



Vignettes 235

September 6th, 2024

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well and it was good to see everyone on Monday night. A healthy turnout for the start of the season and a good opportunity to socialise. It seemed only like yesterday that we were putting the chairs away for the end of the season. Our (partly) new committee set out their roles and objectives for the coming season headed by new chair David Wallis. I'm sure retiring Chair Mike Cheeseman was delighted to put his feet up after 5 years at the helm. He certainly looked happy!

Our new Chair and MC for the evening introduced a new challenge which has since been emailed to members. Just in case you didn't receive it, here's David with the details

Members Challenge

Hi everyone

*Thank you for coming last night and I hope you think this year's programme will be exciting. As presented, please find attached Members Challenge Part 1 – **Practising Buttons**. [attached at end of Vignettes]*

Get your cameras (or phones) out, push the buttons and take pictures to find out what they do.

If you have any problems don't forget to ask your fellow members. There will be a good opportunity at the Mop Fair to try new settings out.

Have fun!

Regards

David

Programme

The club is, of course, held together by its programme and Dave Cahill introduced us to an exciting and varied programme of events for this year. David Wallis has since emailed the programme to everyone which is also on the Website. Here's Dave with a summary of the evening and a reminder of what is to come:

Hi Martyn. I thought it was a great opening meeting this week, well attended which bodes well for membership numbers this season. The different first meeting format compared to previous seasons, was good too, with the committee presentations, and David Wallis's introduction to his 'Members Challenge' designed to keep us on our toes through the year. I'm looking forward to the Pixaroo introduction too.

Regarding the member nights, we now are looking OK, so a big thanks to the various people who came forward with offers for presentations. I've got so many potential speakers, I may have to hold auditions! Seriously though please don't hold back if you still have something you would like to share. It's your club after all. There is always the possibility of the need to make changes to the programme later on to accommodate more member contributions.

I realised that I should have put the dates on my programme presentation, I forget that not everyone has a copy of the full events listing. I prepared a pdf showing a full programme listing which David has since emailed this week so thanks David. Of course, full details of each event are always on the club website.

So, as it stands, we have coming up:

Take 4 – 14 October

Andrew Roca (taking over from Martyn Smith) - Underwater Photography

Deb Clarke & Puri Carmona - Cirencester College Art Of Photography

Andy Dipper - The Children of Oskar Barnack

Dave Cahill - A Year With My Camera

This may change as there are 2 or 3 other members I am in discussion with! Watch this space!

Travelogue Night – 3 February

Paul Norris - Mexico

Dave Cahill - Andalucía

Mandi Horwood - Borneo

Nigel Rogers - Namibia

Tricia Lindsay - Icelandic Horses

Next week we have the WCPF Travelling Prints Exhibition, now a regular feature in our calendar. As usual we will split up into groups, 6 this year which will fit well with the selection of 71 prints in 3 sections – Nature, Open Colour and Open Monochrome. We will discuss the prints and choose our favourites and see if we agree (or not!) with the judges awards and scores. It should be a good night.

Thanks Dave. I'm glad that Andy has taken over my underwater talk slot given his experience, kit and some amazing images. I had offered to recreate Hitchcock's shower scene with my budget underwater kit, but I can't find a big enough kitchen knife and willing Volunteer!

The Pixaroo system

Fin did a great job of introducing the new Pixaroo system of entering competitions and distilling the judges 'held back' images on competition night into an easy to present 'finalists' display. Although it sounded a bit complicated, I've used the system for entering the Cheltenham Salon and once you've got the hang of it it's a great bit of software. Registering is the key. Also the software is designed to reject images which don't comply with the competition pixel dimensions - something I know which took Jill and Fin a lot time to resolve last season in liaison with members. It's a good discipline and of course if you fancy entering the Cheltenham Salon next year, your registration makes it a lot easier to enter. You will have your own Pixaroo folder of entered images to look back on and if your image is awarded a place or is commended, you can print out your winning image on a certificate. Pixaroo has got a lot going for it but that's not to say that there won't be questions during the season as we all get used to it which Fin is more than happy to deal with.

