



Vignettes 151

October 14th, 2022

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. What a great night our Vice President Shaun gave us on Monday with his talk outlining his photographic 'journey' from joining the club in 2005. You could see how much effort Shaun put into preparing for this talk which is commensurate with his forensic approach to photography. The devil is in the detail. This is the first time we've been able to see all of his winning images at one time and how his style has changed over the years. I hope he can present the talk to other organisations.

He gave us a lot of really useful information and guidance both for those starting out and as a reminder for our more seasoned campaigners. I'm sure it resonated with all of us particularly when we started our own 'journey'. I think we can all empathise with the nervousness Shaun experienced in entering his first competition and the resulting 'highs' and 'lows' one experiences under the judge's scrutiny. However, as Shaun said, competitions are a great way to have your images critiqued independently and a base to learn from and improve.

I made many notes as the evening progressed but my overriding view was that Shaun has always been able to use his creativity to reinvent himself particularly at time when, to use his words, he got writers (or should it be photographer's) block. This creativity comes not only from within but from multiple sources including the use of social media. It was interesting to see through Shaun's photography how this approach has inspired him to tackle many genres of photography to great success. This even included one he doesn't particularly like - nature where, with skill, he was still able to take home the silver. He's recently embarked on wedding photography, a subject which Liz is going to talk about later in the season so I'm sure they will be swapping notes!

I should add that Shaun has been a great stalwart during his time in the club including serving on the committee in a number of roles. For my part I can say quite selfishly that as Programme Secretary, I am always indebted to him for taking on a couple of our club nights, his next being in Feb 2023.

We've posted Shaun's PowerPoint presentation on our One Drive for members to access. Here's the link. (Note: please let us know if you have trouble accessing the presentation – it is not working as we expect.)

<https://1drv.ms/p/s!AqXH0siqtMVn21IypPohc3HfYFh5?e=uf5Mgm>

A few questions came up during his talk:

Source of photo mounts

1. Paper Spectrum - <https://www.paperspectrum.co.uk/>
2. Cotswold Mounts - <https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/>

Photo location Apps for tides, sunrise/sunset, and much more

1. Photopills - <https://www.photopills.com/>
2. Photographers Ephemeris - <https://photoephemeris.com/en>

Mike Martin's talk last week

We've been in touch with Mike Martin about access to his talk last week. Here's his response:

Hi Martyn. Yes, that's fine - as long as it is behind the members' log in. The presentation also has some additional "bonus" material, details of my successes (and failures) at FIAP salons that those pursuing distinctions may find interesting. It's a bit out of date but does illustrate that gaining acceptances can be a bit of a lottery.

And, I'm more than happy to come back and cover those more fully if it's something that is particularly useful.... or any of my other talks!!

Best

Mike

It's good of him. We may well get Mike back as he does have other prepared talks but in the meantime here's a link to his talk.

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqXH0siqtMVn3jRvu1UcHZ4SXpd7?e=UnJQhz>

John Mallows studio night - a reminder

Just a reminder, for those who attended our studio night a few weeks ago, to send a few images of Ros to Mike Cheeseman for Ros to have. She was excellent and it would be nice for her to have some images of the evening.

Next week - Cirencester Mop Fair outing

For our new members, one of our annual competitions (The Mile's Shield) is for images taken on a club outing so anything taken at the Mop Fair would be eligible.

Just to confirm, we will meet up outside the Parish Church at 6.30 sharp. As Shaun commented, we need to be taking pictures inside the 'blue hour' (the hour after sunset which is at 18.10). The Mop Fair closes at 10.00. I doubt we will last that long depending on the temperature! If anyone is

interested in having a drink afterwards, we can sort something out on the night. We'll keep an eye on our emails in case anyone needs to be in contact.

Mop Fair camera settings - a reprint from Vignettes 102

Here's a note I posted in Vignettes 102 in advance of last years Mop Fair outing which might help you when choosing camera settings:

Street images - always difficult at night but for hand held, go for as high an ISO setting as possible without noticeable "noise" ("grain" for film buffs) and go wide on the F-stop (i.e. 2.8). That will keep the speed as fast as practical. You could use a monopod with tele-photo lenses to steady yourself but **don't switch off** stabilisation. It's a practical tool in a busy place and easily transportable. Use all the available light you can get to increase the shutter speed and with wide f-stops you have a chance of creating "bokeh" from the glitter balls and fairground lights in stalls.

Fixed shots - use a tripod and **switch off stabilisation**. A tripod is probably more likely to get you better quality images and is vital for creating moving fairground ride effects but it's more cumbersome in a crowded street. Think about location given that you could be potentially exposing for seconds. Getting down low can be effective. Go for low ISO but your shutter speeds will be much slower. If you have one, use a remote camera release for taking pictures to avoid camera shake. Experiment with F-stops (F8/F11 being typical) and remember, using F16 will create a "starburst" effect on street lights whilst F2 can create "bokeh".

