



Vignettes 286

October 22nd, 2025

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Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. We had an excellent turnout on Monday night to hear Amy Shore present her talk on auto photography. Here's Dave with his round up:

Programme Secretary's Review

Hi everyone. We had a great turnout for the Amy Shore talk this week on How To Be A Car Photographer. Amy was a very enthusiastic and exuberant speaker, and I think she lived up to my billing to be the Jack Boskett of the current season. We saw some super images where she demonstrated a very creative and personal approach to her work. It was interesting to hear how she had progressed from a wedding photography business, using ideas which worked well there, and picking up influences from a number of photographers she admired along the way. The big message that came across to me though was 'find your own style'.

It was also good that she shared details of her equipment – now two Nikon Z9s, and mainly three prime lenses, 35mm f1.4, 50mm f1.2 and 85mm f1.4. A lot of her work was in low light, so the fast lenses were very important. I also noted the point that she always had a polarising filter in play to reduce glare (though I think her comment about having to remove her own reflection from shots many times struck a chord with some of us). The importance of finding locations was also key, and she gave us good tips about composition, use of people in the image, lighting and processing. It didn't seem to me that she did a lot of post processing, and I noted the point that she used the Adobe Standard colour profile in Photoshop, not the Adobe Color which comes up as the default when I looked. The internet tells me that Standard is an older profile which produces less vivid, more muted colours, which did seem to be a feature of her work.

Overall, I hope you agree it was a great presentation. We have the set subject 'Automotive' coming up as competition D soon, so I am really looking forward to seeing some Amy Shore inspired images now. In our own styles of course. The tricky bit for us will be gaining access to the very photogenic cars that were a given for Amy.

Next week we have a chairman's special, How to Preserve, Present and Display Our Images. Your fantastic image has been taken, processed and judged – what then? David Wallis will run through some ideas on how to preserve and display your work. For the second part of the evening please feel free to bring any prints, wall art, photo books etc. that you would like to show.

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

I hope to see you there.

Dave

Thanks Dave. An excellent round up of a creative night.

Dave has also been contacted regarding a smartphone workshop at the Bath Christmas Markets. Details as follows:



Dear Dave

I'm delighted to share an exclusive opportunity for your members this upcoming festive season.

I'll be hosting a **Bath Streets & Christmas Market Smartphone Photography Workshop**, and Cirencester Camera Club members are invited to join with a **30% discount** off the retail price.

As a gesture of gratitude for your support, I'll donate to Cirencester Camera Club £10 per attending member of Cirencester Camera Club who uses the discount code ccc2911.

Workshop Details

Narrative: Christmas Market Smartphone Photography Workshop

Location: Bath Streets

Date/Time: Sat, 29 Nov 2025, from 10:00 am

We all carry a camera in our pockets, but have you truly explored what yours can do? Join me in the heart of Bath for a relaxed, hands-on photography experience set against the magical backdrop of Bath's festive streets and Christmas Market. Together, we'll discover how to capture stunning images with your smartphone while enjoying the seasonal sights, sounds, and atmosphere of one of the UK's most beautiful cities.

What You'll Learn

How to get the most from your smartphone's camera controls

Tips on using external apps (over a warm coffee break)

Composition techniques for striking photos

Creative shooting styles

Confidence-building techniques to take your mobile photography further. This is a relaxed and inspiring session, perfect for beginners and enthusiasts alike. Bring your phone, wrap up warm, and get ready to see Bath and its Christmas Market in a whole new light.

Members' Offer

Discount Code: **ccc2911**

Discount: 30% off the retail price

Plus: £10 donated to Cirencester Camera Club per attendee using the above code

Spaces are limited, so please share this with your members soon! Bookings can be made via Eventbrite : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1733315255589>.

Happy photography



Mark Stothard MA BA (Hons) FdA ARPS NPS
Award Winning Qualified Photographer and Educator
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Christmas Quiz

And now there are eight! - Christmas Quiz - A reminder

Since last week, we've had another few coming to the Christmas Quiz. 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. Brian Champion
5. Gary Gleghorn
6. Steve Kirby
7. John Crew
8. Paul Norris
- 9.
10. Etc

Don't leave it too late.

