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THORNBURY CAMERA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Issue 113

10th December 2023

Almost a year on ... a Forum update

The Forum was launched on the 30th January. Since then nearly seven hundred posts have been added, at a fairly consistent rate, by twenty-eight different members.

Currently there are forty-four members signed-up. Some are very active, some occasionally, and some simply enjoy the content but have yet to post anything. A good

start, but the forum team are not resting on their laurels. Hence this newsletter, which will hopefully inspire more member involvement.



Forum: Special Interest Groups (SIG)

SIGs are a way for members with a common interest to communicate and share information together using the Forum.

We have one established SIG – the Black and White Group (led by Mike Ashfield), which has thirteen members who use a special category to which only they have access. Every month the members are given an assignment from the book '52 Assignments Black & White Photography' and have to submit one image to Mike based on the theme. Mike then posts the images to the Forum for group members to critique.

We're very keen to hear from anyone who has an idea for a new SIG (it doesn't have to follow the same format as the Black & White Group). Please email postmaster.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com or speak to one of the Forum team (Brian McBride, Simon Meeds or Steve Skinner).

ChatGPT does Santa

Did you hear about the photographer whose dull pictures did badly in the Christmas Competition? *They weren't santa-urated enough.*

Why did the camera break up with the tripod at the Christmas party? *The attachment was cramping its style.*

Haiku: *Snowflakes gently fall; Lens captures cold crispy sights; Christmas framed in lights.*





Programme for December/January: Brief essentials

- 11 Dec *N&EMPF photographers through the decades (recorded lecture)*
- Closing deadline: Internal round 3 (open)
- 18 Dec *Pre-Christmas seasonal treats. Print Gallery: Dean Packer, Steve Wells and Brian McBride will present their pictures in a way of their choosing.*
- 8 Jan *Judging of internal round three (open): Sandie Cox*
- 15 Jan *Tom Crowe results, originally scheduled for this date, may need to be rearranged. To be confirmed.*
- 22 Jan *Mastering the Wedding Day: The Art of the Story. Tracey Taylor and Dee Green. There are extensive details in the programme. Tracey and Dee will join us by zoom. <https://www.37framesphotography.com/>*
- Closing deadline: Internal round 4 (open)
- 29 Jan *Magazine Evening: Mervyn Reed and Nigel Newman*



STOP PRESS - A new Special Interest Group

A new SIG has been launched on the Forum this month exclusively for new members to the club! Dean Packer has more details.

Beginners Course 2024

Don't forget that the club will again be running a Beginners Course early next year, price £75. It will run from for six weeks either side of February half-term (24 Jan to 6 Mar). An ideal Christmas present perhaps? *More information from Mike Ashfield.*

Forum: The Blog explained

In June we added the Blog to the Forum site. In the Blog we can restrict who can create posts, whilst still allowing everyone to view and comment. The idea was to use the Blog for committee announcements, and act as a single repository for some or all these. We also hoped to thereby reduce the number of emails sent by committee members. Unfortunately, unforeseen technical issues mean this isn't possible.

Despite this we will continue to use the Blog as another way of sharing committee announcements, but we will also carry on sending them via email.

Forum Q&A - Steve, Brian and Simon respond

Q. How long do posts stay?

A. Since October we have started to remove older posts in order to live within the storage limits of the site. Soon we will delete everything posted to the main Forum categories up to the end of March and will be preparing April's for deleting at the end of the year. We have a special category ('Housekeeping Bin') where old posts are moved prior to full deletion.



Q. Limits on image size?

A. While we set a limit of 3MB per image (to help us manage within the overall storage limit of the site), most images posted to the site are much smaller than this. If you stick to the club standard of a maximum 1600*1200 and a JPEG quality of 80% then your image will be

perfectly ok to view in a browser and will likely be less than 1MB in size.

Q. Viewing via smartphone?

A. There is an app called 'Spaces by Wix' which supports everything you can do with a browser, including adding images, posting, commenting etc. The only difference we've noticed is that the Home page is a fixed, short welcome page – it doesn't show the latest Blog & Forum posts that you get with a browser.

Q. Updating my profile?

A. Your profile is a really good way to introduce yourself to the other members of the club. They're particularly important as we have quite a few new members in the club at the moment. There's a post in



the 'About the Club Forum' category that explains how to do this.

Q. Critiquing images?

A. Images posted to the 'How to Improve my Image' category can be critiqued. Also members can explicitly request constructive comments on any posted image. Otherwise it's perfectly fine to 'Like' any image or ask questions about where or how it was taken but not to offer suggestions on how to improve it.



Forum in the Future / Seeking your feedback

When we launched the Forum we hoped that it would open up new ways for club members to communicate with one another. Evidence suggests that we're well on the way to achieving that.

We're sure though that we could do more, such as increasing the number of posts and how many



members contribute. With that in mind, we're keen to hear your feedback:

If you're already a regular user of the Forum then do you have any niggles or ideas for making it better?



If you signed up to the Forum but don't use it, then can we do anything to tempt you to visit more regularly?

Similarly, if you haven't signed up at all then would anything persuade you to join?

As before, if you have any feedback, please email postmaster.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com or speak to one of the Admin team (Brian, Simon or Steve).

What's On: Brief extracts from the club website of events during our break

19 Dec - 21 Jan

Bird Photographer of the Year 2023 - Nature in Art, Twigworth, GL2 9PA.

26 Dec (Boxing Day)

Marshfield Mummies - Marshfield, SN14 8NP.

Performing the ancient Marshfield Mumming Play - 11am in the Market Place.



Thanks to Peter Haworth for the sub-zero pictures in this issue.