



# Vignettes 41

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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## Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all getting back to some form of normality. It's going to be interesting to see if we get a spike in cases after the relaxation of leisure industry related gatherings. I can't see how we won't but let's hope not.

I'm afraid we are going to have to put back the Club Zoom meet up on the 20th to the 27th July. Sorry about that but an unforeseen circumstance has arisen. The new details are below and don't forget that we've brought it forward to 7.00pm:

John Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: John Smith's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jul 27, 2020 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83164359497?pwd=WlJ6UldVU2wrL2xFUEZLRGJYUFphZz09>

Meeting ID: 831 6435 9497 Password: 545376

Here's a draft agenda for you to look at and if you want to add anything, please do let us know.

### ZOOM CLUB MEETING - DRAFT AGENDA

1. MC welcome
2. JS to run through the technical side of Zoom, Gallery view, muting, picture options etc
3. DW to update on church hall access and potential problems in terms of whether or not we meet up again this year and on what terms.
4. MC to explain that if we end up Zooming to Christmas what practical issues might arise in terms of running club nights.
5. DW to briefly outline the AGM content at the first meeting which may be a Zoom event.
6. MJS to briefly outline the coming season programme to Christmas (AGM, speakers, comps, battles, practical nights and prize giving for last year and the summer cup).
7. JS to explain the voting procedure for the summer cup and to try a "dry run" with members to see how it works. A useful try out for other club interactive events.
8. MC, JS, JB to introduce the new website and invite general discussion. (Vignettes may have trailed this the previous week).
9. MC to open a general member discussion on how we might run a Zoom practical night and what subjects this might cover. Should, for example, this be in house or should we source an external speaker.
10. General discussion.
11. AOB.

(JS - John Smith, MC - Mike Cheeseman, DW - David Wallis, JB - Jill Bewley, MJS - Martyn Smith)

As predicted last week two new Canon Mirrorless Cameras were launched on the 9th July, the 8k 45mp video focussed R5 at around £4K and the (from a stills point of view) the more interesting 20mp R6 at £2.5k. A few new RF mirrorless lenses were released as well. The review network will be going into overdrive in the few months, so It'll be interesting to see how they are received in an ever-decreasing market for DSLR sized cameras. Here's a link to the excellent DPreview site for the R6:

<https://www.dpreview.com/news/4020779815/the-canon-eos-r6-is-the-r5-for-the-masses>

Brian Dinnage has been in touch. As you know he is a champion of the Churn project which we have previously supported. Brian picks up the message:

*Churn have a young singer performing [this Thursday](#) the 16th in a further 'Pocket Concert'. Imogen Grover has been appearing in MJUK and Barn Youth Theatre events for a number of years, despite being still only 17. I saw her in 2014 in a Cirencester Commemorates concert in the parish church and, although she was very young, she was one of the most memorable performers. I also saw her in the Barn Academy's production of Les Miserables at Rendcomb College Theatre a few years ago and, again, she was mesmerising. Imogen will be singing a selection of classical musical theatre numbers alongside some from more contemporary shows. Recording her songs on Tuesday ready for us to screen on Thursday.*

*Here's the link to watch for you:*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/280332926553671/>

Any birdwatchers out there? Well if you haven't heard, a "bearded vulture" has turned up in the Peak District. These giant birds, commonly known as a Lammergeier, are bigger than golden eagle and have a wingspan of up to three metres. It has only been seen in the UK once before and is believed to have come from the Alps possibly on the back of bad weather. This is the only living bird species that specializes in feeding on marrow. The bearded vulture can swallow whole or bite through brittle bones up to the size of a lamb's femur and its powerful digestive system quickly dissolves even large pieces. It has learned to crack bones too large to be swallowed by carrying them in flight to a height of 50–150 m (160–490 ft) above the ground and then dropping them onto rocks below, which smashes them into smaller pieces and exposes the nutritious marrow. They can fly with bones up to 10 cm (3.9 in) in diameter and weighing over 4 kg (8.8 lb), or nearly.

Here's a link:

<https://www.birdguides.com/articles/britain-ireland/tracking-down-the-peak-district-lammergeier/>

I “attended” a Zoom battle between Cheltenham Camera Club Battle and Ealing and Hampshire House Photographic Society last week which was interesting. About 30 members from CCC and EHPS viewed the Zoom battle. 20 images from each club were judged. Cheltenham won by virtue of having more “20’s” (3 to 1). Here’s my main findings which might be helpful for out battles and comps:

1. The judge was Paul Michell FRPS. An excellent judge who is on the RPS distinction committee and also gives talks and workshops. This opens up the possibility of using more remote judges.
2. Using Zoom, view on the biggest screen you can. An iPad can show 9 members in “Gallery” mode. A 27-inch monitor can show 25 members plus of course a better view of the image.
3. A bigger screen leaves more space down the side of the screen outside the presented image for the judge to stay in picture. That helps in reading his body language.
4. Both clubs commented that it’s best to get the images to the judge in advance for him/her to consider because the Zoom, although good, can distort the image on screen.
5. It’s best to add a small pinstripe around the picture entered (1-3 pixels) to aid and “lift” it’s presentation, as all PDI’s had a black background. This seems quite important.
6. The presentation was made over two 20-image sessions including a 10 min break. It started at 7.30 and finished at 9.15.

