

Northern

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD

news

AUGUST 2010



Editorial Ramblings

We are very sad to tell you that our friend, Josie, passed away on 15 August 2010 aged 51 years. Our prayers and condolences are extended to her sister, Lourdes and to her partner, Al, and all others in her family. Josie was always the life and soul of the party. Always full of fun and laughter. When I spoke to Al, he reminded me of a conversation I'd had with him before we left the Philippines. He said I'd told him that Josie was "*as tough as old boots*."

He said I was right, because she fought to the end bravely and cheerfully and with everything she had, despite the pain and suffering she had to endure. Josie will be fondly remembered by all those privileged enough to have enjoyed her friendship.

This month we are taking a break. As I write this, it is the early evening of the first day of my holiday. I don't need to return until this edition is sent out in early September. As yet, we haven't decided what to do or where to go - a bit late you might think, but the weather here is a factor in what we decide to do. We actually have the home heating system on as I write this! So much for the English summer! As you will have seen, we have had a new photograph taken of us (*above, left*). Adding this text towards the end of my holiday, I can think of no other holiday that has been as bad as this. The weather has been appalling and we have had few days that we were able to go out and none at all that were suitable for camping - which had been our original intention. I don't think we'll holiday in the UK again. I certainly don't want to live here, but needs must at present. However, we were delighted to be able to go to Preston, my mother's home town, to visit her brother, Eric and his family. We had a great day together and it was good for Little Lad to meet his family there for the first time.

Alan



Photograph above: Josie with Grace's parents on 12 May 2007, in the garden of her home. Josie was always incredibly hospitable and welcoming.

Photograph overleaf: Josie with Al on 12 June 2008 in our home in Subic. **Photograph on Page 4:** Al and Josie with both of us at the home of Grace's family in Bani on 24 June 2008, the day before my birthday - shortly before we left for the UK. Little did we know that we'd never see Josie again. **Photograph on Page 5:** A tribute to *Sunny Girl*, Josie - Sunflowers in our garden. Josie gave out so much sunshine during her life. May the Sun always shine on Josie.









On the Beach

We recently spent a couple of days on the beach (JP's favourite!) near Barmouth on the Welsh coast. We stayed overnight in a farmhouse and the view when we arose in the morning from the balcony outside our room is shown above and on next page - it's a panoramic shot.





The church of St. John the Evangelist in Barmouth





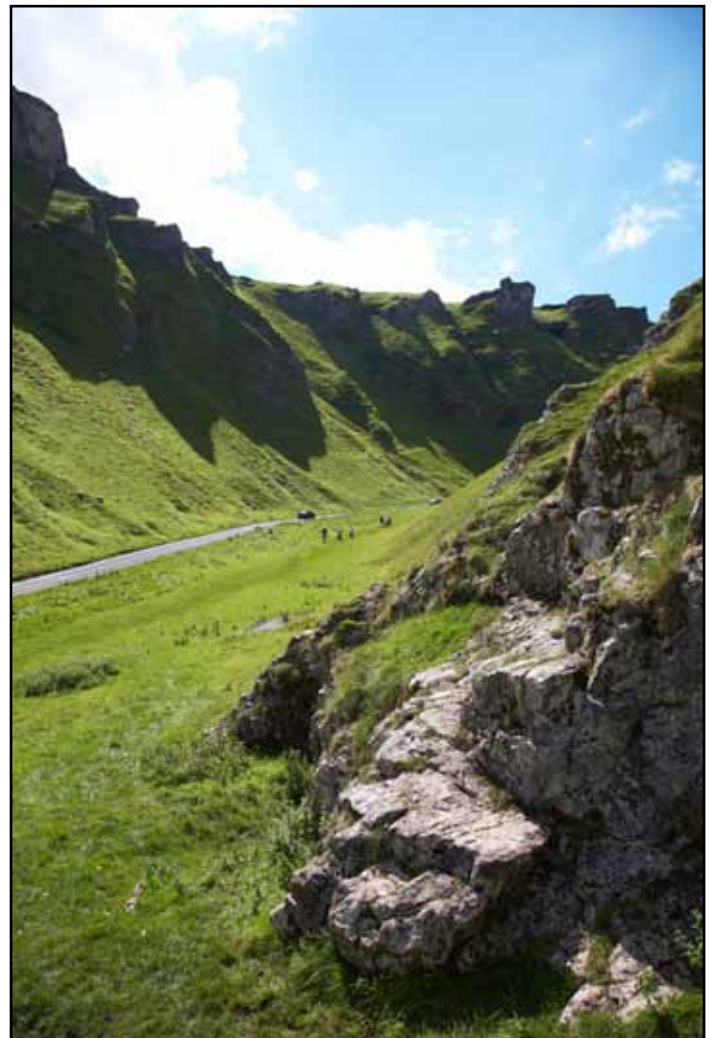
A view along Ladybower Reservoir in the Peak District

Day out in the Peak District

On 22 August 2010 we did a 200 mile round trip to the Peak District - mainly near the Edale area. It was one of the rare days of reasonably good weather (sunny but cold) we had during our holiday, so we made the most of it.



The wonderful view from Winnats Pass (*above*). Does this rock formation (*below*) look like an Elephant or Rhino to you? Views through the Winnats Pass (*bottom and right*).





The Snake Road Bridge crossing the Ladybower Reservoir in the Peak District

Family get together in Preston



left to right: Eric, Rita, Alan with JP, Elizabeth. Alan's mother was Eric's sister. Elizabeth is one of Eric and Rita's four children. It was the first time that JP had met his family in Lancashire and we all had a super time.





Friends get together in Kent



We were delighted to pay a somewhat flying visit to the home of Elwyn and Jenny, in Bromley. We had to go to London to the Philippine Embassy so that we could renew Little Lad's Philippine Passport. Thanks to our friends, we stayed overnight in their home in Bromley. Jenny is one of Grace's former school friends. It was great to see them all again as well as our friends, David and Carmen who live nearby.





