



Moments in '21 ...

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a personal
record of 2021
in pictures

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mlt.photography



Bringing in the boat

Another year, a change of title. Twentyone Moments seemed a bit long!

A different form of organisation too, so the book is organised into sections starting on this page with Local shots, then ...

Family shots from page 17,

Birds, bugs and beasts from page 28,

Our "road trip" to "The North" - page 40,

Suffolk in the sun - page 56,

Discovering Llyn - page 67,

A return to Aber - page 77,

Pobol y Camera - page 87,

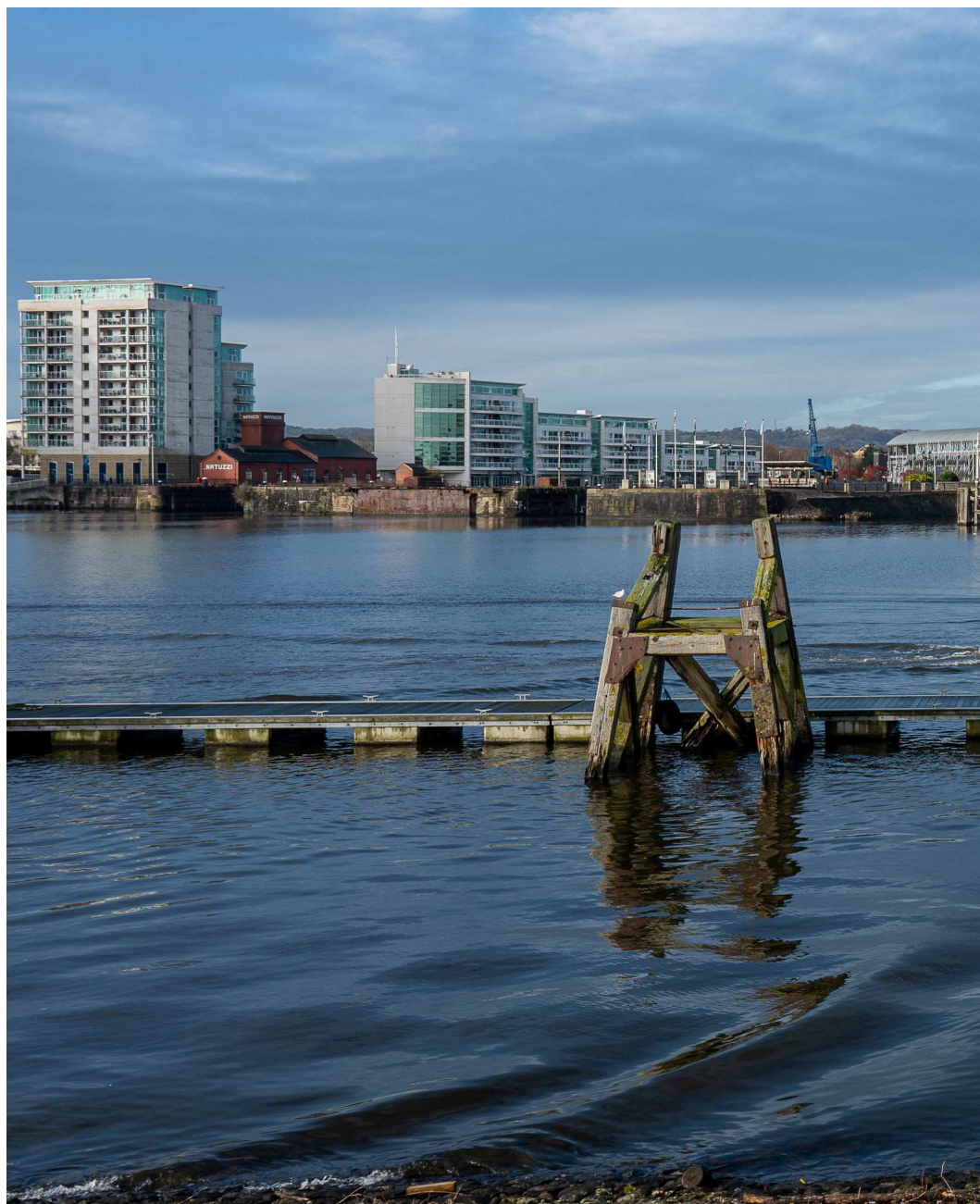
Piers and promenades - page 93,

The moon - page 112.

Obviously some photos could have been included in more than one category, so I have chosen to place them in the slot I think best represents them. You may disagree, but then does it really matter!

I hope you enjoy the shots from another strange "pandemic year". It'll be so good to just be able to wake up of a morning and think I'll just go and take some photos.

I'm anxious to get back to Australia and Scotland as well.





Cardiff Bay in the sunshine



Scott in a lens ball

Scott memorial and Norwegian church



Roath Basin reflections

Roath Basin skyview







Fisheye view of Millenium slate

Fisheye view of
Roald Dahl Plas





An exercise to get front to back sharp focus with attention being paid to “foreground interest”. Not so sure there’s too much of that but through using focus stacking I’ve been able to ensure real sharpness in the image from front to back.

This is taken from the Barrage looking towards Steep Holm and Flat Holm.

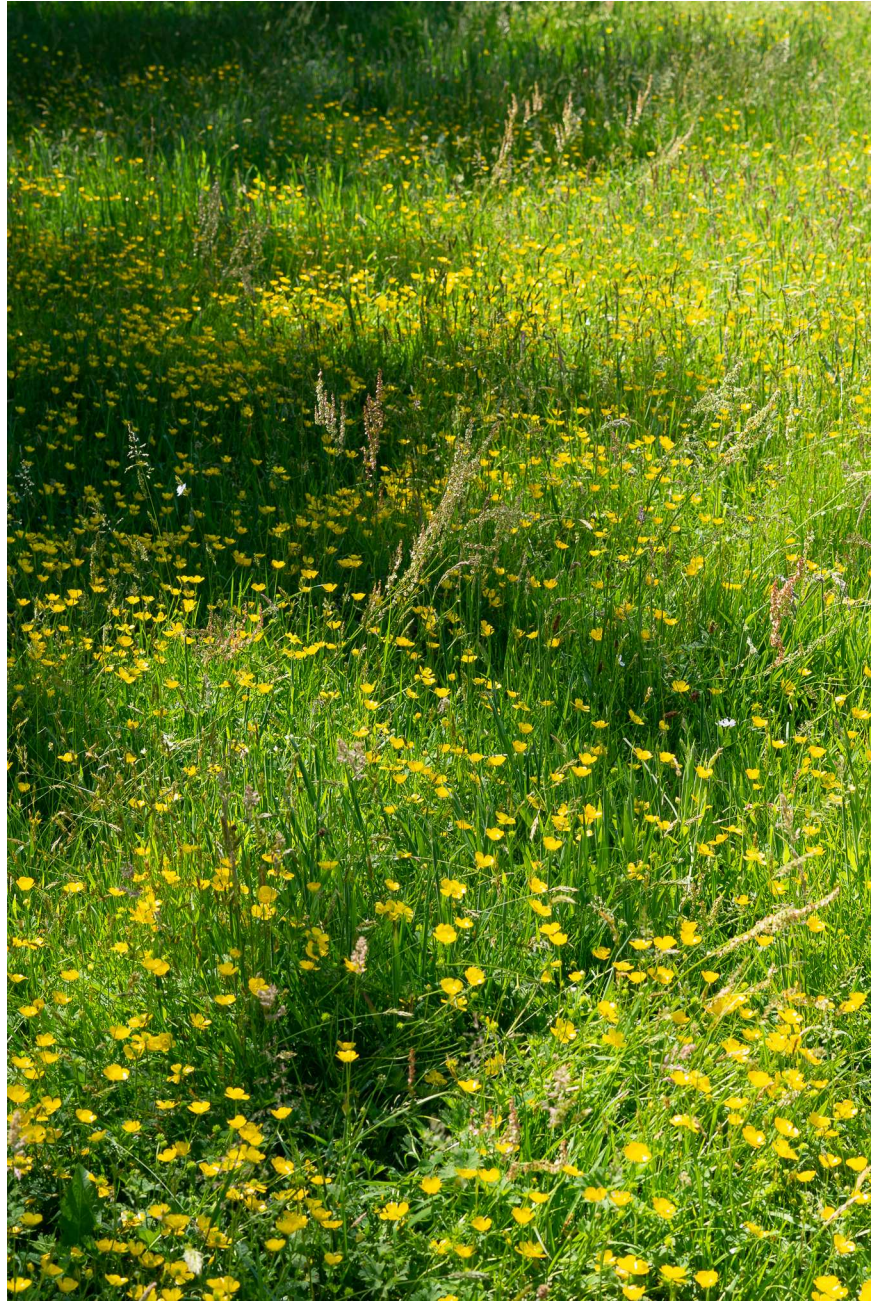
An interesting piece of art that can only be seen from one spot as you cross the barrage, otherwise you're left wondering what the strange fragments of yellow line are meant to represent. Get to the correct spot and it all becomes obvious.