RSPB Photo Contest is closing soon

We've had an approach regarding the RSPB photo contest

Dear Cirencester Camera Club

We're reaching out with an exciting reminder - entries for the SINWP Bird Photographer of the Year 2025 in aid of the RSPB are closing soon!

This is a fantastic opportunity for your members to showcase their bird photography skills, compete on an international stage, and win incredible prizes - all while supporting the vital work of bird conservation.

Encourage your members to get involved and submit their best images before the deadline, we'd love to see your club represented among this year's entries!

FINAL CALL: Deadline is October 31 2025



The Society of International Nature and Wildlife Photographers (SINWP) is urging photographers worldwide to submit their best bird images now - the Bird Photographer of the Year 2025 competition closes on 31 October 2025.

This prestigious contest, run in aid of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), has raised over £16,138 to date through past competitions.

Enter here <https://sinwp.com/bird/>

With entry priced at a minimum of £1 per image, 100% of donations go directly to the RSPB to support their vital work in protecting avian wildlife and habitats.

"We are thrilled by the response so far, but time is running out," said Colin Jones, SINWP CEO. "We strongly encourage all bird photographers - from hobbyists to professionals - to enter their best work before the deadline. Together, we can make a significant contribution to the RSPB and elevate awareness of birds and their conservation."

Key Competition Details

- Closing date: 31 October 2025
- Entry fee: Minimum £1 per image (no maximum)
- Prizes: The overall winner receives the Bird Photographer of the Year 2025 trophy and certificate, one year's free professional membership of SINWP, a copy of the Anthopics Collection, among other rewards.

