



Vignettes 119

February 2nd, 2022

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. Nothing like a bit of photographic variety and we certainly had that on Monday night delivered by Gavin James to a 28-member Zoom turnout. His lighthearted and enjoyable presentation built up to some amazing Astro images all supported by useful camera settings which we don't often get. The "rule of 500" is worth remembering for anything astro related and it's amazing what's out there in terms of kit and software to help you. Astro photography literally is a parallel universe! It was a purer talk in Astro terms than, and a foil to, Alyn Wallace's terrific landscape Astro talk which we had over a couple of years ago but both require lots of warm clothes not to mention, in the case of the former, money! Insomnia might come in handy as well. I made a list of the various apps, hardware and software which Gavin uses and the "Friends of Marlborough telescope" seems a great way to get into the subject for the princely sum of £20 per annum (link below). All good stuff. Personally, I'm still getting my head around looking at images of stars 400 million light years away but there's no doubt that the new James Webb telescope up in space is going to deliver some amazing images. By the way the late James E. Webb ran the fledgling US space agency (NASA) from February 1961 to October 1968. He believed that NASA had to strike a balance between human space flight and science.

As Gavin mentioned, Elon Musk's desire to wrap the earth in up to 42,000 "Starlink" satellites doesn't bode well for astronomy and if you want to see a hilarious caricature of Elon's character played by Sir Mark Rylance, watch the excellent film "Don't look up" on Netflix.

Here's some useful links which Gavin provided. It's worth looking at some of the software websites just to see what can be achieved:

1. Starry Landscape Stacker (App to eliminate noise and blend scenes). Here's a review - <https://www.nightphotographyworkshop.com/articles-tutorials/stacking-app-review-best-stackers>
2. Photopills - Photopills is a powerful smartphone app combining sun and moon position prediction, location shoot planning and instant calculators for exposure, depth of field, time lapse sequences and much more - <https://www.photopills.com/>
3. The Photographer's Ephemeris - The Photo Ephemeris helps you plan outdoor photography in natural light. It's a map-based Sun, Moon, and Milky Way calculator. Plan your shot with perfect precision - <https://photoephemeris.com/en>
4. Met Office - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>. Dark Sky - <https://darksky.net/forecast/40.7127,-74.0059/us12/en>. Clear Outside - <https://clearoutside.com/forecast/50.7/-3.52>. YR - <https://www.yr.no/en>. Scope nights - <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/scope-nights-astronomy-weather/id540120977>. All weather channels you can call on. Gavin's experience is that a 24 hour forecast is about as accurate as you will get.
5. Dew prevention lens warmer and related powerbank - not expensive. Look on Amazon.
6. Starstax - StarStax is user friendly, free and multiplatform software you can use to make your star trail photography easier - <https://expertphotography.com/starstax-review/>
7. AutoStakkert - free video stacking software using "Lucky Imaging" - <https://www.autostakkert.com/>
8. Registax - free video stacking software using "Lucky Imaging" - <https://www.astronomie.be/registax/>

9. Telescopes and kit mounting hardware - <http://skywatcher.com/about/>
10. Home observatory - Pulsar- fantastic website - <https://www.pulsarastro.com/>
11. Telescope mounting kit- Mesu- http://www.mesu-optics.nl/mesu200_en.html
12. Cloud watcher - Through an infrared sensor of the AAG CloudWatcher measures the temperature of the **sky**, and an electronic thermometer measures the internal temperature. Both data are then related by a powerful formula used to determine the existence of clouds - <https://shop.lunaticoastro.com/product/aag-cloudwatcher-cloud-detector/>
13. All sky camera - The Oculus all-sky camera is designed to provide high quality sky images for weather and meteor observations. The camera core is based on the 1.4 megapixel 'SuperStar' and it employs a 2.5mm FL f1.2 'Fish-Eye' lens to achieve 150 degrees coverage.- <https://www.sxccd.com/product/oculus-all-sky-camera-150/>
14. Specialised imaging camera - By QSI - <https://qsimaging.com/products/600-series/qsi-683/>
15. Software for running the imaging - Sequence Generator Pro - <https://www.sequencegeneratorpro.com/sgpro/>
16. Software for processing Astro images - amazing website- <https://www.astropixelprocessor.com/>
17. The Friends of Marlborough Telescope- <https://blackettobservatory.org/friends/>

Next Monday - "Take 5" (Currently Take 4)

It could have been the Three Musketeers! Anyway, it's not too late if someone wants to unleash their burning secret on any aspect of photography we could be tuned into but at the moment I'm doing a talk on Scanning. David is covering a new Look at ISO. John is telling us about the challenges with Lightroom classic (Mirror the LR catalogue and photos to the cloud on OneDrive; access the LR catalogue from a second PC/Mac; using temporary catalogues - away on holiday, focus stacking). Paul is still working on it which makes it all the more intriguing.

Upcoming "Battle" And DPIC Judging on Zoom

Following on from information about the above in last week's Vignettes, Paul Norris (Battle Sec) has been in touch on the upcoming WCPF DPIC competition at the weekend and the Battle against Cheltenham & Stroud on Tuesday 8th which will be tough but entertaining. Here's Paul:

Annual Western Counties Photographic Competition (WCPF)

As you are all probably aware the WCPF run an annual digital competition where clubs are invited to enter 18 images from members across each club. A number have to be mono and some can be nature but the aim is for each club to showcase their best work up against other photographers. The annual competition is scheduled to run this Sunday, it will be streamed via Zoom, details below. The results will be circulated by 13 Feb but at this stage I am planning on listening in so hopefully will have some news for you on Monday.

