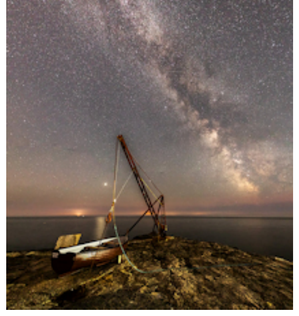
Open Print Competition No 3

The second Open Print competition of the season was judged by Chairman Ellis Watts MPAF, FPSAWA. Which has added the annual print exchange. Members could use the print exchange to submit prints for the Open Print Competition, the Monthly Competitions or the Print Exchange. Ellis commented that the quality of the prints was very high and he had found it difficult to select the winners. Ellis also commented that he had found it difficult to select the winners from the Print Exchange because of the quality of the prints. Ellis also said that he had found it difficult to select the winners from the Open Print Competition

After an extended break where members could catch up with fellow photographers after the long time there was a 'Show and Tell' session. Members could show some of their recent images and say something about what inspired them.



New member Adam Woodhouse was thrown a bit in the 'deep end' as his images were the first to be projected but he very ably told members about his experiments using film with his Pentax Spotmatic camera. This nostalgic little camera, though otherwise completely mechanical, was one of the first options to offer a through the lens light meter. Adam scans his mono and colour developed film images so that they can be digitised for viewing.
Next came Frank Collins who showed some images of his recent visit to Tenby on the Yorkshire coast. He said the light had been very frustrating during most of his stay, but he did manage to show some delightful images of the town bathed in glorious evening sunlight.
Experimenting with a 180 mm macro lens Gerald Clarke showed us the interesting details in his images including the Cinnamon Bug *left.* He found it great fun to see into the fascinating world of such tiny insects. Gerald has also been experimenting with focus stacking.
Next came Robert Harvey ARPS EFIAP with some of his recent images that have won acceptances in International Salons. Among others was an impressive view of Lake Calder Idris was taken with a fish-eye lens. An astrophotography image of the Milky Way was taken at Portland Bill *right* and Robert got lucky when a passing Druid turned up to act as a model in his image of Avebury.
Dave Gray said that the Landscape Group is now able to meet up again monthly at the club and also resume field trips.
Frank finished off by saying he hopes the season will be straightforward and without all the changes to the programme that have been needed during the last 2 seasons.
Thanks to Frank for all his hard work setting out such an interesting Programme for 2021/2022. *PM*

A Shot in the Dark

17 August 2021

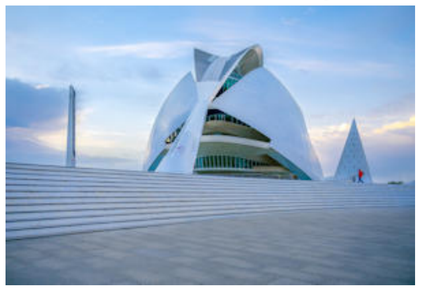
The final zoom meeting of the Summer Programme was yet another interesting topic that we have not had before. Mike Kwasniak ARPS showed his passion for the Theatre as he gave his chatty and informal presentation from his home in East Anglia.
Still as enthusiastic as ever after taking photographs of both professional and amateur productions after 37 years! He got into it by accident when he was asked to take some publicity photos as a favour. The images went down well and so he got involved in several theatres in the Suffolk area and he was asked to take over the publicity and supply photographs for the press and to display in theatre foyers.
In the early days this was of course using film and he was often limited to the amount of film he used and processed. Theatre lighting is very difficult for photography and in those days the camera ISO often gave rather grainy images because of the low lighting. Images were in monochrome but non the less Mike produced some of amazing images with the equipment then available.

In the early 2000's came the breakthrough with digital – although basic at first they have improved immensely and now Mike can use very high ISO's to give superb results in the dimmest of conditions.
Mike explained that he takes his images at the final dress rehearsal before a production opens and he has to get the images approved and ready for the publicity often by the next day. His lively talk was full of stories about what can happen when the auditorium is in darkness and he has to move about as best he can to get in a good position.
Mike has to capture the key moments of the production using both close-ups of the cast and also shots of the whole stage. Using flash is a completely prohibited so the camera has to cope with all the changes of lighting. Mike says 'know your camera – it is a tool - keep it to your eye at all times or you will miss the action'.
Most of us will not have the chance to get up close or move around during a theatre production but the same principles apply to taking any action photos. Maybe wildlife, sport, music events, street theatre or re-enactments etc. Mikes advice is – be patient, try to anticipate what might happen and wait for the moment.*PM*
Website

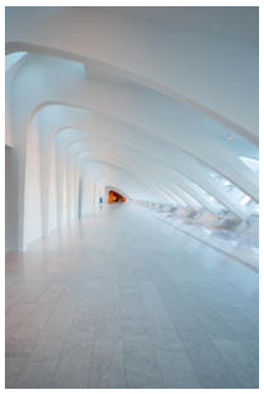
David Wilkinson thanked Mike for sharing his enthusiasm and passion for theatre photography.
Many thanks to Frank Collins for arranging such a diversity of photographic subjects for club members to enjoy during the summer break. Thanks also to Dave Eagle for all the work he has done setting up all the technical side of the zoom meetings.

