



Vignettes 184

June 8th, 2023

Contents

Club News.....	1
Monday 19th June - CCC visit to Clattinger Farm Meadows, 6.30pm - 8pm.....	1
We're in the Paper!.....	3
More AI Stuff.....	3
Miscellaneous.....	5
BBC pictures.....	5
Summer Cup and Ted Parrot cup - subjects and rules.....	6
Club Competitions 2023 – 2024.....	7
Annual Competitions.....	8
Quote of the week.....	8

Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. An excellent turnout of circa 20 hardened club members graced the Crown in Cirencester on Monday night for a social. Thanks to Jill for organising and it was good to see everyone. The late change in venue notification (WhatsApp and email) seemed to do the trick so I hope no one arrived at the Greyhound. After all that Carol mentioned that the Greyhound now opens on a Monday! I had a quick look this morning and whilst the website says it's still closed on Mondays, a recent Facebook entry by the pub says that's it's now opening on Mondays. Dooh! Better safe than sorry. If that is the case, we'll have a look at whether we can bring the booked Xmas Quiz forward from Tuesday to Monday.

Following our impromptu discussion chaired by Jill and the feedback, the revised summer programme now looks like this:

- 19th June - Macro flowers - Clattinger Farm Meadow, near Somerford Keynes 6.30pm. See below for details from Jill.
- 03 July- Water-skiing - 4 Lakes, near Ashton Keynes 5.30pm – 7pm.
- 17 July - Architecture / Water / Industrial Heritage TBD, Gloucester Docks.
- 31 July - ICM TBC - (led by Neil George from Highworth Camera Club) Location TBC.
- 14th August - ?
- 21st Aug - Pub. Greyhound, Siddington (assuming it's now open on Mondays!) Bring along your camera kit (camera bags allowed!).

NB. 1 Jean is looking into getting access to the aircraft breakers yard at Kemble as a possible alternative to the Gloucester Docks night.

NB 2 We cancelled the Bank Holiday meet up as probably not likely to attract many members, so the pub meet up has been brought forward to the 21st August.

NB 3 Just a reminder that images taken on the summer 'workshops' (excluding the pub meet ups) count towards the annual award The Miles Shield.

Monday 19th June - CCC visit to Clattinger Farm Meadows, 6.30pm - 8pm

Clattinger Farm, on the outskirts of Somerford Keynes, is one of the most ancient and impressive lowland wildflower meadows in the whole of the UK.

'A precious remnant of Britain's hay meadow, a type of grassland which has now almost completely vanished from our landscapes. Clattinger's richness as a wildlife habitat is a lasting tribute to its previous owners, who farmed the land traditionally and did not use any artificial fertilisers - in fact it's the only lowland farm in Britain known to have received absolutely no agricultural chemicals. Today, the meadow is considered the finest remaining example of enclosed lowland grassland in the UK, and is of international importance for its hay meadow wildflowers.'

There should still be Southern Marsh orchids and possibly the rarer Burnt Tip orchids out, but it's just a beautiful place to immerse yourself in nature.

- It would be *really* helpful to know numbers in advance so please send an email to jillbewley@hotmail.com or Whatsapp me on [07855399267](tel:07855399267) - by Friday 16th June.
- If the weather is not good enough for photography, we will cancel it by email and WhatsApp by lunchtime on Mon 19th June, and meet in the Greyhound Pub, Siddington, instead.
- Meet at WWT Lower Moor Farm Car Park (Somerford Keynes Rd, Oaksey, Malmesbury SN16 9TW), (What 3Words [///movie.boost.harnessed](https://www.what3words.com/move/move/move))
- From there it is an easy 10 - 12 minute walk to the meadows along a sheltered path....there will probably be lots of mozzies though!
- Bring your camera, macro lens if you have one, something to kneel / lie on, and a tripod / beanbag if possible
- If you have said you are coming but then cannot make it, please send me a WhatsApp, thank you 😊

If there is anyone who feels that the walk is just too long, there is a possibility of parking for two cars at the site, along Minety Lane, but it is still a short walk to the meadows from there. Please let me know.

Hope that all helps

Jill Bewley

jillbewley@hotmail.com

We were sorry to hear that we are losing Liz Gillham who is moving to Worcester. In the short time she had been a member, Liz put a lot of effort into supporting the club with her 'Speed Learning' club night ideas, thoughts and suggestions for the programme not to mention 'The Wedding of the Year', a real cracker of a night to finish off the season created with such a lot of effort. We all wish her well in her new move and it was a pleasure to have her as a valued club member? Perhaps we should have a battle against her new club, once she's settled in or perhaps arrange a club night event.

I did a quick ask round on Monday to find out who had seen Scott Kelby's game changing YouTube channel on Photoshop's Beta version testing Ai. The link is in last week's Vignettes 183. If you haven't yet, do find some time to watch it. It's really interesting.



We're in the Paper!

Sue's had success with her posting of the AGM and comp awards in the Standard. Well done Sue.

More AI Stuff

Paul's been in touch following last week's article in 'V' about Ai with specific reference to Scott Kelby's video on the new Photoshop Beta version and the use of 'Generative Fill'.

Hi Martyn

Very topical subject in Vignettes I thought. I'm sure we'll have much discussion around this topic in future. However I realised that I should have drawn attention to an article in one of the recent PAGB e-news, where a guy called Gareth Oakey is saying that most photographers are already breaking competition rules (see attached). I must say, if you're leaning towards being pedantic, I'm inclined to agree with him. Did you really take that shaft of light coming from the window in that night time shot.....?

More details below:



1. All parts of any image must be produced by a photographic process.
2. All elements of images must be the photographer's own work.

