



Vignettes 248

December 6th, 2024

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Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. How did everyone do with Black Friday or Cyber Monday deals? Worth it or just lots of hassle? I see the WhatsApp Group have been busy on that score. Lots of comp stuff to talk about this week along with an update of the Pub Quiz attendance which is looking good. Here's Dave with his weekly round up including info on next Monday's Zoom night event:

Programme Secretary Review

Last Week/Next Week

Hi everyone. I trust everyone has now recovered from the ups and downs of last week's Competition B judging. No doubt Fin will be summarising all the results. Well done to everyone who received an award. As usual there were some insightful and constructive comments from the judge, Sandie Cox. Image sharpness across the whole subject was clearly a key requirement in the set 'Nature' sections. As it happens I just tried out the focus bracketing on my Sony, a new feature which arrived with the latest firmware upgrade. I can see it is going to come in useful once I get the hang of it. Another important tip she mentioned was 'border patrol' - something that I always remember from another judge (I can't recall who it was either!).

Next week we have our first Christmas period Zoom meeting and presentation – Tesni Ward with 'The Wildlife Masterclass'. We are promised tips and tricks for improving our wildlife photography. From finding locations, working in various light conditions, compositional guidelines and why it's important to find our own style and approach when developing our own portfolio. We might get some more pointers for how we could have fared better in Competition B!

Remember it will be a 7pm start. Here's the detail and Zoom stuff

Topic: CCC ext presentation. Tesni Ward - The Wildlife Masterclass¹¹⁻⁷_{SEP} Time: Dec 9, 2024 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/2700797910?pwd=zhcG2KUWDLKwad7Tz9UafKk1RjxiVv.1&omn=93235662032>

Meeting ID: 270 079 7910¹¹⁻⁷_{SEP} Passcode: 764868

See you soon.

Dave Cahill

.....And here's comp Sec Fin with his round up of last Monday's Comp B results:

Competition Secretary Review

Hi everyone. A packed programme on Monday Night saw 4 different winners in the 4 Competition B Categories - Set Print, Set DPI, Open Print and Open DPI. Judge Sandie Cox ARPS, DPAG, returning to the Club after several years, provided considered

analysis and comment on each of the 29 prints and 49 DPls entered by members. We look forward to welcoming Sandie back in the not too distant future. Here's the results:

SET PRINT



FIRST	Three Wet Leaves	Dave Cahill
SECOND	Lookout	Martyn Smith
THIRD	Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly	Nigel Rogers
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Brimstone on Thistle	David Wallis
COMMENDED	“Here’s looking at you Kit”	Gary Gleghorn

SET DPI



FIRST	Shaggy Inkcaps	Patrick Barker
SECOND	Frozen Out	Billy Kerr
THIRD	Deconstructed Egret	Martyn Smith
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Barn Owl at Sunset	Gary Gleghorn
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Buzzard on a Fence	Andrew Roca
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Yellow Gilled Fungi	Ruth Barker
COMMENDED	Bluebells	Daphne Neale
COMMENDED	Swallowed	Chris Donohoe

OPEN PRINT



FIRST	Autumn Falls	Stephen Chapman
SECOND	Ladies International Polo	John Hankin
THIRD	Skating Preparations	Patrick Barker
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Quiet Contemplation	David Wallis
COMMENDED	Spike	Steve Kirby
COMMENDED	The Critic	Lawrence Wilcock

OPEN DPI



FIRST	Warwickshire Cup Final Action	John Hankin
SECOND	Goal Kick	Gary Gleghorn
THIRD	No Drinking Today	David Wallis
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Baker Street	Colin Hoskins
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Contemplation	Nigel Rogers
HIGHLY COMMENDED	The Groyne	Patrick Barker
COMMENDED	Reflections of Osborne	Ruth Barker
COMMENDED	The Meeting Stick	Stephen Chapman

Well done everyone. A good cross section of member entries which is always encouraging.

Our Chair has been in touch

Yes the Chairman's Challenge is onto the next stage. Here's David:

Chairman's Challenge

Hi All. We are now halfway through my annual challenge. By now you should be able to find all your camera controls in the dark, understand which is your best lens and be keen to take pictures at night.

