

Prestwich Co-op Camera Club News

NOVEMBER 2009 COMMITTEE MEETING

- If there is anything you would like discussing at a committee meeting, please have a word with Phil, Janet or any committee member and it will be added to the agenda.
- The 2010 Syllabus should be ready for handing out next week but in the meantime you can see it on the Club Website.
- Handing in night for the Annual Exhibition is 26th January, prints and digital. After the length of time it took for the judge to comment on last year's entries, the committee feel it necessary to limit the number entered to a total of 12 per member, i.e. 6 prints and 6 digital. These can be entered into any category. Please remember that prints should be mounted on a 20" x 16" mat to fit into our exhibition frames.
- We have an away battle at Swinton on Monday 23rd November and it would be nice to see a good turnout of our members. If you are going, please don't park on the supermarket car park as you may be clamped. If you need directions ask anyone but me or you'll end up in Timbuktu.
- Colin is looking for decent prints to enter into external competitions.

AV NEWS

Just a Couple of reminders

1:- The club AV project which is being produced by 5 separate groups needs to be ready for showing on **15th December**, so would **all group** leaders please try and have your CD with your finished AV ready for that date.

We want to put on a good show for the rest of the club members, and whilst it's not a competition between the 5 groups, I'm hoping that we will all learn from this project.

2:- The next annual AV competition will be held on **16th March 2010** and entries must be declared on **16th January** which is the handing in night for the annual competition.

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Actual entries must be given in by **9th March** for loading on to computer and also for possible pre viewing by a judge.

Six weeks to go so I hope you are all either ready now or working hard at the project.
(Vernon)

PicturesToExe 6 has been launched today, 3rd November. You can update your version at <http://www.wnsoft.com>

WHAT'S ON

- The National Portrait Gallery in London is showing "**Beatles to Bowie**", an exhibition of over 150 classic images of 1960's pop personalities and a range of memorabilia. It's on until 24th January 2010. You never know, they may send it Northwards sometime in the future.
<http://www.npg.org.uk:8080/beatles/index3.htm>
- You can now register for "**Focus on Imaging 2010**" at The NEC, Birmingham which runs from Sunday 7th to Wednesday 10th March.
<http://www.focus-on-imaging.co.uk/index.htm>
- For those of you who have been missing **Jessops** on Deansgate, good news. They have opened a store within WH Smith, Arndale Centre, Manchester. Tel 0161 834 8956.

COMPETITIONS

- Here's one for the whippersnappers aged 6-15. Tesco Greener Living is running an Autumn Wildlife Competition, offering a prize of a Fujifilm FinePix Z35 digital camera. Closes 4th December 2009 and details can be found at http://www.tesco.com/greenerliving/kids/challenge/kids_challenge_october.page Pass it on to your younger friends.
- One very lucky person could win 59 items of gear from What Digital Camera Magazine. All you have to do is answer a very simple question, fill in a form then sit and wait for the parcel to arrive. Competition closes on 8th December.

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<https://whatdigitalcamera.ipcmmediasecure.com/secure/competitions/7259/win-a-photographer-s-full-christmas-wish-list-worth-over-3-000.html>

- Citycycling.co.uk has announced the launch of a new photography competition for photographers worldwide. The competition is split into four categories, with the winner in each category going forward for the overall prize, Urban, Action, Love of Cycling and Miscellaneous. If you're struggling for inspiration, check out citycycling magazine free and online at <http://www.citycycling.co.uk/> The closing date is 28th February 2010 and there is an entry fee of £5. Details at <http://www.citycycling.co.uk/PhotoCompetition/photohome.html>

HINTS & TIPS

- Anthony has found an excellent website from where you can download lists of **Photoshop Shortcuts**, as PDF files. It covers several versions of Photoshop, Adobe Bridge and Camera Raw for both PC and Mac. Mine's already on my desktop!
<http://morris-photographics.com/photoshop/shortcuts/>
- This was inadvertently omitted from last newsletter. My sincere apologies to Derek and Colin.
In August Colin and I organized an evening called "**One Picture, Many Ways**" where we asked members who were interested in Photoshop to have a go of tidying up an image of Lindisfarne, like cloning out unwanted objects, using levels and mainly dropping into the image a new sky. The results were mainly very good but a few members had a problem dropping the sky in, so for those members this is one of the easiest ways I know of inserting a sky.
Open up the image that has the sky you want to change, then press Ctrl & J, this will copy the image and you will now have two images in your Layer pallet. **If your layer pallet is not showing press F7 or click on Windows at the top of your screen and from the drop down list click on Layers.** Now open up the sky you want to insert and with the Move tool selected, click and drag it into the other document. The new sky will now be on the top layer in the Layer pallet, using the mouse left click that top layer and drag it down in between the top and bottom layers. **This move can be quite tricky and it may take a few attempts to get it right. The best way of doing it is to left click and hold with the mouse then slowly drag it down until it's half way into the bottom layer then**