While I agree (and I'm sure most do) with the intent of the above rules it seems they're broken so often it's become accepted to do so. So, is it time for a re-write of these, considering modern digital post processing, or for them to be more strictly enforced somehow?

The reason I ask is because, if it's acceptable to use any filter such as an 'oil paint filter' or context aware tools such as spot healing in Photoshop, then you've already broken these rules. New tools such as the neural filters in Photoshop, or one-click fixes in Luminar AI, Topaz AI, etc. are becoming commonplace too - are these compatible with the rules when an algorithm is creating most of the edit?

Moving further on, full AI image generators such as Stable Diffusion can take your images in as the source material (in line with Rule 1) and text prompts can be used to then manipulate those source images into what are essentially highly complex composites based on the authors material and direction- does this comply with Rule 2?



An example of this is given with one of the source images where you can clearly see how the original image is still used, but nearly every pixel has been changed to move the subject into a new universe, with the whole process (once setup) done in just a few minutes. Note, this could have also been done in Photoshop as a traditional composite over several days. Do we retain the rules as above and define post processing tools that are compatible (e.g. only dodge, burn, contrast, and clone tool) and also introduce a new category of competition to allow for other types of edits where the software creates new pixels or does a significant amount of the work (brush tool, spot healing, filters, any AI tool, etc)?



You can join in this busy ongoing debate on the e-NEWS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/880685259986763>

Miscellaneous

Cheltenham Science Festival

Just a reminder for all you space buffs that 'Apollo Remastered' is on at the Cheltenham Town Hall at 5.45 this Friday 9th. I'm sure you can still get tickets.

Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year 2023 - SLPOTY

For all you lovers of the Scottish Landscape, here's some great images from the Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year 2023. The Competition, now in its ninth year has bounced back after fears during the pandemic that it was looking at closing down through lack of tourists and restrictions on photographers being allowed to travel to their favourite locations.

In addition to the grand title, the awards consists of several other categories including awards for the best single landscape, seascape urban and weather images, and despite the war in Ukraine and cost of living crisis, it attracted over 4000 entries from the UK and across the globe. The link is below but here's an extract:

"Bearsden-based Brian Pollock, has won the grand title of the Scottish landscape Photographer of the Year awards with his winning portfolio of 3 stunning images shot in the Scottish Highlands. They include "Binnean Beag & the Grey Corries from Binnean Mor" which captures the view out to the Grey Corries from Binnean Mor at the edge of a rain storm, "Stob Ban & Stob Coire Easan, from Sgor Eilde Beag" – a stunning sastrugi formation mirroring the distant peaks of Stob Ban & Stob Coire Easan in the distance and "Buachaille Etive Mòr in Winter from Beinn a' Chrùlaiste" – a stunning take of the famous peak covered in pristine snow.

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

BBC pictures

Another selection of images and related stories from the BBC's website. Look out for the terrific Strawberry Moon images:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-65789708>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-65753973>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-65802574>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-65772200>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-65761850>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-65804819>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-65715833>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-65720202>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-65765811>

Summer Cup and Ted Parrot cup - subjects and rules

The three Summer Cup subjects this year, judged by members at the beginning of the season are:

- Wings
- Wheels
- Weather

We'll put the rules in a future Vignettes.

The Ted Parrott Trophy is an annual competition judged by members early in the new club season. The subject is always the same - 'Sporting Action'. So any sporting Image taken over the preceding season is eligible.

Club Competitions 2023 – 2024

CCC General Competition Schedule 2023/2024			
	Competition	Submission date	Judging night
A	Glass + Open	02/10/2023	30/10/23
B	A Portrait + Open	30/10/2023	04/12/23
C	The Colour Wheel + Open	04/12/2023	15/01/24
D	High Key / Low Key + Open	15/01/24	19/02/24
E	Long Exposure + Open	19/02/2024	25/03/2024
Annuals	2023/4 Annual Competitions	08/04/24	29/04/24

Definitions of Set Subjects

Glass: Clear, broken, cut, coloured, stained, reflected, distorted, etc – this subject offers a huge range of creative ideas - be as imaginative as you dare! Ensure the main element / device / impression uses glass so the theme is obvious.

A Portrait: A portrait photograph is the capture of the likeness of a living person or creature in which the face and expression is predominant. The objective is to display the likeness, personality or the mood of the subject. The focus is the person's or creature's face, although the entire body may be included. A portrait is generally *not* a snapshot, but a composed image of a person or creature.

The Colour Wheel: Extremely colourful images are accepted in this category, using all the colours on the colour wheel, or create an image which uses complementary colours on the wheel for added impact (ie red / green, orange / blue, yellow /purple). The main impact of the image must be the use of colour to maximum effect. Search for Colour Theory on the internet for more information.

High Key / Low Key photography make use of lighting and contrast (or lack thereof) to create a specific mood. Most of the tones will be towards the **left** of the histogram for a **low key** image and towards the far **right** in a **high key** image. Again the internet has lots of useful articles and examples

Long Exposure: The image must show the effect of using a slow shutter speed and long exposure time – it must show an extended period of time, and that the image has been enhanced by the use of long exposure. Panning of moving subjects is allowed but other ICM techniques are not. Blur introduced through post processing is also not allowed.

Annual Competitions

CCC Annual Competition categories - submission deadline 08/04/2024		
Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic chosen by Club President)	Horses and People of the Cotswolds*	DPI * <i>At least 1 person and 1 horse</i>
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

Quote of the week

It's amazing how photography can capture just a split second of something exquisite - Kiera Cass

That's it for this week. Have a good weekend.

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)