



Vignettes 51

September 22nd, 2020

Contents

Club News	1
Summer Cup Competition	1
Battles	2
Next Week – Shaun Little.....	3
LRPS.....	4
Misc News	5
BBC Pictures	5
Quote of The Week.....	6

Club News

A busy Vignettes this week. Lots of stuff to talk about and as I write this, new government restrictions suggest that the whole club season is going to be a “virtual” one. This means that the club programme may continue to have to adapt as some of our speakers late in the season prefer to talk in person. We shall see.

On a brighter note, one thing that’s becoming clear is that Vignettes and the Website are now more closely aligned in terms of up to date information sources so it’s always good to check the website if for any reason you can’t find dates for events, comps, club nights etc which might have been posted in an earlier Vignettes. Thanks to Jill for keeping us current on the website and Suzan for Facebook.

Summer Cup Competition

First of all, well done to the Summer Cup winners last night. Jamie and John got back in touch as we forgot to give you the Highly Commended and Commended results. Here’s the full results list:

1st - 112 - Spotlight on Hippeastrum	Mike Cheeseman
2nd - 212 - Sketching	Stephen Chapman
3rd - 201 - Stay Alert Selphie	Martyn Smith
Highly Commended - 113 - They do it with mirrors	Peggy Howard
Commended - 200 - Portrait of the Artist	Carol Thorne

It was a good try out of the system, the tech and the humans so well done to Jamie and John. I thought they really did a great job. I can see us using the system again for the knock-out print comp next year and perhaps a three-month Summer Cup next summer during the close season once we are back together. All the feedback on voting etc was positive and it was interesting that not everyone’s computer system gets stuff at the same time but we are definitely all getting to master the virtual world as the voting speeded up during the evening.

Don’t forget that the 28th Sept (next Monday) is submission deadline date for this year’s deferred annual comps (see last week’s Vignettes for the various cup categories). As discussed last night, Jamie has given additional flexibility in the current circumstances in allowing images to be submitted up to 5 years old (rather than 3 as in the rules), and taken right up to the submission date. As for the Miles Shield, the rules state that the competition is for *‘competitions that feature practical night/club outing activities’* so that covers the street day as that was a club outing and to add flexibility, images from last week’s practical night would also be eligible. Good luck everyone.

Our November practical firework night meet is now probably not going to work under Covid rules and a Christmas lights practical night meet in Dec at either Sudeley or Westonbirt also looks too risky (thanks Jill for the idea though). If you recall, John suggested that we use the night (Nov 2nd) to critique our images from last Monday's practical night at the Water Park. With 16 members attending, we should have a range of images to look at. See how you feel about it and in the meantime we will put it in the programme. As always all suggestions considered.

Turning to this season's comps (20-21), Jamie has sent me the list of subjects which will also be posted on the website:

The subject for the annual comp Presidents Cup (20-21) is "**An iconic Cotswold location**" and our president was keen to give us the widest definition as to what constitutes the geographical area of the Cotswolds. You might be stretching it a little though if it's from the top of Mount Snowdon!

Battles

Our new Battle and web host Sec, Jill has been in touch on the upcoming 4-way battle:

Hi Martyn. Can you please include the following event in Vignettes:

Thursday 24th September

Annual battle between Cirencester, Swindon, Calne and Wantage.

Starts at 7.30pm - till approximately 9pm.

Zoom meeting details

ID: [976 628 3490](#)

Password : SPS

There is more information about the Zoom etiquette on the Events page of our website.

I'm afraid I won't be watching as Cheltenham are hosting a talk by Army Photographer Stu McKenzie on the same night and, as we have booked him for a talk in Jan, I thought it would be interesting to see what he's like. Good luck Cirencester.

Next week's talk is by Shaun Little on Photoshop and we are going make it another first by having it as a practical interactive night. Shaun takes up the message:

Next Week – Shaun Little

Hi Martyn. Sorry I couldn't make last night as I was driving back from Sidmouth in Devon after a long weekend with my daughter before the inevitable Lockdown comes back in! Well done to everybody who entered. A great event.