Architectural Photography - in search of the 'genius loci'

3 August 2021



The club has had a diversity of interesting speakers this summer and tonight was no exception. Speaking to us from Bilbao, Spain, Iñaki Hernández-Lasa FRPS FIPF AFIAP gave us an insight into his work photographing contemporary buildings in his own very individual style.
With the famous Guggenheim Museum near his family home he became interested from an early age in the architecture. Now living with his family in Ireland he has built up his own very distinctive style of photographing the iconic buildings of many countries.



Iñaki uses light, reflections, angles, curves, shadows and colour to produce almost abstract studies. He showed the images he produced to gain his fellowship in the Irish Photographic Federation. A stunning set of images using mainly the complimentary colours of blue and yellow. Later when he was working on a panel for his Royal Photographic Society Fellowship (*below)* he wanted to try something different so this time his images were very soft and subtle with just hints of colour. Paying great attention to every detail he showed the trouble he had taken to select, set out and print his panel of 21 square format images.

Iñaki says he sets out to show the 'genius loci' or in other words the 'pervading spirit of a place or building. To show the buildings at their best he goes early before many visitors arrive. Occasionally he incorporates a figure to give a sense of scale but more often his images are deceptively simple details showing aspects of the interiors and exteriors of contemporary buildings. Many images were of iconic buildings abroad but some amazing images were taken nearer to home in the Central Library, Liverpool.

The images were all of very clean-lined modern buildings and bridges but he did say that sometimes, he has to clone out litter or bird droppings to get his very pristine looking images. Always using manual he carefully selects his camera settings. Many images were in monochrome but others showed subtle colours to great effect. He carefully looks at every aspect of his composition, eliminating any distracting elements. Symmetry is perfect and every angle and curve considered.

He takes great care that components in the architecture do not overlap and that he is in exactly the best place to get the image he wants. He advises spending time looking around to get the best angle and best light and sometimes uses long exposures to get just the best effect.
A master of his craft, Iñaki was thanked for giving the club such an inspirational evening. *PM*
See more images ***Website***

Mongolia - From Steppe to Eagle Hunters

20 July 2021

Award winning professional freelance landscape and travel photographer Julian Elliott took us on an interesting journey to see the landscapes and people of this vast country.
Having first becoming interested in photography in 2005 Julian decided he 'wanted out' of being a bored office worker and in 2010 took the plunge into fulltime freelance photography. Self-taught he has built up a portfolio of images from his travels to many countries many of which have appeared in publications. He now leads photographic workshops to many European countries as well as further afield.

Tonight's Zoom presentation showed images from his 10-day visit to the rarely visited country of Mongolia with its troubled history.
Starting in the capital city, Julian was able to photograph some elaborate Buddhist Temples and the monks going about their daily lives. Once out of the city things looked very different as most of the population have a very basic lifestyle with a shortage of water, electricity and communications.
With extremely cold winters and with many parts still unexplored, Julian said that after visiting the area everyone will change the way they think about life.
Led by a local guide a small group of photographers travelled over rough terrain into some of the remotest areas. Vast uninhabited deserts and high mountain ranges with just a few small towns. The frozen rivers and lakes made some remarkable images.
A highlight of the visit was the Nauryz or 'new day' Eagle Festival where traditional displays of horsemanship and falconry are ably demonstrated. Golden eagles are used to hunt foxes and other animals for their meat and the skins are used to keep out the bitter winter cold.
Julian showed many interesting portraits of Mongolian characters with their traditional embroidered costumes and descibed how they train their eagles. He advised always asking before taking portraits and respect the local traditions.
As there is no light pollution in the remote areas Julian was able to photograph the clear night skies. Many of his stitched panoramas showed off well the incredible vast empty spaces and Julian advises waiting until the natural light is at its best.
Julian was thanked for giving us an insight into a very different country with its interesting culture. *PM*

Adventures of a Wildlife Photographer
WCPF Members Exhibition 2021
'The Imaginarium'
Chasing the Light

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