We've heard from Cricklade Camera Club

Our Sec, Stephen recently had an invite from Cricklade Camera Club regarding a talk and demonstration from Fotospeed on the 1st of Oct. For all of you printers or budding printers out there, this might be a good opportunity. We had a similar club night presentation by Permajet a couple of years ago and these events can teach you a lot, or in my case, remind you in case you've forgotten what to do! The strange world of 'Perceptual vs Relative'

settings and proofing springs to mind! As we are always keen to see more prints in competitions, this might be a timely talk - even if you use other print papers.

Hi Stephen

I just wanted to let you know that we have a presentation from Tim Jones of Fotospeed entitled 'Demystifying Printing' on the evening of 1st October at 7:30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe (what3words.ambushed.exile.fewest). I'm sure you know that Fotospeed supplies a comprehensive range of digital inkjet papers, inks and accessories which they ship globally.

Tim will take us through the basics of printing our own photographs at home and the steps we need to take to achieve great prints, including Black and Whites. Tim will also take us through colour management and proofing ideas for our prints using both soft-proofing and his preferred technique of printing test prints. He will also discuss printers and papers to make sure we get the best possible results.

If any of your members would like to attend, they would be very welcome, there would just be a small charge of £3 per person towards the room hire cost.

Best regards,

Phil

Phil Winfield,

Programme Secretary,

Cricklade Camera Club

Colin had been in touch - iPhone Photography Awards 2024 (IPP)

Colin reminded me on Monday night that the IPP awards, which we posted in Vignettes a year ago, has come around again. As an arch supporter of the competition, here's Colin with a few words and link to the event website:

Hi Martyn,

The 2024 IPPAWARDS results have recently been announced. This annual competition is now in its 17th year - it started when the iPhone was first launched and is for everyone to submit their best images captured using any iPhone or iPad. The IPPAWARDS have grown in stature over the years and are now considered "The Oscars of Mobile Phone Photography." I believe this year's competition attracted many tens of thousands of images from just over 140 countries. There were 15 esteemed International judges (photographers, designers, architects, art directors etc) and it took them 4 months to go through the various selection stages to finalise the various Winners and Highly Commended's.

The competition is divided into many sections and covers areas like Still Life, Architecture, Portraits, Children etc etc. I'd recommend people grab a cuppa (or pint/glass/bottle!) and have a look at the various sections. If you like what you see in the 2024 section, then have a look at other years as well! There's a lot of great pictures from all around the world - many hundreds of inspirational images to motivate you to enter next year. Enjoy and here's a link:

<https://www.ippawards.com/>

.....and whilst we are on the subject of iPhones

I had a chat with Colin over the issue of battery life. It was triggered by my wife Gail's iPhone SE's battery which had dropped to a max of 77% capacity. Apple message you through the iPhone settings that anything under 79% necessitates a battery replacement. £64.79 later, Western Digital in Cheltenham were able to turn it round in a few hours. So why the loss of capacity albeit that we all know that charging does reduce battery life? My iPhone 11 Pro was bought at around the same time as Colin's and my battery is at 83% whereas Colin's is at 97%. Why? Here's Colin with some Sage advice:

Hi Martyn. Good to catch up last night and interesting to hear of your iPhone battery woes. I don't think you are on your own. Here's some advice which might help members.

My iPhone 11 Pro Max is nearly 5 years old. It's current battery health has a maximum capacity of 97% (meaning that when fully charged to 100% it will only charge to the equivalent of the 97% amount compared to when it was brand new). I note that yours is similar to mine in age and type but its max capacity is only 83% - not far off a battery replacement according to Apple! I used my iPhone every day for 4 years and charged it every day.

