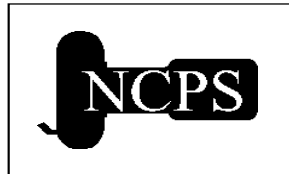


FOCUS



August 2009

Newsletter of North Cheshire Photographic Society

See Focus on the web at www.ncps.org.uk

Digital Workshop 7 April 09

This Workshop was conceived as one devoted to answering questions raised by members. In particular Barry Pearson was asked to explain the workings of the WEB site, and then to explain his method of putting “frames within Frames” Geoff Robinson was asked to expand on the subject of Blending Modes, following his earlier tutorial involving adding new skies to images. Roger Dye was asked to address the topic of installing Plugins and to expand on the way Lightroom can be used by photographers.

Barry had copied the NCPS website over to the Shuttle for demonstration purposes, since we did not have direct access in the room to the WEB. He noted that we had one of the larger Photographic web sites with about 1500 pages, and including over 800 images. The Archive went back to 1984. The Blog (News etc) was the first place to visit for updated information. When items (more than a month old) fell out of the Blog they would be found under the other headings. If all else failed the A-Z & Search button could be used. Tony Redford noted that the Web Site was perceived as a great credit to the Club and Barry should be thanked for the efforts he put in to maintain it so.

Barry then considered the Borders within Borders system. By putting a border within the image with the main subject overlapping the inner border one could often emphasize the subject, separating it from its background more effectively. Barry went on to demonstrate the steps he used and promised to include these steps in a new PDF script on the WEB. He included a description of how he used Rim Lighting to emphasize his subject and discussed when these techniques might be most appropriate.

Geoff recapped on the various Blending Modes available and indicated which ones he found most useful. The modes all have different names: some, like Darken, Lighten, Multiply, are fairly intuitive: others like Screen, Colour Burn etc less so, though he found them

useful. The modes all represent different ways in which corresponding pixels in the two (or more) layers can be blended. Obvious ways are to take the lighter, or the darker of the two corresponding pixels and use them in the final result. More complicated is to take the average value, or to multiply the two values together to get the final result. The complication which sets in is that each pixel has three numbers representing the intensities of the Red, Green, and Blue components; so that performing the above simple combinations can change the colour as well as the intensity. Because of this the use of the various blending modes is best learnt by experiment. Geoff demonstrated the various modes using a Prague scene and a close-up of rusty metal.

Roger spoke of the use and availability of Plug-ins in general, and then considered a plug-in he had purchased, PTLens <<http://epaperpress.com/ptlens/index.html>>, which corrects distortions caused by Zoom, and Wideangle lenses. He demonstrated the ease with which the Adobe program LightRoom could modify images, and argued that newcomers might be better served by buying LightRoom and Photoshop Elements, rather than the more expensive later versions of PhotoShop.

Bill Chadband

3rd Print Competition 14th April 09

Colin Douglas ARPS AFIAP DPAGB BPE3* of St Helen's Camera Club was our judge for this last general print competition of the session. With 9 Beginner and 70 Advanced Prints he knew he had his work cut out to finish on time and choose winners. He joked that he would deduct marks from all jokey titles he didn't laugh at. Trevor Rogers, author of Snow Place like Home, immediately looked glum. However he cheered up again on being awarded best beginner print.

Melissa appeared several times (shades of Lola Lamour?) The first Melissa was displaced by the second, who, in turn, was displaced by the third. And this time From Dawn to Dusk did not fare at all well. But Tony R came out smiling. Was it really true that his winning print, "Waiting for Walkies" was initially a make weight? Did the judge take pity on the Dog? Or on Tony? We shall never know.

In the event Colin finished in good time for the crowd to crowd into the Farmer's Arms, where I am assured it was not the least crowded. Graham Johnson, in his Vote of Thanks, noted that he had known Colin for many years and that they were fellow members of the RPS Creative Group. It had been an excellent competition and all credit to Colin for walking us through the diverse multitude of images and giving us his opinions of them.

