



Vignettes 221

April 5th, 2024

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well and had an enjoyable Easter. Now the clocks have 'Sprung Forward' (it's the only way I can remember forward or back!) there's no excuse not to get out in the golden or blue hour before or after sunset. Bits and pieces this week but don't forget that next Monday we have a return visit by Tyndale Photography Club to show us what they've been up too. Always an entertaining night. Here's Dave with his weekly slot:

Next Meeting - Tyndale Camera Club Visit – 8 April

Hi everyone. Following on from the visit the club made to Tyndale in March 2023 we have arranged a reciprocal visit to Cirencester for this evening. It will be in the Parish Hall as usual, with our normal 7:30 pm start time. They will bring a selection of their members' prints, projected images and possibly AV's. It will be interesting to see their work and to hear how their club operates. They have a great website, with some high quality galleries. Take a look:

<https://www.tyndalephoto.org/>

.....and here's Comp Sec Fin:

Hi everyone. Just (another) reminder not to forget to hand in or upload your Annual Comp images by the end of Monday night at the latest. As my predecessor would say 'No excuses'!

Battle Results – from Paul

As you know we entered our annual "friendly" battle with our local neighbours and rivals from Stroud and Cheltenham Camera Clubs last week. Each entry consisted of 10 prints and 10 DPs and a summary of our individual results and feedback comments are below.

Overall the quality of photography across all 60 images was exceptional and it was particularly pleasing to have a judge commenting on print quality, paper and mounting, as part of the presentation, rather than just the image itself.

Cheltenham were worthy winners overall, after a closely fought competition with print scores of:

- *Cheltenham – 176*
- *Stroud - 169*
- *Cirencester – 162*

And DPls scores of:

- *Cheltenham* – 172
- *Stroud* - 170
- *Cirencester* – 162

Our judge, Lee Spencer Fleet, experienced an inauspicious start after becoming stuck in inclement weather travelling from Bristol and arriving nearly 45 mins late. However, her comments feedback and views on a wide range of photography genres was excellent and we are in for a treat in the new season as she will coming to Cirencester.

No image scored a maximum 20 marks, although of particular note in the Cirencester images are Gary Gleghorn and Ruth Barker in the prints with 18 marks for their Autumn Kingfisher and Looking to the Heavens respectively. In the DPls, our top scorers with 17 marks were John Hankin for Coordination and Evan Power Polo Player, Jill Bewley for Break of Day and Dave Cahill for Waltzing the Blue Light.

Well done to everyone who had an image selected and many thanks to everyone who made the journey on a wet evening!

The individual scores are attached in the Appendix.

Alyn Wallace

It was such a shock to read that one of our best speakers in recent years, Alyn Wallace has passed away. We had such a great night from Alyn on Astrophotography on Monday 11th November 2019 as he demonstrated what you can achieve if you don't mind staying up all night on the top of a Welsh mountain. Vignettes No 6 and 7 covered Alyn's talk. He had achieved such great success at a young age as an Astrophotographer and ran courses in Wales. So sad. Here's an obituary:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c720gekzyyyo>

PAGB news

Here's the latest April PAGB newsletters. Always a hood read:

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en353%2001%20April%202024.pdf>

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en346extra%20APM%2020%20December%202023.pdf>

John Hankin WCPF results access

Just in case you didn't see John's accepted images from the WCPF website posted in last week's Vignettes, If you pick out the "Results by Club" section and scroll down to Cirencester C C all will become clear! Just click on John Hankin and you will see the images. Here's the link again:

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

Miscellaneous

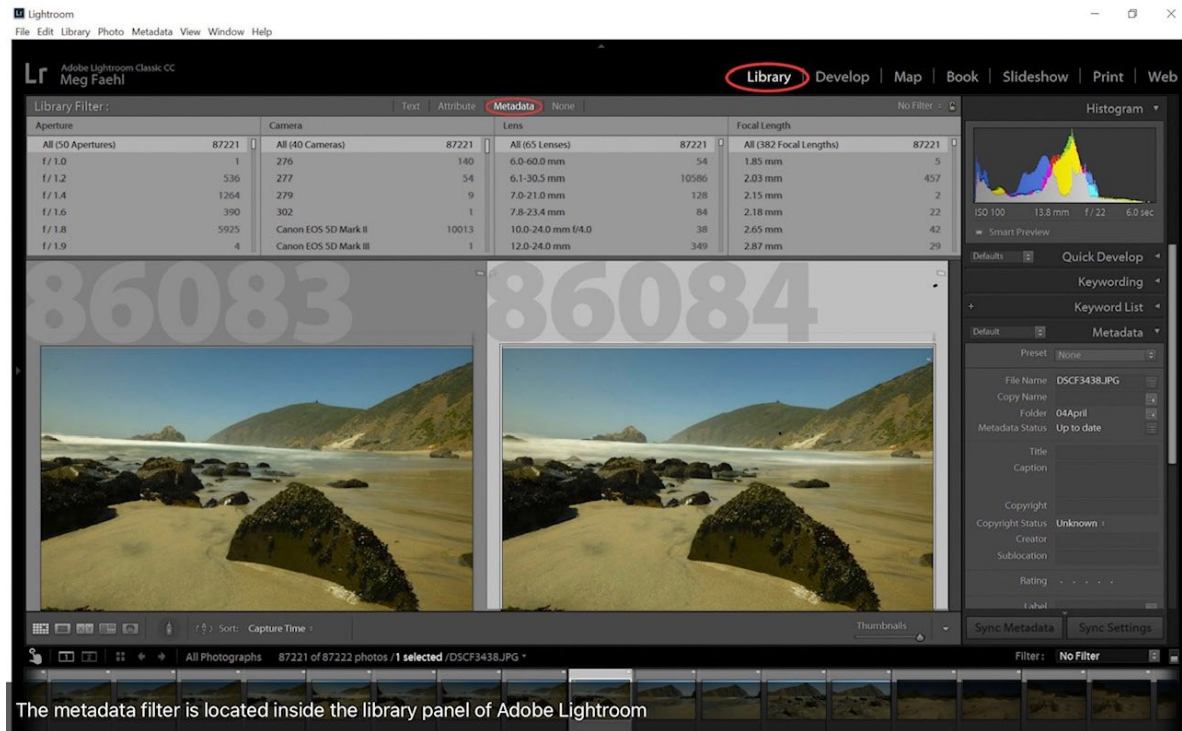
Britain in Focus - BBC 4

I'm sure some of you will have watched the BBC 4 programme 'Britain in Focus'. The first of three one hour programmes aired on Monday at 8.00pm and it really is a fascinating watch. It's compared by the late Eamonn McCabe a renowned photojournalist held in high regard who sadly died suddenly in Oct 2022. He covers the history of photography, with the help of a variety of photography museums curators, from its beginnings by the celebrated Fox Talbot. Have you ever wondered where that great image of Brunel standing in front of chains was taken and why? Watch the programme. A great watch and if the next two programmes are as good as the first, they will be ones not to miss. Look out for it. Here's Eamonn's website:

<http://www.eamonnmccabe.co.uk/>

Ever wondered about what your most popular focal length is?

Mike, David Wallis and I had a discussion a while ago about focal lengths and which ones we use the most. It was against the background of possibly investing in a prime or zoom lens and the implications of choosing a lens either might reduce flexibility particularly in using zoom lenses. I.e comparing the advantages and disadvantages of an F4 24-105mm and an F2.8 24-70mm lens. David highlighted a really useful tool rarely used or noticed in Lightroom called 'Metadata'. You can find it at the top of the image page - not in the Lightroom tool bar but the image page itself - see the photo extract below. Essentially you can interpolate the Metadata tools to identify your most popular focal length(s) by camera and lens and much more. So, with my 24-105 L F4 Canon lens I was able to group the focal lengths I was interested in and found that 75% of my images were taken in the 24-70mm range and 25% in the 70-105mm range. This covered a sample of about 5000 images using different zoom lenses of the same aperture range but covering all genres of photography. Here's where you can find it:



Photoshop oddities - a brief commentary from Shaun

I took the opportunity to consult the oracle Shaun last week. I don't know about you but when Photoshop releases a new version, the old one stays on my machine. Really irritating. At the last count I had 6 former versions and of course when an update comes through for the latest version the old ones get updated (in varying degrees) as well which takes forever. Did I really need all those old versions of Photoshop? The answer is a guarded 'No'. Here's Shaun:

Hi Martyn. Yep! I've had about four versions on my PC which I have now deleted. But, you just need to check that the old versions don't have hidden files etc. still within them as mine did!

In fact, I sorted Peggy's PC out a few weeks ago where she couldn't get Nik Efex to work. The reason being it was installed on the previous PS version on her laptop and she was opening the latest version when she double clicked a photo to open it which didn't have Nik Efex installed on it! She was completely unaware of the fact she was opening a new version and not the older version! An easy mistake to make particularly when there are so many old versions. Best to 'uninstall' to make life easier but just make sure to update your 'plug ins' to the latest version and that you haven't any specific files saved on the old version.

