

*in this issue >>> DPIC Special Edition**Roger's report**The review – February Speakers**Meet your committee**Question corner**Snippets**My Stroud & District**"A view from Blea Tarn" – Andy Harbin – 1st place group A*

A Monthly Insight into the activities of 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

"Espresso yourself" – Mick West – 2nd place group B

Roger's Report

Who would ever have thought restrictions would have lasted for this long?

As we approach the anniversary of when we were last able to hold a normal Club Night, there is a realistic hope that things will soon return to some semblance of normality and we will be able to meet for Summer Club outings over summer and then hold regular Club Nights in the Bowls Club from the start of next season. Who would ever have thought restrictions would have lasted for this long when we were forced to suspend the 2019/20 season? We will each have our own thoughts on whether relaxation of lockdown restrictions is going too slowly, about right or too fast, but I think few will be unhappy with the pace of the vaccine roll-out.

I think, however, that many will have been surprised by how well the Club has embraced virtual meetings and continued to attract new members who are making such a positive contribution to the Club. Since writing my piece for last month's newsletter, SCC has achieved its highest ever finish in the WCPF DPIC competition finishing joint fifth (out of 58 clubs)! Members also continue to do exceptionally well in salons with acceptances almost every week and the standard of images in our regular competitions is as high as ever. While I am desperate for travel restrictions to ease, so we can get out with our cameras, and to restart face-to-face meetings as soon as possible, the changes that have been forced upon us have clearly not dented your enthusiasm or diminished your pursuit of photographic excellence. Who would not want

to be part of something this dynamic and successful? You may even wish to join the Committee and shape the future of the Club - we have a **vacancy coming up for Programme Secretary**, so if you would like to take this on (much of next season's programme has already been completed - with a **massive thank you to Chris Tracey**), please let me know ASAP in preparation for the AGM in Apr.

We still have much to look forward to in the coming weeks, not least Chairman's Challenge on 4 March when you can demonstrate your versatility (or not) in learning a new photographic skill. Who knows, it may even change the direction of your photographic journey. Other highlights include the Nature and Image of the Year competitions, the 'battles', more excellent external speakers, and the annual mobile phone challenge. I have also posted a bulletin with a request for images of Gloucestershire for Longfield Community Hospice - a very worthy charity and an excellent opportunity to showcase talent within the Club that I whole-heartedly hope we can all support (including those members who are less comfortable with Zoom Club Nights). Something for everyone!



AND FINALLY - REMEMBER: Colour is everything, Black & White is more.

The review >>>

"The way we were" Peter Bartlett

Peter explained the reason for his title as being literally "the way we were" before COVID-19. As a street photographer he has found it difficult to be able to continue in the vein he usually employs for his photography.

However, we were entertained by "the way we were" and shown around his world of street photography, which he said required patience and was simply attempting to obtain "organisation from chaos".

The evening started with showing how he achieves excellent shots by using figures in geometric shapes that he finds in everyday buildings, structures, and street fabric. He explained that his camera of choice is a micro four-thirds with generally a 45mm or 28mm lens, so 90mm and 50mm in a full frame equivalent. He also enjoys using the Ricoh GR which is a very ergonomic camera with a 28mm lens.

Whilst Peter said that telling a story of the street is unlikely to win any competition, it enables him to present the viewer with a story, and the viewer can then make their own minds up as to what that story is.

Peter took us on a journey through various locations and included an amusing interlude in various Art Galleries!

He talked us through setting up his brief for his ARPS – for this a "statement of intent" is required and a panel of 15 images. He decided upon Street Photography in Manchester's Northern Quarter and kindly showed us his fascinating view around this part of Manchester.

Peter was another photographer who emphasized the importance of personal projects and panels of work. He shared with us his everyday scenes around West Yorkshire and then his "Day at the Races" project which was a collaborative project and has now been published as a photobook.

Once again, a very informative evening, with a speaker from outside of our usual geographic area.

Derrick Whitmore –
"Fly away home"
Commended



Highlights >>>

The month in review

February seems to have been full of highlights!

February started grey and cold, but we were warmed up with Sarah Howard ("An image seen") carefully explaining the rudiments of landscape photography, starting from the basis that our eyes are our most important tool, so we do not have to worry about what gear we have.

What a range of beautiful scenery we have around this country, without even going to foreign parts (although perhaps SCC on tour to Tuscany sounds quite a bit of fun one day!)

The Whitby lighthouse was stunning, and even closer to home the views of various Cotswold locations and several shots of Broadway Tower certainly prove that landscape photography is accessible to us all – once lockdown is over of course! A remarkably interesting evening with plenty of content for us to consider when looking to improve our own imagery.