Bill Chadband

Beginner / Intermediate Worker results

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Score</u>
Mischief	Katie Garner	15
Pelican, Australia	Katie Garner	19
Hercules Slaying the Centaur, Florence	Katie Garner	18
Going Surfing	Katie Garner	16
Botanical Gardens Singapore	Katie Garner	17
Contemplating Lake Bohinj Slovenia	Trevor Rogers	20 Best
Candle Sculpture	Trevor Rogers	16
Snow Place Like Home	Trevor Rogers	17
Field of view – cropped	Trevor Rogers	18

Advanced Workers

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Score</u>
Lake Powell, Red Box Post Delivery	John Ade	15
Alderley Mill	John Ade	15
Houston We Have a Problem	John Ade	16
Meo Mother and Child	Jon Allanson	14
Thai Farmer	Jon Allanson	14
Derelict Balcony	Jon Allanson	17
White Pelican in Flight	Jon Allanson	16
Ten Marple Men	Jonathan Bawden	15
Looking Out	Jonathan Bawden	17
Goose Portrait	Jonathan Bawden	17
Banana Flowers	Jonathan Bawden	16
A Place to Reflect	Jonathan Bawden	16
Hannah	Roy Cheetham	14
Melissa Portrait	Roy Cheetham	15
M for Melissa	Roy Cheetham	16
Off to School	Roy Cheetham	16
Bikers Journey	Roger Dye	18
Orchid	Roger Dye	16
The Winner	John Garner	15
Balloon Man	John Garner	15
Mannequins	John Garner	18
Water Lily	John Garner	16
Botanical Study Singapore	John Garner	15
Red Hibiscus	Frank Hutchinson	15
Spring Glow	Graham Johnston	16
Antelope	Graham Johnston	17
On Frozen Pond	Graham Johnston	15
Rocks in the Clouds	Graham Johnston	14
Winter Sunset	Karen Leefe	19

Curiosity	Karen Leefe	16
Bovine Beauty	Karen Leefe	18
Hydraulic Platform	Barry Pearson	14
Intense	Barry Pearson	18
Eyes of a Wraith	Barry Pearson	17
Take Off	Barry Pearson	15
Coy	Barry Pearson	15
Giant Slalom	Colin Pickles	14
Mandarin	Colin Pickles	15
Massif des Grandes Rousses	Colin Pickles	16
Berlin Sunset from Reichstag Dome	Colin Pickles	17
Crossing Morecombe Bay	Colin Pickles	15
Chinese Montage	Dorothy Redford	18
Water Lilies	Dorothy Redford	16
Young Love	Dorothy Redford	15
Trees and Grasses	Dorothy Redford	16
Soft Glow	Dorothy Redford	17
High Flyer	Tony Redford	15
Red Brolly	Tony Redford	16
Contrasting Blocks	Tony Redford	18
Denture Cleaning	Tony Redford	18
Waiting for Walkies	Tony Redford	20 Best
From Dawn till Dusk	Geoff Robinson	16
Equine Conversation	Geoff Robinson	18
Two Faced	Geoff Robinson	16
Melissa	Geoff Robinson	19.5
Old Time Racer	Geoff Robinson	16
Prometheus and the Rockefeller Centre	Gordon Robson	16
The Onlooker Broadway NY	Gordon Robson	16
Curbar Edge Robin	Gordon Robson	16
Grand Central Station NY	Gordon Robson	17
Autumn in Eden Valley	Gordon Robson	15
Grey Lag in Flight	Alan Saunders	19.5
Black Headed Gull	Alan Saunders	18
Wild Grey Seal	Alan Saunders	17
Rook Portrait	Alan Saunders	18
Wild Red Kite	Alan Saunders	19
Palladian Bridge, Bath	Joyce Streets	14
Female Chaffinch	Joyce Streets	16
Snow and Ice	Joyce Streets	17
Peruvian Boy, Lake Titicaca	Joyce Streets	15
Hoy High Lighthouse, Scotland	Joyce Streets	15

Romiley Photoshow 2009

Gordon, Joyce, Dorothy, Tony, Alan, Jackie, Dave Billington and myself attended the Romily Photoshow event, on Thursday 23rd April - this being the Print competition. Romily members were very welcoming with the audience made up mainly from members of the 7 clubs taking part in the competition.

