



Vignettes 107

November 3rd, 2021

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. A big thanks to Shaun for patiently taking us through another excellent evening of Photoshop. With twenty years of Photoshop experience (and its predecessor) under his belt, there's no one in the club better prepared and able to deal with any aspect of this, sometimes seemingly impenetrable, software. As Shaun made clear though, it's not quite as daunting as it might appear once you "get" the basics and ignore a lot of it which is directed at the graphic design industry for which it was originally designed. The message is "keep it simple". A good mantra to have in mind. We recorded Shaun's presentation (link below) just in case you missed a vital part.

In summary Shaun initially covered:

1. The latest Photoshop update, which came out last week, (along with a Lightroom update). The link between these two softwares from Adobe is the increasing use of AI to help you reduce time in processing albeit not always accurately. No doubt this will improve over time.
2. Which Photoshop cloning tools to use. (The default ones!)
3. The Focus Stacking process in Photoshop to create a merged Tiff image.
4. Adding background layers to enhance an image using "Layers".

The main part of the evening focussed on a couple of images Mike took which, at Mike's request, required some, to use Martin Fry's term, "Fiddling and Diddling" along with changing the "levels". It was an educational exercise to see Shaun in action in flexing Photoshop's many tools to modify the image - the "disappearing" red fire extinguishers being the area commanding the most attention. Thanks again Shaun for a really informative evening.

Here's the recording link for Shaun's talk:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/v5H5ANwlrNRypmUVbL64Kte0Dun5MYjqi3MKF3QlyBV_ILtYdchFqHhD1wJHCx.zt_HJTl6leINuSUo

Passcode: Qxwbv!6m

By the way, in answer to Brian's email question about recommended online sources of help, Shaun replied:

As far as learning, I've no preferred preference, just lots of reading (generally magazines) and if I get stuck just type into Google "How to?" and usually you will find a good answer, although I admit not always with the first one you come across!

As I told one of the new members on Monday, just keep trying and you will eventually get there, or ask for help (the advantage of going to Camera Club)! The more you give it a go, the more you learn along the way. As with all things Photoshop, there isn't usually just one way to do stuff, I know the preferred way that I do it, maybe not the easiest or quickest, but it's the way that suits

myself, so everyone will have a different way of doing things! Its the result that counts, not how you got there!

And finally, on the question of tuition, Shaun added:

It's a question that quite a few people have asked already and one that I am considering, one to one is always easier and I think people get the most out of one to one sessions.

Next Week – F2F Focus Stacking Event Postponed. Now Zoom Evening

Unfortunately John Smith has Covid (get well soon John) and, being one of the pivotal members for this focus stacking practical evening, we've decided to postpone the event. We'll let you know of the new date as soon as we have it. (It also buys us "newbies", hosting part of the evening with our fancy mirrorless DSLR cameras, a bit more time!).

I'm pleased to say that we've been able to bring forward our speaker from next April - Simon Roy, a really excellent wildlife photographer. I've seen his talk called Adventures of a Wildlife Photographer so you are in for a treat. It will be a ZOOM EVENT so **there's no F2F next Monday.**





With the following week also a Zoom event, presented by Lee Filters, we are having a bit Zoom only run at the moment. It was always planned to have a hybrid season of F2F and Zoom as a flexible approach in response to Covid and, given the current concerns over the high infection rate, it was the right decision. The week after the Lee Filters events is a F2F event where we will be looking at the WCPF DPI images. Whilst it would be good to see everyone, we can take a decision nearer the time as to whether we retain the event as planned or revert to a Zoom night.

Competition B submission

As we won't be meeting next Monday, Jill is going to let us know about getting prints to her for Comp B. We have some flexibility on timing.

A Message from Our Sec - Covid Physical Meeting - Brief Update

Hi all. The experience so far with our F2F meet ups suggests that the process is manageable and working well so thanks to all members for sticking to the rules in our risk assessment world. I don't detect a big reduction in numbers attending despite all the hassle. We're obviously a determined lot. It is however, worth highlighting/reiterating a few points which will hopefully allow us to continue with the same approach in accordance with current Hall rules.

i) With cold weather kicking in and the necessity to maintain good ventilation in the meeting room it is worth a reminder to come prepared with some suitably warm clothing! There is a temporary

timed fan boost function on the storage heating at the hall which we will use pre meeting and at half time but the fans are too noisy for use during the talk.

ii) Please remember to sign in at the door and consider use of masks where possible.

iii) If you are helping with chairs etc please use the hand gel and utilise wipes to clean the handled surfaces. The mobile chair stand is the best source at the beginning and end - please replace as per the guidance notice. It's probably best to avoid using the chairs stacked around the walls as they are restricted by the Hall rules, to 3 chairs deep to avoid a falling hazard and, understandably, not everyone remembers.

iv) Although we do have paper cups for half time, if you can remember, please bring your own cup. We've got tea, coffee milk and sugar - not to mention hot water!

That's it. Thanks and stay safe

Stephen

Cirencester Twinning Association Calendar

Our President John Hankin has been in touch as a follow up on the Cirencester Twinning Association calendar.

