



Vignettes 161

December 22nd, 2022

Contents

Club News	1
Next meeting - Zoom on 9th Jan.....	1
Meet the new member - Lawrence Wilcock.....	2
Meet the new member – Steve Finch	3
Miscellaneous	4
BBC pictures	7
Volunteers.....	7
Club Website Forum	9
This Season’s Club Competitions 2022 - 2023	10
Club Competitions – Set Subject A-E Definitions.....	10
Annual Competitions	11
Quote Of the Week.....	12

Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. We had a very successful quiz night on Tuesday thanks to David Wallis's excellent quizmaster skills once again. A big thanks to David for making it an enjoyable evening. Thanks too goes to a Molly and her crew at the Greyhound. The food was excellent and came out on time. We've booked the larger function room for next year (Tuesday 19th December) as it was a bit of a squeeze in the bar so put it in your diaries. One not to miss. Congratulations goes to Sue Gunnee's 'Back Button Bunch' winning team of Dave Cahill, Chris Donohoe, Bob Berry and Paul Norris. My team, the Flash Harries, ran them close as did the Trigger Happies captained by John Smith.

Here's the final scores:

Noisy Mob (Capt Jill) - 46
Back Button Bunch (Capt Sue) - 54
Trigger Happies (Capt John) - 51 1/2
Flash Harries Capt Martyn) - 52
Wide Boys (Capt Mike) - 48

Until our next meeting (see below), from Mike and I have a very enjoyable Christmas and a 'snappy' new year! We'll be comparing all your photo kit Xmas pressies in the new year.

Next meeting - Zoom on 9th Jan.

Our second **zoom night** of the season opens the new year on the 9th of January with Ian Howard talking on 'The colourful side of life'. Ian gives his talks for charity (British Heart Foundation) which is admirable. Here's some of his website links. His talk can be found in the Lensclop website:

<https://www.eastkentphotography.com/>

<https://www.lensclop.com/>

<https://www.ekpgallery.com/>

Meet the new member - Lawrence Wilcock

Another two new members this week, Lawrence Wilcock and Steve Finch. Here's Lawrence:

Hi Martyn, Thanks for getting in contact. Here is a potted history of my dabbling in photography.

My first camera was a Kodak instamatic, a Christmas present in 1969, aged 5. I still have the camera and have recently scanned the slides, bringing childhood pictures back to life of my friends, parents, grandparents, and my great grandmother. Using this camera, I briefly dabbled with B&W darkroom developing and printing in my bedroom in the late-70's. I used the money from a paper round to buy an Olympus SLR, not long before I went to uni, but shamefully it lay almost unused until my honeymoon.

Over the years I have had a few film cameras - Canon 500N SLR , Canon Z70w 35mm compact, and a Kodak Advantix F350 APS point-and-shoot, all still in a cupboard. My first digital camera was the 4mp Canon Powershot G2 in 2001 (my most expensive camera purchase, and still working great), followed by a Canon 350D DSLR in 2005 (my current DSLR). After several, progressively more megapixel-endowed, digital compacts, I went mirrorless in 2013 with the Fujifilm X-A1. I have remained loyal to the brand since, valuing the small form-factor, and added an X-T10, and recently a used X-H1 (my first "semi-serious" camera), and several lenses.

Despite an early start and interest in photography, I have firmly been a casual snapper, primarily taking bad pictures of my family and holidays, always postponing an incipient photography interest into the future. I am hoping that the future is now, and that joining Cirencester camera club will inspire a concerted effort to improve my photography. At the very least to be intentional with my photographs, rather than simply pause and press. I am interested in street, documentary, travel, and landscape photography. My most admired "classic" photographers are people like Saul Leiter, Alex Webb, Steve McCurry, and Joel Meyerowitz, but I am sure there are many, many others I have yet to discover. I have been trying to teach myself Lightroom over the last 18 months but have far from mastered the subtleties of what is possible.

Best wishes,

Lawrence

Thanks Lawrence, sounds like you have a menagerie of former cameras hiding away in your cupboard. A good subject for a still life image!!

