



Bideford Camera Club

Want to take better photos ?

PHOTO NEWS

Bideford Camera Club

March/April
2025

NEWSLETTER OF BIDEFORD CAMERA CLUB



Tim's Rants and Raves

Well, it is time to come out of hibernation, dust the camera off and get out and about. There are more and more exciting events being added to the list in this newsletter – if you know of any others, please let me know.

I have tried to keep the camera busy and attended the Cornish Pirates versus Gloucester Rugby match. Fortuitously I got a seat in the second row of the grandstand – the front row being for those coping with disabilities. I had a great view of the pitch. Then with the seats empty a playing member of the club was allowed into them with his three young kids. He must have had the biggest head in the known world, which certainly made photography even

more tricky. To make things worst he had an enormous beard, like an out-of-control leylandii hedge. At the end of the evening, I had 10 shots of the rugby, 23 shots of his right ear, 12 of his nose, lots of his beard - shame about the dandruff.

Never mind early morning excursions have provided some spectacular sunrises, which are always a joy to see and provide ample excuse then to enjoy an afternoon nap.

With better weather hopefully on the horizon, there should be plenty of opportunity to get out and get the cameras fully operational, along with the knees, the back and all those places that ache, when you did not even know you had the place to ache.

The highlight of my week as I am penning this was to receive a communication from the World Photography Union, which is based in Hong Kong, they addressed me as “Dear Human”. A life changing moment and I shall now keep this testimonial, should any doubt creep into anyone’s mind in the future.

“The camera is an excuse to be someplace you otherwise don’t belong. It gives me both a point of connection and a point of separation.”

– Susan Meiselas

So on with Newsletter 8 March/April 2025

LOOKING BACK at the Club

Last time we had reached the Millennium in 2000 and the club had reached a crisis point. But it was not for a lack of trying as the 1990s had provided annual print exhibitions with visitors from as far away as Adelaide in South Australia and St. Andrews, Manitoba, Canada nearer to home I see I visited the 1999 exhibition and commented it was excellent. There were a couple of visits from James Ravilious, even though someone spelt his name incorrectly, I am sure he was well received. In 1994/95 Peter Clarke ARPS a stalwart of the Barnstaple club came and gave a talk on “Land of the Pharaohs”. Then at the December 20th meeting of 1994 the club offered “Sumptuous seasonal fare produced by the ladies”. While in September 1996 a “Talk of Great Interest” by Ian Aplin was offered – I wonder if it was. Meetings at this time were being held at the Community Room on the Pill and by 2000 the club at been resident there for 20 years and receiving a concessionary hire rate of £3.50 per hour. Coincidentally membership fees were at £3.50 per annum at the start of the 1990s and had risen to the princely sum of £5 by the millennium. These seem modest rises as in the pre-decimal days of 1969 the fee was one pound and one shilling, this took quite a hike at decimalisation in 1971 to £1 – 75pence, although the next rise did not occur until 1981 when it almost doubled to £3. The fee was obviously not putting people off as between 1969 and 1982 the membership was often into the 50s.

Apart from the annual print exhibition the other real highlight of the club year was the away-day. Hiring a coach from Heard’s Garage at a cost of between £70 and £80 the club took off

to amongst others Flambards and the Dart Valley Railway proudly extolling that a boat trip was included.

I will continue from the millennium in the next issue.

Below are a few more images from the club's history.



Above and below – photographers unknown.

Perhaps the one immediately below shows one of those club outings.

Certainly - some interesting headwear.



So, on the above evidence, perhaps the club did not always hire a bus from Heard's Garage for those annual excursions.

Photographer unknown.

"There are no bad pictures; that's just how your face looks sometimes."

Abraham Lincoln



Coming events – some dates may be provisional at this stage of the year.