Clever bit of art at Cardiff Barrage locks.



Counting the lock gates



Meadow in the field



The Engineer, Black Rock

The Net Fisherman, Black Rock







Prince of Wales Bridge



Penarth Town Centre



Attention to the TV



Words mean a lot to both of us

Martin at Mountain View Ranch showing steel, true grit and determination that the boys won't get the better of him - even if they did.



Determination - Martin



Tom gets air



James takes a jump



Intensity - Tom

James concentrating on the bend





Morfā Nefyn - Gail & Lyra



The artist at work - Llanbedrog



Gail at Porth Ysgo



Llanbedrog Beach





On top of Consti



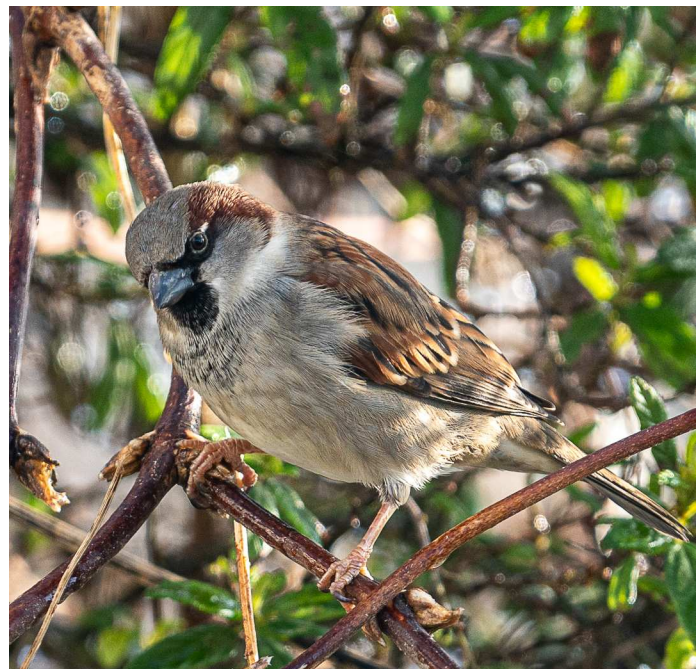
Inquisitive Starling



House Sparrow



Male blackbird in the snow





Blue tit



Magpie - preparing for the leap



Wood pigeon



Mr & Mrs Wood pigeon

"What are you doing?"

