

in this issue >>>*Roger's report**The review – April Speakers**Meet your committee**Question corner**Snippets**My Stroud 1st quarter images*

*"Puffin – steadying for landing" – Jeff Kirby LRPS, CPAGB –
Commended Group A*

A Monthly Insight into the activities of Stroud Camera Club

STROUD CAMERA CLUB

**Contacts >>>**

Welcome to Stroud Camera Club

We hope you enjoy this Newsletter. If you want any help with matters relating to the club, or your photography in general, we are here to help.

Chairman: Roger Matthews

Secretary: Trish Bloodworth

Treasurer: Leslie Holmes

Publicity & Competitions: Richard Atkinson

Programme: Chris Tracey

Social Media: Jenny Smith

For more information, including contact emails for all the committee please go to www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk

*"Holy Trinity - Minchinhampton" – Phil Hope
Commended group B*



Roger's Report *Summer around the corner*

With summer around the corner, we are approaching the end of our 2020/21 season. Technology has allowed us to hold a full season of talks, club challenges and competitions in a way that simply would not have been possible during a pandemic even just a few years ago. I take my hat off to all our members who have tuned-in to our weekly Zoom sessions and to the outgoing committee without whose support we would not be in such a strong a position. In her final year as Programme Secretary, Chris Tracey pulled out all the stops and I'm sure you will want to join me in thanking her for all she has done under very challenging circumstances. With next season's programme nearly complete, Chris's hand will still be evident for some time yet, but I am also delighted to welcome Paul Martin to the committee as our new Programme Secretary. We are in safe hands.

Looking forward, the easing of coronavirus restrictions will soon allow us to resume face

to face meetings and normalise social interaction - I cannot wait. We will start off with a programme of outdoor photographic opportunities with Summer Club starting on Thursday 20th May. The details will be posted online a few days before each weekly meeting. All the indicators are also looking good for resuming our normal Club Nights at the Bowls Club in September. I am very much looking forward to meeting some of our new members in the flesh for the first time and in renewing friendships with members who have taken a step back while meetings have been virtual.

Looking even further ahead, I am looking to one day entering the Hall of Fame for salon success! All tips gratefully received.

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER
You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.

The review >>>

“Starting from a blank canvas” Polina Plotnikova

Polina Plotnikova was another of our speakers from far off parts of the UK, which has been one of the few “upsides” of the pandemic and the use of Zoom. Yet again though, these speakers have proved their worth and Polina’s talk was informative and showcased some beautiful work.

Polina is very much a studio photographer, but not in the traditional sense taking portraits of people, she takes portraits of flowers. Her talk started by explaining her many influences which have come from historical artists as well as contemporary photographers. A few of the historical artists included: Jan Van Hysum (1682 – 1749) who was one of the first to give us details within flowers and Pierre-Joseph Redoute (1759 – 1840) who was a botanical artist and upon whose “rules” botanical art is still based. Slightly better-known influences included of course Monet, Van Gogh and Georgia O’Keeffe, but also Bobbie Burgers and Lilian Snelling who may not be so familiar. Moving through to photographers, Polina mentioned Robert Mapplethorpe – one of the great “rule breakers” as well as Karl Blossfeldt and Ron Van Dongen. With the power of Mr Google, we can all look further at these artists and see whether any of these could perhaps influence our own work.

Polina concentrated on attention to detail and explained how in her opinion there is no reason if you are in the studio not to “get it right”. She explained how even 5cms in a composition could make or break the image, and showed us how some of her compositions were created.

A brief look at some of her “dancing flowers” – using multiple exposure and intentional camera movement ended a remarkably interesting first half.

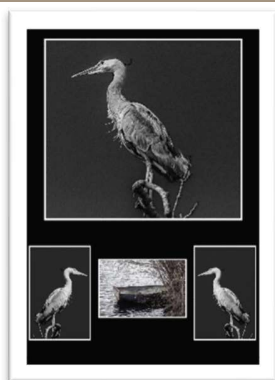
The second half of her presentation was still life and her careful selection of props, colours, textures and lighting came to the fore. She very much envisages what she wants to create before creating it and recounted the tale of taking 2 years to create a particular piece as she was looking that long for a certain jug that she had envisaged in the imagery! She found it in Amsterdam!

An interesting tip for studio/still life workers is to keep your old ironing board to use as a studio table – oh how I wish I’d done this before I moved house!!!

Another superb presentation that was very well received by members who were present, marveling not only at the ability of Polina to produce stunning photography and still life set ups, but also her excellent grasp of English and presentation skills to, effectively, a foreign audience!