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release, thus making a sandwich. Now click on the top layer to make it active, and then click on the Magic Wand tool, set the tolerance to around 20. **This will vary with different images** then click in the sky area, with a tolerance set at 20 (**default is 32**). It should give a pretty good selection but you may have to play with the tolerances. Once all or most of the sky has been selected, hit the Delete key and the new sky should appear. If any part of the sky has been missed hold down the Shift key and click on the part of sky that's not been selected and again hit the delete key carry on doing this until the complete sky has been selected. If you find that bits of the old sky can still be seen, try using the Eraser tool and carefully remove the stray bits.

(Derek)

- **Zooming Made Easy**

Here's a nice little trick if you use a mouse that has a scroll wheel. In Photoshop there's a few ways to scroll in and out of your image. You can use:

- a) The Ctrl + or - keys.
- b) The Zoom tool.
- c) The Space Bar and the hand tool to scroll up & down.

All these tools will work, but give this a go. Click on **Edit** then click on **Preferences** from the drop down list, then **General** or use the shortcut (Ctrl & K). When the box opens look for **Zoom With Scroll Wheel**, tick the box then click **Ok** and you can now use your scroll wheel to zoom in and out of your image. Give a go, it's a lot quicker.

(Derek)

- **Create Your Own Custom Crop Tools**

Press letter **C** to bring up the crop tool. We're going to create what is called a **Tool Preset**. In this case you can create whatever size of crop tool you need. Now click on **Windows** at the top of the screen and from the drop-down list select **Tool Preset**. You should find five pre-loaded crop sizes. If you wish to keep them, do nothing but if you don't need them, drag them to the trash can at the bottom of the palette. Make sure that the **Current Tool Only** option is checked.

Go to the **Options Bar** and enter the dimension of the first tool you wish to create. For example, A4 is 297mm x 210mm, so enter 297mm in the width and

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210mm in the height. This will make an **A4 Landscape Crop**. You can then make another Preset and name it **A4 Portrait** and then carry on making presets of all the sizes you may be using. To change the name of any preset, double-click on its name in the **Preset Tool Panel** and type in a new one.

Chances are that the presets will not appear in the order you want. Go to the **Edit** menu and click on **Preset Manager**. Choose **Tools** from the **Preset Type** and scroll down until you see the crop tools you created. Then just click and drag them to the position you want and click **Done** when you've finished and close the **Preset Panel**.

An easier way to select your crop sizes is to click on the crop tool and the crop icon will appear on the bar underneath the file and edit menus. Click the arrow next to the crop icon and the presets will appear in a drop-down menu. Choose the preset you wish to use and the dimensions will appear in the size panel. If you have chosen a landscape crop and wish to quickly change to a portrait crop of the same size, just click the double arrows between the width and height boxes.

(Derek)

- Anyone looking for a new **Portfolio Case**? Try Argos.
A3 - £9-99; A2 - £12-99; A1 - £14-99. <http://www.argos.co.uk>

MEMBERS RECOMMENDATIONS

- This is a new section and I would welcome some input.
- Several members have recommended Costco's reasonably priced A4 photographic paper.
- Alan has used Jet Tec inks from Premier Ink & Photographic in his Epson Printer and saved a considerable amount of money. They are based in Warwickshire and can be found at <http://www.premier-ink.co.uk>
- For large prints at reasonable prices, Colin has recommended DSCL as used by members of Bury Camera Club <http://www.dscolourlabs.co.uk>

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NON-PHOTOGRAPHY

- **Speeding Tickets and the Postal Strike**

If you get a speeding ticket while the postal strike is on, **make sure you check the date that you received it.**

If it's more than 14 days since the date of the alleged offence **then the ticket is un-enforceable.**

This loophole doesn't usually work because a Camera Partnership would likely challenge you in court and a Magistrate would likely believe their word on posting the ticket on time over your word that you didn't receive it within 14 days - no proof of delivery is required.

However, during the postal strike it's very likely that it could take more than 14 days to arrive. It's not important when it was **sent**, but when it was **received** by the registered keeper, so as long as you are not lying to do so, go ahead and use this loophole if you get a ticket during the strikes!

(Mike)

- **For Sale**

Five tickets are available for **Dancing on Ice** at the MEN Arena on Thursday 22nd April 2010 (ordered in error). Can be split up. Price is the face value of £40 each.

See Marj or email monty101@btinternet.com

Thanks to all contributors. Please keep it coming!
