



# Vignettes 245

November 13th, 2024

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## Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. Lots of club stuff this week including photos from Monday night. And what a cracking night we had. A good turnout and lots of kit to experiment with. Budding new member Brian Champion came along to see us in action, and I've since learned that he's joined - and that's despite having a Nikon! Membership is now up to 48 which is good news. Well done everyone for welcoming Brian.

Back to the night, a big thanks to everyone who brought still life stuff along, particularly Shaun, Mike, John, Paul and Dave. Here's a few excellent images Garry took some on the night plus one from David (phone!). There's even one showing a Sony camera - heaven forbid!









Great Pics Gary. Here's Dave with his weekly round up:

### **Programme Secretary Review**

#### Last Week/Next Week

*Hi everyone. Judging by the atmosphere on the night, and the WhatsApp messages and a few images the next day, the Still Life practical evening was a big success. By my count about 31 members turned up to have a go and/or generally socialize. I say*

*'about' as I tried several times to do a headcount but people were moving around from table to table, so in that respect there wasn't much 'still' life at all.*

*Many thanks to Mike, Shaun, John and Paul for bringing in equipment, backgrounds, props etc, and for providing advice and guidance. There was even activity around my smallish light box, though, as I said to a few of you, it's great for doing product type shots, but not so practical for more extensive still life arrangements. It's a useful low cost item to have at hand though.*

*Next week, we have our first external speaker of the season, Jonathan Genevax who will be telling us all about Waterscapes, including some tips and tools required for this genre of photography. Jonathan is a professional photographer now based in Bristol, and for the past 3 years has been working on a project photographing the waterscapes of the UK, from the intimate Scottish lochs to the cliff tops of Cornwall and Wales, as well as photographing waterscapes of his home region back in France. It will be our usual 7:30pm start. One not to miss.*

#### Some Programme Changes

*Jonathan would have been our second speaker had we not had to cancel the Jack Boskett evening due to the floods back in September. So, I'm pleased to say I have managed to reschedule Jack's From Railways To Royalty talk now, for the 17th March. We've also had to swap the next practical night (Water Photography) with David's Evening of Nostalgia. The 'How to Preserve, Present, Display Our Images' evening will be moved into next season's programme.*

*So, to summarise the new dates:*

*24th February – An Evening of Nostalgia*

*10th March - Water Photography*

*17th March - From Railways to Royalty*

*Hope that all helps, and we will see you all next week.*

*Cheers*

*Dave Cahill*

## **Focus Stacking**

### A few tips from Monday night

John Smith emailed me after Monday to say that a few members asked about merging in Photoshop and from Lightroom

*Hi Martyn. Last night a few people asked about if the steps to focus stack could be added to Vignettes so here's an Aide Memoire for focus stacking with PhotoShop*

- 1. Open PhotoShop*
- 2. File > script > "Load files into layers"*
- 3. Select files with browser. (all selected files will be loaded as layers)*
- 4. Select all layers (click top layer and shift click bottom layer)*
- 5. Edit > "Auto-Align Layers" (Option: Auto)*
- 6. Edit > "Auto-Blend Layers" (Option : Stack images, )*

7. *Crop image to remove edges that have no content.*
8. *File export.*
- 9.

*And from Lightroom classic:*

1. *Select images in Lightroom*
2. *Photo > Edit in > "open as layers in PhotoShop"*
3. *Continue from step 2 above.*

*Hope that helps*

*Cheers*

*John*

### **Battle Selection overview evening on 25 November - update**

Paul's been in touch about the battle evening on the 25th November. It is a partial repeat of a previous article in Vignettes but updated to include submission guidance. Here's Paul:

Hi all

*As a remind and refresh, we have a home-grown club night on 25 November covering the role of the Inter Club battle selection committee, who is involved and what we are looking to achieve. The planned format of the evening is as follows and we are looking for your participation and involvement:*

#### **Overall structure**

*First half*

- *An overview of the Inter Club Battle Selection committee, its members, purpose and objectives*
- *A look at DPI and Print selections, some of the initial selection, criteria, discussions and outcomes*
- *Run through a few worked examples of images from the recent selection committee session. This will include why some images have been selected and other "overlooked", even though they may have been successful in club competitions*
- *Q&A opportunity for club members to ask questions and provide input*

*Part 2 – after the break*

- *An invite for members to submit images with the opportunity for selection to represent the club at a future battle – either prints or DPIs. I would prefer that these images have not been entered for a competition previously, but it is not essential*
- *Undertake an interactive selection session where all club members can participate, with the top few images chosen being included in one of the future inter club battles during the 24/25 season.*

- Depending upon the number of images / prints submitted (which I would like in advance so we can categorise and format them), we can then format how the session runs. Either on a knockout basis or run through with comments and then final selection

Images can be submitted through Pixoroo (thanks Fin for helping set up). If you log into your "Entrants Portal", select "Challenges" and then you will see a heading "Battle Entries Evening". All you need to do is upload your images and I can access them – Simple! We will also look to share some thoughts and views on "judging" images and our thought processes for inter club battles

### **Outcomes**

- An improved understanding for all club members on the committee working and why some images are selected, and others are considered but then overlooked
- Some additional images for inclusion within the future club interclub competitions.

To help make the evening a success, I am looking for as many people as possible to submit an image in advance so we can use for the second half.