This year the selection committee met and agreed the following images would represent the club – well done to everyone who has selected images.



Banana splash.jpg



Champagne sparkle.jpg



Cold Out Warm In.jpg



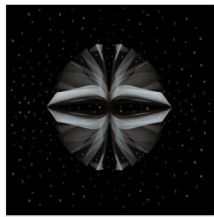
Jaz Through the Wheel.jpg



Little & Large.jpg



Making waves.jpg



Moving music.jpg



Pears.jpg



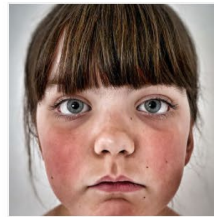
Physalis reflection.jpg



Piano Keyboard.jpg



Solar panel tree.jpg



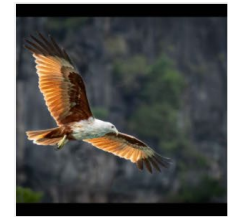
Sometimes naughty.JPG



Streaming away.jpg



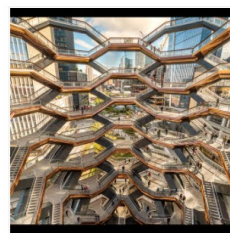
Tender touch.jpg



Thai Red Backed Sea Eagle.jpg



The follow through.jpg



The Vessel, New York.jpg



Winter Cotswold Sheep.jpeg

Here's the Zoom details from Russell McGowan, DPIC Secretary:

The WCPF DPIC 2022 Judging will be presented via Zoom on Sunday February 6th, 2022. The invitation details are shown below, please could you circulate to your club members. The meeting will be open from 09:30 and the event will commence at 10:00 am, with the format being the same as last year and very similar to previous events held at The Exeter Corn Exchange. DPIC is always a well-attended and enjoyable event and we hope you will be able to join is on the 6th.

Topic: WCPF DPIC 2022 Live Zoom Event Time: Feb 6, 2022 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88189920017?pwd=Yk93LzUveVo3ME5nZU03d3JDFFFmUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 8992 0017

Passcode: 383581

Inter-club Battle Cirencester vs Cheltenham vs Stroud

The 2022 inter-club battle is scheduled for next Tuesday 8th February. Each club is invited to submit 20 images, which can include a maximum of 5 nature and must have a minimum of 5 mono. Given the continuing Coronavirus challenge the meeting is going to be held via Zoom again, here's the link below:

Feb 8: Tuesday Zoom battle v Cirencester & Stroud:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88461694308?pwd=VS96UWNqNjFOV2wyeWpST2tNOFM0QT09>

The Zoom link will open around 19:15 for a social chat if anyone wants to join early. The evening will start about 7.45pm

The battle selection committee have again met and selected the following images based on recent competitions and also some additional ones submitted by members for consideration.

This is always an enjoyable evening and it would be good to have as many as possible join us next week. Good luck to everyone who has an image entered. Any questions please let me know. Paul

Thanks Paul for all the info and to the selection committee for making the difficult decisions.



Cold Out Warm
In - Mike
Cheeseman -
Ciren - PDI



Full Stretch_1 -
John Hankin -
Ciren - PDI



Jaz Through the
Wheel - Patrick
Barker - Ciren
-PDI



Lighthouse - Jill
Bewley - Ciren -
PDI



Little and Large -
Martyn Smith -
Ciren - PDI



Looking out the
window - Colin
Hoskins - Ciren
-PDI



PIANO
KEYBOARD =
Mike Cheeseman
- Ciren - PDI



Solar panel tree -
Colin Hoskins -
Ciren - PDI



Sometimes
naughty - Vicki -
Ciren - PDI



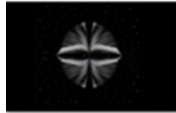
Streaming away
- Sue Gunnee -
Ciren - PDI



Tender touch - Jill
Bewley - Ciren -
PDI



Thai Red Backed
Sea Eagle -
Martyn Smith -
Ciren - PDI



Moving Music -
Mike Cheeseman
- Ciren - PDI



Oak Tree
Sunrise_Ruth
Barker_Cirenceste
r_PDI



Pause for
reflection - Jill
Bewley - Ciren -
PDI



PEAR SHAPES -
Mike Cheeseman
- Ciren - PDI



Physalis
reflection - Jill
Bewley - Ciren -
PDI



Warthog and
friends_Ruth
Barker_Cirenceste
r_PDI



Winter Cotswold
Sheep - Patrick
Barker - Ciren -
PDI



Biblical Scene -
Martyn Smith

PAGB News - Special Edition

A special edition of 300th PAGB news has just come out. Vignettes is catching up!! Here's the link:

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en300%2001%20Feb%202022.pdf>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60146664>

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-60131496>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-60170516>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60169386>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60077965>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-60155174>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-60156013>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-60125941>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60188375>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-60190444>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60209010>

Wideyed

I came across this interesting organisation recently. Wideyed is an arts collective that undertakes international projects and creative collaborations leading to the production and innovative dissemination of new works. Since founding it in February 2008, its photographers have played active roles in photography festivals, received awards and bursaries, worked on commission, and exhibited from England to South Africa. Here's a link to its excellent website including what it's doing at the moment and who its movers and shakers are:

<https://wideyed.org/who-we-are/wideyed/>

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.

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

Only photograph what you love - Tim Walker

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.