The L&CPU President – Norman Thompson DPAGB LBIPP - opened the show – he was also the judge for the evening. Some very good prints had been entered and Norman (as all judges do now) pointed out he would be giving his own personal opinions on each entry – which of course may differ from other judges. We were about to witness this difference when it came to the marking of North Cheshire prints. At the end of the evening the results were disappointing for us - we came joint 5th with Hyde PS – 74 points. The winning club was Bramhall with 80 points. However it was a good evening and as always great to see the different images entered by other photographers.

On Friday 24th ten clubs entered the Digital Image competition – David, Linda and myself were there to wave the flag for North Cheshire. Norman Piper was the judge who took quite some time talking about the images and made some useful comments – there was quite a range of images - some monochrome some manipulated some landscapes and of course natural history. After coffee break he quickly went through the images again and gave the scores – ranging from 13 to the one 20. Oldham won the competition with 82 points whilst North Cheshire and Stockport came joint 2nd.with 81 points A big improvement on the previous evening.

This is the last external competition for this season – it's been an interesting experience attending the competitions as they are quite social events where old friends and acquaintances catch up with each other but also it's great to see the many images caught by other photographers, and the results of new techniques used in Photoshop. So I would definitely encourage others to go along and see for themselves.

Joyce Streets

Rosalind Bramley Competition 2009

A record 48 mono prints from 18 members were submitted for this competition, held on Tuesday 28th April and competently organized by Jonathan Bawden and Jill Hargreaves. John Bramley's wish was that the competition be judged by all the club members and the organizers have established a relaxed yet very workable two stage process for doing this. Having been numbered in advance, the prints were displayed in turn on the light box before being placed on tables around

the room for closer scrutiny. Members were given sheets for them to indicate which were their top six choices. During the tea break Jonathan and Jill worked out, from all these sheets, which were the top six prints to go forward to the second round. A new marking sheet was given to each member to mark out of 5 each of the selected images, now mounted on a display stand, but again, in turn, displayed on the light box. The marks which accumulated for each print were gathered by Jonathan and Jill by the *Calling in* system “How many 5’s?; How many 4’s ? etc. This worked well as members could see how the voting progressed and feel the excitement as the marks accumulated.

Graham Johnston emerged as the clear winner with his print *Lines and Curves*. New members Jackie Robinson and Trevor Rogers fought closely for 2nd place. Gordon Robson had two prints in the final six. The marks for these six prints are given below.

In accepting the winner’s cup Graham Johnston noted that he had known Rosalind, having been present at another club when she gave a talk. He also had a copy of her book and was pleased to have been judged by the members, the winner of her trophy.

President Roger Dye thanked the organizers for their efforts; thanked the members for their support both in producing the images and the marking of them. The evening had proved a most relaxed and friendly one. Roger should be thanked for nominating himself to make the tea and coffee.

Print No.	Title	Author	Score
10	Lines and Curves	Graham Johnston	120
5	Spire in the Mist	Jackie Robinson	111
21	20 trees	Trevor Rogers	110
34	Journey’s End	Gordon Robson	103
12	Three Men and a Dog	Gordon Robson	98
44	Fern Leaf with Frost	Joyce Streets	97

Bill Chadband

Committee Meeting Wed 29 April

The meeting was mostly concerned with arrangements for the AGM in May. Resolutions regarding using Projected Digital images in the members Annual Exhibition competition; Maximum Print sizes to conform with new L&CPU requirements; and changing *Slideworker of the Year* to *Projected Image Worker of the Year* were all discussed. The number of Print images mountable in the Annual exhibition was limited to about 144. It was felt that the number of images per member allowed would depend upon the likely entry and was best fixed each year by the committee.

The Summer Program was discussed. Barry puts events likely to interest members on the WEB site. Members can always club together to make joint arrangements. However a possible club visit to the Victoria Baths, and Tony Pioli's offer to take a group out were discussed in greater detail.

