



East Finchley man wins top British Photography Award

Steve Bloom of East Finchley is the winner of the prestigious "1997 Power of Photography Award", sponsored by Britain's biggest magazine publishing group, IPC. The awards ceremony took place after a lavish dinner at the headquarters of The British Association of Film and Television Arts. The evening was hosted by Britain's biggest-selling photography magazine, *Amateur Photographer*.

Two photographers were honoured with special awards for outstanding achievements in the field of photography. The renowned American photographer, Eve Arnold, won the "Lifetime Achievement Award" and Steve Bloom won the "Power of Photography Award" for his innovative application of digital imaging to create unique wildlife pictures.

Full Bloom

The award was made on the strength of a portfolio of photographs taken, predominately, in South Africa's game parks. Steve Bloom's pictures are often controversial because of his use of computers to enhance and refine images.

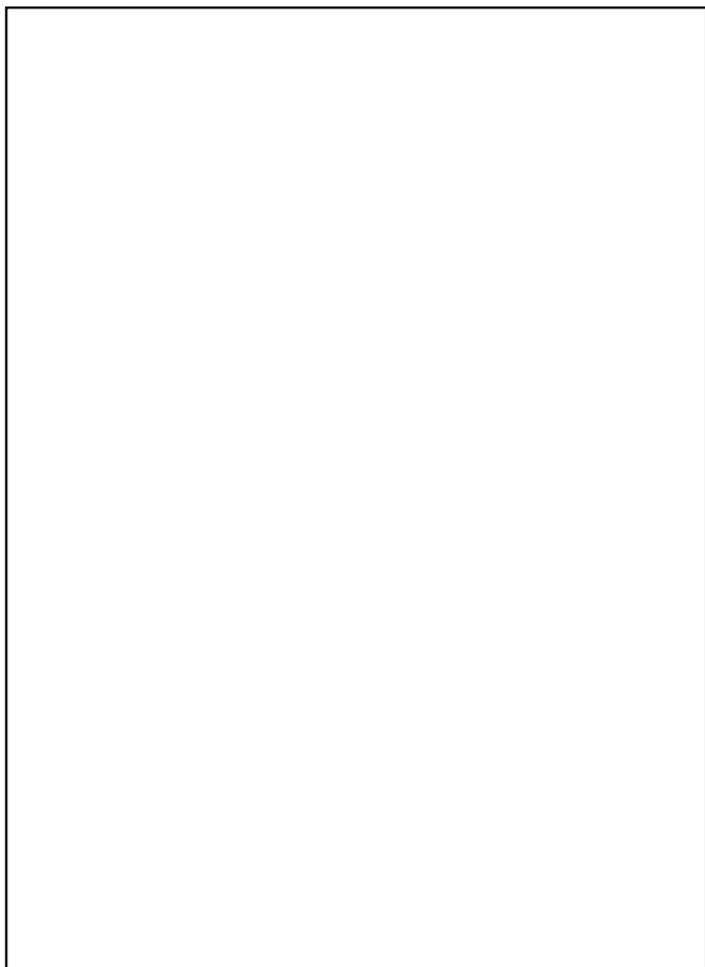
His pictures of South African wildlife have appeared in countless publications and diverse appearances include telephone cards in Japan, buses in South America, cushions in Taiwan, calendars and posters worldwide. He was commissioned to provide the pictures for the 1997 Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa Calendar.

Wild-eyed

The judging was based on innovation and aesthetics and was in no way related to the commercial viability of the pictures. "I'm pleased the award went to a wildlife portfolio," said Steve, "wildlife photography does not usually get the recognition it deserves in the field of fine-art photography, so naturally I am greatly honoured."

In the same week, Steve won The Mitsubishi Digital Imaging award for the best computer-generated illustration. This highly sought-after award will be presented to him at the Focus in Imaging show in Birmingham later this month.

Steve Bloom's pictures can be seen on the Internet at <http://www.stevebloom.com>. Telephone 883 4831 for further information.