- 01/03/2025 RHS Garden Rosemoor Open Weekend FREE ENTRY
- 02/03/2025 Bideford Classic Motorbike Show - Pannier Market
- 09/03/2025 Bideford Half Marathon
- 09/03/2025 Granite Way 10 and 20 mile Run Okehampton
- 16/03/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Littlehempston
- 16/03/2025 Point to Point Buckfastleigh
- 22/03/2025 Exeter Trail Races = Escot Park, Ottery St Mary
- 23/03/2025 Point to Point Kilworthy Tavistock
- 30/03/2025 Point to Point Trebudennan
- 05/04/2025 English National Surfing Championships - Fistral Beach
- 06/04/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Whiteway Barton
- 06/04/2025 English National Surfing Championships - Fistral Beach
- 07/04/2025 English National Surfing Championships - Fistral Beach
- 09/04/2025 Point to Point Cherrybrook
- 12/04/2025 Severn Valley Rally Builtth Wells
- 13/04/2025 Point to Point Dunsmore
- 21/04/2025 Point to Point Trebudennan
- 26/04/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb
- 26/04/2025 Camborne Trevithick Day
- 26/04/2025 Kernow Fly-In Bodmin Airfield PL30 4BU
- 27/04/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb
- 27/04/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Little Silver Moto Parc
- 27/04/2025 Axe Vale Point to Point Stafford Cross
- 02/05/2025 Abbey Hill Steam Rally
- 03/05/2025 Brixham Pirate Festival
- 03/05/2025 Werrington Hill Climb
- 03/05/2025 Abbey Hill Steam Rally
- 03/05/2025 Callington Vintage and Country Fair
- 04/05/2025 Werrington Hill Climb
- 04/05/2025 Abbey Hill Steam Rally
- 04/05/2025 Callington Vintage and Country Fair
- 05/05/2025 Stevenstone Point to Point Vauterhill
- 05/05/2025 Abbey Hill Steam Rally
- 08/05/2025 VE Day Celebrations Simmons Park Okehampton
- 10/05/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb - 500 Owners Club
- 11/05/2025 Point to Point Upcott Cross
- 11/05/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb -Vintage Sports Car Club
- 11/05/2025 Eggesford Point to Point Upcott Cross
- 15/05/2025 Devon County Show
- 16/05/2025 Devon County Show
- 17/05/2025 Devon County Show
- 17/05/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb
- 17/05/2025 Plymouth Pirates Weekend
- 17/05/2025 Ladies Fly-In Bodmin Airfield PL30 4BU
- 18/05/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb - The Nationals

18/05/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Landrake Moto Parc
 18/05/2025 Plymouth Pirates Weekend
 18/05/2025 Point to Point Bratton Down
 23/05/2025 Tredinnick Steam and Vintage Fair
 24/05/2025 South West Photo Show at Exeter Corn Exchange
 24/05/2025 Tredinnick Steam and Vintage Fair
 24/05/2025 Launceston Steam and Vintage Rally
 25/05/2025 Point to Point Bratton Down
 25/05/2025 Bideford 10k Run
 25/05/2025 Point to Point Bratton Down
 25/05/2025 Tredinnick Steam and Vintage Fair
 25/05/2025 Launceston Steam and Vintage Rally
 26/05/2025 Point to Point Upcott Cross
 26/05/2025 Continental Food Market Bideford Quay
 26/05/2025 South Tetcott Popint to Point Upcott Cross
 26/05/2025 Launceston Steam and Vintage Rally
 29/05/2025 Royal Bath and West Show
 30/05/2025 Royal Bath and West Show
 31/05/2025 Riviera Air Show
 31/05/2025 Bideford Pride Victoria Park
 31/05/2025 Royal Bath and West Show
 31/05/2025 South Molton Vintage Rally - Frankhill Farm, Rackenford, EX16 8EG
 01/06/2025 Riviera Air Show
 01/06/2025 Tiverton Point to Point Bratton Down
 01/06/2025 Tavistock Steam and Vintage Fair
 01/06/2025 South Molton Vintage Rally - Frankhill Farm, Rackenford, EX16 8EG
 07/06/2025 Point to Point Umberleigh
 07/06/2025 Torrington Farmers Point to Point Umberleigh
 15/06/2025 Bideford Triathlon
 15/06/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Littlehempston
 20/06/2025 Goldcoast Oceanfest
 21/06/2025 Bideford Regatta
 28/06/2025 Plymouth Armed Forces Day
 05/07/2025 Exeter Quayside Shanty Festival
 06/07/2025 Bideford Soapbox Derby
 06/07/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Landrake Moto Parc
 10/07/2025 Goodwood Festival of Speed
 11/07/2025 Goodwood Festival of Speed
 12/07/2025 Bristol Pride
 12/07/2025 Sedgemoor Vintage Show
 12/07/2025 Goodwood Festival of Speed
 12/07/2025 Historic Vehicle Gathering - Powderham Castle
 13/07/2025 Sedgemoor Vintage Show
 13/07/2025 Goodwood Festival of Speed
 13/07/2025 Historic Vehicle Gathering - Powderham Castle
 14/07/2025 Stithian Show
 19/07/2025 Bristol Harbour Festival
 20/07/2025 Bideford Water Festival
 20/07/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Brookthorpe