Then followed DPIC and the great excitement of 5th place – so this has its own section in the newsletter of course. Plus, the highly anticipated Cheltenham Salon – so this too has its own section!



Scott Antony – "Found in the mist" Highly commended



Jeff Kirby – Goshawk guarding the kill – Highly Commended

FaceBook

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

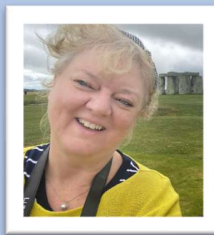
Why don't you share some images via our FaceBook group? It will be lovely to see them, and **if you would like to be the featured image**, just tag it #coverphoto and our social media secretary Jenny Smith will add it to her collection of potentials for the cover image.

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>

Meet the committee: Jenny Smith – Social Media Secretary



This month Jenny is introducing herself. Many will not realise that Jenny is the maestro behind keeping the SCC Facebook group operating in a very safe, informative and efficient manner.

My first introduction to photography was through my father who had a Praktica Camera and lenses, I still have that in my possession! He took mainly the family but also had an interest in landscapes, his interest had been from a young age and you can find written in his war diary an account of how many photographs he had taken and developed each day and how many he had sold to the others stationed with him.

I took up photography at school and was introduced to dark room photography which I thoroughly enjoyed. With this enthusiasm I persuaded my father to buy me my own camera and he bought me a Chinon. I still have that in my possession too!

I went on to study Art and English at University and found a love of Etching which always evolved from a "perfect" photograph; I loved to take the narrow streets of the villages near Exeter and could have sold a lot of my Etchings at my final exhibition (no comments about come up and see my etchings thank you!).

I have always been the person in the family who is invited to events along with my camera, but it was a few years ago that I felt I had the time to take up photography as an interest for me again. I went along to Stroud College for an evening class and it was there that Stroud Camera Club was mentioned. Along with two other students (middle aged

women really, but students sounds good) I contacted SCC and the rest is history.

After a year at SCC I was attending one evening with my daughter, who is also interested in photography, it is still running in the family, and it was mentioned that a person was required to help with social media. My daughter volunteered and persuaded me to help as well, we were accepted to assist, but just after my daughter landed a new job and needed to give her attention to that, leaving me to assist without her. It wasn't long until the person running the social media had a new job and he too couldn't give it the time and so began my attending to it alone! I loved it! I still love it!

It is so satisfying to see members using the social media, however we could do with a few more posts from a few more people. I must say thank you to those who contribute, you are amazing and keep our social media varied and interesting – if any members haven't joined our Facebook page yet you are missing out.



*"Abandoned"
Jenny Smith - Commended*

Question corner>>>

Q: What is dodging and burning?

These terms originated in the darkroom: "Dodging" meant using various tools to block the light from reaching the photo paper, thus lightening that part of the print. Burning used tools to allow extra light to reach portions of the paper, thus darkening those areas of the print.

A. This technique was used extensively by Ansel Adams who said, "Dodging and burning are steps to take care of mistakes God made in establishing tonal relationships." There is a fascinating video which shows many of the iterations of Ansel Adams famous image "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico" on the internet at <https://mymodernmet.com/ansel-adams-moonrise-hernandez-new-mexico/> It is well worth a look.

Nowadays of course we can employ Lightroom, Photoshop or similar for our dodging and burning.

Snippets

More interesting snippets from members:

We've all watched Trevor Blundell's hair and beard get longer and longer over our zoom meetings. Trevor explains why.

"What started out as a personal project for lockdown 1, appears to be embracing a wider interest! I decided in lockdown 1 to donate hair (12" plus is the current need) to The Little Princess Trust and to provide funds for two wigs and an extra gift for R&D into children's cancer. This gave me an external focus on something really important while I was incarcerated for who knows how long.

The trust makes wigs for children who have lost their hair through cancer treatments. These wigs are provided free to the children in the UK. The trust also provides some wigs to children in Europe. The trust receives support in three major areas. First, they receive donations of hair from the public. It takes 14 individual donations of hair to make one child's wig. There are specific standards of length, quality, style etc. for each hair donation. Secondly, they receive monetary donations to pay for the wig making. It costs £550 for each wig to be made. Thirdly, they receive monetary donations to fund children's cancer research."

www.littleprincesses.org.uk

Member news...

Congratulations to **Scott Antony** who has two photofilms to be screened at the North Europe International Film Festival in London in late March.

