

GDPU Newsletter, Winter 2010

Newsletter 5, Issue 1

January 2010

The GDPU Newsletter



Bruichladdich
Author: Petra Mackay

Welcome to our winter newsletter.

We are now developing this newsletter into a means of letting clubs know what's going on within the GDPU and hopefully provide articles from individuals and clubs that others will find interesting, maybe even provocative. Please feel free to write to the newsletter editor with any articles or information you may wish to place in the newsletter. Of course the GDPU web site will still be the place for news and reference material, but the newsletter will fill in and enhance the GDPU experience.

The GDPU is now well established as a support and governing body for its affiliated clubs. However, for this to continue we require clubs to support the GDPU by providing suitable individuals to fill committee positions and carry out the task of judging and lecturing to all

clubs. These are important roles that have to be carried out as they are the cornerstones of our club structure. Without these individuals, clubs and the GDPU will feel the cold winds of change and all that that means.

So anyone who thinks they can help the GDPU, or fill the role of being a judge or speaker, please contact any of the GDPU committee for a chat. If you believe you have what it takes to be a GDPU judge, then you will be more than welcome at the 2010 judge's assessment workshop where you can see if you can meet our requirement to be on the GDPU judges list. Visit the GDPU web site for further details or look for the poster coming soon to your club.

We are also looking for new speakers who can provide an interesting evening to our clubs. We have now introduced a few new speakers (and judges) on the club circuit and are pleased to add yet another new speaker; Rob Smith from Wishaw who will give a fascinating insight to underwater photography. For further details contact the GDPU secretary.

Please copy / pass this newsletter round your club and to those out with your club who are interested in photography. Photography is for all, and the GDPU support any and all efforts in the promotion of photography as a hobby and as a way of meeting like minded individuals.



Image by GDPU club member

We are working to provide all with the opportunity to participate in this exciting hobby, not just in competitions but in the social side of photography. To this end we are now planning the 2011 workshop, practical seminars and other events that make the GDPU one of leading Scottish photographic event organisations.

Wishing each of you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Stan Miller,
GDPU President

Check Out the following
GDPU Feature Items:

- ◆ Image League
- ◆ Photography Events
- ◆ Website Galleries
- ◆ Digital Exhibition
- ◆ Print Exhibition
- ◆ Camera Club Talking Points
- ◆ GDPU Diary Dates



Image by GDPU club member

See GDPU website for your
local Club Contact Details:
www.gdpu.co.uk

GDPU Events, Activities and Meetings



Image by GDPU club member taken during a 2009 GDPU Photography Event

Set between Aviemore and the Cairngorm Mountains, this is an idyllic location to base a photographic weekend ...

GDPU Photography Event

The GDPU is at the forefront of organised photo events for its member clubs. These events are a mainstay of the GDPU calendar and continue to represent a good value, varied, interesting and often educational program for club photographers.

These events are renowned for providing an excellent platform for photographers to learn from each other and share ideas. Those that do take advantage give positive feedback, and a good time is had, and that is despite the challenges that the Scottish weather presents.

The **Spring Weekend**

break for 2010 has been arranged for Aviemore from Friday 9 to Monday 12 April. Accommodation will be the Badaguish Outdoor Centre lodges, replacing the usual SYHA accommodation.

Set between Aviemore and the Cairngorm Mountains, this is an idyllic location to base a photographic weekend, set in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park and the Scottish Highlands.

The lodges are fully equipped, self catering accommodation, each for up to 10 people. You need to bring everything you would normally bring when self catering: towels,

food, drink, etc. Cost to GDPU club members is £70 per person.

Due to the incredible positive response from those that participated in 2009, the GDPU has arranged a return **Tour to Islay** in May 2010.

The Islay tour is for 5 days, staying for 4 nights on the island, based at the modern Port Charlotte SYHA hostel overlooking Loch Indaal. The event is on a self catering basis, at cost of £250 pp.

Full details and itinerary on these events, and for the latest on all events, see the web site: www.GDPU.co.uk

GDPU Exhibitions and Portfolios

The 2010 calendar of events is full and includes established exhibitions and portfolios.

The annual **John Duffy Print Portfolio** is now doing the club circuit.

In response to a question at the AGM, consideration is being given to changing the format. Delegates will be invited to vote on this at the forthcoming AGM.

The **Annual Print Exhibition**, one of the major participation events on the GDPU Calendar is to be held again this year.

The exhibition dates and location are not yet con-

firmed. However, please note that the hand is on 12th January at the next Delegates Meeting.

This exhibition has proved to be a great success with the public over the last several years. This is achieved in no small part due to the support of the member clubs that provide the work on display and the stewards that man the display throughout.

Exhibition entry forms are now available for the **2010 GDPU Digital Exhibition** and may be obtained from the BPE or GDPU web sites, club secretaries, and selected distributors.

The 2009 digital exhibition attracted more than 1900 entries from all over the UK. This was an entry of exceptional standard and the GDPU look forward to this year's entry being of comparable quality.

This year a Nature section is added to the existing Colour, Monochrome and Creative sections.

As this exhibition is part of the BPE scheme, acceptances count towards the BPE Crown Awards.

The entry forms and rules for the GDPU exhibitions can be found on the web site: www.GDPU.co.uk



Title: Number 68
Author: Andrew Cameron

GDPU Website Galleries

The GDPU believes that any photographic web site should show images that inspire, educate and entertain the viewer. The GDPU Gallery therefore has been divided into four main sections:

Competitions: This gallery has work from various GDPU competitions and exhibitions. Here see the standard of images that have been accepted.