President Roger Dye outlined the program he had so far arranged for the next session. It included three Club-worker Print competitions and three Club-worker Projected image competitions plus the Rosalind Bramley Monochrome competition. There would be eight Digital worker evenings held at Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club. Roger was still seeking ideas and speakers for the various slots.

Help was again needed for the Poynton Show on 29th August, where we were again the official photographers.

The next committee meeting was set for Wed 29th July 09.

Bill Chadband

Last Digital meeting of the session Tues 5th May

For this last meeting of the session the more recent Club members (or would-be members) were invited to bring along images for comment. A wide range of excellent images were produced and Tony and Geoff led the comments. The aim had been to give feedback on how the images presented could be improved, but in the event most images were already "improved" and the authors merely congratulated upon such fine images. The audience was invited to vote on which of each member's set was the most attractive. From this final set of "winners" the most appealing image was selected. The process had value in demonstrating to members the impossible position we put judges in when asking them to select a winner from a range of excellent images. Most images were projected by our Canon projector, but some were prints; illuminated by the white light of the projector. Because of their relative small size compared to the projected image it was again clear that one could not really compare the Projected image with the print image. One needed to get closer to the print; at arms-length at the most

This relaxed evening was a fitting end to the session and President Roger Dye is to be congratulated upon arranging such a suitable finale.

Bill Chadband

Club Trip to Lisbon 9th to 12th May 2009

One Man's View

Woke up at 5.00 am on Saturday 9th May and set off at 5.30am to pick up Gordon and Joyce. We had decided that it would be cheaper to leave the car with Premier Parking for the three days. We arrived there at 6.10 am; the Courtesy Bus came immediately with terminal 3 as the 1st stop. So by 6.30am we were ready to book in. We boarded the plane (BMI baby) at 7.50 am and by 11.30am were circling over Lisbon prior to landing. This gave us our first views of the Tejo Estuary and the bridges (the 17 km long Vasco de Gama and the shorter 25th April bridge.)

Our Group of 21 people assembled and queued to take taxis to the Jorge V Hotel. Our Taxi man turned out to be part-time. He told us that he organised tours but with business being short he had turned to the taxi work. He showed us his chart which explained the bill would be 22.50 Euros. Being generous we gave him 25. It was disconcerting to find that other car charges varied from 9 to 30 Euros. (On the way back from Hotel to Airport we all paid 9 Euros per taxi!)

Since we were early at the Hotel, rooms were allocated as they became available from the cleaners. Our room, 302, was the last to be allocated. It was small but comfortable (with a balcony) at the front of the Hotel. Jack and Lynne Bamford were last but one. However their wait was rewarded by being allocated a 3-room suite!

We agreed to meet at 1.00pm for a (Diana) Bus Tour of the City. By now it was pouring with rain. We had arranged an open-top bus to ourselves with guide: but the bad weather caused the company to provide a closed-top which for the first half hour toured other Hotels to pick up odd foreigners. Then the girl guide started to address us in Portuguese. Fortunately this was followed by English! We basically did the "Blue tour" taking in the Gulbenkian Museum, the Monsanto Park, (passing under the old Aquaduct) to Belem; along waterfront to City centre (Commercial Square; Rue Augusta, past the Castelo, and back to the Hotel (for 14Euro's each). Stops were made to allow photography and we agreed that this was the most appropriate start to the holiday.

We gathered again at 7.30pm for a short walk to a local restaurant where a very long table to seat 21 people had been set out. The bill for over 600 Euros was given to the other end of the table from where it was pronounced that we each owed 30 Euros. This was fine for those who had sipped several bottles of wine, but those whose personal bill came to less than 15 Euros looked askance!

On Sunday Gordon, Joyce, Milly and Bill took a taxi to the Gulbenkian Museum (4.65 Euro); then in the afternoon another taxi to the Castle (5.65 Euro). We went back to Hotel for a brief rest before meeting with Joyce and Hugh for an earlier evening meal. Although we

searched for other eating places, none were open, and we ended up at the same restaurant. With similar meals to the first night our bill now came to about 29 Euro per couple. Joyce Streets complained about the boniness of her meat which may have explained why we were given a complementary bottle of Port to taste. We finished off most of the bottle!

