

# Phoenix Photographic Group

## Newsletter from meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

### Introduction

My goodness, we're back to the same old boring Newsletter format! Never mind, Happy New Year to everybody. Ian & Joe hope you'll all have an enjoyable time coming to the photography group sessions. Around 21 members attended this first meeting of the year.

Joe opened the meeting and asked for a show of hands for holding a session at the National Arboretum. Support was sufficient to put this on the schedule.

There is a car park fee of £3 but some members may be able to share cars.

Michelle Williams, who has done a lot of work there recently, will give us a brief 'primer' on the week before we hold this visit.

### News Items

Rob Cross is organizing the Sheepfair annual photo rotation and needs two mounted photos from each member if possible. He's also exhibiting a selection of our work at the coffee morning on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and will welcome any contributions which do not have to be 20" x 16" since they are shown "free standing".

Ian requested that members mail him with their "Members' Pics" only in JPEG format and not later than Friday. A very reasonable thing to ask as he does a lot of work to organise these photos for one Monday every month and to make them available for this Newsletter. Submitting photos in PNG format etc simply increases what he has to do; later submission gets him changing stuff in a hurry which just increases the risk of mistakes.

Ian announced that our new bank account – specifically for the photographic group – is now up and running. Our grant funding from the Cannock Arts Council will be transferred into this next week.

A new photo topic – Vision In Red – was announced (see below)

## Activities

Bob Bell delivered a splendid presentation largely concerned with oversights in either composing the shot, or in post-production before publication. So, pictures like one of his own house when a dog was, unnoticed, taking a dump in the corner to magazine covers where the subject somehow had three hands. It was a fascinating presentation emphasizing our current focus on composition through the “Where The Devil Am I?” and “All Right On The Night” photo challenges. Bob concluded his session with his own printed “Where The Devil Am I?” quiz (questions and answers attached with this Newsletter) which had the group scratching their heads in a few instances. Now is the time for everybody else to have a go at this and see if they can fool us all!

The floor was then given to John Ford who entertained us with an AV show he’s composed, comprising his photos from a recent holiday to Costa Rica and a backing audio stream of local music and forest sounds. His shots of insects, reptiles, animals, birds, forest canopy, plants and volcanoes were brilliant. When he related the adverse conditions of extreme humidity and tough shooting locations it reinforced what an accomplished photographer he is.

Ian then hosted the monthly “Members’ Pics” session from the 80 or so images that people had – thank you – sent in during the previous week. As always this session is much enjoyed and centered on our then current topics. Alan brought a USB stick with some Rugeley “Where The Devil Am I?” shots that got some of us thinking.

So, do please keep snapping away on the now current topics, below, and on taking photos and hunting out old snaps for our composition theme – i.e. thinking about what you DO want in your photos and what you DON’T want! The topics are:

Water & Weather  
Speed  
Vision In Red

Remember to send your pics for inclusion in the next “Members Pics” or for use in the weekly newsletter to [ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk)

Next Meeting:-

Will be in the village hall on 16<sup>th</sup> January, with an addition to the most recent advisement. We’re entering “software season” and we’ll be having a number of sessions – in the next couple of months – on Photoshop and Corel. Due to

having to “jiggle things around” next week’s agenda will be an introductory session on Corel and a session of everybody’s “Where The Devil Am I?” photos.

For the second session on Corel (which will be on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb) we’ll be advising everybody to download a trial version of Corel BUT PLEASE DON’T DO THAT YET as you need the 30 evaluation period to be falling either side of that date. You’ll be advised, next week, of the best time to download.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan we shall be running the first Photoshop session and having an Arboretum briefing; the following Monday (30<sup>th</sup>) we’ll actually go to the Arboretum as an organised group. There will be a safety briefing. Please don’t be offended by this. Recently an organised Phoenix group actually lost – and had to abandon - a person in Chester, reinforcing the need for being prepared against events you’d never imagine were possible!

## Lost & Found

A plea from Bob Bell:

Lost: A round black thing

- It is a 49mm lens cap.
- It was on the Fujica SLR “C” when it left me.
- It was not on the Fujica SLR “C” when the camera came back.
- Geoff Allsop owned up to the loss.
- He passed it to Rob Cross to bring in before Christmas.
- Rob left it at home.
- It is now out with the faeries.