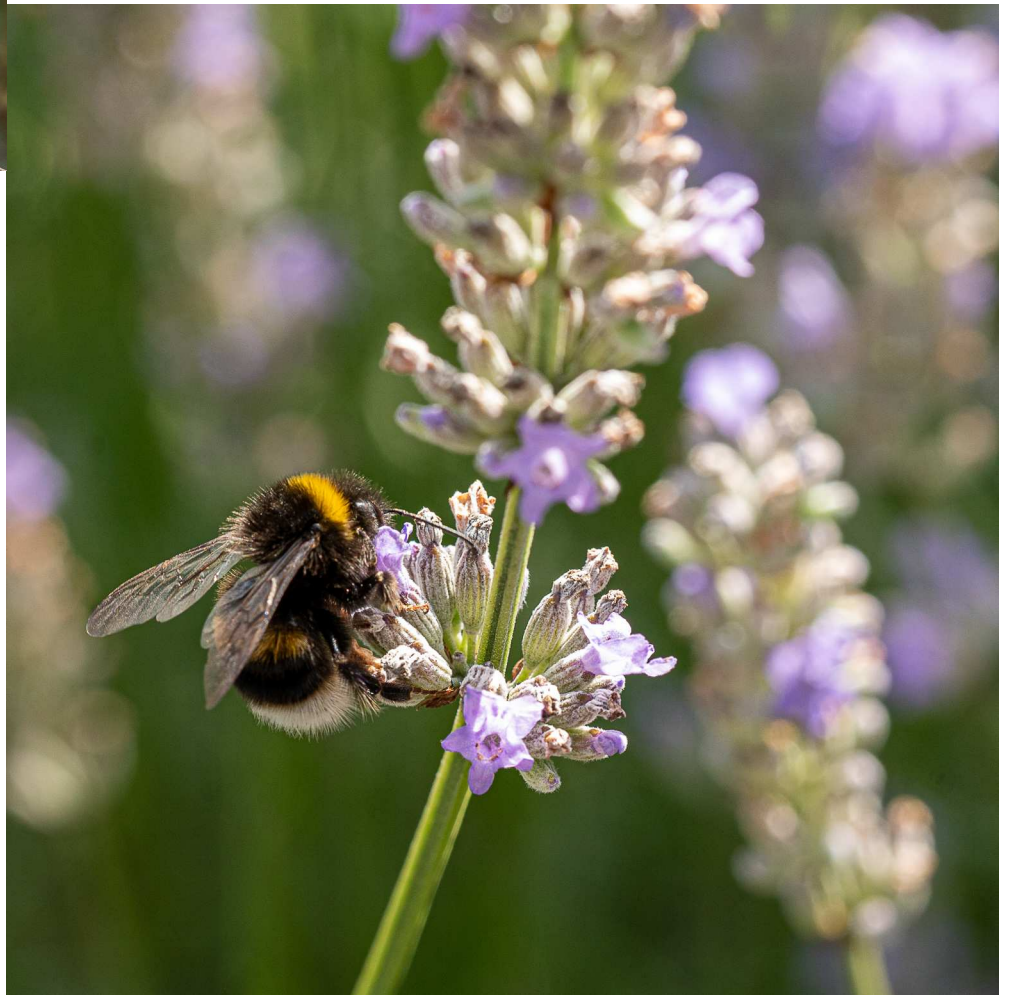


Straight back, eyes forward



Squirrel in Roath Park

Physic Garden, Cowbridge





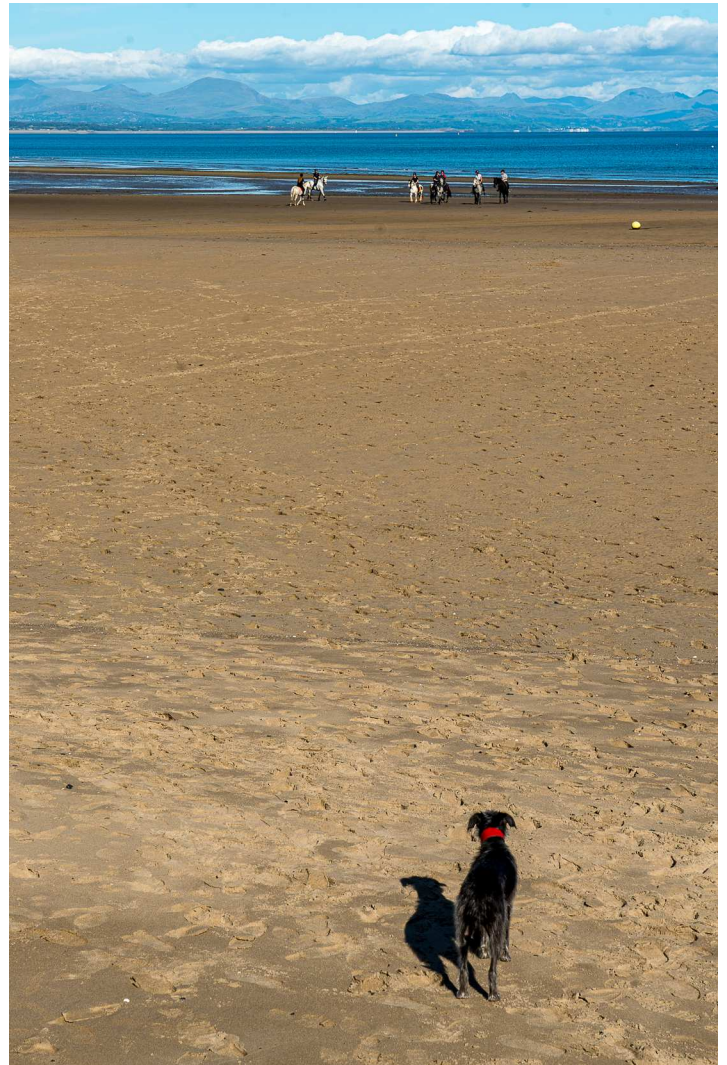
Sharing supper





Lyra on the rocks - Porthdinllaen

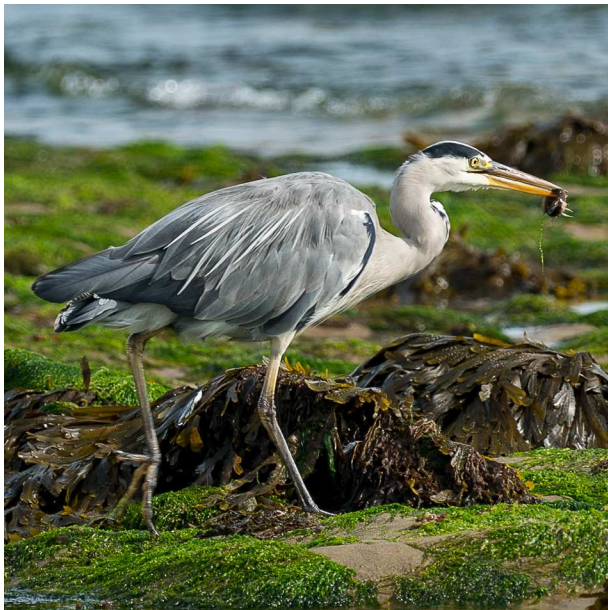
I don't like horses - Lyra at Abersoch







Horses and Cadair Idris



I approached this grey heron very slowly, although he didn't seem to have any care, or worry about my presence, and watched him/her stalk the pools on the waterline of the rocks and beach at Aberdaron. A nice set of shots I thought.

I had a lovely visit to Nant Gwrtheryn - the Welsh language centre up the coast from Nefyn. Whilst having a cup of coffee this little fellow came down to join me. He must have known I was looking to take some pictures that morning - as soon as the sun came out - and it did! I was on my way to pick up Jenny from Caernarfon. She'd been on the Tfw Cardiff - Holyhead through train. Apparently it's been upgraded since her journey, and is a welcome addition to Wales' connectivity. Keep up the good work DeeJay. [I suspect he had absolutely nothing to do with routes and timetabling. In fact I know he didn't.]



Robin on the rail - Nant Gwrtheyrn



On my birthday we went to Gigrin Farm, just outside Rhayader (during our stay in Capel Bangor) and the sight of all the Red Kites coming in for their feed was truly amazing. I'd previously watched them feeding at the Red Kite Centre at Llandeussant, but it was nowhere near as spectacular as this. It would be impossible to count how many were there, as it was equally impossible to get any decent pictures. They just moved so quickly. Still, this shot gives a feel of the event.



Seeking attention, Cwm Rheidol Reservoir

I've got my eye on you, Nant-y-Moch





We started our "road trip" to "The North" with Alan & Ros who took us to the woods on the sand dunes at Formby. We didn't see any red squirrels unfortunately, but did have wonderful open-air bacon sandwiches. It was great to see them again - it had been 18 months since we last met in Shrewsbury for Christmas Lunch - and let's just hope it won't be as long again.



"Another Place" - Anthony Gormley, Crosby Beach





"Another Place" and wind farm - Crosby Beach

"Another Place" with Al & Ros





Next stop was a couple of nights with Liz & Chris during which they took us to Arley Gardens. I could have included so many pictures of the wonderful display of shrubs we saw, but felt that maybe they would make good letter cards, so I'll save them for that. The hall is not open to the public generally, but the gardens are, and we had a great visit even though it threatened rain.



Liz, Chris & Jen at Arley Gardens



Deep in thought at
Arley Gardens

Liz & Jen at Arley
Gardens





We then moved on to Sheffield where in addition to meeting up with Rick & Laura, Stuart & Chris, Doug & Joan and Robin & Sheila, we spent a lovely day and evening with Chris and Carol who took us to Hardwick Hall. Here it was the house that was the feature rather than the gardens and learning about Bess of Hardwick Hall, the links to Mary Queen of Scots; viewing the amazing beds and art collection was a real treat.

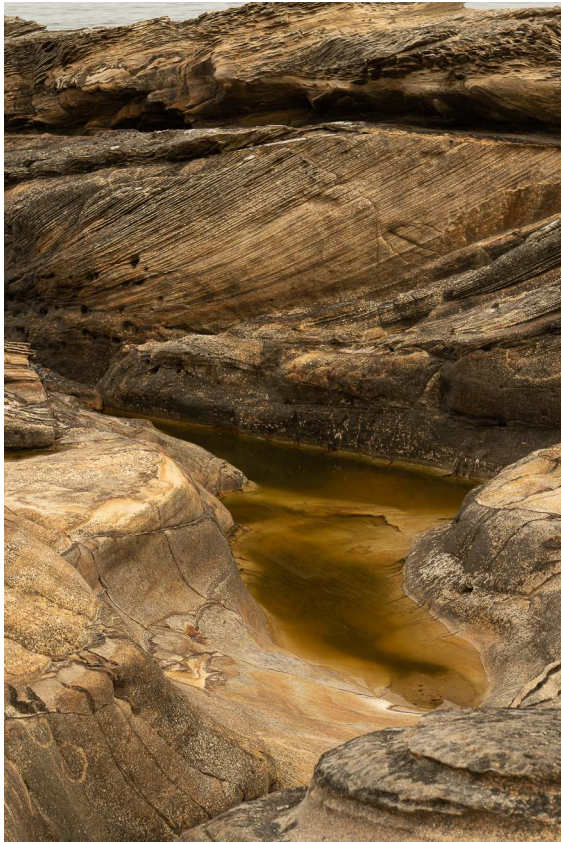
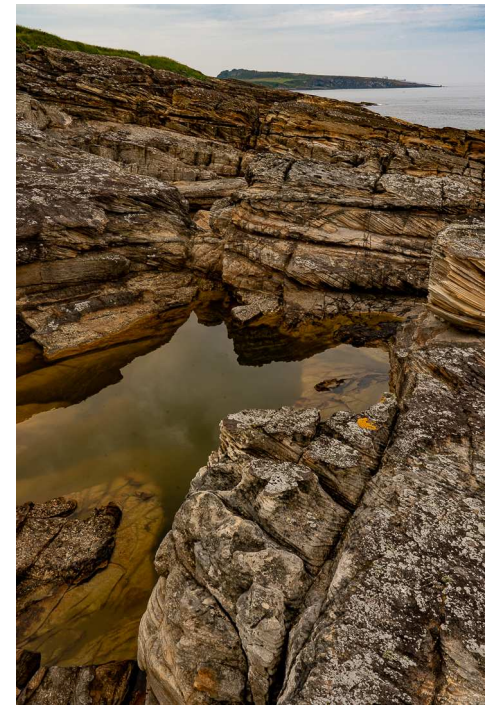




Our final round of visits with friends and family (before we made for Leeds via Whitby and Ripon) was a trip to the North East to stay with Roy & Chris. I indicated I'd quite like to visit Howick again as my previous trip with photographer David Taylor had been not as successful as I'd hoped it might be due to not getting the focus right on some of the pictures. Much better this time, and we had a great visit, going to Tynemouth and Whitley Bay as well. Roy, like me, had been through major surgery this year and we were able to swap medical experiences.



