

**Forest of Galtres Camera Club**  
**8<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Greenland: A Land of Icebergs and Inuits**  
**Richard and Janet Burden AFIAP**



Iilissat, a coastal town on the west of Greenland, was the base for an amazing winter visit by Janet and Richard Burdon. The time of year was February, the temperatures ranged from -30 to almost zero and this was perhaps one of the few remaining opportunities to experience life for the Inuit's in a traditional way. The country is modernising rapidly. Winter tourism is in its infancy. The area is well known for the Iilussat Icefjord and the huge towering icebergs of Disko Bay. One significant fact is that there are thousands of Greenland dogs, the numbers many times greater than the human population.



There was so much to learn from Richard and Janet. Everything from the technical demands of photography in sub-zero temperatures to the lives of the people. Iilussat energy resource is oil. The sound of generators running is constant. Dog alley is the area in the town where all working dogs are kept chained. They sleep out all year round. As working dogs, they are aggressive and were not to be approached casually. This did not prevent Janet and Richard producing great studies of these animals.

Janet and Richard loved the limited colour palette of the environment and this was clear in the carefully chosen subjects for their photography. Catching the evening sunsets was challenging. Equipment failure was a problem. The cold affected the ability to adjust tripod positions, cameras would freeze up. The answer was to set up in good time before the moment to be captured arrived. Remove the camera from the tripod to return it to the protection of its bag. Place it on the tripod when the moment was right with everything ready to capture the required shot. Choosing the right location with appropriate foreground interest required considerable forward planning. But the magnificent photographs of evening sunsets and the aurora borealis proved it was all worthwhile.

Many thanks to Richard and Janet for starting our new season so well.

Next week, Step by Step Method of Making an Audio-Visual Show will be delivered by Andrew White, President of Leeds AV Group. All are welcome.