The titles are "William Morris at Kelmscott", which is a narration from his utopian fiction 'News for Nowhere', and "Leisure' in the time of Covid-19", which is the W.H. Davies poem applied to the lockdown. This is a tremendous achievement – well done Scott.

<https://fusionfilmfestivals.com/nomination/43-photography/>

New Members

Just **£10** for the season **from 1st January 2021** to the season end – May 2021 (but to include Summer Club, in whatever format that can be.)

Please email

secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk for more details.

2021 competitive thoughts...

Read on for details about this month's club competition. Don't forget to let Roger have your thoughts before the AGM about our competitions and if you would like to see any changes.

A reminder also that the Western Counties Photographic Federation (WCPF) Knightshayes Trophy is being shown live on Zoom on 6th March – see the bulletin for login details, and the WCPF Members Exhibition will also close shortly.

Roger Matthews
"Cambodian street companions"
Highly commended



The February competition was our "mono" month and this was skillfully judged by Peter Weaver, who has been a good friend to SCC over many years.

Mono Group B

1st Margot Page

2nd Mick West

3rd Ben Blanch

HC René Cason & Margot Page

C Gerry Chance, Phil Hope, Jenny Smith

Mono Group A

1st Andy Harbin

2nd Annie Blick

3rd Andy Harbin

HC Scott Antony, Trish Bloodworth, Jeff Kirby

& Roger Matthews

C Annie Blick, Ian Peters, Derrick Whitmore & Jeff Wilson (2)

It was extremely encouraging to see 82 entries and such lovely encouraging comments from Peter are sure to give members plenty of incentive to keep producing excellent quality work.

All images can be seen on the Website.

coming up >>>

March 2021

Thu 4 March 2021 – Chairman's Challenge

Thu 11 March 2021 – Battle - Stroud v Newent v Forest of Dean

Thu 18 March 2021 - Glenys Garnett - Creative Techniques

Thu 25 Mar 2021 - Competition No 6: Nature (see the website for nature rules/definitions)

Join via Zoom – login details in bulletins

Next Competition

Remember My Stroud & District – see Left panel

March competition is NATURE

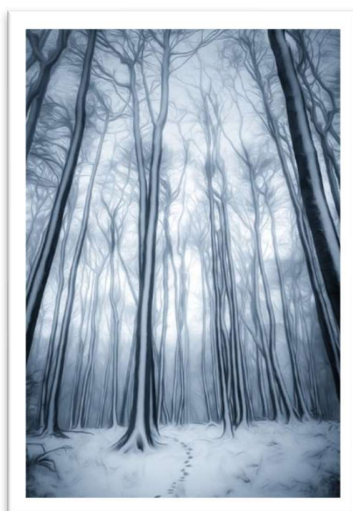
Next deadline is 11th March

MY STROUD & DISTRICT

2021 OPEN NOW

Don't forget our annual competition – upload your images of Stroud and surrounds – enter via your competition page. Remember this is a two-fold competition 1) to create a local archive 2) for the chance to win.

Refer to the website for further details and the new "rules".



Annie Blick – "The coldness of snow"
2nd place Group A

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had acceptances into International Photographic Salons! Once again SCC are represented across the world, but also closer to home with several members achieving acceptances in the highly regarded Bristol Salon.

Jeff Kirby

Richard Atkinson

David Hunt

Trish Bloodworth

Annie Blick

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.



"Vaccinator – in to battle" Trish Bloodworth
Highly Commended



René Cason
"Up the trunk"
Highly commended

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

Cheltenham International Salon of Photography (CISP) 2020

We all look forward to this evening on the SCC calendar – not only as it showcases International photography, but we normally spot our SCC members' work and give them a resounding clap. It was once again testimony to Camera Clubs showing resilience and determination in the face of Covid that this salon even happened. Dave Hyett who kindly gave up his evening to share the presentation confirmed that Cheltenham Salon was the first FIAP salon to run after Covid lockdowns commenced around the world. So, well done Cheltenham.

As usual the quality of image was excellent, and more than matched by the beautiful AV that had been put together by Martin Fry. Dave said that Martin has confirmed this will be his last year – so anyone who is going to put together this show next year has very big boots to fill.

650 photographers entered Cheltenham Salon 2020, with over 8,000 images. FIAP rules dictate that a maximum of 25% of the images can be accepted into a salon – in fact Cheltenham accepted only 23%; and then from the acceptances Martin Fry selects the images he feels will work best in the AV presentation. It was therefore so rewarding to see so many of our own members images on the evening. It was such a shame we had no chance to give our customary clap – but well done to Richard Atkinson and Leslie Holmes for being “spotters” and at least chiming in with a brief “well done”.

