



# Newsletter

**BRACKNELL  
CAMERA  
CLUB**

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## Editorial

By Ruari Cumming

Brilliant !! Our club has successfully won the first digital competition we have ever entered ! Just last Thursday, through the driving rain, Bruce Collins, John Tyler & myself drove down to Basing-

stoke to support our entry in the first ever GEMS Inter-Club Digital Projection Challenge. Six clubs were competing and Bracknell were keen to show we can "hack it" with the rest of them in this new technology.

We saw some 72 images displayed via laptop and digital projector, with Glynn Edmonds, EFIAP, ABIPP, AMPA, ARPS, DPAGB as both judge and commentator for the evening. Scoring marks out of 20 was a new experience for me, and I was constantly halving them to relate to our scoring method.

Nevertheless, our 12 entries scored between 16 and 18 each with Peter Handford's "A walk in the Woods" scoring 20.

With the judging finished at about 9:40 we waited for

the computer, with the aid of some people adding the scores up manually also, to produce the results. We scored 210 out of a maximum possible of 240, putting us first by 2 points. Score analysis shows we



had a 7 point lead at half time, extending it further in the second half.

Here we see Bruce Collins accepting the engraved glass trophy, which we get to keep, on



behalf of our club from the judge, Glynn Edmonds.

## Underwater Spectacular



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Les Kemp presents his  
Underwater Spectacular**

**In glorious 3D**

At Licensed Victuallers School, Ascot

Starts 8 p.m. prompt

**Get your tickets from  
Caroline Colegate NOW**  
only £5 each.



Caroline Colegate

The event is open to non-members so please spread the word amongst friends and family. It will be your chance

to venture below the surface of the sea & experience the 'magic' of the underwater world beneath — without ever leaving Bracknell !

Please support your club — buy tickets **NOW** !!

## The PAL'S Holiday

By Anne Godden



Tony and I belong to a very active pensioners'

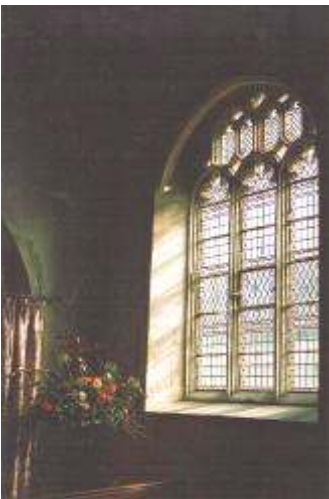
club known as The British Aerospace PAL's Club, which is mainly for people who have retired from British Aerospace and their husbands/wives.

We have a marvellous organiser named Peter who is always on the look out for new and interesting things for us to do in the shape of outings, theatre trips, and walks in the countryside.

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In the last few years we have been to Bristol to see the SS Great Britain, Canterbury where we visited the Cathedral, Filton to see 'Concorde' (the last of these magnificent planes to fly) - and many other places. We usually go on these trips about twice a year, they are day trips by coach which we join at the Bracknell Rugby Club car park, this is very convenient for us as we live just five minutes walk away.

Last year we had our first holiday with the group. We went to the Harcourt Sands Holiday Village in Ryde, Isle of Wight for a three night 'Turkey and Tinsel' holiday. We had to board the coach at the Bracknell bus station and Peter said that we would be sharing the coach with members of a Social club from Gravesend. About twenty-five of our group duly waited at the right stop. When the coach arrived several men tumbled down the steps to have cigarettes, or should I say 'Stumbled' as they had been having a little drink or two from the carrier bags under their seats, and they were all rather mellow and friendly, if a little loud. They occupied the left hand side of the coach and we had the right hand side. I bet they wondered what sort of travelling companions they were getting when our 'Grey Brigade' got on! We had quite a peaceful journey down to the Isle of Wight, the water was smooth as we crossed the Solent on the ferry and I think all the passengers on the left hand side had gone to sleep.



