



Vignettes 172

March 16th, 2023

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. An interesting night on Monday in our battle against Tetbury. Here's Paul Norris to take up the story:

On 13 March the annual interclub battle with Tetbury was held. 30 digital images from each club are selected with up to 12 authors from Cirencester representing the club. Simon Caplan, an experienced judge, from Downend in Bristol provided a range of really insightful comments across the 60 images. Marks ranged from 11 to 20, helpful hints and tips on how all the images could be improved.

On the evening Tetbury won with a score of 480 compared to 434 for Cirencester. A couple of images from Tetbury scored maximum marks, a moody portrait called "Shirley" and a beach picture of "Atlantic grey seals". The top images for Cirencester were Sue Gunnee's surfer image that scored 19 and Fin Simpson's Pretty Flamingo that scored 18.

Well done to everyone who had an image selected and we will meet again next week to select the images for the Stroud Vs Cheltenham battle on 3 April

Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening a success including being able to prove that running a hybrid Zoom and physical evening can be successfully achieved.

We also had some gracious feedback from Tetbury's chair John Jennings:

Hi Paul, Thank you and your team for a very enjoyable evening. The audio & visuals worked fine and I didn't notice any background buzz. A pity we couldn't interact more as with normal Zooming, but no real issue.

I think judge Simon Caplan was fair, with a sense of humour but one who always advises that his views can be subjective, a point sometimes glossed over by other judges. Interestingly TCC images were identical to those entered for our recent Battle with Stroud, which we narrowly lost, so we were not hopeful going into the Battle with yourselves.

There was some consistency in our scores between the 2 Battles (Stroud & Ciren) but there were also wild swings with at least ½ dozen. An illustration of subjective judging! However, I didn't think a gap of 46 points between us was a true reflection of the night's quality - there were several Ciren images which I thought deserved higher marks e.g. the wind farm in the mist with a recessive background, Minus 1, Mist in Down Ampney etc.

We also generally find that images of people interacting/social documentary/street etc rarely do well with judges and Simon was no exception with "Rehearsal" - he also doesn't like crazy angles (!) with both "On Fleet St" & our "The watchful eye" getting low scores. Hey ho.

Thanks again for hosting a great evening and we look forward to the next Battle (TCC hosting)

Regards, John Jennings



Surfer by Sue Gunnee (19)



Pretty Flamingo by Fin Simpson

Title	Points
Waiting for the day to begin	16
High key lilies	16
Ruin at sea	13
Rehearsal	13
Midwinter pumpkin	15
Meetings	15
Pretty flamingo	18
Surfer	19
Catching the light	16
All the fun at the fair	15
My ball	15
Northern lights	15
No power today	12
The artful dodger	17
Morning mist	13
On golden pond	14
Smokestack stick	11
Barbadian sculptor	16
Morning tranquillity	14
Mist in Down Ampney	15
Time for reflection	11
Behind the door	11
A different perspective	14
Determination	16
On Fleet street	14
Minus 12	13
Contemplation	12
The master potter	16
Ride off	16
Hold my hand	14

Tetbury Battle – Cirencester Scores

Next week's meeting - a visit to Cirencester College photography department

First of all next week's meeting is not at our usual church hall venue but at Cirencester College. Second, we run from 7.00 - 9.00pm to fit in with the College opening hours so you need to be at the college at circa 6.45pm. It's well signposted and the car park is to the right of the entrance.

Here's an extract of some email correspondence between us and the college in planning how the evening might pan out. As it's the first time we've tried this, it might be a bit 'suck it and see' but should help to steer us in any future relationship with the College. I've pencilled in a possible battle against the College for next season so we better sharpen our pencils! I can however say that the enthusiastic course tutor, Angus Brown, is very 'up' for our meeting so I do hope you can all make it.

1. CCC to think about incentives to attract students for the event. (Money, food, drink?!). I don't think students need kit given what the college is able to provide and what Mike and I have seen in our visit. Do you have a 'star student' award at the end of the year? Might a Camera retail shop voucher sponsored by CCC be something we could donate for you to issue at the appropriate time?
2. The event to be split into two one hour sessions with CCC and CC each having 3/4 presenters @ circa 10-15 each.
3. CCC will present on:
4. About the club, history, CC Club location, day, time, season length, typical programme structure, membership structure including student membership, possible collaboration.
5. Opportunities for students to attend CCC night talks. Summary of recent talks.
6. A presentation of some recent winning images from Club Comps and inter Club battles - DPI and prints.
7. Recent CCC member RPS LRPS distinctions.

