



Vignettes 38

June 23rd, 2020

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Club News

Hi everyone. It's getting busier out there as the shackles come off, let's hope permanently. Thanks for continuing to send in your contributions. It all helps to keep the club community going.

First and foremost, we now have the details for **next Monday (29th) Zoom talk by Colin Harrison** which has been set up by John Smith. It's as follows:

Topic: John Smith's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jun 29, 2020 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88983696940?pwd=d1lWU83amRManlFeG9qazF6MXFaUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 8369 6940

Password: 506138

Any problems or if you want a few tips, please get in touch with Mike or myself. The talk will start at 7.30 but we've set it up from 7.15 to allow time for everyone to join in, ask questions about using Zoom and, of course, an opportunity for a quick chat amongst members.

Alun & Val got in contact last week following Mike's slot on one of our speakers, Paul Saunders:

Hi Martyn and Mike. Hope you and yours are all well. Many thanks for the interesting Vignettes. Particularly interested to see the piece on Paul Sanders. By chance, he, and another L & L leader, have just recorded an illustrated talk on New York, which we have just watched and enjoyed. Some interesting tips and ideas come up in the course of the interview, so we are attaching the link in case you have an hour to spare and feel like having a look.

<https://www.facebook.com/LightandLand/videos/624621345079793/>

Thanks A & V. Definitely worth a look.

Adobe have released an update of its Lightroom Classic which is to be followed by CC and mobile versions. Elements is also due to be similarly updated. Here's the Adobe link to see where the changes are:

<https://helpx.adobe.com/uk/lightroom-classic/help/whats-new.html>

Images for the New Club Website

Jill B (our website administrator and co-developer along with John S and Mike C) has a request for your favourite images - a lot of them!

The new Camera Cub website is almost ready to launch, and we hope that the changes that have been made address the comments and suggestions made through the Members' survey. One of the issues raised was that the website should be a place to celebrate and showcase the members' best images

There are three different areas on the site which will display the Members' images:

1. Slider

This is a 'hero' image on the Home Page of the site. The images are generated randomly from a small selection so that each time someone visits the site they will see a different image. The images also change every few seconds, so people reading the Welcome page will see two or three at a time. The set of images will be selected from the Galleries and will be updated two or three times a year so every member should have at the very least one image on there during the year.

See the screen shot of the new Home Page opposite.



2. Web Pages

A selection of Members' images from the Galleries will feature on every page - they will also be refreshed and updated during the year.

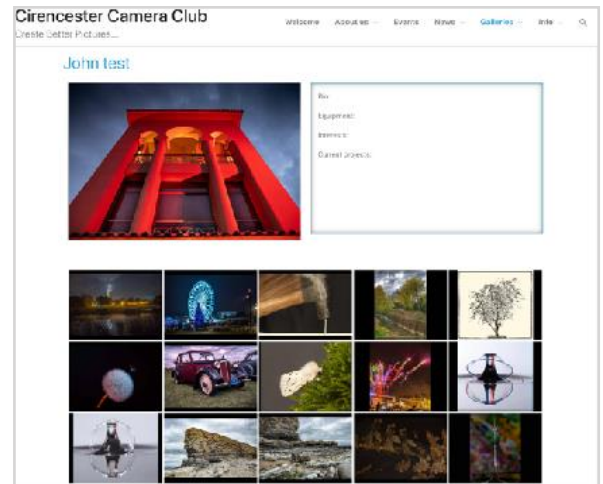
The size and style of images on the pages varies.

Opposite is just one example - there will be square, landscape and portrait formats, along with colour and mono.



3. Members' Galleries

This is one of the best parts of the new website, something which will really enhance the appearance and brings the website right up to date. All competition entries and results will be featured on a separate area on the site as before, but the **Members Gallery** displays your choice of images. They will be displayed like the example opposite, with one main image, then thumbnails of the Gallery below that. Once the thumbnail is clicked, a full-size image will be displayed and then scroll through all the images in your Gallery.



Images request:

- Please send up to **20 jpeg** images - the gallery displays in rows of 5, so multiples of 5 is good.
- Please constrain size to **1600px x 1600px**
- Image file size maximum **2mb**
- Please don't include any border, background, or metadata
- Please watermark your images if you prefer.

