

TDPClub NEWSLETTER



The above Photograph was taken by Nigel W - theme 'Shoes'

Club News

For a few months now, we are still holding meetings every two weeks and we all have been working on mini projects remotely. Online virtual meetings have been remarkably successful, it has kept all the members engaged with each other as well as their photography. Over the last few months, we have covering different accepts of photography and it has given members a chance to explore different techniques, creative and ideas.

This newsletter has two articles: one on 'Photo Story' and the other on 'Photo Essay'

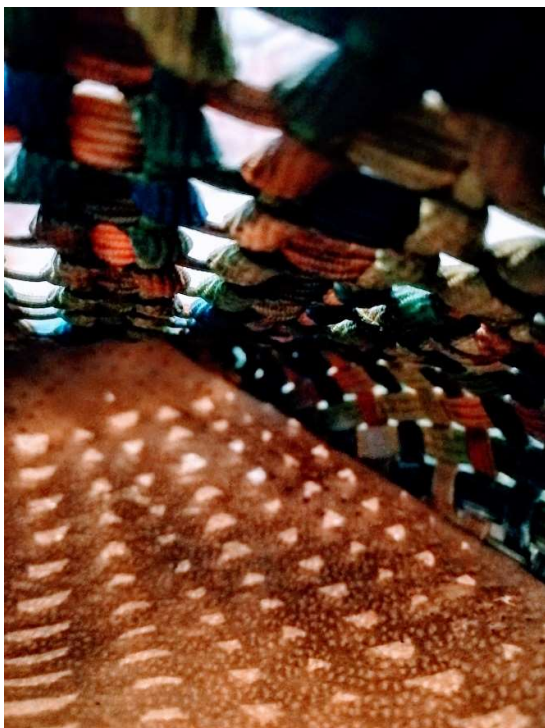
Themes for September 'Technology' and 'Textures': to work on. In this newsletter there is a selection of photographs by members on the theme 'Shoes'. A full range of each members work can be viewed on the Club website under 'Members Gallery'.

13th and 27th October

10th and 24th November

8th and 22nd December

'Photo Story' theme photographs by members.



Photograph by Sue



Photograph by Peter



Photograph by Jackie



Photograph by Rob

There is often confusion the differences between 'Photo Story and 'Photo Essay'. Both concepts require a series of photographs that have emotions, feelings and tell a story about the chosen subject. Most importantly the photographs should draw the viewer into the content of the photography. Both Photo Story or Photo Essay can be of a place, person or an event, some text can be added if necessary, however the photograph should tell a story by itself and not the other way around.

A Photo Story can have a series of photographs ranging from a place, person, or an event, each photograph is strong on its own to tell a story about the place, an event, or people.

Whereas a photo essay, a series of images depend on each other to emphasis the story and are usually of the same one chosen subject.

For this article I chose to collate a series of images from my trip to Bangkok. These images were taken to show 'A day around Choa Praya River and the marketplace.









This article is a Photo Essay on the Sikh festival, Vaisakhi. Vaisakhi is a harvest festival in Punjab, and it marks the start of the Sikh New Year. It usually falls on the 13th or the 14th of April each year, and is celebrated all over the world by Sikhs with grand processions, food, lots of colour etc.

History of Vaisakhi

In 1699, in India, was the year when Sikhism was born as a collective faith, hence making it an even more important festival to celebrate the birth of Khalsa; the name given to a Sikh when you have been baptised.

Our 10th Guru chose the festival as the moment to establish the Khalsa. The history says that at the festival in 1699, he came out of a tent carrying a sword. He said that any Sikh prepared to give his life for his faith should come into the tent. From the crowd five men stood up and went forward into the tent. The Guru came out of the tent, with blood on his sword, seeing this caused worry and panic amongst the crowds.

Moments later, the Guru walks out of the tent with the five men, unharmed and wearing blue turbans, all five dressed the same way. They became known as Panj Pyare or the 'Beloved Five', they were to be the first

members of the Khalsa to be baptised by the Guru who sprinkled them with Amrit (holy water). This ritual of the holy water and prayers became the basis of the Sikh baptism ceremony.

How Vaisakhi is celebrated all over the world?

Sikhs on Vaisakhi visit their local Gurdwaras, a place of worship in Sikhism. The Gurdwara is decorated especially for the occasion; people of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome to enter. The traditional colours of Vaisakhi are yellow, blue and orange, they represent the "spirit of rebirth and sacrifice of the Panj Pyare". The colours are also a symbol of "joy and celebration", that is why the Gurdwaras are decorated with these colours and the colours are also worn by those attending the festival.

Inside the Gurdwara under a decorated shrine, the Holy book is placed and treated with utmost respect as Sikhs believe that it is our Living God and we bow down to the Holy Scriptures. By bowing down to the Holy Book, we accept all the teachings and words written by our Gurus. Every Gurdwara has a copy of the Holy Book, the original hand-written Holy Book is in the Golden Temple, Amritsar, India.

On the outside of every Gurdwara there is triangular flag made of cotton or silk cloth, with a tassel at its end called the Nishan Sahib, hoisted on a tall flagpole. The word, Nishan means symbol. The flagpole is also covered with fabric, and on the top of the flagpole, a two-edged dagger (Khanda - Sikh symbol) is placed.

During Vaisakhi, a procession called Nagar Kirtan is led by the Panj Pyare (Five Beloved ones), followed by the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Holy Book). The procession is then followed by the Sikh priests singing hymns and the public walk behind the procession.

The procession usually starts around 10am from the Gurdwara, it makes its way around the town and will return back to the Gurudwara for around 1pm. On arrival of the procession, everyone prays before the 5 Beloved Ones

lead the way back into the Gurdwara. One of the Sikh's will carry the Holy Book on his head following the 5 Beloved Ones into the Gurdwara.

Below are the photographs that I took in 2018 on Vaisakhi at the Guru Nanak Darbar, Gravesend, Kent. The series of photographs show the interior of the Gurdwara, decorations and the procession returning back.



Interior of the Gurdwara - Holy Book placed at far end under the Golden Shrine



Blue, yellow, orange colours



Decorated stairs



Panj Pyare (the five beloved ones)



The Holy Book in the back of the Jeep



Mini Golden Temple Shrine where the Holy Book is placed



Priest and people praying as the procession returns to the Gurdwara



Praying



Close-up of people



Procession reached the Gurdwara



Five orange flags - 5 Beloved ones leading the way



Guru Granth Sahib carried into the Gurdwara



Shrine where the Guru Granth Sahib was placed during the procession



Sikh Symbol - Khanda



Nishan Sahib



Decorations outside the Gurdwara

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