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Issue #1
AUG



Week 12 winner – Jeff Kirby – Gateway to the Vale

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: Richard Atkinson
Programme: Chris Tracey
Competitions: Gordon Norris

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

Week 6 winner: Glyn Heskins
Flapjack . . .mmm, lovely!



Roger's Report

We will get back to normal

I don't know how many Club chairmen and chairwomen there have been in the 81 years since Stroud Camera Club formed, but I doubt that any have taken over under more difficult circumstances. As much as I hate the word, it is unprecedented!

Club Nights were suspended in March and there remains considerable uncertainty over the future trajectory of the pandemic and duration of social distancing measures.

We have, therefore, made the difficult decision to delay restarting face-to-face Club Nights until Jan 21 (with a review in Oct), as much to protect our members, many of whom could be considered vulnerable, as to avoid risking a further disruptive close down.

We will get back to normal (yeah!), but in the interim, we have an exciting programme that can be run online as has been demonstrated with the very successful Virtual Summer Club (see further article) and the experience of other clubs using Zoom. This will be seen as a challenge for some members, but the only difficult step is the first one.

I, along with other Committee members, stand by to provide whatever assistance we can to help you engage and remain an active member of our vibrant photographic community through these difficult times.

“As much as I hate the word, it is unprecedented!”

Please use the SCC website, FaceBook page and e-mail bulletins to keep up to date with the news, but most of all, I look forward to seeing you all again soon and never hearing the word “unprecedented” again.

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER

*When in bright sunlight,
shoot indoors or take a nap!*

The review >>>

Summer Club 2020

Covid-19 hit with avengence to disrupt club activities from the latter part of March. Undeterred in true British spirit the club continued over the Summer with an excellent virtual club



Week 1 winner – Trish Bloodworth
Wild Garlic

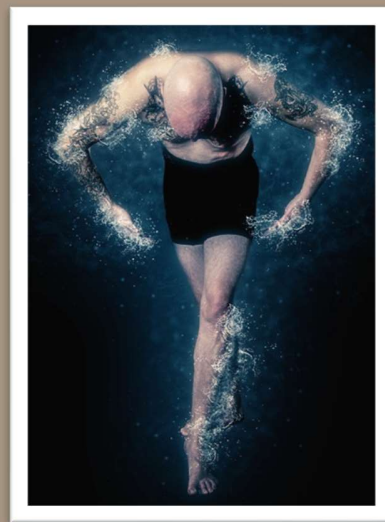
The Challenges

Our chairman Roger came up with the excellent idea of setting a weekly challenge. There followed 12 weeks testing our abilities with genres ranging from macro, portrait, landscape, creative, abstract and even designing an album cover! 522 images were uploaded by 28 members, with 104 being recognised with a handshake.

Week 7 & Best of the Best winner:
Jess Bond
Serenity

Handshakes

Members uploaded images to the new website club galleries each week. The images were then very professionally critiqued by our Chairman during a live “Zoom” evening.



Best of the Best

Week 13 was the concluding week, during which Roger presented the best images from the 12 previous challenges.

Many congratulations go to the winning image overall which was entered by JESS BOND. This was from WEEK 7 and was entitled SERENITY.

Highlights >>>

“It’s square”



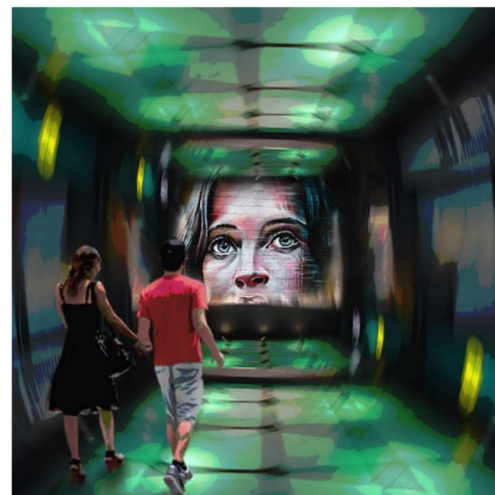
Handshake: Ian Peters -SCC Reaching New Heights

Much banter occurred during the Zoom nights, and we must congratulate all those who took part managing to get to grips with the new technology of the virtual world.

All the images are viewable via our website using the Galleries link. We were taken on an excellent adventure by many of our club members. Numerous of whom came back every week!

Roger was very fair with his comments, although was always quick to point out that it was only his point of view. Members were given the opportunity to discuss why or how they created their image, and at times disagreement with Roger’s view was expressed!

In the end a common saying amongst the participants was “it’s square” this phrase having been coined by Roger in week 2 when the challenge was Album Covers and we had a couple that weren’t square, and a couple that left Roger speechless other than the immortal phrase at least “it’s square”!



Week 2 winner: Annie Blick
Going Underground by the Jam



Week 4 winner: Jeff Kirby
Mount-a-neering

FaceBook 

Stroud Camera Club has an active FaceBook Page and we were able to showcase the winning images each week.

If you are not yet a member of our FaceBook group simply click the link within FaceBook and answer 3 very simple questions. As a member you can then showcase your images here for us all to enjoy.

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

Meet the committee – The Secretary

The first article from our new committee is by Trish Bloodworth, our Secretary explaining how she created her week 3 winning image “The Ice Queen”.



*Week 3 winner: Trish Bloodworth
The Ice Queen*

I moved to Stroud just before Christmas in 2018, it had been a busy year with both my children getting married and my work life becoming extremely hectic; however I was determined to join a camera club and thus came to SCC.

I had my first camera as a Christmas present in 1973 a Kodak instamatic, and whilst photography has always interested me I only really became “hooked” in the past couple of years.

