



Vignettes 285

October 15th, 2025

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Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. Lots of stuff to report this week. Six of us met up at the Cheltenham Literature Festival on Tuesday to watch Martin Parr being interviewed (details posted in Vignettes 277). A very entertaining hour it was too, topped up by our acquisition of his latest biographical book which he signed in the Waterstones Bookshop afterwards. Here's the six of us swapping notes over a coffee.



Here's Dave with his weekly round up:

Programme Secretary's Review

Hi everyone. The turnout for the annual camera club outing to the Cirencester Mop Fair was a little disappointing. Perhaps the unexpected mizzle put some members off or maybe this annual event needs a rest from us for a while. I reckon about 12-15 of us came to meet up outside the Parish Church at 6.30, and, I hope, had an enjoyable evening. The select 4 who made it to The Crown afterwards did anyway! I took nearly 400 photos, I reckon I will keep just half a dozen or so. I've got a couple that I was really pleased with and are contenders for my Miles Shield entry at the end of the season.

Next week, 20th October, we have a presentation by Amy Shore on How To Be A Car Photographer. Amy works for clients such as Ferrari, BMW and JLR. She provides photos for a range of motoring magazines and produces high quality limited edition prints. Here's Amy:

'I mainly photograph car and motorbike related subjects but I do dabble in a bunch of other stuff like boats, aeroplanes, watches, and onion fields. Yep, onion fields was an actual job. I loved it. All of my work tends to revolve around people, whether it's in workshops, road trips, events, breaking records or just a great story.'

She is also a European ambassador for Nikon.



By all accounts Amy is a very entertaining and inspirational speaker. I am expecting her to be the Jack Boskett of the current season!

NB. Competition D Set Subject is Automotive, so this event should not be missed!

It will be our usual start time of 7:30pm.

I hope to see you there.

*Cheers
Dave*

Thanks Dave. Here's Paul with his summary of last weeks Battle

Battle Secretary's Review

Hi everyone. I hope that you are having a good week. As promised the results and a few thoughts on last week's battle.

The annual interclub battle between Swindon, Wantage and Cirencester was held on 9 October. As ever this was a close affair with all three clubs separated by 9 points. The final results are as follows:

Swindon - 358

Cirencester - 353

Wantage - 349

Our judge was Steve Field from Bristol, who provided some excellent commentary on all our images, challenging where appropriate and proposing improvements. Well done particularly to Billy and Tricia for their excellent feedback and full marks with Family Life and Tinned Salmon and to Martyn and Gary for their great feedback and scores of 19.

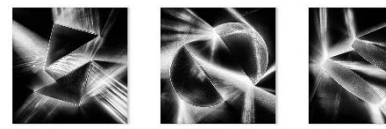
I appreciate there were some Zoom challenges in the first half, but hopefully the second half was better once the correct screen was shared.

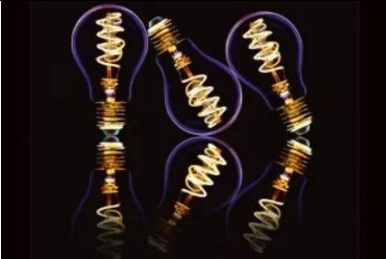
Finally, and on a personal note, I believe this is one of the strongest set of images that we have submitted as a club for a while, and it was even more pleasing to see that 14 different photographers represented the club. Well done particularly to those who have had their inaugural images selected and for the scores achieved!

Summary of our selected images, titles, authors and individual scores:

DPI title / Score	Author	Image	Comments
Goal Kick 17	Gary Gleghorn		A good sports image but in a topic that is unforgiving you really need to see the faces of the main people. Whilst there is good story telling, action and movement the image loses impact because you cannot see the goal keepers facial expression. Good exposure, depth of field and spacing of players
Outnumbered 17	John Hankin		A good sports image with humour covering the small defender and three large forwards. Good storytelling and image captured at the correct moment. The faces provide aggression and everything that should be sharp is correct

