

HPS

IN FOCUS

The Newsletter of the
Heswall Photographic Society

HPS

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www.heswallphotosoc.co.uk

January, 2010



The President's Notes

This may seem a strange thing to say but I often feel sorry for some people that I meet, simply because they are not quite like you and I. "What's so different about you and I" I hear you ask, well let me try to explain. It is all in that small but important word "Hobby", by definition, an activity or interest that is undertaken for pleasure or relaxation often in one's spare time.

The thing is you see, they don't appear to have any hobby, apart that is from watching some of those all compelling television programmes, you know, the ones that we pretend that we have never seen. Now don't get me wrong, there is nothing amiss about watching the odd "good" television programme, I have to admit that I do watch the occasional one myself, the trouble is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a "good" one: (relax, we will not go into that can of worms here).

Now I don't regard watching TV as a hobby, as it is not really an activity as such. As a young boy I was a train spotter, every Saturday morning you would find me on the branch line from Northwich to Crewe, spending most of the day on Crewe station noting down the engine numbers in my little Ian Allan book.

Fortunately as I entered my teenage years, my mind became more preoccupied by more important matters like girls and photography although not

necessarily in that order. The thrill of developing that first film in the total darkness of the family bathroom will never leave me. It sowed the seeds for a lifetime of pleasure in our fascinating world of amateur photography, a path that most of my readers will have trod with equal pleasure.

It was to be many years before I found the full pleasure and excitement that the hobby can bring. After 30 years of residency in Heswall I finally joined the Heswall Photographic Society. Here over the years I have met many interesting people who have been both helpful and encouraging in all aspects of the hobby, becoming friends along the way.

This brings me to the point: being part of a hobby group, all with a common interest, will in my experience, not only greatly enhance your pleasure and enjoyment of the hobby, but create friendships which you would not otherwise have known, I look upon all our members as being new found friends, and I thank you all for that friendship.

I know that I can rely on the members of HPS to continue their support of our activities throughout the remainder of the season and beyond.

I would in closing wish to thank the committee members and helpers for all their efforts in 2009, well done.

All that remains is for me to wish all of our members much pleasure and joy from this wonderful hobby in this New Year 2010.

Preserve Your System Software and All Those Valuable Images

For those of you with Apple Macs, the following may be of academic interest. For those of you with Windows based PCs, the following may also only be of academic interest if you currently have your own backup systems in place, BUT for others it should be of great interest as it could show you a method of securing all your software and data. I should state early on that I have absolutely no financial interest in either of the software packages described (other than having had to purchase them).

There are many ways to “skin a cat”, this is mine, but what ever method used should be automatic (during backup) and restores should be simple. My solution requires two internal hard drives and one external hard drive, either USB or Firewire connected – although they’re always dreaming up new methods and my suggestions don’t preclude them.

I start by separating installed software and all those precious images onto their own internal hard drives and then backing up each automatically. Separate partitions on the same drive is a start but not wholly ideal (I believe).

System Software

I use Acronis True Image Home (the current version is 2010 - Windows 7 compatible – see www.acronis.com), which I have configured to backup the C: partition (O/S and installed software) to another partition on the secondary internal hard drive.

This backup is scheduled to run automatically every evening, performing a full backup once a week and incremental backups in between. This method runs totally automatically, in the background, and only requires manual intervention when a restore becomes necessary.

The software package can create a bootable rescue CD, which enables a restore to be performed. I have used this in anger!

Other facilities include continuous backups, cloning disks, searching the backups for specific files and restoring as required. It will also backup your data files, if required but I prefer the method outlined below for my data.

Data Files

In the past, I’ve spent hours watching data backup software copying all my pictures time and time again. Eventually, I found Vice Versa Pro (www.tgrmn.com)!

This software package maintains a mirror image of all your selected folders and files on another disk (preferably). I use an external, removable disk.

It scans the source folders looking for changed files and then copies them to the mirror target folders. If required, it will maintain archives of the changed files before over-writing the target files with the new version. This can also be applied to deleted files and folders, such that the mirror copies are archived before the mirror copies are themselves deleted. This way you’re covered against accidental deletion. The number of archive copies is configurable.

What ever method and software you use - BACKUP OR RISK LOSING!

David Platt

Funeral of Chris Gill

Many of you will remember Chris both as a member and a friend, as you may recall Chris was a member of our Society until he became ill with cancer. Sadly Chris died in hospital on Tuesday 29th December after a long battle with the disease. He had some remission for a while and underwent a stem cell transplant but developed complications including pneumonia.

