



# Vignettes 213

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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## **Club News**

Hi everyone. Hope you are all keeping well. An excellent night on Monday with Aleks Gjika returning to give another one of excellent presentations. Here's Dave with his usual weekly round up:

### **In Search of the "Je ne sais quoi!"**

*Hi everyone. Last Monday night we had an inspiring presentation from Aleks Gjika EFIAP DPAGB returning to the club. Aleks is a member of Cheltenham Camera Club and is well known to us as a judge, and from his involvement with the Cheltenham Salon. He showed us a wide range of superb images, covering landscapes, storms, nature, animals, travel, street, portraits and sport. We even had a 'bird on a stick' so all is not lost on that score!*

*He conveyed very well his concept of the 'je ne sais quoi' in each image, often a small detail such as a cigarette, or the mood and energy, communication, and storytelling. Often he made a small tweak in Photoshop which made all the difference to the shot. He put a lot of effort into composition too, always looking for a different angle or shooting position. Perseverance and dedication to getting the image he was looking for paid off, though sometimes he got very wet in his search for some of the amazing award-winning storm shots he showed us.*

*It gave us a great insight into how and why he takes a photograph, and what he looks for in images when he is judging. Something we can all learn from.*

### **Travelogue Night – 12 February**

*Next week we have four presentations by members:*

*The Outer Hebrides - Alun and Val Thomas*

*Botswana - Jean Thirkettle*

*Sri Lanka - Mandi Horwood*

*New Zealand - Paul Jones*

*It will be an interesting and varied evening. I'm looking forward to the stories and the images.*

## **Call For Request and Ideas**

*A repeat of last week's item, as no responses so far! Regarding the practical evening(s), at Gary Gleghorn's suggestion I am meeting up with Brian Lee from Witney camera club. They run a lot of practical nights, so I am hoping to get some new ideas.*

*As I mentioned at the meeting, we have Shaun Little's second evening coming up at the end of February. If anyone has any particular topics you would like Shaun to cover then please get in touch. At the moment we have the suggestion of looking at the various blending modes in Photoshop, following on from the Zoom presentation by Steven Le Prevost, but there will be time for other items. Anything photographic really, not just Photoshop. Maybe not camera bags though!*

*I've also had a suggestion/request for more practical content in our meetings. It's something I've been thinking about a lot for next season, though it's not that easy to come up with workable ideas! There is also a possibility that we could do something this season on 11 March, which is scheduled to be an evening looking at autumn and winter DPIs. We could devote half or even all of that evening to a more practical session. What do members think? Please get in touch!*

Thanks Dave. I see that you've still got the camera bag 'dig' in! I can take it.

## **WCPF DPIC competition results**

You've probably all seen the results of DPIC via the WhatsApp group. We came a joint 20th out of 47 clubs, our highest score for some years. Well done to our President, John Hankin who got an excellent Highly Commended score of 14 out of 15 and overall, we only had two low scores. A lot of credit goes to the selection committee and having watched the email traffic on the selection process, I can honestly say that the conscientious and objective approach to the selection including modification recommendations to certain images all paid off. As always DPIC is a close-run competition as a few points either way can send you up or down the results sheet by quite a long way. I think our position this year reflects all the hard work by Paul and the selection committee so well done. Here's the link with all the results and the specific Cirencester Club results:

<https://photoexhib.com/wcpficdigital/results-2024/results.htm>

<https://photoexhib.com/wcpficdigital/results.php?id1=cirencester&id2=605266dab662d78312742a3107f9bd18040cc2457c5b872d2f59e3fc6b536e57>

