

## Review: David Keep ARPS DPAGB FBPE AFIAP 'Underwater Photography'

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

<https://www.davidkeepphotography.co.uk/>

David usually gives his presentations to camera clubs but he adapted his material and talk with perfection for our U3A audience, pitching it to suit the experienced photographers amongst the group as well as those who do not belong to a camera club. We had an extra bonus at the start as well, as David gave us information on how to get the best from our Zoom sessions.

Comments from the Zoom 'chat' facility and received afterwards summed up the high quality of David's fascinating and informative presentation.

*"Technically superb, artistically brilliant and David has clearly put his own stamp on his photography." "Thanks a lot that was fab." "Brilliant video quality David."*

*"Thursday's Zoom meeting with David Keep and his underwater photography was a great success. The quality of the videos and stills (via Zoom) was super - and his presentation experience shone through."*

*"Amazing videos and photos David." "I even felt scary in several parts which was ridiculous - it was just sensing the sheer drama and size of those sharks and the croc.) I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation in every aspect - it was great!"*

David's presentation had everything, especially drama with the build up to a scene; the location and information of what we were to see, e.g. the second largest shark in the world, the Hammerhead Shark with brilliant night vision. Then photos and video of all the preparation with plenty of fish 'the chum' as bait and the anticipation of what was going to appear with David diving through the sharks. It was no surprise to learn that David was his most nervous descending and moving round the circling sharks. It was worth it though to see the video of the shark disappearing with the bait box, followed by David's stunning photos of the huge Lemon shark, a Caribbean Reef shark with its streamlined body and then of course the massive Great Hammerhead.

Just when we thought it couldn't be surpassed we saw the majesty, textures and patterns of David's turtles with their keen eyes. David is certainly adventurous and always looking for those definitive shots. He had admired photographer's split shots of half underwater and half above water in one scene and was determined to secure his own. So much so that he ventured into a mangrove swamp alone and afterwards produced a surreal and superb video of his experience with well-matched music.

As David showed us his incredible shots of saltwater crocodiles off Cuba a question came up on the Zoom chat function. "How close are you?" In these days of Lockdown we could easily visualise David's reply: "Less than 1 metre!"

Finally David shared his magnificent shots of diving gannets. Most of us would be pleased to secure gannet shots as they move through the sky and on the water but David really showed us his mastery as a diver and a photographer with his dynamic photos of gannets feeding under the sea. So clear, sharp and expressive depicting the fast moving gannets. Thank you David for a fabulous inspiring session. Wholeheartedly recommended.

Christine Chittock, Exmouth and District U3A Speakers' Organiser.