



Vignettes 65

December 30th, 2020

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well and had a great (if probably a bit quiet) Christmas. A shorter Vignettes this week as we head towards the new year when, at some point, we will hopefully be back in Watermoor church hall, suitably jabbed. I suspect it's going to be next season but the summer evenings might give us the opportunity to get together. On that point if anyone brave enough wants to send me their photographic New Year's resolution, I'll post it in next week's Vignettes, and we can have a look back at the end of the year to see how you got on. It can be new kit or new genres to try. I'll start the ball rolling as my resolution is to get some studio time in. I'm fascinated with learning how to get moody studio lighting. It might help if I own a flash gun or three!! Go on - stick your neck out and let me know. What could go wrong!

Next week, Mike and I are working on award winning presenting images available from the WCPF. Nothing too strenuous to start the year off so you can sit back and look at some award-winning pics. We are also going to introduce the images the subcommittee has chosen to submit for the annual WCPF DPIC competition and run through the rest of this year's programme given that it looks very likely that the whole club year to May will be held remotely. This has inevitably resulted in some changes but we are well on top of things (we think!). All will be revealed.

No news on the arrival of my Canon R6 RF lenses and RF/EF adapter yet. No further forward on getting through the gigantic manual either.

Brian Matthews Photography

I've just read an interesting article in EOS magazine by wildlife photographer Brian Matthews which describes his trip in October to photograph polar bears in Wapusk National Park, 30 miles south of Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. This is on the tundra and just before they hibernate. He (and a number of other photographers) had guides and they stayed at Watchee Lodge. The bit that stuck out in the article, in the warmth of my living room, was this:

"The conditions are harsh with low temperatures (lowest recorded was -65C with wind chill) and very strong winds which makes photography difficult. The main risk is freezing your hands, especially when wearing thinner gloves to allow greater control of the camera. To combat the cold I wore: two pairs of mountaineering socks, army issue boots rated to -40C, five layers on my legs (two thermal trousers, two fleece trousers and Gore Tex over trousers), three jackets, (a Gore Tex wind proof jacket and two down jackets), balaclava, buff, hat, goggles, and three layers of gloves with hand warmers in my mitts...."

He must have looked like Michelin man!! He also took 50 chemical hand and foot warmers, as he was outside for up to eight hours a day trekking the bears in temperatures averaging -25C. On days when it got down to -50C they would stay in as it was just too cold, although they did go out on a couple of occasions at this temp but your fingers froze in a matter of minutes even with

gloves on. His strong advice, if he was to do it again and to anyone interested, is to take electrically heated gloves, socks and goggles (plus batteries!). Check out his website.

<http://www.bwmphoto.com/about/>

Arabian Flights

Jill Bewley got in touch to invite Club members to a talk by her husband Bob about his recent archaeological trip to Saudi Arabia:

Hi Mike, as promised the Zoom link to Bob's talk.

*With our choices of entertainment somewhat limited at the moment, and because so many people have asked to see some photos, Bob is going to do a short online 'slide-show' of his recent trip to Saudi Arabia for friends and family on **Wednesday 30th December at 6pm.***

It's called 'Arabian Flights' and will last for about 50 minutes, with some time afterwards for any questions. Do drop in if you like!

Click on this link below to access the Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84298059283?pwd=WEprUUhPQXNwZDBxeEpBRDhKNTISdz09>

Alternatively, if you prefer to access through your Zoom account, these are the meeting details.

Meeting ID [842 9805 9283](#)

Passcode ISO1611

With best wishes

Jill and Bob

External Competitions

LPTY

It's LPTY time again. Now in its thirteenth year this highly regarded competition started by Charlie Waite, entries for the Landscape Photographer of The Year 2021 are open again until 10th May. Here's a link:

www.lpoty.com

CISP - the 9th Cheltenham International Salon of Photography 2021.

Once again Cheltenham Camera Club are holding its annual photography Salon which, like 2020 will be based on a digital platform. Entries open on the 1st Jan and close on the 5th April. Cirencester club members regularly submit images and our success rate has increased every year. Why not have a go. Here's all the details.

