



Vignettes 243

October 31st, 2024

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all keeping well. We had the first of our five comps judging on Monday night (Comp A) which produced a good range of winners across all four print and DPI comps. The 80 entries produced 31 awards from 17 different winners, always encouraging to see with the judge commenting on the high standard of submissions. The judging was constructive, informative and, as David Wallis commented afterwards, enriched by his research into some images subject.

The new Pixoroo comp software worked very well first time out with just a few adjustments needed relating to some default settings. Well done to everyone who entered. Look forward to Comp B judging on the 1st of Dec.

Here are the results:

Open DPI 1st	Set DPI 1st	Open Print 1st	Set Print 1st
			
Isolation John Spreadbury	Sleeper to Kochi Steve Kirby	Maldivian Ghost Crab Martyn Smith	To Pastures New Steve Kirby

All of the images are available in your Pixoroo Account.

COMPETITION A RESULTS		
SET PRINT		
FIRST	To Pastures New	Steve Kirby
SECOND	A Journey Back in Time	Martyn Smith
THIRD	Paddington Boarding	Patrick Barker
COMMENDED	Fashion City	Dave Cahill
COMMENDED	Traversing the Mighty Namib Desert	Nigel Rogers
COMMENDED	Waiting For The Train	Ruth Barker
SET DPI		

FIRST	Sleeper to Kochi	Steve Kirby
SECOND	Journey through the Snow	Tricia Lindsay
THIRD	View from a Train	Billy Kerr
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Leave Only Footprints	Martyn Smith
HIGHLY COMMENDED	The S2 Bus	Dave Cahill
COMMENDED	Packed to Go	Andy Dipper
COMMENDED	The Dart, Dubli	Ruth Barker
COMMENDED	Travellers Trails	Mike Cheeseman
OPEN PRINT		
FIRST	Maldivian Ghost Crab	Martyn Smith
SECOND	Foxhound	Gary Gleghorn
THIRD	The Tall Guy	Dave Cahill
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Tight Turn	John Hankin
COMMENDED	Gotcha	Stephen Chapman
COMMENDED	Humanity	Mike Cheeseman
COMMENDED	Temple Bar Hustle and Bustle	Ruth Barker
OPEN DPI		
FIRST	Isolation	John Spreadbury
SECOND	Rooftops in Bergen	Billy Kerr
THIRD	A Patriotic Leap	Stephen Chapman
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Lechlade Dawn	Andrew Roca
COMMENDED	Kilmainham Gaol	Ruth Barker
COMMENDED	Monkey See – Monkey Do	Steve Kirby
COMMENDED	Optical Energy	Mike Cheeseman
COMMENDED	Petronas Twin Towers	Mandi Horwood
COMMENDED	Smiler	Daphne Neale
COMMENDED	The Writing's on the Wall	Dave Cahill

Programme Review

Here's Dave Cahill's with his weekly roundup:

Hi everyone. Just to say I thought the Pixoroo software gave a much more professional feel to the evening, so well done to Fin and Stephen for ensuring it ran smoothly. Well done to the members who picked up awards too.

For the next two weeks we will be focusing on Still Life/Tabletop Photography under the expert guidance of Mike and Shaun. The second week (11th November) will be a practical 'hands on' session but the aim next week (4th November) is to prepare us for that, with presentations and examples to guide us through the fundamentals of this genre of photography.

Topics covered will include a history of still life art, the basics of still life photography, prop examples, prop arrangements and backgrounds, types of lighting, telling a story, and practical hints and tips, including the use of focus stacking. Don't forget that Still Life is the Competition D set subject, submission due in January 2025.

Also note we will be back to our usual 7:30pm start time next week.

Christmas Quiz

Christmas quiz - 16th Dec - the Siddington Pub menu has arrived early!

I know what's going to happen. Come late November time you'll be panicking asking which Vignettes did I post the Menu in? Well, it's a risk but here it is. This gives you plenty of time to choose your meal. I suggest a meal from the main menu - there's Vegan and Veggie choices as well. I'll post a list of everyone who's going each week along with your meal choice just in case you forget, and of course it would be nice to see who's going. I'll kick off below with me and Quizmaster David W. Come to think of it I'll add the menu link with the running total as well so there's no excuse. Take a look:

<https://www.thegreyhound-inn.co.uk/menu>

1. Martyn S - Henry Burger
2. David Wallis (Quizmaster) -
3. X
4. X
5. X

External Exhibitions and Competitions

Gloucester Cathedral with Luke Jerram's incredible Mars: War and Peace artwork.

