



# Vignettes 276

July 22nd, 2025

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## Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. I hope the last outing organised by Paul was enjoyable. We are having pretty good weather for our nightly jaunts. Long may it continue. A few bits a pieces this week. First, we will post, in the main part of Vignettes the comp schedule, definitions, submission dates, judging nights etc but will also include in an Appendix the comp rules and regs so if you are not sure of anything just have a look at your latest Vignettes.

## Summer meet-up dates - ongoing

Here's the remainder of the summer meet up programme to keep it in the frame: Jean has been progressing with the Summer season but keep your eye on Vignettes and the WhatsApp group for updates:

- 28 July Sculpture Park. £10 admission as they will be opening out of hours for us. Times to be confirmed but we need to know numbers as they are opening especially for us. Please let me (Jean) know if you are intending to come.
- 5 August (Tuesday) at 10.00 am -12 noon - site visit to the 'Missing Link' A417 road scheme organised by Martyn. See below.
- 18 August maybe pub to end - any other ideas?

### Note:

For those who are interested, Tough Mudder is 16 August at Badminton. Unfortunately, I (Jean) will be away. Here's a link:

[https://toughmudder.co.uk/events/south-west/?utm\\_campaign=Purchase Google Search 2025 Tough Mudder South West %7C Brand Keywords Local Conversions 8/16/25 LOCAL RACE SALES CUS2727-102 2025 Tough Mudder South West %7C Brand Keywords&utm\\_source=google search&utm\\_medium=paid search&utm\\_content=2025 Tough Mudder South West %7C Brand Keywords 2025 Tough Mudder South West&utm\\_term=tough%20mudder%202025&gad\\_source=1&gad\\_campaignid=22293326549&gbraid=0AAAAACf2qAkzbVhIQGwQEM\\_y2B00iWWKG](https://toughmudder.co.uk/events/south-west/?utm_campaign=Purchase+Google+Search+2025+Tough+Mudder+South+West+%7C+Brand+Keywords+Local+Conversions+8/16/25+LOCAL+RACE+SALES+CUS2727-102+2025+Tough+Mudder+South+West+%7C+Brand+Keywords&utm_source=google+search&utm_medium=paid+search&utm_content=2025+Tough+Mudder+South+West+%7C+Brand+Keywords+2025+Tough+Mudder+South+West&utm_term=tough%20mudder%202025&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22293326549&gbraid=0AAAAACf2qAkzbVhIQGwQEM_y2B00iWWKG)

## Trip to the Missing Link - Tuesday 5th August 10.00 - 12.00 on site.

Dave Cahill has kindly offered to be the lead contact with the contractors (I'm on hols - Dooh!!) but here's some info below. Let us know if you are coming as we may have to let the contractors know. At the moment I've estimated 15 but I don't think it's restricted. We might just need to let the contractors know. Those going so far are:

- Dave Cahill
- Jean
- John Jones
- John Spreadbury
- Shaun
- John Crew
- Daf
- Brian Champion
- Katrina

- Fin Simpson
- Steve Kirby
- Mike Cheeseman
- Andy Dipper
- Paul Norris
- John Smith
- Steve

