



Vignettes 293

December 10th, 2025

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Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well and looking forward to Xmas. We had the first of our Christmas Zoom events which are now a permanent fixture in the calendar. A good idea given our Christmas busy time and inclement weather and a good turnout of 27 members. Here's Dave with his weekly summary:

Programme Secretary's Review

Hi everyone. Over 25 of us logged in for our first Zoom of the Christmas period to watch Andy Phillips present 'More Than Meets The Eye'. Judging by the discussion afterwards and a few WhatsApp comments it went down well. To be honest I was a bit disappointed as I was expecting something more along the lines of 'here's a shot that all the other photographers missed', but to me it seemed to be more about how to get something extra out of a series of pretty average images. Making something out of nothing! The wedding ones that his wife mainly took were the most interesting for me! Otherwise it was basically landscapes, still lifes and nature, with a lot of abstract too. Nothing really special, but maybe that just reflects my own personal tastes.

The pseudo ICM Photoshop editing process was different, and something I will try. I also thought the comments about time constraints and pressure leading to increased creativity were interesting. I like the idea of having a practical evening where we take photos somewhere for just an hour and then show/compare back at club what we have got. I remember we did this once before when we were meeting closer to the Abbey Grounds, so we just need to find a suitable interesting and accessible venue. Fin mentioned there is a park opposite the hall, who knew!

I'm never sure about infrared images either, though again it is a personal thing. I have indeed used an IR edit a few times, to enhance an otherwise ordinary image. Making something out of nothing again. IR is something a few speakers have mentioned though so I wonder if there is anyone in club who has tried it. It could be a future Take4 topic.

Looking again at the presentation details I think Andy delivered, as he did say it would be all about how he creates his images, to produce something different that other photographers would miss. There were some good tips about observational skills, perception, use of long lenses and composition. Also some useful (though rather quick) Photoshop processing tips. I asked him afterwards by email how he organized his images by the way. He uses Adobe Bridge, and hates Lightroom!

Finally, I always like to learn a new word – taphophile. I think I might be one myself as I take a lot of photos around Northleach churchyard!

Next week we have the Christmas meal and quiz of course, it will be fun. See you there, 7pm sharp at The Greyhound.

Dave

Christmas Quiz

Venue - Greyhound Pub, Siddington

Date - December 15th 2025

Time - 7.00 sharp.

Food - from 7.45

First of all a big thank you to everyone who replied in double quick time with their menu choice. Much appreciated. The final list is 27 which is just shy of last year's numbers. Just as a reminder here are the menu choices and prices. I have assumed that we won't have starters or puddings.

1. Treacle glazed ham, free range eggs, chunky chips and slow roasted tomato - £15.50
2. Chargrilled chicken breast, wild mushroom risotto with crispy onions - £16.50
3. Fish and king prawn pie, cheddar mash and seasonal greens - £18.00
4. The henry beef burger, cheddar, gem tomato, burger sauce, relish with slaw and fries - £17.25
5. Truffle gnoccichi, wild mushroom truffle sauce with crispy artichokes - £18.50

Teams have been chosen at random and will be revealed on the night along with funky team names. We have 4 tables of 4 and 2 tables of 5. Here's the attendees with their food choices.

David Wallis (Quizmaster) – [Ed: you've been Warned!!]

1. Martyn S - Fish Pie
2. David Wallis - Ham, Egg & Chips (Quizmaster)
3. Colin Hoskins - Fish Pie
4. Brian Champion - Chicken Breast
5. Gary Gleghorn - Chicken Breast
6. Steve Kirby - Fish Pie
7. John Crew - Fish Pie
8. Paul Norris - Ham, egg, chips
9. Fin Simpson - Fish Pie
10. Dave Cahill - Ham, Egg, Chips
11. John Hankin - Chicken Breast without Onion.
12. Paul Jones - Chicken Breast
13. Mike Cheeseman - Truffle Gnocchi
14. Steve Finch - Burger & Chips
15. Bex Jordan - Ham, Eggs, Chips
16. John Smith - Chicken breast
17. Patrick Barker - Burger & Chip
18. Ruth Barker - Burger & Chips
19. Lawrence Wilcock - Chicken Breast
20. Billy Kerr - Fish Pie
21. Jean T - Fish Pie
22. Andy Dipper - Fish Pie
23. Katrina - Ham, Egg, Chips
24. Steve Johnston - Chicken Breast
25. Brian Kent - Burger & Chips
26. Rod - Ham, Egg, Chips
27. Rob Gorthy - Chicken Breast

Martin Parr

It was sad to learn of Martin Parr's passing particularly as he had only recently been on the tour circuit promoting his autobiography '*Utterly Lazy and Inattentive: Martin Parr in Words and Pictures*'. Some of us went to see him at the Cheltenham Literary Festival on 14th Oct (see photo below) and it begs the question as to whether he knew then that his days were numbered. He was diagnosed with Myeloma in 2021 which impacted on his mobility. If you haven't seen the documentary '*I am Martin Parr*', on BBC catch up, I can recommend it. Here's a link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002j0v1>

And here's a 1986 BBC interview:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/videos/cj9yzjpr2020>

Wex Photo have produced a shortened obituary on YouTube taken from the BBC documentary:

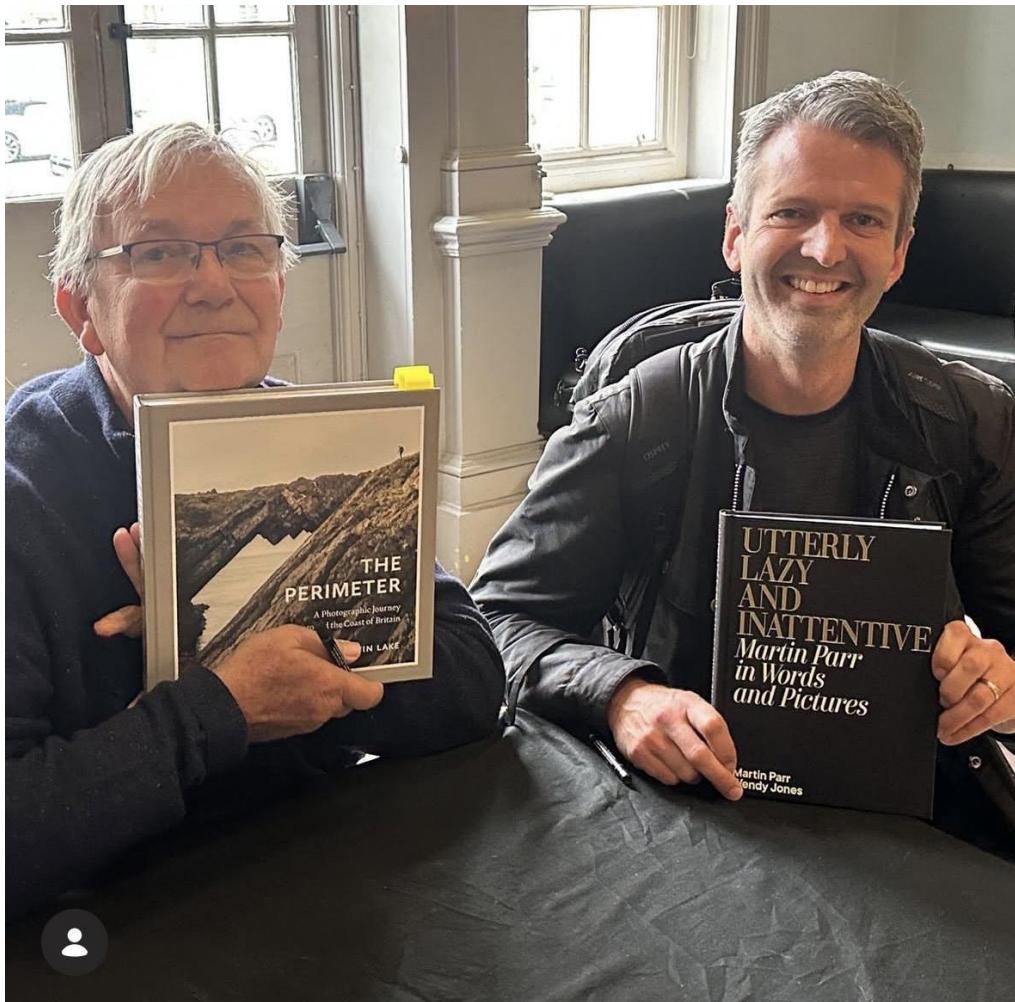
https://youtu.be/aFDHLCNO-K8?si=Xxe6_s5knb7ajbR7

And here's a photo of us sharing our thoughts after the lit fest talk:



And here's one Mike took - he takes up the story

I was behind Quentin Lake in the [Lit Fest] book signing queue. He presented Martin with a copy of his book 'The Perimeter' and asked me to take a photo of them. I've just finished reading Martin's book - what comes across is his humanity and humour. A sad loss.



External Exhibitions and Competitions

Landscape Photo of the Year

The world of landscape photography has a new masterpiece: Lukas Trixl from Austria succeeded at the 12th International Landscape Photographer of the Year awards with his stunning image of New Zealand's Taranaki volcano – captured during a rare 30-minute window when the clouds cleared. Trixl's photograph titled The Land Before Time is officially the new International Landscape Photograph of the Year 2025. This picture transports us to what feels like a landscape from the age of dinosaurs, with towering greenery and a perfectly reflected volcanic peak reminiscent of a scene from Jurassic Park.



Here's a link:

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

Royal Society Publishing Photography Competition winners

The winning photograph, a microscope image of two threads of silk from the Australian net-caster spider, has just been announced as the top honor in this year's competition, run in association with the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) – a global celebration of images that reveal the beauty of science.

<https://royalsociety.org/journals/publishing-activities/photo-competition/2025-winners-runners-up/>

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/c7vm1enpnrq0>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2g5gn937ro>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2gqelk077o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c865gjpzl8qo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpvdrdxepll0>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yq4598y2wo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwygg7xxgpko>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/c30j891q18ro>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c623n1m4n5yo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cx230pkjzpvo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c33m45ed78ro>

Chairmans Challenge Part 15

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

10 December 2025

15 Spot Metering for Portraits

-  **Objective:** Expose for faces correctly.
-  **Setting:** Spot Metering
-  **Assignment:** Portrait in harsh light with meter locked on skin.
-  **Tip:** Try with and without exposure compensation.

Quote of the week

A photograph is a secret about a secret. The more it tells you the less you know - 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	19th 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 50cmx40cm 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 DPIs
	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		