For Monday we decided to phone our original taxi man come tour guide (Paulo Ferreira) and at 9.30am set off to Sintra, one of the "must see" places. We drove to the Palacio Nacional, a former Summer Residence of the Portuguese Royal Family. We looked around the outside, deciding not to go in, then went up the street for a coffee and cake. Then, as the mist was clearing our taxi took us up the hill to the extravagant nineteenth Century Palacio da Pena, a fantasy building of Domes, Turrets, ramparts and walkways suitable for a Harry Potter film. From the ramparts one could see the ruined Moorish Castle on an outcrop below. When we walked to the café for refreshment we met half of the NCPS party, already seated.

Our Guide showed us the Hotel Palacio de Seteais before setting off to the Cabo de Roca, the mainland's most westerly point (14 km west of Sintra). Then on to Cascais, a major Resort with a Marina. We were dropped at the Fort and meandered around the bay to the Fish Market where our limousine awaited us. Then on to Estoril (famous for its Casino) and a drive along the coast back to Lisbon and the hotel.

On Tuesday morning we took a Taxi to the Centre to see the Elevador (not working), walk down Rue Augusta (Lisbon's most expensive but famous street) and then taxied to the Parque das Nacoes (the home of Expo 98). The buildings here are all futuristic, and the Vasco de Gama centre there is a home to over 100 shops on several levels. A Cable Car runs along the sea-front and for 2 Euros we did a one-way trip. We walked back to a restaurant for coffee and to admire the long Vasco de Gama Bridge. It was here that we were accosted by a demented old lady all in Black, who might have been asking for money, but who, when we replied in perfect English that we did not understand, became quite agitated (abusive in Portuguese?) She went away, but later came back to try again. This time we were saved by an understanding waiter, whilst his pals stood in the corner laughing. We caught a taxi back to the Parque Eduardo VII, where we met Geoff and Roger. Bill & Milly walked up the street of bookstalls to see the view from the top, whilst the others had a coffee. We all re-assembled at the Hotel to collect our luggage at 7.00pm, took taxis back to the Airport, and duly arrived at Manchester at 1.00am Wednesday morning.

Looking back, we had an enjoyable four days seeing a range of what Lisbon had to offer in a relaxed manner. Taxi journey's for four around the locality were little more expensive than the bus, tram or metro, and saved time and energy. When those folk who have not yet

visited Lisbon see the photographs, I'm sure they will want to put it on their "to be visited" list.

Bill Chadband

Another Man's View

Of all the club's European trips (and I've been lucky enough to participate in every one so far) this latest venture can claim the dubious distinction of having had the most inauspicious start!

I was in one of the taxi's transferring us from airport to hotel whose driver ripped us off to the tune of triple the proper fare. Shame on you, Lisbon taxi driver! Then I was allocated a hotel room which, fortunately, did not have a balcony as the single window of our very small room looked out on to a maze of pipes and ducting. No real complaints about this because someone has to draw the short straw. The first day weather was something of a disaster – cool and cloudy with intermittent downpours is a kindly description. Not what we expected from a May day in Portugal. No real complaints there either. We Brits are used to incomprehensible weather. However, the guided coach tour initially left us with distinctly negative vibes as we toured around several hotels. Our English-speaking guide announced that because of the size of the coach making access along narrow roads difficult, a couple of the usual highlights would not be included. We would be compensated by coach stops for ten minutes at a couple of venues in order to take pictures

Undeterred by all of this hassle Colin, our hard working and very conscientious leader, had found a venue where the whole party could eat together on the first evening, as is our tradition on these trips. This very convivial event was rather complicated by how to pay the joint bill which included the party's starters, main courses, puddings, coffees, wines and various other extraneous items – not all of which, as it later transpired, had been taken by everyone present. Dividing the total by our full complement of 21 therefore left a number feeling rather hard-done by and destined to seek out cheaper alternatives, and in smaller groups, over the rest of the holiday. What a shame! But things could only get better – and they most certainly did.

