



Rugeley & Armitage Camera Club Newsletter

14th March, 2026.

Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain, through the Midland Counties Photographic Federation

Last week the club held its 5th monthly competition with the subject Landscapes (PDI). Our judge for the evening was Mike Glyde, changed at the last minute as we had a late cancellation from our booked judge. We had a varied selection of very good images in all groups. The judge gave constructive criticism on the Elementary and Intermediate groups, but thought the Advanced should know better (Oh dear)! The points were very close so the overall positions on our league tables varied only slightly. For the latest positions please check the [website](#).

ELEMENTARY GROUP



3rd Place—Uppermoor
Cheryl King



1st Place—Morning Hue
Freya Wilberforce



2nd Place—Llandudno
Fred Bayliss

INTERMEDIATE GROUP



2nd Place—Two Trees in the
afternoon - David Murray



1st Place—We Plough the Fields
and Scatter - Steve Newman



3rd Place - A Winters Chill
Simon Wilberforce

ADVANCED GROUP



2nd Place—Winter Wonderland
Graham Caddick



1st Place—After the Storm
Jan Wilson



3rd Place—Sunset on the Screes
Ian Morrall

A Trip to Sri Lanka - by Steve Moore

We just got back from an amazing holiday in Sri Lanka—our first time exploring this part of the world! The brochure looked fantastic, promising a real taste of the country, its traditions and people. So, we decided to go on a grand tour, visiting all the main tourist spots with a group of like-minded travellers on a coach. We stayed in nine hotels over nineteen nights, which meant a lot of packing and unpacking. My first challenge was when we read the small print with Sri Lankan Airlines that hand luggage could only be 7kg. My usual camera bag was over 10kg, so I had to leave some gear behind. I travelled with my R5mk2, R6, 100-400mm, 24-105, 28mm prime lens, a flashgun and lots of extra batteries and



memory cards.

On the tour, we were going to do three safaris in Yala National Park and one along the Madu River in Bentota. It was very dusty in the back of the Land Rover, but I was confident that my kit would withstand the dust. I didn't swap any lenses while we were in the park. Having the camera on burst mode with the pre-capture on definitely helped me take more photos! I took 13,250 shots during the nineteen-day holiday. The park we were in was said to have the highest population of leopards in the world, with 200.



Spotting them was another story. We eventually saw three, well, 90% of them anyway. They were all very shy, so I have lots of shots of tails, back legs, a couple of front legs but not one of a nice leopard's face. It makes you appreciate those David Attenborough documentaries even more. On the river safari, my kit held up well when the boat captain gave my wife a baby crocodile; she jumped up in the air, holding onto my spare camera.

Editing: With so many shots taken, there were quite a few duplicates, some that didn't work and others where the animal had already run out the frame. To quickly sort through them, I used Adobe Lightroom with a Loupedeck keyboard. This let me quickly scan through the images and mark shots for deletion, while also picking out the best ones by adding star ratings from one to five. Then, I filtered out the four and five-star shots to edit first. Since I was the only photographer on our tour with a big camera and lens, I promised to share the best shots with the rest of the group when we got home.



As we travelled over 1,200 miles, there was plenty of chance to take shots out of the coach window. I had recently bought an RF 28mm prime lens, and it turned out to be a lifesaver in getting up close to the coach window to avoid reflections and, with a fast shutter speed, capturing some interesting shots. The coach window had a slight blue tint to the glass, which made getting the colour balance just right a bit tricky. I shot all the raw images, which gave me more flexibility to adjust the colour balance in post-production. Reflections in the glass were present in a few

images, but the new 'remove reflections' tool in Camera Raw worked in about 90% of the shots. If you haven't tried it, it's easy and really effective.

Some of my images can be found here: <https://adobe.ly/3NanFPY>

Steve Moore



Up-coming Events in the club
PROGRAMME

Monday 16th March - 2 way Interclub Competition between Acton Trussell & Penkridge and Rugeley & Armitage Camera Club

Monday 23rd March - Pre-Recorded Lecture.

Monday 30th March - **Speaker** - Martine Hamilton Knight "Architecture through the Viewfinder"

Also final date for bringing in Images for the 6th Competition—Monochrome (Print but don't forget to also send a PDI of your image to racompetitions@gmail.com)

Monday April 6th - **NO MEETING** - **EASTER BREAK**

Wednesday 8th April - **Staffordshire Print Competition** - Members support for our club on this evening is always greatly appreciated.