I am working on the talk for next week and, as discussed it will be a Photoshop night. I am fine tuning the images, but what I thought we could do is if I send you/John/Mike some selected images, could you e-mail them out to everyone before Monday? It'll probably nearer the weekend by the time I have completed what I want to go through. The talk as I do it will be around an hour, however if we get members to follow along I am sure it will be a little slower as some of the techniques, although not complicated, may flummox some of the members on where in Photoshop etc. these settings are! We could therefore aim for a Max of 1.5 hours with a break in the middle at a logical point.

My thinking, was rather than people just sit watching me, we could do an interactive night where everyone could follow along on their own PC's / Mac's with the same images, if possible using CC or Elements? My preference would be that I was going to show the members how to select (cut out precisely), isolate and composite images correctly so they look like they were one image rather than several.

My pet hate with images is where elements from different images look like they have just been stuck in! Judges pick up on this quite quickly. This will incorporate Dave's request on how to use the Brush tool. I will have a practice [before Monday](#) to make sure everything works ok. I hope that all helps. It should be a fun night.

So, there's a few choices for members to think about to ensure that everyone is involved in some way given that our skills (computer and Photoshop) will inevitable be varied.

1. You can just watch Shaun's talk.
2. You can watch Shaun on one screen (computer, iPad/tablet/smart phone) and follow the workshop on another screen.
3. You can split your single screen into two parts and have the Zoom and Photoshop apps open at the same time to allow you to go from one to the other.

It should be an interesting night particularly as Shaun is presenting it as a two part event, part 2 coming next March. In the background Shaun is going to liaise in advance with John (who may not be around next Monday as he's caravanning) and Stephen who will be hosting just to get the tech side sorted. Look out for the images emailed separately, probably from Mike, over the weekend.

LRPS

If you recall Patrick asked about the process of gaining an RPS distinction which I know a few of us have been considering. It is a definite process you need to follow but one where the club would encourage members to have a go. We have a lot of talent. Mike has taken up the cudgels and has suggested forming a sub-group for those wishing to participate. Here's what he has to say:

Hi Martyn. Following up on Patrick's question about how to go about preparing for LRPS (and beyond), It might be helpful to form a Zoom sub-group to provide mutual support and guidance to members who want to have a go. Having been through the process, there's a lot to learn.

The sessions could cover:

- *Go through the LRPS criteria and discuss everyone's approach to their panel.*
- *Look at some successful panels (we have three within the Club and can find others from RPS).*
- *Critique each other's images with a view to getting a short-list of around 15 images that will be whittled down to 10 for a final panel.*
- *The outcome would be a panel of 10 images with around 5 'spares' which could be then shown to an external adviser (ideally an RPS panel member) for feedback before submission for assessment.*
- *Establish a timeline to fit in with the RPS's scheduling of the LRPS process.*
- *Establish the current Covid influenced process to establish its advantages and disadvantages*

I have copied this email to the people I know who have expressed an interest in applying for LRPS and those who I'm sure would be happy to help (Syd & John H). If you know anyone else that you think may like to join in, please let me know.

Mike

So, if you are interested, get in contact with Mike in the first instance and we will try and get the ball rolling. I fancy having a go. In the meantime, if you fancy some bedtime reading, here is the RPS guidance on all you need to know. Be aware that elements of it may be amended due to Covid restrictions:

<https://rps.org/media/4lun55jz/lrps-guidelines-3.pdf>

Misc News

The results of the RPS's August competition entitled "From dawn till dusk" has been announced. Check out all the entries on the link below. Some excellent images.

https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/august_winners.pptx?fr=sMzYzOTE4NzUzOTU

The latest PAGB bulletin has come out. Here's the link:

<http://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en266%2016%20Sep.pdf>

Brian Dinnage has been in touch wearing his Churn hat just to say that there is to be another super CHURN `Pocket Concert` to be given by Katy Sirr who is a local Artist with great talent. It's on Thursday 24th. The Link is below and both I and the CHURN PROJECT are very grateful for support in Vignettes. Many, many thanks – all best wishes,

Brian

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2758098337843439/>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website. The Quintin Lake article is worth a watch. He's from Cheltenham so maybe one for a future talk. There's also some great night-time shots in '8903'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-54165866>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-54153086>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-54203886>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-54190729>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-54188930>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-54153958>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-53833081>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-54150661>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-54207014>

Quote of The Week

Photography deals exquisitely with appearances, but nothing is what it appears to be.

Duane Michals

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman@btinternet.com)