

Anthony Allard Photography

Born in Kings Lynn in the early 60s, Andy is the middle child of ten children. His father was killed in an accident leaving his mum to bring up all of them on her own. She worked on the land 6 to 7 days a week and didn't believe that school was very important. Consequently Andy's education was a rather patchy affair punctuated by long absences and some unusual outdoor activities. Putting pen to paper for writing was very challenging however he showed artistic talent from an early age drawing with pencils and crayons.

His first camera was an Olympus XA2 point-and-shoot. When he was 30 he was blessed with a daughter, and then a year later, a son and this provided ample opportunities for photography. He went on to buy a Nikon F3 35mm which was great for the children however he preferred taking photos of subjects that didn't talk back! He would much rather chase a butterfly than shoot a wedding but trying to take photos of wildlife with a 35mm camera using a roll of film with 36 exposures was not exactly cheap, so he gave up. The passion remained although he shied away from courses, partly due to cost and partly due to lack of confidence.

Eventually he was given a Canon 450 by his late father-in-law who in his dying days had spotted Andy's enthusiasm but lack of equipment. As Andy had been his carer, he left him a decent camera with two kit lenses as a thank you, and this kick started his photography once again.

In 2013 he moved to Creake Abbey for work and found himself surrounded by wildlife and beautiful scenery. He saved, upgraded his camera to a Canon EOS 7D and started going out to take photos of the coast and surrounding areas – this exhibition is the culmination of his work over the past nine years.

Over time his focus moved back to landscapes and seascapes - this is where his passion lies. In the future he hopes to save up to travel the world taking photos but at the moment the north Norfolk coast is where he is based.

Andy is totally self-taught – he's always believed you can do anything if you truly put your mind to it. The lack of an education has been a challenge but it has never stopped him from trying new things. He is resourceful and can turn his hand to most things. He hopes you enjoy his exhibition which he has put his heart and soul into. In all the years of taking photos these are the first to ever have been printed and it feels like a major milestone to have his own show!