7. CC students presentation topics with AB intro? - TBC.

8. End of evening opportunity to socialise.

Angus recently came back on the venue location:

Hi Martyn & Mike. So in preparation I hopefully have several students to showcase their work - also I am plugging away to all students to try and come along!

Room wise I have booked 'the foyer' in the digital building (the building with the coloured LED strips to the right of the new reception) - not too sure how many will turn up but that will be big enough to accommodate. I will have my laptop plugged in so if any body wants to show presentations/images i would say just bring on a usb memory stick?

AB

See you all there. Remember, you were a student once!

Community News

Cirencester Camera Club

Sue Gunee

On Thursday 9th February, Cirencester Camera Club pitched 20 of its best images against Swindon Photographic Society, Highworth Camera Club and Royal Wootton Bassett Camera Club in the annual "Battle" held between these clubs.

A huge variety of images and genres were displayed, and thoroughly critiqued by external judge Laura Pearce – the results were extremely close, with Swindon winning on 258 points. Cirencester were close behind with 254 points, then in joint third place came Highworth and RWB with 245 points.

On Monday 20th February the club welcomed back Martin Fry FRPS FBPE EFIAP/d3 AV-EFIAP APAGB from Cheltenham Camera Club to give his critique of the images submitted for the fourth externally judged competition of the season. The competition was divided into two parts with print and digital images being submitted in either the 'Open' competition or for the 'set' subject of 'Fog, Steam, Mist or Smoke'.

In total 83 images were reviewed, with 18 different members having placed images. Congratulations to everyone on a great competition, and huge thanks to Martin Fry for his incredible attention to detail, helpful suggestions and encouraging remarks.

Winning images were:

On Golden Pond by Jill Bewley, first in the set subject (print), Barbadian Sculptor by Liz Gillham, first in 'Open' (print), Minus Twelve by Gary Gleghorn, first in the set subject (digital) and The Artful Dodger by John Hankin, first in 'Open' (digital).

The club meets every Monday evening from September to May, excluding Bank Holidays, at the Parish Hall, Watermoor, Cirencester, GL7 1NE - visitors always welcome <https://cirencestercameraclub.org>

Gloucestershire Standard

Sue's been in touch with a recent publicity success.

Plugging away at the reluctant Gloucestershire Standard has never been easy (does it still run its virtual 'Gloucestershire Camera Club'?) so well-done Sue for persevering. Never easy. In the Standard's defence they've given us a good plug.

PAGB Newsletter for March

Paul Jones has been in touch with the latest PAGB Newsletter and here it is:

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en328%2015%20March%202023.pdf>

Miscellaneous

Parish Church volunteers wanted

We've been asked by the Parish Office to help in their search for volunteers. Here's the details:

Volunteers needed at the Parish Church.

Do you enjoy meeting people, are you interested in the history of your Parish Church, would you consider becoming a volunteer to welcome visitors into your church?

Keeping the Parish Church open on a daily basis for pilgrims is quite a mammoth task. We rely mostly upon volunteers. Whilst there are vergers or a member the clergy on hand, the important task of welcoming people into the Parish Church as tourists and worshippers is vital. To do this we need an army of volunteers.

The task is to volunteer at one or more of the slots when we need help. Maybe once or twice a month to suit you. If you could make a regular slot that helps us with planning things.

10 a.m. – Midday Midday – 2 p.m. 2 p.m. – 4p.m.

On Bank Holidays the church becomes very busy, and it is on these occasions when we need extra volunteers to assist with keeping the building open safely. We are trying to build a team of people who will be willing to take a turn on Bank Holidays especially. There are 'eight bank holidays' in a normal year, if you were able to help at one or two this would be a great help. The task would be to volunteer at one or more of the slots when we need help.

Bank Holiday 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 1p.m. – 3 p.m. 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Evening prayer is said every day at 5 p.m. It is always good to have visitors with us for this ancient office of the church. The vergers or clergy on duty will be responsible for locking the church.