Images from Events: Presents images taken at various GDPU events.

Guest: Gallery space where GDPU members can hold an exhibition of work either on behalf of the club or an author.

To feature work in this gallery, please contact the web administrator.

Showcase: Gallery where invited guests can display their work along with any notes, advice or technical information they feel will benefit others.

Currently this gallery shows work by Robert Fulton MPAGD EFIAP. He drifted into photography about 14 years ago, and is a member of Paisley Colour PC. Recently he became the FIAP liaison for the Scottish Photographic Federation.

Robert's main interest lies in Landscapes although he dabbles in Creative,

Sport and Natural History subjects too. The early mornings suite his style of images, and in practical terms that means he mostly works in Autumn and Winter when he can get to a location without too early a rise.

Robert converted to digital photography some 11 years ago when he scanned his slides to produce his early creative work. Nowadays, all his images are taken using a digital SLR.

The Showcase gallery includes several examples of Robert's portfolio that the GDPU hope inspire and entertain.



Title: Winters Day
Author: Robert Fulton MPAGB
EFIAP

GDPU Image League

We are now at the half way point of the club-year, a good time to remember that every club should report the results of all Image League matches to the GDPU Image League Secretary as soon as possible after the match. See

the GDPU website for the email contact information.

About the website, it has been updated and clubs should use it regularly to get the latest information.

Also the Judges List has been updated recently

and a copy sent to every club. If your club has not received this yet then it is likely your club contact details need updating. Please ensure that the GDPU Secretary has the latest information.

... the GDPU believe that any photographic web site should show images that inspire, educate and provide enjoyment to the viewer.

GDPU Diary

Some important dates for your diary - *please see the web site for any changes:*

Date:	Event:	Venue:
Tuesday 12 January	Delegates Meeting	Glasgow Metropolitan College
Tuesday 9 March	Delegates Meeting	Glasgow Metropolitan College
Tuesday 6 April	Image League Final	East Kilbride Arts Centre
Tuesday 13 April	Annual General Meeting	Glasgow Metropolitan College
Wednesday 7 October	Delegates Meeting	Glasgow Metropolitan College



Title: Frosted Jetty
Author: Robert Fulton MPAGB
EFIAP



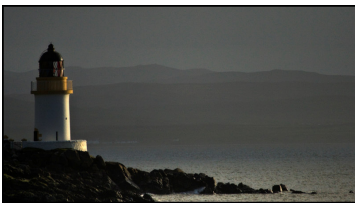
Image by GDPU club member

Articles Wanted:

Would you like to see something about your club feature in a future GDPU Newsletter?

To submit an article or publicise an event then submit via the Publicity Contact - see the Web site for details.

Suggestions or feedback are also welcomed.



Port Charlotte Lighthouse
Author: Petra Mackay



GDPU on the WEB:

WWW.GDPU.CO.UK

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Camera Club Feature: Talking Point

This section of the Newsletter is set aside for articles submitted by GDPU Member Clubs. On this occasion the following item was received from a GDPU club member and judge. If you wish to respond to this article and enter the debate then please send your article to the Publicity Contact see the website for details.

Camera Club Talking Points:

Should digital projected images be modified on the night by a judge to explain their views about the image or give pointers on potential improvements? This topic appears to be evoking some debate within photographic circles to the point that a photographic body, the PAGB, has come down in favour of recommending that judges should rely on traditional verbal comments to explain their views and not modify the image by cropping or adjusting. This is an interesting recommendation and why not? Clearly, why should a judge adjust someone else's image? Why indeed?

Before we all go down the road of agreeing to such thoughts, should we not consider what this means for the club photographer and the remit of a club judge? Does the club photographer not want feedback and guidance on potential improvements to the images? Should a judge not be expected to provide such input and show by demonstration how to improve an image?

Also, why single out digital projected images? If this is good and forward thinking advice for digital projected images, then why should it not apply to prints and slides? Why should a judge use hands, light pens, paper or even card cut outs to explain their suggestions when simple digital tools are to be precluded. Are these traditional methods any more acceptable or is it simply because these were the only technology available to comment in the past?

Feedback is a gift and the most powerful means to achieve this is to demonstrate by example. Let us bear in mind that many club members (arguably most if not all), enter competitions to get constructive critique of their images, so before discounting new methods we should consider the benefits to clubs and their members when it comes to using newer technology. Almost without exception, any club that the author has visited where the judge carried out real time cropping, colour adjusting and sharpening, and showed what the rules of thirds meant, was welcomed. Most if not all clearly understood what could be done to improve an image and went away that night having learned and enjoyed the interaction. Is that not the true function of club judging, and something that the competition judge should be part of? To teach, to promote discussion and to ensure that those that are present enjoy the judging proceedings?

We are not talking about judges "photoshopping" an image, but the judicious use of simple real time adjustment via viewer software on the night such as FastStone or similar products without causing offence or upset. Perhaps the solution is for the club to give clear instructions to judges on what is accepted or not accepted by that club. That way the judge is not left to decide for the club or placed in a difficult situation. So rather than organisations making restrictive recommendations that in the long term may not be to the benefit of clubs or their member, perhaps these organisations should ask the clubs themselves what is acceptable or not. It will also require judges to embrace this form of presentation and their willingness to participate in the learning process. Hopefully common sense and forward thinking will prevail.