



Vignettes 204

December 1st, 2023

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well and that you enjoyed Monday's night's presentation from me, Andy Dipper and Mike. We've got a great breadth of talent in the club on a great range of photographic topics for members to tap into. It's always good to see that experience being shared on Monday evenings. After Andy's enlightening talk on using vintage lenses together with some super pics, he posted a pic in WhatsApp of his Sony mirrorless DSLR complete with screw thread adapter plus one of his (probably £10) lenses. I think I'll shoot myself (and we're not talking cameras here!)



Here's Dave with his weekly roundup:

Take 3 - last Monday

Hi everyone. This week we had another enjoyable member led evening with three excellent presentations covering a wide range of topics.

Martyn gave us the rundown of his latest processing plug-ins, all designed to give better results than possible with the built-in options already present in Lightroom, Photoshop etc.

DxO's PureRAW (denoise), Topaz Sharpen, and Topaz Gigapixel (upscaling) all gave some great results. I noted the recommendation to have as much memory as possible, especially for upscaling, and the advice to leave sharpening until the end of the edit. Also as Martyn pointed out it's

preferable to have a 'good' image to start with. None of the plug-ins will turn a bad image into a good one, but they can change a good image into a great one.

All these packages come with trial options, though we may have just missed out on any Black Friday/Cyber Monday deals this time.

Andy explained his passion and methodology for searching out and using good quality vintage lenses, defined as being more than 40 years old. Clearly some of these classic lenses can produce super images when used with a modern camera body. He had a large collection of M42 lenses, and did point out that it can become addictive! Prices are generally low though, maybe only in the region of £10-15, so they offer an excellent value for money route to extend your lens options.

Finally Mike gave his presentation on Fibre Optic light painting which we missed earlier this year due to Covid. The gadget he used did seem to be a good device for capturing and enhancing the energy in an image. As I found with my own light painting investigations you need a lot of patience and experimentation to get an image you are happy with, after (as Picasso said I think) having the initial 'vague idea'. As Mike said there are lots of examples of techniques and images on line, but the important thing, as always really, is to try to 'make it your own'.

Thanks to the three presenters. We have a lot of knowledge and skills within our member base, and it's good that an increasing number of you are prepared to share that with everyone. Let me know if you have any other ideas or subjects you could present. I'm already working on the programme for next season!

Many club presentations are accessible on the OneDrive folder which I (Mike that is) will tidy up. Anyway, last Monday's presentations are in folder 2023 11 27; apart from that the presentations are sorted in date order with most recent last:

https://1drv.ms/f/s!AqxhOsiqtMVneoGg_R4i7RmQEGI?e=R6D5jo

Stroud Camera Club

We have had a request from their programme secretary Ali Garrett

'Hello

Despite the dropping number of SCC members who feel they are able to commit to making new AV material, we would like to keep an annual AV going if we can. I was wondering if you have an AV evening and if so, how you organise it and whether you think there would be any mileage in a shared AV evening?

Best wishes, Ali'

I guess that not many of us (maybe only David Wallis!) are doing much AV stuff at the moment. I will reply and suggest she gets in touch with Cheltenham, but just in case there are others in the club playing with AV it would be interesting to know.

See you next week and don't forget that we start at 7.00 sharp for Comp judging night

Dave

Battle against Swindon and Wantage - 23rd November

As Mike mentioned on Monday night, we came third in the battle against Swindon and Wantage. Here's Paul with a summary of the night's events:

Hi everyone. Last Thursday (23rd November) we held our annual inter club battle competition with Swindon, which also included Wantage on this occasion. Roger Bryan LRPS judged and was set a stern task with 60 high quality images. Cirencester came third in a closely marked contest and below at the end of Vignettes are the details and feedback of the pictures entered including a summary of the judge's comments. Well done particularly to Dave Cahill, Mike Cheeseman, John Hankin and Andrew Roca who scored maximum marks (20) with some stunning images! Thanks to everyone who supported a very well organised evening on Zoom and I hope you enjoyed the evening as well.

Thanks.

