

in this issue >>>

1st birthday edition!

*Roger's report**The review – Summer Club**Meet the members**Question corner**Snippets**Have you got GAS?**"Getting ready for light-painting" – René Cason*

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

Competitions: Richard Atkinson

Publicity: Jenny Smith

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

*David Hunt at Rococo before the heavens opened
"Photographer reflection"*



Roger's Report

Summer is nearly over, and with it Summer Club has drawn to a close heralding a return to our Club Night programme of talks, competitions, and members' evenings in the Bowls Club. The Summer Club outings were incredibly well supported with weekly challenges encouraging members to compete for a coveted Facebook Cover image so a very big thank you to each of the weekly organisers and to the members who made the evenings so successful and enjoyable. I am sure we will see many of the images again as competition images in the coming months. Summer Club has demonstrated a thirst for sharing ideas and turning what can be a very individual interest into an enjoyable group activity - the *raison d'être* of Club photography.

Over the past 18 months, we have all had to clip our wings, but with the vaccination programme having been so successful in protecting against serious illness, we can now be far more confident in returning to some semblance of normality. Your committee has reviewed the latest government guidance and, with some sensible measures to manage risk, is able to endorse a return to face-to-face Club Nights at the Bowls Club from Thursday 9th Sept. We are asking that members only attend the Bowls Club if fully vaccinated and free from any symptoms that may indicate active coronavirus infection. We will also ensure the room is well ventilated and will provide as much space as possible to allow some social distancing. Masks will not be required or mandated, but members who wish to wear one are, of course, free to do so. Personally, I cannot wait to return to the Bowls Club and am very

much looking forward to welcoming members back. We will look at experimenting with Zoom as a way of reaching out to presenters who are unable to attend in person, but in the interests of keeping Club Nights relevant do not intend to make Zoom attendance an option for members unless further covid restrictions are reintroduced.

In addition to the normal Thursday Club Nights, we will be restarting our programme of 'Back to Basics' sessions on the third Monday of each month. The emphasis for these sessions is to allow some smaller group activities often with a practical element that may be of greater interest to some than others. These may be 'basic' techniques for those new to photography, or more advanced topics for those with special interests. We intend to fit these sessions around members interests so if you have any suggestions on what you would like to see, or indeed present, please let me know.

Finally, although I am sure it will be highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter, please remember to enter your images (digital and/or prints) for our first Open competition no later than 9 Sep.

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER

*Your best photograph is the one you will
take tomorrow!*

Summer Club and thank you >>>

Wow! What superb support from members for our Summer Club. I recall having a discussion early on with R3 about numbers and he was not sure if we would attract more than a handful – well I think we broke all records! So, thank you again for keeping your Club so active – without you, the members, we of course do not have a club!

The weather was not going to be kind to us throughout of course, but why it had to choose one of the most iconic locations to decide to literally monsoon I do not know! The brave souls at Rococo almost deserve places on a wall of fame for just getting their cameras out – let alone staying until the end. Annie and I saw sense and spent nearly the whole evening in the Red House, but still got drowned getting back to the car. Leslie, as a local was also walking home – the image of her smiling but drenched was a classic moment for me showing how much people have enjoyed the Summer Club events.

I would also like to thank all the people who helped to organize the evenings, set and judge the challenges and provide me with support; Andy, Jenny S, Richard (R3), Roger, Annie, Gerry, Scott, and René all come to mind. Plus of course the two star attractions Riddle and Izzy at Minchinhampton!

I know Roger has already commented about how much he is looking forward to returning to the Bowls Club, and I certainly echo this. It will be so nice to meet all the new faces, including two brand new members who have joined this past week – we also look forward to a welcome return to all our longstanding friends who haven't had a chance to meet during the summer. Chris Tracey has already set out our programme for 2021-22 and it looks like a cracker.