Paradise near home -



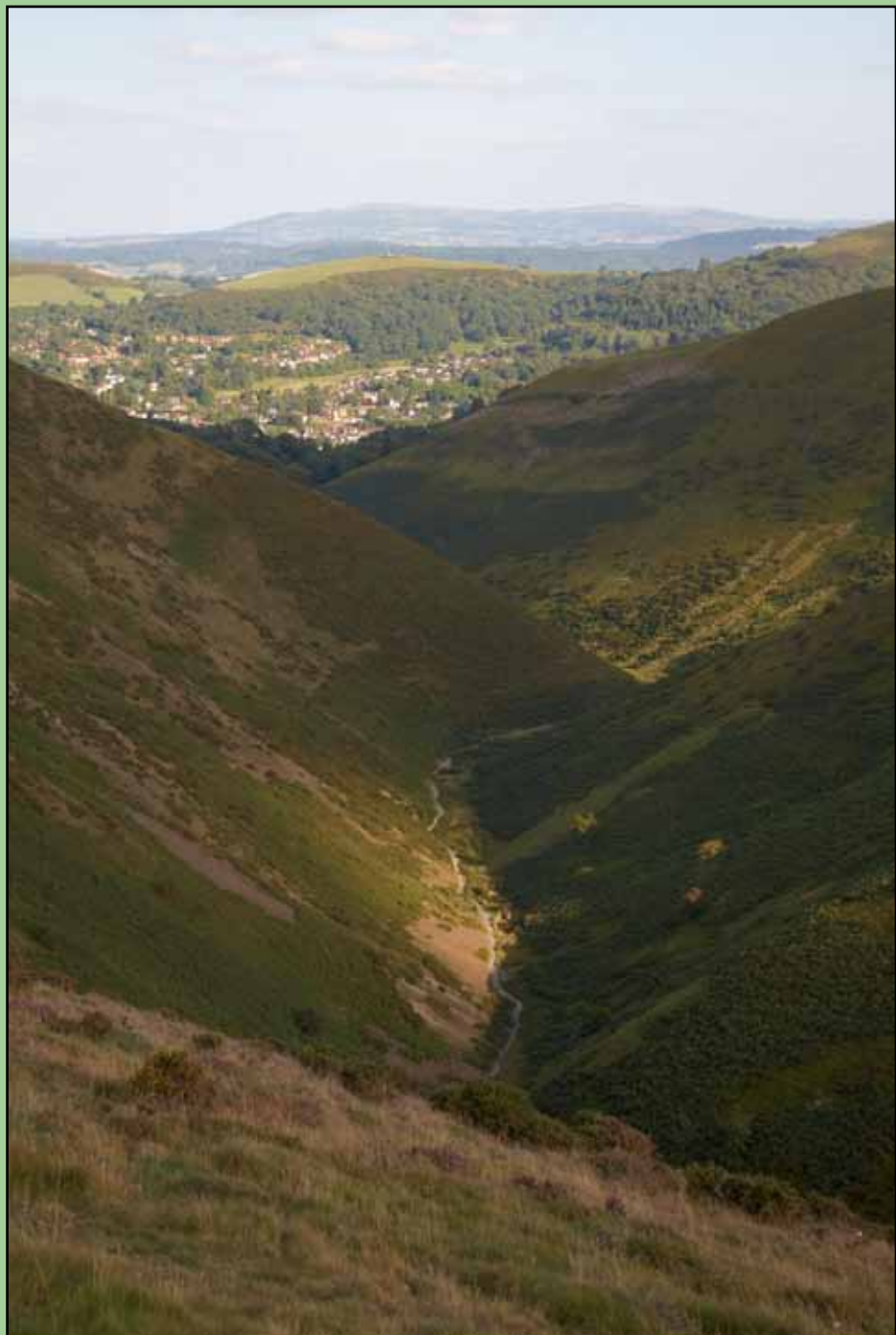
We were delighted to find this haven of peace and tranquility so near to our home. Not much more than 40 miles away are the Shropshire Hills and, in particular, Carding Mill Valley (*photograph left*) near Church Stretton, which cuts into the side of the Long Mynd and offers walks (and stunning views) to the top of the escarpment. From there, we drove along the Burway to the top of Long Mynd (*panorama at top of these two pages*). We were informed of this delightful area after talking with a representative of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust whilst attending the Onslow Steam Rally. We intend making many more trips of exploration to this area in the near future. Much of this area is looked after by the National Trust and is well worth a visit. Historically the town of Church Stretton was





The Shropshire Hills

known for its textiles, specifically in Carding Mill Valley. Carding Mill was built in the 18th century, and named after a stage in making cloth, the three stages being carding, spinning and weaving. Carding would have been done by children, and involved using a hand-card that removed and untangled short fibres from the mass of raw material. The cards were wooden blocks with handles and covered in metal spikes, which were angled, (to make it easier to untangle) and set in leather. When untangled, the material would be spun, and then woven into the final product. *Historical information from URL:* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Stretton
The carding mill closed at the beginning of the 20th century and although the mill is still in the valley, it has been converted into luxury flats.



The GREAT BRITISH Fair

Shrewsbury Steam Rally at Onlsow Park



Glorious Steam Power



In the foreground is the Aveling & Porter Showmans Tractor, 'Julie' built in 1906. Following is the Foster Traction Engine, 'Winnie' built in 1910. Behind this is 'Tommy', a Fowler Traction Engine built in 1922 that spent most of its life threshing and baling on a farm in Oxford.



Photograph above: Foden Showmans Engine 'Prospector'. Built in 1910, this is one of only 10 Showmans Engines built by Foden of which this is the sole survivor.

The panorama across the bottom of this and the next page shows an engine at work sawing tree trunks into planks.





The size of these wonderful old steam powered machines can be seen in comparison to Alan and JP in the photograph above which depicts a Marshall Traction Engine built in 1915.





British Trucks

British trucks were once famous throughout the world. Some of the great names are shown on the photographs on the following pages. None were more famous than the 1943 Scammell Pioneer powered by a Gardner 6LW 20 engine (*photographs above and left*). Scammell made some of the most amazing tractor units for transporting heavy freight that the world had ever seen in those days.





Two more vintage Scammells at the rally are shown above. The 'Pickfords' name was world famous for heavy haulage.

Scammell started as a late-Victorian period wheelwright and coach-building business in Spitalfields, London.

In 1921, the company exhibited its first articulated vehicle, capable of carrying 7.5 tons, at the Olympia Motor Show. With the demand for this vehicle, the company first moved to a new works in Watford, and then formed Scammell Lorries Ltd in July 1922.

In 1934, Scammell produced the 'Mechanical Horse', designed by Oliver Danson North to replace horses in rail, postal and other delivery applications. This featured automatic carriage coupling and the single front wheel could be steered through 360 degrees. It was sold in 3 and 6 ton versions. The 3-tonner was powered by a 1,125 cc side-valve petrol engine and the 6-tonner by a 2,043 cc engine. Karrier had introduced a similar vehicle, the 'Cob', four years earlier.

From 1937, a Citroën Traction Avant powered version was made under licence in France, by Chenard-Walcker-FAR, known as the 'Pony Mécanique'. This continued in production, in various versions, until 1970.

In the late 1940s, the 'Mechanical Horse' was superseded by the 'Scarab', with similar features but now with a 2,090 cc side-valve petrol engine in both models and a diesel version with a Perkins engine.

In 1967, the 'Scarab' was replaced by the Townsman, which had a fibre-glass cab.