Meet the new member – Steve Finch

Hi Martyn, Many thanks for your email. I hope this helps

I am a retired (since June this year) university lecturer and live in Meysey Hampton with my wife Gail. Between us we have three children, now all grown up.

Like another Steve who has just joined, one of my first camera experiences was with my father's old Zenit (I think it was a Zenit B model) using slide film and then having to spend hours watching a slide show with the rest of the family when really all I wanted to do was go out with my mates!

Didn't really pick up another camera until my 30s when I had a number of second hand Nikon film cameras. In 2006 I bit the bullet and went digital with a Nikon D80 (10 whole megapixels!), then a few years later a Nikon D7200. Both were cropped sensor cameras so two years ago I made the decision to go full frame and mirrorless and bought a Nikon Z7II. Can't afford all the wonderful f2.8 glass Nikon are coming out with but luckily Nikon are now opening up the Z mount to certain third party manufacturers, which are cheaper. My latest purchase was a Tamron 70-300 which I experimented with during a week in Cornwall but have not had a chance to download the images yet.

I guess my main interest is Landscapes and Seascapes, but I also try and take macro, architecture and urban photos (I especially admire the ones taken by Matt Irwin in Melbourne - quite outstanding, some of them). Not really interested in abstract, wildlife and portraits although family and dogs seem to crop up quite regularly.

My biggest blind spot is seeing good compositions. As a scientist I think I missed out on the "artistic" gene. I have never been a member of a camera club so I hope to get inspiration from this one and especially the competitions.

Finally I am an Adobe subscriber so use mostly Lightroom Classic with the occasional dabble into Photoshop. I really feel that I have only scratched the surface of these programmes and have certainly not made best use of their potential.

Kind regards,

Henry (Steve) Finch

Thanks Steve. I remember at College, we had photography module and the camera to buy in terms of best value was the Zenit (which we called Zenith) with, I think, a Helios 50mm lens. Better than the Industar. It was a heavy old thing with a solid shiny leather case. Bullet proof and great in self-defence. We used to joke that you'd never get mugged if you had a Zenit hanging around your neck! I remember on a geography field trip to the Lake District one of our party accidentally dropped his Zenit down a steep stony Fell. Case on. He found it a few hundred feet down and it was still in working order!!

Miscellaneous

Historic Photographer of the year

Here's a website I've not come across before which runs a photographic competition dealing with history and historic scenes. The categories include one supported by 'Historic England' and, as usual in these sorts of competitions there's some amazing images. However, we are all close to historic buildings so why not have a go. Here's a link:

<https://photographer.historyhit.com/>

RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2022

The aim of our RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is to encourage an interest in photography and an appreciation and understanding of all the amazing animals around us. It's open to anyone aged 18 or under and all we want is for you to enjoy the process and get creative. This years winners are exceptional and well worth a look. Here's a link:

<https://young.rspca.org.uk/ypa/home>

8 tips for improving your winter landscape photography

Master the elements of winter landscape photography to capture the color, light and atmosphere of the season. Here's a link to a really helpful article:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/8-tips-for-jaw-dropping-winter-landscape-photography>

A bit of Camera Club poetry for you

John Hankin has been in contact from a meet up with an old colleague. John picks up the story:

Hi Martyn & Mike

You may recall meeting Howard early this season when he was hoping to join the club again. Sadly, health problems have intervened and that's no longer possible. He and I, however, have met for coffee occasionally. This week I mentioned the

Mexican images and JP Stone's comments about suitability for competitions which struck a major chord with Howard who later sent me his opinion in poetic style!The Verse is great and I'd like to share it with the Club, Here's some contextual words from Howard plus his (updated) poem. Very apt I thought.

Hello John,

It was really good to see you again this morning. As promised, I am including a verse, the first version of which was penned back in 1985.!!! I wrote it principally as an Ice breaker at the start of judging sessions. Generally, it worked and V1 had quite a good shelf life. It was widely reproduced in the East Anglian federation clubs where I was particularly active. This version is V8, a fairly major revision designed to reflect more accurately the changes in vocabulary, technology and tastes of a new photographic age.

I have no problem with you circulating the poem to your club members and would appreciate a credit as author. I hope that they find it entertaining.