His funeral will be on Tuesday 12th January at Landican.

Thanks to Georgina Keena for the above information

Autumn Exhibition

Just a line to thank TJ Peter Williams for all the hard work he put in creating the above, if any of you haven't had a look yet it is excellent.

Photoshop & Pictures to Exe tips

Derek Drury sends the following - Those of our members who use P/Shop Brushes, or would like to experiment, you can find free ones and galleries of their use at <http://hawksmont.deviantart.com> www.photoshopsupport.com/tools/brushes.html is a good starting point.

For textures for PTE, Proshow, or P/Shop go to - www.smashapps.org glad you checked! Better <http://www.smashapps.org/2009/06/photoshop-effects-inspiration-showcase.html> as can be difficult to locate. For anyone wanting to get inspiration for slide shows then www.beechbrook.com or www.wnsoft.com and go to Forums - Slide shows created with PTE.

One from me - <http://www.beckhamdigital.co.uk/> although this is a commercial site, some useful information is available under FREE STUFF, and some downloadable A/V's

Birkenhead Park Photographic Competition/Exhibition

Entries are invited for the above to be submitted to the Park Visitor Centre between the 4th and 7th of March. The chosen medium is **PRINTS**, the subject, **Our Wonderful Wirralcompetition**. Each entrant may submit two prints with an entry fee of £1 per print.

Independent adjudicators will choose prints for inclusion in the exhibition, Exhibition awards will be presented on Saturday 27th March 2010, with the Exhibition being held between Monday 22nd March and Friday 16th April 2010.

Entry forms are available on the HPS website and from Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre.

Society Vacancies

The successful running and organisation of the Society is dependant on a number of members putting in the time to the jobs that make the Society work as well as it does, we are currently short of an external competition Secretary, at the end of the season Maggie Williams is relinquishing her role as Syllabus Secretary and I will be giving up the post of Newsletter Editor. The most important of these roles is that of Syllabus Secretary, Maggie has made headway with the syllabus for 2010/2011 so whoever takes over will have some breathing space. At this point I think we should all acknowledge the excellent job she has done over the last few years.

Any member who feels able to cover any of the post mentioned please speak to the President or any of the committee members, every help will be given to any who takes on these important tasks

**Digital
Slides**

www.digitalslides.co.uk

The Old Mission School
Langley Street, Derby DE22 3GN
Tel: 01332 205115

A Message from our Webmaster

I would be grateful if all competition winners, who are able, could send me digital versions of their winning entries, by email, via

webmaster@heswallphotosoc.co.uk.

The size and format of the images is not important, the only stipulation being that the total size of all attachments, to an email, if they exceed 10Mb the email may be bounced

This small request will save me a lot of work and will also ensure that your picture appears on the web as you intended and not as I think you intended! Thanks in anticipation ... David

Dear HPS Member, The panel below appears in all issues of the newsletter to encourage the membership to submit their details to our Secretary. We would like in particular your e-mail details as this enables communication in the most speedy and cost effective way. To date we have just 39 recorded e-mail addresses, this is less than half of the membership. If you have the facility to receive electronic mail please place your address on file. (Ed)

PLEASE CUT OUT AND RETURN TO Secretary:- NORMAN WADDELL

Confidentiality of Members Details.

I understand that my name, address, and other contact details will be stored in electronic format for the purposes of communication solely within the Society. These details will not be used for any other purpose or disclosed to any third party.

I also understand that, if at a future date, I have any objection to this process, I must inform the Secretary of the Society in writing, whereupon my details will be removed from any electronic database held by the Society and such information will be recorded only in written form.

Your Committee appreciates that not all members are equipped with internet e-mailing facilities, however as time passes more of our members are coming "on line". It is a simple matter to communicate with "on-line" members, giving instant access for the transmission of news and views as they break, it also serves as a medium for the distribution of your Newsletter which is sent out in PDF (Portable Document Format) which may then be printed out locally on your printer thus saving the Society the associated costs of producing hard copy versions, several of which require to be sent out by costly surface mail.

Below you are given an opportunity to hand your latest contact details to our Secretary, Norman Waddell. Please take time to advise Norman of any change to your communication details so that our database is kept fully up to date.

Name:- _____ Signature:- _____

Address:- _____

_____ POST CODE:- _____

Telephone Number:- _____ E-mail Address _____

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**Copy date for the April 2010 issue of IN FOCUS is 30th March 2010
Your hints, tips, news snippets, anecdotes, etc will be greatly appreciated.**