



ABERSOCH
NEEDS NO SEASON
CAPTURED BY
PHILL BOYD

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Behind The Book **ABERSOCH: NEEDS NO SEASON**

GET TO KNOW LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER PHILL BOYD, AND HIS LATEST BOOK "ABERSOCH: NEEDS NO SEASON" IN THIS Q&A SESSION.

 WORDS BY **BETHANY BIRCH**



By now, I'm sure most of you are familiar with the incredibly talented, resident photographer, Phill Boyd. Based on the Llŷn, Phill captures the peninsula in all of her glory right through from the depths of winter to those hazy days come midsummer. His work regularly features throughout the pages of our magazine and across our Abersoch Life socials, gaining recognition and well-deserved compliments from far and wide.

With this in mind, it seemed only natural to dedicate a book to Phill's work, exploring the stories behind his photographs and getting to know Phill and his lifelong camera companion, a little better. After the release and success of "ABERSOCH: Somewhere Outwest" in late 2020, the captivating sequel "ABERSOCH: Needs No Season" was soon-after published in 2021. The book investigates the beauty of each month and Phill's relationship with the seasons as our resident photographer.

Outwest Images are always a real delight to marvel over, so getting to know how, where and why these impressive shots were taken only adds to the magic of Phill's captures. I had the pleasure and complete privilege of writing up both books after plenty of conversations with Phill himself to discuss his photography and backstory. I caught up with Phill in this Q&A series to discuss his latest photobook and his thoughts since publication.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T READ "ABERSOCH: NEEDS NO SEASON", CAN YOU SUMMARISE WHAT IT'S ABOUT?

As mentioned above, we talk about what I look forward to and the challenges that we face, especially during the winter months. The book really explores the highlights and my

personal favourite elements of each season; whilst discussing specific dates of interest throughout the year. Both books combine a good selection of my photos along with text to either accompany the images or to tell my story. As expected, the books are very visual but we wanted to get the balance of wording and imagery right to add to the whole experience of each photo, to get to know me and my photography a bit better whilst learning about our local landscapes and seasons.

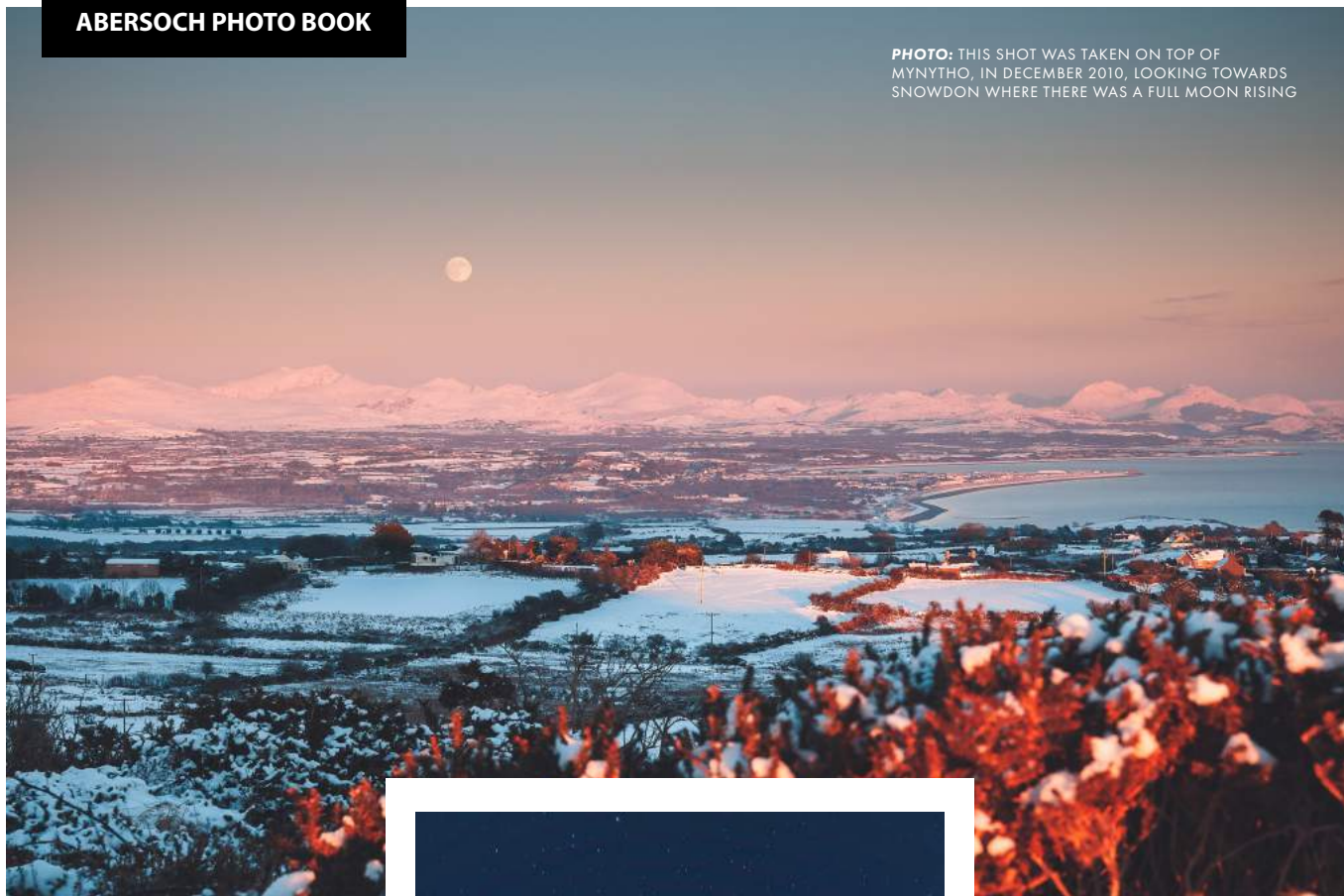
HOW DOES THIS BOOK DIFFER FROM YOUR FIRST BOOK, "ABERSOCH: SOMEWHERE OUTWEST"?

