



Vignettes 123

March 4th, 2022

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well and enjoyed Heidi Stewart's inspiring talk on Monday, all taken in accessible UK locations, and on a relatively small range of accessible camera kit. As commented to me afterwards, her quality images are all well within the scope (with a bit of practice!) of a competent club photographer. As always it's about "seeing" the picture and possibly another one "within" it, using the best available light in the best way and having some processing experience to bring an image to life (colour or mono). As always, weather plays a big part in landscape photography so Apps like "The Photographer Ephemeris" are a useful tool to have in your bag. A good and enjoyable evening expertly delivered. Heidi's husband Alec is also a photographer who gives talks on "British wildlife through the seasons" - again something attainable in the UK and one perhaps we might book for in next season's programme.

As for next week, I hope you can come along to what should be an entertaining evening with the highly experienced Martin Fry giving us an AV demonstration and one in which you can join in. Last week's Vignettes set out what you need to do if you are going to bring your laptop to participate. The more the merrier.

Jill reminded us of the Panel Challenge on the 25th April. We'll soon be asking how many members are going to have a go so we can bulk buy the mount boards so don't leave it too late if you are still thinking about it. It should be fun.

Cirencester Battle Against Tetbury - Tuesday 1st March - We Won!!

Paul's been in touch with an excellent round up of our Battle against Tetbury:

Hi everyone. On Tuesday 1st March, the annual inter-club rivalry between Tetbury and Cirencester was renewed, Tetbury hosted this year and as ever 30 images from each club were pitted against each other. There was a range of excellent pictures, and the range of marks reflected the overall high quality of the images. Our star performers were:

- *Cold Out Warm In – Mike Cheeseman (20)*
- *Lighthouse – Jill Bewley (20)*
- *Sometimes Naughty – Vicki O'Keefe (20)*
- *Looking out the window – Colin Hoskins (19)*
- *Thai Red Backed Sea Eagle – Martyn Smith (19)*
- *Winter Cotswold Sheep – Patrick Barker (19)*

Overall Cirencester won by two points, and it came down to the last image on each side to decide the winner. Overall scores were:

Cirencester – 514

Tetbury – 512

Well done to everyone!

Thanks Paul. Just to add that Judge Michael Krier from the Cheltenham Club was typically constructive in his scoring and feedback. He has judged us before on a few occasions as well as presenting a talk to us on what judges look for.

Also, it's worth mentioning that in judging Vicki's image Michael Krier felt that it had been taken by a professional and likened the style to that of American Photographer Alex Soth. High praise indeed. Well done again Vicki. Here's Alex Soth's website so that you can see where Michael is coming from.

<https://alecsoth.com/photography/>

Beginners Photography

Although we are looking to develop a "buddy" system to help new club members with more limited experience gain confidence in their photography, Jill has reminded me of an excellent website by Emma Davies called "A Year with My Camera" which might be attractive to some members. Jill has had very good feedback from users. It is a year-long beginner's photography course that is free by email. You will progress from being a complete beginner to being comfortable off auto mode in less than 6 weeks. Then spend the rest of the year exploring composition, light, creativity and finding your style. Here's a link to the website:

<https://ayearwithmycamera.com/>

Ukraine - Want to Help?

Ever wondered where you might be able to contribute to help the terrible Ukraine situation? Brian has been in touch with some really helpful advice for this very worthy cause:

Hi Mike and Martyn,

*I thought that you may be interested to know that if members are interested in contributing to the Ukraine cause, one option is through the **Cirencester Baptist Church** where goods are being despatched by lorry to Poland by several of the volunteers who will be driving **on the 17th March** – contacts in Poland will arrange for drop off points for the goods when they arrive.*

I appreciate that everyone may have their own preferred approach but it may help to know that the items desperately needed for this specific initiative are:

- 1. Nappies, wipes, children's colouring books and crayons/ pencils.*
- 2. Large blankets and sleeping bags.*
- 3. First aid items such as plasters, bandages, and antiseptic wipes/wash.*
- 4. Protein bars, baby food pouches, (which cannot contain meat or milk due to border control), sterilising tablets.*
- 5. Dry foods such as pasta, rice,, tea and biscuits.*
- 6. Vests and new socks and pants.*
- 7. Toiletries such a toothbrushes and toothpaste, bars of soap and roll on deodorant (no aerosols).*

*Goods can also be left at St Peter`s Church in St Peter`s Road, Ciren – **between 10.00 and 10.30 any morning or 4.00 to 6.30 any evening** - an arrangement made by the Baptist Church with the Roman Catholics; good for the ecumenical movement! Any problems in leaving goods do speak with the Baptist Church Administrator – **Patricia Lee – 01285 643510***

I know from phone calls received many folk are keen to send money – certainly the Red Cross website is ideal for that purpose. You may have seen the a BBC appeal via the charity <http://www.dec.org.uk/home> . I hope that all helps.

Best wishes, Brian.