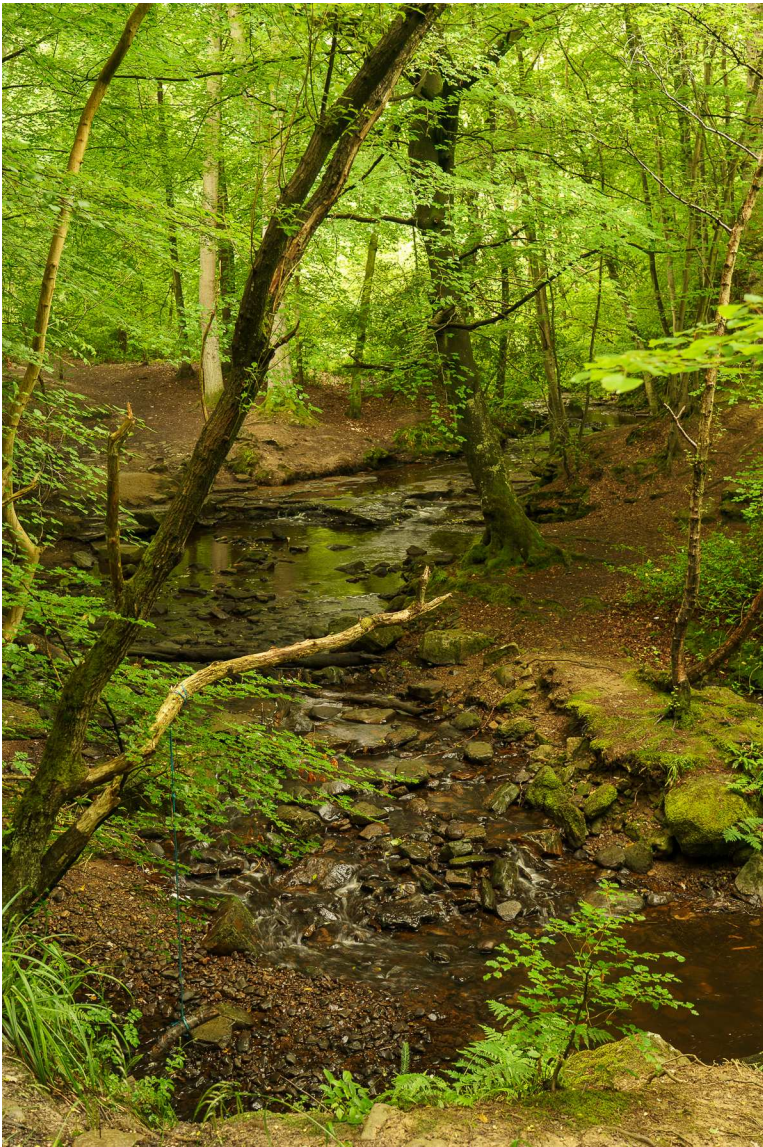
Howick - rock pools



I find the patterns in the rocks and the pools absolutely fascinating at Howick. The basic rock is sandstone and you can see the many unconformities of the ancient sand dunes quite clearly. Then there is evidence of injection of gas volatiles from the nearby sills and dykes, one of which Dunstanburgh Castle stands on - see the image above.

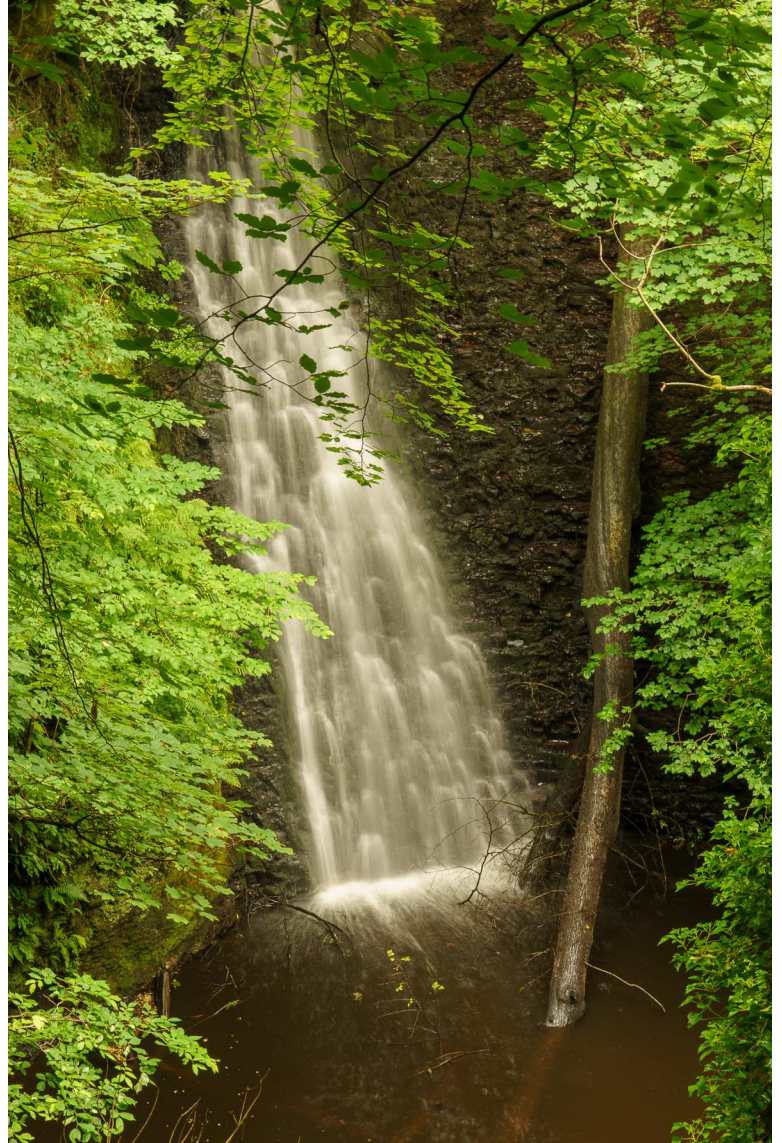
A description of this day would not be complete without recording the sighting of a school of dolphins making their way up the coast and performing for us as we walked back to Craster.

A great day which ended in the pub as the sun came out. We were (at least Roy and I) quite tired after the longest walks we had done since our operations, and I was carrying my camera bag as well - just to see if I could do it. [I decided after this experiment to buy a smaller bag and carry less lenses and try to use prime lenses more, rather than heavy zoom ones.]



May Beck above Falling Foss

Falling Foss



Crossing the line - quickly



Adverts at Goathland Station



Station and bridge



Pandemic passengers

Train leaving from Platform 2





Canal basin at Ripon

Our stay in Whitby had included the essential visit to The Magpie for fish and chips (excellent as usual), a walk up May Beck and coffee at Falling Foss, and a visit to Goathland and Grosmont where we were fortunate enough to coincide our arrivals with trains. We then moved on to Ripon - staying at the excellent "Old Coach House", and visiting Ripon and York - far too busy and anxiety provoking for us - before we drove through The Dales to Leeds to stay with Gail and Martin for the weekend. Altogether - an excellent trip; great to catch-up with so many old friends and family members, but very tiring. We were glad to get back to Cardiff.



Paper birds in Ripon Cathedral. Such an unusual decoration.



A lovely place to stay - Stainley



Robin's Hood Bay



"Make love to the camera" - a reprise.

