

# Phoenix Photographic Group

## Newsletter from Meeting of 23rd July 2018

### Introduction

Meeting opened by Joe; 19 eager mount cutters in attendance. I think Geoff and Dave made the tea and coffee between them. Thanks are due to them ... what would we do if somebody didn't brew up every week, rain or shine?

Thanks also to several people who had brought in their own mount cutter kit to demonstrate ... but more of this later. We were also delighted that Margaret attended, expertly steered by husband Rob - newly appointed chauffeur of the wheelie-chair.

### News Items

Ian was not in attendance because the room was going round for him, whether he was lying down or sitting up. He claimed it's dehydration but I've heard the recent clink of empty bottles around his bins. Pleased to notify a full recovery!

Tim announced that the PPG will be running the raffle at the next Phoenix Coffee Morning. **So he is asking PPG members to bring in suitable items as raffle prizes.** Please dig about and see if you have anything – a bottle of wine, box of chocolates, interesting gardening appliance that never appealed to you etc etc – that would make a respectable prize and bring it along to give to Tim. The raffle takings will be donated to a charity and the Motor Neurone Disease Association was nominated by the group.

Margaret made everybody aware that purchases on Amazon can also generate money for charities IF you start your shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk). Doing this will allow you to divert 0.5% of the money you spend to a charity of your choice, which could also be MNDA.

## Activities

Then the afternoon's activities got under way. John Ford had brought along a real Rolls-Royce of mount/matte cutters that he had personally restored, having purchased it on eBay for a song. It's fair to say it's not the latest model, but has every gizmo option under the sun – all now in perfect working order. The dexterity with which he whipped off a sample mount was enough to make Derren Brown blush. Joking aside, many thanks to John for giving everybody an excellent demonstration.

John downplayed the restoration process, which comes a close second to Ian rebuilding his Triumph TR4 several times. Have a look at these photos. Not difficult to see the rust and corrosion that came as part of the original deal. But after John's TLC (not best explained by him putting it under a pillar-drill!) it emerged shiny and in perfect working order:



Alan then demonstrated the use of the Art Group's somewhat up-market Logan which, whilst less sophisticated than John's, still has end stops (production stops) that mean you don't have to carefully eyeball the carriage position as you slide it to make the cuts. These demonstrations had the added benefit of forcing us to think through how far the cutter blade needs to overshoot the cut-out dimensions

in order to ensure the corners extract cleanly, whilst not making cuts that are visible in the corners on the face of the mount. This obviously varies with the mount board thickness, but 1 to 2 mm is a good guide.

Roy then repeated the exercise for everybody with his “bog-standard” Logan cutter – identical to the one owned by PPG and also by a couple of group members. I almost wrecked his first attempt as I’d supplied him with a piece of loosely-corrugated cardboard to use as a ‘slip sheet’ under the board he was cutting. The moral of this story is: Use a fairly dense piece of card as a slip sheet. The blade tends to push the lower laminations away as it cuts through to the surface. A dense sheet below supports those laminations and stops the blade from tearing them loose.

Many thanks to Alan and Roy for putting themselves in the firing line and performing the demonstrations.

All in all, it was a very participative, very enthusiastic and highly valuable meeting. Well done everybody.

## **Next Meeting**

30<sup>th</sup> July Etching Hill Village Hall @ 1.45.

Because Ian and I have no shame you will yet again be subjected to the perverted wiles of Bell R.I. ... very possibly assisted, and/or in collaboration with, Shaw A.

Those present at the last Bell R.I. session will have some idea of what to expect. Prohibited from experimenting at the village hall with his preferred medium (fire), Bob will revert to his second choice, water. High speed will also be involved, i.e. lots of splashing. He asks that you bring cameras, tripods, remote releases and flashguns. He also suggests a few pieces of black or dark coloured ‘backdrop’ card and some masking tape if you can rustle them up.

Furthermore he asks that you bring some disposable, suitably-sized, low value items that will sink – suggestions being iPhones, Cartier watches etc – and some items that might bob back to the surface – maybe your wallet or a favourite clip-on bow tie. Whatever, you can be sure to have fun and get wet. I understand from Bob there will be some sort of huge brandy-glass in the car park and an aquarium in the hall. Water-boarding for people who cannot get their cameras set up correctly is highly likely.

## **Members Pics**

### **Topics**

Summer Colours

Holiday Snaps

Transport

Militaria

Dereliction

Please send your images to:-

[ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk)



Les Atkins

Summer Colours



Bob Southall

Hereford Cathedral

Summer Colours



Geoff Allsop

Summer Colours



Les Atkins

Transport



Joe Thatcher

Dereliction



Joe Thatcher

Medieval Summer Colours