

SILEBY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

As President of the Society, John Hoogerwerf had the honour of presenting the final meeting of the current photographic year to the members at the Zoom meeting held on Monday, 7th June.

John had the freedom to present an 'Evening of his Choice' and his many digital images were captured on camera whilst on a cruise holiday with his wife in May 2015, sailing from Athens to Rome, incorporating many of the smaller islands in-between as they did so. John's interests in history, theology and unusual architecture were well satisfied on this cruise with the many pictures presented admirably supporting his full and descriptive narrative.

Their first port of call was to Thira (or Santorini), well known for the many white and blue houses clinging seemingly precariously to the hillside and also the impressive natural harbour, large enough for large ships to enter and rest within the caldera itself. A ride on either the cable car or a donkey enabled access to the sights above the caldera, and John's images captured the atmosphere of the busy town.

A guided tour undertaken in ancient Heraklion, Crete, provided opportunities for John to capture great images of the historical Palace of Knossos, a vast complex which housed royalty and local dignitaries in the past, with the archaeological remains still containing intricate artwork, excavated artefacts and evidence of the original structural design.

A trip to Rhodes, 14 miles from the Turkish coast, included visits to the many churches and monasteries which seemed to sit side by side, with the Arab influence of the occasional mosque making its presence felt. The beautiful architecture, quite luxurious and well maintained, translated well into excellent images.

On to Mykonos and a visit to Delos, its neighbouring tiny island, provided fascinating history and material for John's camera. White houses littered the hillside and the many temples and places of worship were once again in strong evidence, together with many archaeological sites including the 'Avenue of Lions' which had been well preserved.

Sailing continued and a visit to Valletta, Malta provided a mix of old and new buildings, often set side by side in this busy town of narrow streets. Lots of ecclesiastic buildings, with very ornate chapels and beautiful décor provided great images.

A visit to Sicily and Messina would not have been complete without seeing Mount Etna, an active volcano, with large craters having formed from lava flow over time. Contrasting images of the many churches, with different styles and materials, photographed well in the city of Messina.

Sailing on, a tour of Istanbul evidenced a modern city, lots of buildings including the Blue Mosque, and the very ornate and beautiful Topkapi Palace. Huge street markets abound and, of course, a box of Turkish Delight was a must.

Malcolm Coulton thanked John for his excellent presentation, full of interest and supporting narrative. This brought an end to the 2020-2021 photographic year, with the challenges of Zoom meetings having been successfully overcome – well almost!

As the Society has now reached the end of its official programme for the current photographic year, it is envisaged that Monday evening walks will take place, weather permitting, throughout the Summer months. Prospective new members are always welcome to come along to enjoy the local countryside followed by a visit to a local hostelry afterwards for liquid refreshment.

Further details relating to the activities of SPS are available to view on its comprehensive website.