This poor orphan is black, rotund, 49mm and answers to the name LEN SCAP. If you have seen him, please let us know. He won't fit anything you have.

Can I have it back please?

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 is the deadline for the remaining B & W cameras to be returned (complete with lens, lens caps and so on).**

As soon as we have the three cameras and the three films AND a replacement is available for the national photo lab that ceased trading we will get them processed.

## Members Pics



Festive – John Gifford



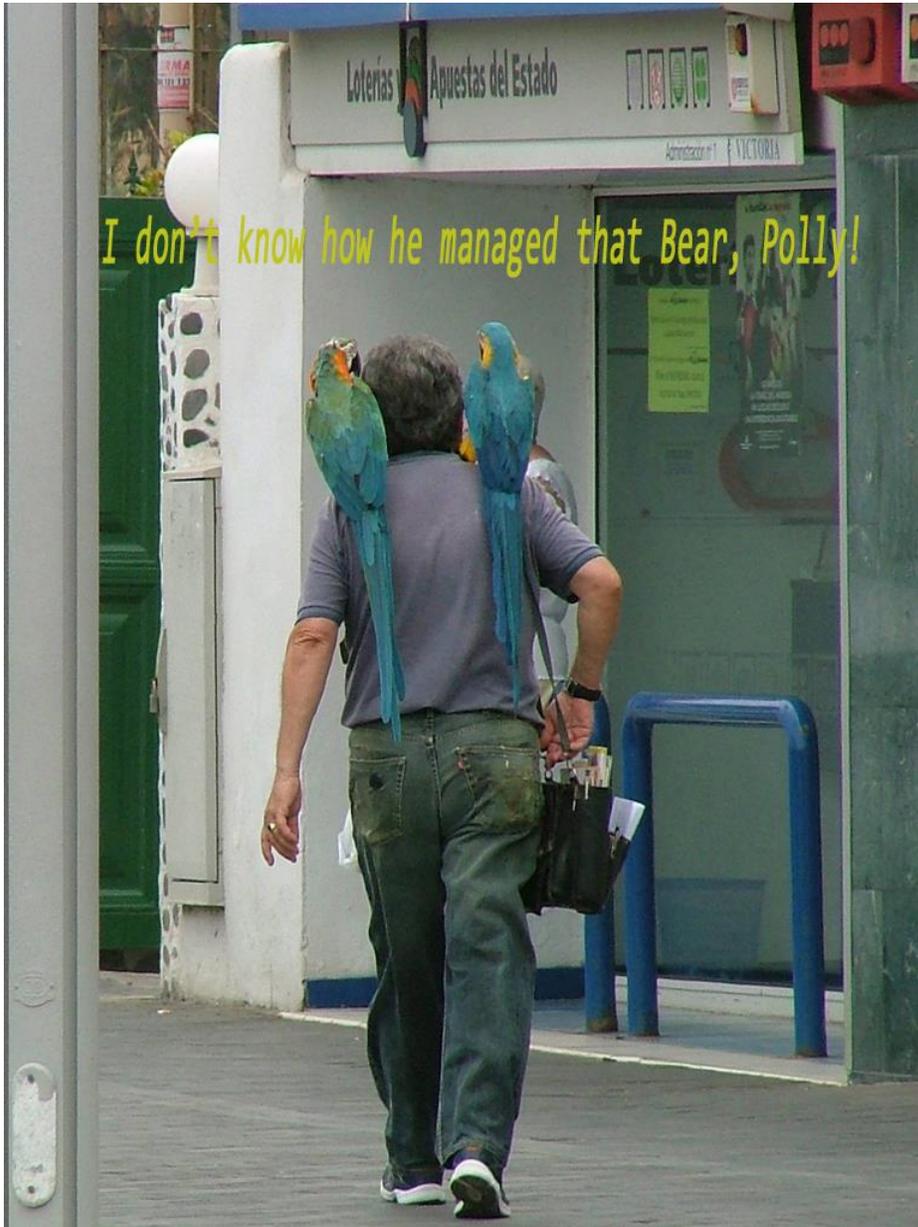
Festive – Joe Thatcher



Wrinkles – Margaret Cross



Parking Problem – Bob Southall



I don't know how he managed that Bear, Polly!

Parrotface – Peter Bell