



# Vignettes 296

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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## Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. Bits and bobs this week. First of all, well done to all speakers on Monday night. Great to see locations which some of us have not yet been to with plenty of opportunities across all genres to get your camera out. Here's Dave with his weekly summary:

### Programme Secretaries Review

*Hi everyone. We had a great turnout for our first face to face meeting of 2026, and enjoyed UK Travelogue member presentations on Scotland, Wales, Northumberland and Yorkshire. We saw some super images which showed you don't necessarily have to travel to exotic locations to find spectacular landscapes and interesting subject matter. I thought it was a well-balanced evening. Patrick and Ruth's idea of making an AV was a nice surprise and well done to relatively new members Celia and Bex for giving us two inspiring and entertaining talks. I didn't spot any sign of nerves. I think if you speak to the presenters we will all say it does take a bit of effort to pull something together, but it is very rewarding and it is good to have the opportunity to share images with the other members. The club is in a very healthy position at the moment, but we will always need member contributions during the season. If you have any ideas or questions about presenting something on a future evening please do speak to me or any of the other committee members. We will happily give advice and assistance if required.*

*Next week we are back in competition mode, with judging for Competition D (set subject Automotive). Also it is submission night for Competition E (open subject).*

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

*Cheers*

*Dave*

Thanks Dave.

### Fin's famous!!

Yes, you heard it here first, well not quite if you read the Gloucestershire Standard. Fin picks up the story:

*Hi Martyn, further to our chat on Monday, below is a link to my photo with the Choral Society write up in the Standard recently*

<https://www.wiltsglosstandard.co.uk/news/25730822.review-cirencester-choral-societys-creation/>



*By way of background - my wife Mary sings with the Society and when they found out my Cirencester Camera Club connections in 2023, I suddenly became their "official photographer". This involves photographing the final afternoon rehearsal and Evening Concert in St John's Church twice each year. The concerts take place in May and November and the biggest challenge is dealing with the extremely different lighting conditions in the church on the two dates. Interestingly, although the review in the paper is about the November Concert - the picture is from the previous May Concert! Looks like the editorial team in the paper are telling me I haven't cracked the November lighting yet!*

*Cheers*

*Fin*

Thanks Fin, as for the suggestion that the Paper is concerned about the lighting in your Nov image, I wouldn't take that too seriously. My experience of what they choose to print suggests that they move in mysterious ways!! It'll probably pop up the next time they get some copy!!

### **Photo books**

When we start to learn about some software, particularly 'plug ins' like Nik Efex, DXO Pure Raw, Topaz Sharpen etc, it's a common theme that the best way to get to grips is to 'cram' which speeds up the learning process and avoids those errors that creep in if we just do a few minutes a day. The result can be quite motivating if it results in an improvement in your images and of course we all suddenly become righteous experts on the software which lasts just as long as you keep using it!!

Well, I've decided that this year, I'm going to join the righteous experts and start making photo books. There's plenty of firms out there willing to take your money so there's a lot of choice. BUT, you have to get on top of the layout software first to make it worthwhile as the more you learn and get experience the better and more professional the resulting book will look. I know David Wallis is an avid photo book creator and has used various

photo book printing companies, many of which offer discounts from time to time. You may have seen his books which he has previously brought in for you to have a look at.

As an Adobe Lightroom user, I'm all for keeping life simple so I was delighted to discover that Lightroom has a 'Books' module linked to a firm called 'Blurb' where you can create a Photo book in many sizes and formats using a variety of photo paper which Blurb will make for you. The choice of how you want the finished article is infinite. 'Blurb' comes out pretty well in the reviews on quality and cost and you can get discounts (there's a 25% discount offer as I write). Additionally there's plenty of YouTube tutorials out there to help you, Julieanne Kost and Anthony Morganti being just two up there worth looking at in my opinion. Blurb itself also produces a number in YouTube.

