

28.02.2011

Newsletter Deadline

16.02.2011
Next Meeting

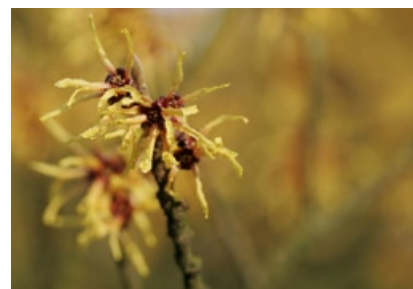
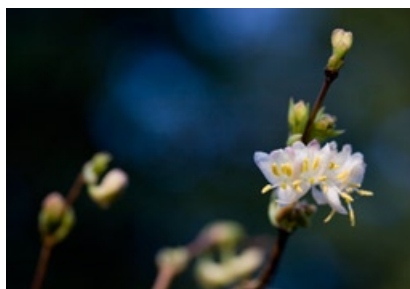
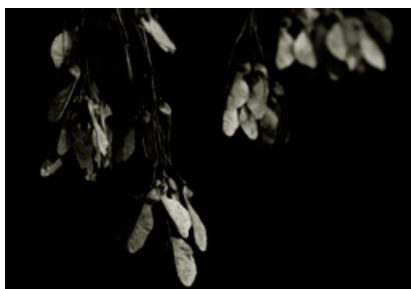
Tikkebroeke by Olivia de Vos



Winter Impressions by Simon Pugh



In the Arboretum Kalmthout by Constanze Veeh



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February Meeting Preview

January Meeting Review

February Meeting Preview

If you've ever wondered why the images you print or show on a different medium sometimes bear only slight resemblance to what you see on your own, beloved computer then wonder no more (well - wonder, but not about that...). Charles Henniker-Heaton will be giving some background, hints and tips on that most mysterious of all subjects, colour calibration. Charles, Viewfinders member and active contributor in supporting our beloved club, is professionally involved in all things colourful: I, among many I imagine, will be more than pleased to learn from his extensive experience.



Man selling apples during the Great Depression. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Next to that, we have the output of our enthusiastic photo-journalistic members in response to The Assignment. Sent out into the world to capture the "plight of the small businesses in these troubled economic times," their images will be shown for enjoyment and discussion at the meeting. Don't forget, you can submit up to 5 images per person by sending them (suitably re-sized and named with a number indicating your order of preference) to challenges@viewfinders.be before Monday 14th Feb (prints on the night are welcome, too, but please bring them before 19h30 and warn us by e-mail, also before Monday 14th Feb). On top of all that, there's also the usual chance to socialize and chat about all things photographic with like-minded souls. So, looking forward to seeing you there – it'll be fun.

Alun

January Meeting Review

Alun was back to launch the first Viewfinders meeting of 2011. His aim was for the coming months to see a number of activities which would attract wider participation by members. The construction of a successful programme of club activities could not, however, be left just to the Committee. It would also depend on inputs by the members themselves, either via the suggestion box or through direct e-mails to Committee members (offers to organise activities or visits and suggestions for speakers at club meetings are especially encouraged). Ideas about a longer trip for the club in the coming months would be welcome. In an attempt to learn lessons from the low level of support for the recent club activities in December (the "meet and mix" at Stella Solaris and the visit to Place St. Catherine) Alun conducted a straw poll concerning which days would be best suited for such events: It showed that, while Saturdays were O.K., Sundays would be more popular. The next short weekend trip would be to Ostend/De Haan in April (with the option of participating on either the Saturday or the Sunday, or both). Details will be announced later.

He reminded members about the Assignment (details for which are on page 3 of the December Newsletter) for the next meeting. Digital images should be provided before 14th February, with the grading (1-5) included in the file name. Prints could be brought on the night of the meeting, but not later than 19.30 hrs. Finally, members who wanted to borrow the Canon 300D or the scanners should contact him before the next meeting and those who wished to take advantage of special conditions for workshops offered to Viewfinders members should contact Trevor Waldron direct.