Here's my tips for prolonging the life of a mobile phone battery (but specifically for an iPhone) -

- *When your battery power gets below 20% (but definitely no lower than 10%), charge the phone above 80% - ideally between 90% to 95% charge, then unplug the charger. **Most importantly DON'T go to 100% charge.***
- *Every month, completely drain the battery until the phone turns itself off. Then charge the phone battery from 0% ALL THE WAY TO 100%. Once you've reached 100%, give the phone an extra 5-10mins of charging power. Don't leave it charging for more than 15mins at 100%. I find doing this on or around the first day of the month means I always remember!*
- ***NEVER leave your phone charging overnight** - this means it will get to 100% within a few hours and then probably stay at 100% for many hours (especially if you aren't an insomniac!). Continually charging an iPhone battery is akin to frying it!*
- *As soon as you unplug the charger (at either 90-95% or the monthly 100%) put your battery in "**Low Power Mode.**" This can be accessed by going to Settings > Battery > Low Power Mode. Click to turn the button green. The battery symbol will then go a yellow colour.*
- *Whilst on this screen, I'd recommend people also enable "Battery Percentage." That way you can get a much better idea of how much power you have left (and it's easier to follow my points above!).*
- *Whilst on this screen you can also check Battery Health - it will tell you how many recharge cycles you have done (Apple say an average battery should be good for at least 500 recycles - but I've done way more than that with my 11 Pro Max (and it's at 97%!)).*
- *And a nerdy bit - in the newer iPhones with the latest operating system you can find out when your phone was manufactured as well as when it was first used.*

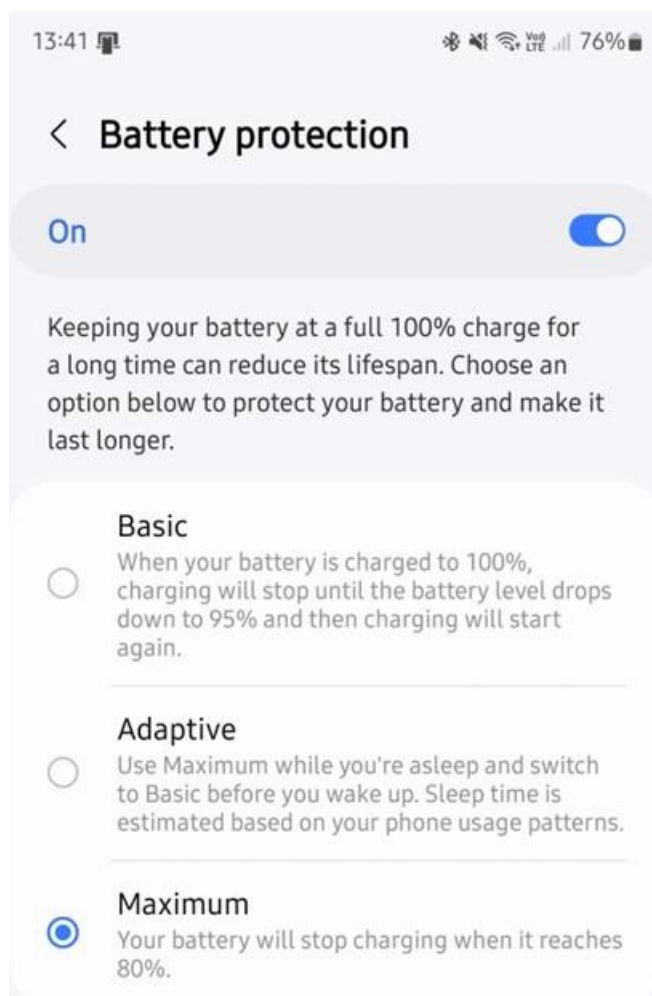
*Follow all the info above and (hopefully!) your iPhone battery should last many years. If you only take away one thing from this info. - let it be Bullet Point 3 above **NEVER leave your mobile phone charging overnight or indeed for many hours on end.***

Happy iPhone image taking

Cheers

Colin

Thanks Colin. Good advice. I did note during our chat that Dave C mentioned that his smart phone, a Samsung S24 Ultra has a charging setting options to protect battery life. Here's a screenshot from Colin's Phone which supports Colin's advice.



External Exhibitions and Competitions

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Yes it's come around again. Probably the most prestigious competition amongst the plethora of global photography comps we post in Vignettes. The winner will be announced on Oct 8th followed by an exhibition at the Natural History Museum, showcasing 100 photographs. However, in the meantime a few highly commended have already been announced and here's a couple of links to some of them:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8vd3iy2dpyo>

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/natures-finest-frames-stunning-shots-from-wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-2024>

WildPhotos 2024 is a new wildlife photography event coming to the UK

Wildscreen and Wildlife Photographer of the Year have joined forces and have launched WildPhotos 2024, a new one-day event packed with talks from world-leading nature photographers. WildPhotos 2024 will feature keynote talks by renowned nature photographers Charlie Hamilton James and Thomas P. Peschak, lightning talks on all things wildlife photography, and panel discussions featuring leading wildlife and conservation photographers from all over the world.