*This month it's all about the mysteries of **White Balance**. If you take images in RAW and use Lightroom white balance can be adjusted. However, it is sometimes necessary to move the White Balance setting from Auto. The final part of the December challenge, set out below, is to take a multiple in-camera photograph using a different white balance for each image to see the effects.*

Best of luck.

Regards

David

Battle Secretary Review






Hi all






The annual interclub battle between the three clubs was held on 28 November. As ever a close competition with Swindon winning and closely followed by Wantage and Cirencester. Final marks:





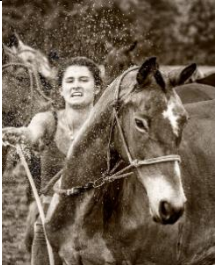
- Swindon – 360
- Wantage - 348
- Cirencester - 345






Summarised below are the individual scores for our images along with some comments and feedback for each. Well done to everyone who had an image selected.

Title	Author	Comments and Score	Image
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Cross Breed	Steve Kirby	A good picture. The judge liked the dog and his facial expression – looking sad. There was negative feedback that the background to the picture was too light and the base. Judges view to just concentrate on the dog itself - 15	
Ghost Crab	Martyn Smith	Loved the image of the crab, powerful image showed in their own habitat. Good low view helped improve the impact. Good colour saturation – 19.	
Loch Awe	Steve Chapman	Strong image and scene lends itself to monochrome. All the key elements of the picture blend well together (mist, cloud, trees and reflections). - 18	
A Horse with no Name	Steve Kirby	The judge struggled to understand the title (a song title!) and relevance to the image. However the judge loved the blend and saturation of the colours making a very attractive image. 16	
Greek Unorthodox	Martyn Smith	Great title and story telling. Light and texture throughout the image work well. Setting of the bike and priest in the picture works well. 17	

Autumn Kingfisher	Gary Gleghorn	Fab picture with great colours and texture throughout. Perfect positioning of the kingfisher in the tree and spread of branches. Good diffusion with background 19	
Coordination	John Hankin	Strong horse and rider image. Great detail and action in the horse. All elements come together well, background unfussy - 18	
White and Woolly	Mike Cheeseman	The judge did not quite understand the story of the image and felt that the combination did not work. Too much blending between sheep and clouds and does not work as a photo - 16	
Human Horse Hounds	Colin Hoskins	Loved the overall strength of the image. Monochrome with the red jacket highlighted works extremely well and raises the image to another level. Overall one of the best images of the evening - 20	
Ballerina	Puri	The judge did not like the multiple image approach and would have preferred a single ballerina (several people I spoke to at Swindon believed the judge has missed the focus	

		and objective of the image!) - 15	
Optics Triptych	Mike Cheeseman	Colourful image, sharp and a good selection of different arrangements brought together. 17	
Waltzing the Blue Light	Dave Cahill	Strong image with great facial expressions showing people really enjoying themselves. Overall well captured and a great range of colours - 17	
Hockey on Horseback	John Hankin	Well seen and captured. Very sharp and great facial expressions (concentration). Good story telling and improved by an unfussy background. 18	
Journey in the Snow	Tricia Lindsay	Overall a sad image portrayed with horses travelling in the cold but good story telling. Great texture in coats and the white background works well. 18	
Cooldown	Tricia Lindsay	Overall the judge did not understand the image (which is a shame!) but commented that it was well composed and focussed throughout. Nice subdued background - 17	

Where are you?	Paul Norris	The judge was unsure of the title but thought it was a fab picture of the stag in their environment. Sharp texture on the deer and the antlers show up well with unfussy background. Autumn scene shows natural habitat – 18.	
Gecko (with a Latin name!)	Martyn Smith	Strong image, well positioned in the frame and great textures of the skin. The judge liked the pose and the diffused background - 18	
Hello Stranger	Gary Gleghorn	The judge loved the title and humour of the image. Well photographed with great texture and saturation on the sheep. An interesting sky and background add strength to the image – 17.	
Sleeper to Kochi	Steve Kirby	Great family image, showing the journey. Tells a good story. The judge liked the bars as added to the drama of the image - 17	
Heaven	Billy Kerr	Great relaxing image, colour appropriate. Would have preferred a single chair and focus on the lady relaxing cropping the left-hand side. - 15	

On a few of the pictures, my personal view is that the judge missed the point or emphasis of the pictures and this may be a mixture of learning points for us and something that there is an acceptance that some images will always create this lack of certainty. Happy to welcome views from members.