Kind regards, Howard warren

The Competition.

I'd studied all the text books I could find.

*The rules of composition I'd digested.
With photographic knowledge top of mind,
I prepared for my first competition, soon to be contested.*

*My choice of subject took both care and time. ^{[]}_{SEP}The horizons were correct and true.
The diagonal composition was sublime.
No verticals converged to spoil the view.*

*I'd worked upon the basic rule of thirds,
and not ignored the magic Golden Mean. ^{[]}_{SEP}There were no marks that could be flocks of birds
and the Colour Balance was exactly as I'd seen*

*The flow of lines went in the same direction. ^{[]}_{SEP}The point of tension was, well, simply right. ^{[]}_{SEP}The
differential focus was perfection.
I'd simplified the scene by cropping tight.*

*The composition held both form and line. ^{[]}_{SEP}A catch-light sparkled in the subject's eyes. ^{[]}_{SEP}The
contra-posture pose was just divine ^{[]}_{SEP}and all the bits looked just the proper size.*

*The camera view had given no distortion.
The point of interest in its rightful place.
The light and shade were in correct proportion*

and I'd optimized the use of "Negative Space"

A filter added drama to the cloud.

*While subtle flash lit up their intimate embraces ^[SEP]and even Monsieur Cokin would be proud ^[SEP]of
the textures in all those important little places.*

The shadows cast were also welcome features.

The water's surface glowed with bright reflections.

*Wildlife buffs would love the little furry creatures
that hinted at the landscape's bio-diverse connections.*

I'd set the format, the image size and counted D.P.I.

Then checked again just to be absolutely sure.

*I handed in my entry with confidence sky high,
certain that my masterpiece would get full marks - Or more.*

And so arrived the evening of the tourney.

*The gathering crowd seemed happy to be there. ^[SEP]Many having made a special journey
How many of them would my triumph share?*

The smiling, genial, judge was introduced.

in temperament he seemed to be quite mild.

*Unlikely by a visual trick or artifice to be seduced. ^[SEP]"Be gentle judge", I love this picture. As if, it is
my child.*

In darkened room the images upon the screen ^[SEP]were thrown in colourful succession.

*Would not my work be judged the finest ever seen,
the ultimate, the very pinnacle of personal expression?*

*My image soon appeared on screen extended. ^[SEP]The judge nodded his head just a degree
and said "Don't understand what is intended". ^[SEP]You know, the blighter only gave me a three.*

Aftermath

I left the hall with heavy heart my enthusiasm crushed.

Injustice fuelling a depression that I simply could not budge.

*Later an idea came to me, slowly and not something to be rushed
perhaps the best course of action now - was for me to become a judge.*

The rest is not quite history

© Howard Warren (1985) – Revised V8-6/4- 2022

I think we've all been there, some quite regularly!! Thanks John and Howard for lightening up our dark nights.

BBC pictures

Another selection from the BBC's website including a cracking series of images and video about Paul McCartney's Glastonbury appearance last summer.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-63970451>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-64025146>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-64026174>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/64020038>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/extra/a7f6ujslg5/Best-World-Cup-final-pictures>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-63991209>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63959853>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63936944>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-63970451>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63942962>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-63983910>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63962599>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/features/63962965>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-63945880>

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 just to be part of a team for the evening. In most cases it won't be for more than 20 minutes or so. From our 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 - Tye Outer Hebrides (subject to dates)

Club Website Forum

As I (Mike) mentioned a couple of weeks ago, we are planning to add a forum to the website and are looking for help from club members who have any experience in evaluating, implementing, and administering a WordPress forum.

We have the technical WordPress expertise to install and set up a forum 'plugin' but I haven't yet found anyone who could help us evaluate and select a plugin that would best suit the Club's needs.

The first step is to evaluate some plugins. There are hundreds available, and we have identified a short-list of three to evaluate:

- *WPForo*
- *bbPress*
- *WP Discussion*

If anyone can help with any aspect of the forum project please contact Mike C or Sue Gunnee.

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

My own eyes are no more than scouts on a preliminary search, or the camera's eye may entirely change my idea – Edward Weston

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

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)