I forgot to mention this before but it's not too late. Experience the wonders of Planet Mars right here on Earth within the sacred walls of Gloucester Cathedral. It's on Tuesday 15 October – Sunday 3 November, Cathedral opening hours. Check out the link.

<https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/mars>

Luke Jerram is getting around

.....as he's also displaying his world famous 'Museum of the Moon' artwork at Blackburn Cathedral from 5th November until 2nd December. There's a photography competition as well. Here's the details.

<https://blackburncathedral.com/moon-photography-competition/>

Iberian Photographic Tours

We've had a ping from Iberian Photographic Tours and, on the basis of nothing ventured nothing gained, you just might be interested:

Dear Cirencester Camera Club,

Have you or your camera club members ever wanted to photograph something a little different? We are able to offer you a fabulous opportunity to capture images of these stunning and endangered Iberian Lynx in the beautiful Jaén province of Spain. It's a 2 day, 3 night tour, offering onsite, traditional accommodation, with pool, and very frequent visits from the Iberian Lynx. The hides are well equipped and incredibly local to the accommodation.

I am a professional wildlife photographer from the UK, now living in Catalonia in Spain, with a passion for providing interesting and amazing photographic opportunities for like-minded photographers. I have put together some wildlife photography tours for interested photographers, as we have some unmissable wildlife to capture here in Spain that I wanted to share with you. As a Spanish resident I am collaborating with the hide owners across the peninsula, to bring you a stunning variety of wildlife photographic opportunities.

If you would like to know more about this short break, the Lammergeiers and Golden Eagles tour or others we will be organising, please take a look at our [website](#) or contact me on [email](#) or via the social media sites on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). Or do give Dale a call on: [+44 7522 562 423](tel:+447522562423).

Holiday details

Dates: *11 - 14 March 2025*

8 - 11 July 2025

Other dates are available on request.

Price: £599

Deposit: £250

Group size: 7

Cost includes: Accommodation, transfers to and from Malaga - Costa del Sol airport, All hides, Guide, and permits.

Cost excludes: International flights, meals, drinks/alcohol, sundry items.

Fitness Levels: Most mobility levels, access to the hide is very easy.

Let me know if you have any questions, these tours are popular, so we would be happy to answer your concerns or book you and your friends on one today! We look forward to hearing from you!

Dale Sutton

Iberian Photographic Tours

iberianphoto.tours

+44 7522 562 423

Still life gadget you just might need

Companies like Neewer and Small Rig are two really good value and quality makers of photography gadgets (the stuff you don't really need but can't help yourself!) and, with the next two weeks club nights dedicated to still life photography, here's a gadget you might need as an alternative to a tripod. Take a look:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/reviews/neewer-table-top-stand-review>

Nikon Film and Photo Contest 2024-2025 officially announced with "inspire" theme

Nikon has revealed that the theme of its Nikon Film and Photo Contest 2024-2025 will be "inspire." The contest will have four categories: Single Photo, Photo Story, 5-Minute Film, and Super-Short Film. The Single Photo category, as the name suggests, awards standalone images, while the Photo Story requirements are a series of two to five related images. Any photographic or filmmaking equipment can be used in any of the categories. Here's the details:

<https://www.nikon-photocontest.com/en/>

Who's a good boy then? The International Dog Photography Awards 2024 winners announced

Our pets have no end of photographic potential, as demonstrated by these pictures of our four-legged friends entered to the 2024 Dog Photography Awards, the winners of which have been just announced. Check out the barking winners:

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

C2PA

Here's an interesting article recently received by Paul Jones. I think it's one for a club evening. The C2PA was founded in February 2021 by Microsoft and Adobe and includes Arm, BBC, Intel, and Truepic. The need for us to protect our image from copyright infringement in the face of Ai is evolving.

COMING SOON: CONTENT CREDENTIALS

Fake imagery and unauthorised use of images are on the rise. That's why we're developing an image provenance function for the Nikon Z6III.

This firmware is being developed based on the standards set by the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA).

This is part of our commitment to making it easier to verify image authenticity, as well as protecting the rights of photographers. Content Credentials is scheduled for release to various news agencies mid-2025.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Here's a link if you are interested in more info:

<https://c2pa.org/>

Ever wondered about what the Histogram info gives you?