If you had previously had a look, take another glance at the website as there have been a couple of minor tweaks due to unexpected changes. Our first night back on 9th September will not only see the member judging of the “My Stroud & District” 2nd round, but it will also see a new event “Demonstration Stations.” Several stations will be set up by members of the committee offering to share some knowledge with you – you will be able to walk freely amongst the tables and this is an opportunity for you to ask as many questions as you like. If you want to bring your camera or another bit of kit that you are struggling with, please bring this along and we will find the most appropriate person to assist you.

We will also have details of the first set of “Back to Basics” meetings and you will have the opportunity to make suggestions for future events.

We will be doing as much as we possibly can to create a Covid safe environment but obviously everyone needs to play their part in this too.

Please remember that your best source of up-to-date information about the Club is on the website www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk



Glyn Heskins shared this wonderful image of The Clan Line at Chalford on our Facebook page



Ben Blanch – “Forge workshop” from Ruskin Mill selected by Gerry

Facebook

Share your images on our Facebook Page.

Why don't you share some images via our Facebook group?

For the duration of Summer Club, we will be showcasing some of the excellent work of members by using some of the selected “challenge” images as the cover image for Facebook; so make sure you take part in the challenge and upload your images to the website gallery to be selected. If you are not yet a member, simply click the link within Facebook and answer 3 quite simple questions.

For more information go to

<https://facebook.com/stroudcameraclub>

Highlights >>>

The month in review – Summer Club

Week 11 – Ruskin Mill

Twenty-one members enjoyed the interesting college grounds, lakes, and outside classrooms at Ruskin Mill on a very pleasant evening. A fantastic 60 images were uploaded to the Gallery with such a range of ideas presented by members.

Week 12 – Rococo Garden

Richard has already written a full report, and this appears under the “News” section of our website – so if you haven't looked already head over to the website to take a read. Well done to Martin Gill with his image winning the challenge.

<https://www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk/news/last-thursday-rococo-wet>

Week 13 – Rodmarton Manor

Roger arranged us exclusive access to a super venue – it was such an enjoyable evening to have a lovely manor house and grounds totally to ourselves. The evening went far too fast for my liking, I was still only in the dahlia garden!

Week 14 – Purton Hulks

Whilst most members have visited this location, several new members were unaware of its existence. It is such a completely unexpected sight when walking along the banks of the River Severn to stumble (almost quite literally!) across the wrecks/hulks of the ships of yesteryear resting in their graveyard. The hoped-for sunset materialized literally for about 30 seconds, but those who had cameras pointed the right way were rewarded.



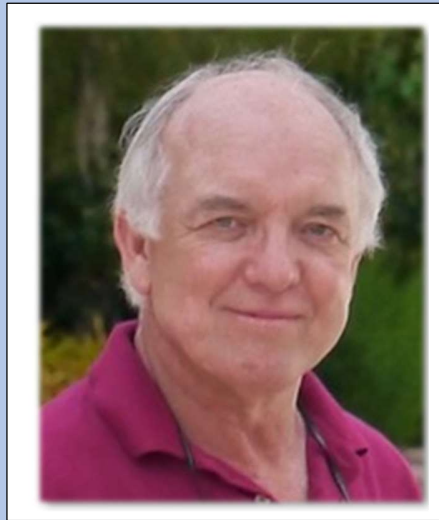
Heron plus ICM layer from Annie Blick at Ruskin Mill one of the favourites selected by Gerry Chance

Week 15 – Light painting

Such a fun evening, lighting up the night at Stratford Park, and learning new techniques – more of this in future I feel!

Meet the members: Scott Antony

I retired in 2017 after a final incarnation as developer and administrator of a national training scheme for apprentice chefs "designed and delivered by chefs." Starting out, I trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and then 10 years as an actor across film, television, and the stage before that merged into the role of theatre director and then arts centre director, which is when I moved to Gloucester, eventually settling at Minchinhampton Common some 16 years ago. The arts centre role led in turn to arts development consultancy and planning, increasingly in the culinary arts before finally partnering with the British professional chefs' bodies to originate and establish the chef training scheme under the chairmanship Dame Prue Leith.