Thanks Shaun. In my case I only use PS for a bit of cloning, content aware etc and in any event all my files are saved back in Lightroom. Good to know.

It's back! Cobalt's Capture a Moment Photography Competition 2024 open 1st April – 31st July 2024

We've heard from Cheltenham's Cobalt Unit about its latest photo competition

Dear Cirencester Camera Club,

I would be really grateful if you could share the news below with your members. We have great prizes this year (sessions in a professional bird hide, £300 equipment voucher and more) and the funds raised will help fund our Teenage & Young Adult Cancer Care Nurse. Get out and about with your camera and send us your best images. Twelve winning images will be published in Cobalt's 2025 calendar and an exhibition will be held in the autumn to showcase the winners and the Judge's shortlist. What's more, proceeds are supporting a specialist cancer nurse for teenager and young adults. It's just £2 per image to enter and you can enter as many images as you like. We welcome entries from smartphones or cameras. And this year's sponsors have donated great prizes including a £300 Wex video voucher, annual membership to The Royal Photographic Society, sessions in a professional bird hide and more.

To enter go to www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/photocomp

There is a poster attached for you too.

I wish your members the best of luck,

Kirsty

Here's a link to the poster:

<https://www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/support-us/cobalts-capture-a-moment-photography-competition/>



World Nature Photography Awards 2024

The World Nature Photography Awards always produces an abundance of exceptional photographs, and this year has been no exception. From portraits of exotic animals to the humble mushroom, the competition brings together the best photography from all over the world.

The title of World Nature Photographer of the Year 2024 was awarded to Tracey Lund from the UK, for her image 'Underwater gannets', an underwater image that depicts two hungry gannets diving for their meal. Taken whilst on holiday off of the coast of Shetland, UK, Lund used a DSLR in an underwater housing attached to a pole cam, all while sitting on the edge of a boat. The image won gold in the Behaviour - Birds category, one of 14 category winners entered into the grand prize draw. Here's a couple of links to the website and some amazing pictures:

<https://www.worldnaturephotographyawards.com/winners-2024>

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/breathtaking-images-wins-big-in-the-world-nature-photography-awards-2024>

BBC pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-68702026>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-68684298>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-68683358>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-68680792>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c80k904g2nno>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg3kdvyvzplo>

Club Competitions

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



The formula for doing a good job in photography is to think like a poet - Imogen Cunningham

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

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)


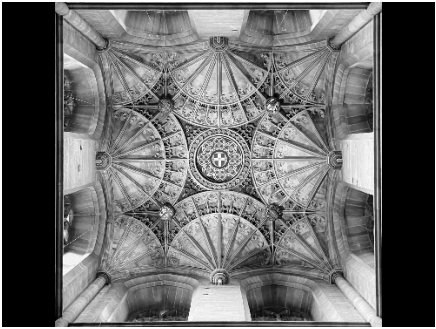

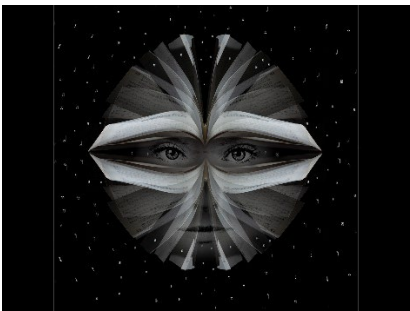
Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)

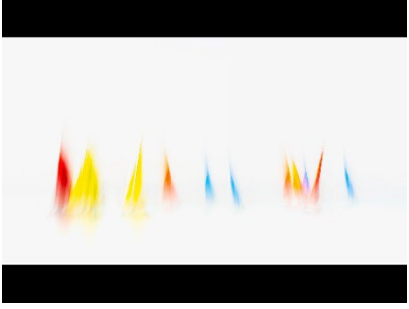



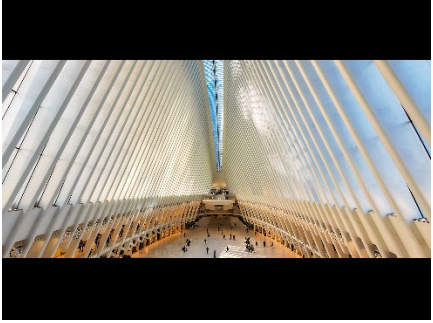
Dave (dave.cahill975@btinternet.com)