Paul

All the images, results and summary of the judge's comments can be found at the end of this bulletin. Here are the four images that scored 20:



My Ball by John Hankin



Musical Mind by Mike Cheeseman



Waltzing in the Blue Light by Dave Cahill



Dawn Walk by Andrew Roca

Quiz night 18th Dec

The numbers are increasing and, as I type, 11 of us have signed up so far the Club's quiz night at the Greyhound pub so well done and keep it coming. We've only got a couple of weeks to let the pub know of numbers and food order so don't leave it too late. Just to get you going, here's the current list:

1. Martyn Smith - Burger & Chips - x Team
2. Gary Cleghorn - Cauliflower steak - x Team
3. Steve Kirby - Steak & Ale Pie - x Team
4. Colin Hoskins - Steak & Ale Pie - x Team
5. Dave Cahill - Haddock & Chips - x Table
6. John Crew - Scampi & Chips - x Table
7. Fin Simpson - Haddock & Chips - x Table
8. Carol Thorne - Steak Frites with roasted garlic and herb butter. - x Table
9. Vikki O'Keeffe - Japanese panko breaded chicken burger - x Table
10. Robin O'Keeffe - Scampi & Chips - x Table
11. Jill Bewley - Haddock & Chips - x Table
12. ?
13. ?

As a reminder you can find the menu again at the end of this bulletin unless Mike includes it separately with Vignettes.

Jill has won an award

One of the benefits in posting the results of various POTY'S (and they do seem to be endless) is to let you see the results, the quality of the images and hopefully spur you on to have a go yourselves. Many winning images are well within the scope of a club photographer and there are certainly plenty of comps to choose from. On that subject Jill has had some success recently plus an amusing technical 'failure'. Here's Jill with a lighthearted summary:

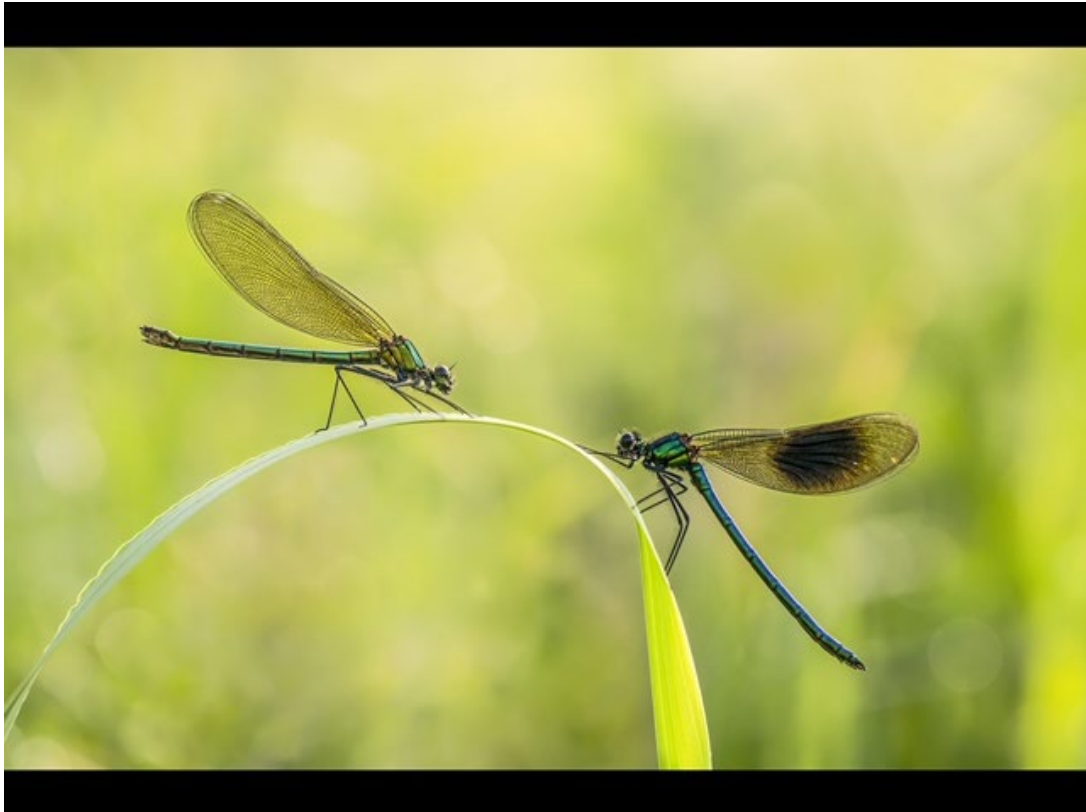
"Not quite LPOTY..."

The great thing about hobbies and interests is that they can take you to many new places, meet new people and learn new things, and photography is no exception. For an added bit of fun, I have entered some of my images into competitions over the past year, with mixed results, and here's what happened.

British Dragonfly Society Calendar Competition

As the odds of getting accepted into the BBC Countryfile are something like 10,000 to 1, I thought I would give it a go with the BDS competition, which this year received a massive 360 entries! I was extremely pleased to have my image of a pair of banded Demoiselles accepted into the calendar.

