



Vignettes 158

December 1st, 2022

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. A big thanks goes to Aleks Gjika and Richard McCleery from the Cheltenham Camera Club for bringing along their excellent CISP presentation to show us on Monday night. Richard is club chairman and took on the job of producing the CISP AV which normally falls to the experienced Martin Fry who's taken a well-earned rest from the role. Aleks is the Salon Chair, a big responsibility given the many thousands of images received across five genres which just get stronger each year.

It was good to see John H and Jill B mentioned in dispatches and, although not shown, a few of us also got acceptances. It's well worth having a go and entries open in Jan 2023 and runs for three months so you have plenty of time to get that winning image(s) ready. A maximum of 4 images per genre is permitted (so, a total max of 20 images across 5 genres) and the submission cost reduces proportionally the more images you submit. All DPI. It can be a little confusing as the Salon and its awards are made under the auspices of different Global Photographic organisations, each with their own slightly differing rules. Here's Cheltenham's website where you can find a bit more detail and see the 2022 accepted images again.

<https://cheltenhamcameraclub.uk/>

77th Bristol International Salon of Photography 2023

Just to give you a taster, Jill has been in touch regarding the Bristol International Salon of Photography 2023 which has just launched and runs until the end of Jan. It's similar to Cheltenham's CISP in terms of governing organisations but has fewer genres, 3 rather than 5 and allows both prints and DPI's. Here's a link.

<https://bristolsalon.co.uk/>

Next week - 5th Dec

It's competition time again with Comp B entries coming under the critical/constructive eye of the judge. Don't forget that it's also Competition C submission date - Set subject - Urban/Street. Good luck everyone.

Meet The New Member

I'm delighted to see that we've had an unprecedented influx of (at the last count) 11 new members this season which is so encouraging. But who are all these members? Are they part of another club's stealth strategy to invade us, do they own a Canon? (Other cameras are available!). We

better find out. It's around this time that we run our 'Meet the New Member' slot in Vignettes to aid integration and see how we can help in any way, if indeed any help is needed. We'll run the slot with two or three new members a week.

The first two, in no particular order, to put their heads on the proverbial block are Bob Berry and Steve Kirby.

Bob Berry

Hi Martyn. Many thanks for your email.

I got into photography in 2000 with a planned trip to India and bought my first digital camera a 3mp Casio. Since then I've bought and sold had a variety of Nikon cameras and currently use Nikon mirrorless Z cameras. My photographic interests are almost anything but particularly Landscape, Wildlife and Macro. I also like Infrared starting way back with filters on my Casio, but later buying a cheap Nikon and having it converted. As far as editing goes I took a different route to Photoshop/Lightroom and I'm in the DXO Photolab camp coupled with Photo Mechanic for organization. Finally I've been a member of both Swindon and Highworth in the past, but finding a more convenient evening has led me to joining you at Cirencester. Hope that helps.

Cheers

Bob

Steve Kirby

Hi Martyn. Many thanks for your email.

My father had an old twin lens reflex which only ever came out when we went on holiday in the 1960's. My first memory and I thought it was a fascinating toy as I walked around for hours snapping away – with no film in of course. My first camera of my own was a Kodak 127 Brownie but due to cost, photos were only taken at special occasions and was never considered a 'hobby'. In the early 70's I progressed to a Kodak Instamatic which would take one of those new-fangled 126 cartridge films. In the mid 70's I bought my first 35mm camera – a Russian FED II bought from my mum's boss and he took me out for the day and showed me how to use it. I think it was then that I discovered photography could be a hobby. A couple of years later I progressed to a Zenit -E (another Russian camera), with this one I could experiment with different lenses. By the 80's the cost of film and developing was becoming more affordable but the processing wait time was the same. By the mid 80's I was using a Pentax ME Super – a lovely camera, the pinnacle of my 35mm film journey.

It was around this time that I enrolled on a correspondence course run by the Bureau of Freelance photographers. Each month you would be sent out on an assignment and asked to produce some images and a covering story. It really focused the mind on what you were looking for and it enhanced my love of street photography. The 1990's saw the digital revolution and I soon gravitated to my first digital camera, an Epson Photo PC-700. After going through a few compact digitals', I bought my first digital SLR – a Nikon D40X. It's now over 10-years old and I'm still using it but I've warned my family that a mirrorless is on the horizon for my 60th birthday. Not sure which make yet.

