



Vignettes 128

April 6th, 2022

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. A big thanks to Jill for introducing us the world of lightbox photography via a thoroughly enjoyable talk, all prepared at short notice due to a late change in the programme. Jill showed us some great images not only created by her (always “foraging” for subject matter!) and some specialist photographers out there dedicated to the cause.

Thoughtfully, she also brought along all manner of props - I’ve eaten some them! As Jill said, your lightbox photography imagery is limited only by your creativity and, as we saw on Monday night, a great range of subject matter can be brought to life through the power of light both above and below. Jill emailed over some details of the kit she uses and links to the professional photographers who concentrate on this genre. See below.

Thanks too to John for bringing along his kit and props and acting as surrogate to help members who didn’t have their kit with them.



Hi Martyn

Whilst I remember, here is the info from my talk which people were asking about....

Harold Davis www.digitalfieldguide.com

Mady Disher www.mandydisher.com

Padma Inguva www.padmasworld.com

Jacky Parker www.jackparker.com

Lori Langford www.lorilangford.com

This is not a definitive list, there are plenty of other websites with examples, but also have a look on Pinterest for ideas. On Harold Davis website there is a comprehensive FAQ section, including how to build your own light box.

Here's a link to A3 Lightpad on Amazon

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Adjustable-Brightness-Sketching-Negatives-Stenciling/dp/B08699RH7V/ref=asc_df_B08699RH7V/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=443729183456&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=11456494644277194056&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9045606&hvtargid=pla-921202553501&psc=1&tag=&ref=&adgrpid=108593840608&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvadid=443729183456&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=11456494644277194056&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9045606&hvtargid=pla-921202553501

Amazon Link to small LED lights

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dimmable-Bi-color-3200-5600k-Battery-Camcorders/dp/B07QL8WHRV/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crd=P7ZZNGLF0PDQ&keywords=raleno+photography+led+lights&qid=1649148091&sprefix=raleno+photography+led+lights%2Caps%2C218&sr=8-2-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEyUUczU1FCRkMxVUsmZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTAxNDMzMTAyWVVGOU5ZN0NYUjITJmVuY3J5cHRIZEFkSWQ9QTA5NjU2NTIxUUU4Q0xWU0ZKRTJaJndpZGldE5hbWU9c3BfYXRmJmFjdGlvbj1jbGlja1JlZGlyZWNOJmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJ1ZQ==

hope this is OK

Jill

Mike is on the mend so, all being well, the focus stacking night (postponed for the second time) will finally be aired next Monday. See last week's Vignettes for guidance on what you need to bring.

It's the Annual Comps submission next Monday so we've put a bit of extra information at the end of this Vignettes for new members plus a bit of clarification over the rules.

Home made mini folding studio table top for macro/still life. A quick look at equipment and costs.

Although not all necessary for Lightbox photography, I thought it would be helpful to bring along, in advance last Monday, the kit I will be bringing for the focus stacking night next Monday. So, here's a bit of info for assistance.

1. B & Q MDF Board (L)1.22m (W)0.61m (T)6mm - £12.47.
2. Piano Metal Hinge, 380 x 26 x 1mm - Amazon - £9.00.
3. 2 x OTOTEC 5mm Stainless Steel Rigging Screw plus clevis pins- Amazon - £13.00.
4. 6 x Stainless Steel Eye Plate - Amazon - £6.00.
5. 2ft Square folding lightweight portable Table - REDCAMP- Amazon - £34.00.
6. 2 x Amazon Basics Aluminum 2.13 m Light Stand with Case - £28.00.
7. 2 x Smallrig Mini Ball Head with Removable Cold Shoe Mount for DSLR Cameras - Amazon - £16.60.
8. 2 x VILTROX L116T LED, Light Panel 3300K-5600K Color temperature and power adjustable LED Video Light for DSLR Camera with NP-F550 li-on rechargeable batteries. - Amazon - £42.00.
9. 6 x colour backdrops - Club Backdrops - £22 each less 30% discount for first purchase - £90.00.
10. 10 x Large Bull Clips Thickened, 3 Inch Long - Amazon - £10.00.
11. Decareta gel colour filters A4 - Amazon - £14.00.
12. 2 x Flat Bungee Cords Elastic Straps with Hooks - Amazon - £10.00
13. Hex cap head and countersunk s/s screws, washers and locknuts.
14. Tech gadget bag - Good idea
15. Power bank as backup for the led panel batteries - Good idea

N.B. The homemade folding studio table came to around £60-£70 whilst the rest of the kit is very much your choice depending on what you are going to do.