I joined our well-organised and friendly Club five years ago with my interest in photography burgeoning in step with the time available and having developed not only more chances for travel but also a particular enthusiasm for the storytelling potential of what I think of as photofilms (AV being such an indistinct term - pretty much all media is Audio-Visual these days). As photographers we're invariably commended for still photos that contain 'narrative' and my intent has been to achieve that end more explicitly through assembling more or many stills into a moving format that uses filmic tools - panning, zooming, transitions - under a varied timing that's carefully blended to music and/or voice. I hope the upcoming evening of October 14th, with a programme from myself and others in the Club, will demonstrate the worth and appeal and perhaps

encourage more members to experiment with the form. Yes, the preparation is time consuming when properly considered and addressed - rather than just fixed images timed to a piece of music - but really no more so than the copious hours many of us spend in post-processing single images and working with minutes rather than moments means the viewer's emotional range and involvement can be sustained.

Camera-wise, having worked up from the Lumix G1 mirrorless I'm very happy with the G9 for both quality and weight plus two dedicated Leica lenses from 12 - 60mm (24 - 120 equivalent) and 50 - 200 (100 - 400) along with Panasonic's own 30m macro; for general use I find I don't need more.

Question corner>>>

Q: What about white balance?

White balance is the basic colour "cast" or "temperature" of the image. This varies throughout the day based on the actual lighting conditions - you will all know how images are "warmer" and more orange when taken during golden hour or sunset.

A: The reason we adjust white balance is to get the colours in your images as accurate as possible (or to adjust them to personal taste for artistic reasons). Often the auto mode is good enough, but it can get it wrong.

You can set white balance manually, usually to:

- Tungsten - For indoor lighting, which cools down your photo.
- Fluorescent - For warming up your photo if under cool lighting.
- Cloudy - Tends to warm everything up.
- Flash - Warms up the cool light from your flash.
- Shade - This will warm things up slightly due to cooler light of the shade

If you post process, it is a straightforward method to colour correct your image so you can leave your camera on auto WB, but even then, sometimes it is more helpful to set a white balance to get consistency across a range of images. It can also be useful to set a white balance in complex lighting scenarios, and indeed you may even want to set a custom white balance here using a grey card. (A pre-printed image which is photographed and assigned to the camera as the "correct white")

Snippets

A big SCC **WELCOME** to our latest new members - **Ian Holder and Gary Phillips**.

We look forward to meeting you both in person over the coming months. I'm sure that members will make all our new members feel "at home" when they join us.

*Hearty **CONGRATULATIONS** to one of our stalwarts, **Ian Peters** on the birth of his first grandchild. I suspect we may see a glimpse or two of said child over the coming months - and discover her name!*

*Don't forget as well as the Club galleries you do all have your own gallery into which you can upload your images. **Scott Antony** has uploaded this image "Cooling off" to his gallery.*

Let's see some more of your humorous images uploaded.



2021/22 Season Subs

Individual emails have now been sent to all members about the new season subs which are due again in September at the original £32 for the 2021/22 season starting in September 2021.

The "on the door" fee will remain at £2, and we will be aiming to continue the raffle as usual at 50 pence.

If you haven't received your email, please urgently contact

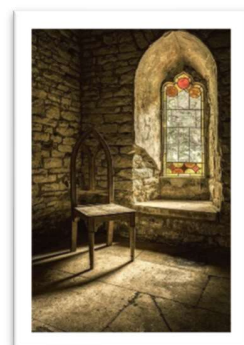
secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk

You can pay your subs by direct bank transfer or on the door on the first week back.

2021 summer challenge thoughts...

The last Summer Club has been run, so from September this section will revert to *competition thoughts* – so if we are going to have any images to use, please remember to upload your images for the first competition via the website. **Entries can be uploaded from 2nd September and will close on 9th September.**

Remember to bring your prints and hand in to Richard Atkinson on 9th September.



