

Forest of Galtres Camera Club

Monday 12th February

A Tree, A Leaf, A Blade of Grass

John Webster ARPS MPAGB

Last night was John Webster's ninth visit to the club since 2000. He introduced himself - although that was quite unnecessary - demonstrating subtle humour alongside general information about his work and photography in general. He placed the quantity of photographs ever taken in context: photography began 175 years ago; during 1930s the billionth photograph was taken; during the 1990s, more than a billion were taken each year and now, probably one billion are taken every five hours.



John always uses a tripod and filters and his main aim is to get the image correct in the camera. He loves landscapes including water, trees, mist, sands but more recently has turned to wildlife photography. Each of these elements was included across seven shows of approximately eight minutes duration each. That constituted about 550 pictures.

The first show covered the USA: stunning images were seen of Colorado, Utah and Arizona, Florida, the Grand Tetons (Wyoming), New Mexico, Castle Geyser (Yellowstone Park), California and New England. Each provided such different landscapes through stunning photography.

The Lofoton Islands, north of the Arctic Circle, off the coast of Norway provided images of rugged mountains soaring above coastal settlements squeezed between them and the sea. Botswana followed. This trip was a prize awarded to John for winning the Wanderlust Travel Photo of the year (2014/2015). Amazing images of elephants, lions, various birds and an amazing image of an antelope whose head had been grabbed by a crocodile was a reminder of the dangers such landscape holds.

Closer to home were images taken on an autumnal morning at Thorpe Perrow Arboretum. Venice followed. It is rare to see the Piazza San Marco deserted but apparently it is likely to be at 6 am when John was out with his camera. There were many traditional images of Venice, all beautifully seen and taken by John. But he also visited Burano, a province of Venice famous for its brightly coloured fishermen's cottages. Hungary provided beautiful wildlife images of, amongst others, European Bee-eater and the European Roller.

Iceland provided its usual bounty of striking landscapes. Particularly beautiful were the ice structures abandoned by the tide on black sand beaches and the incredible Kirkjufell Mountain silhouetted against the impact of the Aurora Borealis.

John had made such appropriate and great music choices to accompany each show: music by John Denver, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Andre Rieu, Chris Rea, Isabel Bayrakdarian, Mike and the Mechanics, Julio Inglesias and others.

Members present were treated to a wealth of great images. Many thanks to John, a member of Northallerton club, for sharing such brilliant photography.

Next week, Harry Kingman will be judging the Pat Riggs Digital Competition.