"A photograph captures a moment in time, that can never be repeated. It can tell a story, share a moment and spread information"



"Equally important are the photographs that capture our own lives with family and friends. They can elicit joy and sadness but are important memories for us and future generations to cherish"

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022 After two years of disruption, caused by the Covid pandemic, it was a relief for the club to get back to a more normal way of life at the beginning of the year. With the need to be mindful of member's health, a virtual meeting was held in January but thereafter we resumed face-to-face meetings and were able to run a full programme of meetings and events.

So a successful year, albeit one tinged with sadness as we heard the news that the club's founder, Eddie Manly, had passed away in late April after a short illness. Eddie had been the visionary who set up the club in 2011, as a community initiative, and had overseen its growth from Saltwood Camera Club to the club we enjoy now. He set the tone and the template for the club, and we have tried to stay faithful to his vision in the way we operate now. Eddie had a lifelong passion for photography and this shone through in all he did. Even after giving up day-to-day running of the club, he remained an enthusiastic and active member with regular submissions of excellent project photographs, and frequent attendance at photoshoots.



At the club meeting in June a tribute was paid to Eddie with an audio/visual slideshow with many of his project and photoshoot entries, accompanied by the music of Dave Brubeck and Paul Simon. Eddie was a good and faithful friend of the club, whose kindness, wisdom and knowledge are greatly missed.

MEETINGS

The monthly meetings provided the opportunity to review member's images submitted for the set projects and PlusONE (open) category. These were well supported and members had the pleasure of reviewing, and learning from, an average of 90 images each month. The wide range of projects included, 'Symmetry', 'Shades of Blue', 'Frames', 'Action', 'Spirit of Summer', 'Wild Life', 'Autumn Colours'... However demanding the subject, members were up to the challenges and we were able to enjoy some stunning photographs. The closeness of the voting for 'Photographs of the Month' attests to the high standards that members are achieving. The review of member's images in a non-judgemental way, is the core of the club's activities and will remain so in the future. (see supplement for monthly voting results)

PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

These provided the other main element of the meeting programme and subjects included talks on: 'Wildlife Photography - Phil Heading', 'My Journey Through Photography - Mark Brooks', 'Forty Years of Marine Photography - Nigel Scutt', 'Exploring Photography from the Air - Dirk Seyfried'...

Workshops covered 'Composition', 'Still Life Photography' and 'Portrait Lighting', and I would wish to thank Shirley, Tom and Peter who willingly lent their time and experience to help members learn new techniques.



PHOTOSHOOTS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The club held one photoshoot at the Kearsney Parks earlier in the year but in 2022 the members became more involved with photo opportunities at Community based events where members had the opportunity to provide a photographic record of events in the town. This initiative has been well received locally and helped raise the profile the club in Hythe. The Right Worshipful Mayor of Hythe, Councillor Jim Martin, was keen to involve the club in recording the prestigious 'Cinque Ports Speaker's Day' on the 1st October.



"Well done everyone an absolutely fantastic portfolio of work!"

Jim Martin, The Right Worshipful Mayor of Hythe

"Thank you for the excellent photos a brilliant reminder of a very memorable day for Hythe".

Major Denis Bradley, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent

"Many thanks for allowing me access to these rather wonderful photographs."

Chris McNeille, Hythe Town Crier

The Mayor also participated in a charity cycle ride to the Menin Gate Memorial, and his Cinque Ports Golf Day. Members also took photographs of all the events celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Hythe Town Council have received portfolios of the photographs taken at these events and the mayor has shown his appreciation by making a substantial donation to the club from his project fund.



The Hythe Venetian Fête, and accompanying canal bank concerts, provided further opportunities for members to go out in force to photograph these colourful occasions. I am grateful to Stewart for arranging for members to have special access to these events.