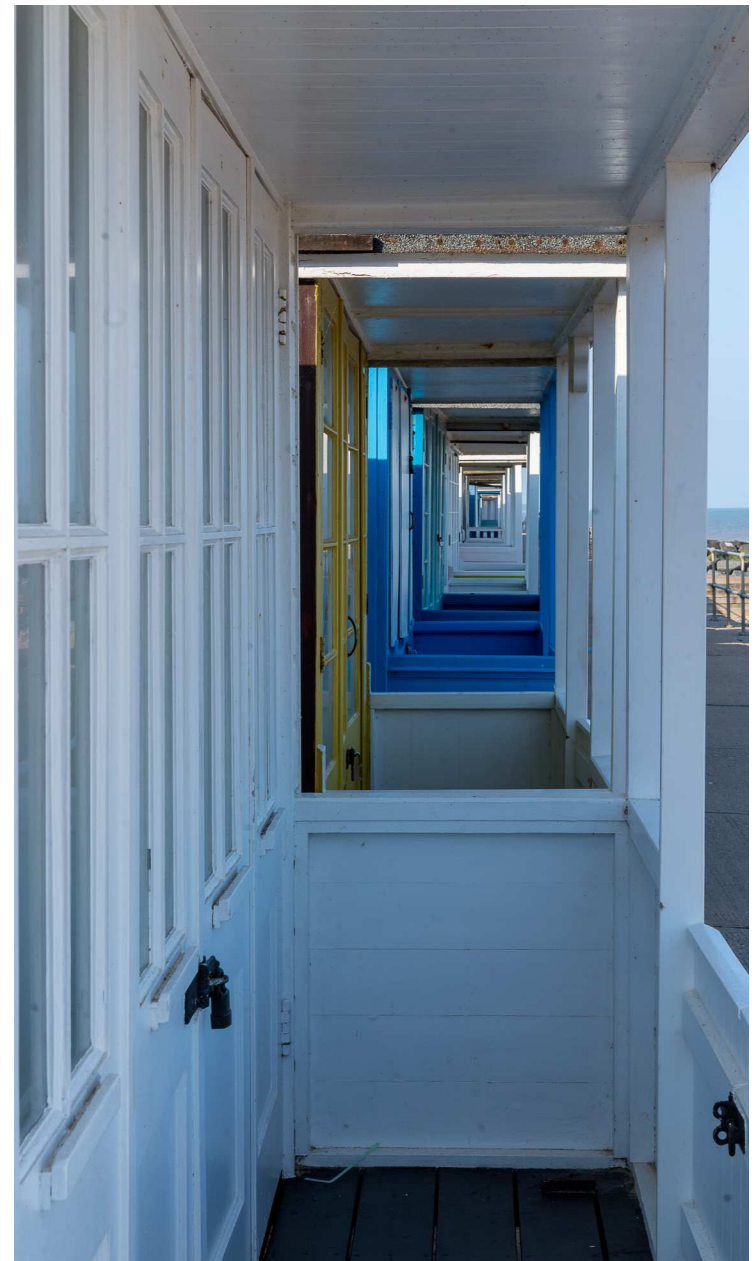
On a visit to Southwold in 2006 I asked Jenny to pose in front of the lighthouse and Sole Bay Inn, only for us to be heckled with cries of "Make love to the camera". So ... on our return visit with my sister, Jane, I just had to take a picture again.





Back of the Fox & Goose, Fressingfield

We stayed in a lovely cottage in a small village called Cratfield, inland from Southwold but well located to visit the eastern part of the county. The sun shone all week. Apart from visiting Southwold - a long forced march to view the sun setting over the estuary and get some chips - we also visited Aldeburgh (more fish and chips), Snape Maltings, Covehithe, and lots of churches, halls and gardens on the way. Also taking in Sutton Hoo and Framlingham. We didn't waste a minute and had a wonderful holiday. We both like Suffolk a lot and hope to return another time.



Southwold





The sun sets at Southwold Marina



Framlingham Castle

Helmingham Hall



Through roses to Helmingham Hall



Chocolate box shot at Cavendish

Kentwell House, Long Melford



Gardens at Kentwell House, Long Melford





Wavy wall at Bramfield



Detached bell tower of St Andrew's, Bramfield



Wenham



The Wenham Doom, St Peter's Church



The Priory, Blythburgh

Holy Trinity, Blythburgh



Roof of Holy Trinity, Blythburgh



Pews at Blythburgh



St Andrews, Covehithe



Guildhall at Lavenham





The first concrete bridge in GB, Homersfield



Our second trip of the autumn took us to Nefyn on the Llyn Peninsula. For the first part of the week it was just Gail, Lyra and me; Jenny joined us for the latter half having travelled up by train from Cardiff to Caernarfon. This is a shot of the house on the beach at Morfa Nefyn with its impressive sea defenses.

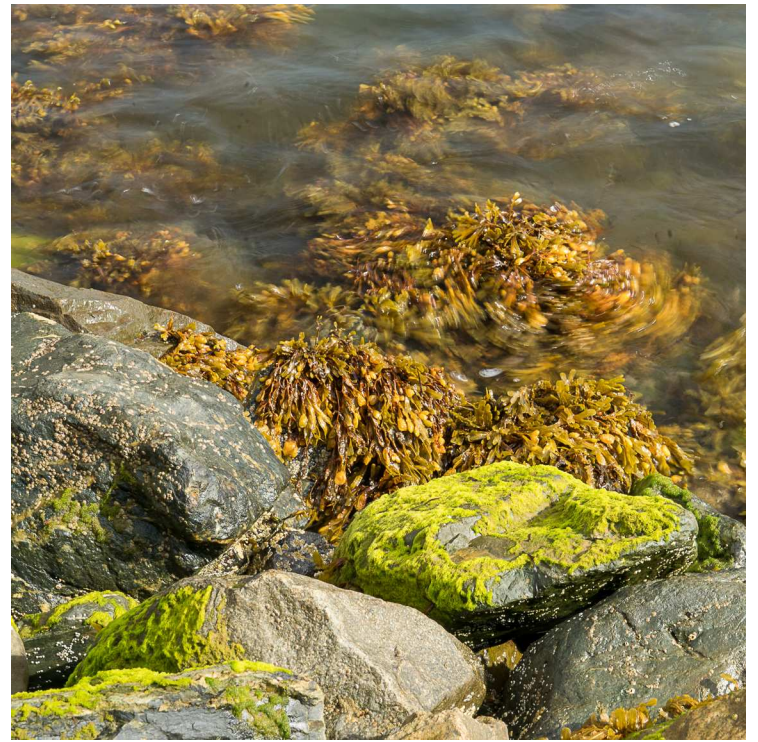


Follow the anchor chain



Ty Coch & Porthdinllaen

Pools at Porthdinllaen



Swirling seaweed - Morfa Nefyn

A nice safe beach for swimming, a golf course, a lifeboat station, cliffs, rock pools, swirling seaweed and a pub - The Ty Coch Inn - Porthdinllaen has it all.



Abersoch looking towards Cadair Idris

Quarryman's cottage at Nant Gwrtheyrn





Caernarfon harbour



A look in the mirror



Sunset at Morfa Nefyn



Sunset and beach huts at Morfa Nefyn



Surplus to requirements, Stryd y Lland, Nefyn

You might grow up to be as big as me!



The fisherman and Cwm Rheidol Falls



Our final holiday took us to Capel Bangor, near Aberystwyth. The original plan was to have a weekend with Ruth and Ross and the boys, before Jenny's brother and sister (Roy and Di) and Chris and David joined us. However Covid was to come into play and the Penarth folk weren't able to join us. We therefore spent a couple of days re-visiting the place we met over 50 years ago. A walk down memory lane indeed with visits to The Cabin and walks along the prom. The shot above is of Rheidol Falls - engineered as part of the Hydro-electric scheme back in the 1960's. The house we were staying in was just downstream of here beside the river.