International Women's Day - 8th March

Photography is not left out in celebrating IWD next week and there's a great number of websites dealing specifically by, for example, looking into how famous female photographers portray women, and recognising female photographers for their abundance of creativity and dedication to the craft. Here's a few links which provides great diversity in setting women at the forefront for this annual celebration at a time where 70% - 80% of photography students globally are women yet they only represent around 15% of professional photographers.

<https://www.iphotography.com/blog/international-womens-day/>

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/hasselblad-heroines-announce-winners-in-time-for-international-womens-day>

<https://rps.org/news/bristol/2022/february/international-women-s-day/>

Transient Light and The Landscape - Corinium Museum

Fri 4 March , 10:00 am - Sat 23 April , 4:00 pm

Nice to find a exhibition on photography on our doorstep. This is a collaborative exhibition of work by local artist, Abigail Waddell and photographer Stephen Shepherd at the Corinium Museum, Cirencester. In this show the artists combine their different styles of recording the landscape into a single set of creative images all exploring the nature of light, landscape and capturing that transient moment, never to be seen exactly the same again. Here's the link and more info about the exhibition:

<https://coriniummuseum.org/event/transient-light-and-the-landscape/>

Miscellaneous

Photographers gather in Yosemite to capture spectacular waterfall 'on fire'

I think we ran this annual story in an early edition of Vignettes but it's always worth repeating. Have you ever seen a waterfall on fire? Every year for a few precious hours the Horsetail Falls in California's Yosemite National Park appears to glow as if it's burning, resembling the magma

pouring out of a volcano. It's one of those 'secret' photography events that you have to know about long in advance, carefully plan for, and execute with precision. However, the details of when and where to capture one of the most spectacular annual natural shows in the world – the 'Horsetail Firefall' phenomenon – are quickly becoming common knowledge among landscape photographers. It reminded me a bit of Heidi Stewart's experiences of battling with other photographers in popular locations, something our own Shaun Little has also experienced. Here's the story:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/uk/features/photographers-gather-in-yosemite-to-capture-spectacular-waterfall-on-fire>

Sony World Photography Awards 2022

Selected works from the finalists and shortlisted photographers celebrated in the 2022 Professional competition have been revealed. The finalists go on to the next stage of the competition to compete to be the winner of their category and, if successful, then go on to be considered for the coveted title Photographer of the Year, announced 12 April. Have a look at the shortlisted finalists in the 10 photo categories.

<https://www.worldphoto.org/2022-professional-competition-finalists-shortlist>

Royal Observatory Astronomy Photographer of the Year announced

The winner of Astronomy Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award 2021 has just been revealed! Photographer Marcin Zajac' dazzling image "Alien Throne" has been voted the public's favourite photo from this year's exhibition.

Here's a link to Marcin's amazing image:

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/astronomy-photographer-year/galleries/peoples-choice-2021>

And Now for Something Completely Different

We've had a photographer JP Stones contact us about a Zoom talk. No space at the moment this season and we've still got to think about whether or not we have any Zoom talks in the future. In the meantime, this from "JP" might tickle your fancy:

Hi Cirencester Camera Club, my name is JP Stones, I'm a British-born Cultural Photographer currently working in Mexico. I've spent the last 5 years photographing a small group of Azteca dancers.



*This project has taught me a lot about the importance of weaving narrative into my portraits. My talk, *Storytelling for Photographers*, explores this topic.*



The talk has received great feedback so far:

“We really enjoyed seeing how JP constructed his images to express stories. The resulting portraits are superb! JP demonstrated a different way of looking at things, for which we are grateful”

ERYRI Photo Group

“It is talks like yours that make us bless the invention and use of Zoom.”

Lorraine Hardy, SPC

“JP’s images were amazing and really told a story. He explained his ideas and processes in a clear and concise manner. ”

Naas Photography Group

If you are interested in booking me to present (Zoom) to your group in the 22/23 year. You can email me, or [visit my website](#) for more details and photos. I look forward to chatting with you all!

Thanks, JP



Nikon are losing it

Ok, not really but this story below is worth watching. Hilarious. While Nikon are concentrating on creating dodgy shutter sounds, Canon must have decided that there are photographers out there prepared to pay £20k - £22k for two new mirrorless “long” Primes which have just been announced - RF800 f5.6 & RF1200 f8. Where’s that piggy bank gone..... Check out the various links:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/uk/news/not-a-joke-the-nikon-z9-has-a-cat-meow-shutter-sound>

http://r.comms.eos-magazine.com/mk/mr/7WIO3fITyRDjJq_t7jBmZIDoCyITbI31oR0h8JsoAEhaLMAvjdn8HCiMrtbU5NYRSamESHww07Vgl-nToHf9Fqvf1s5ju8Z7Xxk4IO6TV9NPvrvpCgXfDCKdieTg8I8T4X5F0Q0ynA

PAGB Newsletter

We've just received the latest PAGB Newsletter. Always a good read.

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en302%201%20March.pdf>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60497480>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-60455065>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60462177>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-60508013>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/features/60469275>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-60492702>

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

It's weird that photographers spend years or even a whole lifetime, trying to capture moments that added together, don't even amount to a couple of hours - James Lalropui Keivom

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.