



Vignettes 194

September 22nd, 2023

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all keeping well. Great to see a very good turn out on Monday night for the Summer Cup and Ted Parrott Trophy and for me to finally meet our new members who I hope will enjoy our club nights. A big thanks to Jill for organising the evening with help from Paul. Whilst we were all nattering, they were frantically adding up the scores to make the evening flow seamlessly. Well done Jill & Paul. It was good to see a very good entry and some great winning images too for both our only 'in house' competitions which bodes well for the season's regular comps to come. Well done to all the winners.

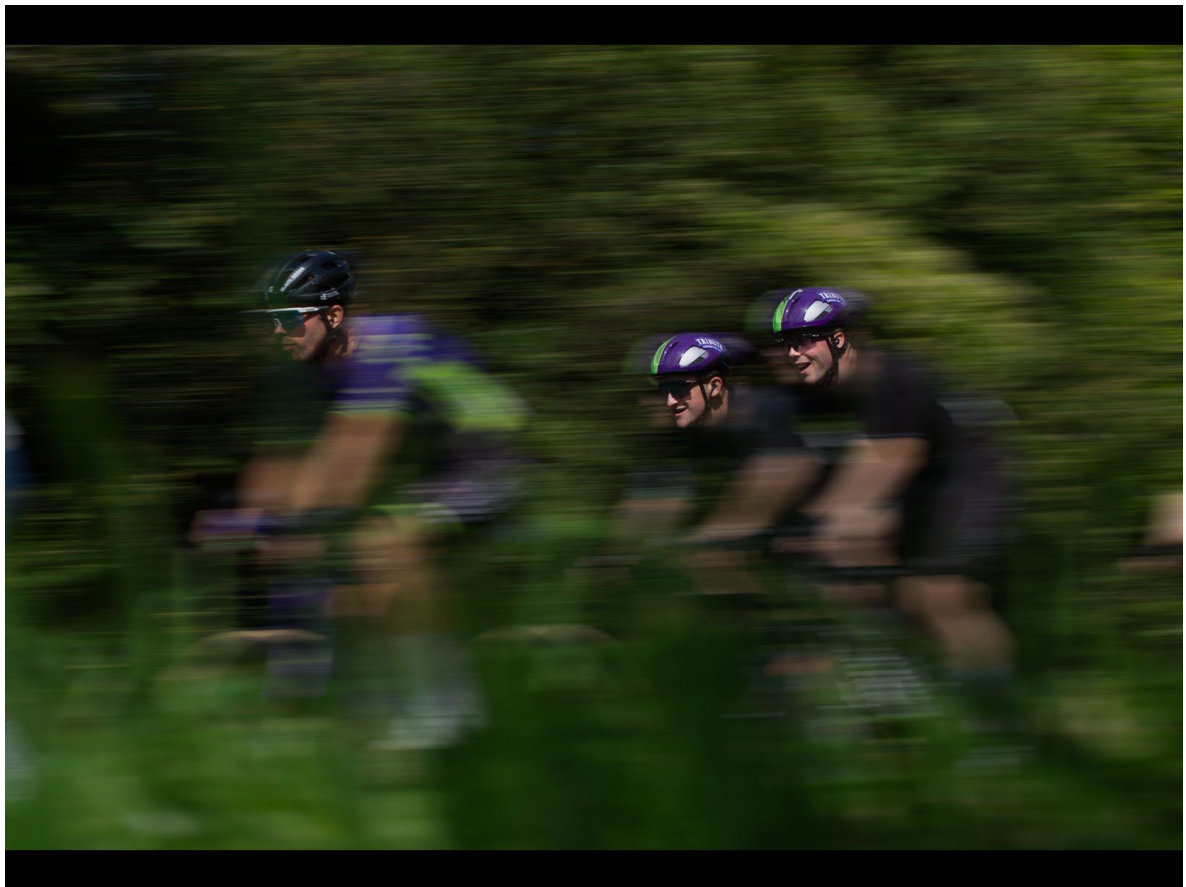
Ted Parrott Trophy Results



1st: High Jumper by Gary Gleghorn