The opening of the 101 Open Door Project in the presence of the Bishop of Dover, The Eco-Fayre and the visit of the Band of the Grenadier Guards were further opportunities for members to show their skills. All of these events enabled the club to collate galleries of images as lasting memories and this huge task once again fell to James who as always willingly did all the hard work of collating, ordering and posting the photographs on the club website. The club, and the town, are grateful for all the effort put into these activities by James and the members. You can view many of these events by visiting the following links:

https://hythedistrictphotographicclub.jimdo.com/cinque-ports-speaker-day-2022/

https://hythedistrictphotographicclub.jimdo.com/hythe-venetian-fete-2022/

https://hythedistrictphotographicclub.jimdo.com/grenadier-guards-2022/

https://hythedistrictphotographicclub.jimdo.com/queens-platinum-jubilee-2022/

ANNUAL EXHIBITION



After a two-year hiatus, we were able to return to Hythe Library and mount an exhibition of member's framed prints throughout September. 46 prints were displayed and judging by the written comments recorded, were very well received by the community. Some of the exhibits were also sold. The exhibition is a great way to showcase the skills of members and I am grateful to those members who supported the initiative. I am also indebted to Trevor, who amongst all the other work he does for the club, manages the whole exhibition process including mounting the frames, managing the sale proceeds and returning prints to the members at the end.



Thank you Trevor for guietly getting on with all the work you do. Opportunities may exist for an additional or alternative venue for exhibiting member's photographs in 2023 and these are currently being pursued by the committee. I would like to express my thanks to John Sinclaire-Thomas (aka Hythe Ted) for producing a number of posters and cartoons supporting the club activities via social media.

SPONSORSHIP AND PUBLICITY

The club was sponsored again by Hemanshu Patel through 'Hythe Life Magazine'. We are enormously grateful for the financial support and the opportunity to promote awareness of the club through articles in the Hythe Life Magazine. I am delighted that the sponsorship arrangement will continue through into 2023.



Not only did the club receive local publicity but also had a two page spread in the worldwide recognised 'Amateur Photographer'. Even more pleasing were the editor's comments



alongside each photograph, without knowing the background to the photograph or photographer, with two of the photographs being taken on an

iPhone and an iPad.

FINANCES

At a time when some traditional camera clubs are reporting a drop in membership, it is gratifying that we maintained over 50 members during 2022 with many new members joining. This has ensured a sound financial position has been maintained with club funds standing at £2,414.09 at the year end. This ensures we will be able to continue to use the excellent facility of the Hythe Sports Pavilion for meetings and attract quality speakers for presentations. In the light of the sound finances, it is proposed to leave membership subscriptions at £15, and family members at £7.50, with students offered free membership. Meeting fees are planned to be kept at £3, although we may review this if Hythe Town Council were to substantially increase the costs for hiring the hall.

FACEBOOK® & WHATSAPP®

The Facebook group has continued to grow throughout the year and currently stands at almost 180 members and guests. This is another arm of the club where everyone can view events, post photographs, ask questions, post reports, comments etc. The page is administered by James, Shirley and Phil.

The WhatsApp group has also been very helpful during the year to advise full members of 'pop-up' photo opportunities or other urgent photo related information. Two temporary groups were also set-up for the Speaker's Day and Venetian Fête events so that those participating could keep in constant contact with each other. The group is maintained by Anne and administered by James and Shirley.

ANNUAL REVIEW

As in the past, the December meeting comprised a review of member's images submitted throughout the year and this year it was presented again by Tom Lloyd in his inimitable style. Tom provided an enjoyable retrospective of the member's work in 2022 and a further reminder of the high standards of photography being achieved in the club. Tom selected his favourites from over 1,000 project entries and a further 500 photoshoot images. This was then whittled down to his top 90 entries and finally his favourite top 6. His eventual choice of "Photograph of the Year" went to Carol Drew's "Dodging the Waves". Thank you Tom for all the work you put into the review (while basking in Madeira) and your continuing support of club activities. Further details are provided in the attached supplement.

PLANS FOR 2023

Towards the end of 2022 the club invited members to complete a questionnaire which sought their views on how the club was run and what changes or improvements they would like to see. Whilst it was disappointing that only a quarter of the membership responded, those that did were seemingly satisfied with what we do. There was agreement that the non-competitive nature of the club was a key attraction and that no major change in ethos or meetings was required. However three topics were identified as requiring attention. More practical workshops were deemed desirable, and more photoshoots would be welcomed. Thirdly, it was felt that visiting presenters should cover topics with a strong photographic theme. These points have been taken on board by the committee and the 2023 programme will already reflect some of these needs, with 'additional' workshops already confirmed.

COMMITTEE

Small clubs like ours cannot operate without a group of dedicated members who are prepared to put in the time and effort to make things happen. It can be a thankless task at times, as not everything goes to plan nor everyone happy with what is decided. However, we are fortunate that within this club there is a core of enthusiastic members who are willing to take on the burden.