Prize - membership of the British Dragonfly Society and a free copy of the calendar!



Mineral Products Association

This is the trade body which represents all mineral companies around the UK and every year they run a competition to highlight nature and wildlife in quarries, gravel pits etc. There are two categories - one for employees, and one for volunteers. (I am not technically a volunteer, but I do give a lot of my images to the Cotswold Lakes Trust for them to use however they like, so they suggested that I enter). I was invited to an awards ceremony at the Royal Society in London where they displayed all the winning images, and amazingly I came joint Third with my 'Swans in the Mist' image.

Number of entries: 160!

Prize: £100 Wex voucher



Cotswold District Council - The Glorious Cotswolds

This was a free to enter competition, to celebrate the glorious Cotswolds countryside and communities. I sent in about 6 images, of various subjects. I received an email about three weeks ago to say that my 'Cotswold Ladies who Munch' image has been selected as a finalist, and could I please tell them exactly where it was taken.....and guess what, we worked out that I was actually standing about 100 meters inside Stroud District Council area when I took the photo, so it has been ruled out!

Prize: Nothing!



But the message is, just have fun, enter things, and you never know where it might take you. Here's the images.

Jill

Well done Jill. Some great anecdotes. Who is ever going to know where Ladies who munch was taken. Still, honesty is always the right policy.

Miscellaneous

Wildlife Comedy Awards winners announced

We posted in V196 the wildlife comedy awards shortlist. Always amusing. Well the winners were announced a few days ago and a photo of a kangaroo channeling its inner Jimi Hendrix has been crowned the winner! Check out some very funny winning images here:

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

2023 Historic Photographer of the Year competition

Here's a comp I've not heard of before. History Hit, the podcast and content platform founded by historian Dan Snow and recently acquired by digital content studio Little Dot Studios, has unveiled the winners of the '2023 Historic Photographer of the Year' competition. This annual event challenges photographers to explore and capture the most captivating historic sites in never-before-seen ways.

The Historic Photographer of the Year, in partnership with Historic England, is open to amateur and professional photographers over the age of 18 and living in the UK. The overall winner will receive a £250 cash prize and category winners will be awarded £50. The Historic England category winners will also receive up to £100 worth of books from the Historic England imprint. Get thinking about next year!

This year's overall winner was Josh Dury from Bath, with his mesmerizing photograph of the Callanish Standing Stones on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland's Outer Hebrides. Check out the winning images here: <https://photographer.historyhit.com/>

All About Photo

Part of the exclusive online showroom developed by **All About Photo**, this exhibition is on view for the month of November 2023 and includes twelve photographs by **Grace Weston** from the series **Reclaiming The Muse**. She presents the series as follows:

Patriarchy has controlled the narrative for 10,000 years. My staged miniature photography series, Reclaiming The Muse, reframes historic artworks and stories in contemporary terms. In centering women, historically cast as objects of beauty or scorn, I strive to revitalize the muse with agency, furthering the issues important to me as a contemporary female artist.

Check out more interesting details about this exhibition and Grace Weston here:

<https://loeildelaphotographie.com/en/all-about-photo-grace-weston-reclaiming-the-muse/>

Thomas Hardy's Wessex photos up for auction

If you are into history, take a look at Forum Auctions who are auctioning some Thomas Hardy photos (Lot 160 - 163). The BBC article is worth a look at as well:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-67544381>

<https://www.forumauctions.co.uk/Fine-Books-Manuscripts-and-Works-on-Paper/30-11-2023?gridtype=listview>

BBC pictures

As usual some great images across the globe from the BBC's website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-67518879>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-67495402>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-67566266>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4n7p374mr6o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-67507417>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-67501648>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-67485465>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-67509422>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-67508396>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0x2d8zqle1o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-67415207>

Club Competitions

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



When I photograph, what I'm really doing is seeking answers to things - Wynn Bullock

'Let there be light' by Wynn Bullock

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


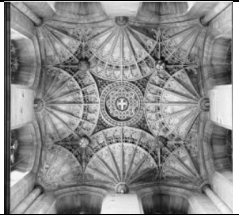


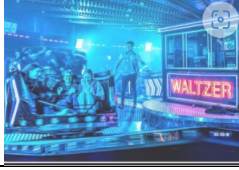



Cheers and stay safe

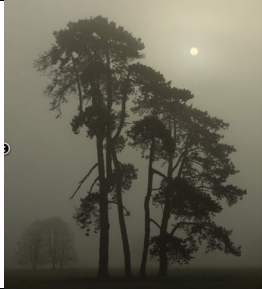







Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)





Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)

Dave (dave.cahill975@btinternet.com)

