

WINCHESTER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Report on Panels Group for 2011 AGM

The Panels Group continues to thrive with lively and enthusiastic meetings held every two months. We have had 7 meetings since the last AGM with 34 members on the list and an average of 17 attending each meeting. In addition, we gave a presentation evening, Focus on Panels, to the Club on 2nd November 2010. Nineteen people presented their work on themes which included topics such as Amazon Adventure, My Summer, Abstract Illustration, Anything Goes, Valencia Architecture, Wildlife of Florida, What the Eye Sees, and Faces of Uganda. A programme was produced giving details of each of the photographers and the work they were showing.

The regular meetings are exciting events as we see at least 50 new pictures during the course of the evening. Most meetings have a challenge topic and around 10 new panels are shown each time. It is always interesting to see how imaginative and different the interpretations are and the thought processes behind creating the pictures. The topics covered have been: This is Me, The Art of Everyday Existence, People and Places and At the Last Minute. The challenges are not competitions but a forum for producing exactly what you want without having any rules or judging imposed upon you. You do not *have* to participate in the challenges to come to the meetings.

An important part of meetings is the informal exchange of views on each others' new work. There is a lot of expertise in the club, and help with computer techniques and constructive advice is given if requested. The Group encourages those who wish to undertake photographic projects such as the submission of work for Distinctions of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain or Royal Photographic Society. It is interesting to note that as a result of pictures shown at a Panels meeting, they have gone on to win awards and to becoming successful distinction panels.

Keeping up-to-date with photographic news is another part of the evening, be it about equipment, services offered online, exhibitions or members' own experiences.

We at Littleton Millennium Hall and the next meeting is on **Wednesday 13th July 2011** at 7.30 pm. The challenge is "Abstract" and we will begin planning our next presentation to the Club which is in next season's programme for Tuesday 1st November 2011.

My thanks to those who help in setting up the meetings and the organisation of the presentation evening and particularly to all those who come along for their continuing inspiration and enthusiasm.

Anne Ruffell ARPS DPAGB
Organiser, Panels Group.

22nd May 2011