The company mainly concentrated on articulated and rigid eight-wheeler lorries, from the 1920s. One vehicle not in those lines that became well-known was the six-wheeled Pioneer. This was an off-highway heavy haulage tractor first produced in 1927. It showed outstanding cross-country performance due to the design that included a sideways rocking front axle, and 2ft of vertical movement for each of the rear wheels.

The Pioneer was popular in the oil field and forestry (logging) markets, and formed the basis of the British Army's World War II 30-ton tank transporter. With the outbreak of war, development of new vehicles stopped and production concentrated on military Pioneers for use as artillery tractors, recovery and transporter vehicles.

Post war, foreign competition and rationalisation of the UK manufacturers led to Scammell coming under the control of Leyland Motors Ltd in 1955.

In February 1987 Scammell learned that its tender for 1522 Military vehicles for the British MOD was successful - but also that the Leyland group had been purchased by DAF BV of Holland. DAF then transferred production of the Military "DROPS" lorries and selected S26 vehicles to the Leyland plant, in Lancashire. It continued production in specialist and military markets until 1988 when the site at Watford, nr London was closed and the last vehicles manufactured under the Scammell name were sold.

History courtesy of URL: <http://tractors.wikia.com/wiki/Scammell>



1949 Vulcan



1950 Atkinson



1951 Bedford K30



1953 Foden FG6/12



1953 Sentinel DV44



1954 Albion Claymore



1954 Leyland Comet 90



1959 AEC Mandator



1963 ERF KV



This superb 1969 Ford Corsair V4 was a happy reminder of my Uncle Jack, who once owned one of these.



An interesting comparison

Who really won the war?

What is the story here? Be sure to view all the way to the end!

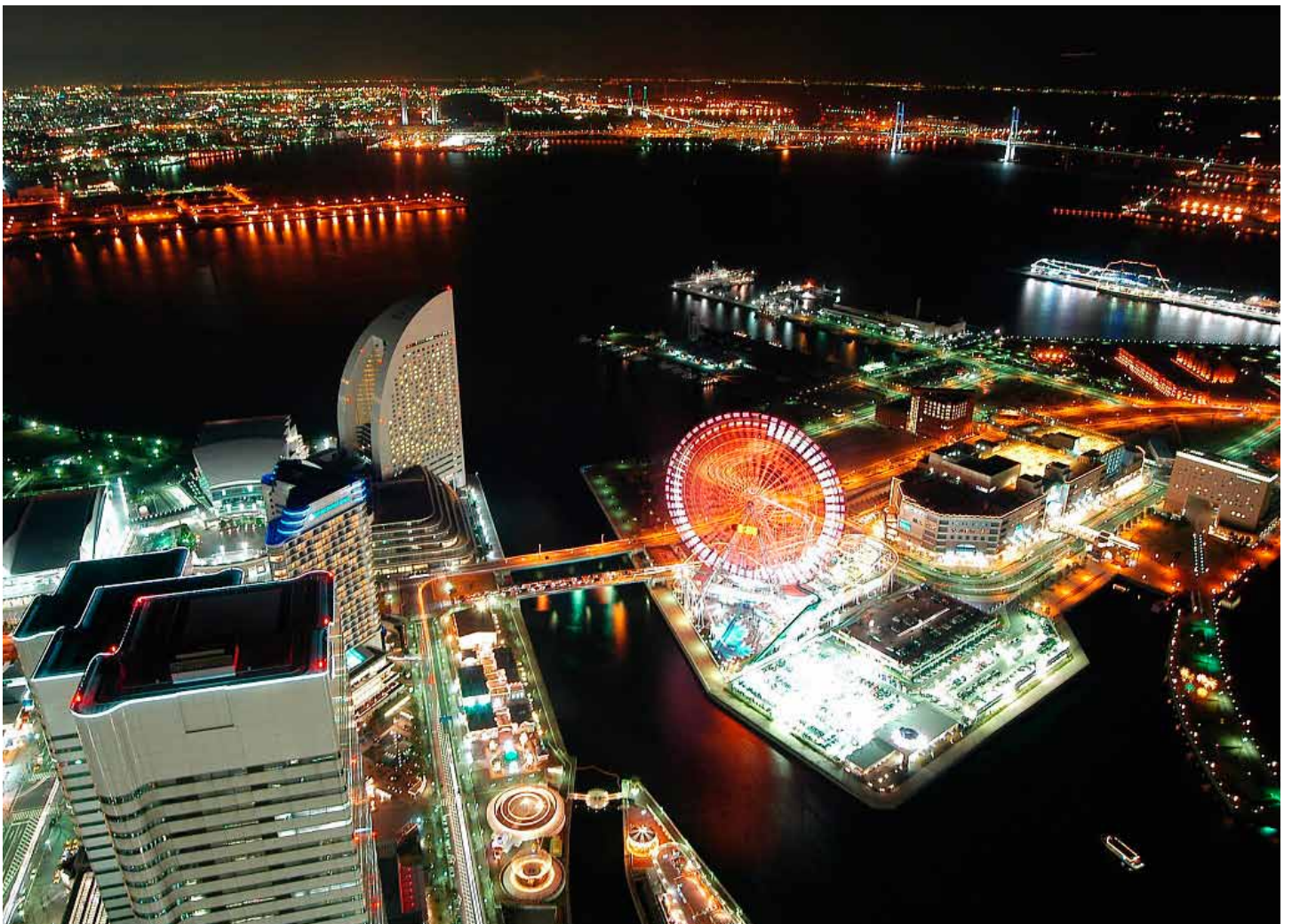
What happened to the radiation that's supposed to last thousands of years??

HIROSHIMA 1945



We all know that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed in August 1945 after explosion of atomic bombs.
However, we know little about the progress made by the people of that land during the past 64 years.

HIROSHIMA - 65 YEARS LATER







DETROIT - 65 years after Hiroshima





Abandoned house on Detroit's east side

What has caused more long term destruction
- the A-bomb or U. S. politics?

Thanks to Wendy Grant for sending in this article.

The EU and the Tories' broken promises

by **Melanie Phillips**
Daily Mail, 2 August 2010

When the Tories fought the general election, they promised they would yield no more power to the European Union, and that they would even seek to regain from the EU some of the powers that Britain had already lost.

These pledges were designed to take the sting out of the fact that they were not, after all, going to offer a referendum on the European constitution.

Three months on, it looks increasingly as if none of their promises to safeguard British power is going to be kept. Indeed, the coalition Government even seems to be going in precisely the opposite direction.

Last week, Home Secretary Theresa May told the Commons that Britain had decided to opt into the controversial European Investigation Order.

According to critics, this will mean that prosecutors from any EU country will be granted unprecedented and intrusive powers over people in Britain.