The first book was more of an insight into me and the way I work and capture images around Abersoch. The second book really hones in on the seasons and the photography and challenges involved at certain times of the year. We often experience unseasonable weather at all times of the year but it was good to go through what I enjoy and things I look out for at specific times of the year both with and without my camera at hand.

WHY ARE THE SEASONS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU AS A PHOTOGRAPHER?

Seasons are everything to me as a photographer, there's so much variety and I think that's the key. I always find that you get to a certain point of each season where you become really ready for change and are looking forward to the next season, but maybe that's just me!

PHOTO: THIS SHOT WAS TAKEN ON TOP OF MYNYTHO, IN DECEMBER 2010, LOOKING TOWARDS SNOWDON WHERE THERE WAS A FULL MOON RISING



SPOILER ALERT: DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE SEASON, IF SO WHAT IS IT AND WHY?

This is pretty difficult as I love certain aspects of all of them. I do love spring because everything just comes alive after the long dark months of winter; but if I had to choose one it would be autumn just for the bright vibrant colour it brings. Whether it be the leaves on the trees or the spectacular sunrises and sunsets, autumn is truly spectacular and a real treat to capture. Also the sun rises at a reasonable hour again, which is always a win!

CAN YOU SUM UP IN THREE WORDS WHAT EACH SEASON MEANS TO YOU?

Spring - longer days, Milky Way, anticipation. Summer - warmth, sea life, clear skies.

Autumn - colour, auroras, cosy.

Winter - cold, bleak, surfing.

IF YOU'RE NOT BEHIND YOUR CAMERA, WHERE CAN YOU BE FOUND?

Nothing exciting! Unfortunately I'm usually stuck behind a computer editing or responding to emails. I do try to plan where possible and save this for when the weather's miserable. Otherwise I enjoy running - keeping fit is pretty

important for a lot of the work I do, hiking - scoping out potential locations for the future, and I can still be found in a kitchen cooking here and there.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC DATES FOR THIS WINTER THAT WE SHOULD PUT IN OUR CALENDAR TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR?

It can be quite difficult to plan as we approach the winter but make the most of the autumn colours. Sunrises and sunsets can be pretty epic at this time of the year and even though forecasts may not be favourable there's always a chance of a good one. If clear skies do occur it's always worth heading out at night for some astrophotography.

The nights are long and we're really fortunate to have dark skies with little light pollution here on the peninsula. There are a number of meteor showers over the next few months, the best being the Leonids (late Oct) and Geminids (mid Dec).



PHOTO: STARRY SKIES ABOVE THE ICONIC BEACH HUTS



PHOTO: FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND
HEADING BACK AFTER PHOTOGRAPHING
THE SUNRISE, AT THE WARREN BEACH