**Open Class Entries** - Acceptance mark: 6. Maximum images in this class: 18. You entered 18



*"Looking To The Heavens"*

**Score: 11**

Mrs Ruth Barker



*"Blacksmith"*

**Score: 9**

Mr Gary Gleghorn



*"Waltzing In The Blue Light"*

**Score: 12**

Mr Dave Cahill



*"Musical Mind"*

**Score: 11**

Mr Mike Cheeseman  
LRPS

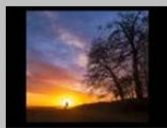


*"Coordination"*

**Score: 14**

Mr John Hankin  
LRPS

**Award:  
HCOM**



*"Dawn Walk"*

**Score: 11**

Mr Andrew Roca



*"Evan Power Polo Player"*

**Score: 13**

Mr John Hankin  
LRPS



*"Brighton"*

**Score: 11**

Mr Colin Hoskins



*"Glass Tentacles"*

**Score: 10**

Mr Dave Cahill



*"Snakes Head Fritillary"*

**Score: 11\***

Mr John Crew  
LRPS



*"Mist In Down Ampney"*

**Score: 13**

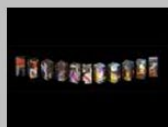
Mr Paul Norris  
ARPS



*"On Golden Pond"*

**Score: 12**

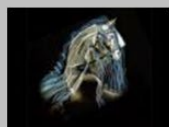
Mrs Jill Bewley  
LRPS



*"Guernica Revisited"*

**Score: 11**

Mr Mike Cheeseman  
LRPS



*"Equine Energy"*

**Score: 9**

Mr Mike Cheeseman  
LRPS



*"Banded Demoiselle Pair"*

**Score: 13**

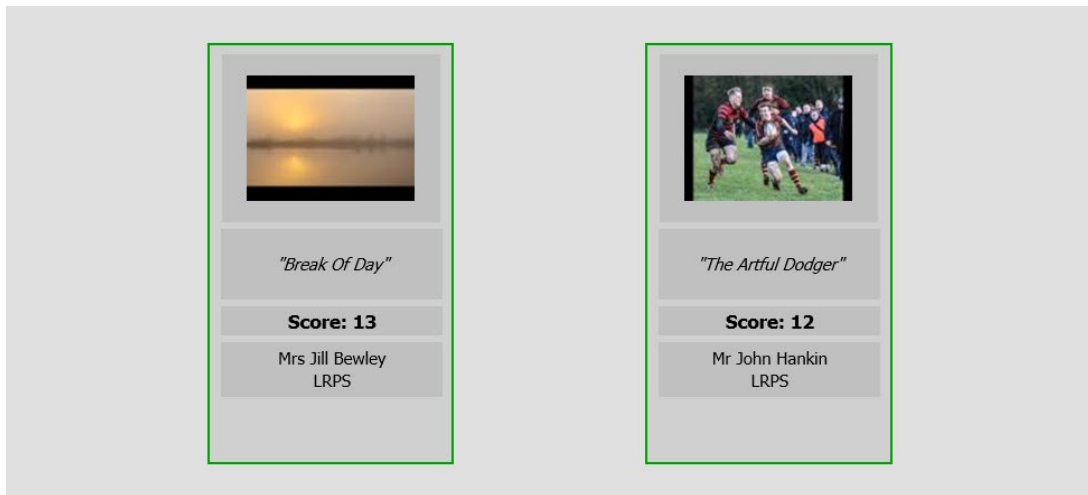
Mrs Jill Bewley  
LRPS



*"Banded Demoiselle"*

**Score: 11**

Mr John Crew  
LRPS



### Fancy a job lecturing?

Yes? Well this could be your lucky day. We've had an approach from the RAU who are looking to run a photography course at the University. Here's the details:

From: Dawn Daly <[Dawn.Daly@rau.ac.uk](mailto:Dawn.Daly@rau.ac.uk)>

Date: 6 February 2024 at 12:27:22 GMT

To: [info@cirencestercameraclub.org](mailto:info@cirencestercameraclub.org)

Cc: Tom Norris <[Tom.Norris@rau.ac.uk](mailto:Tom.Norris@rau.ac.uk)>

**Subject: Photography courses**

*Good afternoon*

*The Royal Agricultural University is looking into hosting a variety of activity/hobby/rural skills courses. The Royal Agricultural University would like to host Photography courses for adults.*

*Can you advise whether any of your members provide professional instruction. If so, could you provide us with contact details.*

*Thank you for reading this email. I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Kind regards*

*Dawn Daly*

*Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS, UK <sup>TEL</sup>Tel: +44 (0) 1285 652531*

## Photography Competitions

### Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice WPOTY

It's always a bit confusing when the WPOTY results are announced in November, the exhibition heads out on tour across the country a month or so later (Its in Nature In Art, Twigworth at the moment) and then suddenly 4 months later in February, during the exhibition tour, more WPOTY results come out - namely the People's Choice. Well, on cue, the Peoples Choice is in and, as you'd expect, it's a cracker. In fact all the winners are all crackers. Well within our capabilities. You just have to be on the spot and 'see' the image. What could go wrong! Here's a link to WPOTY which tells you all about the Peoples Choice:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy/peoples-choice>

### Society of Photographers Photographer of the Year competition winners announced

The Society of Wedding & Portrait Photographers (SWPP) based in the United Kingdom has awarded its annual Photographer of the Year honors, celebrating photography at its highest levels of artistry and technicality.

The SWPP is an association that brings together photographers from all around the globe, helping them to improve their photography and business skills. Its monthly photography competition welcomed 5,469 entries across 29 different categories in 2023. The entries represent a broad selection of photographic subjects and, from the gold award winners of the monthly contest, three overall winners were selected.