Many thanks  
Paul

.....and here's Paul again

### **Interclub Battle**

Hi all

As you know, we have our first inter club battle vs Swindon and Wantage on 28 November. In previous years, there have been many high-quality images and Dave Young the organiser has advised we can expect more of the same this year! The meeting will be primarily via Zoom, although Swindon Camera Club are inviting visitors to attend in person on the evening as well. I am planning on going there and if anyone else is interested the details are as follows:

- Location – Des Moffatt Western Community Centre, Swindon, SN2 1NF
- Time – 19.30 hrs

We have an experienced judge for the evening; Beyrl Heaton ARPS, CPAGB so looking forward to her comments and critique. The Zoom link will follow shortly (when issued) and will be added to the website events portal and WhatsApp.

Finally, for info below are thumbnails of the final image selection and authors.





✔ A Horse With No Name - Steve Kirby



✔ A Sleeper To Kochi - Steve Kirby



✔ Autumn Kingfisher - Gary Gleghorn



✔ BALLERINA - Puri Montanez Carmona



✔ Cooldown - Tricia Lindsay



✔ Coordination - John Hankin



✔ Cross Breed - Steve Kirby



✔ Greek Unorthodox - Martyn Smith



✔ Heaven- Billy Kerr



✔ Hello Stranger - Gary Gleghorn



✔ Hermidactylus Parvimaclatus Gecko - Martyn Smith

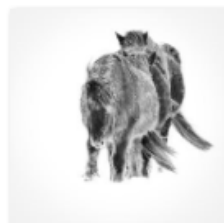


✔ Hockey on Horseback - John Hankin

Martyn Smith



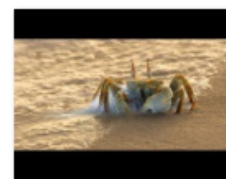
✔ Human, Horse and Hounds - Colin Hoskins



✔ Journey in the Snow - Tricia Lindsay



✔ Loch Awe- Steve Chapman



✔ Maldivian Ghost Crab - Martyn Smith



✔ Optics Tryptich  
- Mike  
Cheeseman



✔ Waltzing the  
Blue Light -  
Dave Cahill



✔ Where are  
you- Paul  
Norris



✔ White and  
Woolly - Mike  
Cheeseman

*Good luck to everyone and good luck to Cirencester Camera Club!*

*All the best*

*Paul*

### **Christmas Quiz**

Christmas Quiz 16th Dec - The Siddington Pub - numbers are picking up!

Here's the latest club member attendance update, food choice and link to the pub menu. All looking good. Let me know if I've made any mistakes.

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

1. David Wallis (Quizmaster) - Beef & Ale Pie
2. Martyn S - Henry Burger
3. Colin Hoskins - Beef & Ale pie
4. Gary - Truffle Cream Tagliatelle
5. Jean - Gluten free fish & chips
6. Steve Finch - Henry Burger with extra streaky bacon
7. Dave Cahill - Ham, egg and chips
8. John Crew - Truffle Cream Tagliatelle
9. Steve Kirby - Beef & Ale pie
10. Puri - Battered Haddock & Chips
11. Katrina - Beef & Ale pie
12. Billy Kerr - Battered Haddock & Chips
13. ?

Could you email me (Martyn ([thehoneys@btinternet.com](mailto:thehoneys@btinternet.com))) that you are coming and if and what you are eating. By the way, I'll be drawing names out of a hat for the all-important quiz teams nearer the time.

### **External Exhibitions and Competitions**

Calling all animal lovers - Cheltenham Animal Shelter's Winter Photo competition

Here's a photo competition right on your doorstep. Welcome to Cheltenham Animal Shelter's Winter Photo Pet Show – a fun and festive way to showcase your awesome animal while supporting a great cause! Whether your pet is cute, cuddly, or has a unique talent, this is their time to shine. This online competition is open to all pets, big or small, so get your cameras ready and show off your pet's winter style. From festive costumes to heartwarming poses, Cheltenham Animal Shelter can't wait to see what

makes your pet special. By entering, you'll not only celebrate your beloved companions but also help the Shelter raise vital funds for the animals in its care. Let the Winter Pet Show begin and here's a link on how to enter:

<https://gawa.org.uk/shelter-news/winter-photo-pet-show/>

### **BBC pictures**

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cymrufyw/erthyglau/cp81e91ezpeo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg0e9qew8yo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/c8dmre77dqvo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2yxpj9xy3o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ced9g39q722o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly2877x9x9o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqj07zk2q0ro>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce893dr6ewyo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c937l4wvqx3o>

### **2024-25 Competitions and information**

<b>Cirencester Camera Club General Competition Schedule 2024/2025</b>			
	<b>Competition</b>	<b>Submission date</b>	<b>Judging night</b>
<b>A</b>	Journey + Open	30/09/24	28/10/24
<b>B</b>	UK Flora, Fauna, Fungi + Open	28/10/24	02/12/24
<b>C</b>	Golden/Blue Hour + Open	02/12/24	13/01/25
<b>D</b>	Still Life + Open	13/01/25	17/02/25
<b>E</b>	Closed + Open	17/02/25	24/03/25
<b>Annual</b>	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 three subjects, which must be taken between end of May and beginning of September. These will then be judged by the other members at the start of the season. [Exact dates and subjects will be confirmed each year at the AGM]

#### **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 the start of the season. This image must have been taken between the start of the current season and the start of the following season. [Exact dates will be confirmed each year at the AGM]

For all Competitions, please upload images via Pixoroo link below: -

[pixoroo.com/public/account/login](https://pixoroo.com/public/account/login)

#### **Quote of the week**

*A photograph is like the recipe - a memory the finished dish - Carrie Latet*

That's it for this week.

Cheers

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David ([david.wallis@btinternet.com](mailto:david.wallis@btinternet.com))

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