Paul Norris
Battle Secretary

Christmas Quiz

[Christmas Quiz 16th Dec - The Siddington Pub. 7.00 pm](#)

A big thanks to everyone who's been in touch. A fantastic turnout of 31 members, about the same as last year, so a big thanks for a timely submission. Here's the latest club member attendance update, food choice and link to the pub menu. I have notified the pub but do let me know if I've made any mistakes or you want to amend your choice.

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

1. David Wallis (Quizmaster) - Beef & Ale Pie
2. Martyn S - Henry Burger & Chips
3. Colin Hoskins - Beef & Ale pie
4. Gary - Truffle Cream Tagliatelle
5. Jean - Gluten free fish & chips
6. Steve Finch - Henry Burger & Chips 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. Chris Donohoe - Ham, egg and chips
14. John Smith - Beef & Ale pie
15. Paul Norris - Beef & Ale pie
16. Shaun - Henry Burger & Chips
17. Paul Jones - Battered Haddock & Chips

18. John Hankin - Beef & Ale pie
19. Rod Head - Beef & Ale pie
20. Fin Simpson - Battered Haddock & Chips
21. Mike C - simplicity plant based smash burger etc
22. Andy Dipper - Battered Haddock & Chips
23. Brian Kent - Henry Burger & Chips
24. Patrick B - Henry Burger & Chips
25. Ruth B - Braised Blade of Beef
26. Lawrence Wilcock - Chargrilled chicken breast, wild mushroom risotto, etc
27. John Jones - Henry Burger & Chips
28. Vikki O'Keeffe - Cauliflower and butternut Gobi Dhansak, basmati rice, chapati, lime pickle, with added chicken.
29. Robin O'Keeffe - Whitebait, lemon mayo, house dressed salad and fries
30. John Milloy - Henry Burger & Chips
31. Trish Lindsay - Chargrilled chicken breast, wild mushroom risotto, etc

By the way, I'll be drawing names out of a hat for the all important quiz teams nearer the time which will be based on 6 team tables with five members on each. Here's the team names. I wonder which one you will be on? I'll be in touch.

Teams names - team members to be chosen at random

1. The Blazing Bracketeers
2. The Dashing Digitals
3. The Sensational Sensors
4. The Zany Zoomers
5. The Magical Macros
6. The Hot Shoe Shufflers

External Exhibitions and Competitions

Nature in Art

If you haven't been over to Nature In Art, Twigworth to look at the Bird Photographer of the Year (BPOTY) exhibition, it's well worth it. It runs until the 29th Dec. Always a good day out. The cafe food is excellent too. Here's a link:

<https://natureinart.org.uk/>

See Berlin through the eyes of Helmut Newton

Few photographers have captured the spirit of Berlin in the 20th century as vividly as Helmut Newton. The new book Berlin, Berlin, published by Taschen, is a celebration of Newton's lifelong connection to the city that shaped him. It's not just a collection of photographs, it's a love letter to Berlin's energy, people, and ever-changing story – captured in a way only Newton could. Here's the back story.

<https://newsletter.smartbrief.com/redirect.action?link=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.digitalcameraworld.com%2Fnews%2Fsee-berlin-through-the-eyes-of-one-of-its-most-iconic-photographers-helmut-newton&encoded=sHzDCLernWDEbozqCigyqWBWcNVSUT>

The best coffee table books on photography: perfect for browsing

Here's a few ideas for Xmas, either to give or receive. As photographers we can spend a lot of time thinking purely about the technical aspects. That is essential when you're attempting to improve your craft, but it is equally important to take pleasure in the work of others, and to see the wider world of photography. The classic medium for this is the Coffee Table Book – an area of publishing which has proven itself surprisingly resilient in an era where other areas of publishing have struggled against the onslaught of online content. Here's some suggestions:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/the-best-coffee-table-books-on-photography>

The powerful legacy of Consuelo Kanaga showcased in new photography book

A new photography book of Consuelo Kanaga's work celebrates her pioneering voice in 20th-century American photography. Here's background to some striking images:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/the-powerful-legacy-of-consuelo-kanaga-showcased-in-new-photography-book>

BBC pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy8900zp534o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyxlx0k780o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c98e2rjqd31o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cgm97pwx9l7o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce31x5pg7y0o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k80edv3nyo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cze37dg57k4o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgk1lj2pj12o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0en9n8yxpqo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpwrg0kr85ko>

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 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

Quote of the week

All photographs are there to remind us of what we forget. In this - as in other ways - they are the opposite of paintings. Paintings record what the painter remembers. Because each one of us forgets different things, a photo more than a painting may change its meaning according to who is looking at it - John Berger

That's it for this week.

