

Phoenix Photographic Group

Newsletter from Meeting of 29th April 2019

Introduction

Twenty people turned out for this Members' Pics event plus other exciting stuff.

News Items

Joe reported that he had finally received a reply from Stafford Hospital's Director of Operations regards new frames for the photos Marie maintains. Only a half-satisfactory response as she (DoO) asks us to apply to the Trust's Arts Committee to allocate funds to purchase these. Which, for the greater benefit of the public, Joe has done. It's an abdication by Staffs Hospital of their side of the bargain, but we'll see what ensues.

New Members' Pics topic announced by Ian – it's ***Ordinary Things Photographed from Unusual Viewpoints***. Something we've done before, but which creates entertainment and amusement at the relevant Members' Pics session. Here's an example to celebrate Ian's innovation:



OK AND NOW THE SERIOUS BIT

Ian & Joe reminded all members present that they have been heading up the group now for three years without a break. Bob stepped in to support them several months ago and has also recently led the group for over a year. Members were asked to think about a couple of important issues:

Firstly, holding this responsibility continuously does make it ever tougher (for us) to dream up new activities to fill our meetings. Frankly PPG could do with a 'new broom' to bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Secondly, the way Phoenix groups should work is that leaders are elected by the group every year ... not that the present leaders should simply carry on because no-one has objected.

So, whilst the three of us are not just going to 'abandon ship', we want to make it quite clear that **the leadership role is available**, if any one(s) else want to put themselves forward. We will formally ask for any nominations next Monday.

And if, through apathy/general lack of willingness to lead, you collectively leave the current leadership team in place well, you'll get what you get! On your heads be it!

Activities

Bob kicked off with a cracking video he's made, demonstrating that a piece of green cloth was capable of making his wife disappear completely and in seconds flat!

Since then he has been inundated with enquiries about where to get hold of these cloths, but none of those interested have been prepared to leave their names.

Joe has discovered a source that claims to provide them on eBay, but so far only his money has disappeared without any sight of the green cloth – which has probably disappeared itself.

p.s. It's always bothered me ... how exactly does Harry Potter find his invisibility cloak when he needs it?

Next Ian took the stage with a new version of ACDSee – generously purchased for the club by Bob Bell – along with the current crop of members' pics.

Barring some interesting new features in the software:



this all went stunningly well. Apart from - some of John Ford's interesting jigsaw images seemed to have got lost in the post, so he'll be showing those at a future meeting (see below).

Future Meetings

Next meeting – 6th May – at the hall – bring all your kit. We'll be practicing/discussing etc how to take photos of family members/weddings etc etc – indoors and out. What to remember, what not to forget, tricks to compensate for gurning sprogs sticking their tongues out as you press the shutter. PLUS – what the PPG loan kit is, how to borrow it, how to use it etc.

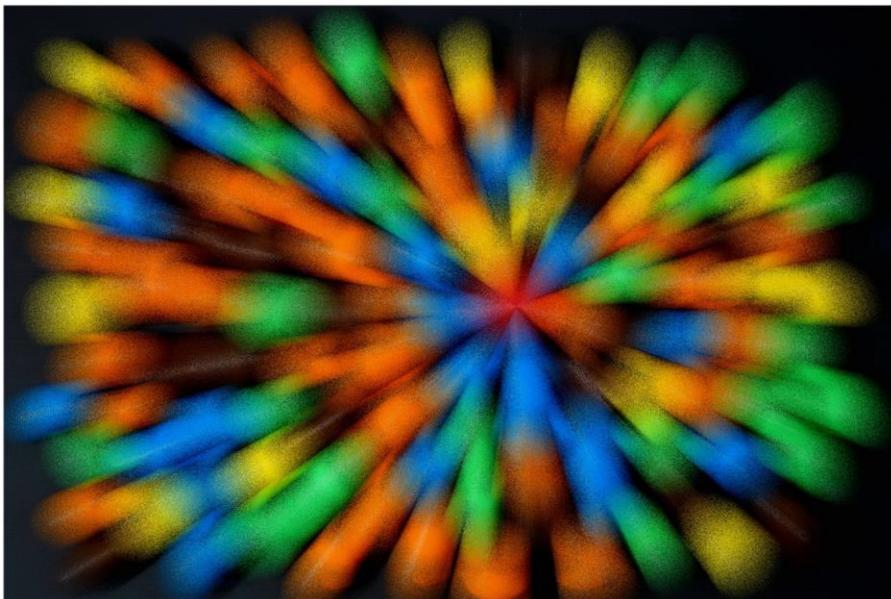
13th May – Be prepared! Weather permitting Joe will be leading a gaggle of half-fit PPG members on a walk/photo session on the Chase, starting at the top of Kingsley Wood Road. There's an old disused quarry working there – now reclaimed by nature and consequently presenting unusual land features and views. No climbing gear will be used – it is a walk. But it's off-road, there are some inclines, it will be a couple of miles in total. So if that sounds a challenge, it may not be for you.