They would be able to bug the phone calls of British citizens, monitor their bank accounts and gain access to their DNA if they suspected them of committing a crime in those countries — however trivial the offence, and even if it were not a crime in the UK.

Britain's over-stretched police would not only be almost powerless to prevent such personal details from being handed over, but they could even be ordered to carry out investigations or surveillance for their EU counterparts.

Such powers would be an outright onslaught on British liberties and independence. Yet Mrs May — cheered on by Labour MPs, who fell over themselves to welcome her announcement — airily swatted away such concerns.

Far from the police being over-burdened or civil liberties being lost, she trilled, the new order would actually reduce bureaucracy by merely codifying and simplifying processes that already exist.

Ring any bells? As was pointed out by concerned MPs, precisely the same bogus assurances were made during the passage of the Lisbon constitutional treaty, whose fundamental destruction of British sovereignty was repeatedly described as just a 'practical' or 'tidying-up' measure.

Mrs May claimed all worries about the new European order would be addressed. She would seek to ensure a proportionality test to prevent the British police from being

obliged to provide information in relation to trivial offences.

And foreign authorities would not be allowed to instruct British police officers on what operations to conduct, nor allow foreign officers to operate in the UK with law-enforcement powers.

But with the history of the EU and the relentless salami-slicing of British sovereignty, does anyone believe these proposed safeguards will amount to anything?

As Mrs May herself admitted, the Government merely intends to negotiate such safeguards with the EU. There is no guarantee that it will succeed.

Indeed, as the final text will be determined by qualified majority vote, it is all too likely that it will not. And once we have opted in, if we find the order does work against British interests, there will be absolutely nothing we can do about it.

The key point is this: the Government could have decided to have nothing to do with this order. Instead, it chose to opt in. So it appears that, far from regaining powers from the EU, this Government is actually choosing to give yet more of them away.

Accused in the Commons of betraying the Tories' promise to protect British sovereignty, Mrs May took refuge in positively Orwellian language. The new power, she said, entailed no loss of sovereignty. It would merely improve European co-operation to make it easier for Britain to fight crime.

Such a seamless progression from passionately opposing European integration to adopting the cynical euphemisms employed by the previous Labour government to conceal its encroachment makes one despair that the Tories will do anything at all to regain any of Britain's powers to govern itself.

The loss of these powers is proving positively dangerous not just to British interests but to British lives.

A year after the EU directive limiting workers to a 48-hour week was applied to the NHS, 80 per cent of hospital consultants polled by the Royal College of Surgeons now say the quality of care has already been damaged by the change.

Senior doctors say trainee surgeons are now spending so little time in operating theatres that they lack the skills required to perform safely when they became consultants.

Even worse, they say, the new rules are creating a generation of 'clock-watchers' — doctors with a 'lazy work ethic' who no longer feel personal responsibility for their patients, who as a result are being put at risk by being repeatedly 'handed'

from one shift to the next.

One surgeon, who works a regular 80 to 100-hour week with no pay for the extra hours because he says there is no alternative if his patients are to be cared for safely, reports that during the middle of one operation he was left to struggle to complete it alone after the newly appointed trainee assisting him said he had to go home because he had reached the limit of his rostered hours.

Such developments are almost beyond belief. It is hard to exaggerate the degree of recklessness and stupidity behind applying such a directive to the medical profession.

Only the most bone-headed blinkered bureaucratic mind — one which is entirely divorced from reality — can fail to grasp the inevitable risk to patients inherent in limiting doctors' hours.

That mindset is unfortunately the driving force of what is now an entire bureaucratic quasi-state called the EU — without whose directive British doctors' training would not now be going down the drain.

It is simply intolerable that this potentially lethal destruction of medical standards is being enforced by an authority which has superseded the ability of the British Government to decide how this country's doctors should be trained.

The president of the Royal College of Surgeons, John Black, has described this situation as 'acutely urgent' and implored the Government to take immediate action to address the concerns — having pledged in its coalition agreement that it would work to limit the application of the EU's rules in the UK.

One has to ask, however, what price that pledge now. The Tories are in coalition with the Lib Dems, who are fanatical European integrationists.

After the Home Secretary's statement on the European Investigation Order, the sole Lib Dem MP who spoke welcomed it and expressed the pious hope that it would strengthen privacy and human rights safeguards. So much for the party of civil liberty.

But even if the Tories had been in government by themselves, it is doubtful they would have behaved any differently. For the plain truth is that Britain cannot hope to regain any of its powers from the EU unless it makes clear that if it doesn't get what it wants, it will leave.

That is a declaration the Cameroons would never make. And so all their pledges to hold the line for British sovereignty were always meaningless.

The consequence of such pusillanimity is that, despite their strutting ambitions, they are, in fact, losing power as remorselessly as a car with a leaky petrol tank. In time,

the British Government will have no greater power than Westminster regional council in the Republic of Euroland.

David Cameron says he will fight to get Turkey into the EU. Wouldn't it be preferable if he tried instead to get Britain out?

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=758>

ODD-SHOTS



A view into our back garden on 17 August 2010. No Global Warming here! The weather is truly appalling



Another view of Carding Mill Valley.



This beautiful 1938 Packard 110 Business Coupe was also at the Shrewsbury Steam Rally.

Blackening the name of an unsung hero

by **Melanie Phillips**
Daily Mail, 30 August 2010

George Smiley would never have behaved like this.

Ever since the body of the GCHQ code-breaker Gareth Williams was discovered stuffed into a hold-all in his bath, we have been treated to a stream of unsavoury and contradictory leaks from mysterious sources.

The story is throwing up more obfuscatory trade-craft than a John Le Carré novel. Of course, the secret intelligence world must of necessity work in a deeply shadowy way — concealing its tracks, laying false trails and employing sundry other means of disinformation.

It does so in order to keep this country safe from its enemies. So much is generally accepted. But when one of its number is found apparently murdered in a flat in central London, you do not expect these black arts of subterfuge to continue.

You certainly don't expect them to thwart the investigation of an apparently sinister death or cause further and needless distress to the dead man's bereaved parents. Yet this is precisely what seems to have happened after the discovery of Mr Williams's body.

It appears that he was no ordinary GCHQ operative but a vitally important contributor to the defence of the West. A brilliant mathematical boffin, he was helping to oversee a network which links satellites and super-computers in Britain and the U.S. with those of other key allies.

He had also worked on breaking coded Taliban messages, helping to save the lives of countless British and other Nato soldiers under attack in Afghanistan.

So his death would seem to have serious security implications of one kind or another — including the possibility that he was murdered by enemies of this country.

Yet shadowy unnamed sources started putting it about that 'bondage equipment and gay paraphernalia' were found in his flat. The implication was that his death was caused by some seedy sadomasochistic practice that went wrong.

