

# hightide

NOVEMBER 2009

SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

## Tony Bartholomew: lensman

**Rolling out the barrel  
– for Amnesty**

AND: music arts theatre comedy  
film exhibitions poetry food & drink

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**NOVEMBER 2009**

**This month**

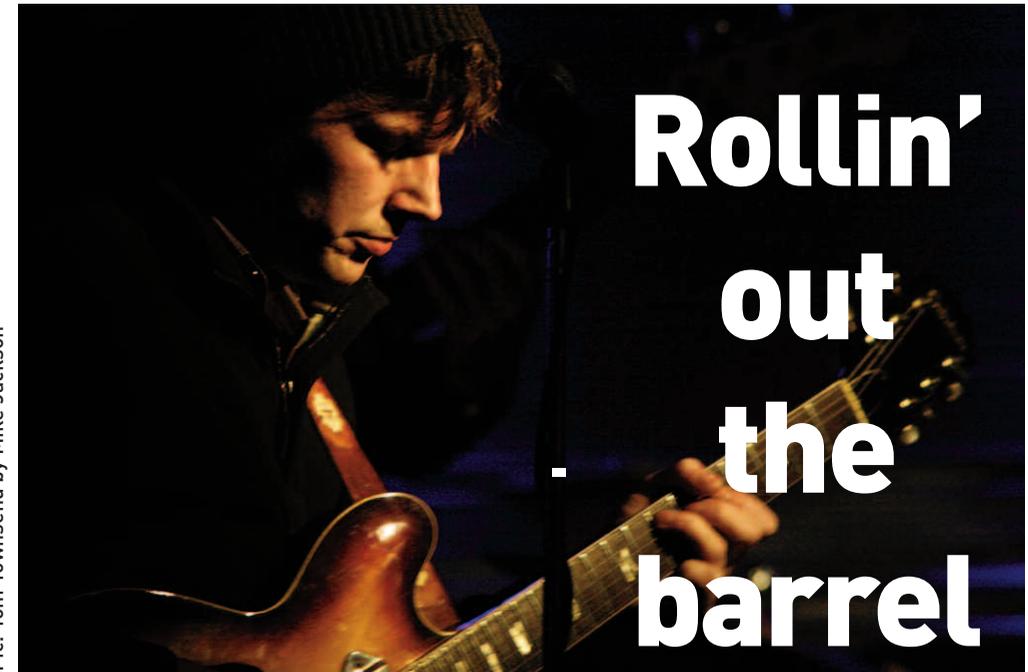
**Rollin' out the barrel** **3**  
A gig for Amnesty promises a great night

**Tony Bartholomew: lensman** **4**  
Janis Bright previews a classy photography workshop

In the dark of winter you want good nights out and good cheer. A gig for Amnesty International promises plenty of both.

There's a very special workshop at Woodend this month: photographer Tony Bartholomew is going to tell all on the art of portraits. Tony is one of the north's leading photojournalists and has persuaded everyone from Sir Ben Kinsley to Dales farmers to pose for him. This event is not to be missed.

**CASK GIG**



Pic: Tom Townsend by Mike Jackson

**Roger Osborne on this month's event for Amnesty International**

Musicians are a generous breed, often turning out to raise funds for good causes. But Amnesty International is held in particularly high regard by musicians, artists and writers all over the world. Why? Because, when regimes want to keep their populations under control, the musicians and artists are the people they lock up – along with journalists, demonstrators and others who are inclined to question authority. Amnesty works to get these people freed and, in their own words, 'to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied'.

So, when the Scarborough Amnesty group decided to hold a concert, Mark Gordon of Stony swung into action, recruiting his own band, along with the Tom Townsend Blues Band and Ali & the Beachcombers. Leslie Stone and Marian Gordon, together with Malcolm at the Cask, persuaded Wold Top Brewery to donate a barrel of beer, giving the prospect of a memorable event.

The local Amnesty group has been in action for over thirty years. Most of the work is done by individual members writing letters, cards and, these days, emails. These go to people in authority but also to prisoners of conscience and their families to give support and to let them know they haven't been forgotten. The Greetings card campaign at Christmas is especially important; millions of cards are sent out by AI members, and it's easy to join in. Amnesty is unusual in getting members to do essential work, instead of just raising money. Their message is 'We are ordinary people from around the world standing up for humanity and human rights.'

Nevertheless, funds are needed to keep the organisation running. So get along to the Cask on 15 November, enjoy some great music and support the work of Amnesty. For more information about Amnesty in Scarborough call in at the Bookshelf on Victoria Road and speak to Leslie Stone.

**Music For Human Rights**  
**Sunday 15 November 2 pm to 6 pm, £3 entry, pay on the door**



# Tony Bartholomew: Lensman

He's got everyone from ladies in the bakery to prime ministers to pose for him. But he still spends hours at his desk scrutinising what the lens has delivered, still keen to learn. There's no sense of 'good enough' with Tony Bartholomew, it has to be right.

Tony is one of a rarefied breed, the traditional photojournalist. Years ago he fancied himself as the one supplying the words, but a chance glimpse of a famous photograph changed all

that. It was Migrant Mother, a portrait that captured the suffering of the Great Depression in the US, by Dorothea Lange.

You can see why the shot appealed. It's a study of a very immediate news event, yet it is posed and unhurried, carefully selected. The lighting and composition draw attention to the harried face of Florence Owens Thompson, her hand reaching up to touch her chin for reassurance. (See the picture at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothea\\_Lange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothea_Lange))

[org/wiki/Dorothea\\_Lange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothea_Lange))

Tony was hooked, and signed up for training in Sheffield before launching into a series of jobs on regional newspapers – including the Scarborough Evening News. A decade and a half ago he set up in business as Tony Bartholomew Photography and, as the old saying goes, he's never looked back.

He's grateful for the all round training the newspaper business gave him in a craft

## Janis Bright previews a classy photography workshop

that is dying out. At first he hoped he might follow in the footsteps of sports photographers like Eamonn McCabe, who became picture editor of the Guardian, but soon found broader interests. 'You might be asked to do anything,' he says. 'No two days are ever the same. That makes it a challenge, and keeps you fresh: you can always learn and develop.'

This month's workshop focuses on portraits, and participants might be surprised to learn that Tony does not rate technical skills as the most important. The trick, he says, is simply to get on with people. Him being a Scouser you'd expect friendliness, but Tony is no comedian. It's just about making the sitter feel

comfortable, he insists. 'Most people aren't used to being photographed, so you need to get them to relax and that will show in your results.'

A good camera does help, but Tony is quite happy to take shots with an ordinary compact camera too. Like all professionals he uses computer program Photoshop to prepare his pictures for publication. But that's no substitute for taking a good picture in the first place, he says. 'You can improve a picture, but a bad picture is always going to be bad.' Those attending the workshop will learn some easy rules for good photography. Tony says: 'We all love looking back at pictures of family and friends; hopefully this workshop will give a few

**Above: Ollie Banks, by Tony Bartholomew. Cover: Tony's portrait of Sir Ben Kingsley**

tips on how to turn your basic snaps into treasured portraits.'

He might not find a budding Dorothea Lange on the day but you can be sure he'll give it his best shot.

**Tony Bartholomew's workshop, A beginner's guide to the art of portrait photography, runs all day at Woodend, Scarborough, on Saturday 14 November, cost £30. Contact [Learning@smtrust.uk.com](mailto:Learning@smtrust.uk.com).**