Speaking for our own varying group of six or eight, who seemed to cover most of Lisbon on foot during the remainder of our stay, we thoroughly enjoyed our time in and around the city as well as our train trip out to Sintra. We stumbled upon many surprising nooks and crannies, full of character and atmosphere, as well as encountering some highly impressive viewpoints. There were the crazy trams linking fine open squares of statues and fountains to castle and waterfront and all interspersed with very inviting refreshment stops for excellent coffee and the delicious local pastries for which Lisbon is well known. The

struggling exchange rate made for a relatively expensive trip but this was a holiday to be enjoyed and those with an obsessive eye on their bank balance should remember “you can’t put a price on pleasure”! At any rate, we all took plenty of pictures. Perhaps the economists amongst us might console themselves with the thought that the money they saved on film would more than pay for any perceived overpayment on their first night bill.

There’s no doubt that our traditional “thank you” to Social Sec. Colin at the end of the trip was very sincerely meant and we shall all be looking forward to next year’s NCPS European holiday.

Tony Redford

A Guest’s View

Now in the distant past, with a few days work under our belt since the early morning flight home from sunny Lisbon (well on the last day). I remember well the very friendly chatter of our taxi driver, as we drove through the streets of Lisbon to the Hotel, his comments of Ronaldo was the greatest and he was from Portugal, and United was only second best to Benfica, we should have worked him out there and then. Parting with thirty euros for this pleasant but long journey we were disappointed to learn that some in the party had only paid 10 euros, and that included the tip !!.

Then came the now infamous coach tour by Dianatours, We did see the famous Bullring three times and then onto the famous sites of Lisbon. We will not comment on the weather only to say that being from Cumbria we are used to mixed conditions and good pictures can be had whenever - I would like to see some of the pictures several members of the group were taking through the coach window.

Colin’s choice for our first and last group meal for whatever reason was excellent, good food and good wine on the whole, I think most were satisfied, The train ride to Sintra was fruitful from a photographic point of view it was certainly different and very atmospheric with once again inclement weather being the norm.

I think on the whole we found Lisbon very photogenic, in particular the old quarters; lots of characters and old buildings, I have never seen so much graffiti, which in itself can be colourful. On one or two occasions Tony R did a disappearing act, I think to photograph the famous trams. I think, at the last count he was up to 59 pictures of trams: you A/V lovers watch out. The last day, from a weather point of view, was much improved with several more miles of Lisbon covered on foot and many more pictures taken. The highlight for me was a visit to the Lisbon Botanical Gardens with a multitude of flowers in full bloom, butterflies and wild birds abound.

Alas came the time for our departure from the Hotel but not before Colin received a much deserved vote of thanks. Well done Colin you deserve it for just putting up with everyone. Ah and the last taxi journey turned out to be 20 euros cheaper including tip and I certainly didn't remember the underpass he went through on our journey into Lisbon. Lessons have been learned.

Jack Bamford

Yet Another Man's View - Lisbon - Expo 2009

Manchester Airport: Saturday 6.30am: Colin taking the role call of 21 people waiting to check in for the BMI Baby flight to Lisbon, Expo 2009 ready to commence. As a visiting member (named George!) introductions were made and I soon felt a welcomed member of the group. On arrival at Lisbon the flight attendant reminded passengers of the one hour time difference with the UK and to adjust watches accordingly. Not so! Said Colin and he was eventually proved right by a further announcement from the flight deck to confirm that there was no time difference. Confidence was now high that Colin's arrangements for the weekend were such that all aspects for the visit to Lisbon been expertly covered. Baggage collected, no problems, Taxis - , three for four passengers, three for three passengers were part of these. What did they charge you for the journey? -10 euros, WHAT! We paid 40euros. We now realize that the metered taxi price was 9 euros. Lessons learned for future visits. Rooms allocated rain; imminent, best option to take a tour bus after lunch. Great way to get a feel for the city. The tour proved interesting and gave an outline of the cities layout and architecture and allowed some early photography. Back to the Hotel-time to relax and plan the venue for the evening meal. Restaurant selected, 7.30pm assemble in the hotel lobby down to the chosen venue having booked a table. Table for 21 ready Sir - greeted the waiter! The nibbles on the table, the water and, the bread were not included in the menu pricing and wine would be supplied until you said no! - an arrangement the party was eventually to find out . Lovely Meal, can we have the bill said Dave Akers.Dave does the calculation per person, WHAT, HOW MUCH! Smile and pay up, we are on Holiday. Second lesson to be learnt.