Naming your images

Please name all your images as per the following example:

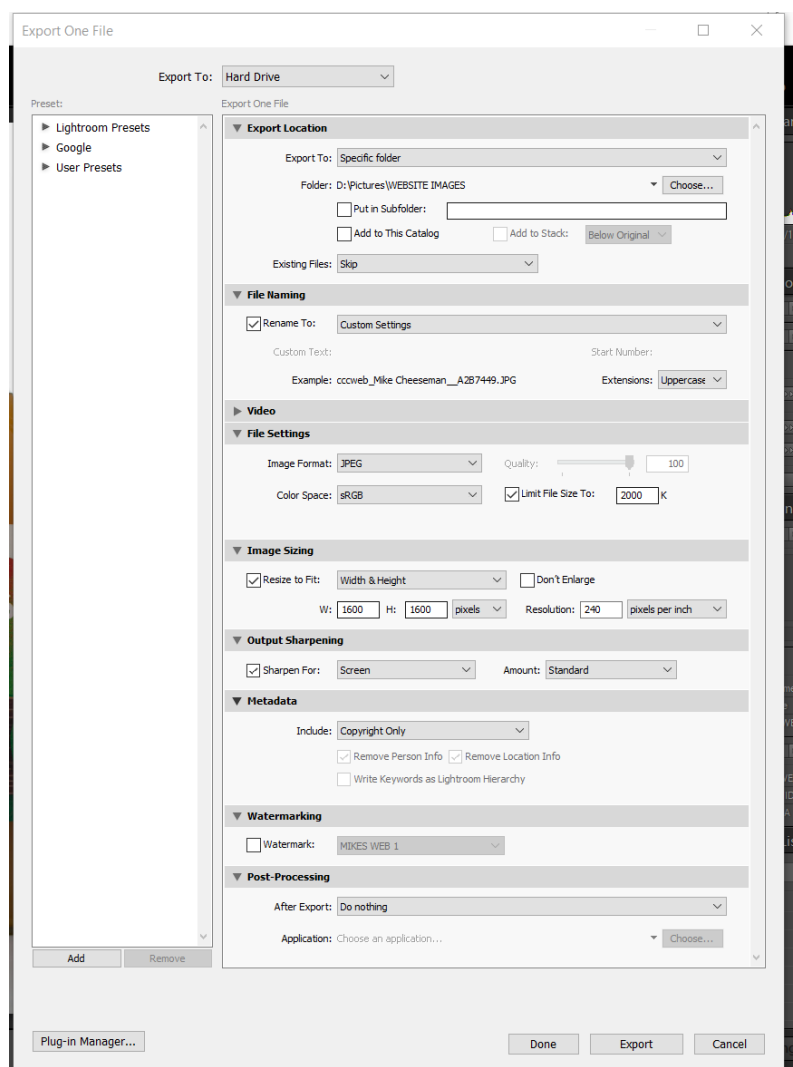
cccweb_jillbewley_imagetitle.jpg

A (reasonably!) straightforward way to generate the images is to use the File->Export option in Lightroom (see opposite). If you need any guidance on how to generate the images, please contact Mike C at mike.cheeseman@btinternet.com

Sending your images

Please send your 20 images by Dropbox - the link is below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/4Sp7uEWUVfxBokftgrji>



BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website. The Remembering Wildlife competition winning images of Cheetahs are truly fantastic.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/features/53049428>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-53053236>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52968564>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52934803>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-53055687>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-53063683>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-53089693>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-53095998>

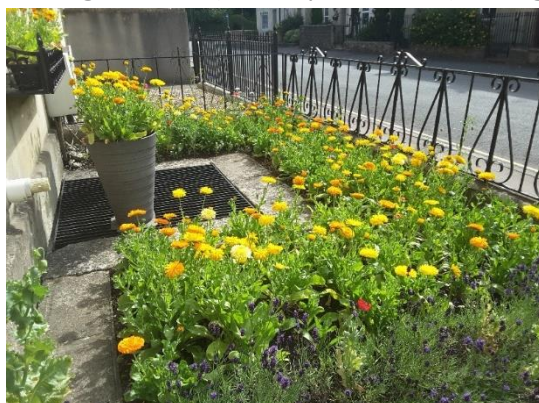
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-53099133>

Behind the Image

This week it's Carol's front garden following some great feedback she received on WhatsApp after posting an image. Carol picks up the story:



Hi Mike & Martyn. Here's a bit of my "Life during Lockdown in Lewis Lane". I've created what I hope is some joy and colour in our town front garden to cheer up passers-by in Lewis Lane taking advantage of their daily exercise routine during lockdown. This year we have 'gone mad for marigolds', hence the need to photograph the beautiful blooms. The garden, going for walks and taking loads of photos (over 1,000 in total during lockdown) has kept me sane (although that's debatable??) during this



unprecedented period. As I love all flora, it's been my most photographed subject over the last 3 months, what with photographing flowers in our garden as well as out in the countryside. I have also been practising my Photoshop skills as well... but I do feel a lot of 'snapping'



has gone on and I'm not sure if any of these photos are technically outstanding or particularly 'competition worthy' but I have so enjoyed taking them all. Photoshop does, however, make you see a story in an image that, perhaps, you might not have picked up when you took the image. It's always a surprise to me. The weather has generally been brilliant and being able to get out and pursue my hobby has been so rewarding for me. For everyone during lockdown, the great weather has certainly helped to soften the fallout for those suffering at home.