The Beast of Cherry Tree Woods? No, Steve Bloom's award winning lion picture.

HP Sauce

A personal view by Noel Lynch

A delegation of East Finchley traders visited the Houses of Parliament on 17th February to have talks with John Marshall MP about rates etc. Mr Marshall later took us on a tour of the Palace of Westminster.

It was stunning! The House of Lords was mind boggling with gold and gilt everywhere! The House of Commons was very grand, but with not as much gold. Both Houses are much bigger than is apparent on TV.

Bull doze

We sat in on the big BSE Crisis debate. I was not impressed with either the level of debate or with the demeanour of MPs. While visitors in the gallery were not allowed to read books or newspapers, the Hon Members seemed to be doing everything except listen to the debate!

Several members were doing their correspondence, stuffing envelopes and reading books. Two seemed to be having a waltz, while most were just gossiping. In fact, during the closing debate, the Speaker had to call "Order" on three separate occasions, warning that there was too much private conversation going on!

The Minister of Agriculture and John Prescott were sprawled on their seats with their feet on the table of the House by the despatch boxes. As for the debate, insults were flying in all quarters.

A female Labour front bench member was called "A Red

Dwarf", another member's wig got a mention. A backbencher accused another of living too close to an electric transmitter and having his brain microwaved, while the Minister of Agriculture was referred to as being as "popular as a rattlesnake in a lucky dip"!

Syrupy speech

What amazed me was that neither side had any perception of how people are feeling. The Government accused Labour and The Daily Mirror, while Labour blamed the Government. Nobody seemed concerned that people just want safe food!

Other memories:

John Major's red tie. David Mellor looks better in the flesh. Michael Heseltine didn't look well. Ted Heath was all alone.

Pompous officials, but quite "down to earth" MPs. All literature printed on recycled paper.

Having door opened for one by The Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In many ways the visit was an "eye opener" but very pleasant.

A day in the life of an Archer distributor

Would you like to get some exercise and at the same time enjoy a bit of fresh air without having to endure the rigours of a keep fit class? Then why not become a distributor of The Archer, your local community newspaper? You can make your own pace and choose your time.

I joined the team of Archer distributors about a year ago and as I have got to know "my round" it has become most enjoyable. You get to know roads in your neighbourhood previously unknown to you, and see the houses at different times of the year. In Spring the variety of the front gardens catches your eye as they are filled with plants and shrubs and then in Summer tubs and hanging baskets appear, windows are open and more people are about. At Christmas you see all

the Christmas trees lit and decorations up. In January, well you get that one over with quickly and before you know where you are it's nearly Spring again.

Paperwork

People stop and have a chat, often quite spontaneously saying how much they enjoy reading The Archer, and that gives you a real lift. Houses tell you a lot about their owners, you get lots of ideas about gardens and styles and colours of front doors and window dressings, there's the gate that sticks and the one that you have to be careful not to slam, not everyone wants to be up with the lark at the weekend! Sometimes the letterbox is not quite where you expect it to be!

My particular favourite time

for delivering The Archer is early on sunny mornings. It is very peaceful and sometimes I tune in to my personal stereo.

I wouldn't wish to do it every day, or even every weekend, but it is enjoyable and at the end of it you have been out in the fresh air, had a bit of exercise and feel you have played a small part in the life of your community.

So why not join the team and deliver copies of The Archer in the roads near you? Your round could be as small or as large as you feel you can manage, you could even share a round with a neighbour. In total it amounts to one or two hours a month.

Become an Archer distributor: telephone 0181 914 7280 and leave your name and number.

Morons

By Len Willcocks

There was an example in the High Road, recently, of stupid and dangerous road rage behaviour by two young drivers out of control of themselves.

One had pulled up for whatever reason. The car following stopped, the driver got out of his car and stood in the middle of the High Road shouting, swearing, fists clenched, all the traffic behind held up. Then both cars drove off at high speed, scattering pedestrians.

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