I am inspired by an American photographer called William Eggleston and his attitude and philosophy to photography. He had the first colour exhibition at the New York Museum of Modern Art and was ridiculed by the photographic establishment for using the latest gimmick – colour film. Needless to say, he is now considered a pioneer.

For me, the camera is a tool. Just like a traditional artist would use a brush, paint and a canvas, or a lump of clay to create a work of art. I try to look for what inspiration the artist had or their 'journey'. It's about aesthetics, it's got to look good, it has to evoke something in the viewer.

About 15-years ago, quite by chance, I started working as a film and TV cameraman's assistant. It only lasted a couple of years but the experience was great. There would always be a professional photographer on or around the set, so I put together a photo book portfolio of my work and would seek out the pro for an honest opinion of my work. It was very motivating to hear a professional tell you that your work was of a sufficient standard to sit side by side with theirs and this certainly gives you belief in yourself.

I lived in Quenington at the time, during the Fresh Air sculpture show, I held an exhibition of my work in the village hall. A captive audience was on hand! I succeeded in selling many prints and greeting cards and which was equally successful at the next show. It's a very humbling experience.

Seeing all the different genres of photography that Cirencester Camera Club members are interested in, and display an obvious talent for, has pushed me to be more creative. I've recently bought a neutral density filter (ND1000) which I'm experimenting with. I was delighted to achieve a "Highly Commended" for one of my submissions at the first comp of the season which is very motivating to build on for future comps.

I use an old copy of Photoshop CS5 as my only post processing tool. Prior to that it was Google's Picasa. Things have advanced so much in recent years with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) so it'll be interesting to see how this impacts on creativity in the future. I hope the above helps.

Many Thanks

Steve

Thanks Bob & Steve. A great start to this slot. With Steve thinking about investing in a new mirrorless DSLR, maybe we should have a presentation from Canon, Nikon, Fuji, Lumix, Leica, Sony, Pentax and Olympus owners to persuade Steve to gravitate to their side. On the other hand we don't want to start a fight! Patricia and I will have a quiet word with you Steve about our mirrorless Canons!!

The Cirencester Camera Club Christmas Quiz - Tuesday 20th December, The Greyhound Pub, Siddington from 7.00 pm

.....And now there are 20. Keep them coming. Just a reminder to let me know if you are coming by next Monday as we need to firm numbers for the pub. It's not a problem if you are still not sure because of other commitments as it's mainly the food ordering. I've already started on the food choice with those coming on the list below so a big thanks to everyone who have already got back.

So, I'm pleased to say the list of attendees has now expanded to:

1. Martyn S
2. Mike C
3. John S
4. Jill B
5. Sue G
6. David Wallis
7. Liz Gillham
8. John Crew
9. Steve Finch
10. Brian Kent
11. Gary Gleghorn
12. Findlay Simpson
13. Colin Hoskin
14. Chris Oldershaw
15. Paul Jones
16. Carol Thorne
17. Dave Cahill
18. Patrick Barker
19. Ruth Barker
20. Patricia Lindsay
21. ?

The Harbour Project

As members will know, we occasionally post in Vignettes details of worthy local charities which some of our members personally support, ie the Churn Project being one which is supported by club member Brian Dinnage. Another such charity is The Harbour Project which is one Jill supports. Here's some background from Jill:

Hi Martyn.

It's very heartening that the club, through Vignettes, is able to adopt a compassionate role in occasionally promoting charities without needing to be affiliated in any way - thank you for allowing me to make this small appeal.

*I have recently started supporting a Charity called the **Harbour Project** - basically an organisation which offers help, support, practical advice and essential items for asylum seekers and refugees waiting for 'processing by the system'. It was awarded The Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2021.*

The Charity currently has 1400 people on their 'books', 500 of these are living in hotel rooms, with some having been there for more than a year. These families get all meals provided but have to then survive on a weekly allowance of just £8.24 - for everything including toiletries, sanitary products and cleaning products. An incredibly small amount. I have been buying toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant and have just taken a huge supply of domestic hygiene stuff down to them thanks to a very generous donation from a friend.

They are really desperate for more items (I spoke to the CEO on Tuesday about what they really need), especially through the Christmas period, and would be so glad if any of the members would like to make a donation towards another delivery! I do understand that there will also be those who support their own favoured charities, but even if 5 members donated a couple of pounds each that is better than not asking.

If anyone would like to make a donation, I would be so grateful, thank you! My bank details are Halifax, Sort Code: 11-01-33, Account: 00023948, Account Name: Mrs J Bewley. Please call it Harbour Project and send to me by Monday 5th December. That will give me time to buy and deliver the products to Swindon.

