



# Vignettes 137

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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## Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. The programme for next season is starting to emerge and is looking very interesting. I'm keeping it all secret until the beginning of next season but it's going to keep you on your toes! In the meantime, let us know what you've been doing and send in images if you like.

### Fun In the Sun - Stephen's Been in Touch

A big thanks to Stephen for the following contribution:

*With summer here, the bugs are out and what better way to spend an entertaining hour or so than trying to photograph dragonflies! I've recently spent some time out at Cleveland Lake (68 a/b) where the dragonflies seem to be having a good year.*

*From a pleasant 20 min walk from WaterHay car park, I found a great stretch on the south side of the lake on the main footpath towards the east end where some shrubs and timber have been cut down and left to decay leaving good visibility and a very short distance to the water (it's just past a warning sign for rough terrain on the path).*

*On the way there you can see a replica ASUW Shell House and grandstand/jetty on the northern bank where apparently George Clooney has been filming a movie about an Olympic rowing team - a chat to a local suggested it was now being dismantled and shipped to America so I'm afraid it's not going to be a new visitors centre ! The dragonflies are very skittish but if you are patient they do land briefly occasionally allowing you some shots. If you are feeling ambitious then the big challenge is to try to catch them in flight.*

### Settings

*A longish lens, dial up that ISO to enable a reasonable depth of field and both fast shutter speed and fast reactions are required. The biggest challenge is spotting them in your viewfinder with the relatively narrow field of view as they don't hover for very long in the same place! Then there's just the minor matter of getting them in focus .....so perhaps use continuous focus and burst mode. One thing this highlighted is that, despite general advice about keeping ISO very low to keep noise down, in a lot of my photography I invariably end up using quite high ISO's (1000 +) which is usually due to a combination of poor light, smaller apertures to get some depth of field and high shutter speeds to freeze the action. Given I crop a fair bit too this inevitably leads to "noisy" images. I have had mixed results with Lightroom classic tools in post processing with the dreaded trade off between reducing noise and losing detail.*

## Software - not Photoshop!

*I recently read about and have just started a free 30 day trial of a program called DxO Pure Raw 2 which uses Artificial Intelligence techniques to try and improve on this trade off. This can be installed as a plugin in Lightroom (and I assume photoshop) so can be used within existing workflow rather than having to run separate programs [when installed it's accessed through Lightroom menu dropdown File/Plugin extras]. Even better it can be used on raw files that have already been edited using Lightroom. The plugin looks for the original raw file, does its processing, and then produces a separate DNG file including any previous adjustments made in Lightroom. It probably won't work miracles, but it seems to make a difference and takes only a minute or so to process. It's pricey to buy but you appear to get full functionality (and no limit on number of images) during the trial so if you have some troublesome images tucked away it might be worth giving it a go to see if the latest techniques can help improve some favourite images.*

## Photoshop

*I have also recently seen a noise reduction technique for static images in photoshop whereby you take multiple shots (say 5) then import into photoshop into a stack of layers and make it a smart object. Then use Layer/Smart Objects/Stack Mode/Median [if I understand correctly the sensor noise is "random" so the median of the 5 images should have little/no noise for a given area of the sensor hence the improvement]. You'll find more info on YouTube on a GlynDewis channel.*

*For interest this is different from "long exposure noise reduction" in some cameras where a second (shutter closed) image is taken for long exposure images (typically > 1 sec) and "subtracted" from the normal image to remove "hot" pixels.*

*If anyone has any recommendations for programs or learning resources for improving noise reduction/sharpening perhaps you could share them here. I'm sure I'm not the only one who would be interested - especially if they are free or cheap!*

*Stephen*

*Here are a few example shots.*





### **The Balloon Fiesta - Memories**

Our President John H has been in touch following our Vignettes piece last week about the Bristol Balloon Fiesta. Here's John and an accompanying great image:

*Hi Mike & Martyn? Your plans to go to Bristol reminded me, but I may well be repeating this piece of nostalgia. When the Balloon Fiesta started, it was in effectively an open field. Spectators could simply walk around among the balloons and chat to the participants. This is one result - taken on film, of course, and it's the inside view as inflation started. I knelt beside the pilot as unheated air was blown in to create space to allow the gas jets room to simmer and gradually fill the canopy*



*with hot air. With the trusty Canon AE1P at knee level and lovely sunlight pouring through the nylon it was pure luck but well worth the crack of dawn start from home!*

*This opportunity came to an end around 1980 as spectator numbers increased. It still may be possible to sneak in and make arrangements with a balloon owner. Who knows! I think I was just incredibly lucky!*

*Best*

*JH*



**Leigh Preston Update 22nd June 10.00 - 3.30. Watermoor Hall. Our Usual Venue.**

Just to let you know that, with all costs including hall hire, lunch, Leigh's fee and the number attending (15 - see below), the cost is going to be about £20 per person. It's slightly more than the estimated cost range I put in last week but still good value and includes a (Waitrose pre-ordered) cold buffet lunch, biscuits, tea, coffee. So, if you could just bring cash along on the day that would be great:

## **Attendees**

1. Liz Gillham
2. Stephen Chapman
3. Stephen's guest, Roger Armitage
4. Martyn Smith
5. Mike Cheeseman
6. Jill Bewley
7. Vikki
8. Carol
9. Patricia Lindsay
10. John Crew
11. Val Thomas
12. Alun Thomas
13. Brian Dinnage
14. John Jones
15. Paul Norris

## **BBC Pictures**

Another selection from the BBC's news website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-61607924>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-61626286>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-61689516>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-61604886>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-61659908>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-61693645>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61698428>

## **This Season's Club Competitions 2022 - 2023 - Dpi's and Prints**

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>

### **Quote Of the Week**

*A good snapshot keeps a moment that's gone from running away - Eudora Welty*

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

Cheers and stay safe

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