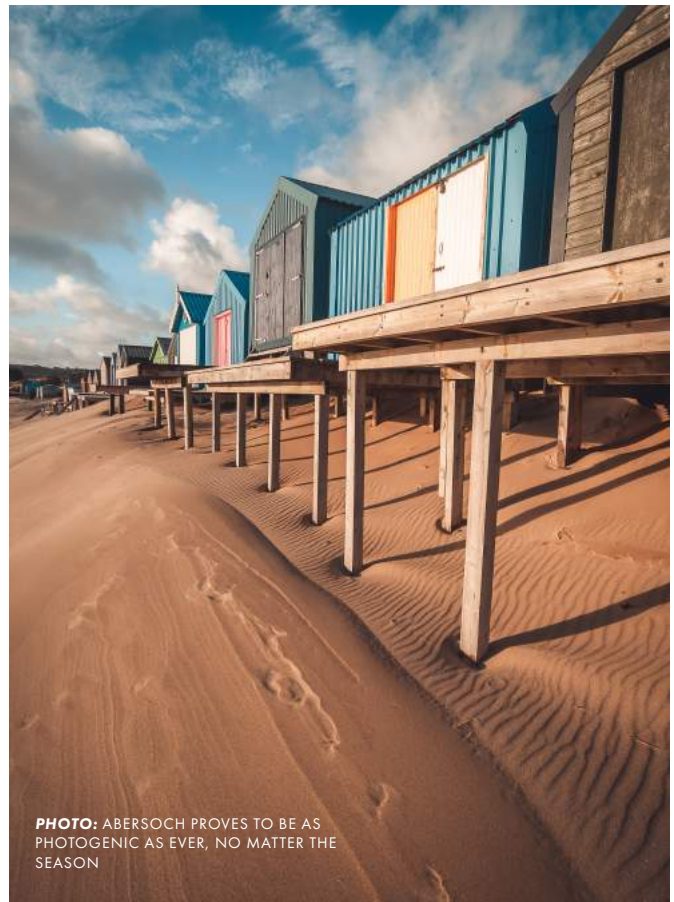


PHOTO: ABERSOCH PROVES TO BE AS
PHOTOGENIC AS EVER, NO MATTER THE
SEASON

AS WELL AS LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY, YOU ALSO RUN A WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY BUSINESS BROTHERS CREATIVE, CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THIS?

Yes! So, I set Brothers Creative up with my brother Alex two years ago, but due to covid it was a bit of a slow start! We'd been asked initially by several friends and family to cover their weddings and it was great fun so we decided to offer it up to everyone, covering all or the North West and North Wales. Because there are two of us we find we cover more ground and can experiment with slightly different angles and techniques as well as the regular wedding shots. We've had quite a busy year and next year is filling up fast which is great. We love the whirlwind of emotions during a wedding and are really grateful couples chose us to be a part of their special day.

ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR A THIRD BOOK, IF SO WHAT WOULD THE NEXT THEME BE?

You'll have to wait and see but there's certainly some exciting things in the pipeline.

WHERE CAN PEOPLE BUY YOUR WORK FROM?

Both photo books are currently stocked at Abersoch Farm Shop, Plas Glyn-y-Weddw, Lavender House and through the Abersoch Life online shop. You can also buy my photography prints through my website on my online shop (outwestimages.co.uk). All prints are Printed on fine art Hahnemuhle paper to ensure the highest quality and longevity.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE PROCESS OF CREATING THE BOOKS AND THEN SEEING THE PHYSICAL COPY IN STORES AND PEOPLES HOMES?

So its quite a long process! A lot of back and forth between everyone involved but totally worth it. The hardest bit is getting started and trying to narrow down images that will be included. Once

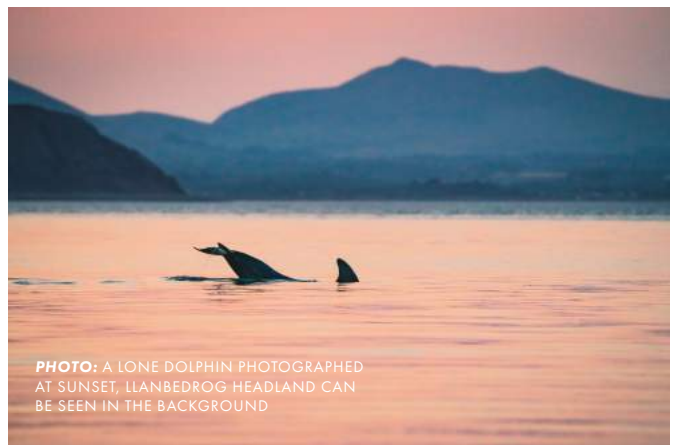


PHOTO: A LONE DOLPHIN PHOTOGRAPHED
AT SUNSET, LLANBEDROG HEADLAND CAN
BE SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND

you're under way though it starts to flow and is pretty enjoyable.

It's really exciting seeing your work on paper, I think it's important to print your photos, especially ones you're proud of. Printing on good quality paper, like in the books, makes all the difference too. It didn't feel real at first, seeing the finished books in stores is such a strange feeling and even more so when you come across them in peoples homes. I love taking photos regardless but when people have gone out of their way to buy my work it's so surreal.

I really hope everyone enjoyed them as much as I did making them.

Buy Phill's book at
shop.abersochlife.com