2nd: Almost Horizontal by Steve Kirby

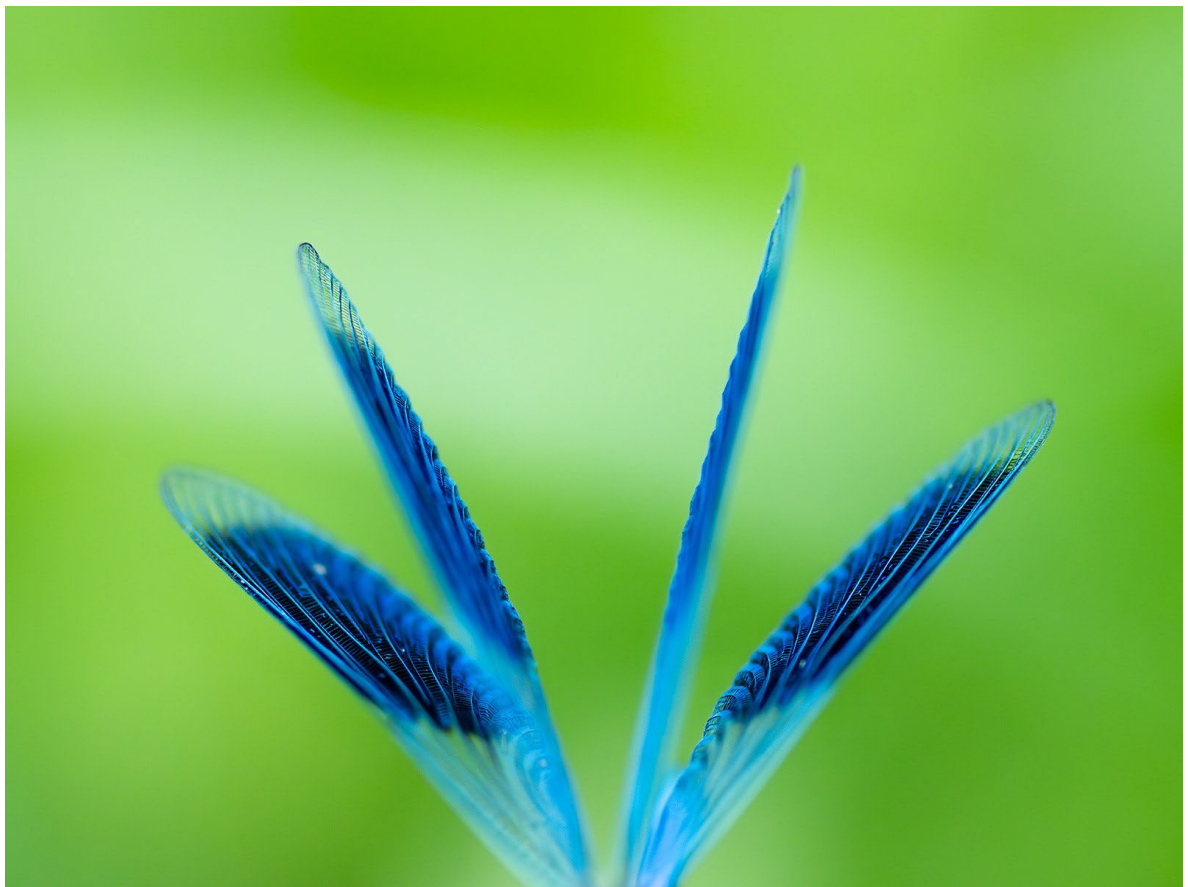


3rd: Enjoying the Pursuit by Mike Cheeseman

Summer Cup Results



1st: Summer Rain by Steve Kirby



2nd: Delicately Poised by Jill Bewley



3rd: Misty Morning with Kingfisher by Gary Gleghorn

New Members

For our new members and those existing ones who would like some mentoring, do please get in touch with Mike or myself on Club night. In the past Shaun has been a stalwart in helping new members get up to speed on the basics of photography which has certainly paid off. Along with Shaun, there are a number of us with good club experience under our belts more than happy to commit the time to help out. This informal 'Buddy' system is one which we can activate at a time suitable for you. Don't be shy.

