

# PHOTOGRAPHY 2018

## January 2018: PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Our speaker Eddie Coxon brought his cameras along; they were two homemade cardboard boxes and a cocoa tin. He also had two discs with small holes in them. His subject was "pinhole photography". As he explained the boxes were different sizes. The biggest could take film 10"x 8" which was placed opposite the pinhole in darkroom conditions. The hole was covered on the outside with a homemade shutter, then a mathematical equation to determine how long to keep the shutter open for.

The discs were made to put over a single lens reflex camera instead of a lens. The advantage of this method was, you could see straight away what your picture was like. As Eddie was giving his talk he was showing prints of the pictures he had taken which were very impressive, being sharp from close up to far away. Should you wish [to see examples of pinhole photograph here is a link](#)

For the second half of our meeting, Eddie explained that he had an old camera converted to take infrared pictures. These work by recording the reflected infrared from objects - vegetation reflected the most and showed almost pure white; whilst blue skies reflecting none and appearing black. Different building materials and animals gave shades of grey.

We were amazed by the beauty of some of the photographs he showed us, with trees like plumes of feathers against a black sky. Eddie only showed us black and white examples but it is possible to do it in colour. Here is a link to [IR pictures colour and black & white](#).

Eddie ended by telling us that he had been burgled last year and was able to find photographs of some of the items taken for the insurance company. He encouraged us to take photos of our belongings and copy any photos that are irreplaceable and give a copy to a friend or relative to keep on a disk or USB stick. Also if you have photos write on them who is in the picture, for future generations.



## April 2018: LICHFIELD

The intrepid group set out on a cold wet morning (as usual) to travel to Lichfield on the recommendation of John, to see and photograph some of the delights of this market town. Although the weather was, to say the least, not at its best the town itself had some impressive buildings, the centre point being the cathedral.

Lichfield is famous for the birthplace of Dr Samuel Johnson (the house is worth a visit) who first published the Dictionary of the English Language in 1755. A statue of James Boswell stands in the Market Place famous for his Biography of Dr Johnson.

After Lunch we continued our visit (a walk round some very wet gardens) then it was time to get back onto the coach and head for home. A good day was had by all.

Frank Newton



### **May 2018: FELLEYS PRIORY**

For a change our trip was rewarded with superb weather, (not one of us had to wear the mandatory cagoule). We were very fortunate in our timing with the bluebells in full bloom in the woods about 1 mile from the priory; this was well worth the stroll.



The grounds were in excellent condition with early spring flowers to be seen in abundance. Considering the Priory has two full time and three part time ground staff this is quite an achievement. This is a garden for all seasons; spring sees snowdrops and hellebores, followed by a carpet of daffodils in the orchard. Summer highlights include scented roses and colourful herbaceous borders. Trees and shrubs provide vibrant autumnal colour while winter brings topiary glistening in the frosty days.

The Priory was founded in 1156 on the site of a small hermitage dedicated to Our Lady. It consisted of twelve canons following the rules of St Augustine. Following the Dissolution in 1535, not all the

Priory was completely destroyed. Parts were used elsewhere in the construction of the house and garden. An example of this is the Pillars at the entrance to the garden were originally part of the Priory Church and date from the late 12th Century.

The central part of the house was constructed in the 16th and 17th centuries. There is a particular fine example of a Tudor chimney on the west side of the house. The Lion and the Unicorn on the west side of the house date back from this period.

At the end of our visit we all met up in the Farmhouse Tea Room (opened in 2011). The Tea Room offered a delicious selection of homemade cakes, scones, light lunches and beverages that some of us took full advantage of !!

Frank Newton



### **June 2018: NOTTINGHAM CASTLE**

The visit to the Castle had the added interest due to the Castle and Grounds being closed at the end of June for 2yrs for Major Renovations.

The renovations would include the creation of a Robin Hood Gallery, accessed via the existing tunnel leading from the outer bailey, with changes to the Ducal Palace. Here, visitors will step back in time, entering a medieval experience where they are invited to find the outlaw with the help of interactive audio-visual storytelling, and be part of the legend by enjoying interactive games and experiences.