Here's some info from the contractors

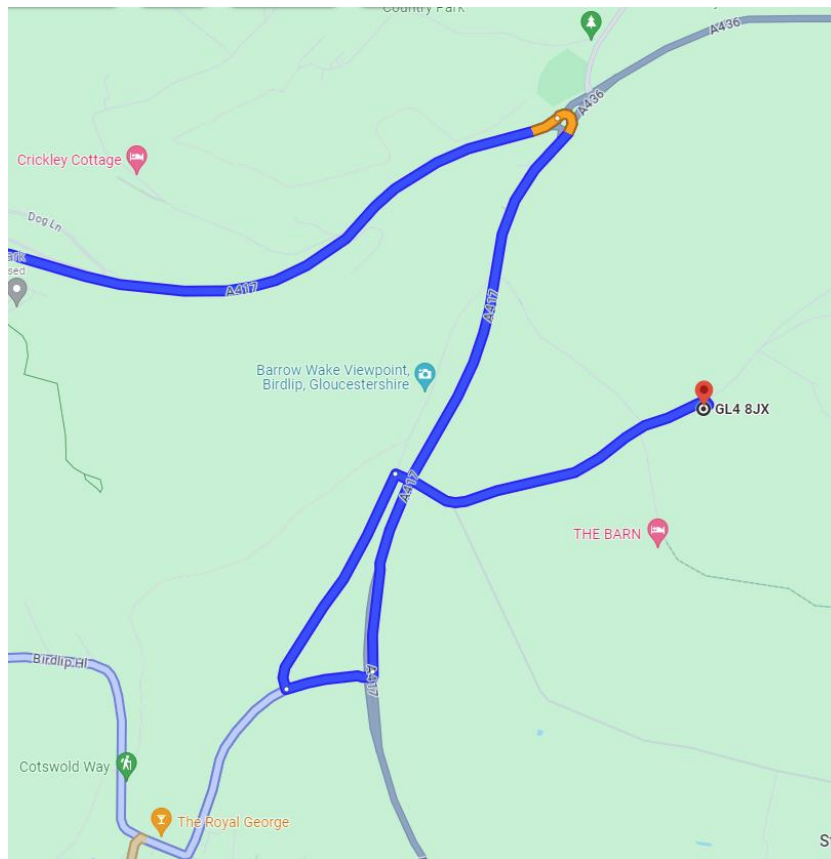
*Hi Martyn,*

*Thank you for your interest in coming to visit our site, I'm emailing you to confirm your 15 places on the site visit taking place at 10:00-12:00 on 5 August. Please see below for details on how to reach our site at Shab Valley (GL4 8JX):*

*To reach the Site from the A417, take the B4070 (signposted 'Stroud' and 'Birdlip'). After approximately 150 metres take the unclassified road to the Barrow Wake viewpoint and car park, turning right to pass back under the A417, continuing straight on for a further half mile to Acorn House (formally, McCarthy-Taylor Systems), which will be on your right. Once there, go through the traffic lights and take an immediate left to our site compound. A gates person will be at the entrance to advise you if needed.*

*Site restrictions **must** be adhered to, which is **10mph**. Please **Reverse Park**.*

*Please wear appropriate, weather dependant clothing and closed footwear to site.*



*We're really looking forward to meeting you, if you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.*

*Kind regards,*

*Harry*

*PR & Communications Apprentice*

*Kier Transportation - A417 Missing Link*

*E: [harry.mower@kier.co.uk](mailto:harry.mower@kier.co.uk)*

*M:07702624232*

### **Buying a new lens - a few thoughts and comments**

Over the last year, I've found that there's one lens missing from my armoury. A 70-200 F2.8. Canon of course! Great for macro and near telephoto use where I found I'd missed out on bird, insects and butterfly images which my 24-105 F4 just couldn't quite manage. I also think that a 70-200 F2.8 would be a useful tool for street and nighttime photography. So I started to look around at my options and came up with the following:

1. New official
2. New grey import
3. Secondhand official
4. Secondhand grey import
5. Buying one in Japan when on holiday

By way of clarity, a grey import is one which is unofficially imported from a retailer abroad, often at significant cost savings, sometimes but not always, via a UK

established business. Grey imports are identical to the 'official' models sold in the UK by the official UK supplier but not offered with an official factory warranty. Indeed Canon insist that any repairs by an official service agent are undertaken in the country of origin. They may come in a white box rather than the official one and may have Japanese instructions and possibly a two pin charging plug. However they are not substandard items or last year's model. They just take advantage of the different global pricing structure which can see camera models sold in the UK at much higher prices than in other countries. No need to be afraid of a grey import as a matter of principle but you need to take heed. See below.

My quest became an interesting exercise as the difference in cost (worst case) between a secondhand grey import lens (£1500) and a new official UK (£3000) is about £1500. Not insubstantial.