Hi Martyn. Thanks for the prompt before Martin Fry's talk about the Calendar. Just to confirm, the price is £8.50 and I think it could make a good Christmas present for family etc especially those overseas. I'm happy to co-ordinate and you're welcome to offer my email address for those members interested who want to contact you. Alternatively, my phone number is 01285 643823. Could I suggest a deadline would be helpful - say two week's time?

Stay safe,

John

PAGB e-News

Paul Jones has sent through the latest PAGB e-news:

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en294%201%20Nov.pdf>

http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en294%20extra%20Print%20Champ.1%20Nov_0.pdf

New Lightroom Update Is Out

I mentioned this new Lightroom update a few “V’s” ago and it’s now out. It’s a really significant change in the history of Lightroom by reconfiguring the Develop Module tools dealing with the adjustment brush, the radial filter and the graduated filter by incorporating them under one new style tool called “Masking”. A lot of the change has come across from Photoshop and it looks pretty useful to me. Much more “Photoshopy” in approach including the use of AI. There’s a lot to take in. Pity they didn’t redo the quite poor Clone tool as well. Ah well, there’s always next time. Antony Morganti does a pretty good intro and demo (with more tutorials to follow). See also Matt Kloskowski’s more in depth analysis.

Catch their YouTube channels here on the Lightroom update.

<https://youtu.be/TSiGfMty73Q>

<https://youtu.be/ztuhNo7ZgdA>

Exhibitions

The Architectural Photographs of Hélène Binet

Are you going to be in London before the end of January next year? Well, here’s an opportunity to brush up on your photographing architecture technique by visiting the RA to see “The Architectural Photographs of Hélène Binet”. Judging by the information on the link below, it looks impressive. Catch the details here:

https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/helene-binet?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=AE_ConstableBinetOpenNow_d_Marketing_281021&utm_content=version_A&sourceNumber=658437

The British Ecological Society Photographic Competition virtual exhibition

The winners of this year’s BES photographic competition have been announced. Here’s an extract from its website.

The independent judging panel included six highly respected photographers including eminent ecologists and award-winning wildlife photographers. Among them was Laura Dyer, a South African born wildlife photographer, who has an affinity for animal portraits. Laura said: “Wildlife and nature photography is so vital today, as it helps to showcase parts of the natural world which would otherwise remain hidden from the view of most of us. And it is only by seeing the beauty of nature that we will be inspired to protect and conserve it. These images from British Ecological Society members and students alike help to showcase these wonders. “The three overall winners

this year demonstrate completely different styles of photography and all so beautifully captured. The spider, which at first glance, is almost unnoticeable in 'Hidden Lynx' – you can imagine the surprise of the bumblebee as he met his end. The detail in the gull, and how at first glance the parasites appear to be feather markings. The delicate lighting and dancing nature of the image of the recently discovered 'Fairy of the Forest'. These are worthy winners."

Here's a link to the BES website to see some amazing images in the virtual exhibition:

<https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/capturing-ecology-winning-images-2021/>

Churn Project Rescheduled Auction Update

Brian has been in touch about the Churn Project Auction which we previously advertised in Vignettes but which had to be postponed. Brian picks up the story:

LIVE ONLINE AUCTION
RAISING MUCH-NEEDED FUNDS FOR

FRIDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER, 2021
LIVE AND ONLINE AT 7 PM
WITH AUCTIONEER PHILIP ALLWOOD

FROM

GET SOME REALLY UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

YOU CAN VIEW THE CATALOGUE OF TERRIFIC LOTS & PROMISES NOW AND REGISTER FOR THE LIVE EVENT BY VISITING [CHURN ONLINE AUCTION](#)

*Hi Martyn & Mike. Churn Project update - On-Line Auction: I would be grateful if you would let members know that the Churn Project Auction due to have been held on the 18th September had to be postponed and the 59 Lots and Promises are now to be offered **On-Line 7.00pm on Friday 19th November.** The Auction will be conducted by Philip Allwood of Moore Allen & Innocent – this will be certainly a fun and entertaining evening; an opportunity to purchase Lots and or Promises (Christmas is only just around the corner); and a great opportunity to support our local incredible Charity who do so much to assist so many folk (young and elderly) in Cirencester and the surrounding towns and villages. I attach a Poster (in pdf format) and should be so very grateful if this could be included in*

Vignettes. By clicking on the words [Churn Online Auction](#) on the attached Poster, you will be taken directly to the dedicated page on the Moore Allen & Innocent website, where you can view the Catalogue and Register to Bid. Registration is straightforward; please note you will be asked for your debit/credit card details but please be assured this is for security purposes only. If you bid

successfully on the evening, you will receive an email from Moore Allen & Innocent post-auction, which will give you The Churn Project's bank details so you can make payment and arrange collection from a Cirencester address. Should any member be unable to be present on the evening of the Auction bids may be made on-line prior to the event. One further request – do promise no more! – if our members were able to `share` this information through their Facebook or other social media sites that would be wonderful. Many, many thanks for supporting the Churn Project – kindest regards and all best wishes, Brian.