Special effects - in addition to capturing moving rides, try panning at slow speed to get movement but with the subject frozen - difficult with a tripod so try both tripod and hand held. Just remember that high ISO for hand held, low ISO for tripod. Also try the "zoom burst" technique whilst the lens is open to create multi coloured effects. A word of caution - don't make the image too busy - it's not something comp judges like (busy pictures) so you need to think about where your eye will land in viewing the image - unless you just fancy the effect (and hate judges!)

Lenses - this is a personal preference but you will get potentially more motion blur with longer telephoto lenses (200mm) compare to wider angle (24mm) unless you are using a tripod. An all round 24mm -105mm lens (DSLR) would work well if you are travelling light but adding a telephoto 200mm can help with those candid shots.

Batteries - loose their power in cold conditions so take spares.

Flash - will have limited value in big spaces unless you can use it off camera creatively - but for that you'll need an assistant. Better to exploit the available lighting from stalls etc.

RAW - if you can, shoot in RAW as it helps to control noise in post processing. You need all the pixels you can get!

Camera custom - if your camera has custom settings (which can be up to three) think about setting up some bespoke custom settings before you go out to save time on the night e.g. **setting 1** - for hand held - ISO 3000 +, F2.8, white balance- Auto, speed - Auto (which can be adjusted during shooting). **Setting 2** - for Tripod ISO 100, f8/f11, white balance Auto, speed Auto - (which can be adjusted during shooting). It's your choice.

Here's a few articles to get you in the mood. The advice is all pretty consistent but if you also type "Photographing fairgrounds at night" into YouTube, you'll also get some interesting stuff. Go for the channels with lots of subscribers - they are likely to be more professional. Good luck.

<https://www.ephotozine.com/article/photographing-fairground-rides-at-night-15170>

<https://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-take-great-photographs-at-the-fairground/>

<http://www.mcfade.co.uk/blog/5-fairground-photography-tips/>

<https://yourimage2canvas.co.uk/five-tips-for-great-funfair-photography>

Bits and Bobs

Autumn is upon us

Yes, it's time to get out into your favourite autumnal landscape and start snapping. Here's a few tips to help you:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/4-tips-for-fall-photography-make-landscape-shooting-simple>

72 tips cards for photographers - Print, cut out and keep or save them on your phone

Here's a great little article and download option on camera settings and tips from Digital Camera World. It comprises 72 separate 'Tips Cards' which you can either download and print or keep on your phone. I haven't been through them all but, of the ones I've seen, they are really helpful in giving you some basic settings depending on the circumstances. Here's the link:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/tips-cards-for-photographers>

Wildlife Photographer of the year - it's the big one

Yes, it's come around again as the winners of probably the biggest global photographic competition, 'Wildlife Photographer of the year' are announced. The link to the website is below and the travelling exhibition normally arrives at Nature in Art, Twigworth, Glos, around spring time next year. Definitely worth a visit but as always, some of the images need a strong stomach. Take a look: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy>

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2022/october/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-2022-winning-images.html>

Ocean Photographer of the Year Award

And the awards just keep coming! This time it's the 'Ocean Photographer of the Year Award' run by Oceanographic, a magazine dedicated to ocean conservation with 20% of its profits donated to partner charities such as Sea Legacy. This year the competition was broken into nine categories in a mission to stay as inclusive as possible, and ensure the bravest and boldest photographers have space for their work. They include two Conservation categories based on hope and impact, plus one on an Adventure, Wildlife, Fine Art, and the Ocean Portfolio that recognizes a long-term commitment to ocean conservation. For budding photographers there is a Youth category, the Human Connection Award looks at how humans interact with the ocean, and finally the Female Fifty Fathoms category celebrates inspirational women in ocean photography. Catch some amazing images here:

<https://oceanographicmagazine.com/winners-gallery/>

Medium format film cameras: a complete history

Are you a bit geeky, into film cameras, or interested in medium format cameras? Well, look no further than this definitive article on this genre of photographic kit. Did you know you can get digital backs for some medium format film cameras? You just need a lot of money!!:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/medium-format-film-cameras-a-complete-history>

The Photographers Gallery in London

Heading to London anytime soon? If so, pop over to the Photographers Gallery as from October 8 - February 19, two brand new exhibitions will be on show: Chris Killip, retrospective and An Alternative History of Photography: Works from the Solander collection. Here's a link:

<https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/photographers-gallery>

BBC pictures

Another selection from the BBC's website with some really interesting human stories this week:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-63143453>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63209350>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-63163667>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-63155899>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-63222871>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63195020>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-63204570>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-63201547>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-63143785>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63111281>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-62561555>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-63171345>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63006921>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-63159007>

Volunteers - We need your help

In general we are starting to get some volunteers for our various events which is great - with thanks. See below. However one of our evenings - 'Speed Learning' is proving a bit more difficult which might be due to a lack of clarity on our part. So we thought it might help if you can send us your thoughts as to what aspects of photography you would like to teach/talk/learn about. We can then set up the evening in response by working in table groups which can rotate. Feel free to contribute on how you see the night might be run.