20th May – Hopefully Frank will be showing us his photos of Brum and giving us tips and pointers to help us go there ourselves and start taking photos half as good as his. Plus John Ford will be doing virtual jigsaws with us.

Members' Pics Topics

Everyday Things Taken From A Different Angle

Please send your images to: - ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk



Bob Bell

Crayons



Geoff Setterfield

Hallucinogenic Drugs



Joe Thatcher

Nile Nodder



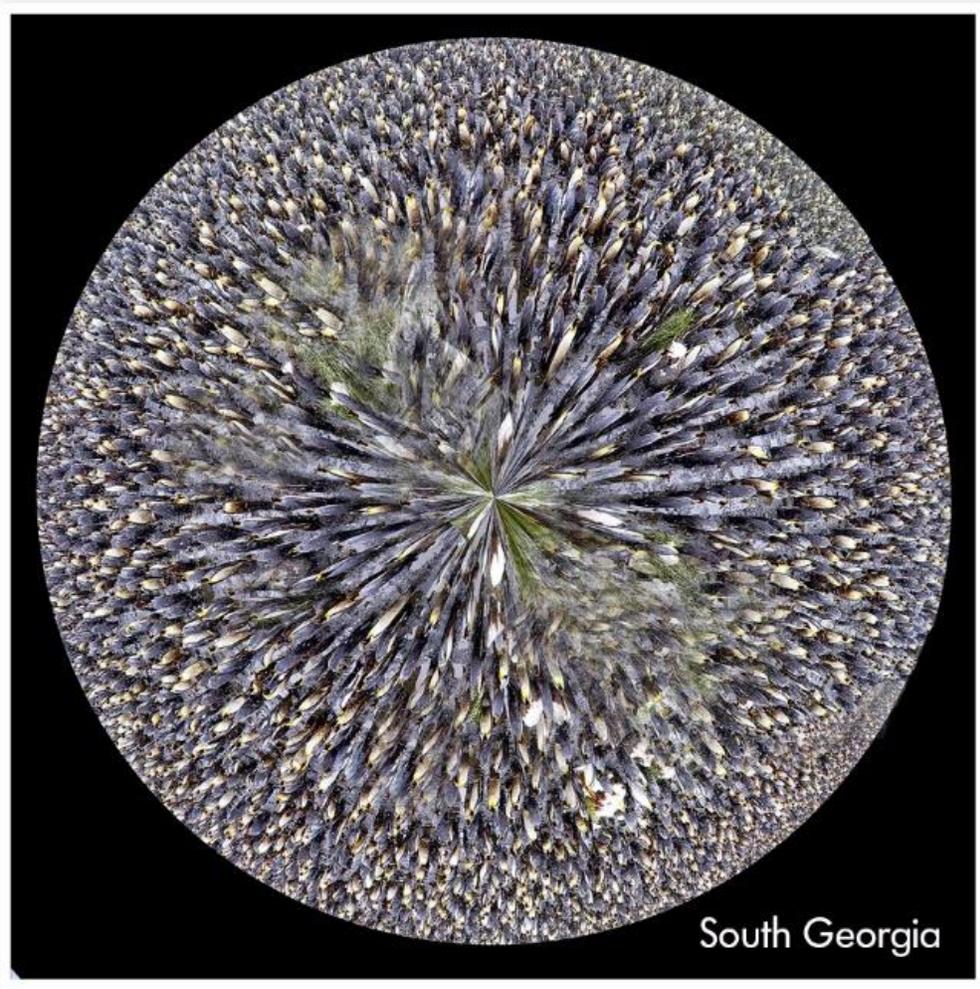
Frank Gill

Favourite Tipple



Bob Southall

Only flat at the bottom



John Ford

Might not look like penguins, but ...

That's All (Again) Folks!!