



Vignettes 118

January 27th, 2022

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. First of all a big thanks to Shaun in bringing forward his Photoshop talk from February to accommodate our shuffled programme to meet the Covid rules. And what an excellent presentation by Shaun in demonstrating how creativity can be put to good use via the powerful tools available in Photoshop. A 26 club member turnout was very healthy to watch and listen and, for those of you who want to watch it again, we recorded it. Click the link below to view the Zoom recording of Shaun's tutorial and the layered Photoshop file of the completed image.

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AsZzxajrGoYWiNorCKydRgLWWN9NHw?e=HUs4DC>

Shaun's talk brought a couple of things to mind. First, the original image was a "grab shot" and not only covered a larger area but my poor little compact struggled to focus in time. So whilst I ended up with the image I wanted (but cropped later) it was too "soft" to use in a competition as it was. But I still liked the image. The only thing I could do was to give it an "impressionist" finish to hide its "blurriness" which I managed to do with one of Photoshop's creative filters. So that was all fine. However, it was Martin Fry's suggestion, during judging, to place the image inside a digital picture frame to make it an "image within an image" but of course to meet any club competition rules, the whole image has to be your work. So downloading an image of a picture frame to use wouldn't be allowed. I've yet to take a picture of a picture frame - but it's on the "todo" list. So, whilst Shaun's "working" version on Monday night was based on a downloaded image of a picture frame, this was purely for expediency. Here are the two images (the processed "original" & Shaun's framed version). The moral of the story is - if you like your image think about what you can do with it to counter any disruptive elements.

Finally, it's a question that's been asked before but Shaun's sound advice is to take a look at the many YouTube channels out there when it comes to learning Photoshop. A couple of recommendations are worth a look at - **Julianne Kost** <https://jkost.com/blog> and **Phlearn** - <https://phlearn.com/> or <https://phlearn.com/free-tutorials/>



Next Monday - 31st Jan

Gavin James will be presenting a Zoom talk on Astro Photography. It's been over a couple of years since we had a talk on the subject from Alyn Wallace (Nov 2019). Gavin has been in touch and here's a bit about his presentation:

Hello Martyn, I look forward to next Monday evening and meeting everyone online. As for the talk – it will be entitled “From Smart Phone to Smart Dome” and here is a bit of blurb about it:

Astrophotography is a tricky art form, but it is amazing what can be done with relatively humble modern equipment and a little patience. The talk takes a beautifully illustrated and practical look at a range of photographic techniques to capture the heavens, starting with the phone in your pocket, through your holiday snaps DSLR, all the way to a fully remote operable back garden observatory.

I will tailor the talk to focus primarily on the ‘DSLR’ bit as I guess that is what the majority of your members will have and use (though I’m sure less of the ‘holiday snaps’ bit!!). I will briefly mention what a smart phone can do at the beginning, and I will also look at some more ‘advanced’ techniques for capturing solar system images with a telescope and end with a look at my back garden observatory, which is set up to capture the best possible deep sky images with all sorts of specialist kit. I hope that will all entertain, inform and inspire.

Many thanks and look forward to next week, Gavin.

www.gjmultimedia.co.uk

Astronomy Photographer of The Year

With Gavin James giving us a talk on Astrophotography in a few days time what better time to provide details of the Astronomy Photographer Of The Year.

Astronomy Photographer of the Year is an annual exhibition showcasing the world's greatest space photography. Now in its 13th year, in 2021 the competition attracted over 4,500 entries from 75 countries across the globe. Photographers from around the world competed to be part of the exhibition and take home the prestigious title.

This year's exhibition is now open at the National Maritime Museum, featuring over 100 photographs on brilliant lightbox displays. Visit the exhibition until 7 August 2022. Catch the exhibition and winning images details here:

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/astronomy-photographer-year/exhibition>

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/astrophotography/astronomy-photographer-year-2021-winners/>

Battle Against Stroud and Cheltenham - 8th Feb

Just to let you know that the Battle Committee have been hard at work in choosing the images for the upcoming battle with Stroud and Cheltenham. It's on Zoom so if you join us for what is always an entertaining evening, we will be circulating the Zoom dial in details nearer the time.

The Panel Challenge

As mentioned on Monday night and in last week's Vignettes, the club has offered to purchase A1 size Panel Challenge Boards (to get the benefit of bulk purchase). So if you can let us know by mid-March whether you are going to enter, we will try and negotiate a good deal.

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year 2021 (WPOTY) Exhibition At Nature In Art, Twigworth

It's great to see that the WPOTY exhibition is returning to Nature in Art, Twigworth this year, from 1st Feb to the 27th March. Although some images are not for the faint hearted, it really is an excellent exhibition showcasing the winners from 50,000 entries across the globe. Catch the details here:

<https://natureinart.org.uk/whatson/>

Martin Fry Exhibition - Cheltenham

Martin Fry has recently been in contact to advertise his upcoming exhibition in Cheltenham so if you are in town and have some spare time or want to make a special visit, here's some info from Martin:

*Hi Martyn. I hope this finds you well. I thought this might be of interest to your Cirencester CC colleagues - I am holding an exhibition of my work at the Gardens Gallery in Cheltenham very soon **starting Feb 9th - 15th**. Please could you mention it at the club and feel free to tell your friends etc? Free Entry / Coffee shop next door! I enclose a link below and would be delighted to meet your members.*

Best wishes

Martin

www.glos.info/whats-on-art-in-montpellier-gardens-cheltenham/cotswold-and-cornish-cream-284084/

Paul Jones has been in touch

Paul has been in touch:

Hi Martyn, Nikon recently emailed a video about their new Z9 mirrorless. Actually there's not much about the equipment but the location brought back memories. It's based around the glaciers surrounding Zermatt and the Matterhorn, attempting to highlight ice loss over the past 70 years or so. Very close to where I took my Zermatt Glacier shot, where I finished up after doing the Chamonix to Zermatt Haute Route in 2006. I've included a couple of stills from the video; especially love his moonlight Matterhorn shot from within the glacier cave itself. Not sure how they lugged/powerd the lighting for the cave interior! Best wishes ... Paul

Take a look:

THOMAS PESCHAK'S GLACIER EXPEDITION WITH THE Z9

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlnP2W_9Trc

Leica Unveils First Ever Leica Picture of The Year, By Ralph Gibson

Well, as Paul has opened up the topic of “other” cameras out there (other than Canon that is!) I feel obliged to let you into the world of Leica who recently got onto the bandwagon by announcing its first ever Leica “Picture of the year”. Here's an interesting article along with the fabled image which just goes to show that, as you see, it's all about seeing:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/uk/news/leica-unveils-first-ever-leica-picture-of-the-year-by-ralph-gibson>

BBC pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-60028525>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-60106144>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9z8p86per7o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-60104510>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-60017069>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60076150>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60023556>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-60070024>

CISP Is Up and Running

Don't forget that entries for the Cheltenham International Salon of Photography competition are now open. Here's a link:

<https://cheltenhamcameraclub.uk/salon-2022/>

Internal 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>

Quote of the Week

Life is like a camera. Just focus on what's important and capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don't work out, just take another shot - Unknown.

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.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.