Annie Blick – “Summer evening at Rococo”

Week 11 – Ruskin Mill

Challenge: Capture the outdoor classrooms

Gerry selected the following images (in no particular order):

Jane Bodkin – Time for a trim

Annie Blick – Heron plus ICM

Ben Blanch – Forge workshop entrance and

Forge Workshop no 2

Leslie Holmes – Wooden workshops



Leslie Holmes – “Rococo Exedra”

coming up >>>

September 2021

Return to Club 9th September

Opening night is at Cotswold Bowls Club
Golden Jubilee Way, Dudbridge, Stroud.

GL5 3HQ

First Speaker 16th September

Steve Spraggon

Seeing Shapes

1st Competition 23rd September

Open No 1

Next Competition

1st Open (i.e., any subject/genre) – closing date will be Thursday 9th September – which is our first meeting – so start to get ready now!

Week 12 – Rococo

Challenge: Capture a reflection photo in particular using the 3 separate ponds

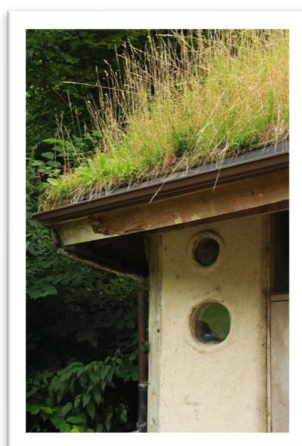
Richard Atkinson selected the following as his images of the night:

Martin Gill – Inverted arches

Leslie Holmes – Rococo Exedra

David Hunt – On reflection

A non-challenge image that caught Richard's eye was Annie's "Summer evening at Rococo" Richard commented "I think the quality of this image is stunning and I hope we'll be seeing it in one of our competitions in the coming season. Well done, Annie, it's an absolute cracker."



Jane Bodkin – “Time for a trim”

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS
CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had recent acceptances into International Photographic Salons in Sri Lanka, Luxembourg, and Iceland!

René Cason

David Hunt

Trish Bloodworth

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



Martin Gill – “Inverted arches”

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

Week 13 – Rodmarton Manor

Challenge: Creative floral

Leslie Holmes – Clematis was selected by Roger as his winning image from the evening.

He also commented favourably on:

René Cason various multiple exposure images

Trish Bloodworth's dahlias

Gerry Chance lensbaby images

He also selected his own image "Alpines" as the best focus stacked image!

Richard Atkinson was mentioned for his super mono "The game's up" and Margot Page for her "Through the garden gate"



Roger Matthews
Alpines



Leslie Holmes
Clematis

Congratulations >>>

Well done to **Phil Hope** who came 1st in the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers photography competition with his image "The bells of Up Holland"

Our winning photo, "The bells of Up Holland" by Phil Hope combined good lighting and composition with an interesting perspective of the bells against the tower background. It easily stood out amongst the many photos of bells in their frames that were submitted.



Website

Use the website for all up to date information.

We do want you to be able to fully access all the features and information available via the website, so please do ask if you have any issues.

Richard can be contacted via:

competition@stroudcameraclub.co.uk

Remember competition uploads are 1600wide x 1200high pixels; gallery uploads are max 800 x 800 pixels. Please read the "How To" guide about resizing images on the Club menu our website – or just use this quick link:

<https://rb.gy/j3oou8>

Week 14 – Purton Hulks

Challenge: An image using the natural or artificial light; or an abstract image

Some inventive images from this evening including details on the hulks and the elusive sunset. Trish selected the following as favourites:

Leslie Holmes – Purton Hulks detail 3

Rhys Owen – Glimpse of the sun

Tim Murfitt – Times gone by

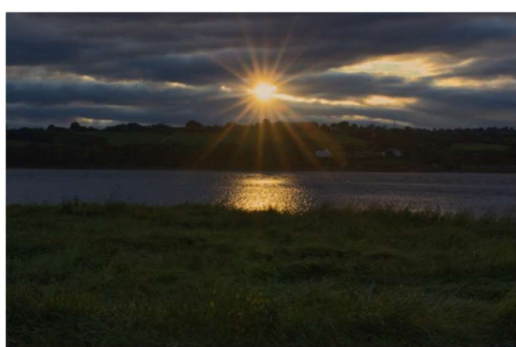
Richard Atkinson – Arty farty

Roger Matthews – Deck detail

There are additional comments on the Website about these and several other images.