Cwm Rheidol Reservoir

Cwm Rheidol Reservoir

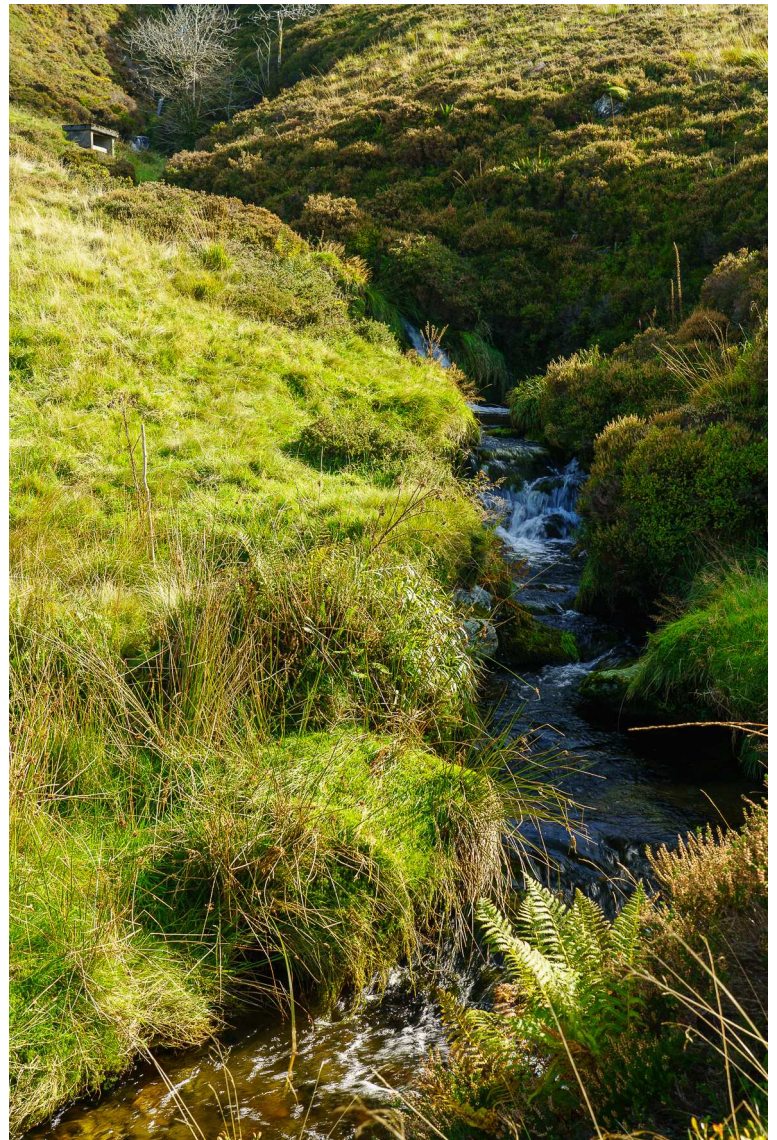
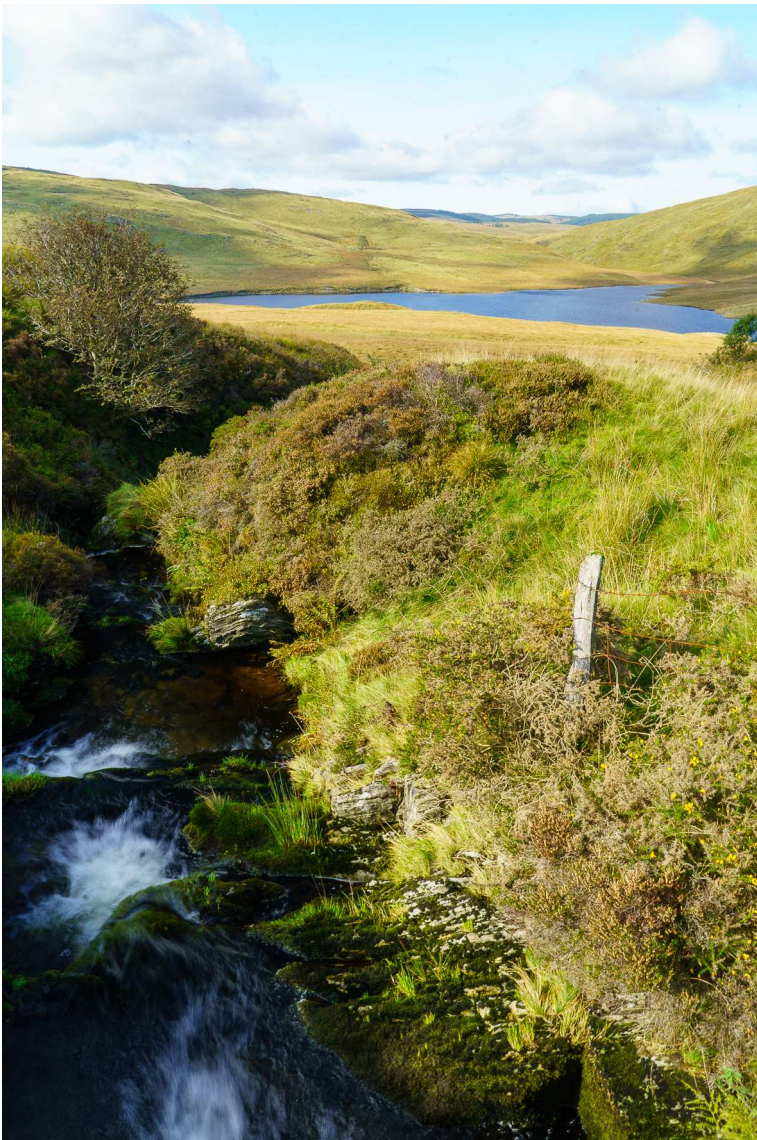




Nant-y-moch Reservoir and Dam

Nant-y-moch looking towards Pumlimon





The Maesnant stream flowing down into Nant-y-Moch. I wasn't able to get up to the spot where Rick and I did some of our data gathering but thought (for posterity if nothing else) I ought to record the location where quite possibly my career in computing started. Without all the data that I collected as part of the research, I wouldn't have needed to use a computer and learn how to program, etc. So this stream has a lot to answer for!

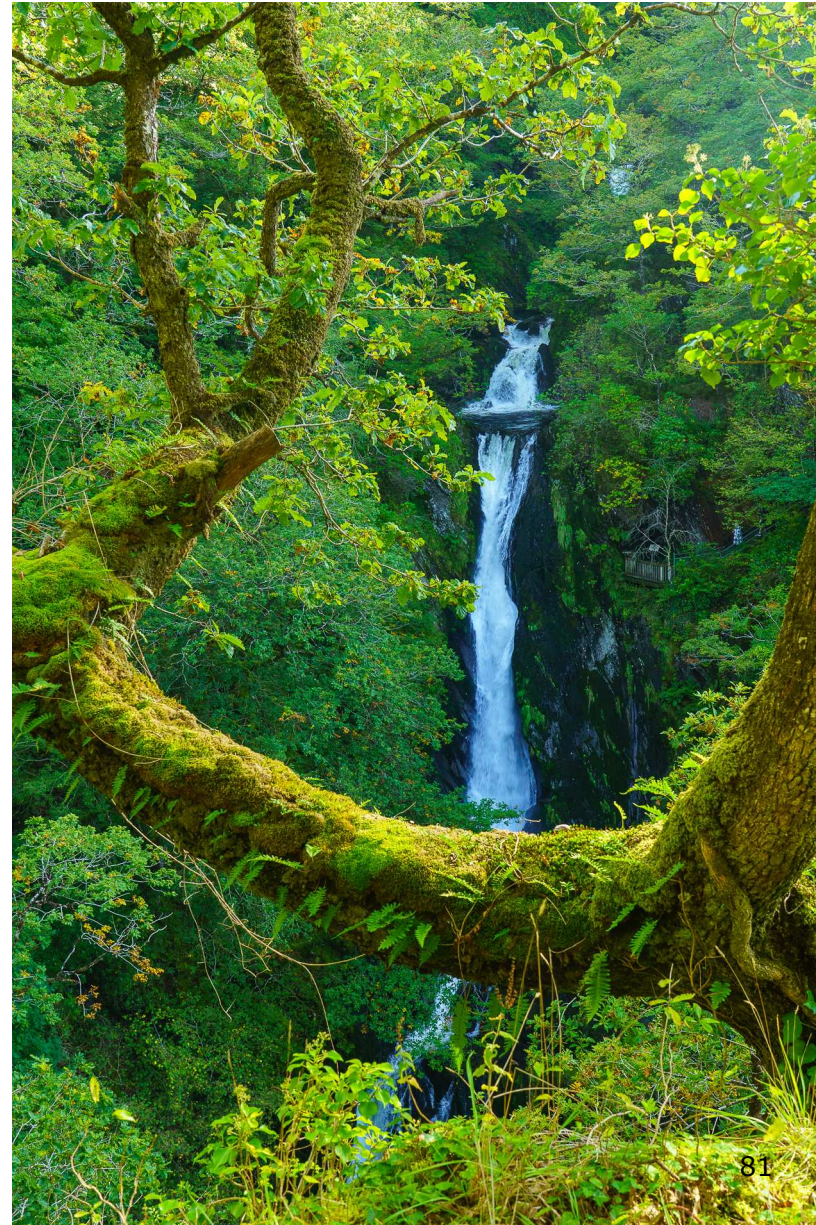


Waterfall on Afon Mynach

Devil's Bridge



Afon Mynach at Pontarfynach





The riverside view from the house we rented for the week. Complete with hot tub overlooking the river we watched the river rise and fall as the reservoir emptied. I had an interesting chat with an engineer from the power station - we weren't allowed to visit (Covid) - and he explained how they let the water out gently so as not to disturb wildlife, and similarly shut the flow down gradually so that fish didn't get stranded.