Misty Dawn Down Ampney 18	Paul Norris		A great image, with positioning of sheep, trees and feeling of recession. The tonal quality is good and the path provides a leading line. Good rim lighting on the sheep bit would like to have seen more detail in the bottom. Use photoshop to raise the brightness (interesting on other screens this was showing as much brighter)
Looking into the Takeaway 18	Colin Hoskins		The overall image provides great story telling with the wall art, placing of the shop light like a miners light and the level of detail within the takeaway. To improve the image the judge would like to have cropped the RHS removing the distracting residential doorway and light. A good technical image (post judging discussion, when the judge realised this was a phone image he was extremely impressed with the quality and treatment of the image)
Tinned Salmon 20	Tricia Lindsay		A stunning image that speaks personally to the judge. The idea is original, he loves the treatment and simplicity and the background is complementary. Whilst it is quirky it all works, is well exposed and sharp in all the right places. One of the images of the competition
Reflections of the Divine 18	Ruth Barker		An impactful and well framed image. The reflections are divine with great exposure control. Detail is in all the correct places throughout the image, including the windows. The cross positioning works and provides a strong focus. To improve the image the judge would have liked an uplift of detail in the shadows, but it is the symmetry that makes the image
Baker Street 18	Dave Cahill		Whilst a commonly photographed location, the image tells a good story and is well executed. The judge particularly liked the juxtaposition between the people, with the people and activities complementing each other. B&W treatment works but would have liked to see a cropping off the bottom
Lunch in the Snow 17	Tricia Lindsay		The judge was challenged with this image between liking the group of horses, its positioning and framing but concerned that the crop is too tight and wanting to see more of the broader environment. He would also have liked more detail in the snow (not sure given Tricia wanted this as high key!). The colour saturation, detail and treatment of the horses is excellent
First Home 17	Martyn Smith		A beautiful picture, fabulous light capture in the sky and middle / far distance. (the term the judge used was corpuscular) Strong leading lines and placing of people in the image. The judge suggested as an improvement to remove the two people of the RHS through cropping both right and bottom and focus on the more distant people and skyscape

Family Life 20	Billy Kerr		A high quality image with excellent storytelling that again talks to the judge. The interrelationship between each of the monkey just works and tells a fantastic story that has been captured at just the correct moment. Whilst the background is bright it is not distracting and the facial expressions are amazing
I see no ships 17	Daphne Neal		Whilst the judge liked the image he believed that it was primarily a holiday shot. Technically the image has the correct level of detail, colour saturation and detail in the sky. However the judge was challenged by the placing of the hands, preferring them under the hat (with the hat being the key focus of the image) and also the distracting detail on the floor neds treating in photoshop
Short Eared Owl 19	Paul Norris		A strong nature image demonstrating excellent fieldcraft. Excellent backlighting on the owls wings, depth of field is spot in. Two suggestions from the judge was to further brighten the owls face and adjust the level of the wings to make them parallel
Planet London 16	Nigel Rogers		The judge liked the image, saying it was both clever and effective but then proceeded to advise he would have preferred a single plane landscape view with the image placing too heavy a reliance on photoshop. A good experiment but it has not quite worked
Gordon Russell 16	David Cahill		Confusion over the title and meaning of the quality B&W image did not help the judge. Whilst the judge liked the quality of the image with leading lines he struggled (understandably) to get past the title
Black and Light 17	Mike Cheeseman		The triptych approach works with three complementary images and shapes. Great tonality and composition leaving the judge wanting to know more about the geometric presentation. An image the judger enjoyed

Breakthrough 17	Mike Cheeseman		A strong and stunning image which is original and cleverly thought through. The shutter speed is appropriate, freezing the water. The top part of the picture is darker and the judge wondered whether some adjustment may improve it. The key line edge is appropriate and works
Tri light 18	Steve Kirby		The judge like the creation, positioning and overall focal quality of the image. The placing and spacing of the lights was excellent and the arrangement well put together. Although a composite the judge appreciated the originality The key line worked and overall the judge called it an inspiring image
Pairs and Pants 19	Martyn Smith		A great observational image that has the right level of humour. Good detail, tonal quality and colour saturation throughout but especially in the buildings. The judge recommended that the reflection in the top LHS window are removed to provide uniformity.
Natures magnifying glass 16	Jeann Thirkettle		A pleasant image with good choice of colour palette. Good focus on the leaf and detail but judge would have liked to also see the leaf stalk in focus. The leaf is also too tight in the frame and the judge believed that the image needed another element to lift it to another level