Access to the caves within the Castle Rock will be extended and parts of the Castle grounds will be remodelled to reveal more of the medieval site and to re-establish some of the more impressive views of the Castle across the city.

A new visitor centre will welcome people to the grounds, with the hope of encouraging them to enter and explore the site. The centre will include a new café.

The first castle was built in 1067 shortly after the invasion of William the Conqueror. It was a wooden structure but just three years later it was rebuilt in stone.

On 22 August 1642 King Charles I raised his royal standard at Nottingham, effectively marking the start of the First Civil War (1642-1646).

After the execution of the King, the original Nottingham Castle was destroyed. It wasn't until 1679 that the current building was constructed for the **Duke of Newcastle**.

In 1831 rioters took out their vengeance by looting the castle and setting it on fire due to an unpopular reform Bill.

In 1878 the castle was finally in the hands of Nottingham City Council who opened it as a museum and art gallery to the general public and it remains so today.

Frank Newton



### July 2018: NEWSTEAD ABBEY

On a cloudy Tuesday morning the group met at Ranmore Road car park for our visit to Newstead Abbey. To change things from our usual format we introduced a treasure hunt, the group was issued with individual cards listing a range of different subjects and formats in the hope that it would give more focus to our visit.

The priory of St. Mary of Newstead, a house of Augustinian Canons, was founded by King Henry 11 about the year 1170 as one of many penances he paid following the murder of Thomas Becket. Newstead was never an abbey: it was a priory. The priory was designed to be home to at least 13 monks, although there appears to have been only 12 (including the Prior) at the time of the dissolution.



If you mention the name Newstead Abbey to people and, if they're at all in the know, they'll associate the building with the poet Lord Byron. He inherited Newstead Abbey when he was only 10. When he was 21, in 1808, he and his mother moved into Newstead Abbey proper. He lived there for two years

but only spent about six months there as a permanent resident. Byron had a beloved Newfoundland dog named Boatswain, who died of rabies in 1808. Boatswain was buried at Newstead Abbey and has a monument larger than his master's. The inscription, from Byron's poem Epitaph to a Dog has become one of his best-known works.

After our allotted time we all met up at the coffee shop to review the day. The new treasure hunt format for our visit was received well so will probably become the basis of our future outings.

I would like to thank Lynda for coming up with the suggestion and supplying the first treasure hunt cards.

Frank Newton

### September 2018: CROMFORD



## **October 2018: FELLEY PRIORY**

Our trip was rewarded with good weather. The grounds were in excellent condition with late summer flowers to be seen in abundance and just the hint of autumns march towards winter, giving the group ample opportunity to take some excellent photos. Considering the Priory has only two full time and three part time ground staff this is quite an achievement.

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## November 2018: WOLLATON PARK

The Group made its way to Wollaton Park on a very sunny Tuesday morning. On arrival everyone was given a treasure hunt check list on a variety of subjects to be photographed as we wandered around the hall, gardens, grounds, lake and various other places of interest.

Wollaton Hall is an Elizabethan country house of the 1580s standing on a small but prominent hill in Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Wollaton Hall was built between 1580 and 1588 for Sir Francis Willoughby and is believed to be designed by the Elizabethan architect Robert Smythson. The building consists of a central block dominated by a hall three storeys high, with a stone screen at one end and galleries at either end, with the "Prospect Room" above that. From this there are extensive views of the park and surrounding country. There are towers at each corner, projecting out from this top floor. At each corner of the house is a square pavilion of three storeys, with decorative features rising above the roof line. Much of the basement storey is cut from the rock the house sits on.

The Hall remained in the possession of the Willoughby family until 1925 when it was purchased from the 11th Baron Middleton by Nottingham City Council and opened as a museum where it remains today. The property has been used as a film location for Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy of films, featuring as Wayne Manor, then later in Batman Begins and The Dark Night Rises.

For anyone living in or around Nottingham Wollaton Hall is well worth the visit.

Frank Newton

