

## **North Wales Diamonds**

Recently 3 of North Wales most talented photographers were awarded their prestigious EFIAP Diamond 2 distinctions (Excellence Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique)

Robert and Sharon Prenton Jones of Conwy Camera Club & Eryri Photo Group & Andy Polakowski of Mold Camera Club & Eryri Photo Group

All 3 are exceptionally talented photographers and their dedication to the craft has paid off with this well deserved award, all 3 are extremely active within the North Wales Photographic Association and will happily share their skills and knowledge with others, free of charge, be that running workshops or giving lectures at other clubs Andy also judges

### Background

**Sharon and Robert Prenton Jones** are a married couple based in North Wales with their own home studio, Both are competent with many genres of photography, they are perhaps best known for combining their studio work with the waterfalls, lakes, castles, mountains and beaches that are a short drive from their home.

They both have a reputation for making photography fun and a day shooting with them is typically one of laughter, irreverence, and a combination of high professional standards and plain silliness!



They are both multi award winning national and international photographers who have had their images exhibited all over the world. They are regularly called upon to deliver talks and workshops to camera clubs around the UK and further afield (e.g. Republic of Ireland, India, Australia and the USA). Known for their creative and post-processing skills they have delivered many workshops on Photoshop and Composite photography. If ever you visit this effervescent couple for a coffee you'll be lucky to escape without doing a bit of modelling !



**Andy Polakowski** has been 'seeing' photographs since he was in short trousers. However, these only became a reality when his father actually gave him a camera and showed him how to process films and make enlargements from the negatives.

A bizarre series of coincidences soon after graduating led him to future wife Eleri: variously Primary School teacher, Fashion Design lecturer, Psychologist, but, along with his father, destined to be his most important photographic critic.

A number of competition successes in quick succession with his first 35mm camera, a rangefinder Leica, convinced him of three things: his photography had an approving audience; he didn't need to be in a camera club; he did need an SLR camera.



Fortunately, winning the British Photography Competition and its publicity brought Andy a full Canon SLR outfit. Then a career move to Mold with a new baby and a chance invitation to visit the camera club there sealed his fate - he joined!

He sums his photographic ethos up with: "anything you won't see again", occasionally some set up shots: "hopefully something you won't have seen before".

Entering Salons encourages the production of 50 or more new images per year and these form the basis of Andy's '50 Images' series of lectures for clubs where the original (usually woeful) out-of-camera image is compared with the final Acceptance gaining result, and what happened in between.

The following pages contain a very small selection of each author's favourite images on their FIAP journeys



# Sharon Prenton Jones

Artemis Goddess of the Hunt



The Elder



Adult Education



The Homecoming



Dance of the Butterflies





The Three Graces



Ilria



Freyja



Pure Beauty



Thomas Cromwell





# Robert Prenton Jones

Be Quiet



Incident on Westminster Bridge



Contemplation



Reading by Candlelight





Brief Encounter



The French Lieutenant's Woman



The Last Supper



Girl with a Candle





The Old woman of Kinsale



In Those Parisienne Days





# Andy Polakowski

Cellophilia



Baby Chimp





Barbershop Quartet



One Two Three





Simulacrum



North Leverton Windmill





Elephant Tussle



Tackle





Shadow Spiral





Bufo Bufo Travelling in Amplexus