No? Well here's one of those 'cheat sheet' articles I post from time to time. Really helpful.

The histogram

Discover how to interpret the chart on your SLR's LCD preview to get better exposures.

Histograms look like rather daunting technical graphs at first glance, but they are the most useful tool you have to help you capture the exposure you want, every time. And they are actually not nearly as daunting as they appear. The histogram is essentially a graph that illustrates the range of tones in your image, from black on the far left to white on the far right with a mid-tone (18%) grey in the middle. As soon as you fire the shutter, a preview of your picture flashes up on the camera's LCD. You can instantly see if the shot is too bright or too dark, and it seems unnecessary to have a second, more scientific way of judging the suitability of your exposure settings. So why should you bother looking at the histogram?

First and foremost, displaying the histogram isn't a replacement for looking at the image itself when you evaluate a picture on your camera. Obviously, you need to assess the picture's composition, colour and tonal balance. But the qualitative

HOW TO MEASURE DYNAMIC RANGE

Use your measurements and this table to work out the best exposure

Measure the brightest area
Select manual shooting mode and select spot metering mode. Position the AF point over the brightest area.

Measure the darkest area
Reduce shutter speed to create the exposure bar, and make a note of the shutter speed. Do the same for the darkest area.

Check them on the chart
If the two readings are more than 4EV apart, check the scene for bright, over-exposed areas and under-exposed areas.

SHUTTER SPEED
1 sec
1/1.3 sec
1/1.6 sec
1/2 sec
1/2.5 sec
1/3 sec
1/4 sec
1/5 sec
1/6 sec
1/8 sec
1/10 sec
1/13 sec
1/15 sec
1/20 sec
1/25 sec
1/30 sec
1/40 sec
1/50 sec
1/60 sec
1/80 sec
1/100 sec
1/125 sec
1/160 sec
1/200 sec
1/250 sec
1/320 sec
1/400 sec
1/500 sec
1/640 sec
1/800 sec
1/1000 sec

- 1 Less than four stops difference means you can afford to bias the exposure towards one or the other
- 2 Exactly four stops difference - you need to set a shutter speed exactly in the middle of the two you measured
- 3 More than four stops difference - shoot a series of exposures and combine them into one in software

nature of the preview image means it can be hard to see if an area of the shot is slightly under- or slightly too bright. The histogram gives you this additional, and invaluable, information that says that's easy to interpret at a glance.

Once you learn to read them, a histogram clearly shows the exposure of a shot, and whether you need to use exposure compensation to lighten or darken the exposure in the next image you take. More importantly, it also tells you about the contrast in the scene. This enables you to avoid, or take special care with, subjects that have a greater dynamic range than your sensor can cope with. It also ensures that you get the best quality results from your sensor when shooting low-contrast subjects. To get the right exposure in tricky scenes, you need to know the brightness range you're dealing with.

<https://cdn.mos.cms.futurecdn.net/DDsnP56G5ZHusi6AnTJq3U.jpg>

The winners have been revealed for the 2024 Architecture Photography MasterPrize

A beautiful building perched on a glacier with the breathtaking aurora borealis behind named best-of-the-best in architecture photography. Here's the story:

https://architectureprize.com/winners/2024_photo.php

GDT (German Society for Nature Photography) European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2024

An image of millions-upon-millions of monarch butterflies covering every inch of a forest is pronounced the overall winner of the prestigious GDT European Wildlife POTY 2024 contest. Almost 18,000 photos were submitted to the competition by nearly 1,000 photographers from 38 countries. An international, five-member jury selected 107 winning images in nine fixed categories and two special categories. Check out the website and all the winners here:

https://www.gdtfoto.de/seiten/index_en.html

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwyg4213597o>

BBC pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8mg23yv6xo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c624r7ywn0yo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cyv7pm3m300o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgexqjyz3lo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4vy7nqd90o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdrdlm1r1zzo>

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 02 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 02 September 2024. This image must have been taken between September 04th 2023 and September 2nd 2024.

For all Competitions please upload images via Pixeroo link below: -

pixeroo.com/public/account/login

Quote of the week

*Photographers deal in things which are continually vanishing and when they have vanished there is no contrivance on earth which can make them come back again -
Henri Cartier-Bresson*

That's it for this week.

Cheers

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David (david.wallis@btinternet.com)

Dave (dave.cahill975@btinternet.com)