



Vignettes 104

October 13th, 2021

Contents

Club News	1
Next Week – Tim Allen	2
Stuff	3
Internal Competitions.....	5
BBC Pictures	6
Quote of the Week.....	6
Appendix 1: Club Face to Face (F2F) Meetings - Covid Measures.....	7

Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. Great to see a healthy turnout of 25 members on Monday night and a warm welcome to possible new club member Patricia Lindsay. And what a cracking night we had with Ashley Franklin lightening up the evening with a terrific Zoom talk on Tuscany. His eloquent delivery, sharpened by his days at the BBC, tinged with good humour was a joy to listen to and the added element of poetry and music provided a perfect backdrop as he took us through his dramatic landscape photography of the Val d'Orcia region of Tuscany. We haven't had a travelogue talk for a while, so it was a great contrast to recent club nights and, as the nights draw in, a vicarious experience to enjoy.

What struck me was Ashley's joy in sharing his photography, his appreciation of light, his willingness to delve into many photographic genres and his use of art style photoshop tools to create, in many cases, almost dream like images. Of course, many of those misty early morning shots needed little "post production" manipulation which just goes to show that you get out what you put in - as long as you get up at 4.40am! I'm sure Ashley's motto resonated with us all - *"Pictures are everywhere, you only have to look"*.



<https://www.ashleyfranklin.co.uk/>

I know Ashley was disappointed not to see us F2F due to personal force majeure circumstances but the Zoom talk lost none of its essential qualities. However, I suspect that Ashley would certainly make the evening an enjoyable one had he been able to make it in person. Next year perhaps, if we can share his travelling costs with Tetbury, as we were planning to do this season.

As a car fan, it was also great to see a few classic cars on the (now retrospective) Mille Miglia “race” through the streets of those lovely Tuscany Villages. Not a policeman in sight! For those of you who don’t know, the original race was immortalised by that famous win in 1955 by Stirling Moss (with navigator Denis Jenkinson) in his factory entered Mercedes-Benz. They completed the 992-mile distance in an amazing 10 hours, 7 minutes and 48 seconds - an average speed of 99 mph! The pace was all the more astonishing given that two Englishmen finished the race some 32 minutes ahead of their second placed teammate, none other than world champion Argentine racing driver Juan Manuel Fangio. It’s still talked about to this day. I could go on....!

Next Week – Tim Allen

Next week is another Zoom night with Tim Allen giving us his talk “The Journey” which is a retrospective look at 20 years on the road including life lessons learned. Here’s some background to his extensive career:

<http://humanplanet.net/>

<https://humanplanet.com/timothyallen/about/>



Stuff

Just to say that if you are looking for a flu jab independent of a Covid booster and you fit the criteria (age and/or underlying health conditions), many pharmacies provide a walk-in service. Gail & I had ours in the Badham Pharmacy in Bishops Cleeve. We walked in, filled in a form (it doesn't matter if you don't know your NHS No) and immediately got flu jabbed. All done in 15 mins. Wisdom suggests that it might be a good idea this year but, as always, it's a personal choice.

Cheltenham Literary Festival - an update

Mike, Jill and I went along to the Martin Parr talk at the Cheltenham Literary Festival on Tuesday. It was excellent as always and focussed on his 2019 book "From the Pope to a flat white" which charted the "Celtic Tiger" growth in Ireland, matched by a decline in practicing Catholicism, following its membership of the EU. Some hilarious images of a country coming to terms with globalisation matched by an excellent (if a bit wordy) interviewer.



Although this talk and an earlier one was posted in Vignettes, and despite the fact that it wasn't sold out, Val & Alun have been in touch following last week's reminder about the festival in case anyone couldn't get along and wants to "catch up".

Hi Martyn. Thanks for another interesting Vignettes, as always. In it you mention the Cheltenham Literature Festival with a couple of talks that may be of interest to CC

members. If people can't get there in person all the talks will be available online afterwards until the end of the year for a one-off payment of £30 which gives access to them all (approx. 140 talks) which seems very good value.

Best wishes. Alun and Val

Thanks V & A. Really useful for those who can't get to the Festival and just so you know, most of the events follow a similar format in being about an hour long including questions and answers. It's well filmed too.

International Wildlife Photographer of the year

It's that time of the year again with the big announcement of the winners of IW POTY 2021. As you'd expect, the standard of photography is not only high but the subjects range from spectacular to heart-warming to gut wrenching. Sponsored by the Natural History Museum IW POTY represents the pinnacle of photography of the natural world. As the introduction says:

Explore the natural world in all its fragility and diversity at the annual Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, where 100 powerful photographs tell the story of a planet under pressure. Gaze through the lens of some of the world's best wildlife photographers and marvel at the beauty of our planet. Displayed alongside insights from Museum scientists and experts, the images will inspire and astound, leaving visitors with a deeper understanding of the issues facing nature and the actions we need to take to protect it.

