



**LINDSEY
HARRIS**

PHOTOGRAPHER LINDSEY HARRIS IS RECORDING THE VARIED BUSINESSES IN LOWER PARKSTONE TO CREATE AN ARCHIVE OF IMAGES WHICH WILL SHOW LOCAL LIFE IN 2013. CAUGHT ON CAMERA IS SYNERGY HAIRDRESSING

Parkstone 2013 frozen in time

*Lindsey Harris is creating a record
of local businesses with her Lower
Parkstone Photographic Project*

by Halima Crabtree
Editor

In this fast-changing world sometimes it pays to stop and take a look around, for what we see today may not be here tomorrow. This is the premise of a new project from local photographer Lindsey Harris who has embarked on the task of photographing all the businesses in the area that have a 'public face', including churches and charities.

Lindsey, who lives in Parkstone, has been involved in photography for about 16 years and she is currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree in photography at Bournemouth Art University. She says she has a passion for photography and doesn't see it as just a job to pay the bills and it was this that inspired her to start the Parkstone Photographic Project.

"I take photos because it's something I love doing and if you have a passion for something creative, it shows up in the quality of work you produce," says Lindsey.

"Photographing the commercial aspect of Lower Parkstone was something I'd often thought about over the years, but never actually attempted. Aside from what you can see on the main roads, there are businesses tucked away up alleys, down

side roads and even mini-businesses working within shops, renting a bit of space out the back.”

With so many to cover, it's a challenging prospect, partly because it's time-consuming with each photoshoot taking several hours. In addition, a creative approach is often needed as Lindsey explains it's quite difficult to make some of the businesses based in office environments visually exciting, particularly when they contain one person, a desk and a chair and not much else.

“Despite this, these businesses will still be included in the project because they are intrinsic to the Lower Parkstone commercial community,” she adds.

People and premises

The idea behind the project is to create a record of Lower Parkstone in 2013, not only as an artistic exercise but also as a historical reference work for the future, an aspect that appeals to Lindsey as she says she has personally witnessed many changes over the years but can find no photographic documentary.

She continues: “I felt it was important for someone to photograph what is here now – something for future generations that gives a unique snapshot of the whole of Lower Parkstone at this particular time. Even in 5 or 10 years' time, bits of Lower Parkstone will have changed and it will be interesting to be able to look back and compare.

“It's a project that's about both the people and the buildings they work in, although I envisage that at present it's the people behind the various businesses that are of most interest to others. I want to show a picture of the owner and staff as it makes the whole thing more personal. There will always be that one photo that captures the essence of your subject, because everyone has something special about them, even if they don't think they have.”

However, Lindsey recognises that there could be a shift in interest in the future, so she has not neglected the bricks and mortar of the area for the project.

She says: “I can see that in future years it might be more about the building and how their use has changed. I'm hoping to provide a historical record of Parkstone which might be looked at in years to come – *The Harris Archive* perhaps. I've also been asked by several people if I'm going to publish a book of photos and it's something I'm considering.”

The project has met with support from local businesses, particularly as there is no charge to take part in it and each business gets its own page on Lindsey's website where there is a short history of the business and its contact details as well as her photos. The businesses also get one complimentary photo to keep which they can use for their own publicity purposes.

“On the whole, the project has been received extremely positively,” she says. “I've only had one actual refusal and that business shut down a couple of months later. A couple of other businesses have dithered about taking part but I think that's more about timing.

“One business told me that they are always suspicious of anybody that appears to offer something for free, but they later rang to say they'd be delighted to be part of the archive. I have to thank my neighbour for that: she insisted I could be trusted and told them they had to take part or they'd lose out on being part of history in the making.”

But in the short term, Lindsey is hoping that her project might give a boost to the local economy, which is important for many businesses if they are to survive.

Lindsey says: “As one business owner said to me ‘we need



The photographic project captures Parkstone's workers in action such as this chef preparing a sauce at the busy Isabel's Restaurant
Photo by Lindsey Harris



A pensive moment for the Parkstone Photographic Project at the Dancing Goat coffee shop
Photo by Lindsey Harris

you because you'll get publicity for this, which will bring people to Lower Parkstone'. That may be true, but it's mutually beneficial because without the local community behind me, there wouldn't be anything for me to photograph.”

Lindsey expects the project to be finished in the spring of 2014 after which she will hold an exhibition featuring the best photos.

Anyone who would like their business included in the project can contact Lindsey via m35photography.co.uk. To see more images from the project, turn to page 25.

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On the Snapshots page this month, we feature photos from Lindsey Harris' Parkstone Photographic Project. For details see page 18

Left: Park Cottage Dental Practice; middle: Bakers' Launderette; right: Bermuda Triangle Pub
Photos by Lindsey Harris



The Parkstone Photographic Project aims to capture businesses within Parkstone in 2013. Here we see some more images from the project depicting everyday life in the area

Left: Off Your Head hairdressers; middle: Parkstone Post Office; right: eARTH vintage shop

Photos by Lindsey Harris