<http://www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk/wordpress/salon/>

APOTY

Insight Investment Astronomy Photographer of The Year is run by the Royal Observatory Greenwich in association with Insight Investment and the BBC's Sky at Night magazine. It's now in its 12th year. The winning entries have been announced and to read all about it, the exhibition of winners at Greenwich National Maritime Museum and book see:

www.rmg.co.uk/astrophoto

Photo Annual Challenge

In the past, the club has tried various annual photo challenges with mixed results. You have to be pretty committed in regularly submitting images on daily, weekly or monthly basis. It also takes a bit of organising. However, if you are up for it, have a look at Blipfoto.com which is a free photo community website which has organised a "365 photo challenge" for like-minded photographers to submit images and have them commented on by the "community". Although free, there is a more comprehensive membership at £36.50 pa which offers extra bells and whistles.

I'm sure you've heard of "what3words", the global addressing app which has mapped the globe into 57 trillion 3mx3m squares each with a unique three-word location. 75% of emergency services in the UK use the system for locating 999 callers as does the AA. Increasingly photographers are using the App too, to log photo locations. E.g. the valley of the rocks, lands End, Cornwall is ///reassured.mailer.ahead whereas Dunguaire Castle in Galway is ///modern.adapted.gesture. The App has many uses. Have a look at:

What3words.com

WPOTY

The wildlife photographer of the year run by the Natural History Museum attracts nearly 50,000 entries and is now in its 56th year. As many will know the exhibition goes on tour and I'm sure will be at Nature in Art, Twigworth in the coming months, subject to Covid rules. You can see the winning images at:

www.bit.ly/3ofwpC8

Internal Competitions

I thought it would be a good idea if we kept the seasonal competition topics and submission dates in Vignettes to save looking back and forgetting which one it was in. So here's the competition schedule:

	Competition	Submission date	Judging night
Annual	2019-20 Annual competition (deferred)	<u>28 Sep '20</u>	<u>26 Oct '20</u>
A	"Shapes and patterns" + Open	<u>19 Oct '20</u>	<u>9 Nov '20</u>
B	"Shallow depth of field" + Open	<u>16 Nov '20</u>	<u>7 Dec '20</u>
C	"Silhouettes" + Open	<u>18 Jan '21</u>	<u>8 Feb '21</u>
D	"Black and white" + Open	<u>15 Feb '21</u>	<u>8 Mar '21</u>
E	"Landscape" + Open	<u>15 Mar '21</u>	<u>12 Apr '21</u>
Annual	2020-21 Annual competition	<u>29 Mar '21</u>	<u>26 Apr '21</u>

The 18th Jan submission date for the next comp is looming so get your camera out over Christmas if you haven't already got something suitable.

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.

In terms of DropBox details for competition submissions, it will be the same all season

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/zRwHLz7MfRGHIZyCHNsp>

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's news website. Some great ones of London's theatre land and, yet again, some crackers from Scotland. The images in the "UK year in pictures" no '9137 are great. Love the supermarket one. Just sums up everything.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-55409934>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-55426142>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-55348596>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-55416365>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-55274219>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-55363558>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-55367790>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-55140849>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-55443898>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-55415496>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-55394656>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-55279137>

Tip of The Week

A tip for the current snowy conditions if you are out taking photos. You need to add (overexpose) up to two stops to counteract the camera's tendency to underexpose due to the brightness. If you don't, the snow will come up as grey as the camera tries to convert the whiteness to 18% greyscale in the image which is not easy to change in Photoshop. It's counter intuitive but it works. Start with +1 stop and see how you get on. Here's a useful link to 13 tips for taking snow pictures by the Digital Photography School.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/13-snow-photography-tips-beginners-guide/>

Quote of The Week

Good news, having run out of the quotes kindly provided by Val & Alun, I've found another 60 photographers quotes thanks to the website Petapixel. I can't guarantee that a few might not be a case of deja vu but I'm relying on our collective lack of memory that we don't recognise them as repeats!! Here we go.

Photography is the story I fail to put into words

Destin Sparks.

That's it for this week. We wish you all a happy and healthy new year. Catch up next week. Time flies.

Cheers and stay safe,

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com – new email address)