20/07/2025 Bristol Harbour Festival
20/07/2025 Wadebridge Wheels
21/07/2025 Bristol Harbour Festival
25/07/2025 Boconnoc Steam Fair
26/07/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb - The Nationals
26/07/2025 Mid Devon Show
26/07/2025 Boconnoc Steam Fair
27/07/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb - The Nationals
27/07/2025 Boconnoc Steam Fair
28/07/2025 Woolsery Show
30/07/2025 Yealmpton Agricultural Show
01/08/2025 Torbay Steam Fair
01/08/2025 Sticker Country Fayre and Rally
02/08/2025 Bideford Music Days
02/08/2025 Torbay Steam Fair
02/08/2025 Sticker Country Fayre and Rally
02/08/2025 WSRA Steam and Vintage Rally
03/08/2025 Bideford Music Days
03/08/2025 Torbay Steam Fair
03/08/2025 Sticker Country Fayre and Rally
03/08/2025 WSRA Steam and Vintage Rally
06/08/2025 North Devon Show
07/08/2025 Agricultural Show - Honiton
08/08/2025 Purbeck Rally
09/08/2025 Bristol Balloon Festival
09/08/2025 Purbeck Rally
09/08/2025 South Hams Vintage Rally
09/08/2025 Bridgewater Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show
09/08/2025 Golden Age of Aviation Air Show SP5 5AP
10/08/2025 Bristol Balloon Festival
10/08/2025 Bideford Festival of Transport Victoria Park
10/08/2025 Purbeck Rally
10/08/2025 South Hams Vintage Rally
10/08/2025 Bridgewater Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show
10/08/2025 Golden Age of Aviation Air Show SP5 5AP
13/08/2025 British Firework Championships Plymouth
13/08/2025 Agricultural Show - Camelford
14/08/2025 British Firework Championships Plymouth
14/08/2025 Okehampton Show
15/08/2025 Agricultural Show - Dunster
17/08/2025 Agricultural Show - Mid Somerset
21/08/2025 Agricultural Show - Chagford
22/08/2025 Sidmouth Regatta & Air Show
24/08/2025 Mini Grand Tour
25/08/2025 Mini Grand Tour
25/08/2025 Wings and Wheels Somerset BA8 OTA
26/08/2025 Wings and Wheels Somerset BA8 OTA
28/08/2025 Agricultural Show - Holsworthy and Stratton

31/08/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Fraddon Moto Parc
31/08/2025 Dartmouth Royal Regatta
05/09/2025 Dorset Classic Steam and Vehicle Show
06/09/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb
06/09/2025 Dorset Classic Steam and Vehicle Show
06/09/2025 Agricultural Show - Kingsbridge
06/09/2025 Agricultural Show - Dorset
06/09/2025 Cornwall Strut Fly-In Bodmin Airfield PL30 4BU
07/09/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb
07/09/2025 Dorset Classic Steam and Vehicle Show
07/09/2025 Agricultural Show - Dorset
08/09/2025 Bristol Balloon Festival
13/09/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb
13/09/2025 Bideford Carnival and Massed Pipes and Drums
13/09/2025 Plymouth Seafest
13/09/2025 Lanlivery Vintage Rally and Country Fair
13/09/2025 Agricultural Show - Frome
14/09/2025 Wiscombe Park Hill Climb
14/09/2025 South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Reserved date
14/09/2025 Plymouth Seafest
14/09/2025 Lanlivery Vintage Rally and Country Fair
20/09/2025 St Mawgan Steam and Vintage Rally
21/09/2025 St Mawgan Steam and Vintage Rally
27/09/2025 Somerset Festival of Transport
28/09/2025 Barnstaple Marathon
28/09/2025 Somerset Festival of Transport
04/10/2025 Weston Beach Motor Racing
05/10/2025 Weston Beach Motor Racing
12/10/2025 Weymouth Beach Motor Racing
03/11/2025 Bideford 10miler run
05/11/2025 Ottery Tar Barrels
08/11/2025 Bristol Firework Fiesta

Congratulations

To those awarded in the Creative Competition and commiserations to those who did not quite make it onto the honours board this time.