Here's a link to the website gallery of award winners, narrative and kit associated with each image. Look out for the Brazilian Wandering Spider. I didn't think it was real but apparently it is. Frightening! The good news is you don't need a macro lens! The exhibition will go on tour so look out for it. Nature in Art in Twigworth normally hosts the exhibition in Spring so we will keep a look out.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy/gallery>

The Royal Society of Biology's annual photography awards

If you are into bugs, this is definitely one for you. The Royal Society of Biology's annual photography competition attracts entries from amateur photographers around the world, with more than 1600 submissions received this year for the theme "interconnected". Here's a link to the Society's webpage on the competition.

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/news/ants-feasting-on-honeydew-and-cells-destroying-tuberculosis-the-shortlist-and-winners-of-the-rsb-s-photography-competition>

New Lightroom update - 26th Oct

All you Lightroom users out there might be interested to know that a significant update to Lightroom (all versions) is coming out on the 26th of October. It's an AI based modification to the range mask tool (adjustment brush, radial filter and graduated filter). Looks pretty useful. Adobe ambassador Anthony Morganti sets out the basis of the update here but you'll have to wait until the 26th for the full details. I'm sure there'll be many YouTube tutorials on the matter. I'm still struggling with the current one!

<https://youtu.be/ml3dOEMpeeQ>

Internal Competitions

This Season's Club Competitions

Subject	Competition	Submission Date
Water (in all its forms)	A	September 27 th , 2021
Architecture	B	8 th November, 2021
Sunrise, sunset	C	6 th December 2021
Coastal	D	17 th January, 2022
Winter	E	28 th February, 2020
Farming in the Cotswolds	Pitchers Trophy (annual Competition)	11 th April, 2022
Various	Annual Competitions	11 th April, 2022

The Dropbox link is now up and running and is featured on every Comp submission page, along with as a News item - here is the link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/DpAdq7inLJSz17gWu2Bg>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-58828861>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-58829878>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-58783137>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58788101>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-58817448>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-58827292>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-58766031>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-58772772>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-58701294>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-58841907>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58888305>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-58870035>

Quote of the Week

I never have taken a picture I've intended. They're always better or worse - Diane Arbus

That's it for this week. Catch up next week.

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman@btinternet.com)

Appendix 1: Club Face to Face (F2F) Meetings - Covid Measures

The easing of Covid restrictions over the summer as part of the Covid roadmap has made physical club meetings a practical proposition and Watermoor Parish are now permitting hire of their hall facility again. To enable this and to satisfy their insurers there are a number of things that hirers have to provide to gain approval for hire. After some consideration, below is a summary of the club's approach to enable meetings to take place within the requirements. We will aim to put the relevant docs on the website if members want to have a look.

Clearly members will need to make their own judgements in light of their individual circumstances, but it is hoped that the pragmatic approach taken allows the club to recommence face to face club (F2F) nights as per the season's programme in an enjoyable manner. As always with these things this is subject to any changes in guidance. Please get in touch with me, or other committee members, if you have any issues arising. Many thanks. Stephen

Watermoor Church Hall Hire Covid Measures

Our activities must remain consistent with government guidelines at the time of the event. The requirements from the hall involve some element of cleaning by the club before and after the evening's programme.

Emphasis will be on precautions taken and as such the club:

(i) advises that anyone feeling unwell or having been notified for quarantine under Track and trace or NHS App or as a result of travelling requirements should not attend club meetings.

(ii) will ensure that seating, social distancing and ventilation are consistent with government guidelines.

(iii) request that members bring personal crockery/cutlery for any refreshments - some disposable items will be made available. We will not utilise hall crockery, just the kettle/boiler as appropriate.

(iv) suggest members consider continuing to use facemasks during meetings when appropriate.

Club Approach

1. The club will provide hand sanitiser for members use on entrance and exit from the hall.

- 1. The hall has QR posters displayed for members who wish to utilise the NHS app.*
- 2. In accordance with general "Health and Safety" good practice, a log will be kept of attendees on a F2F club night in case of the need for evacuation from premises which facilitates a roll call.*
- 3. Access to kitchen facilities will be restricted to reduce contacts and users will sanitise hands before and after use of kettle etc. It is noted that no cleaning of switches is to take place*

(for safety) therefore the emphasis is on sanitising hands before and after any such operations, ensuring hands are dry.

- 4. Access to W/C's is restricted to one person at a time under the hall guidelines. Members should sanitise hands on entry and exit. At the end of evening contact points are wiped down as part of the exit process.*
- 5. The club will use readily available Covid appropriate cleaning materials in the form of spray /paper towel and/or sanitising wipes to facilitate cleaning and provide bags to remove used material from the hall on completion.*
- 6. Hard contact points e.g. door handles/locks, window handles/locks will be wiped on first contact when being operated and on final use when closed prior to exit.*
- 7. The club anticipate utilising a restricted number of members on a given night to clean and handle equipment/chairs etc. thus reducing the number of potential contacts.*
- 8. Those members should sanitise hands before commencing any handling, using spray/wipes to clean contact points when moving /setting up chairs etc. On completion of set up handling, members should sanitise hands again before commencing the actual event.*
- 9. It is assumed that club materials in the locked storage may also be potentially contaminated and therefore contact points should be wiped before handling and on replacing in store.*

Although it all sounds a bit complicated, I hope that we will soon get into the swing of things in managing what we do to minimise impacts. Do get in contact if you have any queries. Stephen.