



Vignettes 127

March 30th, 2022

Contents

Club News	1
Next Monday - Focus Stacking	4
A Post-Script to My Previous "Vignettes Ramblings"	5
Leigh Preston All Day "Improve Your Photography" Workshop - Summer	5
Bits n' Bobs.....	7
BBC Pictures	8
Internal Competitions.....	10
Quote of the Week.....	10
Appendix 1: Club Face to Face (F2F) Meetings - Covid Measures.....	11
Appendix 2 Suitable Subjects for Focus Stacking.....	12

Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. Another great night with Angela Rendell returning to put her judging prowess to good use in judging the last of our five regular club competitions over the season (Comp E). She gave some excellent constructive advice along the way in choosing a great range of different images and her artistic background came out in choosing the award-winning images.

The results are below and, as you can see, we had 19 different winners over the 33 awards which continues to maintain a healthy spread of photographic skill in the club. Angela brought along her picture display frames which are really useful in letting everyone see both the winning images as well as those which didn't make the cut. Much better than putting them back in the box. Made by her son-in-law, who attended, and I'm pleased to say that he has agreed to make us two of the larger display frames which the club will fund. They will be ready for next season and we can store them in the hall. Here are the winners:

Comp E 'WINTER' RESULTS

SET PRINT

First	Frosty Encounter	Mike Cheeseman
Second	Making Tracks	Katrina Ellor
Third	Classica Canada	Martyn Smith
HC	Frosty Misty Sunrise	Patrick Barker
HC	Winter Lockdown	Jill Bewley
C	Five Dogs and A Church	John Smith
C	Frozen Rain	Alun Thomas
C	Stroll in The Snow	Val Thomas

OPEN PRINT

First	Wood, Wicker and Clay	Martyn Smith
Second	Baroque Grandeur	Paul Jones
Third	Elephant Hawk Moth	David Wallis
HC	Leadenhall Market at Night	Ruth Barker
HC	The Cyclist	Jill Bewley
C	Arlington Row	Katrina Ellor
C	Hold My Train	Patrick Barker
C	Red Iguana	John Smith

SET DPI

First	Winter Garden	Colin Hoskins
Second	In the Grip of Winter	Jill Bewley
Third	Breaking Trail	Paul Jones
HC	Frost Fringed Leaves	Val Thomas
HC	Winter Cruise	David Wallis
C	Frozen Lane	Alun Thomas
C	Our Winter Game	Liz Gillham

OPEN DPI

First	Autumn Falls	Chris Donohoe
Second	Shaped by The Wind	John Crew
Third	Bathed in Sunshine	Jill Bewley
HC	Up the Pass	Ruth Barker
HC	Walkie Talkie Skyline	Patrick Barker
C	Air Soccer	John Spreadbury
C	Aspects of Paris	Alan Barker
C	Combe Martin	Sue Gunnee
C	Helford Sunrise	Martyn Smith
C	The Streaker	Val Thomas

Here are the winning images from each of the four sections:



Frosty Encounter by Mike Cheeseman



Wood, Wicker and Clay by Martyn Smith



Winter Garden by Colin Hoskins



Autumn Falls by Chris Donohoe

Next Monday - Focus Stacking

Ever wanted to take a nice image of something personal - perhaps a special ring or present but you couldn't get it all in focus. Well, what you need to do is "Focus Stack" (sometimes called focus bracketing) and with a bit of processing knowledge this will ensure that the whole of your image, front to back, is in sharp focus. That's what we are going to present and demonstrate next Monday. So, bring along your camera and something you want to photograph, and you can have a go. (See Appendix 2 for some ideas for suitable subjects). As for your lens, it's a flexible process but preferably a macro, prime (from about 25 mm upwards), or telephoto (24-105, 70-200 or 100-400) will all work. Other 'nice to have' items are a tripod and memory stick.

As for cameras, a few of us, including me, have the new-fangled mirrorless DSLR, whilst others have the more traditional DSLR. We are going to demonstrate both as the processes of taking the focus stacked images are different between cameras. John has built some special kit just for the

event and all will be revealed. We'll do our best to accommodate you, subject to your camera's workings. Don't worry if you can't process the images as there's enough of us who can.