I think it's worth saying at this point that we are only talking lenses here as I wouldn't take the risk with a new camera. Their increasing tech complexity and the comfort of securing an official warranty plus guarantee of official firmware updates is the peace of mind I would want with buying an official UK spec camera, even if it is more expensive than a grey import. But that's just my opinion.

Getting back to the lens choice, my starting point was a new official Canon lens and I could see quite quickly that their retail price of about £3000 is currently being discounted to about £2700 by the big hitters like Wex and Park Cameras. So far as secondhand official UK lenses are concerned, whilst they were hovering around £2000-£2300 mark including from some reputable dealers, there is no way of knowing whether they are official or grey importers versions. Even the dealers couldn't tell me when I enquired which was quite surprising and there is no serial number index out there to differentiate between an official or grey import. Canon offer a model recognition service via the serial number but it takes 4/5 days to find out and I'm not sure what its reaction would be to identifying a grey import. There is also the issue of how well they have been looked after albeit that most reputable dealers assess the lens condition and functions and will offer a UK based warranty via a recognised UK service centre.

So moving onto the grey import market, there are a number of potential pitfalls and matters worth mentioning so my advice is to use Google and look at YouTube. However here are a few things worth mentioning.

- Many new grey imports come from Switzerland or Japan.
- Some 'new' grey imports being sold are, in fact, returned items because of some damage or marks on the lens.
- Official Canon warranties are not offered.
- Warranties are offered but these can vary in quality depending on the source (location) of the lens.
- There are some respected UK grey importers who have been in business for many years. The better ones also offer warranties and returns within the UK.
- There are also some UK grey importers with dodgy credentials. I found one which operated under different names and offered very poor after sales service. Just look at sites like Trustpilot and other review sites. Be wary.

- Most grey imports (Uk and abroad) operate on line. This contributes to their reduced running costs which are reflected in their market price. No shop to visit if things go wrong.
- There are no known Canon fake lenses in the market.
- Firmware updates for Canon mirrorless grey import lenses have not been shown to be an issue in the Uk.

The above led me to conclude that it was worth investigating the Uk based grey importers and I landed on Cotswold Cameras as one who are offering a new grey import lens (70-200 F2.8) for £1629, a big saving over the discounted new official Uk lens and a close price match to those grey import offers from Switzerland or Japan.

I quickly looked at secondhand grey import lenses and apart from very little saving in cost over a new grey import lens and variable warranty offers, I discounted this option simply on the basis that there was no way of knowing how it had been looked after. So, a secondhand grey import also offered little benefit in cost and potentially have more issues over wear and tear.

As for buying a lens whilst on holiday (in my case Japan) my research showed that (bizarrely) the price of cameras and lenses in Japan are about the same as they are in the Uk. No help there!

So, in conclusion, buying a new grey import lens soon became a no brainier for me and, at this moment in time, Cotswold Cameras seem to be to offer the best service - all on line. I'll let you know how I get on.

Cheers

Martyn

### **External Exhibitions, Shows and Competition**

This years Club Annual Aviation Trophy - you know, the one that only fits on the top of your wardrobe!!

Here's some pics from last weekends RIAT 2025. Were you there?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crmvp9rxg7yo>

If you want to learn street photography, you need to study the work of Louis Stettner  
At least according to this article. Check it out and there's the inevitable book:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/books/if-you-want-to-learn-street-photography-you-need-to-study-the-work-of-louis-stettner>

### Leica Oskar Barnack Award (LOBA) 2025 shortlist

A shortlist of 12 photographers has been announced for the Leica Oskar Barnack Award 2025, showcasing powerful and timely stories. Across twelve shortlisted projects, drawn from over 120 nominations worldwide, the selection spans personal, political, and cultural narratives; each marked by striking visual language and deep emotional resonance. Check out this article and link to the website:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/the-leica-oskar-barnack-award-2025-shortlist-reveals-the-epitome-of-photographic-storytelling>

