



Vignettes 36

June 10th, 2020

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Club News

Hi everyone. My goodness the weeks are going by. Apropos nothing at all, but if you are looking to watch some great TV, you can't go wrong by watching BBC One's "The Repair Shop" on Wednesday night. I'm hooked. Last week, I'd written in this Vignette "*No sign of a broken camera yet but I suspect it's only a matter of time*". Come Wednesday and wouldn't you know it, up pops an early brass rather sad "button instamatic" from around 1900. Worth a watch on catch-up.

On another TV matter, I'm sure many of you have been watching BBC's Springwatch but did you know that Chris Packham is also an excellent photographer. If you find that he's coming to your neck of the woods, try and see one of his talks. They're excellent. His web site is:

<http://www.chrispackham.co.uk/>

As members might have gathered by now, part of the "Vignettes" message, in addition to keeping a feeling of club community, is to impart information gathered from many sources as way to keep share a diversity of interest in all things photographic. Some of this week's information comes from this month's latest RPS magazine which has just dropped through the letterbox. Another life saver! Also, we are always trying out different topics to see what floats your boat. Stuff like helpline, tip of the week, Video of the week etc. The recently introduced "Behind the Image" seems to have struck a chord and for the first time we've got a (admittedly short) queue of images and stories to share. Keep them coming.

Another good entry of 14 images for May's Summer cup competition so well done everyone. Looks like it's going to be a good night when we get round to our judging. Onwards to next months (see below). Bit of a head scratcher this one.

If you recall from V35, we included a link to the RPS's Western Region monthly competition for April. Well, the May competition results have just been published and, once again, there's some great imaginative images posted but none that our club couldn't compete with. Make your own mind up. Here's the link.

https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/winners_may_2020.pptx?fr=sZTg5MDE0MDc0NDk

Are you interested in butterflies? Well, I watched a fascinating photographic Zoom talk last week on bugs, birds and butterflies by David Adamson of the Cheltenham Camera Cub. It's been put onto YouTube so, if you have around an hour to spare, take a look at some terrific images supported by a knowledgeable speaker. Here's the link:

<https://youtu.be/Qi46iHkAIOk>

A book called "40 Butterfly Walks in Gloucestershire" was recommended so I might get a copy but in the meantime here's the link:

<http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/hamearis/walks-booklet/>

If anyone has a copy of the book and wants to send us some comments about it, let us know.

Just a reminder that the closing date for the Duchess of Cambridge/National Portrait Gallery supported photography competition called "Hold Still" is the 18th June. I mentioned it a few "V's" ago and is a competition which encourages people to document their experiences of the pandemic.

We know that some members are interested in bugs close up. Well, a new book by Daniel Kariko might be just up your street, (or in your carpet!). It's called "Aliens amongst us: Portraits of Ordinary Bugs." Here's a link to the bookseller:

<https://wnorton.com/books/9781631494260>

We've recently been contacted by David Miles, whose late father was vice Chairman of the Club, with a very kind offer:

Hello. My father Gordon Miles, who was Vice Charman of your Club some 20 years ago, has recently passed away. Not long before he died I completed digitising his slide collection. I have his professional grade slide projector a Kodak CAROUSEL S-AV 2000. He asked me to offer it to any of your members who would like it.

email: milesatsomerford@outlook.com

David Miles

If any members are interested in the projector, please contact David directly.

We've recently had a bit of sad news from Gordon:



Hi Martyn & Mike. A couple of weeks ago I had an accident in Fairford market square... I ended up in Gloucester Royal Hospital and had an operation to repair the quad tendon in my right knee. I am now at home with leg heavily bandaged and in a leg brace which will be in place for eight weeks ... so no photography for some time to come. I will look forward however to the weekly catchup and all the camera club news.

Regards

Gordon

So sorry to hear that Gordon and we wish you a speedy recovery. If anyone wants to send him a get-well message on WhatsApp or through these pages, I'm sure he'd welcome some light relief.

Are you interested in seeing the International Space Station (ISS) from where you live? I'm sure those of you who are interested are already plugged into the various apps which assist. For those of you who aren't, a good start is the NASA website which has a page dedicated to viewing the ISS. Check it out below. I've set the default at Cheltenham but you can change it.

https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/view.cfm?country=United_Kingdom®ion=England&city=Cheltenham#.XtzGQS14Xmo

Finally, as many of you will know, Brian Dinnage is heavily involved as a volunteer with the Churn Project which, like all charities, has suffered financially under the current restrictions. Brian has asked if there are any budding filmmakers out there who want to dust off that part of their expensive camera they, like me, never use. The video button. Brian picks up the message.