We saw the judging and critique of the “Creative” competition and this proved a popular and obviously fun subject. Members had enthusiastically explored many techniques from infra-red through slow shutter speeds, composites and intentional camera movement. There were a number of superb minimalist images, while others demonstrated well-honed blending techniques. We warmly welcomed back Barnstaple club member Andy Francis a former commercial photographer to convey his thoughts on the wide-ranging entries.

Featuring in the awards Rupert Stockwin collected Gold for “Wizoned Wind Turbines” and Silver for “The Tulip Back Stretch”. Judith Flacke took home a Gold for “Leaf”, Silver for “Under Water” and a Highly

Commended for “Still Life with Chrysanthemums. David Shaw was another multiple winner with “Steampunk Android”. Bronze for “The Cube” and a Commended for “Added Value”.

Bob Jinks struck Silver for “Rain Man” as he captured the decisive moment.

Christine Ker won Bronze for “Light Waves” and had further success when “Beach Trees” was Highly Commended. Another success at bronze was for “The Silver Roses” by Geoffrey Desmond. Mike Deaton was Highly Commended for “Canal Reflections and a Commended for “Key Workers” which received murmurs of appreciation in the hall for its ingenuity and superb title.

Finally, Thomas O’Neal received a Commended for “Human Butterfly” a delicate and ethereal image.