At a stroke, Mr Williams's reputation was trashed — transforming him from an unsung hero of his nation into the sordid author of his own terminal misfortune.

Not surprisingly, this planted suggestion greatly upset his grieving family, who protested at the 'horrible and completely fictitious accounts of his private life'.

More remarkably, it was refuted in the strongest possible terms by the police who said no such paraphernalia had

been found in Mr Williams's flat — although they wouldn't comment on the suggestion that he was indeed gay.

None of us has the faintest idea why or how he died. But why would these shadowy sources — whoever they may be — want to blacken his name like this?

Of course, it is possible that he was killed by a lover. Most killings, after all, have a rather more prosaic cause than an assassination perpetrated by clandestine agents.

But why plant this suggestion — and in the most lurid and apparently untruthful way — before the police have even established how or when he met his death?

Maybe a clue lies in the further claim that some £18,000 disappeared from one of his bank accounts two months ago — money reportedly moved 'by complex means', leading to speculation that Mr Williams was being blackmailed.

It is possible there is an entirely innocent explanation for all that, too. But why are we being treated to this drip-drip of partial, sensational and contradictory information while a criminal investigation is going on?

It all sounds disturbingly similar to the case of Jonathan Moyle, another British intelligence agent whose body was found hanging inside a hotel wardrobe in the Chilean capital Santiago in 1990 with a padded noose around his neck.

He had been investigating a company which was modifying helicopters, possibly to carry nuclear weapons, to sell to the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. But MI6 planted the suggestion that he had died while engaged in an auto-erotic act.

It took his outraged father to discover that his son had probably been drugged, suffocated, injected with a lethal substance and then strung up in the wardrobe — a view supported by the British coroner, who returned a verdict of unlawful killing at his inquest eight years later.

In the Williams case, it appears that a turf-war has broken out between the police and the intelligence world, with the police complaining that the spooks are hindering their investigation.

So just what does the intelligence world want to cover up in this case? Of course, it is possible that disclosure of the precise circumstances of Mr Williams's death would compromise national security in some way.

But it is also possible there is a less honourable motive for the dirty tricks being played in this investigation.

Maybe the intelligence world doesn't want us to know that

it didn't vet Mr Williams thoroughly enough; or alternatively that it shockingly failed to protect the life of its invaluable code-breaker from foreign or terrorist assailants; or maybe it wants to conceal the identity of a country or group that killed him in order to serve some diplomatic end or other.

Who knows? All we can see is that some very peculiar game is being played around this man's demise. And it's hard not to put this together with that other mystery over the death of the weapons expert Dr David Kelly in 2003.

He was said to have committed suicide during the controversy over the Iraq war — a conclusion endorsed by the official inquiry that replaced an inquest into his death.

Yet the evidence suggests that he could not have killed himself, as we have been told, by slitting his ulnar artery and taking an overdose of pills — not least because there was not much blood at the scene and fewer than one tablet was found in his stomach.

We also learn that people who wanted or needed to give evidence at the inquiry were never called to do so.

Now the pathologist who inspected his body has insisted this was a 'textbook suicide' — an account that raises more questions than it answers.

True, the idea that Dr Kelly was murdered and that this was covered up in an official conspiracy seems too implausible to be true.

Yet he did possess unique expertise in biological weapons intelligence. So there was a long list of terror organisations or rogue states that may have wanted him dead.

And if it is indeed true that the intelligence world sometimes plants false information that key operatives who have been murdered have instead been responsible for their own deaths, then the questions about Dr Kelly's 'suicide' become even more urgent.

No one expects the intelligence services to reveal their trade secrets or to compromise national security. But they are also the servants of a free society. And that means they must observe due process — which means unexplained deaths must be properly investigated.

That means a transparent and thorough investigation. It means holding a proper inquest where evidence about the cause of death can be properly aired and interrogated. And it means not dripping salacious snippets manipulatively into the public domain.

We must also not lose sight of the fact that, however they died, the loss of both David Kelly and now Gareth Williams has deprived us of two of the most brilliant minds in the intelligence world. With their deaths, the defences of this country have been left that much weaker.

The coincidence of two random and unfortunate events? Perhaps. Who knows?

At this rate, none of us will do so.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=759>

One of the most useful gadgets I've bought recently is the JOBO photoGPS 4. This little device clips on to the flash shoe of my camera (*see photograph below*) and every time I take a photograph it locates my position via the Global Positioning System of Satellites (GPS) and records this data internally. Up to 4000 locations can be stored before downloading. I then download my photographs onto the computer and also download the GPS data. Using the JOBO software the photographs are automatically matched to the GPS data and their exact locations are tagged to the meta data of each photograph. This is so useful when taking photographs in remote locations and I have found it to be very precise. As an extra facility, the software connects to Google Earth / Google Maps and the location of each photograph can be pinpointed on the map. Terrific stuff.



International Conference on Climate Change Totally Ignored By Media

By Noel Sheppard

Four days after (USA) Senate Democrats introduced a new bill to limit carbon emissions, an international conference discussing the scientific holes in the theory of man-made global warming began in Chicago.

Despite the attendance of hundreds of scientists from across the globe, as well as polls finding Americans becoming less and less convinced that man has anything to do with the warming trend the planet has experienced since 1850, our nation's media couldn't care less.

The Fourth International Conference on Climate Change included such renowned scientists as MIT's Richard Lindzen, University of Virginia's S. Fred Singer, and former NASA astronaut and Senator Harrison Schmitt.

The event kicked off Sunday evening with a detailed discussion of the facts surrounding last year's ClimateGate scandal by Climate Audit's Stephen McIntyre (videos in three parts follow with commentary):

Read more: <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2010/05/18/international-conference-climate-change-totally-ignored-media#ixzz0xjkVocZv>

During one of Monday's breakout sessions, Western Washington University's Don Easterbrook claimed that the recent warming trend that began in the '70s is officially over, and predicted that we have entered a lengthy period of cooling.

In a paper he published Sunday evening just as the Conference was beginning, Easterbrook cautioned:

1. A recent study showed that twice as many people are killed by extreme cold than by extreme heat.
2. Global cooling will have an adverse effect on food production because of shorter growing seasons, cooler growing seasons, and bad weather during harvest seasons. This is already happening in the Midwestern U.S., China, India, and other places in the world. Hardest hit will be third world countries where millions are already near starvation levels.
3. Increase in per capita energy demands, especially for heating.
4. Decrease in the ability to cope with problems related to the population explosion. World population is projected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050, an increase of 50%. This means a substantial increase in demand for food and energy at a time when both are decreasing because of the cooling climate.

Many other scientists present concurred with Easterbrook's claim. Some even offered far more dire predictions that the cooling which began in 1998 could end up lasting far longer than the few decades Easterbrook is forecasting.