Here's looking at you Kit	Gary Gleghorn		A strong nature image, great reflection, detail and positioning within the image. An appropriate exposure, placing in the frame and saturation. The separation of the nose on the water really raises the image. Well seen and executed
19			

And then there were three - Christmas Quiz - A reminder

Since last week, we've had one more coming to the Christmas Quiz - thank you Colin! It's at the Greyhound in Siddington which has become our regular venue for this event. Dave Cahill is delighted that I organise the event as he gets a night off and David Wallis has once again been volunteered to be Quizmaster!! Thanks David. So, one for the diary:

Christmas Quiz

Venue - Greyhound Pub, Siddington

Date - December 15th 2025

Time - 7.00 sharp.

Food - from 7.45

I'll circulate the food menu once I've heard from the pub and note any allergies. Historically around 30 members attend each year which makes for a good night. Team tables will be chosen at random nearer the time but in the first instance can you let me know if you are coming. I'll list the attendees in Vignettes each week. Here's the latest:

1. David Wallis
2. Martyn S
3. Colin Hoskins
4. ?
5. ?
6. Etc

Cirencester Twinning Association 2026 Calendar

Thanks to Steve Kirby for letting us know on the WhatsApp Group of our success in getting our images into next year's Cirencester Twinning Association Calendar. Well done to contributors Syd Matthews, John Hankin, Steve Kirby and John Spreadbury. To take advantage of our success in the calendar, I circulated a Press Release to our committee for comment. Our President, John Hankin, contacted me to highlight some interesting information about the Calendar which I've incorporated into the Press release.

It turns out that, in a change to the normal selection process, the calendar images are the personal favourites of Association's retiring Editor, Margaret Bryant, chosen from her last

10 years in the role. Because of that, I emailed her to get her approval of the Press release. This is her charming response (to which I've replied):

Hello Martyn,

Thank you for your thoughtful acknowledgement regarding our calendars. It has been a rewarding time over the years in more sense than just raising funds for CTA. I've come to appreciate the support that the Camera Club have constantly given us, in particular John Hankin and Syd Matthews. Syd told me a couple of weeks ago that his eyesight is failing now so it was very special to be able to use his beautiful image of the Abbey as our front cover.

Perhaps now the chapter of producing calendars for the town has closed for us maybe the CCC could take up the baton and organise a competition for future ones, either amongst yourselves or involving the local residents.

This brings me to another point. Some 4 years ago now I negotiated a connection between the Itzehoe FotoClub and CCC. Itzehoe were very keen and initially CCC were too. A possible competition was put forward similar to one with Bathurst Australia that had taken place but it never materialised. My contact with your club was Jill Bewley. Perhaps you would like to initiate this idea once more and I would be happy to contact Itzehoe if the interest is there.

Thank you once again Martyn, we look forward to hearing from you,

Margaret

A few thoughts there:

- A 2027 CCC calendar perhaps.
- A battle against Itzehoe.

And finally

For all Canon mirrorless lovers, it looks like (finally and with a degree of certainty) the Canon R6 Mk3 is to be announced on the 6th November. We shall see!