N.B My Huion A4 Lightpad model is the L4S which I originally bought for slide and negative viewing. As Jill said, it's better to get an A3 version for lightbox photography.

<https://store.huion.com/uk/collections/led-light-pad>

External Photography Competitions

Cobalt's Capture a Moment Photography Competition

We've been contacted by Cheltenham's Cobalt Health Unit who are running another photographic competition and it's right on our doorstep. Here's the details:

Hi Martyn

Cobalt is running a photography competition with some great prizes, 1st April to 31st July 2022, and I thought this may be of interest to your members, as well as family friends and colleagues. It is only £2 to enter an image and there is an adult and an Under 16 category (that we would love to see more entries for).

Cobalt's Capture a Moment Photography Competition 1st April – 31st July 2022

Prizes from London Camera Exchange, The Royal Photographic Society, Outdoor Photography magazine, Digital Photography magazine, workshops and more.

Winning images will be printed in Cobalt's 2023 calendar, all proceeds towards Cobalt's Teenage & Young Adult Cancer Nurse, and an exhibition of winning images will be held at Chapel Arts, Cheltenham in September 2022.

To enter go to <https://www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/capture-a-moment-for-cobalt-3/>

I wish your members the best of luck,

Kirsty Bradbury, Fundraising Engagement Office

Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year 2022 - short list announced

The shortlist for the Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year 2022 has just been announced and the entries aren't all that you might imagine. Submissions include everything from mouth-watering, restaurant-worthy shots, to imaginative sculptures of vegetables and even a Salvador Dali-inspired collage. Check out the entries here:

<https://www.pinkladyfoodphotographeroftheyear.com/galleries-2/>

The Scottish Nature Photography Awards (SNPA)

The SNPA winners were announced on the 30th March and there's some crackers. The website link is below and uses the virtual exhibition concept which, if you ever seen, is brilliant at taking you through the display "rooms". There's winners in 11 different categories to see and, as always with Scottish photography which we see from the BBC's website, the quality is high. The Scottish Nature Photography Awards Photographic Competition was launched in 2010 to provide a platform to celebrate Scotland as a key destination for nature photographers and to acknowledge the excellence of the photographic work that is undertaken here through the award of the title of "**Scottish Nature Photographer of the Year**". The annual competition invites entries of images taken in Scotland by professional or amateur photographers from around the world. Here's a link to the website:

<https://scottishnaturephotographyawards.com/>

Bits N' Bobs

Dave Cahill is famous!

Just in from Dave Cahill.

Hi Martyn/Mike. Fame at last - blipfoto used my ladybirds pic for their social media header

<https://twitter.com/Blipfoto>

Well done, Dave.

A bit of Astro for you

I know a few of us have been dabbling with Astro photography and the idea of it and we've had some interesting speakers on what is always a fascinating subject. Well, if you fancy taking it a bit further here's an interesting article reviewing deep space telescopes. Deep space = Deep pockets!

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/uk/buying-guides/best-deep-space-telescopes>

A bit of history for you

Ever wondered if you would find an early piece of Leica history, when ferreting about at a car boot sale? Well, as an alternative, get your bidding card ready for the Leitz Photographica Auction on 11 June at the Leitz Park in Wetzlar, Germany, The renowned auction house is holding the world's largest auction of historic cameras and among the unique collectibles and extraordinary examples of camera history up for auction, is an exceptional highlight namely the Leica O-Series No.105 produced in 1923. One of only 20 made and probably only 12 surviving. Oh, did I mention the guide price? £3m. Oh well, back to the car boot sale. Here's a bit of interesting history to live the dream for all you culture lovers:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/dollar33-million-leica-up-for-grabs-at-the-leitz-photographica-auction>

The SkyPixel 7th Anniversary Aerial Photo & Video Contest Winners Announced

Lightbox, Astro, what next in the world of photography. Yes, it's drone photography and this SkyPixel contest has revealed some stunners. SkyPixel is one of the world's most popular aerial

photography communities, and the SkyPixel 7th Anniversary Aerial Photo & Video Contest, Co-organized with DJI, attracted nearly 30,000 submissions from professional photographers, videographers, aerial enthusiasts and content creators from 124 countries and regions. There's all sorts of categories and some of the abstract winning images are not dissimilar to a lightbox image! Given the law surrounding flying drones, which Mike and Shaun will tell you all about, it's amazing one can capture anything at all. These are pretty motivating:

<https://www.skypixel.com/contests/2021>

PAGB Newsletter

Paul Jones has just forwarded the latest PAGB Newsletter. As he commented, the art is to find the real content amongst the April Fool items!