Leslie Holmes –
Purton Hulks detail 3



Rhys Owen – Glimpse of the sun

Week 15 – Light painting

Challenge – capture the best image

A fabulous evening at Stratford Park, with some very interesting results from different cameras and positions. Take a look at the images on the website gallery and also uploaded to Facebook.

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

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR THE 1ST COMPETITION IS 9TH SEPTEMBER

“Have you got GAS?”

Arsenal Smart Camera Assistant

A review by Roger Matthews

(Original no longer available but Arsenal 2 available shortly at c. \$199 - \$250).

Some of the newest high-end DSLRs have many ‘smart’ features but camera manufacturers have been slow to exploit some technologies that are now commonplace on phones. These effortlessly allow an in-built camera to be controlled by a variety of innovative apps that can automate a variety of functions in



a way that a few years back could only be achieved by professional post-processing of images. Arsenal Smart Camera Assistant is a device that was launched by a ‘kickstarter’ crowd-funded start-up in the US to bring a host of AI-powered smart features to almost any DSLR or mirrorless camera including ‘smart’ HDR, automated focus-stacking, time lapse and long-exposure photography plus wireless capabilities that allow control of your camera through your smart phone. But does the device live up to the hype for AI-powered ‘smart’ control?

Being a start-up, there were numerous delays in getting the product to market and the firmware required several updates to eliminate bugs. Each update needed to be uploaded before the device could be used - frustrating if your firmware had not been uploaded before attempting to use it! However, my experience has been generally positive. I have been pleased with the device’s handling of HDR images and the focus-stacking works well with no need to import separate images into post-processing software. My Canon does not have an intervalometer so I would not be able to capture time-lapses without one - although I have yet to use Arsenal for this, it appears to be easy to set-up and reviews have generally been positive. Most functions are only useful if you mount the device on a tripod, so this needs to be taken into consideration when looking at devices like this. The smartphone remote-shutter function works well and allows much more control over camera settings than a simple remote-control device.

If you have serious problems with Gear Acquisition Syndrome, this is a device that will get you excited, but there are flaws that limit its appeal. Having said that, the Arsenal 2 device (in development and already behind schedule because of chip shortages)

may be worth considering. This will be faster and offer new AI-powered features like ‘deep colour’, ‘crowd control’ (removing moving objects from a scene), ‘night assist’ and ‘panoramic stitching’. Time alone will tell whether this is a device just for the gear geek or a serious device to keep your old DSLR at the cutting edge.
(<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2092430307/arsenal-2/description>)

Not for you? There are currently 631 Kickstarter camera equipment start-ups to buy in to - there is bound to be something you never thought you needed (and probably don’t) that could solve the problem of what to do with your lockdown savings - visit [kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com) | [discover](#) | [technology](#) | [camera equipment](#) for more.

FUN/INTERESTING FACTS

Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year 2021

Not only are SLPOTY setting out ineligible locations they are also banning the use of physical glass, resin, or plastic graduated filters. The reason behind this – environmental concerns. Many of the beauty spots – aka honeypot images – are littered with remnants of broken filters left behind by would-be photographers. SLPOTY felt they needed to take a stance.

They are also banning the use of images at a list of landmarks in Scotland – at first this seems very bizarre but look at their statistics and you start to realise why!