Alun then gave one of his famous TMTs ("Ten Minute Tips" - with the time element being somewhat elastic (!)). He dealt, in practical terms, with the vexed question of resizing digital images, concentrating on the pixel counts appropriate for the various uses to be made of those images, underlining the fact that dpi had no effect on image size but determined only the quality of a print. He also addressed the question of resizing versus cropping.



© David van den Bunder

After the break, Gina van Hoof gave a fascinating presentation of her work and projects. Born in Belgium, raised in Switzerland this specialist of reportage photography has worked for newspapers and magazines both in Belgium and abroad, as well as exhibiting in Belgium, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the USA.

She focussed on the storytelling aspect of her work, including the production of hand-made books. She first showed her project on drag hunting, for which she spent some six months getting to know this environment and building her personal "invisibility". This enabled her to capture original images telling the story of this special and usually very closed group activity, while making a number of social comments and creating a striking collection of black and white photographs (you will find them under "Drag" on www.ginavanhoof.com). This was followed by the presentation of a project for which she had researched and travelled through the Jewish colony which her

Great-Grandfather had founded in Brazil in 1904 to Jews to escape a pogrom in Eastern Europe. Despite having been discouraged from undertaking this project ("Why do you want to go there, there's nothing left!"; etc.). She immersed herself in those surroundings and connected past with present through a series of images which, through their colour, texture and composition, seem even to capture the smells of their surroundings, and fixed them in a hand-crafted book which cements the time-traveller connection.

As a "bonus" Gina showed a number of other images, including a series of almost abstract photographs snapped in the desert with her all-plastic (including the lens (!)) Holga. These were amazing and proved once again that it is the eye and vision which count and not the equipment used.

Finally, she gave a personal "photo-philosophical" view of her art and passion. She has been asked to send Alun a text for publication in a future Newsletter, but to close this review, here are some "Gina-quotes" from the evening:

- Nothing is everything.
- Less is more.
- Heart, mind and eye - working together.
- The exactitude is up to the camera. The intention is up to the photographer.
- A photo exists, not because it has been shot, but because it has been chosen.
- Each image needs to be good enough to stand alone, but it must also be coherent within the series. You must therefore be prepared to "kill your darling".
- Time is the cure for emotional attachment.

Steve

6 Questions For Russell Barnes

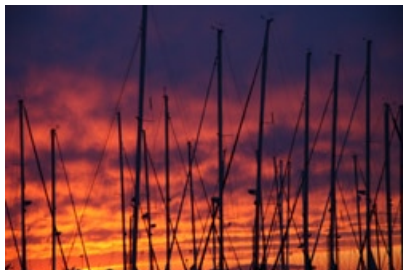
Russell has been living in Brussels since 1991 and has been a member of Viewfinders for 6 years.



1) Let's begin at the beginning - how did you get started with photography?

My interest in photography started in 1980 when I spent my university holidays on an InterRail tour of Europe with friends. We visited some fascinating places, including Paris, Milan, Rome, Athens, Belgrade, Bucharest, Budapest, Vienna. I was taking pictures on my Kodak Instamatic but one of my friends had a Pentax SLR. My snapshots paled in comparison to his pictures and didn't do justice to the wonderful places we had visited. I decided to buy a decent camera and spent most of my student grant (those were the days!) on a Canon A1, which I still have.

2) Which of your pictures is your personal favourite? Can you tell us why?



I have a lot of pictures I like. The two I have chosen are quite different. One is a shot of yacht masts against a sunset in Croatia. I like it because of the contrast between the colours of the natural sunset and the abstract pattern of the masts. The second tells a story, which is quite rare for



me: a shot of children's coats hanging on a playground fence.

3) What genre of photography interests you most?

I like abstract shots and tend to take photos of buildings, unusual details and angles. I would like to explore BW at some stage.

4) If you had to pick just one camera to shoot with from now on, what would that be?

At the moment I use a Canon 30D and a Panasonic DMX-ZX1. The technical aspects of photography are not my strong point, so the latest version of the Canon D series would be fine.

5) Why do you enjoy Viewfinders? Tell us about the most interesting experience you had with the club.