Trish Bloodworth shared this image via our Facebook page inspired by recent talks from Glenys and Polina



Paul Edwards via our SCC FaceBook Page – “Heron”

FaceBook

Upload your images to be the “face” of Stroud Camera Club for a month.

Why don’t you share some images via our FaceBook group? It will be lovely to see them, and **if you would like to be the featured image**, just tag it #coverphoto and our social media secretary Jenny Smith will add it to her collection of potentials for the cover image.

If you are not yet a member simply click the link within FaceBook and answer 3 very simple questions.

For more information go to <https://facebook.com/stroudcameraclub>

Highlights >>>

The month in review – We kept battling!

After the disappointment of the March battle, against Newent and Forest of Dean which registered a record 53 people on the Zoom evening, we approached the Cheltenham/Cirencester battle with renewed vigour! It started well enough smashing the previous Zoom attendance with over 90 people - amazing. Once again, a very hotly contested evening, with super images from all 3 clubs, although sadly for the second time we didn’t quite have the full package to suit the judge for the night, losing out on 2nd place by one point to Cirencester, whilst Cheltenham were unsurprising winners. It must be noted however, that whilst Cheltenham won by a reasonable margin, not one of their images scored the magic 20! The two 20’s of the night went to Cirencester for “Flipping the page” and Stroud for Trish Bloodworth’s “The Artist”. We’ll certainly look forward to the return battle next year.

The other highlight of the month was of course the AGM – ha-ha only joking! Although, it is still an important part of the season and the minutes are available on our website for members to digest. We had a couple of changes in committee members, bidding a very grateful farewell to Chris Tracey as Programme Secretary after an incredible 5 years in office – so our thanks extend to Chris for all her hard work, whilst we welcome Paul Martin in this role for the future (most of 2021/22 is still however Chris’ work as she has secured this already!). We also see Richard Atkinson officially take over as Competition Secretary (a job he has care-taker managed for most of the season in an excellent manner and Jenny Smith as Publicity Secretary combining into this role the social media side as well.

Once again another successful month, with the Image of the Year as the main competition, which of course has its own write up.

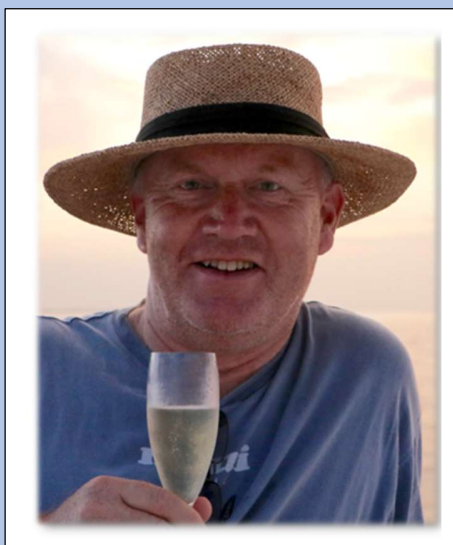


“Where’s baby” Annie Blick
3rd place group A

Meet the committee: The Chairman

Roger Matthews

My father was a keen photographer, a brother was a professional photographer for a number of years before retraining as a paramedic and another brother is a member of a photographic group in Bedfordshire, so it is perhaps no surprise that I also took an interest in photography. But oh what humble beginnings! I recently found a box of slides from a school trip to Ostend with my first camera - a Kodak Instamatic. All bar one or two had an out-of-focus finger in the top left corner and all were under-exposed! Digital photography of sorts. Thank goodness it is now very difficult to inadvertently take pictures of your fingers and my travel horizons have reached further than Ostend (though not in the past year).



Roger with his wine – which he says is one of many competing interests

My first proper camera was a Canon A1 that cost an arm and a leg in 1980. My photography improved and I was soon asked to be the official photographer at a friend's wedding - the photos were OK, but sadly the marriage was less successful! Fortunately, I qualified as a doctor and left the stress of wedding photography behind. As I had joined the RAF during training (the Canon A1 being too expensive to buy on a grant!), my career gave me many opportunities to travel, something that has stayed with me ever since but on my own terms now that I have retired.

Like many, my introduction to digital photography (of the non-finger kind), started with compact digital cameras (Sony and Minolta) sitting alongside the more serious SLR, but it soon became clear that the days of film were drawing to a close. The compact digital cameras were great to take on operations (non-surgical) and when flying - I was lucky to have the opportunity to fly many hours in a variety of RAF jet aircraft and spent 2 years as Medical Officer for the Red Arrows. Nothing

beats aerial photography looking at walkers in the Lake District from the back of a Tornado or Red Arrow Hawk! My first DSLR was the Canon 450D - my current camera is the Canon 7D MkII, but I don't think it will be too long before I go mirrorless. I am still seeking a technological solution to my photographic shortcomings! The Canon A1 has even seen a limited return to service following this year's Chairman's Challenge. What goes around, comes around - oh how I wish I still had my Kodak Instamatic!!! Perhaps it's no wonder I have yet to make the salon Hall of Fame!



