



# Vignettes 45

August 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

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## Club News

Hi everyone. The new season will soon be upon us and I hope you are all looking forward to it albeit under challenging circumstances. Just imagine what it would have been like before smart technology came in - which was not that long ago either. At least it seems that way. It's a luxury we now take for granted. It'll be interesting to see how Zoom evolves to iron out some of those "staccato" elements of its operating software. It'll never be quite like a face to face meeting but at least it's the next best thing for the moment.

We've had to reschedule a lot of the programme due to some postponements from some speakers who prefer not to Zoom. It's understandable. The Cheltenham Salon AV is also being put back for various technical reasons. The good news is that we've got some cracking speakers lined up before Christmas. These plus a couple of practical outdoor nights, competitions, and talks from Shaun and Paul will, I hope give us the variety to keep us motivated.

On the issue of practical nights, we've brought one night forward to 14th Sept to take advantage of the remaining light in September (thanks Alun & Val for the suggestion). On that scope if you can give us an idea of what you would like to do let us know. Cirencester street photography? Low light photography? Sunset at the Cotswold lakes (at 7.20pm)? Up to you.

The second outdoor practical is, I think, a first. It's on the 2nd Nov and we are proposing to have our own (3 days early) Guy Fawkes night as the basis for taking firework pictures. Bring your own rocket, Roman candle, Catherine wheel or something potentially picturesque. A camera would also help. The only question is - do you think it's a good idea and if you do where can we hold it? So if anyone has a big back garden or a spare field let us know. I'm happy to set up the display.

On the theme of the length of the club evenings, I think it's fair to say that we will probably find that the evenings will vary in length depending on the type of night. Clearly, we have control over our own in-house events whereas some of the external speakers have pre-prepared talks which are more difficult to fragment without losing the pace of the event or its message. Overall however, I think it should pan out reasonably well over the season.

Interestingly, one speaker, Phil Savoie, has been in touch with a novel idea which we are going to try. He picks up the story:

*Hi Martyn. Thanks for getting in touch. Yes, I have kept your club slotted in for [the 5 Oct](#) date. I agree that Zoom talks tend to take longer and are a different beast from in person chats where the speaker can properly see the audience to pace the talk. They are the most effective when given at a pace where members can feel part of the lecture as in a live event and query as needed as we go along. What I've done to*

*facilitate this with the latest presentations is I've broken the lecture in 2 and give it in equal parts over 2 evenings. This allows members to feel engaged as well as allows time for them to digest the photo suggestions and put them into practice. It's much better than just listening to a talking head on a laptop all evening. In my opinion, as a former film/photo professor that is. During part 2 we have open discussion from members who can comment on their results from the first lecture then I complete the presentation as I would if I was visiting the club. The main thrust here is I'm not interested in grandstanding and showing off my "hero" shots. I sincerely want your membership to learn new shooting practices and put them to use. I do not charge extra for the second talk and you set the 2nd date for part 2 at your convenience. This has been well received. Feedback notes I've received are here <https://philsavoie.com/public-speaking/feedback>*

We've got Phil's 2-part talk in for the 16th Nov.

Funnily enough, before I received Phil's email, I had been speaking to Shaun, who we grateful for giving us two talks this season (before and after Christmas) and the idea of making it in two parts came up as well. In addition to managing the evening's time, it helps Shaun as well. Unlike some of us, he's got a day job!!

Due to a couple of speaker postponements, I'm pleased to say that we've managed to get Tony Worobiec slotted in for October and flower/still-life photographer Polina Plotnikova for December. For Tony's talk, he offers quite a few so have a look at his website and let us know your preference. It's:

<https://www.tonyworobiec.com>

As always keep an eye on the website and here in Vignettes. The post-Christmas programme speaker nights is still evolving and we've taken the optimistic decision to book non Zoomers in Feb and March. If we have to postpone again due to the regulations, so be it.

If you remember a few "V's" back, I posted a link to a YouTube channel by Denis Shiryaev. He converts and restores old film to 4K, 60 FPS and adds sound. The San Francisco film at the turn of the century was fascinating. Anyway I've found another similar YouTube channel on restored old film, this time by Guy Jones. It's probably me but I just find them a fascinating snapshot of times past. Everyone has their favourite interest whether it be the horse drawn taxis, trams, the clothes, hustle and bustle or the pollution (aided by being in B & W). Here's the link to pick your favourite. Click on Videos to see all the films.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/bebopsam1975>

I suspect that once you get into this stuff there's loads of channels.

## Website

We now have over twenty members' galleries featured on the website. Recent additions include images from Peggy, Patrick, Alun and Val.

As Martyn mentioned above, the programme is still subject to re-scheduling and has changed significantly since I entered the details in the Events section of the website. Having spoken to Martyn this morning, I'm confident that we'll be able to enter the latest iteration of the programme later this week. Note: when I'm entering the new schedule, I'll need to temporarily disable the gallery displays – there is a mysterious conflict between two of the 'plugins' and this is our current work-around.