GOLD



GOLD

Wizoned Wind Turbines

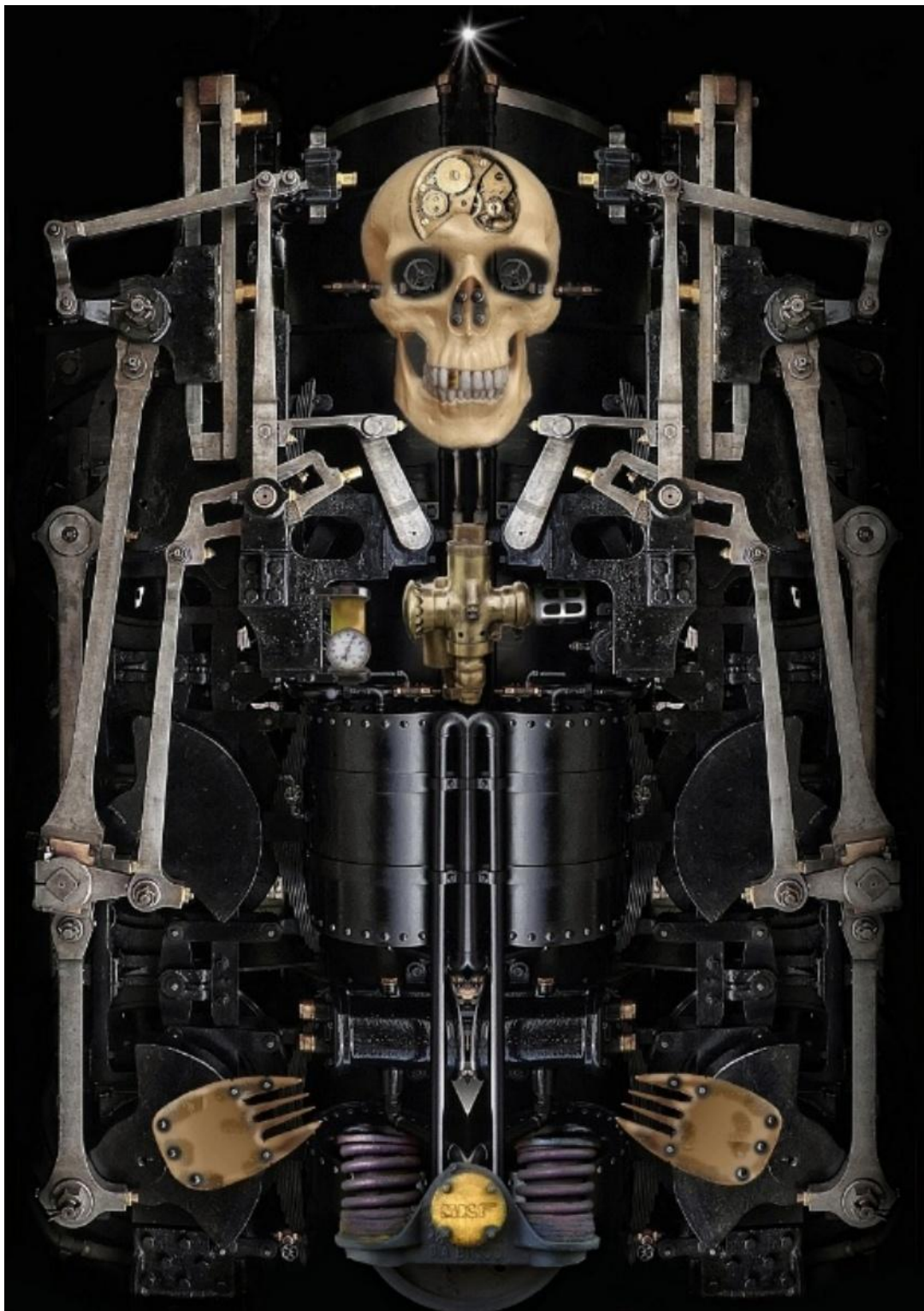
Rupert Stockwin



GOLD

Leaf

Judith Flacke



GOLD
Steampunk Android
David Shaw

SILVER



SILVER

Top – Rain Man Bob Jinks

Bottom – Under Water Judith Flacke



SILVER

Left - The Tulip Back Stretch

Rupert Stockwin

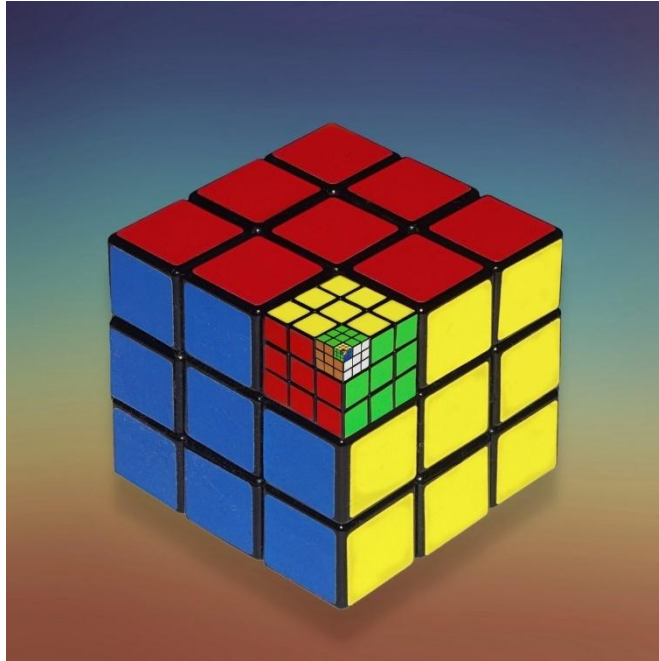
Bronze

Below - Silver Roses

Geoffrey Desmond

BRONZE





BRONZE

Top – The Cube David Shaw

Bottom – Light Wave Christine Ker



**HIGHLY
COMMENDED**

**Left – Canal
Reflections**

**Mike
Deaton**

**Below
Beach Trees**

**Christine
Ker**



HIGHLY COMMENDED



**HIGHLY
COMMENDED**

**Still Life with
Chrysanthemums**

**Judith
Flacke**

COMMENDED



COMMENDED

Key Workers

Mike Deaton



COMMENDED

Added Value David Shaw



COMMENDED

Human Butterfly 07 Thomas O'Neal

Places to Go.

WWT Steart Marshes Nature Reserve.

Steart Drove, Bridgwater, TA5 2PU

Free Admission and parking.

