



## MEET THE SENIOR - ROB BOLER



Rob is one of our club members, who also volunteers as our photographer. He has captured lots of great photos of community events for us, over the past couple of years.

This month – Rob Boler answers 10 quick-fire questions and tells us a bit more about himself.

**Q1. Rob – where do you come from originally and how long have you been in East Hunsbury?**

I'm from Birmingham, and have been in EH for 6 ½ years, via Bedford & Milton Keynes.

**Q2. Tell us a bit about you . . .**  
**2a. Family**

Apart from wife Pauline, I have an older brother in Goring-on-Thames, and a younger sister in Birmingham. I also have a daughter.

**2b. Favourite Band/Song?**

Too many favourite songs and bands! However, if I have to choose one of each: Favourite song is 'Heroes' by David Bowie, the most moving song I heard at the 1985 Live-Aid concert, and Favourite band is The Small Faces.

**2c. Best place in the world?**

I've not been to that many places in the world, so I feel like a fraud giving my opinion that Spain is the best place.

**2d. What would you have been – if you could have been anything?**

I would have been a woodworking craftsman if things had gone how I hoped after leaving school.

**2e. Most hated food stuff?**

Most hated food stuff is boiled egg that is slimy.

**3. Fantasy Dinner Guests? You can invite four people (alive or departed) to dinner – who gets an invite and why?**

My guests would all be invited to say thank you for the work they are doing / have done to cure the evils of this world, and not because I think they are interesting etc (even though they all must be).

1. Consultant surgeon Mike Robinson, from Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham. He performed the successful operation to remove a cancerous tumour from my wife Pauline.

2. Any individual medical practitioner on the front line in a covid ward at NGH. They work like hell and are grossly undervalued and grossly underpaid.

3. Joe Biden & 4. Kamala Harris. My initial sentence in this section says it all I think.



**4. We know that photography is your hobby – tell us a bit more – when did you get into it and why?**

I've been into photography on a fad basis from before I was 10, as I inherited my older brother's interest in it. However, it became my passion in the early 1990's, when I started to photograph people, and found it to be the most absorbing and satisfying type of photography I'd done.

**5. What do you like to photograph? People? Places? Tell us why you choose to photograph what you do?**

People are what I photograph most of the time. People are the most interesting subjects to me, displaying emotion that no other subject (even animals in my opinion) can. However, the person is not always the over-riding subject of the shot, as it is often 'people doing what people do', in their environment, that features.

One other type of work I do is what is called 'street photography'. This usually (but not always) includes people, but it is more to do with capturing an unusual, fleeting moment, where elements of an image (which are often rare in themselves) come together in strange ways.

**6. What sort of camera do you use? If someone wants to start to take photos, what would you recommend? Do you need expensive equipment to get started?**

I currently use Panasonic Lumix G cameras mainly. These are digital mirrorless interchangeable-lens cameras (MILC), that are small and light (very important features for an older person). However, I also use Canon digital single-lens reflex cameras when I'm doing shots that the Lumix models aren't best at.

No one camera is best for all types of photography, even though some people will try to convince you otherwise.

If you are looking for a means of taking photographs, ask yourself if you already have something that's suitable for many purposes: a mobile phone that has a decent camera / lens. No-one can deny how brilliant recent mobiles are, and although I will not accept that they beat a conventional camera for what I do, they can produce amazing images.

They will certainly be more than good enough for you to work out what you really need photography-wise in the longer term.

Ideally, speak to someone who does that type of work, and try to find out if what they use would be acceptable to you (remembering to take opinions with a pinch of salt), if it's in budget, go with it.

**7. How do you use your photos? Do you develop them yourself? Print them? Have you entered competitions?**

It probably seems stupid, but I make no use of the vast majority of the photos I take. However, I do upload a small number onto my website ([www.RobBolerShootsPeople.co.uk](http://www.RobBolerShootsPeople.co.uk)), onto Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/56063595@N02/>), and onto the Panasonic Lumix photography website ([www.LumixExperience.Panasonic.co.uk](http://www.LumixExperience.Panasonic.co.uk)).

As I use digital cameras, 'development' is happily a long-forgotten tedium! Instead, it's now 'editing' them, for which I use Affinity Photo.



I do print a small number of shots at home, specifically for people whose photos I have taken at a homeless support organisation called 'StreetChurch'. I'm not religious myself, but I work with this Christian group, which is non-judgemental and helps anyone who is disadvantaged.

I definitely enter competitions, and have won several prizes, but success is rare unfortunately. I think my most-pleasing win was in a 'Capture Waltham Forest' competition of 2012, with a shot of George, the owner of G.H.M Livings business in Leyton.

**8. Have you been able to still carry on with your hobby of photography during the past difficult year? If so, what have you been doing?**

Since March last year, I've done none of my normal photography, as that is either outdoor work, at meetings that have been suspended, or, requires a model who I can't meet up with. Coincidentally though, I was told at that time of a closed Facebook group run by The Sentinel newspaper in Stoke-on-Trent. They set a weekly challenge on a specific theme that I submit entries to (which is my only use of FB), and since then, I'm pleased that I've had 13 shots published.

**9. If you could photograph one special place or person – what or who would it be – and please share why?**

It would be a house in warm and sunny south-west Spain, I despise the freezing miserable weather in the UK, and Spain seems to me to be the optimum location for the type of life I want.

**10. Let us see some of your work please Rob – 4 of your favourite photos please. You can tell us what or who they are of and why you like them?**

This couple was taken at the StreetChurch homeless support group. This couple displays the happiness that people in their situation feel when they realise that someone considers them to be people of worth, and not irrelevant 'problems'.



Picture of a flamboyantly-dressed and flamboyantly-acting attendee at London Pride.

This is the main type of shot I like to take, where people are free of inhibitions, and be themselves.



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Picture of a toy car parked on a Northampton Street between two real cars. This is an example of the 'street photography' mentioned in Q5 which is a style of photography where you attempt to capture a rare, fleeting moment. I find it extremely difficult, but extremely satisfying when I get a decent shot.



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Picture of an attractive young model. This is a classic portrait shot, which the thing that first got me hooked on people photography.

It's a type of photography that gives me more control over the final result, which is something not possible with the other work I do.

**11. FINAL BONUS QUESTION: When we emerge from our restrictions, and this trying time, what is it that you most look forward to doing?**

I'd like to say 'move to Spain', but it's much more likely that it will be to take a ride on a bus!

If you have an interest in appearing in 'Meet The Senior' and fancy being interviewed with 10 quick-fire questions, please get in touch with Liz by emailing: [community@easthunsburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:community@easthunsburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)