Appendix 1 - Cirencester vs Swindon vs Wantage Inter Club Battle

No	Title	Author	Image
1	Snakes Head Fritillary	John Crew	
2	Looking to the Heavens	Ruth Barker	
3	Restoration project	Mike Cheeseman	
4	Blacksmith	Gary Gleghorn	
5	Waltzing in the blue light	Dave Cahill	
6	High Jumper	Gary Gleghorn	
7	My Ball	John Hankin	
8	On Golden Pond	Jill Bewley	

9	Mist in Down Ampney	Paul Norris	
10	Musical Mind	Mike Cheeseman	
11	The Artful Dodger	John Hankin	
12	Pumpkin Still Life	Jill Bewley	
13	Farm girl with potatoes	Vicki O'Keefe	
14	Coordination	John Hankin	
15	Damsel Flies	Jill Bewley	
16	Equine Energy	Mike Cheeseman	

17	Impressionist Wood	Paul Norris	
18	Private Eye	Gary Gleghorn	
19	Glass Tentacles	Dave Cahill	
20	Dawn Walk	Andrew Roca	

20 DPIs with a maximum of 3 per author

No	Title / Author	Comments	Score
1	Snakes Head Fritillary John Crew	Impactful, well positioned and composition works. Curve of stem very pleasing and good background treatment	18
2	Looking to the Heavens Ruth Barker	Great image, good attention to detail, symmetry. Perfect composition and very well executed Square presentation works	18
3	Restoration project Mike Cheeseman	Image tells a story, good leading lines and details throughout. Not sure about the treatment, loss of impact. Lighting needs lifting as comes across a little flat	12
4	Blacksmith Gary Gleghorn	Strong mono portrait, impact with good ambiance. Acceptable level of detail in clothing but good in face. Chain hanging down in the background is a distraction	17
5	Waltzing in the blue light Dave Cahill	Impactful standout image. Light treatment excellent and all elements hold together. Very well captured. Sufficient movement in parts to provide atmosphere	20
6	High Jumper Gary Gleghorn	Well taken image and appropriately sharp. Image works well but background is a material distraction, even though out of focus. Small point but with rider looking down you cannot see the eyes	15
7	My Ball John Hankin	Great action shot. Composition is correct and well executed. Space to move into the picture for horses. Stunning image with the overall focus and attention of the riders and the action	20

8	On Golden Pond Jill Bewley	Wonderful tranquil image. Good framing, like central position. Great atmosphere, exposure and execution. Cannot do much to improve	17
9	Mist in Down Ampney Paul Norris	Impact image. Very atmospheric. Great composition with separation of trees. Would have preferred another element in the scene	13
10	Musical Mind Mike Cheeseman	Standout image. Great focus and attention to detail. Musical notes on the outside a masterstroke. Can see lots of quality work into final image presentation	20
11	The Artful Dodger Joh Hankin	Great action picture. Fabulous composition, good lines between action and people Spectator interest as well can see the tension in the faces. Woman bending down is a distraction	17
12	Pumpkin Still Life Jill Bewley	Exquisite image. Great composition and attention to detail. Background works really well as well as triangular placing. Autumn colours are topical. Could be improved further with a little shadow or directional light	18
13	Farm girl with potatoes Vicki O'Keefe	Great subject and pose but not one of the stronger images. Strong composition with base and hands with image telling a story. Lighting flat and needs lifting	13
14	Coordination John Hankin	Great sporting image you can see the sinews on the horse. Central position does not 100% work would have preferred a slightly slower shutter spend to provide the impression of movement	15
15	Damsel Flies Jill Bewley	Great natural history image. Sharp in all the correct places and you can see the detail. Good background diffusion. Not sure about overall balance of the picture too much extraneous areas	17
16	Equine Energy Mike Cheeseman	Really like the idea and approach to the image, little idea how it is created. The rocking horse is a strong element but the energy lines do not work and are a distraction	13
17	Impressionist Wood Paul Norris	Good mood atmosphere and composition. Would have liked a stronger base and perhaps more sharpness in the front trees.	13
18	Private Eye Gary Gleghorn	Well observed and taken street image. Juxtaposition between eye patch and magazine works well. However background and reflection is a distraction from the subject matter	13
19	Glass Tentacles Dave Cahill	Challenging photo, not quite sure what IK am looking at or meant to take away from the photo. Good graphic portrayal but a lack of central composition	13
20	Dawn Walk Andrew Roca	Wonderful scene and glorious image. All parts come together with great depth and balance of colours. Sufficient detail in foreground and person positioning is spot on. Good open space left hand side	20