This is an event to get first-hand experience from photographers at the top of their fields, from experiences shooting in challenging environments to advice on what makes the best camera for wildlife photography. The inaugural event will take place on October 13, 2024, in Bristol, UK, however, if you are unable to attend in person, the hybrid nature of the event enables viewers to attend online from anywhere in the world. For a full program schedule and further details on tickets can be found on the WildPhoto 2024 website. Here's a couple of links. The event looks to be a cracker and it's not far away.

<https://crowdcomms-ltd.reg.crowdcomms.com/wildphotos>

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/a-new-wildlife-photography-event-is-coming-to-the-uk-and-it-is-epic>

Light & Land's 30th anniversary show celebrates the best in outdoor photography

As well as being the man behind the prestigious Landscape Photographer of the Year awards, Charlie Waite also co-founded Light & Land with nature photographer Sue Bishop in 1994. The firm celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and to mark the occasion is holding an exhibition in association with photo printing services brand Cewe. Visitors to the exhibition in London, which takes place from September 3-7, will be able to view and buy works from Light & Land photographers, tour leaders and many who have enjoyed the company's tours. Bit late I know but here's a link which includes some ICM images by Charlotte Bellamy:

<https://www.mallgalleries.org.uk/exhibitions-events/light-and-land-mall-exhibition-photography>

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/photo-artist-charlotte-bellamy-harnesses-intentional-camera-movement-for-light-and-land-exhibition>

Alice Mann's iconic 'Drummies' photo series

For the first time, Alice Mann's seminal and award-winning body of work – Drummies – will be exhibited in the UK. Now based in London, Alice Mann is a South African photographer whose work has been shown around the world, and this year she presents her first UK solo show at David Hill Gallery in London. Here's a link:

<https://davidhillgallery.net/artists/alice-mann-drummies>

Portrait photography retouching workshop: retouch skin and hair in Photoshop

Are you a photoshopper? Pro photographers Paula Stopka and Jade Keshia Gordon explains how to retouch skin and hair while maintaining a natural and authentic look. Here's a link:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/portrait-photography-retouching-workshop-retouch-skin-in-photoshop>

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/portrait-photography-retouching-workshop-ii-retouch-hair-like-a-pro>

BBC pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly80pyxppl0>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2gld6lr14o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgriqy02z0yo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20l5plp7kzo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0e858qnq5qo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c78lezy8e7no>

2024-25 Competitions and information

Cirencester Camera Club General Competition Schedule 2024/2025			
	Competition	Submission date	Judging night
A	Journey + Open	30/09/24	28/10/24
B	UK Flora, Fauna, Fungi + Open	28/10/24	02/12/24
C	Golden/Blue Hour + Open	02/12/24	13/01/25
D	Still Life + Open	13/01/25	17/02/25
E	Closed + Open	17/02/25	24/03/25
Annual	2024-25 Annual competitions	24/03/25	14/04/25 and 28/04/25

Definitions of Set Subjects

JOURNEY: A journey photograph is an image captured during the course of a journey or expedition, typically depicting scenes, landscapes, people, or moments encountered along the way. These photographs often aim to convey the essence of the journey, capturing the spirit of exploration, discovery, and adventure.

UK Flora, Fauna, Fungi: A flora, fauna, fungi photograph is an image that showcases plant life (flora), animal life (fauna), or fungi found in a particular ecosystem or habitat. These photographs aim to highlight the diversity, beauty, and intricacies of the natural world. They can range from close-up shots of individual species to wide-angle landscapes that capture entire ecosystems.

Golden/Blue Hour: During the golden hour, the sun is low in the sky, casting long shadows and creating a warm, diffused light that can enhance the colours and textures in a scene, often producing a soft, flattering glow. In contrast, the blue hour occurs just before sunrise or after sunset when the sky takes on a deep blue hue, creating a serene and tranquil atmosphere.