I found Lightroom challenging, but felt I mastered it using a book by Tony Northrup; Photoshop to me looked nigh on impossible. Layers, clipping masks, luminosity, blend modes – well I learned latin at school, but this seemed more Greek to me!

Always up for a challenge I decided to teach myself photoshop (this started when I joined SCC) and one of the ways to do this seemed to be to start compositing. I am now completely passionate about creating images in this way!

Ice Queen was created for the week 3 challenge. It was so hot that week, I really wanted to cool off – this gave me the inspiration to create “The Ice Queen”. I had no-one else to photograph, so it had to be a self portrait. I really don’t like picture of myself, and as this was rather fantasy anyway I had nothing to lose going for it in Photoshop!

So after a basic front on self portrait, an element of frequency separation, warping and liquifying of the face, then came the addition of the jewels and the “snow wrap”. Each item was individually photographed and then given its own layer in Photoshop to be brought in to the image. A final few tweaks with textures, colour look ups and curves and the image was done!



*Week 5 winner: Leslie Holmes
Playing with cutlery 1*

Snippets

Let Trish know any snippets of information that you would like included in future newsletters.

*Contact her using email:
secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk*

Member news...

Many of you will know that we were saddened to hear of the passing of Chris Brent-Smith during the summer. He was a lovely gentleman who shared with us some of his travels during a member night, and also very kindly opened his farm to the club for a 2019 real Summer Club evening. Condolences are sent to all his family and friends.

Membership fees

Membership fees are being “rolled over” for the remainder of 2020. We are hoping to return to “normal” meetings from January 2021 at which point the new season fee will become payable at 50% of the usual rate.

Updates will be sent to all members when the future becomes clearer. New members can join for the remainder of 2020 for just £5. Let your friends know – this is a BARGAIN!

Question corner>>>

*Week 11 winner: Annie Blick
Still some mileage left*

Q: *What is a blend mode?*



A: Blend modes are found in Photoshop (and other editing software) allowing you to literally blend pixels between 2 layers. Each blend mode has its own particular way of interacting with the layer(s) below. The blend modes are set out in the layers palette in groups. There are 7 groups: normal, darken, lighten, contrast, inversion, cancellation and component. Blend modes are used to apply textures to an image, aid a composite or sometimes simply to bring in some lightness or contrast to an image. Often it is simply trial and error that determines which blend modes should be used.

Competitive thoughts...

Stroud Camera Club has a very active competition scene, both within the club, externally judged monthly competitions and external events, including DPIC, Battles and Salons. We fall within the auspices of WCPF (Western County Photographic Federation), who in turn are affiliated to PAGB (Photographic Alliance of Great Britain) and overseen by FIAP (Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique)

As we restart our main season our attention will turn to our monthly competitions. We encourage all members to enter these to receive constructive feedback from well qualified judges (we do not always agree with the feedback of course!). We do not operate a scoring system at Stroud CC, preferring to acknowledge the best images in a simple 1st, 2nd, 3rd place system together with highly commended and commended places. The competitions are fiercely contested both in the A group and the B group – but at the end of the evening we still remain friends!

Our website is the starting point if you would like to enter an image. There are full details of how an image should be sized and uploaded. Do not be scared about entering an image, remember that it is the “Taking part, and not the winning that is important”. Many of our members have felt that their photography skills have developed from listening to the critique of the judges and have gone on to make incredible images. If you would like any help with entering the competitions or have any questions please ask Gordon or any of the other committee members.

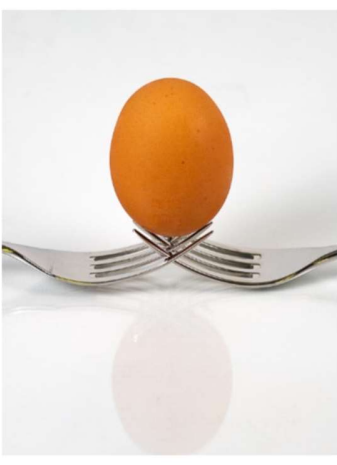
The next competition is: Open

Closing date is: 10th September 2020 DPI ONLY for September



Week 9 winner: Annie Blick
Rescued Mountain Ponies

Members Handshake: Roger Matthews
Egg



INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had recent acceptances into International Photographic Salons! As far afield as Singapore, Macedonia and closer to home in the Midlands.

Jeff Kirby

Gordon Norris

David Hunt

Trish Bloodworth

Annie Blick – MEDAL too!

Nige Bowsher

Jess Bond

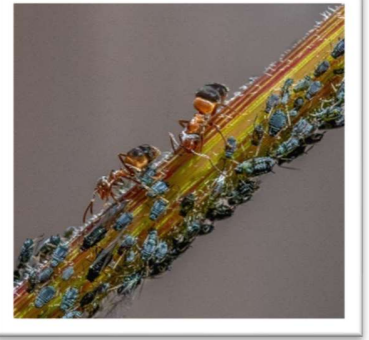
Andy Harbin

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.

WWW.STROUDCAMERACLUB.CO.UK

UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES

Week 10 winner: Aphid Farming by Jeff Kirby



coming up >>>

In The Next Month

3rd Sept - Informal chat and learn to use Zoom

10th Sept - DPIC 2020

17th Sept - Cate Barrow – UK Wildlife

24th Sept - Competition No 1 – Open

Further details on the website and in the programme.

Join via Zoom – login details will be sent to members prior to the date.

SCC Website

Also watch out for further details about other events and exciting developments we are planning for September and beyond.

More prizes are on offer too!

Check your bulletins and the website.

Week 8 winner: Trish Bloodworth
Smash

