



Vignettes 295

January 7th, 2026

Contents

Club News	2
Programme Secretary's Review	2
Cirencester Garden Club	3
Slime Mould	3
External Exhibitions and Competitions	4
BBC pictures	6
Chairmans Challenge Part 17	6
Comp schedule and definitions for 2025-2026	8
Definitions of Set Subjects	8
CCC Annual Competition Categories	9
Club Competitions from September 2025	10
Competition Rules from 1 st September 2025	12
Club Programme 2025-26	14

Club News

Hi everyone. A happy new year to you all. I hope you had a great break, not too stressful and lots of new camera kit, stuff, photo books or whatever from Santa. It's been a while since we, at the Vignettes editorial team, have taken a two week break and one thing we've found since we got back to Vignettes Global HQ is that the world of photography doesn't stand still. So, there's quite a lot to report this week. With the weather being a bit chilly why not get rid of that good book you huddle up with by the fire and dive into Vignettes instead!

We are delighted to welcome a few new members over the Xmas break who have been plugged into the WhatsApp group and we look forward to meeting them next week. Membership is now at a very encouraging 50 which is great to see given the demise of many camera clubs in the south west over the last year.

Time flies and we are back with a bang with Charlie Waite's terrific Zoom talk on Monday night to kick off the new year. Here's Dave with his summary and introduction to what's coming up:

Programme Secretary's Review

Hi everyone

Well, that was a great start to 2026. 52 eager participants (including guests from Northleach and Kineton) tuned into Charlie Waite's Zoom lecture 'Behind The Photograph'. I thought it was a really enjoyable and inspiring talk. There were so many amazing images and a lot of well-conveyed ideas and thoughts about what made the images work, and, in a few cases, not work so well. The presentation was delivered in a very passionate, friendly and humble way.

I so liked the idea of 'geometric satisfaction'. That was right up my street. I thought Celia's question about whether his ability to spot and capture geometric, light and colour possibilities was a natural skill, or something he had learned, was excellent. I suspect a bit of both as he certainly stressed the advantages of studying other photographers and not being afraid of being influenced by them.

As well as 'geometric satisfaction' I noted his 'attend and intend' mantra, and his comment about being fastidious in designing an image. There were also a lot of 'decisive moments', either planned or, it seemed, mainly down to luck and good fortune. Curves, complementary shapes and colours (especially cold and warm combinations), perfectly timed shadows also featured a lot. As well as quite a few lonely trees.

As for the ladder, that's probably something you are going to need more with a 1957 Hasselblad than with a phone or even a DSLR, but the point about avoiding clashes in the image because of the wrong viewpoint was well made. I hope it has inspired some of us to do more landscape work, to look more closely at what the landscape offers in terms of geometric, light and colour possibilities. I thought it was refreshing not to be bombarded with apps to tell us when to go, where to stand etc. Charlie's approach largely seemed to be carry on, you never know what might be around the corner.

Next week we are back in club (remember where that is!?) for our UK Travelogue members night. We should see images of Scotland (Patrick & Ruth), Northumberland (Celia),

Yorkshire (Bex) and Wales (me). I was going to do Fowey but when I looked at my 1100 images gathered over the last 18 years I realized they weren't as good as I thought!

It will be our usual 7:30pm start. I hope to see you all then.

Cheers

Dave Cahill

Thanks Dave, a good summary of an excellent evening and one worth thinking about again where costs are a little critical. 52 members from three clubs worked very well in helping to support the cost for a top line speaker.

Cirencester Garden Club

Andy has been in touch following an email he's recently received:

Hi Martyn.

Happy New Year to all. I received this e-mail, today (see below), with a request from Sue Walton of the Cirencester Gardening Club. As you can see, the Gardening Club is after a speaker on the theme of gardening photography. Definitely worth asking our members I think.

Best regards

Andy

PS. I shall e-mail Sue and inform her that we are asking our members. Here's the details, below and if anyone is interested can they let me know in the first instance just in case we get more than one member interested in doing a presentation. I think it could be fun.

You have a new website form submission:

1. **Name**Sue Walton
2. **Email Address**
suewalton27@gmail.com
3. **Phone Number**
[01285657319](tel:01285657319)
4. **Subject**Cirencester gardening club
5. **Message**Our committee were wondering if you have any members who would be willing to do a talk or presentation on the theme of gardening photography. (on 2nd Thurs of month - Sep-May)

Slime Mould

Paul has been in touch - calling all slime mould fanatics

This BBC article was aired over the Christmas holiday so if you are into slime mould, take a look:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9d9409p76qo>

External Exhibitions and Competitions

Furore over the Vanity Fair Trump cabinet portraits

Check out this article about Vanity Fair's publication of a series of images of White House officials captured by photographer Christopher Anderson, including White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and others.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/portrait-photography/the-internet-is-furious-over-the-vanity-fair-trump-cabinet-portraits-but-the-photographer-says-the-goal-was-to-reveal-something-more-real>

Oppo's Photography Awards 2025

The 2025 Oppo Photography Awards has crowned its global winners, spotlighting some of the most compelling mobile photography from around the world. In its biggest year yet, the competition drew nearly 2 million submissions from 87 countries, making it the most expansive edition in the awards' history. Check out the story behind the images and Oppo's website:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/these-images-beat-nearly-two-million-entries-to-win-oppo-s-photography-awards-2025>

<https://lumo.oppo.com/en/galleries/>

10 extraordinary award-winning photos of 2025 you need to see

We regularly post the results of the numerous global competitions, most of which anyone can enter. However, here's an article drawing together some of the best images from many of last year's competitions. And, here's one of the images referred to.



<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/10-extraordinary-award-winning-photos-of-2025-you-need-to-see>

In Memoriam: the brilliant photographers we sadly lost in 2025

Here's a celebration of the photographers we lost last year.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/in-memoriam-the-brilliant-photographers-we-sadly-lost-in-2025>

Richard Avedon's American West: what today's portrait photographers can still learn from this classic series

When the fashion and portrait photographer Richard Avedon (1923-2004) drove into the American West in 1979, he left behind the controlled perfection of his fashion work and the glamour of celebrity portraiture. What he found would produce one of the most studied portrait series in photographic history.

Richard Avedon: Facing West opens 15 January 2026 at Gagosian Grosvenor Hill, 20 Grosvenor Hill, London W1K 3QD. Open Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm.
Check out this article.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/portrait-photography/richard-avedons-american-west-what-todays-portrait-photographers-can-still-learn-from-this-classic-series>

HIPA's black-and-white photo of the year

A stunning photograph of a rolling wave in the South Pacific Ocean won the General – Black & White category for Australian photographer Ted Grambeau. Clearly channeling the 'Power' theme of HIPA's fourteenth season, Ted's image was captured in Tahiti – one of his favourite haunts.



Check out the story:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/beyond-perfect-weather-conditions-and-stunning-morning-light-come-together-to-make-hipas-black-and-white-photo-of-the-year>

BBC pictures

As usual some great images and backstories from across the globe from the BBC's website. Lots of 'shots of the year' stuff, Woolf Moon etc as you would expect:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c050j896q2do>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/c7417w8kx4po>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/c24g7p9lvlo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c14r03y44yjo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/c301nv754yjo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3wzqv2z981o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp807xy4ekgo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2ynnp6p45o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crkrd1rglrzo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/c773z1rn83do>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0yev84l2eo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpqyzx3119po>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g4vn40xr5o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3v1l1d639ko>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9w7n2rpydeo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/c4gerd22v2po>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyd0pz1lnvo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cly5xnln575o>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cdxw75n4prro>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgzkvv72djo>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy4xwmjxwijo>

Chairmans Challenge Part 17

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

7 January 2026

17 Burst Mode for Action

-  **Objective:** Capture split-second moments.
-  **Setting:** Drive Mode: High-Speed Continuous
-  **Assignment:** Shoot a sports or dance sequence.
-  **Tip:** Use fast shutter and track subject continuously.

Quote of the week

One doesn't stop seeing. One doesn't stop framing. It doesn't turn off and turn on. It's on all the time - Annie Leibovitz

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		