Taking the top spot, and the title of Photographer of the Year 2023, is Mike Kitchen from Essex, UK. His winning image, Velocity (above), showcases an underground train seemingly bending through time and space. The image had initially won the monthly award in the Open Avant Garde category. Here's a link:

<https://thesocieties.net/blog/2024/01/24/the-society-of-photographers-photographer-of-the-year-2023-winners-announced/>

### SWPP announces the winners of its dog photo competition

Another SWPP award, this time for its dog photo competition. This year's SWPP Dog Competition showcased an exhibition of exceptional dog portraits, showcasing pedigree and character in abundance. Shot using one of the best Sony cameras, the winning image captured a stoic and compelling studio portrait of a Miniature Dachshund, showcasing the effective nature of a one-light studio setup. Check out this link:

<https://thesocieties.net/blog/2024/02/02/dogs-photography-competition-results-announced/>

### Apple Vision Pro and Adobe

Even quicker off the mark than I thought, Adobe is working with Apple to create Photoshop compliant apps to allow you to edit using Apple's new, expensive, Vision Pro augmented reality headsets. We are all going to become zombies sooner than you think!! Have a look:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/i-can-control-adobe-lightroom-and-firefly-with-my-eyes-apple-vision-pro-owners-say-as-native-visionos-apps-launch>

### The World Photography Organisation reveals the National & Regional Award winners for the Sony World Photography Awards 2024

The World Photography Organisation and Sony established the National & Regional Awards program as a way to support local photography communities from all over the world. This year, 395,000 images were submitted from over 220 countries and territories, resulting in an impressive number of winning images. The Sony World Photography Awards have a wide range of photography categories, and in the build-up to announcing the overall winners, some of the category winners are released sooner. The National and Regional Winners were selected from a wide range of regions that showcase the best photography of today.

Winning images are selected from around the globe, resulting in extremely diverse approaches and subject matter, celebrating geographical and cultural differences. Among the winning images are a cornucopia of wildlife, documentary, landscape, and portrait images, each showing a unique insight into new worlds. Here's the website:

<https://www.worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards/winners-galleries/2024/national-awards/winners/2024-national-regional>

### Virtual Photographer of the Year Award (VPOTY)

A new one on me, if you are not familiar with the term 'virtual photography' then you're not alone, however, you may have seen some and not known it. Instead of using the best mirrorless cameras, virtual photography is the capture of scenes through in-game photography, more often using a video game's in-built photo mode. The Virtual Photography Awards is a celebration of the best 'digital artists' to capture the best shots in any virtual world available, providing options throughout time and space! This year's winners were selected from over 2,750 entries from all over the globe, across 6 thematic categories. The Virtual Photography Awards 2023 overall winner and title of Virtual Photographer of the Year was awarded to Taka San from Japan.

His image was taken in the video game Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora. The judges state, *"through artistic use of the in-game environment and lighting, along with positioning a pair of characters to produce this iconic pose, Yoshida created a striking and original portrait of the Na'vi people that feature in the Avatar universe."*

Here's a link to the VPOTY website:

<https://www.thefourthfocus.com/thevpawards-winners>

### International Garden Photographer of the Year competition 2024 (IGPOTY)

An abstract photograph by June Sharpe has won this year's International Garden Photographer of the Year competition. IGPOTY continues to be one of the world's most respected photography competitions and exhibition, particularly within the genres of garden, plant, flower and botanical photography. IGPOTY is wholly owned and organised by Mirror Plate Media Ltd and is supported by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London. The main exhibition is usually held annually at Kew, with a rolling programme of touring exhibitions in the UK and all over the world.

The main competition closes on October 31st every year. Winners are announced at the opening of the launch exhibition, the following February. Here's a link to the website and a BBC article on the competition.

<https://igpoty.com/garden-photography-winners/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-68127991>



### South Downs National Park astrophotography competition

A spectacular image of the Milky Way has been announced as the winner of the annual South Downs National Park astrophotography competition. Here's a link to a BBC article on the competition:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-68226283>

### York National Railway Museum launches young person's photo competition

Here's one for our younger club members. Young people are being encouraged to enter a new photography competition to celebrate two centuries of railway history.

The National Railway Museum (NRM) and the Railway Photographic Society have teamed up for the Railway 200 project. It will form part of a series of events leading up to the bicentenary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in September 2025.

Entrants can submit up to six images of railway-themed photos they have taken.

They can then enter in two age categories: Under 18s and 19 to 25. An exhibition of shortlisted entries will be displayed at the National Railway Museum in York and at Locomotion in Shildon after the competition closes in January 2025.

The winners will then be announced at an awards ceremony shortly after the exhibition. Here's a link:

<https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/about-us/press-office/young-railway-photographer-year-competition-returns-2024>

### **BBC pictures**

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c72g4xpe220o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-68179350>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-68178615>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1e1z2e1jkgo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-68106504>

## 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

*Kodak sells film, but they don't advertise film; they advertise memories.*

*Theodore Levitt (legendary marketing professor!)*

That's it for this week. Have a good weekend. Cheers and stay safe

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

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