<https://slpoty.co.uk/>

SLPOTY statistics

LAND AREA OF SCOTLAND = 30,420 SQUARE MILES
80% of images entered are of/from 4% of the land area

THERE ARE 1500 CASTLES IN SCOTLAND
Only 14 castles have ever been entered.
2 castles make up 90% of entries – Edinburgh & Kilchurn Castles.

IMAGES OF BOTHIES, RUINS & CROFTS
There are 1000s of bothies, ruins and crofts. Almost all images of a “bothy” are of Lagangarbh hut or Black Rock Cottage

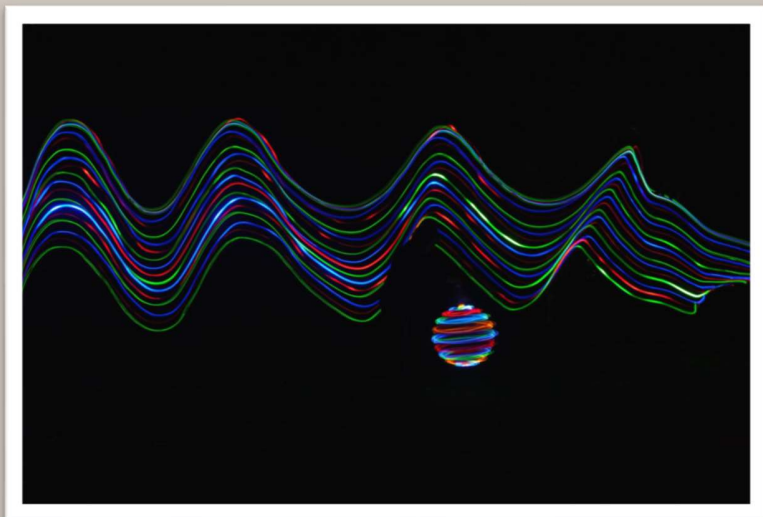
IMAGES OF BRIDGES
There are 2029 bridges in Scotland
95% of bridge images entered are of the Forth Bridges

Summer Club Challenge Images

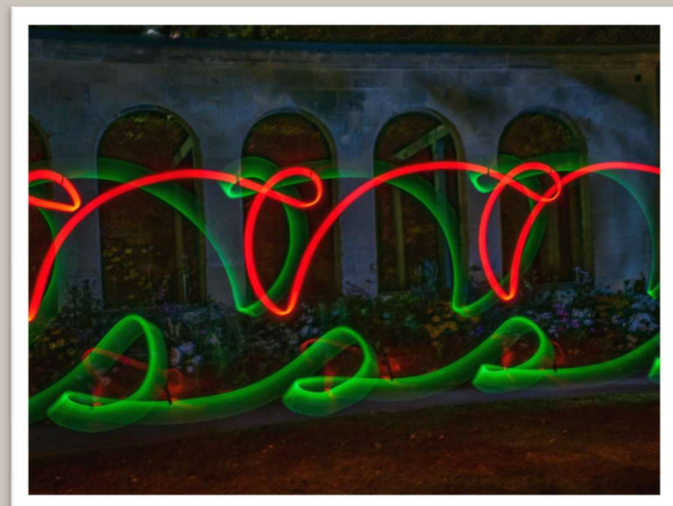
"The game's up" – Richard Atkinson



Light painting – Mick West



Light painting – René Cason



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

"Inula hookeri" – Gerry Chance



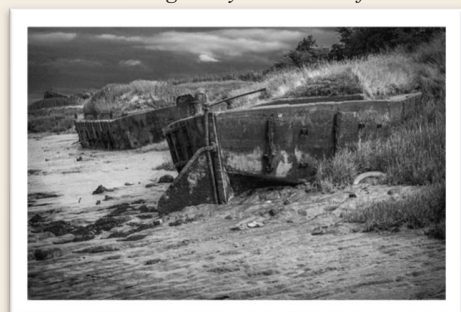
"Through the garden gate" – Margot Page



"Deck detail" – Roger Matthews



"Times gone by" – Tim Murfitt



"Time tones" – Scott Antony