One would think such predictions, especially given the harsh winter many Americans experienced this year, would be of interest to the weather junkies in the media.

Unfortunately, Google news and LexisNexis searches have not identified one major news outlet covering the proceedings in Chicago.

For those interested, the Conference's sponsor, the Heartland Institute, has videos available of the keynote speeches through Monday. More videos will be posted as they come available.

Read more: <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2010/05/18/international-conference-climate-change-totally-ignored-media#ixzz0xjkiOQKi>

Courtesy of URL: <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2010/05/18/international-conference-climate-change-totally-ignored-media>

Geologist Declares 'global warming is over' -- Warns U.S. Climate Conference of 'Looming Threat of Global Cooling'

'Expect global cooling for the next 2-3 decades that will be far more damaging than global warming would have been'

Sunday, May 16, 2010 By Marc Morano – Climate Depot
Climate Depot Exclusive

CHICAGO -- A prominent U.S. geologist is urging the world to forget about global warming because global cooling has already begun.

Geologist Dr. Don Easterbrook's warning came in the form of a new scientific paper he presented to the 4th International Conference on Climate Change in Chicago on May 16, 2010. Dr. Easterbrook is an Emeritus Professor at Western Washington University who has authored eight books and 150 journal publications. Easterbrook's full resume is here.

Dr. Easterbrook joins many other scientists, peer-reviewed research and scientific societies warning of a coming global cooling. Easterbrook is presenting his findings alongside other man-made global warming skeptics at the three day conference in Chicago.

Dr. Easterbrook's key excerpts:

That global warming is over, at least for a few decades, might seem to be a relief. However, the bad news is that global cooling is even more harmful to humans than global warming and a cause for even greater concern because:

1. A recent study showed that twice as many people are killed by extreme cold than by extreme heat.
2. Global cooling will have an adverse effect on food production because of shorter growing seasons, cooler growing seasons, and bad weather during harvest seasons. This is already happening in the Midwestern U.S., China, India, and other places in the world. Hardest hit will be third world countries where millions are already near starvation levels.
3. Increase in per capita energy demands, especially for heating.
4. Decrease in the ability to cope with problems related to the population explosion. World population is projected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050, an increase of 50%. This means a substantial increase in demand for food and energy at a time when both are decreasing because of the cooling climate.

Short Summary of Dr. Easterbrook's new paper: THE LOOMING THREAT OF GLOBAL COOLING

Geological Evidence for Prolonged Cooling Ahead and its Impacts

Prof. Don J. Easterbrook
Dept. of geology -- Western Washington University --
Bellingham, WA 989225

The past is the key to the future--To understand present-day climate changes, we need to know how climate has behaved in the past. In order to predict where we are heading, we need to know where we've been. Thus, one of the best ways to predict what climate changes lay ahead is to look for patterns of past climate changes.

Numerous, abrupt, short-lived warming and cooling episodes, much more intense than recent warming/cooling, occurred during the last Ice Age and in the 10,000 years that followed, none of which could have been caused by changes in atmospheric CO₂ because they happened before CO₂ began to rise sharply around 1945. This paper documents the geologic evidence for these sudden climate fluctuations, which show a remarkably consistent pattern over decades, centuries, and millennia.

Among the surprises that emerged from oxygen isotope analyses of Greenland and Antarctic ice cores was the recognition of very sudden, short-lived climate changes. The ice core records show that such abrupt climate changes

have been large, very rapid, and globally synchronous. Climate shifts, up to half the difference between Ice Age and interglacial conditions, occurred in only a few decades.

Ten major, intense periods of abrupt climate change occurred over the past 15,000 years and another 60 smaller, sudden climate changes have occurred in the past 5000 years. The intensity and suddenness of these climatic fluctuations is astonishing. Several times, temperatures rose and fell from 9–15° F in a century or less.

The dramatic melting of continental glaciers in North America, Europe, and Asia that began 15,000 years ago was interrupted by sudden cooling 12,800 years ago, dropping the world back into the Ice Age. Continental and alpine glaciers all over the world ceased their retreat and re-advanced. This cold period, the Younger Dryas, lasted for 1300 years and ended abruptly with sudden, intense warming 11,500 years ago. The climate in Greenland warmed about 9° F in about 30 years and 15° F over 40 years. During the Younger Dryas cold period, glaciers not only expanded significantly, but also fluctuated repeatedly, in some places as many as nine times.

Temperatures during most of the last 10,000 were somewhat higher than at present until about 3,000 years ago. For the past 700 years, the Earth has been coming out of the Little Ice Age and generally warming with alternating warm/cool periods.

Both Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age have long been well established and documented with strong geologic evidence. Georeff lists 485 papers on the Medieval Warm period and 1413 on the Little Ice Age for a total of 1,900 published papers on the two periods. Thus, when Mann et al. (1998) contended that neither event had happened and that climate had not changed in 1000 years (the infamous hockey stick graph), geologists didn't take them seriously and thought either (1) the trees they used for their climate reconstruction were not climate sensitive, or (2) the data had been inappropriately used. As shown in the 1,900 published papers, the Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age most certainly happened and the Mann et al. 'hockey stick' is nonsense, not supported by any credible evidence.

The oxygen isotope record for the Greenland GISP ice core over the past 500 years shows a remarkably regular alternation of warm and cool periods. The vertical blue lines at the bottom of the graph below show the time intervals between each warm/cool period. The average time interval is 27 years, the same as for time intervals between Pacific Ocean warm and cool temperatures as shown by the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (see below)

Global warming is real, but it did not begin in 1945 at the time of greatly increased CO₂ emissions. Two periods of global warming (1915–1945 and 1977–1998), and two periods of global cooling (1880–1915 and 1945–1977) occurred in the 20th century. Atmospheric CO₂ began to rise sharply right after WWII in 1945 but was accompanied by global cooling

for 30 years, rather than by warming, and the earlier warm period from 1915 to 1945 took place before CO₂ began to rise significantly.

During each of the two warm periods of the past century, alpine glaciers retreated and during each of the two cool periods glaciers advanced. The timing of the glacier advances and retreats coincides almost exactly with global temperature changes and with Pacific Ocean surface temperatures (PDO).

The Pacific Ocean has two modes, a warm mode and cool mode, and regularly switches back and forth between modes in a 25-30 year repeating cycle known as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). When the PDO is in its warm mode, the climate warms and when it is in its cool mode the climate cools. Glacier fluctuations are driven by climatic changes, which are driven by ocean surface temperatures (PDO).