A Post-Script to My Previous "Vignettes Ramblings"

As you might recall, over the last month or so, I've been putting together a few tips, tricks and advice on improving your photography. This has been guided, in the main, from a combination of my experience gained through competitions and talks from speakers and judges. Jill recently came across an interesting series of articles from the PAGB newsletter on the same theme but in much more detail. It's based on the whole process of judging, what judges should look for and the sort of things they do and don't like. If I've got time in the future, I might distill the 20 pages down to an aide memoir you can stick to your camera and computer. But in the meantime here's the link to some bedtime reading. Could be something for the next Christmas quiz!:

http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en105271213_JudgingSpecial.pdf

Leigh Preston All Day "Improve Your Photography" Workshop - Summer

Although I've only had two responses to last week's Vignettes note about a summer workshop with Leigh Preston, I'm going ahead to investigate availability for both him and the hall as it's an indoor all day event. I'll try and accommodate as many as possible, but the chosen date (even with a few alternatives) just isn't going to suit everyone. It's the nature of these types of events, although we could always organise another one or perhaps for those who just can't make it, see if it's possible to tag on to another local camera club workshop he might be booked to do. My guess and hope is that we might end up with around 15 of us which, at this number, will cost less than £10.00 per head including lunch. Keep emailing us if you are interested. It would be good to get a feeling for numbers.

The Bingham Gallery Club Display

Just a reminder that, if you haven't been to see our display at the Bingham Gallery, pop along and have a look. It's in a great location right by the entrance where the doors are kept open so it can be seen from the pavement. Well done again to all involved. It looks really good.



Bits n' Bobs

[Are you into pet photography? Check out "That Photography Spot"](#)

Ok all you animal lovers, here's a great website which focuses on pet photography. The TOG Awards is an international photography competition that is organized and administrated by That Photography Spot, a tool created to provide members with resources, online and in-person training courses and insider tips from multi-award-winning portrait photographer Jessica McGovern.

The awards from last year's entry have just been announced and the winner along with the winners' gallery is well worth a look at. Warwickshire-based photographer Sophia Hutchinson has been awarded the title of International PhoTOGrapher of the Year 2022, after achieving one of the top scores in the annual TOG Awards photography competition of her Dalmatian, Amber.

"That Photography Spot" exists to share tips and techniques that allow pet and portrait photographers to shoot with confidence. Covering over 10 years' worth of Jess' skills, the content available on YouTube and the sister blog help photographers start on the right track and enhance professional workflows and business strategy to create more profitable portrait photography businesses. Here's the links to the website and winners' gallery:

<https://www.thattogspot.com/about/>

<https://awards.thattogspot.com/2022-winners-gallery/>

[Have you come across The Societies of Photographers?](#)

Another photographic body I hadn't come across before. There's a bit of background about it below. The Societies of Photographers has announced the winner, as well as second and third place runners up, of its Photographer of the Year award. In addition, three winners were chosen as Photographers of the Year specifically for the 20x16" print competition, judged live at The Societies' 2022 Convention last week.

The Societies hosts a Monthly Image Competition, from which 12 winners are chosen over the course of the year, all of which are in the running to be selected as an overall winner after 12 months. In total, over 6,600 images were entered by members throughout 2021. Here's some links to its large website. Have a look in the "Members Area" and the "Events" sections:

<https://thesocieties.net/>

<https://thesocieties.net/about-us/>

How to photograph birds in flight

Want to know how to photograph birds in flight? This short video and article shows you how to take tack-sharp shots of birds of prey. Some great tips and tricks:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/uk/tutorials/how-to-photograph-birds-in-flight>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60863953>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-60815093>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60878983>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60793679>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-60861605>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-60851761>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-60859905>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-60866212>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60873404>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-60891852>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-60861843>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-60854082>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-60864780>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60916160>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-60893762>

Annual Awards Competitions 2021/22

The deadline for entering the Annual Competitions is fast approaching as all entries must be received by **Monday 11 April**. Here is a reminder of the categories:

Pitchers Trophy - Set Subject: Farming in the Cotswolds - DPI

Dennis Moss Trophy - Open - Print

Leonard Jones Cup - Open - DPI

Black and White - Open - Print

Miles Shield - Open but must have been taken on a Club outing or at a Club practical meeting - DPI

Gladiator Trophy - Set subject = Aviation - DPI

Pitcher's Cup - Open - Print or DPI - Entries from new members only

All DPIs must be 1600 x 1200px, and mounted prints must be no larger than 50cm x 40cm, and in the sRGB colour space. Images must not have been taken before 11 April 2017.