If you are able to offer some help, it will mean the difference of us being able to remain open, rather than having to close.

Yours sincerely

Canon Graham Morris

Parish of Cirencester with Watermoor, and St Lawrence Chesterton

International Women's Day - 8th March

We just missed celebrating International Women's Day in last week's Vignettes so here's an interesting series of articles relating to women in photography and, would you believe it, a review of women's camera bags!

Influential women in photography

Here's an interesting article on the most prolific women photographers and how they've shaped the artform.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/22-pioneering-women-in-photography-you-need-to-know-about>

4th Leica Women Foto Project Award

Continuing the theme of International Women's Day, Leica Camera, announced the four recipients of the fourth annual Leica Women Foto Project Award. For the first time ever, entries were accepted from the United Kingdom, Mexico, and Canada in addition to the United States, aiming to expand diverse representation in the photography industry, whilst also encouraging the inclusion of all perspectives.

The Leica Women Foto Project remains an example of Leica's ongoing commitment to elevating marginalized voices and empowering the female point of view through photography. Since the inception of the Project in 2019, it has been a platform to support a diverse, inclusive community through photography. The award is a catalyst to reframe how women see, think, and express their visual narrative while encouraging photographers to demonstrate the importance and impact of a woman's point of view. Here's a link:

<https://leica-camera.com/en-GB/leica-women-foto-project-award-2023>

Finding the magic in being a female photographer

Here's an article by photographer Hannah Rooke about finding the magic in being a female photographer.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/finding-the-magic-in-being-a-female-photographer>

Midwife turned award winning photographer empowers her subjects

Multi-award-winning maternity, boudoir, beauty, and newborn baby photographer, Tianna J Williams, creates stunning portraits of her subjects while aiming to empower women and couples at the most delicate time of their lives, as they prepare to bring new life into the world. A Nikon Creator, freelance photographer, educator, and mother of two here's a couple of links to an article on her website:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/midwife-turned-award-winning-photographer-empowers-her-subjects>

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

Best camera bags for women in 2023

Needless to say, I can't vouch for the comfort of the camera bags for women in the review below having regard to my take on comfort, weight, posture, back ventilation and usability but in the spirit of International Women's Day, why not include this article for our expanding (in numbers that is!) female club membership. Here's a link:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/best-camera-bags-for-women>

The Queens corgis

Did you know that The Queen also kept another breed of dog and had several 'dorgis' – an accidental cross between corgi and dachshund, after an encounter with one of Elizabeth's corgis and Princess Margaret's dachshund, Pipkin. Now you know. Everyone knows how much Queen Elizabeth II loved her corgis and in honour of the unique connection that Her Majesty had with dogs, owning over 30 of them during her 70-year reign, The Wallace Collection in London will be hosting a special one-room exhibition of photographs titled 'The Queen and her Corgis'.

This collection will map each decade of The Queen's life alongside her corgis, with a singular image for each era that captures Her Majesty and her love of the fearless breed of herding dog. The collection is open now and the images will remain on display until June 25 2023. Here's more info:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/photos-of-the-late-queen-elizabeth-ii-and-her-corgis-to-be-exhibited-in-london>

20 golden rules of photography (and when to break them)

It's very easy to forget those golden rules of photography we all hear about from time to time including on competition night so here's an article just to keep you on the straight and narrow:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/20-golden-rules-of-photography-and-when-to-break-them>

BBC pictures

Another selection of images and related stories from the BBC's website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64889062>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-64903017>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-64881091>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-64932964>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-64918073>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-64854819>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-64891820>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-64902352>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-64887992>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-64862607>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-64837281>

Comps and Challenges - background info

17th April - The Panel Challenge(s) - The Panel Challenge is being expanded this year to provide for a dedicated Smart Phone Panel and we've updated the rules. Here's the rules:

General rules

1. This challenge is open to all current CCC members.
2. Your task is to produce a **Panel of Prints and / or a Smartphone Digital Panel of images** on a theme of your choice. (If you produce two panels (printy and digital they can be different themes)
3. The title of either panel must be clearly displayed on the front.
4. Creativity, thought and variation are encouraged, with the complete panel showing a balanced and engaging view of your chosen theme. The images should work well together and either share a theme, tell a story or complement each other in some way. They should all create a pleasing image as a whole. Humour and light heartedness can be shown.
5. Images can be in colour or black and white or monochrome.
6. Your panel should contain between 7 — 10 images on your chosen subject and be presented for assessment by members on the evening of **17th April 2023**. If you are not going to be there on the evening but would still like to submit a panel please contact Jill Bewley, Comp Sec to arrange collection of printed panel. (competitions@cirencestercameraclub.org).
7. Images do not have to have been taken within this season but must be less than 5 years old. If using images which have been submitted to Club Competitions, a maximum of two may be used.
8. The images must be your all own work.
9. Presentation of the prints on the physical or digital panel will be taken into consideration in the final assessment.
10. All entries will be assessed and marked by the club members who are present on 17th April, with First, Second and Third places for each category being announced on the evening.
11. The Print Panel and Smartphone Digital Panel will be judged separately.
12. An award will be presented to the winner of both the Print Panel and Smartphone Digital Panel at the Awards Evening.

The Print Panel - info

1. Images should be no more than 7" x 5" (un-mounted), and one of your images may be enlarged to 10" x 8" (un-mounted).
2. Images can be placed in small mounts if desired.
3. You should mount your images on a board no larger than A1 in size. This is 841 mm x 594mm. The board should be sufficiently rigid to allow being displayed vertically on a table top. Thick mountboard / Foamex are ideal.
4. The print panel mounting board can be any colour.
5. A1 Boards and thick cards can be purchased for a few pounds from outlets like Hobbycraft, the Range etc.

6. Your panel must be clearly labelled on the reverse side with membership number and the panel title.

The Smartphone Digital Panel (SDP) - info

1. Each SDP will be displayed for assessment on the club projector/screen.
2. To aid presentation on the night, SDP's should be emailed via the Competition Dropbox link to Jill Bewley Comp Sec by Friday 14th April
3. Each emailed SDP should contain the member's membership number and panel title.
4. The Club will provide processing assistance to anyone who would like help creating a digital panel.
5. SDP can be made in Lightroom, Photoshop or PowerPoint.
6. The overall SDP should be no greater than 1200x1600 pixels (image club comp size).
7. Smartphone Digital Panel background can be any colour.
8. The digital images in the SDP can be any size and shape whilst meeting the General Rules above in respect of submitted number of images.

If you have any questions please email Jill Bewley, Comp Sec on competitions@cirencestercameraclub.org

17th April - Then and now - Just to follow on from John Smith's intro, we'll be bringing along a collection of historical local images taken in the Cotswold over the coming weeks. The idea is for you to take away an image of your choice, or maybe more than one from the collection and go out to the location where it was taken and try and take the same image again from the same position it was originally taken. The idea is to use some software and compare the two images to see how things have changed. It's not a competition and if we are successful, the Civic Society may consider publishing our Then & Now images in some form.

The intention is to show the fruits of our labours on the 17th April club night. This is the night of The Panel Challenge (more about that later) which generally only takes half an evening so the first half will be a presentation of our Then and Now images. Given that we've got some work to do in scanning and comparing the images, we'll be setting a backstop date for you to get them to us. It doesn't matter if some images are from similar locations as the original dates they were taken may vary anyway. There's lots of historical images to choose from and don't forget to clock the date and time you took the image. A good opportunity to use that Tripod gathering dust and it might help you to know that:

For one part, 50mm lenses reproduce the proportions of faces, depth, and perspective at roughly the same size as we see with our naked eyes. For another, a 50-mm field of view roughly matches the human angle of vision.

However, here's a taster from the BBC's website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-62820981>

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

Objective

Multiple and Double Exposure photography are techniques that blend two or more exposures to create a different image.

Detail: A **Multiple Exposure** image can comprise of two or more images merged to create a new image, either in camera or in processing. It can also include **Strobe Flash images** where multiple exposures are taken on one image.

Multiple Exposures can include a technique known as '**Double Exposure**' which is a technique that layers two different exposures on a single image, combining two photographs into one, for example the image of the bison and forest.

Exclusions and clarification: **Multiple and Double Exposures** exclude a Focus Stacked image which effectively comprises the original image unchanged in all but focus.

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 artist's world is limitless. It can be found anywhere far from where he lives or a few feet away. It is always on his doorstep - Paul Strand

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

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)