Real photos rated by a robot in Excire photography competition

This subject is going to run and run. The Excire “People in Focus” Photography Competition winners have been announced, with the three winners listed below. There’s been much talk of AI imagery’s place within photography comps, but there’s been little talk of AI judges. And while “People in Focus” only accepted real photography, it shook things up by including an AI judging panel. Check out the story:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/do-you-agree-with-this-ai-judge-real-photos-rated-by-a-robot-in-excire-photography-competition>

'WildLove' by one of the world's most awarded wildlife photographers – Pedro Jarque Krebs – is a must-see even if you shoot in a different genre

Check out this article and who knows, you might just buy the book:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/books/i-have-never-seen-such-a-connection-as-pedro-is-able-to-accomplish-in-the-wild-and-he-finds-it-each-and-every-time>

## **BBC pictures**

As usual some great images and backstories from across the globe from the BBC’s website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/c0k7dy5832zo>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cdez88g7p46o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c62dx1g78g8o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c39ze3r7ljdo>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y7zl9xdn8o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgmwdn3edpvo>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg9nxj48e0o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/articles/c20pzig45ng2o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c939w2l54d2o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr4w53w1peyo>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1wp572zvw0o>

## Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026

	Competition	Submission date	Judging night
<b>Summer Cup</b>	DPI – 2025 Summer Club Events	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
<b>A</b>	Open DPI & Print	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>B</b>	Set DPI & Print – Square Format	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025
<b>C</b>	Open DPI & Print	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
<b>D</b>	Set DPI & Print – Automotive	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
<b>E</b>	Open DPI & Print	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>F</b>	Set DPI & Print – In the Kitchen	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Annual</b>	2025-2026 Competitions Annual	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	20 <sup>th</sup> April and 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Definitions of Set Subjects

**SQUARE FORMAT:** typically refers to using a square aspect ratio (1:1) intentionally as a creative constraint or theme. This can be achieved in camera, or by cropping during post processing. So, you are being asked to explore how composition, balance, or storytelling changes when restricted to a square. The square naturally invites symmetry, central framing, and geometric precision and works well for portraits, minimalism, or patterns. Rule of thirds still applies but feels different, centred subjects often look stronger in square, and negative space becomes more powerful. Explore how the square changes emotional or narrative impact. How does it shift the viewer's attention compared to landscape or portrait orientation?

**AUTOMOTIVE:** A follow- on from Amy Shore's Presentation in October. A chance to explore and creatively interpret vehicles and the world around them as your primary theme. This can go far beyond simply photographing a car — it's an invitation to tell stories, explore design, motion, culture, and even emotion through the lens of automotive imagery.

**IN THE KITCHEN:** Typically, a scene encompassing components or activities that you would find in the kitchen. This could be food still life, equipment and utensils or an activity such as stirring a pot.



## CCC Annual Competition Categories

– Submission deadline 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026		
Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic Chosen by President)	Sunset in the Cotswolds	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Dennis Moss Trophy	Open	Print + DPI 1600 x 1200 sRGB
Leonard Jones Cup	Open	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Cavendish Cup	Black & White Open	Print + DPI 1600 x 1200 sRGB
Miles Shield	Open (Club Outing)	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Gladiator Trophy	Aviation	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Ted Parrot Trophy	Sporting Action	DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB
Pitchers Cup (Open to new members only)	Open	Print + DPI or DPI, 1600 x 1200, sRGB

For all Competitions, please upload images by the submission date shown above via Pixoroo link below: -

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

### Quote of the week

*The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do. - Andy Warhol*

*That's it, have a good week.*

*Cheers*

Martyn ([thehoneys@btinternet.com](mailto:thehoneys@btinternet.com))

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

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

## **Club Competitions from September 2025**

Club Competitions are designed to allow members the opportunity for their best images to be critiqued by a qualified judge from outside the club whilst engaged in friendly competition with other club members. The judge will award the following positions and points.

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	6 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	5 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 points
Highly Commended	3 points
Commended	2 points
All other entries	1 point

Points from all externally judged competitions throughout the season are totalled prior to the Awards Evening and the member with the most points is awarded the **Presidents Cup**.