The Lightroom 'Collection' folder is great for linking to the 'Books' module and is interactive with Lightroom's 'develop' module if you need to make a processing changes. The photo book itself is separately saved as a sub folder in the Collection folder and it's all very user friendly and 'cross module' friendly.

So, for my first book I decided to have 'dry run' just to get into the swing of it. Oh dear. That was last week. Having made my wonderful book (not before re-doing the cover 4 times - I missed a tick box!), the 'Books' software has continuously failed to allow me to upload my photo book. To date:

- I've discovered that there is a Lightroom software glitch preventing uploading if the book title in the title field (not the cover itself) is incorrectly phrased.
- Blurb is an American company with a UK office but when you register on line, the software doesn't offer you which region to register with. You have to look for it but it's unclear whether it's a requirement.
- I received a discount voucher after initially registering but this was from Blurb.com, not Blurb.co.uk. So I may be registered in the wrong region. Who knows!
- Blurb have mysteriously (seemingly) blocked me from its website (!) and as a result I've not been able to log in to check which region I'm registered in.
- I have managed to lodge a query with customer services - that was on Monday. They don't have a call centre - only queries by email. They have been very helpful but to date, I haven't resolved the problem.
- I'll keep you informed - watch this space.

Whilst I can say that my photo book in the Lightroom book module 'collection' sub folder is safe, but until I hear from Blurb, I'm stuck. When resolved, I'll post some useful Blurb 'Hacks' to keep in mind when you use the software which, itself, is fairly intuitive. I might just be able to save you hours of your valuable life.

In the meantime, here's David with an alternative photo book offer from Photobox that currently looks increasingly appealing to me!:

[https://www.photobox.co.uk/lp/?bnclCampaign=8641e577-25c3-407e-be48-2841801f5fd9&utm\\_campaign=CRM\\_CAM\\_EML\\_1767612538203\\_BNCL\\_959117884\\_962656684\\_DM2059201&channelshortcode=crm&sourceshortcode=cam&mediumshortcode=eml&message.delivery.id=962656684&message.delivery.operation\\_id=959117884&deliveryName=DM2059201](https://www.photobox.co.uk/lp/?bnclCampaign=8641e577-25c3-407e-be48-2841801f5fd9&utm_campaign=CRM_CAM_EML_1767612538203_BNCL_959117884_962656684_DM2059201&channelshortcode=crm&sourceshortcode=cam&mediumshortcode=eml&message.delivery.id=962656684&message.delivery.operation_id=959117884&deliveryName=DM2059201)

## Photography Competitions and Salons

How about kicking off 2026 with these 10 photography competitions open for entries from January to May?

From landscapes and street to architecture, portraits, and beyond – these international photography contests want to see your images, open to photographers of all levels:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/kick-off-2026-with-these-10-photography-competitions-open-for-entries-from-january-to-may>

### And not forgetting

Our friends in Cheltenham. Yes CISP (Cheltenham International Salon of Photography) launched in the new year. We regularly support the competition and generally get some notable acceptances so why not have a go. Of course, the CISP team always present a great AV evening for us in the Autumn of the 'accepted' images so it's good to support a local club. The more images you enter, the cheaper it is.

Here's the details:

[https://u40660329.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.qHg0BpZ4GDH5dOQ8UvVN0YPeDm9-2FCIBmTqfWP5-2B2SxoFMe1Js3fe8RecOCYWAskCAZua\\_TJmN4986NP-2F65BOWuHAhcb9HsHsPUwu2-2FvAFvJtS7RQ09dzxzPFRykZ1Vl9BjfVxoXndFokHVVhJ6yKAeQ1qozBtg7uwJbMdtNAmiMuWj-2FQYi32Dei6YbgmAqJjs2xRBJOPRhTcK26NGit-2Fz9v4gHhRgEDdRvcbBKI2JHyC50F06eudLGpCkMQvDO5yZ8ku8AN7HHW1u2t6ZHLmiUjKLw-3D-3D](https://u40660329.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.qHg0BpZ4GDH5dOQ8UvVN0YPeDm9-2FCIBmTqfWP5-2B2SxoFMe1Js3fe8RecOCYWAskCAZua_TJmN4986NP-2F65BOWuHAhcb9HsHsPUwu2-2FvAFvJtS7RQ09dzxzPFRykZ1Vl9BjfVxoXndFokHVVhJ6yKAeQ1qozBtg7uwJbMdtNAmiMuWj-2FQYi32Dei6YbgmAqJjs2xRBJOPRhTcK26NGit-2Fz9v4gHhRgEDdRvcbBKI2JHyC50F06eudLGpCkMQvDO5yZ8ku8AN7HHW1u2t6ZHLmiUjKLw-3D-3D)

### Are you a Sophia Loren fan?

Yes? Well this coffee table book from Alfred Eisenstaedt, one of *Life*'s original four staff photographers, might just be what you are after. Here's the back story:



<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/portrait-photography/200-unpublished-sophia-loren-portraits-teach-us-the-importance-of-trust-between-photographers-and-their-subjects>

### **Martin Parr major retrospective**

Martin Parr, one of Britain's most acclaimed documentary photographers, sadly died on December 6th aged 73 – just weeks after some of us saw him at the Cheltenham Literary Festival and before a major retrospective was due to open at the Jeu de Paume in Paris, France. The exhibition, Global Warning, running from January 30 to May 24, 2026, was planned in collaboration with Parr himself.

Its premise is both simple and devastating: for five decades, while documenting tourists and consumers with his characteristic saturated flash, Parr was actually capturing the causes of climate breakdown – even though nobody was explicitly framing it that way.



This isn't, then, a photographer pivoting to environmental activism in his final years. It's a recontextualisation of work that was always there, hiding in plain sight behind the humor and garish colours. So if you are in Paris before the end of May, stick it on the visit 'to do' list. Who knows it might migrate to the UK given Martin's popularity. Here's a link to the gallery:

<https://jeudepaume.org/en/evenement/martin-parr-global-warning/>

Aftermath of women's boxing bout bags Bosnian photographer a category win in 14th season of HIPA awards

Despite masterfully capturing a decisive emotional moment after a boxing bout, Vladimir Tadic doesn't even consider himself to be a sports photographer – landscapes are his specialty. But genre-swapping didn't stop him topping the Sports category in the fourteenth season of HIPA (the Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Awards), which was themed 'Power'. Here's the story:



<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/awards-and-competitions/this-award-winning-reaction-shot-proves-tha-theres-a-lot-more-to-sports-photography-than-the-action-itself>

### **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/cy8pk1734730>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgvn1rmxkxo>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c62d5wg4lypo>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gv402ndxyo>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgk8dvvm6po>

## Chairmans Challenge Part 18

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

15 January 2026

### 18 Self-Timer Creativity

-  **Objective:** Use timer creatively for inclusion.
-  **Setting:** 10s Timer or Interval Timer
-  **Assignment:** Take a self-portrait or timed group photo.
-  **Tip:** Add a flash or light source if shooting indoors.

### Quote of the week

*What I like about photographs is that they capture a moment that's gone forever, impossible to reproduce - Karl Lagerfeld*

*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
<b>Summer Cup</b>	DPI – 2025 Summer Club Events	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
<b>A</b>	Open DPI & Print	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>B</b>	Set DPI & Print – Square Format	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025
<b>C</b>	Open DPI & Print	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
<b>D</b>	Set DPI & Print – Automotive	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	19th January 2026
<b>E</b>	Open DPI & Print	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>F</b>	Set DPI & Print – In the Kitchen	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Annual</b>	2025-2026 Annual Competitions	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	20 <sup>th</sup> April and 27 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 <sup>st</sup> Place	6 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	5 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

## **Competition Rules from 1<sup>st</sup> 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		