Meet the new member

Over the coming weeks we'll be featuring our regular early season slot 'Meet the new member'. This gives us the opportunity to hear from new members in terms of their photographic experience and interests, camera kit and how we as a club can help improve your photography. Watch this space.

Next Monday - 25th September. Studio night with John Mallows

Studio expert John Mallows (Cheltenham Camera Club) makes a welcome return next Monday along with experienced model and actor Ros. As one of our set subject comps this year is 'Portrait', we have focussed the evening on this aspect of photography. John is going to steer us into what we need to do both in terms of 'steering' the model as well as controlling the lighting. It's a practical night so bring your camera. Just a few thoughts:

1. Ros and John will explain how best to get the most out of the model but before you come, think about what sort of portrait image you want to achieve.
2. Bring your camera and make sure you are up to speed on flash/remote lighting settings. John will have a universal lighting trigger but on some cameras you may need to configure it, deep in the menu system. I couldn't find the right setting last year!!

A word from our sponsor - The PAGB

We've recently had a note from the PAGB, see below, and as we are at the beginning of the club season it's worth reminding existing members and educating new members about how we, at Cirencester Camera Club, are structured.

In this regard all Camera Clubs in the UK are run under the auspices of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). It provides guidance on basic club running parameters such as constitution, insurance, competition rules etc. it also runs its own Distinction programme like the

RPS (Royal Photographic Society). We regularly post in Vignettes the monthly PAGB newsletter which Paul Jones receives. The PAGB is run through Regions and the Cirencester Camera Club falls within the 'Western Counties Photographic Federation' (WCPF) region. The WCPF runs a few regional competitions a year, one for clubs (Digitally Projected Image Competition - DPIC) which we, as a club, enter with varying degrees of success. Another one is a print competition for individual club members. Indeed we 'judged' the main winners in the recent 'WCPF travelling print exhibition' at our club night a couple of weeks ago.

It is against this background that you may like to read the PAGB's recent missive:

To all WCPF Clubs, the Exec and the LVPs;

Just a note to welcome you all back to the start of a new season. Sadly over the last year we have lost a few of our long-established clubs, which is a great pity. On a more positive note, I am hearing reports from around our region that many of you have heard from lots of new, prospective members and that you think the 23/24 season is looking a lot brighter.

Thank you for all the feedback on the AI guidance and advice. Many of you emailed to say that it was very helpful and that it arrived at just the right time for you to update your competition rules and advise your members. Thank you too, to those of you who took the time to contact us with amendments, tweaks and suggestions for clarification. We now know that one sentence is not quite accurate and there is one line which has led to a little confusion. AI is also moving on and it's no longer quite up-to-date. Our sub-committee is working hard to keep abreast of all the changes. We are now waiting for the PAGB to publish their guidelines which should be in October. We will then look at those in conjunction with your feedback and send out an update. However our original advice is still perfectly adequate for your use at club level so don't worry - no need to change anything yet!

A few little pleas and reminders:

When you contact judges and lecturers please make sure that both you and they are fully aware of all terms and conditions before you confirm. This means making sure that both sides know how much any fees or expenses will be; what the content of the talk will be; how long the talk will last; and if the judge or speaker has a cancellation policy. We are updating our WCPF Booking Forms but the onus is on clubs to ensure that everything is clear before they confirm in writing. This saves a lot of problems and later misunderstandings.

Following on from this, don't forget that all our clubs are autonomous and independent. You make your own rules and run your club in whatever way your committee and members agree. The WCPF can't and won't tell you what to do - though we do have some guidance on the website. The WCPF cannot get involved in any internal club disputes whatever the nature. Those really are down to you to sort out!