I enjoy Viewfinders for several reasons. It is very sociable, there are some great

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6 Questions For ... Fotospeed Club Account

photographers among us, and I always learn something from the guest speakers and fellow members. The most interesting experience I have had was the Street Photography Workshop run by Pascal Baetens in 2004, shortly after I joined the club. Pascal is a great photographer and communicator. After a session in his studio, he took us out of our comfort zone by sending us onto the streets of Leuven to take pictures of people.

6) Any (photographic) advice you'd like to share with your fellow viewfinders?

I learned a valuable lesson on a sailing holiday in Croatia in 2009. I woke up early, around 6am, and decided to take some pictures in the morning light. As I walked round the harbour, I saw that the water was very still, with great reflections. That wasn't what I had intended to photograph, so I hesitated and thought about taking the pictures as I returned. In the end I took the photos straight away, which is just as well because less than an hour later the wind had got up and the reflections had disappeared. So my advice is this: if you see a good photo, take it there and then!

Russell Barnes suggested that these questions next go to former president and now newsletter editor Simon Pugh, so watch this space!

Fotospeed Club Account

Further to the presentation by Margaret Sailsbury at our November meeting and discussions with the Fotospeed Staff at the recent London SWPP Convention's Trade Show, with the agreement of the Committee, I have registered Viewfinders with Fotospeed, a company specialising in supplying darkroom accessories as well as digital printing products.

This means that paid up members of Viewfinders will be able to receive a 10% discount off all digital inkjet media and darkroom products. Additionally, 10% of the net sale will be credited to the Club Account (i.e. for a £100 sale the club member would pay £90 and the club account would be credited £9). Also, if a member does not wish to take the 10% discount (!!!), a 20% discount will be added to the Club Account.

The Committee will decide how to use the credit as it builds up, for the general benefit of the club and its members (e.g. obtaining paper for exhibition prints, etc.).

Shipping costs to a UK address are currently £6.81 (ex VAT) for a next day delivery service. Shipping to Belgium is about £17 on parcels up to 30kg for a two day delivery service. This means that (apart from having to check on the exchange rate when ordering) picking up from home/other UK addresses would seem to be an attractive option when possible, while the placing of grouped orders would probably be the best option for delivery to Belgium.

Details on how to order, etc, will be circulated shortly, once they have been received from Fotospeed. To check out the Fotospeed products surf along to www.fotospeed.com.

Steve

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Tripmania

Workshops

Cartoon Capers

Trip To Tikkebroeke



both images © Olivia De Vos

I was referred to this camera shop by a Photoshop lecturer, the shop has the unlikely name of fotokonijnenberg, if your Dutch is limited, literally this means 'photo rabbits mountain' so no sense to be made of that but the shop has a wide variety of accessories and cameras including second hand equipment, service is really great too! The only downside is that it is located in Turnhout which is more than an hour's drive from Brussels. Consult the website <http://www.fotokonijnenberg.be> for other branches in the Netherlands.

While surfing the above site last year, I saw an outing advertised last year in January to a nearby Nature Reserve called Tikkebroeke, won't bother to translate but something about 'trousers'! The outing was entirely free and included a trip by bus to the Reserve from the shop, a guided walk and free use of Nikon equipment on the outing and lunch and refreshments back at the shop. I am a Canon person so couldn't use the lenses on offer but enjoyed the opportunity to click away for ages with other like-minded people.

I see they are offering short courses by photographers, paid this time, but I will keep watching the space for another outing, I was impressed by the photos I took on the day and the insight of other photographers who arrived there with serious equipment and good-looking little backpacks – my dream!

Olivia De Vos

The Societies' Convention 2011

The SOCIETIES' CONVENTION is an event organised by the Society representing professional image makers who are members of a number of different Professional Societies and takes place once a year in London. It is a mega-event spread over eight days with a whole series of options for attendance (including daily passes) depending on your interests, time available and depth of wallet. It is also open to those who are not members of any of the Societies, with a small add-on fee.



It begins with full-day seminar, followed by a three day, targeted, business school aimed at improving the business side of your photography.