Mike C

## BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website including some great ones of Scotland, some old photos of Gloucestershire and more entries for the BBC's big picture comp:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-53684309>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-53694361>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-53678073>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-5361556>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-53649448>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-53638365>

## Tip of The Week

No sooner than TOTW was put on ice than it makes a brief return and for this week it's 10 solid tips for taking landscape images:

1. Avoid shooting at head height. Getting lower down to waist or knee height dramatically changes your perspective.
2. "F8 is great". It's the best stop in terms of lens quality sharpness and depth of field but keep an eye on closer objects to the camera if they help to "lead-in" the image in which case F11 might be better.
3. Check the weather. You don't always want a bright blue day. If you can stomach it, a splattering of bad weather can give you dramatic effects.
4. Invest in good filters. Polariser, ND and ND grads can all create good effects. At the very least invest in a polariser. It's versatile but don't use it on a wide-angle lens much less than about 18-20mm as it can cause aberrations.

5. Travel light. The best images are often taken well off the beaten track.
6. Use a lens hood. It stops lens flare and protects the lens in accidents.
7. Use Photoshop/Lightroom dehaze feature. A great post processing tool if you have been shooting in hazy conditions.
8. If you are using a tripod, switch off the lens image stabilisation feature. If you don't it can produce blur.
9. Switch memory cards during a shoot. This helps to protect against the possibility of having a corrupted card.
10. Explore! Go off the beaten track or try a new location. There's always that better shot just round the corner. If you are in a group, make sure you have some form of communication. A support battery, which can charge you phone or camera battery, is a useful tool for your bag.

### **Next Year's Speakers – Polina Plotnikova, FRPS**

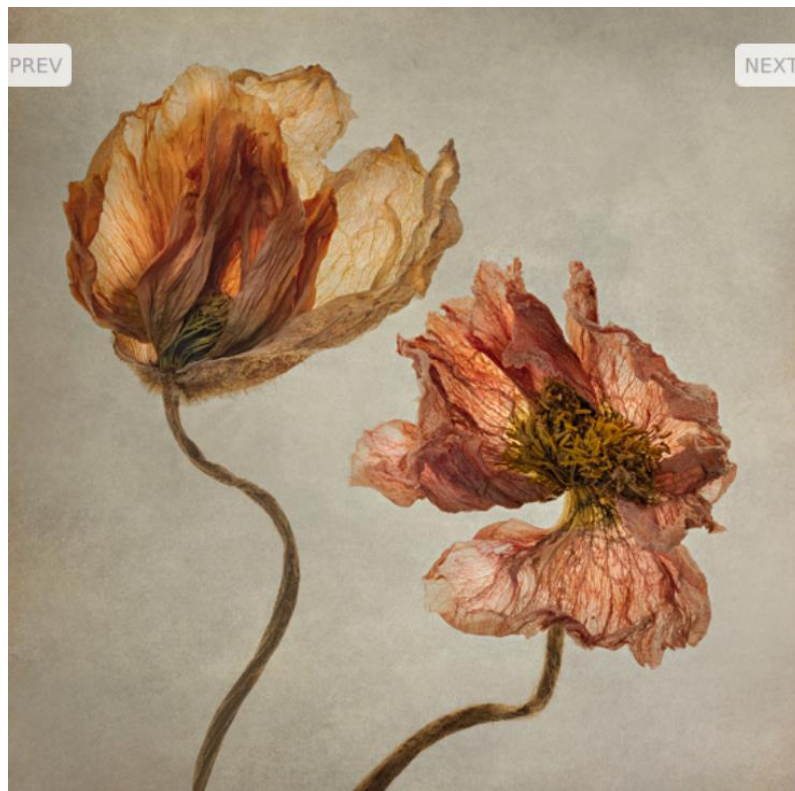
From Polina's web site:

I am a Russian-born UK-based photographer. My photographic style developed through my love and knowledge of art. Modern technology equips you with some amazing tools that the artists of the past could not even dream of - but the main task is essentially the same: to draw the viewer in, so that they can share your vision and tune into the emotions that you are trying to convey.

Still-life photography is great for a perfectionist - no one fidgets or makes faces, no sudden gust of wind or some other quirk of ever-changing weather can spoil your shot. But, by the same token, you cannot count on something interesting that just happens all of a sudden - it is all up to you; the choices are infinite, and the final result is entirely in your own hands.



The approach to flower photography that I take is somewhat similar to that of a portrait photographer - for every flower and plant that I photograph, I always try to find its unique look, study its mood and character, and ultimately unlock the hidden beauty of my models. While appreciating the natural beauty of plants and trying to stay true to their original look, I do not limit my point of view to purely botanical. Instead, I try to lift a flower off its typical setting and put it into indeterminate space, where its beauty can be seen in all its purity



### **The “Summer Cup”**

The topic for round 5 of the Summer Cup (see Vignettes 27) - **A Garden is a lovesome thing.**

**Submission date - Friday 28th August**

Here’s the Dropbox link for the competition -

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

## **Quote of The Week**

*Photographers deal in things which are continually vanishing and when they have vanished there is no contrivance on earth which can make them come back again*

***Henri Cartier-Bresson***

Cheers and stay safe

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