Harbour reflections, Aberystwyth

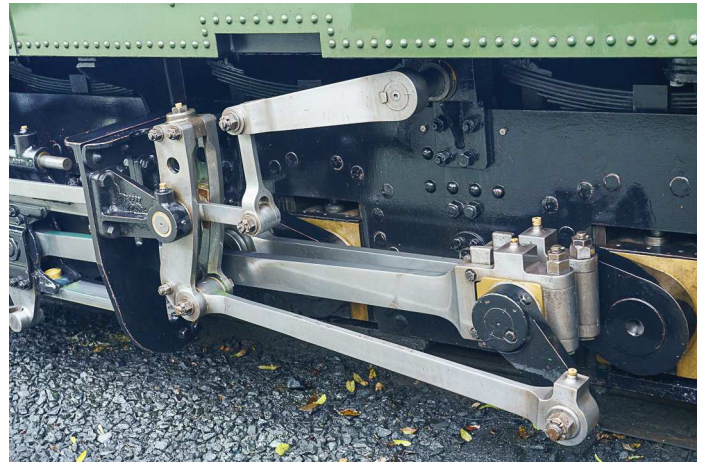


Harbour reflections, Aberystwyth



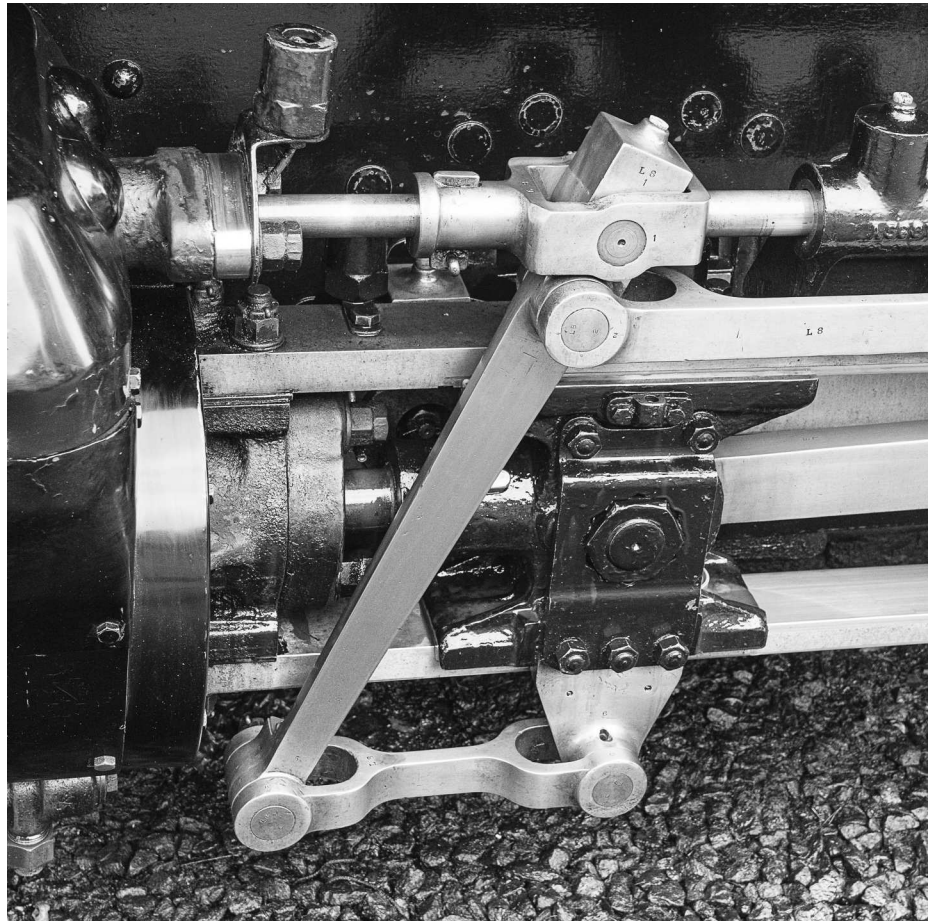


A trip on the Devil's Bridge Railway had been planned for "the boys", but that was not to be. However Roy and Christine indicated that they'd like to do the trip, so with uncertain weather we joined the train and had a pleasant afternoon marvelling at how beautiful the Rheidol Valley is, and wondering why we'd never really appreciated it's beauty before!



Some shots of the engineering relating to the train we travelled on.

Spotless, lovingly cared for, but certainly not environmentally friendly, one wonders what the future holds for conservation railways, not to mention canal boats!





Rheidol Valley from the train





Having my break



Would you mind if I took your photo?

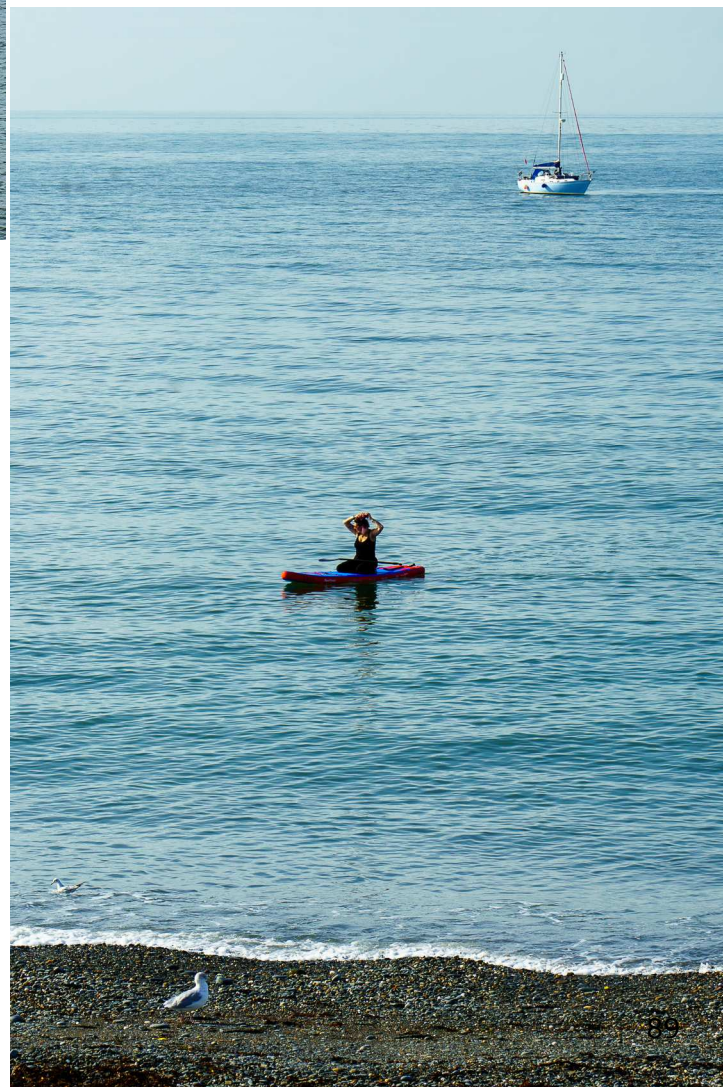
Photographing the ducks, Aberystwyth





Paddle boarding at Porthdinllaen

Adjusting my hair, Aberystwyth





Can I take your photo?



How much will you pay me?



