



December 2017

NEWS LETTER



- ☀️ Tues 5th Dec - Its here again OUR 2nd Pdi COMPETITION, so as usual send your thumbnail's into entries@twpc.org.uk by midnight Saturday 2nd Dec.
- ☀️ Tues 12th Dec Its party time at the Bell Inn, Trysull
See you there 7.00 for 7.30pm



DONT FORGET COME AND JOIN TOGETHER ON NEW YEARS DAY IN BIRMINGHAM

☀️ **New Years Day** - Our traditional Yule tide walk, this time we are meeting at the Canal Gas Street Basin Birmingham, plenty to photograph, plenty of places to eat and drink. So do come along with or without a camera and enjoy a walk around this iconic area. Lets make this event a great success, don't forget there are trains, trams and buses to bring you to Brum (but do check the time tables beforehand)

☀️ 2nd Jan 2018 - I know its January and the January news letter will be out this week, BUT to lead us all into the New Year we have two dedicated members who happen to Husband and Wife, our very own Ian and Janet Griffiths. They are presenting their "Yellowstone" showcase. Plus Glacier Park, Grand Tetons and Virginia City, Salt Lake City, and from Canada Ottawa and Montreal.

Places to visit over the yule tide break:-

Wroxeter Roman City Shropshire

The Pub,

Moreton Corbet Castle, Shropshire

Any Pub

Lilleshall Abbey

Wenlock Priory

Some sort of Pub

Severn Valley Railway (the railway tavern)

Dates for your Diary

The Ragged Victorians Events Schedule 2017 2018



2017

December 2nd/3rd : Victorian Christmas @ Chiltern open air museum, Newland Park, Buckinghamshire

December 9th /10th : Victorian Christmas @ SS Great Britain, Bristol

2018

February 17th/18th : Living History in Worcester @ Worcester Town Centre.

April 7th/8th : Blaenavon Iron Works @ Blaenavon, Wales

May 5th/6th/7th : SS Great Britain @ Bristol (To be confirmed)

May 26th/27th/28th : Victorian weekend @ Morwellham Quay, Devon.

June 23rd/24th : Victorian weekend @ Milton Keynes museum, Wolverton, Milton Keynes

July 28th/29th : Victorian weekend @ Chiltern open air museum, Newland Park, Buckinghamshire

August 4th/5th : Cromford steam rally @ Brackenfield, Nr Matlock, Derbyshire

August 11th/12th : M5 Living history show @ Spetchley Park, Worcester.

August 18th/19th : Victorian weekend @ Nothe Fort, Weymouth.

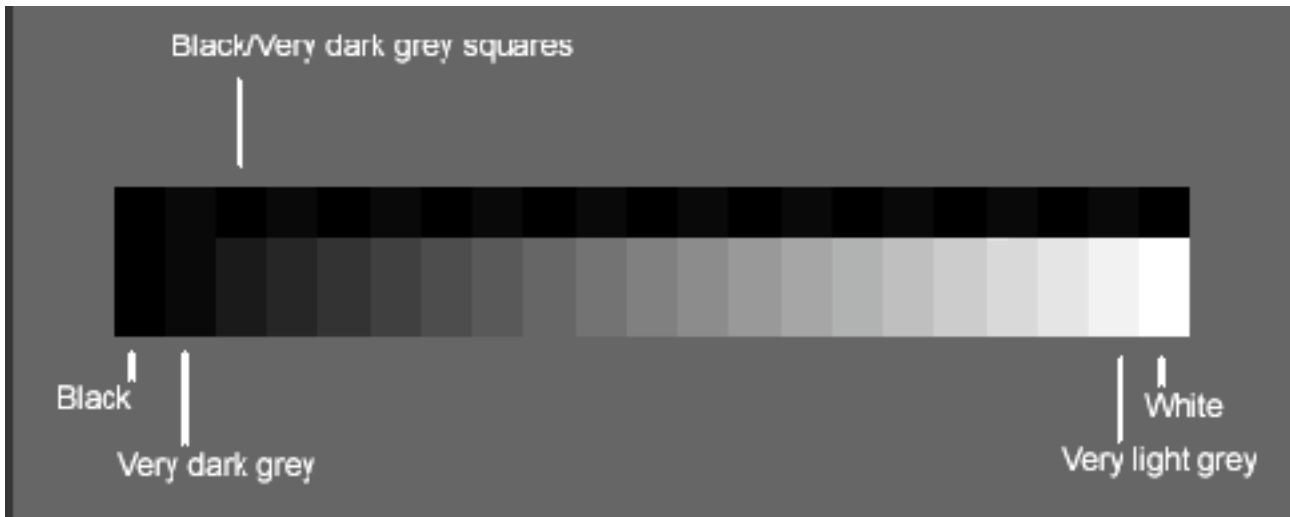
August 25th/26th/27th : Multi Period @ Arundel Castle, West Sussex

September 22nd/23rd : Heritage weekend @ Rockingham Forest trust, Stanwick Lakes, Wellingborough

NOTE : THE ABOVE DATES / VENUES ARE AS STATED AT NOVEMBER 2017, ALWAYS CHECK BEFORE GOING TO ANY OF THESE EVENTS BY VISITING THE RAGGED VICTORIANS WEB SITE : www.raggedvictorians.co.uk/

Or keep in touch on face book at : <https://en-gb.facebook.com/Ragged.Victorians/>

Here's a screen checker, you should be able to see Black on the left and white on the right.



Note

If you have any ideas about how the club is run, or what you would like to see in the programme, then e-mail me at hgebe@aol.com

The programme for next season is being put together NOW

Chairmans Tip

Capturing the Northern Lights

Inspired by images of Iceland on a Landscape Forum based in the United States my thoughts turned to visiting that country in Winter and seeing for myself the wild and rugged landscape. High on my list of priorities was the Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon with floating icebergs and the adjacent black sand beach covered with chunks of ice – ideal monochrome territory! Another attraction was the Northern Lights especially after seeing Andrew Lound's excellent presentation 'The Gates of Valhalla' at the Club.



I booked a workshop run by an Icelandic based company - Wild Photography Holidays - 'Northern Lights, Coast and Ice' which seemed to fit the bill and which had excellent reviews including one from an English couple well known on the International Exhibition scene.

Arriving in Reykjavik towards the end of February I met up with the other Workshop members and after dinner the leaders mentioned that the weather forecast and aurora forecast were both good – was anyone interested in going out? Silly question, of course, and a couple of hours later we were tramping through the snow to a frozen lake about an hour's drive out of Reykjavik.

The aurora is an electrical phenomenon, caused by interactions between the solar wind and the Earth's upper atmosphere. The sun emits mass less photons that we see as light, but also emits out a real, physical, tangible wind of particles which moves at several hundred kilometres per second. When this wind reaches the Earth, it excites gases in the Earth's atmosphere, eventually leading to the emission of light. The colours of the aurora are limited to green and red caused by oxygen, with the fainter blue and purple

caused by nitrogen. Unlike the wispy shapes of the aurora it's colours are narrow and precise

Just like the stars, the aurora is present during the day and the night, but as the sun sets it starts to become visible, being brightest near midnight when the orientation of the Earth's magnetic field and the solar wind cause it to be strongest. The aurora is seen mostly in a ring centred roughly around the poles, where the solar wind is focused most intensely by the Earth's magnetic field.



My first sight of the Northern Lights was mind blowing – an out of this world experience and one which I will never forget. The Northern Lights are constantly on the move so there was no time to stand and stare – we were there to capture the Lights! Below are some basic guide lines and do not forget to Google 'Photographing the Northern Lights' for more information.

- 1 A wide angle lens, zoom or fixed focal length is to be recommended as the aurora can stretch across the entire sky. Use the fastest lens (f2.8 – 4) that you have available and use it at the widest aperture that produces an image of acceptable sharpness.
- 2 Remove any filters that you may have on the lens as they can cause circular interference patterns.
- 3 Shoot at the highest ISO setting that yields a image free from excessive noise – an ISO of 800 – 1600 is a good starting point.
- 4 Autofocus generally doesn't work in the dark so focus manually on the brightest star – setting the lens at infinity is rarely sufficiently accurate, especially as many lenses can focus beyond infinity or don't have a focus distance scale. On a DSLR use live view at maximum magnification to achieve infinity focus.
- 5 Set the shutter speed manually – most cameras, both DSLR's and Micro 4/3rd's generally have an exposure guide in manual mode. A 10 – 15 sec exposure is a good starting point, but do check the histogram!
- 6 Shoot in RAW and turn off long exposure noise reduction as it has no effect in RAW and use noise reduction in software instead. If shooting JPEG this function should be enabled.

- 7 It goes without saying that the camera must be mounted on a sturdy tripod Use a remote release or the inbuilt 2 sec timer.
- 8 It will inevitably be very cold where you are shooting so be careful not to breathe on any surface where you do not want ice crystals to form, i.e. lenses, viewfinders and screens.
- 9 It is well worth practising the infinity focus at home before setting out on your trip.

The images shown here were captured on a Panasonic Lumix GX7 with a 12-35mm f2.8 lens set at 12mm (24mm equivalent for 35mm) and f2.8, manually focussed at infinity - 10 sec at ISO 1600.



Worth a visit on Sunday Morning



Wolverhampton Camera Fair

2 hrs • €

UPDATE - Photographic Equipment Fair Sunday 26th November 2017 - Wolverhampton Racecourse - 8.30am - 2pm

Armikandi Studio of Wolverhampton will be running a series of short portraiture workshops at the fair. They'll be demonstrating the use of single and dual lighting setups for portrait work and giving you the chance to improve your portrait technique with a live model.

Based in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, Armikandi offer studio hire, professional photography and training in technique as well as Photoshop / Lightroom courses.