The next three days are given over to a multitude of Superclasses (a series of four hour sessions) and Masterclasses (a series of one and a half hour sessions) and a major Trade Show. On the Sunday evening, the various Societies' Photographer of the Year Awards are presented and the next day the Convention is finished off with a final full-day seminar. All of the classes are given by master photographers and there is even an option ("The Big Red Bus") which entitles you to a tour around Town with a specialist photographer.

I took the three day Masterclass option which cost me, as a non-member, £100. In theory, this enabled me to attend almost continuous Masterclasses beginning at 08.00 hrs until 19.30 hrs each day – and this with up to six different Masterclasses being given simultaneously at any given time. The topics are too many and varied to be listed here, but ranged from wedding, portrait and street photography through lighting, business practices, photo-oriented web design, multi media management and professional video filming with DSLRs to pushing back the boundaries of various disciplines. However, I must admit that the Masterclasses were so intense that I usually limited myself to two in the morning and one in the afternoon. With my Masterclass pass came free and unlimited access to the Trade Show and its demo workshops, product stands (with show discounts) etc.. Talk about value for money! And it's only a Eurostar away and two or three nights in a hotel (unless you take the day-trip option).

If anyone would like some more information, I shall be bringing the Convention brochure to the March Viewfinders meeting (I am away for the February one).

Steve

Workshops at the Arboretum Kalmthout



The Kalmthout Arboretum is regularly organising photo workshops, with the next one on photographing 'snowdrops'. For anyone interested in learning how to photograph these particular flowers, the workshop is on the 25th of February, from 17:00 until 19:00 at the Arboretum (Address: Heuvel 2, 2920 Kalmthout; Telephone: 03 – 666 67 41) and costs €15,00. Prior inscription is necessary. For more details see the Antwerp Provincial Website (www.provant.be), then follow 'Vrije Tijd', 'Domeinen', 'Arboretum Kalmthout' and then 'Volledig Kalender'. The site and the workshop are only available in Flemish.

Simon

Cartoon Capers



© 2010 Aaron Johnson, www.whattheduck.net

5 Exhibitions On The Web

Viewfinders Exhibition @ Le Illeme Acte

This exhibition, announced last year already as a partial follow-on from our highly successful and appreciated "You are [not] here" exhibition at the Halles St Géry, will take place from March 5th until May 31st. The sub-theme of the exhibition is Asia and other exotic places. Like the exhibition at Stella Solaris, it is a selection of the complete YA[N]H set of images, chosen to match the theme.

The exhibition can be visited during the restaurant's opening hours (it's a good place for a nice meal too, while you're there) during the whole three months that the exhibition runs.

More details about the set-up (participants only, on Thursday March 3rd) and vernissage (Friday March 4th, to be confirmed) will be sent out via the club e-mail. Something to look out for!

Alun

Exhibitions @ Botanique

There are currently two very worthwhile exhibitions showing at the Brussels Botanical Gardens (Botanique).

Firstly, 'The Golden Age of Albanian Photography' brings us into the lost world of Albania in the late-19th and early 20th centuries. Various photographers' work is on show, giving us a glimpse into a largely now-disappeared culture and time.

Secondly, an exhibition from a similar period but this time showing the work of only one photographer: the Belgian Norbert Ghisoland (1878 – 1939). World renowned,

Ghisoland photographed the villages and inhabitants of the Belgian area known as the 'Borinage', an area famous for its coal mining industry that is centred around the city of Mons. This exhibition shows a large selection of his remaining 45,000 images(!) with some that have never been shown before.

For opening times, prices and more information surf along to the Botanique website: www.botanique.be.

Simon



© Norbert Ghisoland

VU in Alma @ UCL Woluwe-Saint-Lambert



"L'Auto-stoppé", © Bernard Caelen

From March 21 to April 7, "Bernard Caelen and Laetitia Cirilli are exhibiting for the first time the fruits of their photographic research, at l'Espace Provisoire, at UCL Woluwe-Saint-Lambert.

Two different visual styles, both led by a sense of exploration and tenacity. Bernard Caelen stages eye-catching and provocative scenes. Laetitia Cirilli conjures beauty by playing with shadows and light. The project "VU in Alma" is part of the program supporting cultural initiatives proposed by the nonprofit association Arte-Fac on the "Alma" university campus."