External Exhibitions and Competitions

Spaniard wins Fritz Pölking Prize 2025

Here's a competition I've not come across before. Spanish photographer Javier Aznar has been awarded the prestigious Fritz Pölking Prize 2025 for his hauntingly powerful photo essay *Love, Hate and Rattlesnakes*. Aznar's work explores the complex and often contradictory relationship between humans and rattlesnakes in the American West – a tale woven from centuries of fear, myth, persecution, and hope. Check out the winning images:

<https://www.gdtfoto.de/seiten/fpp-gallery-2025.html>

Rewilding Europe Awards has been announced

Another comp I haven't come across. Spanish photographer Jon A Juarez has won the prestigious Rewilding Europe Award 2025 with his stunning image capturing the historic release of an Atlantic sturgeon in Sweden's Gota River. This powerful photo, captured on a Nikon Z8, not only marks the return of a species absent for over 120 years, but highlights the vital role that rewilding plays in restoring Europe's natural landscapes. Check out some amazing images:

<https://rewildingeurope.com/ewpy-rewilding-europe-award/>

BBC pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cymrufyw/erthyglau/c7082dg72x8o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cly9ln32yqzo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj075q547j9o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07v4e50144o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c75qp5v4pzro>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce80rgdqzqqo>

Chairmans Challenge Part 7

Here is the seventh of this year's photo challenge.

15 October 2025

7 Back-Button Focus

-  **Objective:** Separate focusing from shutter button.
-  **Setting:** Enable back-button focusing in camera settings.
-  **Assignment:** Practice portraits or moving subjects.
-  **Tip:** Great for recomposing or action sequences.

Quote of the week

I really believe there are things nobody would see if I didn't photograph them - Diane Arbus

That's it, have a good week.

Cheers

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

David (david.wallis@btinternet.com)
Dave (david.cahill@cantab.net)

Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026

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

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 st Place	6 points
2 nd Place	5 points
3 rd 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 1st, 2nd, or 3rd 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.

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

Competition Rules from 1st 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.

Club Programme 2025-26

S E P T	01 September 2025		Opening Meeting incl Photo AI & Chairman's Challenge Pt2
	08 September 2025		WCPF Print Viewing
	15 September 2025		Summer Cup Knockout DPLs
	22 September 2025		Nick Hodgson - Free Mines Coal Faces
	29 September 2025		Colin Walls - Observational Photography
O C T	06 October 2025		Competition A Judging - Open
	13 October 2025		Mop Fair - 6:30pm - Cirencester Parish Church
	20 October 2025		Amy Shore - How To Be A Car Photographer
	27 October 2025		How To Preserve, Present, Display Our Images
N O V	03 November 2025		Competition B Judging - Square Format
	10 November 2025		Brian Lee - My Diamond Decade
	17 November 2025		Cheltenham Salon AV Presentation
	24 November 2025		Battle Selection Evening
D E C	01 December 2025		Competition C Judging - Open
	08 December 2025		Andy Phillips - More Than Meets The Eye - remote ZOOM - 7pm
	15 December 2025		Annual Buffet/Quiz - 7pm - Greyhound Pub
	22 December 2025		Christmas Break
	29 December 2025		Christmas Break
J A N	05 January 2026		Charlie Waite - Behind The Photograph - remote ZOOM - 7pm
	12 January 2026		Travelogue UK
	19 January 2026		Competition D Judging - Automotive
	26 January 2026		Take 4
F E B	02 February 2026		Tim Jones - An Evening With Fotospeed
	09 February 2026		Latest Developments in Photoshop - Shaun Little
	16 February 2026		Competition E Judging - Open
	23 February 2026		Lockdown Memories

M A R	02 March 2026		Ian Howard - The Anatomy Of A Shot - remote ZOOM - 7pm
	09 March 2026		Cirencester College Visit - 7pm
	16 March 2026		Competition F Judging - In The Kitchen
	23 March 2026		Battle v Stroud & Cheltenham
	30 March 2026		Terry Walters - 100 Monochrome Images
A P R	06 April 2026		Bank Holiday - Easter Monday
	13 April 2026		Macro Photography - Mike Cheeseman & John Smith
	20 April 2026		The Print Panel Challenge/Annual Competition Judging
	27 April 2026		Annual Competition Judging
M A Y	04 May 2026		Bank Holiday - May Day
	11 May 2026		Outdoor Model Photoshoot - Kate Peake
	18 May 2026		AGM & Annual Awards
	Competition Judging		
	External Speakers		