

DEMA Show cancelled

It was sad but inevitable to read that the annual DEMA dive show 2020 has been cancelled and doubly sad because it was going to be held in New Orleans this year.

In recent years the alternating venues of Las Vegas and Orlando had become a bit 'samey' so 2020 was shaping up to be a great chance to combine work and play in equal measures but, sadly not to be.

For me, DEMA, wherever the venue, was a chance to meet up with friends and business colleagues old and new at the Image Centre and especially to have plenty of time to spend with Phil Rudin, our Senior Reviewer, chewing the cud and making plans for gear to review over the coming year.

Sure, there's e mail and Skype but there's no substitute for face to face get togethers with like minded enthusiasts and that's what makes them so enjoyable and productive.

I'm sure UwP issues over the coming 12 months will be as interesting and varied as ever but DEMA was a great time to get the new year off to an exciting start.

Fingers crossed all will be well at DEMA 2021.

Editorial

Backyard surprise

I have to admit, when I coined up the name 'My Backyard' as a new feature for UwP, I really wasn't thinking of Glasgow; or any other big city come to that. And yet Mark Kirkland's extraordinary images in this issue are testament to how many photographic possibilities there are, literally, on our doorstep.

Initially I had hopes of images taken shore diving, perhaps, on a calm sunny day where the combination was pleasant and images productive. Dan Bolt's excellent article in UwP114 fits that bill exactly but when it's 2am on a chilly March morning I wasn't expecting great images but how totally wrong was I.

I think Mark's images are world class in terms of photographic story telling and from a site most people would drive straight past on the way to the coast.

When I read up about Mark and his professional approach to try to make a living from underwater photography I, for the first time in a long while, insisted on paying industry rates for the right to use his images and text :-)

Olympus cameras

It's difficult to find any cheery news these days and the news that Olympus is looking to sell off its camera division is testament to that.

It seems the Japanese equity firm JIP, Japan Industrial Partners, are possibly in the running so there may still be some development light at the end of the tunnel but it just goes to show how photographic equipment sales and camera manufacturers have been so badly affected by the ubiquitous mobile phone and that was even before Covid.

The new normal

This is the term being banded about, now that the worldwide economy has been thrown into freefall. Social distancing is making a lot of companies unviable so they are pressurising the powers that be to relax the restrictions including overseas travel without quarantine upon return.

The dive industry is part of that lobby but in doing so they could be delivering the next wave of virus around the world which could lead to a second lockdown with even more frightening economic consequences.

Stay safe. Enjoy your backyard.

Covid competitions

The sudden arrival of the Covid lockdown, internationally, brought about several schemes to keep us occupied within our four walls and in the underwater photography world there were two competitions which captured the essence of the situation.

Unfortunately there were other competitions who saw it as an opportunity but they'll get no air space here.

The superbly British "Underbathwater Photographer of the Year 2020" got it just right. Free to enter, category free and the perfect combination of silly and serious.

UBWPY was the brainchild of Jim Standing of Fourth Element who got together the right team of organisers, publicists and judges in a very short space of time and got over 450 images all of which must have been taken specifically for the competition. Enjoy the creative winners later in this issue.

The other well thought out competition was Allison Vitsky's "Share our Air" but unfortunately the winners hadn't been chosen by the time UwP had to be published.

Watch UwP116 for those winners.

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com

www.uwpmag.com