You can meet the artists on March 24 and 31, 5-6.30 pm (Laetitia Cirilli) and April 5, 5-6.30pm (Bernard Caelen). The address of Espace Provisoire is 16, rue MartinV, 1200 Brussels (Metro Alma) and the exhibition's open Monday to Thursday, 12-6.30 pm.

On the Web

Want to find out what photography exhibitions are going down near you? Wherever you are, or are going to be? Look no further. The site "<http://www.photography-now.com/>" is dedicated to just that. It lists the major and maybe not so major but equally interesting, photography exhibitions and galleries around the world, by country and by major city. A very useful source of information, for when you're at home or are planning to be somewhere else in the near future. For Belgium, it lists shows in Bruxelles (and Brussel), Antwerp, Knokke, Charleroi and Brugge, and seems to be kept quite well up to date.

Alun

If you're a Canon user and want to learn a little more about the intricacies of using dedicated flash, both on and off camera, then check out the following links to a Canon Speedlite masterclass by Syl Arena:

1. http://cpn.canon-europe.com/content/education/technical/getting_the_most_from_speedlites.do
2. http://cpn.canon-europe.com/content/education/technical/getting_the_most_from_speedlites_II.do
3. http://cpn.canon-europe.com/content/education/technical/getting_the_most_from_speedlites_III.do

Also check out a site that is dedicated to Canon Flash: <http://speedliting.com/>

Simon (with thanks to Kevin Johnson for the links)

Beginners and 'old hands' can sometimes get confused while trying to get their brain around the infamous "f-stop". A neat explanation can be found at this site:

<http://www.uscoles.com/fstop.htm>

It's a very plain-vanilla site but the style is light and the explanation clear. Useful for beginners to learn about the parameters that affect exposure, and good background generally. The site also has pages on shutter speed, and also one on photographing lightening.

Alun

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Workshop News Upcoming Events Committee Contacts



© Trevor Waldron

Workshop News

March 12 – Understanding and Using Photoshop Elements: one-day “lift-off” workshop for those who want to learn from scratch the basics of digital image adjustment. Photoshop Elements is inexpensive software that’s easy to use yet yields excellent results.

April 9-10 – Compelling Composition: two-day workshop in medieval Bruges and the nearby countryside. Learning to create powerful images with an in-depth review of the numerous principles of composition. Plenty of outside practical sessions, combined with classroom tuition and review sessions at a centrally-located hotel.

April 16-17 – Taking Better Landscapes: two-day workshop demonstrates the key techniques for bringing home evocative images of the great outdoors - how to capture the space, grandeur, light and ‘feel’ of an inspiring scene. Located in the lovely polder scenery around Damme near Bruges, with its tree-lined canals and patchwork Flemish farms.

Further details are linked to the calendar entries on the Viewfinder website in most cases, with more information on my own site www.trevorwaldron.com. Viewfinders receive the usual discount from the public prices indicated.

Trevor Waldron

Upcoming Events

16 February 2011	Club Meeting	Charles Henniker-Heaton on Colour Profiling and the “Assignment”
16 March 2011	Club Meeting	Details tba
27 April 2011	Club Meeting	Challenge ‘Transport’: 2nd challenge of the season with ‘Transport’ as the theme.
18 May 2011	Club Meeting	Details tba
15 June 2011	Club Meeting	Details tba
30 – 31 July	Club Weekend Trip	Wine tasting & walking trip in the German Ahrtal A weekend of hiking, wine-tasting and photography in the German Ahrtal. Watch e-mail and the club site for details.

You can see the complete Club calendar on the web: <http://www.viewfinders.be/calendar>

Viewfinders – Committee 2010/2011



Alun



Steve



David



Ana



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Any items from members for publication are welcome. Images are particularly welcome, please send them in as jpgs, with no less than 1400 px on the long side, and minimal compression. Please be aware that, in accordance with the layout, some cropping may occur. Please send submissions to the newsletter to newsletter@viewfinders.be