### **Summer Cup**

The Summer Cup is a Member Judged competition held at the start of each season. Members may enter one DPI taken at one of the Club's Summer Events that year. As this competition is member judged all entries, including those placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> may be entered in any General or Annual Competition.

### **General Competitions**

All General Competitions are externally judged and consist of 2 sections:

1. Digital Projected Image (DPI)
2. Mounted Print

There are 6 competitions throughout the season – 3 x Open and 3 x Set Subject. Following completion of all six competitions trophies are awarded at the Annual AGM to the members with the most points in each of the following Categories.

1. Open DPI
2. Open Print
3. Set DPI
4. SET Print

Set subjects, submission and judging dates are available on the Club Website, Vignettes and Pixoroo.

### **Annual Competitions**

There are several Trophy based Annual Competitions, many dedicated to the memory of past Camera Club members. Judging is spread over two evenings towards the end of the season. Members may enter once in each competition with the winner holding the Trophy for one year.

<b>Pitchers Trophy</b>	A subject chosen by the Club President each year – DPI
<b>Pitchers Cup</b>	Open to New members only in their first full season – open DPI
<b>Dennis Moss Trophy</b>	A mounted Print on any subject
<b>Leonard Jones Cup</b>	Open subject DPI
<b>Cavendish Cup</b>	A monochrome mounted Print on any subject
<b>Miles Shield</b>	A DPI taken on a Club outing or Practical Event.
<b>Gladiator Trophy</b>	A DPI with an Aviation Theme
<b>Ted Parrot Trophy</b>	Sporting Action based DPI

## **Competition Rules from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

### **General Competitions**

1. There are 6 General competitions (3 Open and 3 set subject) per Season each consisting of 2 categories – Digital Projected Image (DPI) and Print.
2. Club members may enter one entry in each category for each General Competition.
3. All digital images must be in the sRGB colour space, no greater than 1600 pixels wide x 1200 pixels high, and 2.3Gb in size.
4. All prints must be mounted with mount size not to exceed 50cm x 40cm and a digital image of each Print entry must be provided.
5. All image Manipulation processes and techniques are eligible, provided that:
  - a) the image originates from a camera or smartphone.
  - b) entrants own the copyright to every element of their submissions the image, including its components.
  - c) AI techniques (eg AI denoise, AI sharpening) can be used to enhance the image provided that data is not drawn from outside the existing image to create new content (Generative AI).
  - d) the image is no older than three (3) years from the first meeting of the current club season.
  - e) any modification of the original image must be made by the author or under his/her personal direction.
6. All General Competition entries both DPI and Print should be uploaded to Pixoroo by the Competition close date.
7. All Prints should be handed to the Competitions Secretary by the competition close date specified in Pixoroo and the Club programme.
8. All digital images and digital images of prints entered for any competition must be available for use in inter-club competitions and for display on the club website. All prints must be available for interclub battles and for publicity displays in
9. Cirencester.
10. The club reserves the right to maintain a catalogue of all images entered in competitions.
11. A digitally projected image or print that has been awarded a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any class of General competition may not be entered into any Club, Summer or Annual competition again.
12. Entries cannot be submitted more than twice in any class.

### **Annual Competitions**

1. Annual Competitions are divided into a range of categories. Details of each category are published on the Club Website, Vignettes and Pixoroo. Winners of each category are awarded a trophy.
  - a) The General Competition rules plus the additional rules below apply to all Annual Competitions.
  - b) Members can enter one image per category.
  - c) Members must have entered 2 or more General Competitions during the current season.

- d) Entries for competitions that feature practical night/club outing must be taken between the previous judging date and the closing date of the current seasons Annual Competitions.
- e) A digitally projected image or print that has been awarded a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any class of Annual competition may not be entered into any General, Summer or Annual competition again.
- f) A monochrome image is an image that consists of varying tones of a single colour. Most commonly, this refers to grayscale images, which contain only shades of grey ranging from black to white. However, a monochrome image can also use any other single hue, with variations in brightness or intensity.
- g) Sporting Action is defined as fast paced competitive activity governed by a specific set of rules defined by a sports governing body.