Attending to the pistons



Martyn Joseph at Acapela - 1



Martyn Joseph at Acapela - 2



Barbara Dickson at Acapela



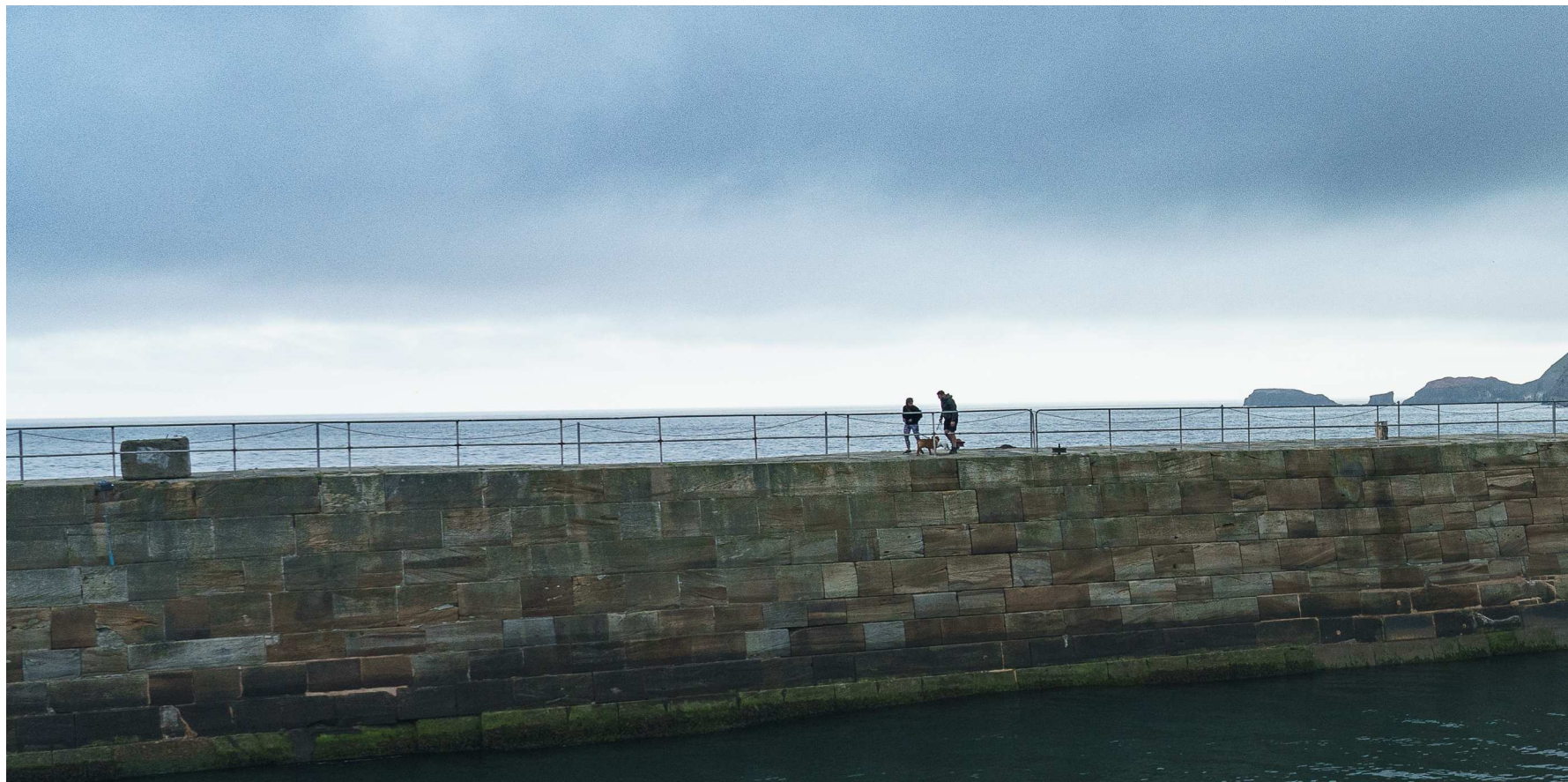
Penarth pier







The pier has emerged from the mist 95





The breakwater at Whitby





Pier at Southwold



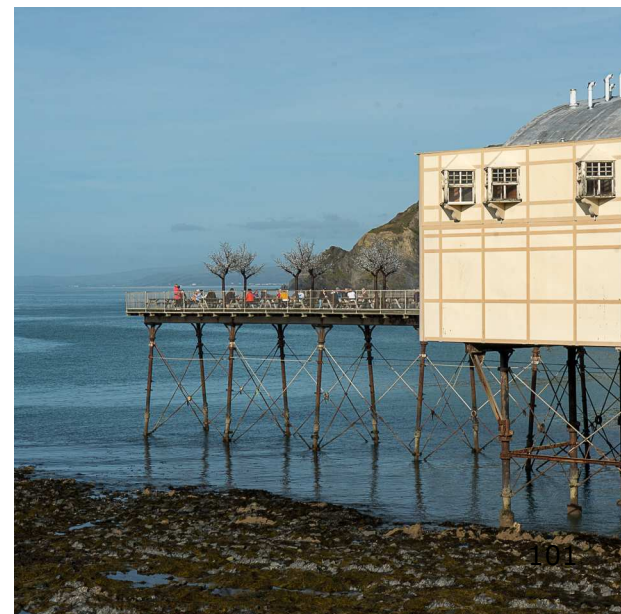
The harbour at Trefor (above) and the esplanade at Pwelli, looking towards Snowdon





The southern breakwater, Aberystwyth

A pier with trees?







Sunset and the pier





Consti and the prom - Aber



The end of the clear sky







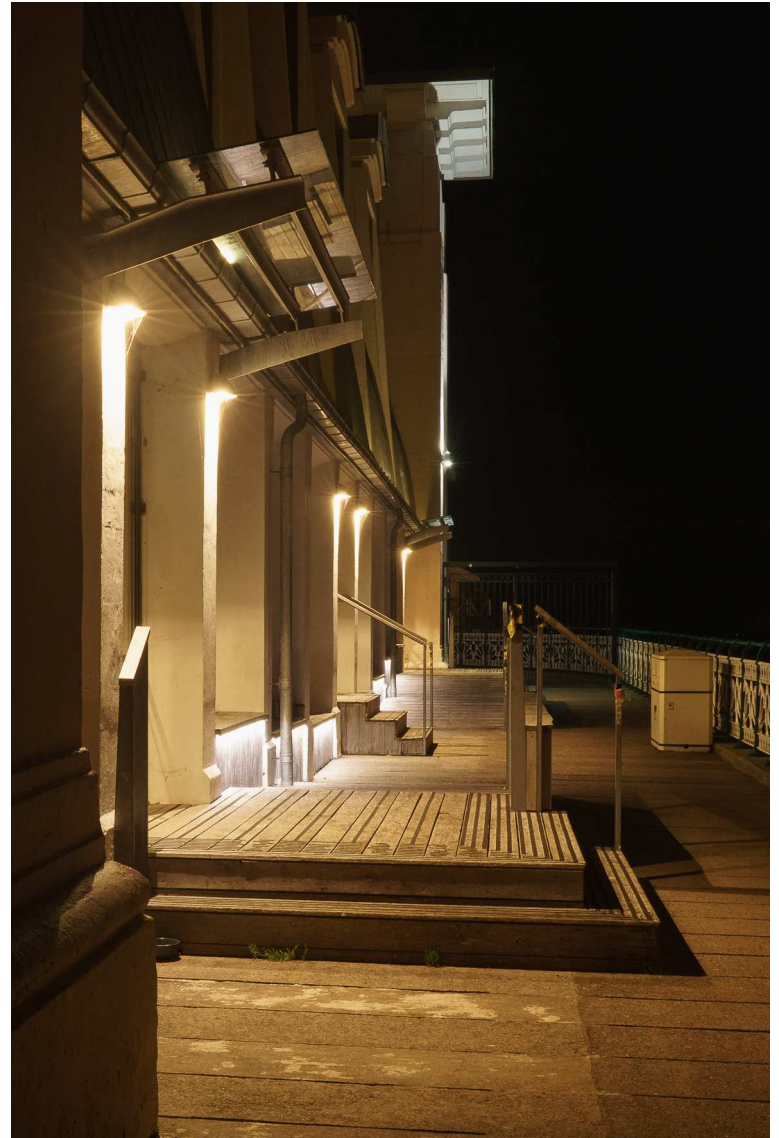
Esplanade and pier



Pier panorama



Ready for a performance



White is bright



Super Moon in B&W and Super
Resoluiton

The snow moon





Full moon over the field

And so I end the year with an image taken right at the end of 2020, the 13th Full Moon of the year - a relatively unusual occurrence I believe. Anyway, some of the best shots of the year have involved the moon, or night lighting, so it seems appropriate. I hope you've enjoyed the pictures, and the different way of displaying them. Hopefully 2022 will see us able to get out'n'about more freely and the creative juices will continue to flow.

All the best for the new year.



Designed using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom

