



Vignettes 294 Christmas Edition



December 18th, 2025

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Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well and ready for Christmas. If not, sit in a darkened room and get stuck into this special Christmas edition of Vignettes. You know it makes sense.

We had a great night on Monday night at the Greyhound in Siddington with David Wallis once again at the helm as quizmaster setting some pretty difficult questions and a few tests. In the end it was the 'Superior SLR's' who won out on the day so well done to Colin Hoskins, Paul Jones, Steve Johnston and Gary Gleghorn.

The turnout of 24 of us was just 3 shy of the booking as Mike Cheeseman, Rob Gorthy and Bex sadly all went down with the lurgy and had to pull out. I hope they have now recovered, particularly Bex who is off the balmy shores of Iceland this weekend. I hope you make it Bex.

Lucy's team at the Greyhound did a sterling job of getting the food out on time and I've not seen any dissenters on that front which is good to see. My fish pie was super. Everybody paid as well so that was a relief!! We've booked the room again next year for the same Monday (14th Dec 2026) so it's just a matter of twisting David's arm again to be quizmaster. Maybe he will finally find that cruise he's been threatening to escape on!! Here's the final scores:

The Superior SLRs	56.0
The Hyperfocal Hoorays	52.5
The Shutter Smoothies	50.5
The Monopod Maestros	46.5
The Lens Hood Loungers	46.0
The Compact Cuties	37.5

Here's Dave with his weekly roundup:

Programme Secretary's Review

Hi everyone. Many thanks to David and Martyn for organising another fun-filled quiz evening at the Greyhound on Monday night to round off our calendar year. Congratulations to the winning team, 'The Superior SLR's' (see Martyn's team list above). I'm not sure if David will publish the full results and team members, but some of us might not be bothered if he's lost them. [Don't worry Dave, we've just listed the teams!]. Our team (The Lens Hood Loungers) didn't quite come last. I think we did OK on the general knowledge rounds, in fact we might have won them but we didn't do so well on the African countries or drinks logos though. I think we were hampered by not having a geographer or alcoholic on our team!

So now we can have a well-earned Christmas break before we meet again on Zoom on the 5th January for Charlie Waite's lecture 'Behind The Photograph'. It should be a high quality evening.

Charlie has been an advocate of 'the photograph' and the importance of engaging with the landscape through photography for over 40 years. His style is unique in that his photographs convey a spiritual quality of serenity and calm. He has established a worldwide reputation for his particular approach to his work. His photographs are held in private and corporate collections throughout the world.

Charlie conducts his lectures with passion, humour and grace, and takes the audience on a colourful and enchanting journey. Highly illustrated, his lectures are enjoyable, uplifting and memorable with many finding inspiration to explore the natural world further, embarking on their own personal journey with or without a camera.



Note the comment that 'his photographs are held in private and corporate collections throughout the world'. Well, you can all have a chance to own one too as Charlie has

donated a super signed A3 print ('Valensole') which we are going to frame and raffle later in the season. More on this great opportunity to follow later.

Note as this will be a remote Zoom meeting it will be an earlier start time of 7:00pm. The Zoom log in details will be circulated when available. We will be joined on this occasion by some members from Northleach Photographic Group and Kineton Camera Club, so don't worry if you see some new faces, you will be in the right Zoom!

In the meantime have a great Christmas everyone, a happy new year and see you in January. Now where's that map of Africa gone.....

Cheers

Dave

Rule of Thirds

Time for a bit of education - Rule of thirds photography getting a bit boring? Try the golden ratio instead

The compositional technique of the rule of thirds is sometimes deemed too simplistic or even boring. However, if you're starting out on your photography journey, it's a simple and reliable method of capturing pleasing compositions, allowing you to focus on other areas you might be struggling with, such as the exposure triangle or camera controls. But as you start to learn more about compositional theory, you may find the rule of thirds to be lacking. And yet, what makes the rule of thirds so useful is that it can be applied to so many different situations. Unlike the rule of odds, leading lines, and a frame within a frame, the rule of thirds is an overarching compositional principle that can be applied to almost any image. Thankfully, there's a more advanced alternative: the golden ratio. Take a look at this article:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/composition/rule-of-thirds-photography-getting-a-bit-boring-try-the-golden-ratio-instead>

We've heard from the WCPF

Fancy being a judge. Below is an email we've had from our Western Counties Photographic Federation about an upcoming Judging Seminar. If you want a bit of 'behind the scenes' knowledge about the whole process and experience, I'm sure our own judge, Colin Hoskins, would be happy to have a chat. Here's the email and details:

Hi everyone

Please find enclosed an advert for the judging seminar next April - something to put on your new calendar! We will remind you again but spaces are limited so please book!

Best wishes,

Helen Moore ARPS

*Secretary WCPF secretary.wcpf@gmail.com
www.thewcpf.com*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A JUDGE
OR ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE JUDGING PROCESS?



Learn the fundamental skills by attending the
WCPF JUDGING SEMINAR 2026

Date: Saturday 11th April 2026

Venue: Woodbury Village Hall, Flower Street, Exeter, EX5 1LX

Time: 9.30am for a prompt start at 10.00am (we aim to finish no later than 5.00pm).

Catering: Tea and coffee included. Please bring a packed lunch.

Costs: The seminar is provided by the WCPF at a subsidised cost of £15 per person.

Tutors: Sue O'Connell, Lee Spencer-Fleet + members of the WCPF Judging Panel.

Seminar Content:

1. The Requirements of a Judge. Looking at Images - An Approach to Judging.
2. Strategies for New Judges.
3. Introduction to Judging - Practical Sessions.
4. Assessment of those wishing to join the WCPF list as a Newly Qualified Judge (NQJ).

Attendance is open to all, existing judges, potential judges and interested club members. Attendees will be introduced to the WCPF's preferred method of judging images and will have the opportunity to apply principles and practise techniques in small groups. Those interested in becoming a judge will be assessed and will receive feedback from members of the Judging Panel. There is no obligation to take the assessment.

Applications:

Applications are on a first come first served basis and seminar places are limited to 24.

Application forms can be requested from leespencerfleet@gmail.com and should be returned to the same email address by 4th April 2026.

Payment details of £15 per application, will be specified on the application form.

Please note that the WCPF Judging Seminar currently takes place once annually; location varies. The 2026 seminar will be supported by members of the Exmouth Photo Group.

External Exhibitions and Competitions

Birmingham's first photographer finally getting the recognition he deserves after 180 years?

Within 48 hours of photography's public announcement in Paris on 19 August 1839, George Shaw had created Birmingham's first daguerreotype. This wasn't luck. While most people were still trying to understand what Daguerre's mysterious process meant, Shaw

was already coating silver plates with light-sensitive chemicals in his Queens College laboratory. Check out the story here together with info about a new exhibition:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/galleries-and-exhibitions/why-is-birminghams-first-photographer-finally-getting-the-recognition-he-deserves-after-180-years.>

Photo of high-fiving gorilla wins gold at Nikon Comedy Wildlife Awards

Nothing like a good old photo comedy award and this one is up there.



An image of a high-fiving gorilla has taken the comedic crown at the Nikon Comedy Wildlife Awards 2025. The photograph of the great ape, dubbed 'High Five', depicts a young male high-kicking his way across the Virunga Mountains landscape (Ministry of Silly Walks, anyone?). Check out the winners here:

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

Northern Lights Photographer of the Year 2025

The Northern Lights Photographer of the Year 2025 encompasses everything from a stunning ice cave to a pilot's view above the clouds. When glacier guide and photographer Tori Harp first spotted the circular ice cave, she spent eight months monitoring the ice as it formed, envisioning a shot of an ice climber framed by the cave with the New Zealand stars in the background. But when the photographer finally had the chance to make the shot a reality, a surprise aurora made the shot even more epic than the original vision. Now, Harp and 24 other photographers are among the Northern Lights Photographer of the Year, an annual photo contest hosted by travel photography blog and photography tour host Capture the Atlas. Check out the winners here:

<https://capturetheatlas.com/northern-lights-photographer-of-the-year/>

Architectural/Historic category of this year's Tokyo Foto Awards

Buddhist temples in Japan are major tourist attractions, and the most popular have been photographed literally millions of times. So if you're entering an image of a temple into a competition, it's going to be an uphill struggle to get noticed, especially within Japan itself. Nonetheless, awards judges were drawn towards this shot by Rintaro Ukon, who's somehow managed to portray one of the country's most familiar architectural wonders in a way that's more visual poetry than tourist snap. Byodo-in's Phoenix Hall was converted to a temple. Featured on Japan's 10-yen coin, it's one of the most photographed places in Japan today, and visitors queue daily to shoot it straight across the pond, to capture the full reflection in their lens.



Here, Ukon leans into that convention but innovates in terms of technical settings and composition, to create something quite different from the norm. This highly original shot won him Silver in the Architectural/Historic category of this year's Tokyo Foto Awards. See all the winners below.

<https://www.tokyofotoawards.jp/winners/single-winner/>

International Photography Awards (IPA) - Event Photographer of the Year

Photographer Savadmon Avalachamveettil, known as a standout shooter in documentary and aerial visual storytelling, has done it again. Just a few months ago, the shot titled *Mahakumbh – World's Largest Gathering* was globally recognized at the International Photography Awards (IPA). With this win, Avalachamveettil secured the title of Event Photographer of the Year in the Professional category. Now, the same astonishing aerial image capturing a once-in-144-years ritual at India's Kumbh Mela has secured Silver in the People/Event category at the 2025 Tokyo International Foto Awards (TIFA). Check out the winners below.



<https://photoawards.com/winner/>

More from the Tokyo International Foto Awards 2025 - Nature/Underwater category
Massimo Giorgetta's award-winning macro shot shows a transparent salp sheltering an array of microscopic creatures. Here's the back story and links:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/underwater-photography/captured-on-an-indonesian-night-dive-with-a-nikon-d800e-this-remarkable-image-reveals-a-tiny-universe-of-undersea-life>

Photo tourism and the environment

Here's an interesting article on the dangers posed by photo tourism and the pressures on the environment caused by competitions such as the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the year (WPOTY). To give a background, my constant monitoring of the number of photo competitions, with variable awards, now stretches to 182. Take a look.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/nature-and-wildlife-photography/the-tragic-cost-of-wildlife-photography-rare-and-beautiful-galaxy-frogs-threatened-by-photo-tourism>

Fancy winning a Hasselblad?

The Hasselblad Masters 2026 competition is officially open, inviting professional photographers worldwide to showcase their most creative, technically masterful and inspiring work. Free to enter and open to submissions captured on *any* camera system, the competition offers a unique chance to gain international recognition, win extraordinary prizes including a Hasselblad camera system, and join the exclusive ranks of Hasselblad Masters. This year, the 2026 edition continues the legacy with seven curated categories, each designed to highlight the unique vision and mastery of participating photographers. The competition is free to enter. As for the ‘professional’ bit, I’m sure you can be creative! Anyway here’s the details:

<https://www.hasselblad.com/inspiration/masters/2026/www.hasselblad.com/inspiration/masters/2026/>

Nature in Focus 2025 winners

A split-second decision and well-chosen gear combine to create a stunning wildlife moment. Sometimes the best shots happen when your subject takes matters out of your hands. One photographer Kashyap Naresh Raval discovered this truth first-hand while photographing a fishing spider at the water's edge in Kollur, Karnataka, in the south-west of India. Raval managed to capture this spontaneous moment with a mirror-perfect reflection in the still water. And his photo would go on to earn runner-up honors in the Animal Behaviour category at the Nature in Focus Photography Competition 2025, which received nearly 16,000 submissions from over 1,250 photographers across more than 38 countries.

here the winners:

<https://www.natureinfocus.in/wildlife-photography-contests/winners>



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/c997j2yjdyno>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9d9vnj969po>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0kkrev7qeo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3r7vdrvgneo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0mp4jy93e8o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crmxd0rgx1ko>

Chairmans Challenge Part 16

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

18 December 2025

16 Center-Weighted Metering

-  **Objective:** Explore old-school metering style.
-  **Setting:** Metering Mode: Center-Weighted
-  **Assignment:** Take a balanced photo of a centered subject.
-  **Tip:** Great for classic portrait setups..

Quote of the week

The whole point of taking pictures is so that you don't have to explain things with words - Elliott Erwitt

*That's it, have a good Christmas week and a happy new year to all.
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		