



## M&DPS Newsletter December 2024



Dear Members

I hope you have enjoyed our meetings so far this season and had 'fun' entering the competitions or just seeing other members images.

I'm looking forward to seeing those of you coming to our Christmas Meal: we will miss those of you who are unable to attend but will catch up with you in January.

Wrap up warm and keep safe when out and about (remember, your camera needs to be kept warm to!).

Hope the following poem makes you smile.

Wishing you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Viv

### **A Photographer's version of 'T'was The Night Before Christmas ' by Steve Gettle (stevegettle.com)**

T'was the night before Christmas, when all through  
the house.

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
in hopes that new photo gear soon would be there.

The photographers were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of great light danced in their heads.  
Dreaming of new images that they would soon make,  
great pictures of wildlife, field, forest, and lake.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see, what was the matter.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
made magic the light on the objects below.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
but a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.

I grabbed my camera and snatched up my flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash  
I must get this shot and I must be real quick,  
I push down the shutter but alas there's no click!

I can't believe my luck, the batteries are dead,  
where is that spare set I think in my head.  
1 fresh set of lithiums I have in my bag,  
If only I could get there, man what a drag!

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,  
the prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

I think to myself I know his next play,  
down the chimney he'll come, today is the day!

I grab the fresh batteries and say a few prayers,  
I load up my camera as I dash down the stairs  
I hit the landing and stopped with great awe.  
Standing before me I must relay what I saw.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.  
A bundle of new photo gear he had flung on his back,  
all kinds of new gadgets filled out his great sack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
I stood there slack-jawed utterly dumbfounded,  
my camera at my side all my plans were confounded.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk.  
With a twinkle and a nod, up the chimney he rose  
I fired off the camera. All I got was his toes.

Once he was gone I snapped out of my trance  
I smiled as I realized I had missed my big chance.  
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,  
"Merry Christmas to all, Good Luck and Good  
Light!"

## Review Of Club Activities – November 2024

### **Thursday 14/11/24 PDI Food Competition**

Congratulations to Viv Scurrall who came 1st with Light Lunch in the Food PDI Competition. Congratulations also to Mary Unsworth whose entries came in second & third. Raspberry Delight was 2nd and Still Life Chillies 3rd. A very challenging topic with many different interpretations as seen by the variety images entered.

### **Sunday 17/11/24 Field Trip Landguard Point Felixstowe**

Lovely sunny morning for a walk with one's camera at Landguard Point. Thank you to all those who joined us & I hope we all got some very sharp photos. I enjoyed the company and photography chat. Thank you to Sam for setting up the walk. It was very sunny but also windy and cold. Note to self, it's time to get out the fingerless gloves, also a scarf and hat when intending to go out with the camera.

### **Thursday 28/11/24 Workshop - James Childs Portraiture Part 2**

His first workshop for the club last March was really interesting and challenging and this one lived up to expectations. We had the opportunity to take photos of Andi, our model for the evening with various different types of lighting involved. For some of us, the biggest challenge was getting our white balance accurate. James was always on hand to answer questions & help with settings. Andi, James's cousin, stood in when the model he had booked called in sick, She did an excellent job under the very hot lights which were bright and in her face at times.

### **Mistley Village Hall Open Evening 29/11/24**

An interesting evening, the club did itself proud with its display of Prints & PDI's. A big thank you to Tim Stott, Ian Parker, Pat Ainger, Katharine Showell, Harvey Perkins, Samantha Innard for their help and support. Also Kevin Cannings for bringing the projector & laptop. It was lovely to see Victor John who at only a few weeks old is obviously going to be a future model and member of the club.



### **November Facebook Banner Competition**

Well done to Ian Bancroft who won. It was a very close competition, well done too to Viv, Pat and Martin who came very close second and third.

## Club Events December 2024

**4th Dec 2024** - reminder to those of us who are going to the Xmas Meal on the 12th, we need to pay the full balance by **4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024**.

### **M&DPS Xmas Meal**

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024** 7.00 for 7.30 The Anchor, Stratford St Mary

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2025 ENTRY DEADLINE** - Print Competition - "Industrial"

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025** Print Competition – 'Industrial' - Judge - Alex Corton

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year - may all your (Photographic) dreams come true!**