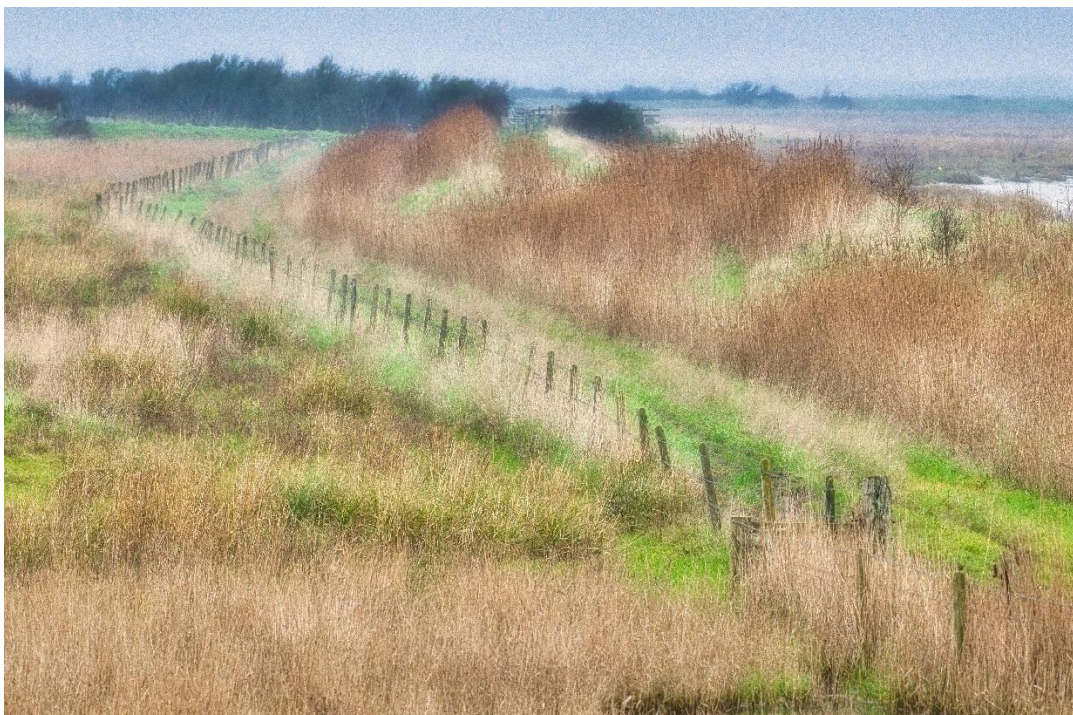
It is a long journey so it is a welcome relief to find excellent toilet facilities on site.

It also worth checking the tide times as the reserve is situated between the River Parrett and the Bristol Channel. If you are a fair-weather photographer, also check the weather forecast.

We visited on a dull and damp winter day – the heavy rain experienced on our drive up relented and we had a very pleasant walk about the reserve but photographs were in short supply. Well, I took plenty as it was teeming with birdlife – but the need for a large lens and fast shutter speeds resulted in high ISO and noise the size of footballs even after processing with TOPAZ DeNoise. See Below



There are some lovely hides on the site and we set up in one – there was not a lot of birdlife in front of us – a single Little Egret and two ducks. But we set up and as soon as the viewing windows were opened the Little Egret flew away. Demonstrating my wildlife acumen, I suggested we ate lunch and that after 20 minutes the bird would have settled down again in front of us. So, a nice chat and a welcomed bite to eat, the time has passed and we look out and no Egret and in fact the ducks have also disappeared.



Anyway, we decamp and set off and there is plenty of birdlife if at a distance, probably 400mm is the shortest telephoto to use. Waders were particularly in abundance with Dunlin, Lapwing, Avocet, Knot and Golden Plover. The waders provided a spectacular murmuration for our benefit and it was worth the journey just to witness this. There were also a number of species of duck including Pintail, Ruff, Teal and Shoveller.

There were also plenty of birds on the River Parrett.



But they hid when I took this picture.

The website also boasts of a number of birds of prey – Merlin, Peregrine, Buzzard, Hen and Marsh Harriers. On the day we saw some far off and were only able to identify a single Buzzard.



Other News

We have just received the results from the Western Counties Inter Club Championship 2025 and commonly known as DPIC. Members can be well pleased with our 22nd place finish out of 48 clubs a great improvement on a very lowly position in 2024. Especially pleased is member Rupert Stockwin who achieved a Highly Commended Award for his picture “Insects Sheltering Under a Porcelain Fungus”.





Bideford Camera Club

Want to take better photos ?

They certainly do. CLUB MEETINGS

- **4th Mar** : Members Night
- **11th Mar** : **Competition** - "Urban" (pdi). Judge : Martin Patten
- **18th Mar** : Members Night
- **25th Mar** : Talk - The Wildlife Masterclass by Tesni Ward (Zoom)
- **1st Apr** : Members Night
- **8th Apr** : **Competition** - Masters (Print). Judge : Peter Hyett
- **15th Apr** : 3B's
- **22nd Apr** : Members Night
- **29th Apr** : AGM

If you have anything for the newsletter, events of interest, something to sell etc., please let me know.

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Happy photography

Tim