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en304%2001%20April%202022.pdf>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60941910>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60900384>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-60952353>

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-60939581>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-60473524>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-60905538>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-60943062>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-60912679>

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 - DPI - 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 but see also below for additional notes)

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

The Dropbox link is featured on every Comp submission page, along with a News item - here is the link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/DpAdq7inLJSz17gWu2Bg>

The Annual Competitions - A Few Points of Clarification

Hi Martyn. A few queries about the Annual Comps have arisen so I hope the extra info below helps.

1. Pitchers Trophy (Farming in the Cotswolds) is for DPI images.
2. The Pitchers Trophy (Farming in the Cotswolds). The Brief.. I would suggest that this should be a broad interpretation of the subject, and that we trust everyone to have taken their image in 'the Cotswolds', just as they did with 'Water in the Cotswolds'. As long as it has a connection with farming, ie a photo of a ploughed field, farm buildings, man driving tractor, livestock, crops, solar panels, farmer's market in Ciren, characters at a livestock auction, kids playing on hay bales etc etc.
3. For the Miles Shield, DPI, (.....taken on a Club outing or at a Club night). The rules state that images should have been taken within 'the current season' i.e. between September and May.

Annual Competitions - Further Information for New Members

We are delighted to see so many new members coming along this season, a huge welcome again to you all! This is just a reminder about the upcoming Annual competitions, for which there are some specific options for new members.

If you have entered two or more different General Competitions (i.e. the A to E Comps) in any of the categories, you can enter any of the Annual Competition categories, including the Pitchers Cup which is for new members only - it is an open category and images can be digital or a print.

If you have *not* entered two or more of the General Competitions throughout the year, you can enter the Pitchers Cup, open subject print or digital.

Trophies – Please Return

Jill has asked for all the trophies to be handed back in by Monday April 25th:

- Dennis Moss Trophy
- Leonard Jones Cup
- Cavendish Cup
- Miles Shield
- Gladiator Trophy
- Pitchers Trophy
- Pitchers Cup
- Royal Doulton Cup
- General Comp Cup DPI
- Presidents Cup

Quote Of the Week

Photography is the story I fail to put into words – Destin Sparks

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.

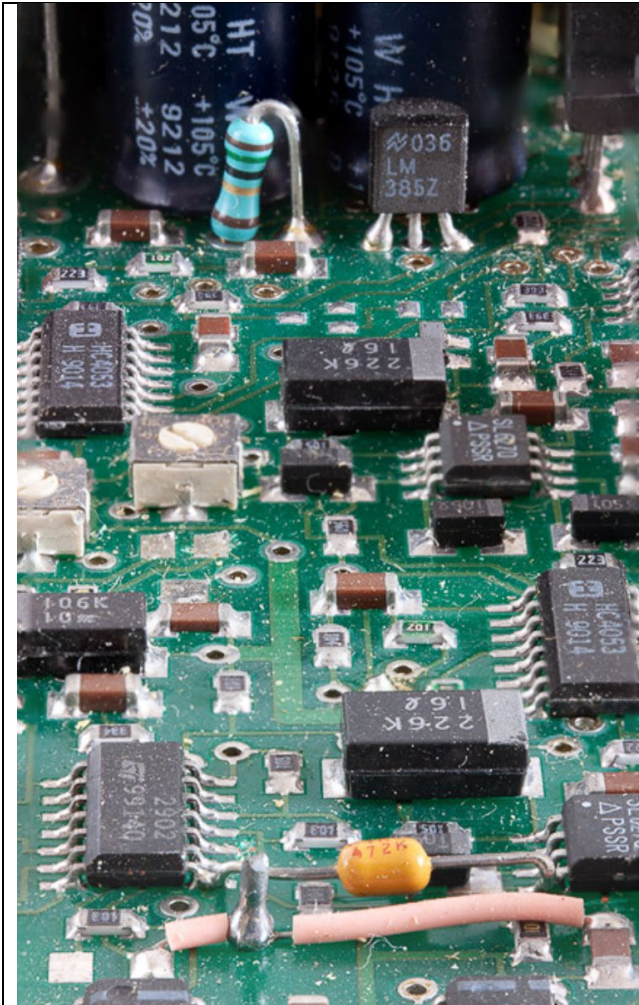
Example	Notes
	<p>Jewellery is a good subject for focus stacking. The subject doesn't move and is usually visually interesting.</p>
	<p>A great subject for focus stacking. Beware the subject can move (e.g. wilt) during the image capture sequence.</p>
	<p>An interesting challenge for focus stacking. Works 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.