With these initial experiences behind us the party went on to have a very enjoyable weekend. There were incidents; George had his pocket picked but recovered his wallet intact after a confrontation with the two ladies operating in the main street, Colin was nearly arrested on the train for not validating his train ticket, Jackie much to her disgust being accepted as over the age for concessions. Alan smiling and thinking he got away with a cheap ticket for her. Photography was good

with many places of interest to capture , The Castle, the Expo 98 area, Bridges, the many tiled fascias to buildings, some in state of dereliction but photogenic, statues and monuments, special tourist trams , the famous lift , and views from the top, buskers and interesting people , peacocks at the castle and many other discoveries. All will be revealed in due course as the image files are committed to print. See the next quarterly competition at the club.

Who is a contender for the most images ? Bill with 7Gb worth?

All agreed on the final analysis that it had been a great weekend, Thanks Colin for arranging it. Thanks Colin for inviting me, and thanks to all my new friends for making me so welcome...

George

AGM May 20th 2009

President Roger Dye welcomed 36 members to the meeting. The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed, Apologies for absence were noted, and committee members made brief reports of their year's activities. Treasurer Geoff Robinson went through the Accounts noting that we had made a small surplus on the year, and that he would not be proposing a subs increase. Bill Chadband reported another successful Annual Exhibition. Frank Hutchinson noted that the WEB site was still our best publicity outlet, though he regularly informed magazines and local newspapers of events. Jill Hargreaves dealt with local publicity and the Displays we mount in the Library at the beginning of the Session, and prior to the Annual Exhibition. Social Secretary Colin Pickles reported a good trip to Lisbon, and thanked Tony Redford for organizing the Exhibition Dinner, and our end of the regular Lakes Weekend Competition against five other clubs. Bill Chadband reported seven editions of FOCUS covering 88 A5 sides and costing members £2.20 each. Now that all articles go on the WEB as soon as they are produced, and are archived there, the necessity for a paper version has been reduced. Several members had stated that they were happy not to receive the paper version, so Bill proposed to do a circular email to all members with an email address (and thus access to the WEB) inviting them to state (restate) their preferences. This would save the club money, but those who wished to get the paper copy would still receive one. Roger circulated the draft syllabus for information. He noted that the Digital evenings had held up well this session, and the PDI competitions had been well supported. Competition Secretary, Phil Riley thanked Barry and Roger for their help. He invited feedback on the judges. Jon Bawden noted that we needed judges to be encouraging to members whilst highlighting faults in an image. Jill Hargreaves keeps track of the club equipment on loan to members. If it

is moved on it is important to let Jill know, else the last recorded member is held responsible.

Two resolutions were both agreed nem con. That the committee is authorized to change and publish the modified rules for the Annual Exhibition; and similarly that the committee is authorized to change and publish the changes to the rules for the Clubworker competitions.

Roger announced the final results for clubworkers of the year.

Katie Garner	= Best Intermediate worker
Phil Riley	= Best Slideworker
Dorothy Redford	= Best Printworker
Alan Saunders	= Club worker of the Year

Roger noted that being President and arranging one's own syllabus was hard work, but satisfying. He was pleased with the increased membership, but would like to have done better in the external competitions. His general approach was that we should lead, rather than follow, fashion. He was grateful to a hardworking committee for constant support, and for the backing of all our members.