"Big boy's toys"

Nigel Bowsher – Commended Group A

Question corner>>>

Q: What is frequency separation?

Frequency separation (FS) is a post processing technique (usually in Photoshop) whereby the colour and texture of an image are separated by the use of their digital "frequencies".

A. This technique is often used for touching up portrait photography as a smoother skin can be portrayed without losing all the texture in the skin. It can also be very successfully used to remove unwanted creases from clothes or even distracting highlights which would be impossible to heal successfully in any other way.

There are plenty of tutorials on You Tube, one that is recommended is from PixImperfect – Unmesh Dinda, he will also give you the "action" to save you having to remember each time how to set up the layer stack!

Snippets

Watch out for a bulletin asking for your views about the competitions. We are looking into whether to keep 2 groups or merge into one.

This will take the form of a Survey Monkey questionnaire, which was very successful in our member survey earlier in the season.

Please use this opportunity to "have your say".

Should we continue to have two divisions?

Is winning important, or is the value in the feedback?

What competitions do you want to see?

Let Trish know any snippets of information that you would like included in future newsletters. Contact her using email: secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk

Other news...

The Longfield Hospice project was well supported and Roger was able to shortlist 40 images for the staff at the Hospice to review.

At the time of writing we don't know their final selection, but we will be letting members know once these have been chosen. Roger will then arrange to print and frame them appropriately before they are then hung at the Hospice for staff, residents and visitors to enjoy. A big thank-you to all who took part, and all who generously donated towards the cost of printing and framing.

If you know of anything that you feel would be newsworthy relating to SCC, please let Richard/Jenny or Trish know.

New Members

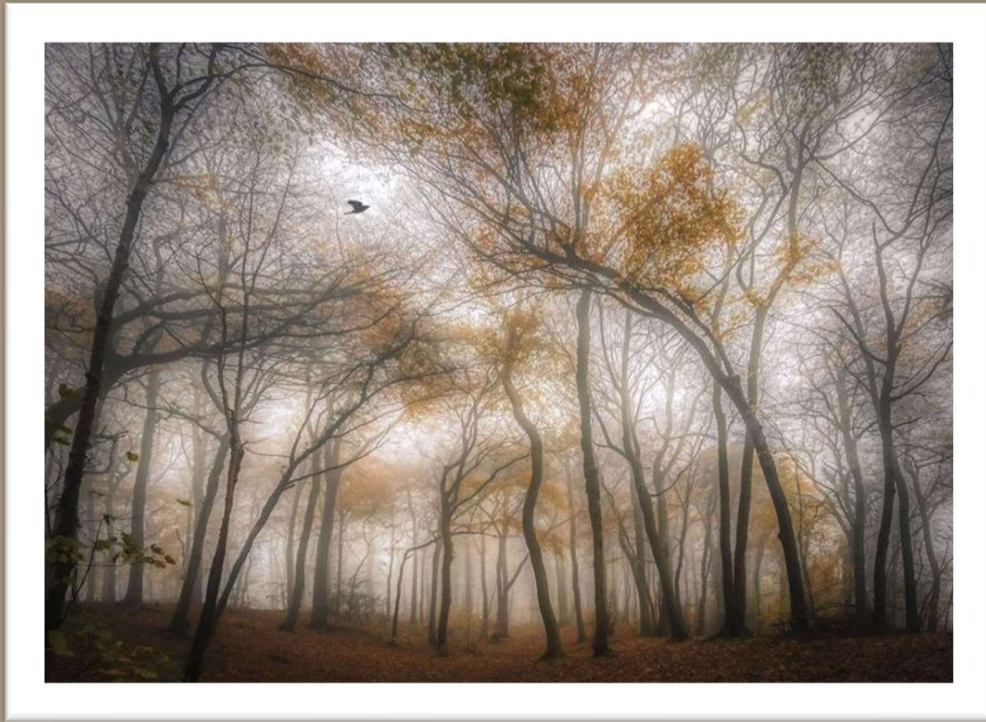
Just **£10** for the season **from 1st January 2021** to the season end – May 2021;

reverting to original £32 for the new 2021/22 season from September 2021

Please email

secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk for more details.

Image of the Year – winning Group A



“Autumn Canopy” – Annie Blick – 1st place

Image of the Year – winning Group B



“Waiting” – Jenny Smith
1st Place



“Chatsworth” – Margot Page
2nd Place

“Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still” – Dorothea Lange

2021 competitive thoughts...