For details on how to enter see here <https://sinwp.com/bird/>

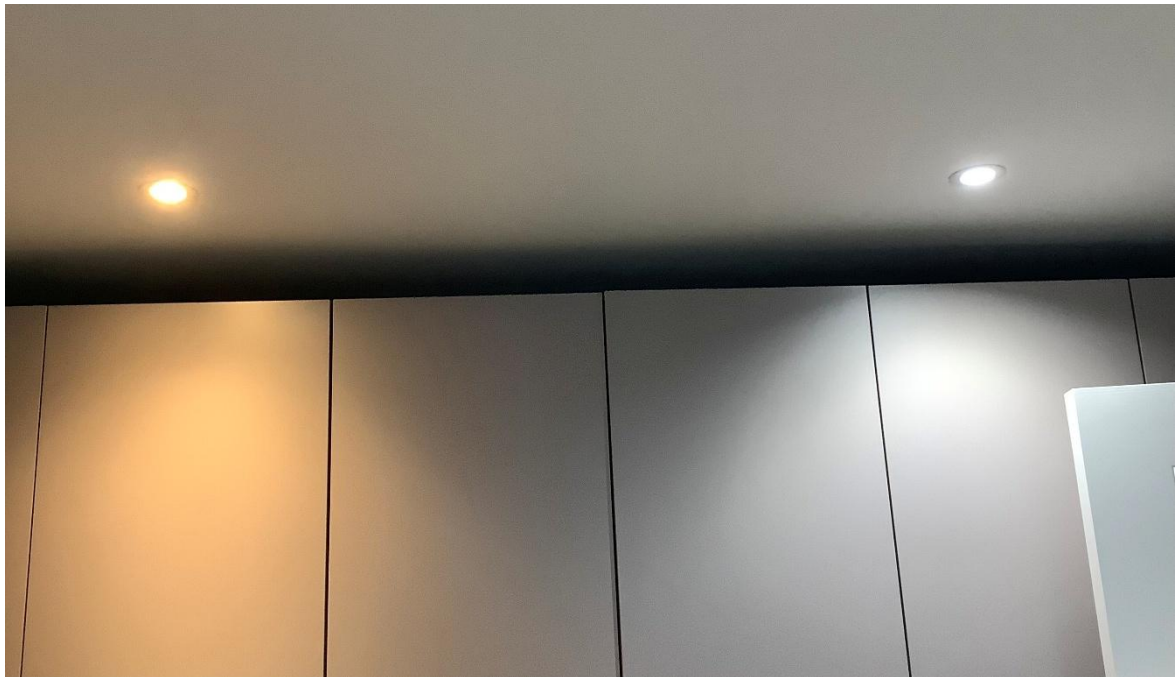
Colour temperature

I noticed during the last competition judging that some print images were much darker than their DPI equivalent - something which the judge didn't really pick up on too much but the differences were quite noticeable. In general it points towards too bright a monitor screen during processing and I fell into the same trap in one of my DPI images. Sure enough a screen recalibration brought down my screen brightness, something which Shaun often advises that we should be tuned into. Back lit monitors are naturally bright to start with.

Tangential to that issue is the ambient brightness and colour temperature of your study/studio/spare bedroom/shed/garage or where ever you are doing your image processing. This is not to be underestimated. You can sometimes be fooled into changing the colour temp of your image by the room's ambient lighting particularly in the evening when the nights are dark. We all remember, when LED bulbs first came out, that they shone with a terribly harsh white/blueness but these days LED bulbs of all colour temperatures, measured in Kelvin, are available. When we bought our house the inside lighting was variable to say the least so I decided that dimable 'warm white' (2700 - 3000 Kelvin) LED bulbs (GU10) would work and to provide a range of intensity, I chose "bulbs" of around 5 watt output (using a x10 multiplier as a guide = 50 watts in old money).

This lighting coverage included my office lighting albeit most of my processing is carried out during the day using natural daylight from the windows. Having recalibrated my monitor, I decided as 'belt and braces' to change the office ambient lighting as well and after much research found that 5000 Kelvin would provide a good 'daylight' colour temperature compromise. I was conscious not to get into the 5500-6000 Kelvin lighting range suggested in some quarters as I thought it would be heading into 'blue white'

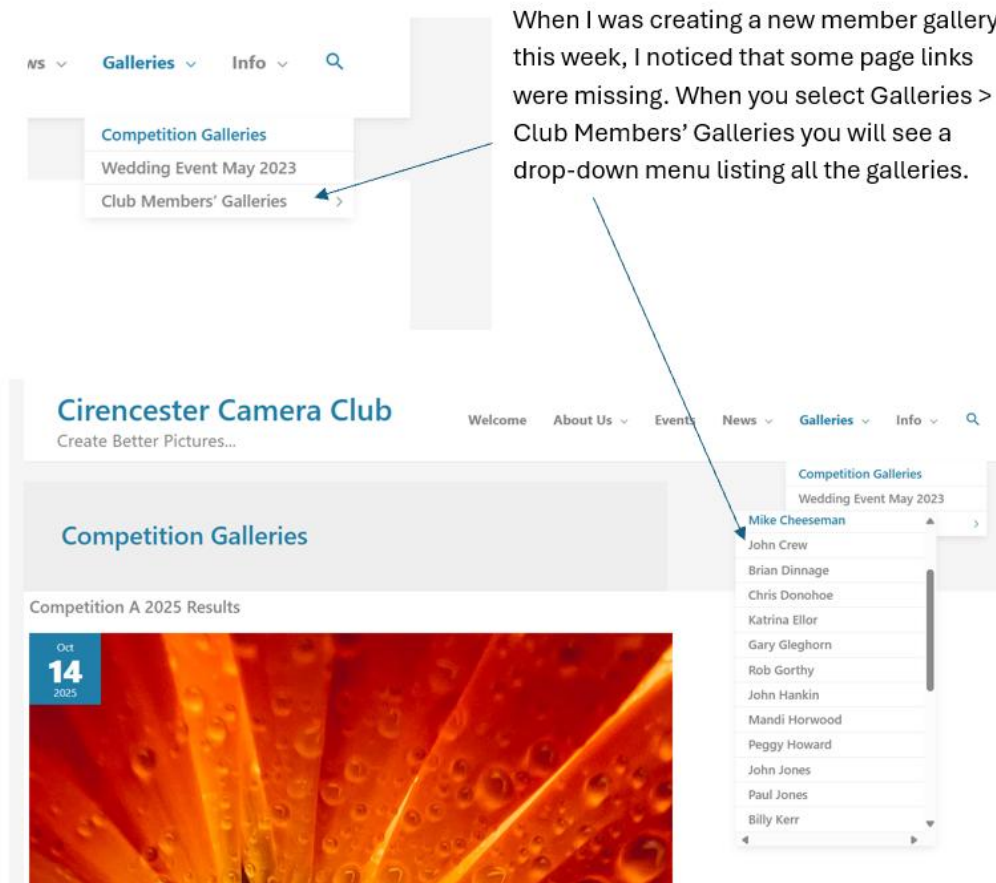
territory. Just to give you an idea of the difference here's an image taken with my iPhone of the two bulbs in the office (2700 vs 5000 Kelvin) on maximum power (50 watts). All I can say is the result is a more natural ambient lighting and I wish I had done it before!! Check out the photo:



Club Website Galleries

Website Members Galleries - a guide

Mike has been in touch with a guide on how to input images into the Members Galleries on the Website:



However, I have just noticed that even though a member's gallery page exists, the link in the drop-down menu was missing in some cases. My fault – I missed out a step in the process of creating the gallery. Anyway, I have been through the pages, and I think I have inserted all the missing links. So, if you have a gallery could you please check to see if your name appears in the drop down and let me know if it doesn't.

If you haven't got a gallery, now is the time to create one! All you need to do is email some images to me. The image spec isn't critical, but I suggest sticking to the format for club competitions.

President – John Hankin
 Chairman – David Wallis
 Programme Secretary – Dave Cahill
 Secretary – Andy Dipper
 Treasurer – Jean Thirkettle
 Competitions Secretary – Findlay Simpson
 Battle Secretary – Paul Norris
 Publicity & Social – Martyn Smith
 Website – Mike Cheeseman & John Smith

Also, if you want to contact a committee member by email you can click the role name (listed on the About Us page) and that will provide the email address.

Mike Cheeseman

External Competitions & Exhibitions

Calling all dog lovers! - SWPP Dog Photography Competition

And if you don't like birds there's always a dog competition! Unleash your creativity and celebrate the bond between humans and their four-legged friends in our Dog Photography Competition! Whether it's a playful puppy moment, a majestic portrait, or a candid adventure shot, we're looking for photos that capture the heart, personality, and spirit of dogs in all their glory. Check out all the details here

<https://swpp.co.uk/Dog25/>

Bath Christmas Market Workshop - Nov 29th

Dave's been in touch following an approach he's had from photographer Mark Stothard offering a workshop in Bath at Christmas. Looks interesting. Here's the details:

Nikon Small World announces 51st annual photomicrography winners

The winners of the 51st annual Nikon Small World Photomicrography Competition have been announced, celebrating over five decades of excellence in microscopy and digital imaging. First place was awarded to China's Zhang You for his striking image of a rice weevil (*Sitophilus oryzae*) mounted on a grain of rice. The photograph captures the insect with its wings fully extended, revealing the structure and behavior of a common agricultural pest in unprecedented detail. Check out some stunning images here

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

BBC pictures

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c625x33l3j5o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/c8x1qxxk5np0>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq50l6qvn14o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr5env04zm5o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cze633w1775o>

Chairmans Challenge Part 8

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

22 October 2025

8 Manual Focus Challenge

-  **Objective:** Improve focus accuracy without autofocus.
-  **Setting:** Manual Focus
-  **Assignment:** Photograph a small object or macro subject.
-  **Tip:** Use focus peaking or live view if available.

Quote of the week

Taking pictures is savoring life intensely, every hundredth of a second - Marc Riboud

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		