When we reached the holiday village we found that the chalets were arranged in tiers starting from about sea level and going up in rows away from the sea front and to the top of the hill. Of course, when Tony and I received our keys we found we were on the very top row, as were most of our group. We had to walk up the hill, cross a car park and

then climb several steep flights of stairs. The advantages of this position were, one - we were quite near the restaurant and two - we had a wonderful view right across the Solent to Portsmouth where we could clearly see the Spinnaker Tower.

As I have already said this was a 'Turkey & Tinsel' weekend. Friday night was Christmas Eve, Saturday night was Christmas Day and Sunday was New Year's Eve. The organisers had gone out of their way to make it really seem like Christmas.

The whole place was glittering with decorations, huge Christmas trees were in all the entertainment halls and the food was what you would expect, Turkey on Christmas Day and Haggis 'piped in' on New Year's Eve. The food was delicious and we could not fault it in any way - but I didn't try the Haggis!

The entertainment was marvellous, on Saturday night we had 'The Dreamers' minus Freddie who has been ill and is now confined to a wheelchair. They put on a really good show and the drummer treated us to a display of drumming which was magnificent. We had Bingo, for those who wanted it, and dancing for those who had the energy.

On Saturday morning we went out on a coach trip to Newport for some shopping with our friends Ted and Yvonne, well they went shopping while we just looked around. Yvonne seemed determined to do all her Christmas shopping whilst we were there. The coach driver, Trevor, was a real comedian, he kept us in fits of laughter with his witty and very informative description of the places we went to.

On Saturday afternoon we went to Godshill, a charming, if a bit touristy village full of quaint shops and little tea rooms. Trevor told us the tale of how the villagers decided that they needed a church in the middle of the village so they had all the materials delivered to the site, however the next morning all the bricks had been taken up to the top of the hill. They brought them all down again and resumed work in the village - next day all the materials had been taken up to the top of the hill. This went on for a week so then the vicar said, "It must be God's will that the church should be built at the top of the hill", so they built it there and named it "Godshill".

Tony and I walked up to the church, which was beautiful inside. Tony took some photographs, I think I took some as well but as I am a less than enthusiastic photographer they are still in the camera.



Ted and Yvonne did not climb up to the church; Yvonne was still shopping.

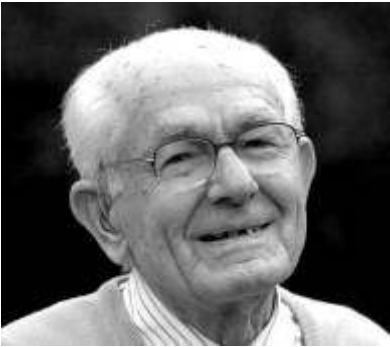
We did not really make a lot of use of the facilities at the holiday village but there were plenty there such as

tennis courts and two swimming pools. We did walk along the promenade a few times & along the beach but it was a bit too cold to go in for a swim. (Tony once bet his friends at work that *I* would go in the sea when we were on holiday - as the holiday was to be

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in Eastbourne in October I didn't think much of that suggestion – I did go in but I made Tony go with me !)

Monday morning we had to be out of the chalets quite early but we were sent off with another 'Full English' breakfast under our belts and made our way home on the coach – with all the people from Gravesend. We all agreed that we had thoroughly enjoyed the holiday and Peter is already researching venues for the next year !



## I once met a man in New Zealand

By Harold Nye

There are many reasons for taking photographs & what follows is a story of an unusual outlet. Photographs are memories, of a place, an event, a record of times past or present.

On my first visit to New Zealand, I stayed with my family. While they were at work I would walk the beaches which bordered the ocean nearby. On one such walk, purely by chance, I became acquainted with a man called Ben Feinbaum. People you encounter out there are very friendly & total strangers greet you and like to talk. As we talked I got to know him.

He was American by birth and by profession, a newspaper reporter, working for a newspaper group, and was waiting for his wife and daughter to join him. He loved the beauty of New Zealand but was unsure about settling there. Being a cultured man who enjoyed art galleries, museums and the like, he missed them.

Some while after returning home, I received a letter from him. In it was a request and he offered me a photographic commission, with all expenses paid. He explained further ! Some twenty years ago, whilst in London, on the steps of the National Gallery, he met for the first time his future wife and he wanted me to photograph the gallery for them both.

