



# Vignettes 198

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Contents

Club News.....	2
Next Monday Club Night 23rd Oct - CISP (Cheltenham International Salon of Photography).....	4
Volunteers Update .....	4
Miscellaneous .....	5
BBC pictures.....	6
Club Competitions.....	7
Annual Competitions.....	8
Quote of the week .....	8
Appendix: Everyone's a Judge .....	8

## Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. We are now up to 48 members this year which is terrific bearing in mind that a few of last year's members have moved away. It's always good to see new faces and this year we have 6 new members and I'll be dropping them a line soon just to introduce them to the club through the pages of Vignettes.

### Dave Cahill's programme slot

*Hi everyone*

*We had an excellent night on Monday with a good turnout of 35 members for this new event on the club calendar. I think the format worked well and, as Shaun commented, it was good to see and judge another club's images rather than the WCPF winning images that we normally judge. We managed to work our way through two sets of the images that Tyndale had kindly provided, so we have another two sets that we could use on another evening, maybe later in the season.*

*There was a close similarity between our total scores and the original awards that the judge gave. In the Open set our first choice image, Romanesco Broccoli came 2nd in the Tyndale competition. Their winning entry, Tree, Caught in a Breeze, was our 3rd choice. In the Landscape set group, The Lonely Watch was our clear favourite and was also the winner in the competition, with the only score of 20/20.*

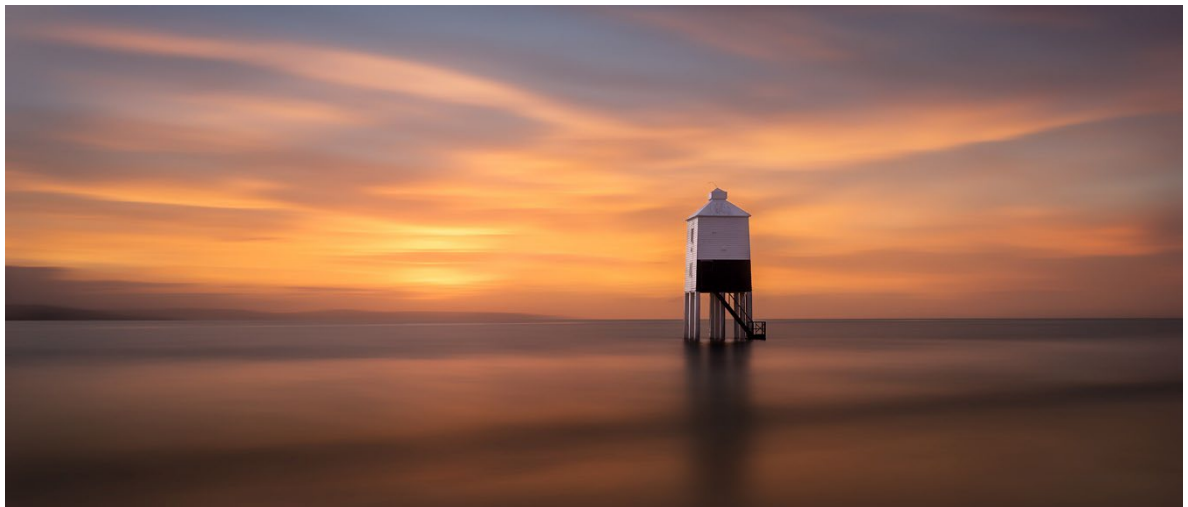
*Our individual ratings were quite wide though, reflecting Colin's point that everyone can have a different view. In the Open set 13 (!) of the 20 images were given a 1st place by one or other of us, of the Landscapes it was 10 out of the 20.*

*And well done too to Colin for telling us about his success at the judging seminar, the process involved and the low success rate. I think Colin was one of 7 out of 30 hopefuls who got through. He capped off the evening with a great insightful review of Tyndale's Landscape images, especially as they were seen for the first time that evening. Thanks Colin for stepping into the breach.*

*I've attached below the opening presentation notes on judging, which was based on Michael Krier's original notes he provided to us a couple of years ago. All very helpful to keep you in the straight and narrow.*

*Also, here is a link to the video 'Looking at Images- Part 1' that Colin mentioned. It's an interesting and informative video – well worth watching.*

[https://1drv.ms/v/s!AsZzxairGoYWjOElxQTs-Xy\\_UBTn8A?e=xzynGu](https://1drv.ms/v/s!AsZzxairGoYWjOElxQTs-Xy_UBTn8A?e=xzynGu)



## **Next Monday Club Night 23rd Oct - CISP (Cheltenham International Salon of Photography)**

*Next week we have the AV presentation of the best images from the 2023 CISP (Cheltenham International Salon of Photography) which is always a good night. This is always an inspiring evening and several of our members had successes this year, so hopefully we will see a few familiar images. There are several categories – Open Colour, Open Mono, Nature, Creative and Travel. One of the Cheltenham Club's members will be on hand to give a bit of background to this year's event. For 2024, entries for CISP open at the beginning of the year and end in the spring. We'll give you more details when we have them.*

