Rugeley & Armitage Camera Club Newsletter
24th February 2018
www.rugeleyandarmitagecameraclub.com

This Week - Monthly Competition No.4 - Prints 'Monochrome'
The competition is hotting up. Competition No.4 only two to go after this one. The league can't be won on one months competition but it can easily be lost. Our judge for the evening is Tony Broome.

Last Week - Guest Speaker Dave Millard
Our speaker last week was Dave Millard who ably demonstrated how a well used darkroom technique can be used in the digital age. Instead of using Neutral Density and Graduated Filters Dave used his hand to shade areas of the image during the taking phase to allow different parts of the image to receive more or less exposure than other areas of the image. Once on the computer Dave added often added extra saturation to selected parts of his images by using the little used Photoshop Sponge tool.
For brief instructions on using the Sponge Tool click here: Sponge Tool

Wolverhampton Camera Fair - Sunday 25th February
The Wolverhampton Camera Fair is the UK's largest independent camera fair, regularly featuring over 100 tables and a wide range of vendors selling everything from vintage and collectible cameras right up to modern digital equipment. Venue is Wolverhampton Racecourse. Full details here: Camera Fair

Max Spielmann
Max Spielmann my not be the first name you turn to for your competition prints, but if you need one in a hurry there's a shop in Rugeley and Lichfield. A 16x12 costs £8 and 12x8 costs £7. Ok not as cheap as DSCL but if you only need one print and then take away DSCL postage rate it's not that much dearer. Also Max Spielmann offer a discount card which knocks 10% off all purchases.

Disabled Photographers Society
Roy Hodgkiss is still after unwanted photographic items for the Disabled Photographers Society at the upcoming Photography Show at the NEC. Thank you.

Club Exhibition - 5th March - 22nd April
Tell all your friends, relations and anyone who'll listen and if they won't listen shout louder, about our club exhibition at the Museum of Cannock Chase. The more visitors we get the more new members we may get.

The Photography Show - 17-20 March
Don't forget the Photography Show at the NEC is getting closer. If you intend to go then book in advance and you'll save £4.05p on ticket price. Also as most of us are, you are over 60 then ticket price is three quid cheaper. Just enough for an NEC coffee Details here: Photography Show

StarTrails Software
Last Monday's speaker Dave Millard showed us some images of star trails. He made reference to StarTrails Software: StarTrails Software.
Another piece of software is StarStax.
I have not used any of this software but reviews for them are quite good.

Mountain Bike Racing - Cannock Chase - Sunday 25th February
If I can put anything into the newsletter about mountains or cycling then I will. So how about Mountain Biking? Two for the price of one. The 'Cannock Chase Winter Classic' races are being held this Sunday. The start and finish area is at the Tackeroo campsite at the top of Penkridge Bank Road.
The races range from Under 8's to top International Elite racers. There is sure to be plenty of good picture taking opportunities to be had. Cannock Chase is right on our doorstep. Arguably the best Mountain Biking area in the country. Too late to enter I'm afraid, but full details and times are here: Cannock Chase MTB

Projected Print Image on Competition Night
As you all know on print competition evenings we put the print on the light box for the judge to see and using a video camera project it onto the screen so all members can see it. We think this works very well. However over the months there has been the odd comment that the projected image doesn't match the light box image. Well to put it simply, it can't and it never can. Ask yourself, does a print exactly match the original scene? The projected image on the screen is a result of the video camera recording the image on the light box 20 feet away, passing it through all it's electronic innards then shoving it into to the projector which also does its thing before beaming it to the screen. We set the video camera onto manual control, focus, white balance, shutter and aperture so every image is recorded the same, but they can never exactly match the print. We think we do pretty good. Accuracy on the projection screen is not critical. The judge doesn't look at the projected image, only the light box.

At the start of the season we asked that for every print competition we would also like members to submit a PDI of their image. This was primarily so we had a copy of all images, but also so we didn't have to use the video camera. We could load the PDI's onto the laptop and as the prints went onto the light box simultaneously project the PDI thus cutting out the video camera. Unfortunately this never went to plan. Sorry for the rant but we do our best.