Without hesitation I agreed to do it, without a fee, but as a gift. The sentiment and romance of it appealed to me.

On two occasions I went to London to carry this out but each time it was impossible, due to the whole building being covered with scaffolding and tarpaulins whilst work was done on the exterior. On November 13<sup>th</sup> last, I went back and as it was Remembrance Day, I attended the service at the Cenotaph first.

After, I walked up to Trafalgar Square, and to my delight, the work on the gallery was completed ! I enjoy architectural photographs, so it was a pleasure. Taking photographs is a never ending enjoyment for me.

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National Gallery & Trafalgar Square



National Gallery



National Gallery



Great Court at British Museum



Big Ben through Salvador Dali statue



London Eye and the Spanish Civil War statue

The end result gave me three different views of the gallery and the surroundings, which I think are pleasing. I remembered that he had very warm feelings about London so I looked in my files & chose three other London scenes to send him, all of which I had enlarged to 12" x 8" prints. A grand total of six enlargements I posted to him & hoped they would bring back treasured memories for him & his wife.

Here was an example where we can take photographs for friends, of subjects that mean a lot to them. It was a great pleasure for me to do it.

#### **Footnote**

When out in NZ this winter, I met up with him again and as he asked, I signed the prints I had originally sent him — HN



## **The Birthday Picture**

By Minch

David Withers, the local professional photographer, was commissioned by Wick Hill Women's Institute to photograph their members to celebrate their 20th birthday.

The following is a report by one of the members, Bea Jones, to record the event.

Posh frocks and pearls were evident,  
Requested by the President,  
Some had had to rummage round  
Until the cashmere stole was found.

The photographer had duly come  
With tripod, flashgun, films and sun.  
His light-reflecting umbrella  
Confirmed him as a top class fella.

He needed furniture to be moved,  
In order that all heads were viewed.  
He gave the word which indicated  
Just how much chaos could be created

Armchairs back, hard seats to the fore,  
No, spread them out and bring some more !  
Tables shunted like a train  
"From me to you" was the refrain.

There were so many camera shy  
Who tried to fill the back row line  
Poor David had to wave his arms  
And urge us all to show our charms.

By now, with half an hour gone,  
We wondered if our lunch was on.  
It was to be a celebration,  
But at this rate – commiseration

"Ready, hold, smile, don't blink,"  
A little premature we think,  
Especially when we observed  
The flashgun was no way secured.

"I really want to sit down now"  
Said Brenda, with a little scowl,  
"You can't" said Freda, "don't you know  
We're balanced here, our knees will go."

All those who sought the back row line  
Precariously stood on plastic ! Fine,  
Now we were ready tall and trim  
We faced the front with cheesy grins.

"Just one more" was David's cry.  
"How MANY more" we asked and sighed.  
His film was finished, we could go,  
With many an 'ouch' an 'OO' or 'oh'.

The birthday lunch was magnificent,  
Balloons and flowers, committee sent,  
Salmon or Chicken, it didn't matter,  
As long as we could eat and chatter.

Two hours had passed now time to go,  
With heartfelt thanks to all, and Zo.  
Ten years on we'll do the same,  
But...maybe not with 'photo fame.

(© Bea Jones - June 2002.

At Stirrups, Wick Hill W.I.'s 20th Birthday Party)



## **Appeal for Funds**

From Caroline Colegate

As a well respected & successful camera club, we need to move forward with new technology.

Clearly, with our recent success at GEMS (see Editorial) we need to "fully embrace the digital age". Next season we would like to run a similar competition at Bracknell and in addition to the normal meetings provide digital workshops aimed at all levels of experience.

To do this we need to buy a laptop computer, software & digital projector, all of which will cost £3,500. We applied, & were refused, by the council for a grant & are now appealing. The Lottery is another route which we are going to try.

We would welcome any suggestions from our members on how we could, **all of us as a club**, raise the required finances. Please contact me with your ideas as soon as you can. Thank you.