Paul Jones has been in touch to say how much he enjoyed the terrific food photography virtual exhibition in V40, in terms of its realistic 3D presentation. If you haven’t seen it yet, have a look. We are looking at the software. As you may recall, Paul gets the monthly PAGB newsletter and will circulate it in future through Vignettes. Here’s the latest one. Paul commented on the interesting article on page 12 relating to the meaning of “resemble or similar” by Dave Coates.

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en261%2011%20Jul.pdf>

## Club Website – Now Live

The new Club website is now ready and accessible to all members at:

[www.cirencestercameraclub.org](http://www.cirencestercameraclub.org)

I'd like to thank Jill Bewley and John Smith for their all the work and (hard-won!) expertise they've contributed to developing the new site. Their involvement has been invaluable.



There were three main drivers for developing a new site:

1. *The WordPress 'theme' (which controls the website appearance) and several 'plugins' (which provide specific functions) on the old site are no longer supported.*
2. *In Club surveys, members had requested more website features.*
3. *We wanted to promote the Club by making much more use of the images created by our members.*

We've incorporated features requested in the member's survey and more options are under consideration. We've already made changes in response to comments from the Committee

and would welcome further feedback from members. Please email [jillbewley@hotmail.com](mailto:jillbewley@hotmail.com) or use the Contact Us form on the website.

The web home-page features a 'slider' which shows some of our members' favourite images. The purpose of the slider is to show a range of photography genres and feature at least one image from each member. We've selected images from the galleries submitted by members and when we receive new galleries (hint!), we'll choose an image for the slider.

We'd welcome members' contributions to two of the website pages: Useful Links, and Hints and Tips. If you have a look at these pages, you'll see that we've made a start. Please let us have your suggestions for additional content.

Now that the site is operational, Jill be responsible for admin of the site which includes most aspects of the layout, design, and content. John and I will look after the behind-the-scenes technical issues such as theme and plugin updates, new functionality, backups, hosting management, and any heart-stopping error messages!

Mike C

## **BBC Pictures**

Another collection from the Beeb including some great lockdown photos from Hull's 15-year-old Callum Utley and professional Andy Gotts' great celeb portraits. The reflections images are worth a look too as is the video clip on astrophotography.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-53326055>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-53321157>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-53362480>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-53301857>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-53350830>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-devon-53349031/coronavirus-escaping-to-space-in-lockdown>

## Behind the Image

Last weeks “Behind the Image” picture of those school kids in a town by the Yangtze precipitated a response from David Wallis:

*Picking up on Martyn’s “Behind The Image” story last week, this is what the Yangtze looked like in 2001 before the Three Gorges dam was built. This town was one of very many destined to be submerged by the rising waters. The two signs circled on the top left of the picture are the levels the water was expected to reach on completion of stages 1 & 2 of the dam. The top level is 175m (574 feet). It is possible to see the new buildings of the type visited by Martyn being constructed on the top of the hill side. An improvement? I will let you decide.*

*Don’t forget to back up your images. Some shots cannot be repeated. These were taken in the dark days of film and the negatives have been scanned.*



Thanks David. Anyone with an interesting image and story? Please send it in.

## Member's Tip of The Week

I've been looking for an article on how to judge whether a colour picture makes a good black and white image and this article from fstoppers sums it up very well.

<https://fstoppers.com/education/when-and-why-you-should-turn-your-images-black-and-white-201856>

## The "Summer Cup"

The topic for round 4 of the Summer Cup (see Vignettes 27) is "**A Midsummer Night's Dream**". **Submission date - Friday 31st July.**

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

Picking up on the "colour to black and white" conversion tip above, here's quite a good YouTube tutorial which just gives you the basics of how the processing sliders affect the final image from being "flat" as often happens in the initial conversion to a bit more punchy after processing.

<https://youtu.be/fU0tqOyIGNM>

## CCC Helpline

No questions this week. Don't be backwards at coming forwards!

## Quote of The Week

*"No photographer is as good as the simplest camera."*

*Edward Steichen*

Cheers and stay safe

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Mike ([mike.cheeseman@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.cheeseman@btinternet.com))