Acronyms - A Note by John Hankin for New Members

For many members including our newer members, the world of club photography seems to be dominated by an impenetrable wall of acronyms and jargon so our President, John Hankin prepared a very useful note to help understand some of the more commonly used acronyms. This appeared in Vignettes 14 (2020) but we thought it was a good idea to brush it off and give it an update. Here goes:

PAGB - Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

The PAGB Co-ordinates Clubs Nationally, through 15 Regional Federations (Ours is WCPF – Western Counties Photographic Federation - see below), maintains lists of Judges and runs lifetime Awards (Distinctions for Photographic Merit) to individual club members.

CPAGB - Credit - awarded for 10 pictures – “Good Club Photography”

DPAGB - Distinction - 15 pictures of “Open Exhibition Standard”

MPAGB - Master – “Highest Standard of UK Amateur Photography”

APAGB - Award – given for Services to PAGB

WCPF - Western Counties Photographic Federation

The WCPF maintains lists of neighbouring Judges and Lecturers as part of the PAGB. It runs annual member exhibitions and **DPIC** (Digitally Projected Images Competition) each February, in Exeter, where each Club enters 18 images which are assessed by three Judges. Points awarded are totalled. The highest scoring Clubs go forward to a National Competition.

Individual connections

RPS – Royal Photographic Society

The RPS was formed in the 1850's, and is an internationally recognised organisation offering a monthly magazine (The Journal), runs training courses and awards distinctions. The RPS also has

several specialist groups (eg digital Imaging and nature) which issue their own publications and run practical and training events nationally.

LRPS - Licenciateship - awarded for 10 pictures presented as a “panel” and meeting specified criteria to demonstrate a command of photography.

ARPS - Associateship - awarded for 15 pictures in one genre presented as a panel.

FRPS - Fellowship - the highest award and requires 20 pictures presented as a Panel.

NB – to maintain the an RPS distinction, continued membership of the RPS is required.

PSA – Photographic Society of America

FIAP – International Federation for Amateur Photographers

BPE – British Photography Exhibitions

These three organisations offer grades of award for success in approved exhibitions such as the Cheltenham Salon (CISP)

Salons

Photographic “Salons” are events run by many clubs around the globe and anyone can enter for a fee. They can generate good income for a club but, equally, require a lot of organising. An acceptance in a Salon is a worthy result and can count towards accreditation for some organisations. Salons can be held under the auspices of one or all organisations like RPS, PSA, FIAP, and BPE, all of which have slightly different judging rules (particularly Travel and Wildlife/Nature. All Salon competitions are independently judged.

CISP – Cheltenham International Salon of Photography. This is an annual event for individual projected images run by our neighbouring Cheltenham Club. It’s a good way to see, at modest cost, how your best pictures compare with others in an International arena.

“POTY’s

Vignettes often records the results of “xxxxx Photographer Of The Year” (....POTY). These competitions are generated by many, indeed an unending number of, organisations (charitable and commercial), the most prestigious probably being the Natural History Museum’s “Wildlife Photographer Of The Year” (WPOTY). They cover a vast range of photographic genres but, in the main, anyone can enter, sometimes for free sometimes there’s a charge.

Internal Competitions

This Season's Club Competitions

Subject	Competition	Submission Date	Judging Date
Water (in all its forms)	A	September 27 th , 2021	October 25 th , 2021
Architecture	B	November 8 th , 2021	December 6 th , 2021
Sunrise, sunset	C	December 6 th , 2021	January 17 th , 2022
Coastal	D	January 17 th , 2022	February 14 th , 2022
Winter	E	February 28 th , 2022	March 28 th , 2022
Farming in the Cotswolds	Pitchers Trophy (annual Competition)	April 11 th , 2022	May 9 th , 2022
Various	Annual Competitions	April 11 th , 2022	May 9 th , 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-59077933>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-58955485>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-59031940>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-59013688>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-59054453>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-59075237>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-59050515>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-59010115>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-59041286>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-59109736>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-59113968>

Bits And Bobs

I was having a clear out a few days ago and came across a box of plastic slide film holders (see photo). There's 15 of them. You used to get them if you were having slides copied where the copies came on a roll for you to cut up and mount yourself. They are the same size as the square card universal slide.

A couple of years ago I donated Scott Kelly's excellent Lightroom book to the club as a new edition had come out. Whilst it's now out of date in respect of the Develop module (particularly after the latest Lightroom update) much of it is still useful, particularly dealing with the dreaded download and library module. I'll bring it along when we meet in case anyone wants to borrow it.

By the way, as a result of the latest Lightroom update, Scott's latest edition of his comprehensive tome comes out next February 2022 some four years since his last so it will sweep up all the changes made to the software over the last four years.

And finally.....

Sorry but I couldn't resist this. Wonder when robots are going to move into aiding photography. Wildlife perhaps? Anyway this is definitely worth a watch. Slightly unnerving.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/entertainment-arts-59101408>

Quote of the Week

I think good dreaming is what leads to good photographs - Wayne Miller

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.