Cheers

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

David (david.wallis@btinternet.com)

Dave (dave.cahill975@btinternet.com)

DECEMBER TOPIC

Unbalancing colour.



White balance is an essential aspect of photography, yet it can often seem counterintuitive. Here's a deeper look into how white balance settings work and how you can use them to your advantage:

1. **Understanding White Balance:** White balance (WB) adjusts the colours in your photos to make the image look more natural. It compensates for the colour temperature of the light source, which can vary from warm (yellow/red) to cool (blue). Different light sources have different colour temperatures measured in Kelvin (K).
2. **Preset White Balance Settings:**
 - **Auto White Balance (AWB):** The camera automatically detects and adjusts the white balance. This setting works well in many situations but may struggle with mixed lighting.
 - **Daylight/Sunny:** Used for clear, sunny days. Adds a slight warm tone to the image.
 - **Cloudy:** Adds warmth to counteract the coolness of cloudy light.
 - **Shade:** Adds even more warmth, as shaded areas are typically cooler.
 - **Tungsten/Incandescent:** Adds blue tones to counteract the yellow/orange light of tungsten bulbs.
 - **Fluorescent:** Adds magenta to counteract the green/blue light of fluorescent bulbs.
 - **Flash:** Adds warmth to balance the cool light of a flash.
3. **Counterintuitive Nature:**
 - **Candlelight:** Often has a warm, yellowish hue. The camera compensates by adding cool, blue tones to balance the warmth.

- **Fluorescent Light:** Has a cool, greenish-blue hue. The camera compensates by adding warm, pink tones to balance the coolness.
4. **Custom White Balance:**
- **Manual Adjustment:** You can manually set the white balance by specifying the colour temperature in Kelvin. Lower values (e.g., 2500K) add blue tones for warm lighting, while higher values (e.g., 7500K) add warm tones for cool lighting.
 - **Using a White or Gray Card:** You can set a custom white balance by photographing a neutral grey or white card under the lighting conditions you'll be shooting in. The camera uses this reference to adjust the colours correctly.
5. **Creative Uses:**
- **Artistic Effects:** You can intentionally set the wrong white balance for creative effects. For example, using a tungsten setting in daylight can give a cool, blue cast to your photos, creating a unique mood.
 - **Consistency in Mixed Lighting:** Custom white balance can help achieve consistent colours when dealing with mixed lighting sources, which can be particularly useful in controlled environments like studio photography.

By mastering white balance settings, you can ensure your photos have accurate colours or creatively manipulate the mood and feel of your images. Experimenting with different settings will help you understand how to use white balance to enhance your photography.

Brief

1. Conduct Test Shots Across Settings:

- Choose a variety of subjects under different lighting conditions (e.g., daylight, tungsten, fluorescent, etc.).
- For each setup, capture a series of images using every white balance preset your camera offers (e.g., Auto, Daylight, Cloudy, Tungsten).
- Save the images in JPEG format to observe the direct effect of each setting.
- Compare the results to understand how each preset alters the colours under different lighting.

2. Experiment with Custom White Balance:

- Use different objects as your reference for custom white balance settings:
 - Set your camera to "Custom White Balance" mode.

- Photograph a neutral surface, such as a grey card or a white patch, as the reference point for the camera.
- Experiment with variations:
 - Use differently coloured "cards" (e.g., pale blue, beige, or slightly tinted surfaces).
 - Observe how these influence the final image, noting that a pale blue reference creates warmer tones in the image.

3. Shooting in RAW

Although all the above can be done in post processing RAW images it can sometimes be necessary to have fixed colour temperature in an image.

- Take an in-camera multi- exposure image with both warm and cool colours