Another astonishing month for competitive results from members. The battle yielded some excellent scores, British Photographic Exhibitions have seen Stroud CC firmly represented, and International Salons have been very well represented with SCC members – including a fabulous 9 members all being accepted (including 2 with ribbons) at Cheltenham Salon! Internally, the season has of course culminated with our Image of the Year competition, which was also very hotly contested.

Michael Krier judged the Image of the Year, in which we once again saw a super range of images of excellent quality. Group B again showing how good they are with their entries.

Image of the Year Group B

1st place Waiting – Jenny Smith

2nd place Chatsworth – Margot Page

3rd place Barnie the Owl – René Cason

Highly Commended Jane Bodkin

Commended René Cason (x2), Phil Hope

Special congratulations to René for getting all 3 of his images placed.

Image of the Year Group A

1st place Autumn Canopy – Annie Blick

2nd place Barn owl - Eye to eye contact – Jeff Kirby LRPS, CPAGB

3rd place Where's baby – Annie Blick.

Highly Commended Trish Bloodworth, Andy Harbin DPAGB, Annie Blick
Commended Nigel Bowsher, Scott Antony, Andy Harbin, Jeff Kirby
Annie too had all 3 images awarded – well done!



Jane Bodkin
"Rococo Wobble"
Highly Commended Group B

Andy Harbin DPAGB – "Warnscale Bothy" –
Commended Group A



coming up >>>

April & May 2021

Thu 29 Apr 2021 - Mobile Phone Challenge

Thu 6 May 2021 – Nic Stover live from USA

"Spirit Of The Western US"

Join via Zoom – login details in bulletins

Summer Club starts Thu 20th May 2021

This will be subject to Government restrictions, but we are hoping to run a full "face to face" programme over the summer. Registration is likely to be required to ensure we can be Covid compliant. **Bulletins will be issued with full details in due course.**

Next Competition

Remember My Stroud & District – see website for details – next quarter closes 30th June 2021

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had acceptances into International Photographic Salons! This month we have seen our club members accepted basically throughout the world and at Cheltenham as well as in the British Photographic Exhibitions

Jeff Kirby

Jenny Smith

David Hunt

Trish Bloodworth

René Cason

Annie Blick

Trevor Blundell

Richard Atkinson

Andy Harbin

Jeff Wilson

Please send details of your acceptances or other external "wins" to secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk
Apologies if you are missed here – please let me know so you can be added next time.



René Cason
"Barnie the owl"
3rd place Group B

UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and My Stroud & District competition

More Award Winning Images



*"Barn owl – eye to eye contact"
Jeff Kirby LRPS, CPAGB – 2nd Place
Group A*

My Stroud & District – 1st Quarter 2021 Winners



*My Stroud and District had another good uptake – although remember this is an ongoing project to provide local images for posterity – so this is definitely the “**taking part, and not the winning**” competition that we run at SCC. As usual a shortlist of entries were selected by the Battles Committee and these were then voted on by the members at the end of the AGM meeting.*

The worthy winners – selected by you – were:

A Group (Jt 1st)

Richard Atkinson - BoatMobility on Stroudwater Canal at Stonehouse

Jeff Wilson - Frosty morning at Coaley

B Group

René Cason - Rainbow over St Cyrs



More from the Image of the Year Competition

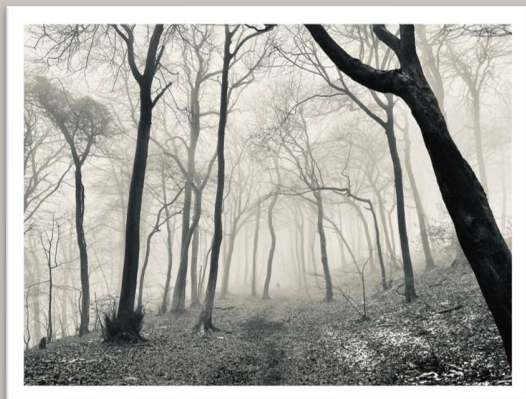
*Andy Harbin DPAGB – Nuns Cross Farm
Highly Commended Group A*



*Jeff Kirby LRPS, CPAGB – Early One Morning
Highly Commended Group A*



*Scott Antony – The Guardians
Commended Group A*



See more on our website: www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk

*Trish Bloodworth – Waiting
Highly Commended Group A*



*Annie Blick – A Street Cat named Bob.
Highly Commended Group A*



*René Cason – Symmetry in the Cathedral Cloisters
Commended Group B*



*René Cason – Flood Reflections
Commended Group B*