Please follow this naming convention when sending in your images, to ensure your entry goes into the correct competition:

Membership number_Annual_Award_Title_jpg

for example : 30_Annual_PitchersTrophy_Image title_jpg

30_Annual_Dennis Moss_Title-jpg

(To avoid any confusion, for the New Members, please use the full Pitchers Cup)

Please note that members are eligible to enter the Annual Comps if they have entered two or more of the club's respective general competitions during the current season (with the exception of the competition for the Best New Member).

If you have any questions please do drop Jill an email at competitions@cirencestercameraclub.org

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

Photography is an austere and blazing poetry of the real - Ansel Adams

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

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.

Appendix 2 Suitable Subjects for Focus Stacking

Focus Stacking Practical Night – April 4th

Here are some examples of subjects that would be suitable for bringing along to the Club's focus-stacking practical night.

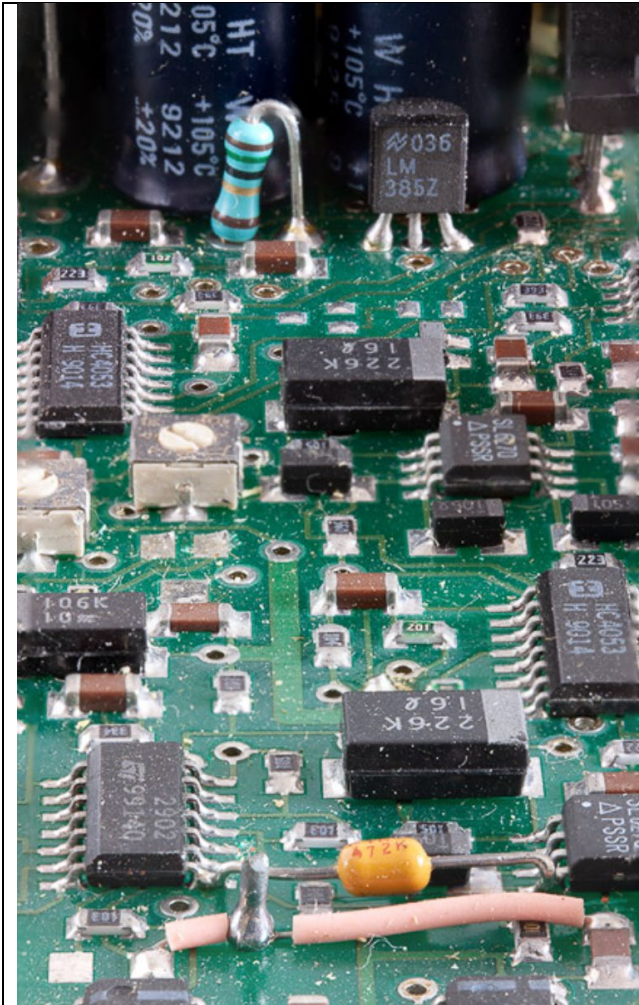
Example	Notes
	<p>Jewellery is a good subject for focus stacking. The subject doesn't move and is usually visually interesting.</p>
	<p>A great subject for focus stacking. Beware the subject can move (e.g. wilt) during the image capture sequence.</p>
	<p>An interesting challenge for focus stacking. Works better with the lens focus method rather than moving the camera.</p>
	<p>Small still-life subjects (even mundane ones) can be made to look interesting.</p>



Focus stacking allows the whole image to be in focus – the water drops and the image inside the drop.



Medium-sized still-life subjects can be handled very effectively with focus stacking.



Another everyday subject that can be handled effectively with focus stacking.



Small, interesting items of jewellery are excellent subjects for focus stacking.



Flowers are popular subjects.



Small, simple models are ideal first-time subjects.



Focus stacking can provide a different view of everyday subjects.



Another good first-time subject with scope for creative arrangement.