Don't forget to let Bill Aven (Directory Secretary) know of any change of Officer and email address. Our contact list is only as up-to-date as you make it and our Crystal Ball broke a long time ago! We rely on you to tell us. The same applies to the PAGB's Competition Entry System (CES) - you need to ensure that's up to date yourselves because your correspondence will go to whoever has registered themselves on the system.

Finally a request from one of our judges - please remember that a judge will give an emotional response and technical critique to whatever is put in front of them - but it is not their job to decide whether the photographs fit your set-subject competition definition, your nature definition, your monochrome definition or whether or not the work contains AI or any other banned techniques. That's down to the club competition secretary to decide beforehand. A judge is entitled to expect that every image you present to them is valid for that competition and they will assess every image that you present to them without judgement as to whether it fits your criteria.

I hope I will see lots of you at our AGM at Bovey Tracey Golf Centre on Saturday 7th October. This will be followed by a wonderful afternoon talk by Sue O'Connell and Peter Brisley - not to be missed. If you don't fancy the morning's business, though I should be encouraging you to attend, there's a fantastic exhibition at Make Southwest, Bovey Tracey entitled "Responding to Light: the diversity of modern photography" It's curated by Susan Brown FRPS and includes work by Mandy Barker, Ray Spence, Marianthi Lainas, Joe Cornish, Charlie Waite and Vanda Ralevska. It sounds wonderful! You could visit that in the morning, then come over to the Golf Centre for lunch and the afternoon talk (though we would like some of you to attend the AGM as well!)

Don't forget to have your Kingswood Salver panels ready to hand in at the AGM and remind your members about the Knightshayes Trophy theme "Water in all its Forms".

Have a wonderful start to the season and I'll be in touch again to remind you all about the AGM when I return from St Ives because I don't want any of you forgetting it :-). There's bound to be something I've forgotten to include in this letter too - blame the brain fog.

Kind Regards

Helen

Helen Jones ARPS DPAGB BPE1*

President - Western Counties Photographic Federation

Here's the WCPF AGM details:

To: All WCPF Clubs, Life Vice Presidents & Exec

Please see attached agenda and reports for the forthcoming AGM, which will be held at Bovey Tracy Golf Centre on Saturday, 7 October 2023, commencing at 10.30am.

All members of affiliated clubs are eligible to attend so please make sure your members are aware of this meeting and the afternoon talks. Please complete the booking form attached and return to me.

The afternoon talk will be given by Sue O'Connell and Peter Brisley in two parts:

Travels in Ethiopia and My Journey to an FIPF by Sue O'Connell

This focuses on our most challenging trip to date and looks at how images from the trip were developed into a successful F panel for the Irish Photographic Federation. A detailed look at the choices involved in designing any cohesive panel of work including the concept, content, format, cropping, and paper. PDI, AV & Prints.

Miscellany by Peter Brisley

A free-wheeling, whistle-stop tour reflecting Peter's interest in a wide variety of subject matter including architecture, abstractions and impressions of Japan, with a few surprises along the way.

There will be no charge for the afternoon talk

Kind Regards

Stephen Jones LRPS DPAGB EFIAP BPE3*

Secretary WCPF secretary.wcpf@gmail.com

www.thewcpf.com

An invite from Swindon Camera Club

We've had an invite from Swindon Camera Club to attend a talk by Andy Skillen, fine art Wildlife Photographer (see his website below). As you will see below it's a club group invite on a non club night (Thursday evening, 4th Jan, 2024, in Swindon) with a cost which we would fund. Our feeling is that we probably won't get that much support to make it a club night out worthy of committing club funds but individual members might be interested (price on the door TBA).

However, give us your thoughts (Mike, Dave Cahill or myself) and if we do get a resounding response in support we can let the club know and sort something out. Here's Swindon's invite:

I sent the note below out before the summer break. I'm hoping you can put it to your members about attending Swindon PS for a hosted talk. We're keen to know numbers and offer a couple of options for payment

1. If enough club members are interested, we'll look at a pro rata split off the fees, depending on numbers within each club.

6 clubs look at £33.

5 clubs at £40.

