional posters through which the Club promotes its programme. He is administrator for the website and the Facebook page, and still has time to use his fertile brain to come up with innovative ways of developing and promoting the Club, the online 'Annual Exhibition' being but one example. In short, we would not function without the prodigious effort James puts into the Club. Heartfelt thanks for all you do and for making my life so much easier.

FACEBOOK

The club also has a very active private Facebook group with both members and guests, which currently stands at 150. There are frequent post and useful tips appearing almost daily.

FINALLY

Whilst I am sure we will be glad to see the end of 2020, it has still been a positive year for the Club. We have managed to run a larger programme than originally planned and attract new members to the fold. This is because the members have been understanding of the difficulties we faced, and very supportive of what we have tried to do. In addition members have submitted stunning photographs to discuss and enjoy, and thereby help us forget our troubles for a few hours each month. However, online meetings cannot provide the social benefits of face-to-face meetings, where I am sure we have all missed the opportunity of talking to fellow members during the refreshment break. Thanks to John, Mavis, Kate... for kindly undertaking kitchen duties during the first three meetings of 2020. Hopefully we will be able to get back to the Hythe Sports Pavilion early in 2021 and have a natter over a hot drink. Thank you all for 'keeping the faith' and allowing us to enjoy some memorable moments.

Phil Heading
Club Chairman

**TAKE CARE! STAY SAFE!!
TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS!!!**

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



SUPPLEMENT



HYTHE DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Chairman's Annual Report 2020 - Projects

Projects 2020 (*updated - **rescheduled)

January	Urbanscapes	✓
February	Gateways / Doorways	✓
March	Song Titles	✓
April	Spring is Here	✓
May	Taken on my One a Day Exercise Walk*	✓
June	From Your Archives*	✓
July	Silhouettes / Shadows**	✓
August	Weathering / Corrosion	✓
September	Found on the Foreshore**	✓
October	Dusk to Dawn	✓
November	Power*	✓
December	Red***	✓
Project Entires (January to December 2020):		658
PlusONE Entries (January to December 2020):		306
Total Number of Project Entries:		964