Monday 13th April - 6th Competition - Print - Monochrome - Judge is John Haines

Monday 20th April - **AV Night** - **Please see Stephen Frost if you would like to contribute an AV.**

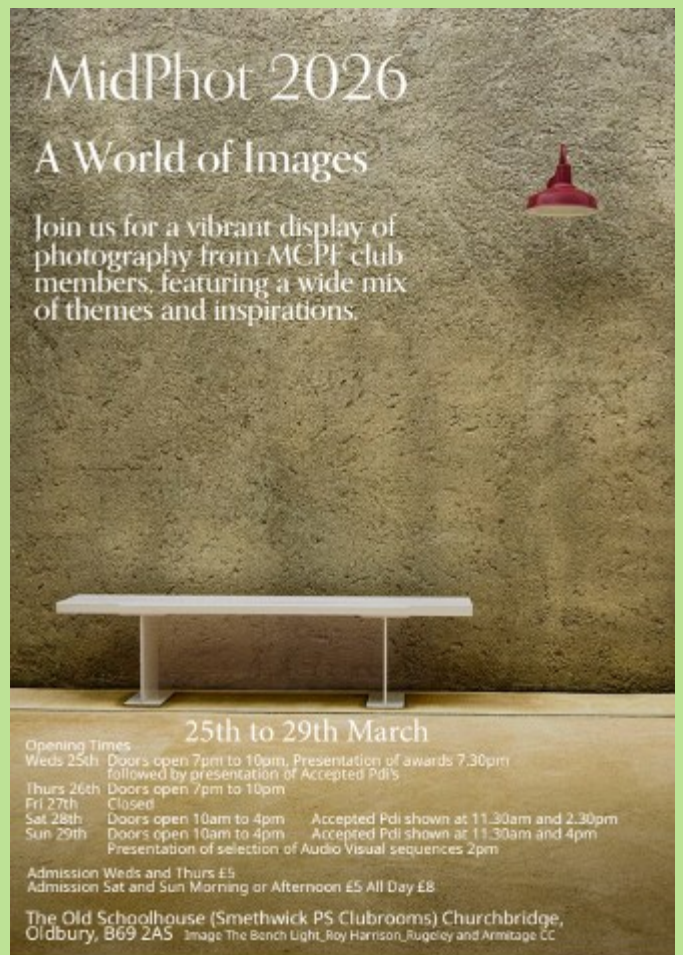
NEWSLETTER

Just to advise members there will be NO Newsletter next week but please send me anything that you would like to go into future Newsletters (including Midphot Achievements).
lindashaw2964@gmail.com

Midphot Acceptances and Awards

Thank you to everyone who has so far sent in their results and photographs that achieved acceptances and awards in Midphot, I will be acknowledging these results in the newsletter in a couple of weeks, this gives plenty of time for those members who have not sent anything in to me yet.

Our member Roy Harrison has had one of his accepted images used for the advertising of the Midphot Exhibition and was featured in the latest MCPF Newsletter A great image so well done Roy.



Carole's Creative Competition

A reminder to members to enter **Carole's Creative Competition**.

This is a trophy awarded to a member who's image has 'made Carole smile'. Your entry can be of any subject, it can have been manipulated, set-up or straight from your Camera/phone, you just have to let your creativity break through. It must be your own work. All you have to do is send your PDI (to club sizing) to [David Perry](#). You can send in as many entries as you wish and you don't have to send them all in together.

A Ramble in Derbyshire

Two photographers set off for a gentle ramble around Derbyshire... armed with cameras, snacks, and a wildly optimistic idea of what "gentle" means.

Having expertly handled the first test of the day, paying for parking on an App, luckily one of us had downloaded all of the apps it's possible to use in the UK, we just had to work out which one and how to use it. So, our first mission of the day was **to find the old mill wheels**. So naturally we stopped a passing stranger and very seriously asked, "Excuse me... do you know where the old mill wheels are?".

Cue polite pointing, vague directions, and the kind of smile people reserve for tourists who may or may not be slightly unhinged.

Five minutes later... we realised there were roughly **hundreds of the things** scattered everywhere. Apparently in Derbyshire they're about as rare as sheep. The stranger was probably halfway down the road telling their friends: *"I've just met two people searching for mill wheels... in the place absolutely full of mill wheels."*



Having taken a good selection of photographs our next challenge: **Surprise View**. We had parked in the correct car park so that was half the battle and our parking app even told us how long we had left to park, modern technology is amazing. Now, the surprise was that it was a steep climb to the view, we stood at the bottom looking up like two explorers about to conquer Everest. After a heroic 30 minutes of climbing, several dramatic pauses, and at least one "whose idea was this?", we reached the important conclusion that we were far too old to be doing this and very out of shape. More



photographs and still taking lots of gasping intakes of breath, at the same time as being warned by our app telling us we had 27 minutes to get back down. Down we went, slowly & carefully, making the sort of noises normally associated with antique floorboards. Overall a lovely day out and we survived to fight another day!



ARMITAGE with HANDSACRE
VILLAGE HALL

Your community events and meetings venue



Spring Craft & Gift Fair

Sun. 22 March 2026.

11am – 3pm

Over 40 Stalls

Café - Free Entry & Parking

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