During the cool PDO mode, ocean surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific are cool. This was typical of the global cooling from 1945 to 1977. During the warm PDO, ocean surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific are warm. This was typical of the global warming from 1977 to 1998. The abrupt shift of the Pacific from the cool mode to the warm mode in a single year (1977) and the beginning of the last warm cycle has been termed the "Great Pacific Climate shift." There is a direct correlation between PDO mode and global temperature

The ocean surface temperature in the eastern Pacific off the coast of North America was warm in 1997. In 1999, the PDO switched from its warm mode to its cool mode and has since remained cool as shown by satellite imagery. Adding the PDO record for the past decade to the PDO for the century provides an interesting pattern. The PDO 1915-1945 warm mode, the 1945-1977 cool mode, the 1977-1998 warm mode, and the switch from warm to cool mode in 1999 all match corresponding global climate changes and strongly suggest:

1. The PDO has a regular cyclic pattern with alternating warm and cool modes every 25-30 years
2. The PDO has accurately matched each global climate change over the past century and may be used as a predictive tool.
3. Since the switch of the PDO from warm to cool in 1999, global temperatures have not exceeded the 1998 high.
4. Each time the PDO has changed from one mode to another, it has stayed in that mode for 25-30 years; thus, since the switch of the PDO from warm to cool in 1999 has been entrenched, it will undoubtedly stay in its cool mode for another several decades.
5. With the PDO in cool mode for another several decades, we can expect another several decades of cooling.

In 2000, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC) predicted global warming of 1° F per decade and global warming of about 10° F by 2100. The red line on the graph below is their predicted temperature curve for 2000 to 2050. Note that by 2010, temperatures should be 1° F warmer than in 2000. That didn't happen so their climate models failed to predict even 10 years ahead.

The blue curves of projected cooling are based on the past PDO patterns for the past century and temperature patterns for the past 500 years. Three possible scenarios are shown: (1) global cooling similar to the global cooling of 1945 to 1977, (2) global cooling similar to the cool period from 1880 to 1915, and (3) global cooling similar to the Dalton Minimum from 1790 to 1820.

The possibility of temperatures dropping to the level of the Dalton Minimum is suggested by the recent passing of the sun from a solar grand maximum to a solar grand minimum similar to that of the Dalton Minimum. The unusually long sun spot cycle 23 and the solar magnetic index suggest that a solar minimum similar to the Dalton is very possible. A fourth possibility is that we may be approaching another Maunder type minimum and another Little Ice Age. Time will tell which curve is correct.

IMPACT OF GLOBAL COOLING

That global warming is over, at least for a few decades, might seem to be a relief. However, the bad news is that global cooling is even more harmful to humans than global warming and a cause for even greater concern because:

1. A recent study showed that twice as many people are killed by extreme cold than by extreme heat.
2. Global cooling will have an adverse effect on food production because of shorter growing seasons, cooler growing seasons, and bad weather during harvest seasons. This is already happening in the Midwestern U.S., China, India, and other places in the world. Hardest hit will be third world countries where millions are already near starvation levels.
3. Increase in per capita energy demands, especially for heating.
4. Decrease in the ability to cope with problems related to the population explosion. World population is projected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050, an increase of 50%. This means a substantial increase in demand for food and energy at a time when both are decreasing because of the cooling climate.

CONCLUSIONS

Numerous, abrupt, short-lived warming and cooling episodes, much more intense than recent warming/cooling, occurred during the last Ice Age, none of which could have been caused by changes in atmospheric CO₂.

Climate changes in the geologic record show a regular pattern of alternate warming and cooling with a 25-30 year period for the past 500 years.

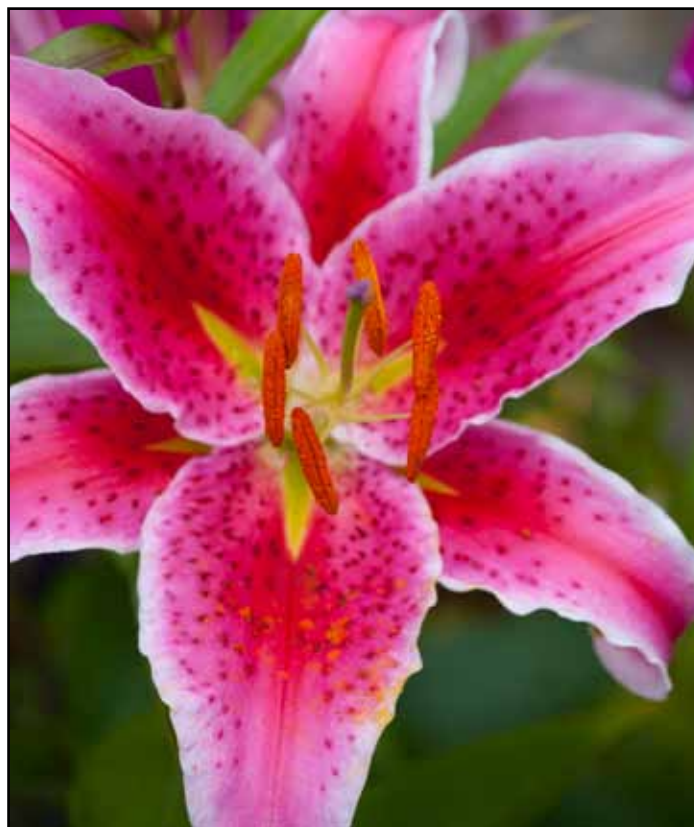
Strong correlation between solar changes, the PDO, glacier advance and retreat, and global climate allow us to project a consistent pattern into the future.

Strong correlation between solar changes, the PDO, glacier advance and retreat, and global climate allow us to project a consistent pattern into the future.

Projected cooling for the next several decades is based on past PDO patterns for the past century and temperature patterns for the past 500 years. Three possible scenarios are shown: (1) global cooling similar to the global cooling of 1945 to 1977, (2) global cooling similar to the cool period from 1880 to 1915, and (3) global cooling similar to the Dalton Minimum from 1790 to 1820.

Expect global cooling for the next 2-3 decades that will be far more damaging than global warming would have been.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.climatedepot.com/a/6574/Geologist-Declares-global-warming-is-over--Warns-US-Climate-Conference-of-Looming-Threat-of-Global-Cooling>



One of the delightful flowers in our garden

Heartland Institute: Audit of IPCC Procedures ‘a Vindication’ but ‘Too Modest’

The Amsterdam-based InterAcademy Council (IAC), a scientific body asked to audit UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) procedures, has determined the IPCC has improperly crossed the line of policy advocacy, is not transparent enough, is prone to conflicts of interest, and has made numerous alarmist assertions that are not supported by the scientific record. IAC recommends structural reforms to fix IPCC's flaws before IPCC's next report, due in 2014. The Heartland Institute for years has led criticism of the IPCC's determination to put politics over scientific rigor to promote the dubious theory of man-made global warming. Heartland has hosted four international climate conferences, established the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), and produced and distributed millions of copies of reports, videos and books – including the 800-page Climate Change Reconsidered, the only comprehensive critique of the latest IPCC report, published in 2009.