If anyone would like to find more about the Harbour Project, I attach a couple of links to the Charity's Website and its Annual Report which provides a context for this worthy cause.

Thank you so very very much, Jill

<https://harbourproject.org.uk/>

https://harbourproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Harbour-Project-Annual-Report-2021_RGB.pdf

Miscellaneous

Lightroom - follow up YouTube tutorial

Just to let you know that Anthony Morganti has just posed, on YouTube, an excellent 20-minute tutorial on 19 different masks in Lightroom which makes interesting watching after Mike's Mask demonstration last week. Here's the link:

https://youtu.be/ByM_yELos78

A very 'current' interesting image

With the World Cup upon us, here's a really interesting article and accompanying video about a recent image taken by Annie Leibovitz to capture World Cup soccer heroes Ronaldo and Messi in a chess game for Louis Vuitton. Both footballers recently in the news (post photo) for different reasons, Messi's Argentina losing its opening WC game against Saudi Arabia and Ronaldo for parting company with 'Man U'. Setting aside all the Louis Vuitton promotional stuff, the image is in fact composite of two images taken on a Fujifilm GFX 100S medium format camera (which we used to know in film days as a '2 1/4 square'). Very clever and not something you can do in Lightroom (I don't think) - maybe Shaun will give us a few Photoshop clues. Here's the article:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/the-secret-message-behind-leibovitzs-chess-image-of-messi-and-ronaldo>

African Wildlife Photography Awards

Rob Gorthy has been in touch with some info about the stunning images in the African Wildlife Awards. The 2022 results were revealed at the Mkapa Awards Ceremony and Exhibition Grand Opening on October 27, 2022, at the Nairobi National Museum in Nairobi, Kenya. The exhibition of 77 prints and 4 videos will travel to other global locations throughout the year. Here's a couple of links:

<https://www.awf.org/pressroom/awf-and-natures-best-photography-announce-2022-winners-benjamin-mkapa-african-wildlife>

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Farticle%2Fb06578ae-6b4f-11ed-b361-431d7dcc7c0e%3FshareToken%3D68aee2221656397b2662695d24477f0e&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cb14bd81d7e0a47d2620508dacde905ea%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C>

[638048697953714558%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wxWCwXj4vW0of2KXri3LUIjA6UNAHCrgp1i3oJyVc%2Bg%3D&reserved=0](https://www.naturallandscapeawards.com/competition-results-2022/)

Natural Landscape Photography Awards 2022

American photographer Brent Clark has been crowned the winner of the 2nd annual Natural Landscape Photography Awards 2022. The award was created to celebrate authentic, realistic landscapes with minimal edits ensuring that the landscapes featured are ones people can trust. Despite only being in its second year, the competition received more than 10,700 entries from 55 countries and a total of 1,179 photographers. Here's a link to the website and winners to give you some inspiration.

<https://naturallandscapeawards.com/competition-results-2022/>

International Landscape Photographer of the Year 2022 (ILPOTY)

The International Landscape Photographer of the Year 2022 (ILPOTY) has been awarded to Chilean photographer Benjamin Briones Grandi for a series of images that almost look like paintings. Now in its ninth year, the ILPOTY received some 3813 entries and the top 101 will be included in the 2022 ILPOTY book. Check out some truly amazing images here:

<https://www.internationallandscapephotographer.com/index.php>

BBC pictures

Another selection from the BBC's website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-63705190>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63775735>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-63699954>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-derbyshire-63513442>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63696328>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63715719>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-63744094>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-63741555>

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:

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.*

Q1 from Jill - How to use the Tone Curves and Colour Grading in Lightroom.

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 light hearted look!)*
2. *Dave Cahill - Blipfoto*
3. *Paul Norris - Straight pictures – what is the 'driver' to enhance the image in your camera.*
4. *Paul Jones - TBA*

17th 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.*

17th 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. Paul Jones - New Zealand
6. Alun & Val - The Outer Hebrides (subject to dates)

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	24/04/23

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, so the image must convey an aspect of a city or town. Your image must have been taken in a built-up urban environment but does not have to include people, so things like street signs, traffic, architecture, shop facades, light trails, crowds, bridges, are all part of urban life. Your image can be a candid shot of people i.e. 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

Taking pictures is savoring life intensely, every hundredth of a second – Marc Riboud

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

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)