Appendix: Individual Battle Scores

Individual breakdown of Cirencester Print and DPI scores and feedback comments

Prints

Name / Author	Score	Image	Judges feedback
Snakeshead Fritillary – John Crew	16		<p>Composition strong with the stem providing a good flow through the image. The judge would like to have seen some more space around the image to help it breathe. Additionally some post processing to tidy up around the stem would have been beneficial</p>
Looking to the Heavens – Ruth Barker	18		<p>The judge liked the square format and framing of the image. Good graphics and patterns with circles in squares with an appropriate range of tones. One improvement could be to bring down the blacks a little bit would provide added impact</p>
Guernica Revisited – Mike Cheeseman	15		<p>Liked the overall image, satin paper and picture quality. Homage to Picasso Cubism which shows a lot of creativity and work to produce. Image could have been improved with more variation in the size and scale of graphics.</p>
Musical Mind – Mike Cheeseman	16		<p>Lots of work to produce a good quality image. The combination of the musical notes, sheets, human element all work together. The white shapes are strong</p>

<p>The Sailing Regatta – Jill Bewley</p>	<p>17</p>		<p>An unusual picture that the judge liked the treatment. A good composition and good techniques applied. Good positive negative space but overall felt there should be more substance to the image</p>
<p>Corridor of Colour – Jill Bewley</p>	<p>16</p>		<p>A three part image with all the elements working well together. Some detail in the figures and this works. Colour processing Ok but felt could be tweaked to improve</p>
<p>Autum Kingfisher – Gary Gleghorn</p>	<p>18</p>		<p>A strong image that the judge liked. Good framing in the picture and the kingfisher is shown in its natural habitat. The square format works and the surreal quality to the picture is pleasing</p>
<p>The Long Big Easy – Patrick Barker</p>	<p>15</p>		<p>Good quality print with some impact. Structure note necessarily the best to photograph and the judge was struggling with the story telling of the image. Additionally the judge would like to have seen more space at the top and masking at the bottom</p>
<p>Oculus – David Wallis</p>	<p>15</p>		<p>An interesting architecture picture. Some centering of the image to provide the correct balance is essential to add impact. Additionally some discussion about where to crop and include /exclude people</p>



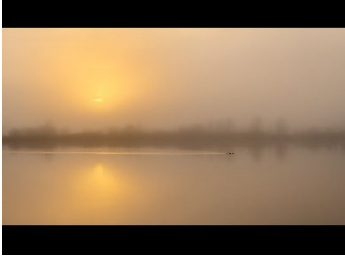

Enough –
Steve Kirby





16





Good title, mount and impact to the picture. Also colours between women and poster are complimentary. However, the judge struggled with what the author was trying to convey and wanted some stronger pointers

DPIs

Name / Author	Score	Image	Judges feedback
Waltzing the Blue Light – Dave Cahill	17		<p>An accomplished image. Difficult to capture all the elements and still create the sense of movement. Good expression on the children's faces adding to the drama. The judge would have liked to see the white lights toned down</p>
Mist in Down Ampney – Paul Norris	16		<p>All elements of the image work well. The smaller trees provide perspective and overall there are some string "greeny" tones. The sun is well placed but feels that with the simplicity of the image an additional element is required</p>
Break of Day – Jill Bewley	17		<p>An unusual image. The group of ducks and the water trail make this a high quality image. Very atmospheric with diffused light on the water</p>
Sunrise Walk – Andrew Roca	16		<p>A Disney feel to the picture. Good balance to the image, the sky bands help with providing direction and variation</p>

<p>The Hand Off – John Hankin</p>	<p>16</p>		<p>Good sports action shot. Critical moment captured well. This is a challenging sport to capture well and this has been well done. The left person (coach) in the image works well</p>
<p>Evan Power Polo – John Hankin</p>	<p>17</p>		<p>Good action shot captured at the correct moment. The background helps with the story telling element. The polo player is well positioned and image benefits from strong tones</p>
<p>Coordination – John Hankin</p>	<p>17</p>		<p>A good shot well captured. Sharp where required and diffusion of the background. The action works and use of space in the frame</p>
<p>Heaven – Billy Kerr</p>	<p>16</p>		<p>An ethereal picture with subtle quality. Good contrast between verticals, curves and overall graphic portrayal. Great feel to the picture with the high key presentation an added bonus</p>

<p>People Watching – Steve Kirby</p>	<p>15</p>		<p>The B&W presentation of the images suits the image and also the square format presentation works. The judge was concerned about the overall sharpness throughout the image and some of the distracting features in the background around the face.</p>
<p>A knowing look – Gary Gleghorn</p>	<p>16</p>		<p>A good quality image as presented. However the judge would like to have seen more elements to raise the overall impact</p>