Still Life: A still life photograph is an image that portrays inanimate objects, typically arranged by the photographer to create a visually compelling composition. It can range from simple, minimalist compositions to more elaborate and stylized scenes, depending on the creative vision of the photographer.

Closed: A photograph with the title "closed" could depict a variety of subjects or scenes, but the title suggests a theme of closure, restriction, or inaccessibility.

Summer Cup (judged by members)

This is an informal competition which takes place during the 'off season' between June and September. Members can submit an image on one or all of the following subjects, which must be taken between May 20th 2024 and Sept 2nd 2024. These will then be judged by the other members at the start of the season. Images must be sent via the Club Dropbox before Monday 09 September 2024.

1. Small
2. Medium
3. Large

Ted Parrott Memorial Trophy (judged by members)

This Trophy is in memory of a long standing and valued member of the Club, Ted Parrott who passed away in 2019. Images must be of 'Sporting Action', and be submitted by Monday 09 September 2024. This image must have been taken between September 04th 2023 and September 2nd 2024.

For all Competitions please upload images via the Dropbox link below:-

[CCC Competition upload 2024/5](#)

CCC Annual Competition categories - submission deadline 24 March 2025		
Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic chosen by Club President)	Family in the Cotswolds	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Dennis Moss Trophy	Open	Print 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Leonard Jones Cup	Open	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Cavendish Cup	Black and white Open	Print 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Miles Shield	Open (Club outing)	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Gladiator Trophy	Aviation	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Pitchers Cup <u>Open to new members only.</u>	Open	Print or DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB

Quote of the week

Quote of the week

My portraits are more about me than they are about the people I photograph - Richard Avedon

That's it for this week.

Cheers

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

David (david.wallis@btinternet.com)

Dave (dave.cahill975@btinternet.com)

Cirencester Camera Club – Members Challenge

Unlike most photography challenges which are just a simple list of ideas or subjects, this 8-month challenge is designed to push our photography to the next level.

- **Technical & Compositional Understanding** – Do we really understand how the camera works and how it can be used to manipulate the final image. These challenges will each focus on a different technical skill and ensure the knowhow to achieve the best image possible with the kit available.

Basics:

Each month there will be a challenge based on a technical or compositional aspect of photography.

A brief will be published each month allowing research, planning, taking and practice.

By the end of the challenge club members should have developed a range of new skills

We are looking at starting this challenge in September 2024.

SEPTEMBER TOPIC:

Practising Buttons.



Objective:

To gain comprehensive knowledge of your camera or phone's settings and controls, ensuring you can operate it smoothly and efficiently without causing camera shake.

Steps:

1. Familiarize with Your Camera/Phone:

- **Buttons and Dials:** Identify every button and dial on your camera or phone. Understand their functions and how to use them by feel.
- **Menu Navigation:** Learn to navigate the menu system without looking. Memorize the sequence of menu items and the number of clicks required to reach your favourite settings.

2. Practice Blind Operation:

- **Button Identification:** Close your eyes and practice identifying buttons and dials by feel.
- **Menu Clicks:** Count the number of clicks needed to reach specific settings, such as ISO, white balance, or focus mode.
- **Dial Directions:** Learn which direction to turn each dial for increasing or decreasing values (e.g., aperture, shutter speed).

3. Holding Your Camera/Phone Steadily:

- **Grip and Posture:** Learn the best way to hold your camera/phone to minimize shake. For horizontal shots, keep your elbows close to your body and use both hands. For vertical shots, maintain a stable posture.

- **Pressing the Shutter:** Practice pressing the shutter button gently to avoid jarring the camera. Use the pad of your index finger, not the tip, for a smoother press.
- **Breathing Technique:** Try exhaling slowly as you press the shutter button to reduce movement

Points to Remember.

- Examine handheld shots at high magnification to check the sharpness of your long exposures particularly those are long focal lengths.
- Do the setting have the same function if shooting in RAW.
- Once you're familiar with your cameras or phone's basic workings it's time to read the **instruction manual** thoroughly and learn about all the functions you haven't discovered yet. Eg ***Back Button Focusing***