Volunteers

Here's our regular volunteer spot for in house club events over the season. It's edging forward slowly as names are added. All we need is a few volunteers to contribute - in most case it won't be for more than 20 minutes or so. Just to be clear, **we are not asking for anyone to run the whole night.** Just to be part of a team for the evening. From my experience time flies at these events and there's no doubt that you learn from the experience as a presenter. Once we have enough people we will liaise on which aspect each volunteer will talk about. We'll add members to each event as we get them:

So, at the moment here's the following 'In House' events which will require member input along with the latest volunteers:

7th November - Show & Tell - *display your favourite image, story, composition and processing tools. A night with a potential practical edge to it.*

1. *Mike Cheeseman*
2. *Paul Jones*
- 3.

21st November - Lightroom Workshop. *An opportunity for a few members to share their experiences given the recent comprehensive updates to this excellent software. A foil to the excellent Photoshop presentations we've had in the past couple of years from Shaun.*

1. *Tricia -*
2. *David Wallis - the mysteries of cataloguing*
- 3.

23rd January - Multiple Exposures - *A timely dedicated genre which is the subject of a club competition (submission Feb). An opportunity for a few members to share their experiences, advise on techniques and we'll set some tables up to have a go.*

1. *Mike Cheeseman using strobe flash*
- 2.

30th Jan - Speed learning - *(not to be confused with speed dating!) an experienced member led workshop group discussion on different aspects of photography we can share in groups. E.g appropriate use of different AF modes, dedicated camera make menus, typical camera settings for*

different genres etc. Each group discussion to last, say, 20/30 minutes. Format to be finalised. All thoughts and ideas gratefully received.

1. *Mike Cheeseman - flash*
2. *Shaun Little -*
- 3.

6th March - Take 5 - 5 member led 20 min presentation on their burning photography issues we all might learn from. Totally diverse and open to anyone with something to share.

1. *Martyn Smith - Camera bags (a lighthearted look!)*
2. *Dave Cahill - Blipfoto*
3. *Paul Norris - Straight pictures – what is the ‘driver’ to enhance the image in your camera.*

24th April - The Panel Challenge(s) - The Panel Challenge is being expanded this year to provide for a dedicated Smart Phone Panel. We’re working on the rules so watch this space. No volunteers needed but just a heads up of what’s to come.

24th April - Then and now - As the Panel Challenges may not take up the whole evening we are working on a new idea from John Smith for members to revisit and capture old Cotswold postcard locations for an evening of ‘then and now’ images - watch this space. However, here’s a taster from the BBC’s website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-62820981>

Date to be Confirmed - Travelogue Night - Member led presentation giving tips on where to take great images. Short stay, long stay holidays (Uk and abroad), staying local, days out - just about anywhere you fancy.

1. Sue Gunnee - TBC.
2. Martyn Smith - Holy Island.
3. Andy Kennedy - Manhattan.
4. Paul Norris - Near and Far - what inspires me on holiday.
- 5.

This Season's Club Competitions 2022 - 2023

	Competition Set & Open	Submission Date	Judging Night
A	Abstract + Open	03/10/22	31/10/22
B	Reflections + Open	31/10/22	05/12/22
C	Urban / Street photography + Open	05/12/22	16/01/23
D	Fog / steam / mist / smoke + Open	16/01/23	20/02/23
E	Multiple exposures + Open	27/02/23	27/03/23
Annual	2021-22 Annual competition	03/04/23	08/05/23

Club Competitions – Set Subject A-E Definitions

A: ABSTRACT

Abstract photography is the art of capturing subjects in such a way that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colours, and textures. It can encompass a huge variety of subject matter, take us out of our comfort zone, make us question what we see, or invite us to enter another realm. The subject matter is often implied or suggested rather than overtly and literally presented. Any image that is altered reality is acceptable.

B: REFLECTIONS

“Reflection photos refer to any shot, no matter what type of photography genre, that uses a reflective surface.” This can be a landscape, building, water, windows etc.

C: URBAN or STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Urban photography is a broad genre that can include anything within a built-up, urban environment, but the image must convey an aspect of a city. Your image must have been taken in a built-up urban environment but does not *have* to include people. However, it can also include candid shots of people which then makes it Street Photography which is also accepted.

D: FOG / STEAM / MIST / SMOKE

This topic can include a wide variety of images, from misty morning landscapes to smoke wisps created at home – as long as the predominant effect / subject includes Steam or Mist or Smoke or Fog.

E: MULTIPLE EXPOSURES

Multiple exposure means superimposing two or more photos to create a completely new, different image either directly in the camera or afterwards in image processing.

Annual Competitions

(Submission Deadline 03 April 2023)

Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic chosen by Club President)	Quenington Sculpture 5-26 th June 2022	DPI
Dennis Moss Trophy	Open	Print
Leonard Jones Cup	Open	DPI
Cavendish Cup	Black and White Open	Print
Miles Shield	Open (Club outing)	DPI
Gladiator Trophy	Aviation	DPI
Pitchers Cup <u>Open to new members only.</u>	Open	Print or DPI

**All DPIs to be 1600px x 1200px in sRGB colour space. DPI version of Prints must also be submitted.
NB Portrait images must be 1200px on *longest* side.**

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

The painter constructs, the photographer discloses - Susan Sontag

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

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)