You may quote directly from these statements, or for more information contact Tammy Nash (tnash@heartland.org) or Jim Lakely (jlakely@heartland.org) at 312/377-4000.

“The InterAcademy Council report is too modest in its call for reform of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, but it is a vindication of what authors affiliated with The Heartland Institute have been saying for the past 15 years. It is unfortunate that it took the academic community so long to recognize and admit the flaws in the IPCC process that led it to commit the greatest corruption of science in the past hundred years.

“Spokespersons associated with The Heartland Institute have been disputing the alarmist claims of the IPCC since 1995. When our perspective was censored by the mainstream media, we circumvented them by distributing accurate information directly to approximately 200,000 of the nation's policymakers and opinion leaders. During the past five years, Heartland produced and distributed millions of copies of books, videos, and reports and hosted four international conferences on climate change. In 2009, Heartland published Climate Change Reconsidered, an 800-page report written by 38 scientists from more than a dozen countries and containing more than 4,000 references to articles in peer-reviewed journals.

“Opinion polls and recent political events reveal our efforts have paid off: Most people don't believe global warming is man-made or will be a disaster. Cap and trade is politically dead now and perhaps for years to come. The great global warming delusion is unwinding, and soon it will be largely forgotten. In this context, the InterAcademy Council report is a small but significant step toward sanity.”

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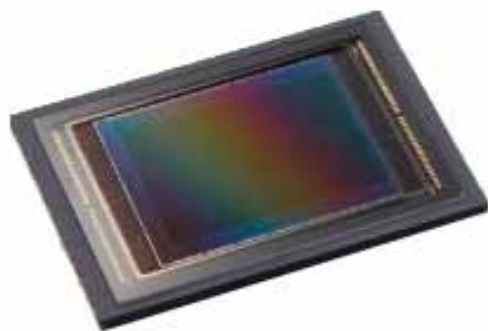
Alan's Reflections

Alan's Reflections

Regular readers will remember me writing about camera lenses some time ago - particularly about how digital cameras could now resolve more detail than film and had different characteristics that required different lenses to get the best from them. This was particularly the case for *full-frame* camera sensors (36 mm x 24 mm - an area of 864 mm²), which is the same size as the film used in 35 mm cameras. At long last the manufacturers, particularly Canon, are getting their act together and producing lenses that work better on digital cameras. However, the real downside is that they are very much more expensive than their earlier equivalents. An example of this is the Canon 70 - 200 mm f2.8 L IS zoom lens. In the UK (much cheaper in the USA), the original model costs about £1200. The new Mk. II model costs about £2200. For most people (including me!), spending an additional £1000 takes some justifying when it comes to purchasing one, yet Canon can't make enough of the Mk. II version to satisfy demand. Given that we're in a worldwide recession, I find that quite amazing.

Another possible downside is that sensor technology is developing so fast that I believe it will soon become impossible for lenses to resolve as much as the sensor - if it hasn't already. Just the other day I read that Canon had made a sensor that was only 28.7 mm x 19 mm in size yet had a pixel count of

approximately
120 million
pixels (13,280
x 9,184 pixels
- an area of
548 mm² - see
photograph left
© Canon Inc.)
- considerably
smaller
than a full-
frame sensor.



Whilst Canon say they don't have plans to develop this commercially, they certainly aren't producing these super high resolution sensors just for the fun of it. As I see it, this is way beyond the capability of even the best lenses to resolve and, in reality, the only practical way of obtaining these super high resolutions with even the new lens designs, is to use larger sensors with a lower pixel count per unit area - i.e. medium format sensors with larger photo-receptors, rather than using these high density, incredibly tiny photo-receptors on these small sensors. Of course it is common knowledge that resolution isn't everything. The size of each photo-receptor is a major factor in image quality. This is why serious photographers, professional and amateur (including myself), spend their hard-earned cash on cameras with full-frame sensors or even (unlike myself), cameras with medium format size sensors. Canon's highest resolution commercial CMOS sensor, employed in the company's EOS-1Ds Mark III and EOS 5D Mark II digital

SLR cameras, is equivalent to the full-frame size of the 35 mm film format and incorporates approximately 21.1 million pixels. Currently, the highest resolution of medium-format sensors is approximately 65 million pixels. It will be very interesting to see what happens with lens designs compared to sensor resolution during the next decade. I just hope I live long enough to see what happens. In the mean time, I am still using my four year old Canon EOS 5D (which I love using) with its 12.1 million pixel resolution, although I have gained a significant performance increase by using the 'L' series of lenses, even though the designs I'm using aren't always the latest versions available. Of course, if I ever upgrade my camera - maybe when there is a Canon EOS 5D Mk. III or Mk. IV (the Mk. II version has been out for some time) available, then I will have to think again about choice of lenses - but the cost is somewhat prohibitive. The cost of high resolution sensors is dropping all the time as the pixel count per unit area is increasing. However, the cost of making a full-size sensor can be up to twenty times that of making a sensor of APS-C size (23.6 mm x 15.7 mm - an area of only 370 mm²), so full-frame sensors will always be expensive - medium format sensors even more so.

However, all is not lost. Good results don't just depend on the lens and the resolution of the sensor. The greatest factor that affects the sharpness of one's photographs is camera shake. That's why serious photographers always use a tripod. But isn't it a pain to carry a tripod around for every shot? Yes! And this is why many of the better lenses now incorporate image stabilisation. And this is why many point and shoot cameras incorporate it too. I can never understand why so many people wave their cameras around at arms length trying to frame their subjects on a small screen on the back of their camera - and in bright sunlight too. How on earth do they manage to get any sort of picture at all? Mainly because the camera does most of the work for them - including trying to stop the shaking. Wouldn't it be more sensible to use a viewfinder? Of course, on many point and shoot cameras that would be impossible because a viewfinder isn't included. MAD! Obviously the solution is in their own hands - don't buy a camera unless it has a GOOD viewfinder! The image stabilisation will then do its job more effectively because you are holding the camera in a more stable position, and better shots (technically at least - the composition is still what photography is about) will be the end result. And so it is for the really good lenses. Yes, better glass and better design and tighter tolerances really do help. But all that fancy glass is wasted if you are waving it around and are unable to keep it perfectly still. If you can stop your camera shaking in the first place you'll really benefit from the fancy glassware. And if you have only got an inexpensive lump of glass on the front of your camera, you'll at least be able to make the most of what it is capable of - and that might be better than you think - or even better than you can easily discern in your photographs.

Just as I finished writing this on 1 September, my camera broke - again. More expense.

Alan



Gladiolli grown by Grace