## **Volunteers Update**

*Here's an update on future meetings and thanks to you all for a super response to my last request in Vignettes.*

### ***The LRPS Experience (6 November)***

*We probably have enough presenters now:*

*Mike & Martyn, John Smith, John Crew, Fin Simpson and Tricia Lindsay.*

*However if anyone else would like to share their images and experience we will try and find a way of fitting you in!*

### ***Take 4 (22 January)***

*We are looking OK for this:*

*David Wallis – AV presentations, including the CCC wedding*

*Andy Kennedy – AI*

*Patrick Barker – The Knife Angel*

*Colin Hoskins – Snapseed*

### ***New Item – Take 3 (27 November)***

*Martyn Smith – My Latest Software*

*Andy Dipper – Vintage Lenses*

*Mike Cheeseman – Fibre Optics Light Painting*

*Thank you all for stepping in so that we can reschedule Paul Norris's 'My Photographic Journey' talk, now fixed for 29 Jan '24.*

### ***Travelogue Night (12 February)***

*We are now looking OK:*

*Jean Thirkettle – Botswana*

*Paul Jones – New Zealand*

*Mandi Horwood – Sri Lanka*

*Alun & Val Thomas – The Outer Hebrides*

*If anybody else would like to put themselves forward though please do – it will be good to have some in reserve, and I would hope to run this again next season.*

*Just a reminder the idea is for the presentations to give tips on where to take great images. Short stay, long stay holidays (UK and abroad), staying local, days out - just about anywhere you fancy. What/how you present is up to you. Maybe rather than just present a slideshow of images it would be interesting to know some background, why/how the presenter chose a particular place, how they got there, did it live up to expectations, etc etc*

## **Miscellaneous**

### Lightroom Classic update

It's around this time of the year that Adobe release updates of their various software either as a minor change under the existing version or, as in their most recent release, a new version with a new number (13). As usual the YouTube channels have been frantic in explaining what you've missed over all these years (!) and they are well worth looking at along with Adobe's release notes. The latest release introduces, Camera Blur, Colour Point and HDR as new features the first two being reasonably straight forward but the HDR one being a little more complex in how it can be practically used. Anyway check it out and I'm sure there will be some discussion at club nights between 'Lightroomers' as to whether these features are a benefit or a cul de sac. Here's a link to an explanation of the HDR feature:

<https://blog.adobe.com/en/publish/2023/10/10/hdr-explained>

### Siena International Photo Awards

Salwan Georges, an esteemed Iraqi-American photojournalist, has been named the overall winner of the Siena International Photo Awards 2023 for his powerful documentation of the devastating realities of war. His winning photograph, Georgy, captures the heartbreaking moment that George Keburia put his family on a train to evacuate their home of Odesa as the conflict between Ukraine and Russia escalated. Filled with sorrow and apprehension but underpinned with love, George's capture is a striking reminder of how the innocent are affected by war. Take a look at the winning images here:

<https://sipacontest.com/gallery/2023>

### Red Bull photo contest reveals action-packed shortlist

If you've ever had the chance to see some of the amazing Red Bull videos in recent years it won't come as any surprise to see that its photo contest doesn't disappoint.

After a nail-biting wait, Red Bull Illume Image Quest 2023 has revealed the carefully selected crème de la crème of adventure and action sports imagery. Over 3 months, thousands of breathtaking images and reels were entered into 10 different categories – now the world can view the top 250 shots online. Take a look here:

<https://www.redbullillume.com/int-en>

### Will Davies, UK Landscape Photographer of the Year 2022, discusses his images

Over the past 16 years, Will Davies has developed a passion for landscape photography. Inspired by a spell living in eastern Africa, he now focuses on the natural beauty and habitats in the USA and his home country of Wales. He won the UK Landscape Photographer of the Year competition in 2022 and is passionate about using photography to promote conservation, having donated many of his images to charitable causes. Check out this article:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/will-davies-uk-landscape-photographer-of-the-year-2022-discusses-his-images>

### Ansel Adams in his own words - memorable quotes from the world's most famous landscape photographer

We often include quotes from Ansel Adams at the end of Vignettes but here's an article about the man with some of his more famous quotes:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/ansel-adams-in-his-own-words-memorable-quotes-from-the-worlds-most-famous-landscape-photographer>

### **BBC pictures**

As usual some great images across the globe from the BBC's website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-67071035>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-67081631>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-67087727>

## Club Competitions

CCC General Competition Schedule 2023/2024			
	Competition	Submission date	Judging night
<b>A</b>	<b>Glass + Open</b>	02/10/2023	30/10/23
<b>B</b>	<b>A Portrait + Open</b>	30/10/2023	04/12/23
<b>C</b>	<b>The Colour Wheel + Open</b>	04/12/2023	15/01/24
<b>D</b>	<b>High Key / Low Key + Open</b>	15/01/24	19/02/24
<b>E</b>	<b>Long Exposure + Open</b>	19/02/2024	25/03/2024
<b>Annuals</b>	2023/4 Annual Competitions	08/04/24	29/04/24

### Definitions of Set Subjects

**Glass:** Clear, broken, cut, coloured, stained, reflected, distorted, etc – this subject offers a huge range of creative ideas - be as imaginative as you dare! Ensure the main element / device / impression uses glass so the theme is obvious.