Hi Mike & Martyn. As with all Charities, Churn has suffered since Covid19 came upon us with a most enormous loss of income from so many sources. As just one volunteer I have, with others, been working in many directions to assist folk in our community since lockdown and we have all been coming up with ideas for the raising of monies. There have been many projects; some larger than others; which have included Lottie Williams (the talented daughter of a Churn Champion) who gave a piano recital outside her home and last evening Megan Strachan gave a beautiful vocal performance which can still be seen and listened to on:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=266274381251915>

We now have some generous local people who are prepared to open their gardens for the public generally and supporters of Churn to view. What we require is someone who would very kindly be prepared to film the gardens as they walk around with the owner. The aim being to end up with a series of edited short films – say 5 to 10 minutes each. Do we have a Member within our Club who may be able and willing to carry out that task?

Now is your opportunity to try out your filming and editing skills. If you know Brian's email, contact him direct or through the WhatsApp group. Alternatively, we can put you in touch. Good luck.

BBC Pictures

Another large selection from the BBC's news website "in pictures" section. There's some excellent pics in the BBC weather watcher's pic of the season (Spring 2020) competition and also some wonderful Colombian fauna and Flora (.....8635)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52876285>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-52830287>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2vCqVy41WD6PvVj0zQ2ZfqF/pic-of-the-season-spring-2020>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-52874652>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52882885>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52925307>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52896224>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-52920374>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-52952031>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-52948635>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52921327>

Behind the Image

Jill B has sent in a great image from a memorable trip. Jill picks up the story:

I was taken on the most wonderful surprise holiday to Canada by my family to celebrate a special birthday. One reason was my obsession with wanting to see beavers in the wild, so having spent several very early mornings at various possible locations throughout our three week trip, we chanced upon a 'Park' near our last stay - we asked the rangers if there were beavers on site - they looked at us as if we were asking someone in the UK if there were pigeons in London. Yes, there were beavers but didn't we know they were extremely secretive, shy and nocturnal?!

So off we hiked, to one of the several hundred lakes in this small park (!) and came across a tiny lake - with loads of dams, sawn down trees and loads of signs of activity - but no beavers. We opened some beers and were just enjoying the solitude and vast silence as the sun set, when across the water three beavers started swimming in our direction - checking us out. After many long distance and very poor blurry dark photographs later, my son then spotted a canoe tucked in the trees, launched it into the water, and using a large branch to paddle said 'Come on Mum!

We glided in the semi darkness, me squeaking with utter excitement as the beavers played and swam around us. I just clicked away on my husband's camera with absolutely no idea what I was doing, all the wrong settings and prayed that I would have at least one in focus. This is the photo.....



It will forever remind me of a truly wonderful experience, but part of me still thinks it was all a set up with an animatronic beaver!

Thanks Jill. I'm sure members have got similar memories to share so send them in.

Members Tip of The Week

Here's 25 tips on printing from the respected Amateur Photographer magazine

<https://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/technique/25-top-tips-perfect-photo-prints-125629>

The "Summer Cup"

The topic for round 3 of the Summer Cup (see Vignettes 27) is "In a Glass - Darkly".

Submission date - Friday 26th June. If you look back at "V31", you'll find a few words from our President, as to what his thoughts were when he came up with the subject topics and how they could be interpreted.

Here's the Dropbox link for the competition -

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/W9gjPK1cn1xcJyDIwd1P>. It's titled 'Cirencester Camera Club - 2020 Summer competition'.

Training YouTube Video of The Week

As we haven't got a helpline question to deal with this week, the training video of the week is, like last week's one from Julieanne Kost, from another experienced Adobe user - Anthony Morganti. This link is to a series of Lightroom videos which I hope help to strengthen your knowledge.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlIFgBuTM0WJTD4rpfv748Um9MMmbo4r9>

CCC Helpline

Any questions, send them to Mike or I. Nothing to report this week.

Quote of The Week

"I hate cameras. They are so much more sure than I am about everything."

John Steinbeck

That's it for this week. Catch up next week. Remember, don't count the days, make the days count. Keep calm and Camera on!

Cheers and stay safe

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