James, Trevor, John, Shirley, Stewart, Anne and Graham have provided outstanding support to me and contributed so much to the success of the club. I am profoundly grateful for their support, good sense and patience. However, as in life, nothing stays the same, and there will be some changes in the

committee going forward. James, Anne, and Stewart are all stepping down and taking a well-earned break from committee duties. Anne has made a major contribution to the club by establishing and maintaining the WhatsApp group, and Stewart has been instrumental in involving the club in many of the community events we have supported this year. Stewart does a huge amount of work for the town of Hythe and the club and I are very grateful for his enthusiastic support this year. I am glad that, despite stepping down from the committee, he will be involved in organising workshops and photoshoots for members during 2023 (see provisional list).



And then there is James! His contribution to this club is immense. Nobody works harder or longer to ensure the club functions smoothly and presents a professional image to the larger community. My regular interactions make me very grateful he has been around to guide, and support me, and I, more than anyone know the extent of the effort, time and skill he has invested in the club, for almost 10 years. He has been instrumental in ensuring the club has grown from the small beginnings at Saltwood and is fully deserving of the opportunity to stand down and focus on family. I offer my sincere thanks, James, and best wishes for your retirement from committee matters.

AND FINALLY

In addition to the committee, I would like to thank Tim Cudby for so cheerfully putting up with our time over runs, and for setting up the meeting room so ably. Thanks also to those members, who unbidden, work away in the kitchen to ensure refreshments are available. Shirley, Rose, Kate, John, Anne, Jade and Mavis have all helped out and please forgive me if I have overlooked others who have helped. Thank you for just getting on and doing it!

When the club changed its name in 2018 the deliberate decision was made to refer to it as a "Photographic", not a "Camera" club. This emphasis on the image, rather than the equipment used to capture it, underpins our philosophy that photographs are important, and photography is a fun hobby, with no entry barriers. I look forward to this philosophy continuing for many years to come as this is my final Chairman's report and after 4 years in the role I think the club deserves a change and fresh impetus, so I will be handing the baton over to John Chapman, who I know will ensure the club continues to thrive. It has been a great privilege to be Chairman and I thank all committee members past and present for their unqualified support and guidance. Most of all I thank the members for enduring my chairmanship, providing so many enjoyable moments and for your friendship. I will enjoy becoming a backbencher and watching the club flourish under John's stewardship.

Phil Heading - Club Chairman



Photographs in this report by: Tom, Stewart, James, Christine & Graham Exhibition Poster: Jade

Hythe Life Magazine: Tom & James

Amateur Photographer: Anne, Jade, Tom, Peter, Ashley, Roger and Shirley

https://hythedistrictphotographicclub.jimdo.com www.facebook.com/groups/824710414258709/ https://hythelife.org.uk



Member's Choice - Project Photographs of the Month 2022



















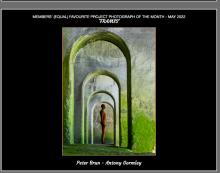


















Member's Choice - PlusONE Photographs of the Month 2022



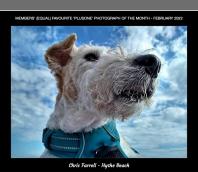








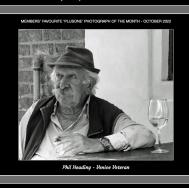


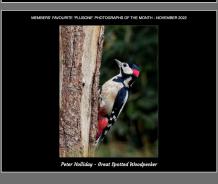












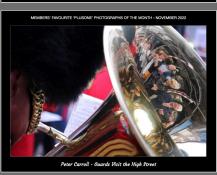












Member's Choice - PlusONE Photographs of the Month 2022



This is the story of an elderly gentleman [my father], casually dressed, maybe in his pyjama bottoms and slippers, reminiscing with the family photo album. The warm evening light emphasising the lateness of the day.

The remainder of the photograph gives it a sense of place and shows that it is a modest peaceful home, clearly Mediterranean.

And the final touch, the pinkish flower on the ledge tying in what is happening to the right of the photo and waiting for that moment when 'dad' looked down at the album.

Lisa Manly

In memory of Eddie Manly, founder and former club chairman.

Club Programme 2022



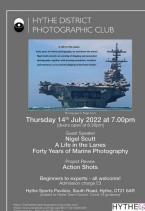










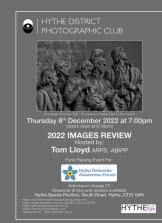












Tom Lloyd's Choice - Photographs of the Year 2022