**A Portrait:** A portrait photograph is the capture of the likeness of a living person or creature in which the face and expression is predominant. The objective is to display the likeness, personality or the mood of the subject. The focus is the person's or creature's face, although the entire body may be included. A portrait is generally *not* a snapshot, but a composed image of a person or creature.

**The Colour Wheel:** Extremely colourful images are accepted in this category, using all the colours on the colour wheel, or create an image which uses complementary colours on the wheel for added impact (ie red / green, orange / blue, yellow /purple). The main impact of the image must be the use of colour to maximum effect. Search for Colour Theory on the internet for more information.

**High Key / Low Key** photography make use of lighting and contrast (or lack thereof) to create a specific mood. Most of the tones will be towards the **left** of the histogram for a **low key** image and towards the far **right** in a **high key** image. Again the internet has lots of useful articles and examples

**Long Exposure:** The image must show the effect of using a slow shutter speed and long exposure time – it must show an extended period of time, and that the image has been enhanced by the use of long exposure. Panning of moving subjects is allowed but other ICM techniques are not. Blur introduced through post processing is also not allowed.

## Annual Competitions

CCC Annual Competition categories - submission deadline 08/04/2024		
Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic chosen by Club President)	Horses and People of the Cotswolds*	DPI * <i>At least 1 person and 1 horse</i>
Dennis Moss Trophy	Open	Print
Leonard Jones Cup	Open	DPI
Cavendish Cup	Black and white Open	Print
Miles Shield	Open (Club outing)	DPI
Gladiator Trophy	Aviation	DPI
Pitchers Cup <u>Open to new members only.</u>	Open	Print or DPI

The Dropbox link for all competitions is:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/DpAdq7inLJSz17gWu2Bg>

### Quote of the week

*Photography is an itch that won't go away. No matter how much you scratch it - Dara McGrath*

That's it for this week. Have a good weekend.

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn ([thehoneys@btinternet.com](mailto:thehoneys@btinternet.com))

Mike ([mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com](mailto:mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com))

Dave ([dave.cahill975@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.cahill975@btinternet.com))

### Appendix: Everyone's a Judge





# Everyone's A Judge

Evaluating Your Images  
(what judges may be looking for)

(Michael Krier 2020)

16 October 2023

# 10 Elements Of A 'Good' Image

- Impact or 'wow factor'
- The photographer's seeing, selection, positioning
- Composition (rule of thirds, point of interest, diagonal lead in, balance ...)
- Use of light (photography = drawing with light), especially studio images and landscapes
- Application of colour (DPIs & Colour Prints), range of tones (Mono)
- Technical basics: sharpness, depth of field, exposure, filters, processing
- Presentation: title, image dimensions, choice of paper (prints), subtle key stroke (DPIs)
- Stand out: significance of subject, technique, treatment, experimentation ...
- Emotional impact: engagement of viewer with subject, story
- 'Beauty' - back to 1 above

# Common errors:

- Distracting light areas (especially edges) taking viewer's eye away from main point of interest
- Flat lighting, lack of contrast or excessive contrast; conflicting colours
- Under or over cropping, including inappropriate dimensions
- Questionable editing: mistakes, over-complication, over-worked technique
- Lack of clarity as to 'the point of the picture'
- Dust on sensor, horizons not level, distracting elements ...
- Some images may be better presented as prints (e.g. mono), others as DPIs, colour v mono

# Photography is not a 'competitive sport' - the perils of competition

- 2 to 3 seconds (salons); 'pre-judging' v 'judging on the night'
- Salons use 5, 4, 3, 2 scoring to achieve 25% acceptance rate
- Constraints imposed on judges by competition rules (define 'out of 20', limited HC/C)
- Judges' idiosyncrasies, preferences, fashions and trends, interpretation of set subjects
- A successful image in one competition is rejected in another
- Judges have to choose from what's put before them on the night (so your excellent image can be outclassed by another photographer's)
- "It's been done before" - so what!
- Judges don't always get it right!

- By all means learn from what judges say, but don't become obsessed with pleasing judges or emulating the latest fashions, unless that's your thing. It pays to look at and appreciate photographs by 'professionals'.
- It's your seeing and image-making that counts, and the pleasure you get from your photography!