2 Clubs £80

2. If clubs can't get enough interest, but members would still like to attend, then we'll have an on the door entry price - TBD. It would be great if a number of clubs got together for this event and experienced a pricey speaker. Also, to swap anecdotes and opinions in person. Can you please let me know your thoughts and intentions by 18th October. Here's the original note:

Hello All, Royal Wootton Bassett Camera club got in touch with Swindon Photographic Society to request that we host and share a talk by Andy Skillen.

Andy is an award-winning fine art wildlife photography and videography. Details can be found on his web site <https://www.faunavista.com/> We've arranged for Andy to talk on Thursday 4th January 2024. He's on a tight schedule with further trips to track down snow leopards. Along with RWBCC, we would like to extend the evening to your clubs and it is titled "tales from the bush" - essentially anecdotal and behind the scenes from a number of recent and ongoing commissions - from documentaries and books - and will include video, music and stills. It'll be a good - fun evening. It will be hosted in Swindon and Andy has asked for a charity contribution of £200. We are looking at splitting this cost amongst the clubs depending on numbers. Would this talk interest your club? Appreciate you'll need a week or two to run it by your members.

Kind Regards, Ian C Armstrong, Programme Secretary

[Swindon Photographic Society](#)

Miscellaneous

Astronomy Photographer of the Year

Another exhibition to visit. This time it's the truly amazing Astronomy Photographer of the Year exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich which opens on 16th September. Astronomy Photographer of the Year is an annual competition featuring the world's greatest space photography. Photographers from across the globe compete to take home the prestigious title. Over 100 photographs are on show in a special exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, displayed at their best on brilliant lightbox displays. Check out some amazing images here:

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/astronomy-photographer-year/galleries/overall-winners-2023>

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/astronomy-photographer-year/exhibition>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-66807814>

Stunning photo of alien-like life form wins Ocean Photographer of the Year 2023

The Ocean Photography awards showcases and celebrates our beautiful blue planet and highlights the difficulties its facing. Jialing Cai, a 25-year-old marine biologist and amateur photographer has been awarded Ocean Photographer of the Year 2023. Her top-prize-winning capture of a paper nautilus gracefully gliding on a piece of ocean debris was taken during a blackwater dive following a volcanic eruption in the Philippines. Cai has been awarded a £1,500 cash prize, the opportunity to join an Ocean Census expedition, an Instagram takeover at SeaLegacy plus more. Take a look at some amazing images:

<https://oceanographicmagazine.com/opy/>

Been to the Canaries recently?

No? Well, the inaugural Canarian Photo Awards was held this year, to promote the best of Spanish and international landscape photography, with the final held in Lanzarote, in the Canary Islands. Take a look at the winners here and plan your 2024 submission, not forgetting taking that holiday to the Canaries you always fancied. The prizes are enticing.

<https://canarianphotoawards.com/en/>

Northern Photography Prize

Yes, northerners take photographs too you know! And here's a competition to prove it. The Northern Photography Prize, which is now in its third year, encourages budding and established amateur photographers to capture the spirit and heart of the North East of England through its people and places. The two winners each collect a £1,000 cash prize courtesy of international bestselling author LJ Ross, who founded and sponsored the prize through her publishing imprint, Dark Skies Publishing. In addition, the 16 photographers who made the prize's shortlist this year will have their images showcased at a special free-to-enter exhibition at The Biscuit Factory in Newcastle, running from 16 September until 15 October. Take a look at the winners here:

<https://ljrossauthor.com/philanthropy/northern-photography-prize/>

BBC pictures

Another collection of photos from this weeks BBC website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-66795938>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-66817901>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newyddion/66858159>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-66869303>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-66865452>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-66821273>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-66773877>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-66807540>

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

The Dropbox link for all competitions is:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/DpAdq7inLJSz17gWu2Bg>

Quote of the week

Most things in life are moments of pleasure and a lifetime of embarrassment; photography is a moment of embarrassment and a lifetime of pleasure - Tony Benn

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

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)