He noted that Tony Rosevere and Joyce Streets were hoping for a rest from committee work. He was pleased to announce that Graham Johnston had agreed to be President elect. The President is appointed by the committee and he was willing with their consent to do a second year as President. Jill Hargreaves agreed to become membership secretary, with John Garner taking over as local Publicity man. With these changes the new committee was voted in.

Bill Chadband

Visit to Victoria Baths 9 June 2009

Twenty members and friends gathered at the Baths at 7.00pm to be welcomed by Steve, one of the 2.4 paid staff of the Baths. Steve gave a brief introduction and then a guided tour, before leaving members free to wander and find the prize-winning shot. The café was open for tea and cakes, and the shop open for business, manned (or should I say womanned) by Trustee, Chandon, who had been active in the 1990's trying to keep the baths open, and was still active in the Restoration process. We were pleased to welcome ex member John Coles and his wife Carol, newly returned to Poynton after his two term contracts in Switzerland.

Steve recounted the many ways in which the fabric of the building had been restored, and the continuing problem of raising funds to continue this work. The building had featured in several TV series (for example proving the mortuary scene in a Sherlock Holmes play), and the Turkish Baths facility was in regular use by professional footballers

anxious to quickly recover from muscular injuries. An up-to-date account of the Victoria Baths may be seen on their WEB page www.victoriabaths.org.uk . Steve and Richard Scaife counted the members out again at about 9.00pm, before locking up the building. Richard is to be congratulated on his organization of another successful Club outing.

Bill Chadband

Committee Meeting 29 July 09

Sixteen members of the new committee met at the Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club for the first meeting of the new session . Richard Scaife was co-ordinating our input to the Poynton show. As ever volunteers were required to help out on the day. Contact Richard, directly. Tony Redford reported that 28 NCPS members were booked to go to Keswick in November. Competition Secretary Phil Riley reported that judges had been booked for all but one of our forthcoming competitions. Bill Chadband reported that Tony Pioli would be the next Annual Exhibition judge. John Cartlidge had agreed to judge the inter-club digital print competition on the 10th February 2010. Bill reported that the latest Focus was ready to be sent out in the August mailing inviting members to rejoin for the new session. 29 members had indicated that they did not require a paper copy in future. 8 members asked that they continue to have paper copies. He awaited further instructions from the rest of the membership. Jill reported that only one member, Colin Pickles, had so far re-joined. All future members were reminded that they could not enter club competitions if they were not current members. John Garner reported that Poynton Post would have an article about NCPS. President Roger Dye circulated his draft syllabus for the new session, to be sent out with the August mailing. Barry Pearson agreed to update the Competition Rules, once we had decided what they were to be. There was uncertainty as to whether Digitally projected images and Slides were to be lumped together for awards, or to be judged and awarded separately. After discussion it was decided that, for this coming session, at least, they would get separate awards.

Treasurer Geoff Robinson reported on the Clubs finances. Selection committee chairman Jon Allanson would be away for the first two competitions. The selection committee consists of Jon, Geoff Robinson, Roger Dye, and Dorothy or Tony Redford. Tony Redford would take charge of our entry for the Keswick competition. It was agreed that we should endeavour to put in our strongest entry, rather than share the entry amongst as many as possible of those members going to Keswick. Jill reported that presently she has the Lap-top, Bill Chadband has the scanner, John Garner has the Spyder, and Roy Cheetham the lights. Roger was thanked for providing the refreshments.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday 30th September 09 at 7.45pm, same venue.

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Membership Matters

Thanks to those of you who have already renewed your subscription. For the benefit of our newer members you keep the competition number you already have. If you pay at the first meeting you will receive your receipt the following week. We are working on sending them by email!

Jill Hargreaves

Club equipment available for member's to borrow.

Studio flash kit

Spyder – for monitor calibration

Optoma digital projector

Braun Multimag 4000 slide/neg scanner. The software for this is on the Dell laptop computer which can be borrowed too as long as it is not needed for competitions.

Please see me to find out if the equipment is free. Thanks,

Jill Hargreaves