Members Tip of The Week

Have you been taking pictures of bugs at home during lockdown in your mini studio? Well, here's seven tips to improve your photography:

1. Know and respect your bugs as they can be quite delicate. Use soft brushes or tissue paper to move them about and respect their need for light and humidity.
2. Compost heaps and log piles are good for invertebrates and in house, there's always house spiders to find.
3. Connect with your subject at low level so tripods may not be practical.
4. Use macro or telephoto lenses but recognise that as camera to subject decreases, so does the depth of field. Use manual, particularly with flash and a typical setting would be F16, ISO 100, 160th sec.
5. A good cheat is to buy a blurred background. Lastolite make an "Out of Focus" background so you don't have to worry when using high F stops to get all the critter in focus.
6. Macro lenses provide better minimum focus distances than telephotos which allows you to get closer to the subject, as long as you don't scare it away!
7. If using studio flash, avoid too bright or concentrated light. A wide-angle flash setting is often better.
8. Use an off-camera trigger when using flash and placing the flash to one side creates shadow and, most importantly texture. Hairy or translucent subjects look great with a flash behind to create backlighting.

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/W9gjPK1cn1xcJyDlwd1P>. It’s titled ‘Cirencester Camera Club - 2020 Summer competition’.

Training YouTube Video of The Week

If anyone has been to an Andy Rouse talk, you’ll know he’s a great, straight talking, wildlife photographer. His website is worth signing up for as he does wildlife trips home and abroad with small groups, some to exotic (and therefore a bit expensive) destination. Always entertaining. Anyway, he’s produced a series of wildlife videos on YouTube called “Wild Angle” and they are well worth watching. Here’s the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLBMj3TJaZul7uw5LUmlZ5A>

His most recent one of damselflies fits well with our “Tip of the Week” slot above on taking bugs, albeit in the home environment.

CCC Helpline

We’ve got a great question this week from Chris Donohoe:

Hi Mike & Martyn. Hope you are both doing well - I have a helpline question for Vignettes which might also resonate with members. With the demise of “Practical Photography” (the August issue is the last one), what magazines would you recommend to stretch the knowledge of the reader as well as providing some inspiration? I have a Canon 77d - but don’t necessarily want to limit the helpline response by make as, like Colin, I’m prone to using the phone on a regular basis and I have even been known to break out an old Olympus film camera!

Thanks Chris. I’m sure we will get some member feedback which can slot into the next Vignettes, but I put the question to John H, Mike C, Jill ZB and Shaun. Here’s the feedback:

1. EOS mag - a quarterly dedicated to Canon cameras. Quite technical but an excellent read. The mag has its own training academy which is also worth a look into.
2. RPS Journal- free to RPS members. A bit “arty” and not really geared to practical photographer.
3. Photo Plus (Canon Edition). A great all-round mag focussed on Canon users, normally with a tutorial CD. Covers everything from practical techniques, to new kit to kit testing. You can get some free kit if you take out a subscription.
4. Amateur Photographer - a weekly geared toward the professional and serious amateur. Good for keeping you up to date.
5. Photography News - a free mag you can register for which has a dedicated camera club section. Cirencester Club receives 8 hard copies a month.
<https://photographynews.co.uk/>
6. Mike C has an online subscription to <https://landscapephotographymagazine.com/>. Worth a look.
7. John H - Until about a year ago, I subscribed long term to “Outdoor Photography” which for me was the best around. It pretty well ignores Sports but for Landscape and Nature mainly featuring UK opportunities it was excellent.
8. David Wallis - I like Digital Camera because it has a good mix of articles. There is usually a theme (e.g. Winter Wildlife) with suggestions how images can be taken and improved. A section on camera techniques (Manual). A very good section on Photoshop & Lightroom and a “Kit Zone”. There are also articles from various photographers, and it is not biased towards a particular brand of camera. Not much good for kit adverts but these are probably done on the Internet these days. There used to be a good CD (if you can use it on a modern Computer). A good discount on a subscription and maybe a free gift reduces the cost. A good magazine for new starters and for catching up on the latest kit. Drones in the March issue. Tried the Nikon NPhoto but very upmarket and not so good if not interested in changing your kit.
9. Digital Camera World comes up regularly when you are looking for recommendations and tips so worth a look at.
<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/uk>

So, there you are. A bit of a mixed bag of recommendations and probably best to grab a copy and make your own choice(s). Any further thoughts, fire them in to us.

Quote of The Week

“There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs.”

Ansel Adams

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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Mike (mike.cheeseman@btinternet.com)