So as we couldn't congratulate you all on the night, I would like to extend a massive “well done” to all who were successful at this salon, and to David Hunt, Jeff Wilson, Jeff Kirby, Nigel Bowsher, Annie Blick and Derrick Whitmore whose images were shown. Not forgetting Andy Harbin, who featured in the “awards” section with a well deserved CISP silver (for the image with the impossible pronunciation!); plus I was personally really proud that my image also featured in the creative section with a FIAP HM ribbon.

Another excellent evening at SCC – but let's hope next year we will be back to our customary manner of congratulating accepted images. To enter this year head to <http://www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk/wordpress/salon/> you have until Monday 5th April 2021 to get your images in. The cost is £9 for one section, up to a maximum of £21 for all 5 sections. Even if you have never entered a salon before have a think about whether to invest your £9 for the excitement of opening the email with your “report card” – I will warn you though, it can then become addictive!

And remember, although we have mentioned about FIAP changing the goal posts for distinctions from salon acceptances – you do not have to be chasing distinctions, you can simply enter for the fun of it, and the feeling of satisfaction knowing that your image may be seen all around the world; if you are lucky enough to do well and have your image added to the catalogue, this is sent to every single entrant – so over 650 people will see your image in print!

If anybody is a first time salon entrant and wants any advice, do not hesitate to contact the committee members - Trish, Annie, Andy, Jeff K; plus I'm very sure that Jeff W, Derrick, Nige and David Hunt would also be only too happy to give guidance.



*Andrew Harbin DPAGB – “Buchaille Etive Mor”
CISP Silver: Landscape Cheltenham Salon*



*Trish Bloodworth – “S-O-S”
FIAP Honorable Mention Cheltenham Salon*

Cheltenham Salon 2021

**Closing date for entries:
Monday 5th April 2021**

**5 Sections:
Colour, Mono, Creative, Nature, Travel**

**[www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk/
wordpress/salon/](http://www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk/wordpress/salon/)**

FIAP Distinctions - amendments for 2022

The PAGB have notified affiliates that the world governing body, The International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) have amended requirements for their distinctions from the calendar year 2022. For any member that is considering “chasing” the distinctions, which start at Artist “AFIAP” and move to Excellence “EFIAP” this is something to be very aware of. It is also worth mentioning that any application for distinctions must be made via PAGB who will determine if a photographer can be put forward to FIAP for a distinction. FIAP are very clear that the awarding of a distinction is an honour and not a right. PAGB as the English governing body have one “slot” each year at which they are able to put forward photographers who have achieved the distinction standards.

From 2022 which will be the next round of distinction applications, the requirements for AFIAP and EFIAP are expected to be the following:

THE AFIAP DISTINCTION

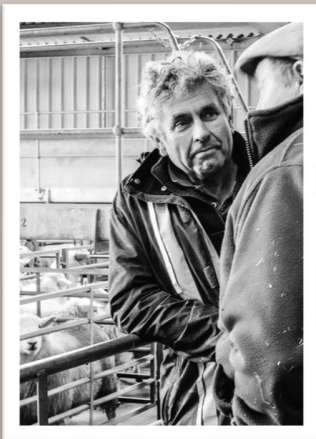
The candidate for this distinction must: a) Have taken part with success in different international salons under FIAP Patronage for at least 1 year; i.e. his first FIAP-recognised acceptance must have occurred at least 1 year ago. b) Have taken part with success in different international salons under FIAP Patronage in at least **15 different countries**. c) Have obtained **at least 90 acceptances** with **at least 30 different works** in international salons under FIAP Patronage. Candidates for AFIAP distinction must submit: 5 photographic works of the candidate in form of a digital file. All the submitted works must have obtained 3 FIAP - recognised acceptances in different salons. In this respect a Circuit is considered to be a single salon.

THE EFIAP DISTINCTION

The candidate for the distinction must: a) Be the holder of the previous distinction for at least one year, based on the date of the diploma. b) Have taken part with success in different international salons under FIAP Patronage in at least **30 different countries**. In this respect a Circuit is considered to be a single salon. c) Have obtained **at least 250 new acceptances** with **at least 100 different new works** in international salons under FIAP Patronage. Each image can only be used a maximum of 5 times. A portfolio of 5 different images must be submitted. The submitted works must have obtained an award in different countries and a Circuit is considered to be a single salon.

Remember that different salons have different patronages – this applies to those with FIAP patronages only.

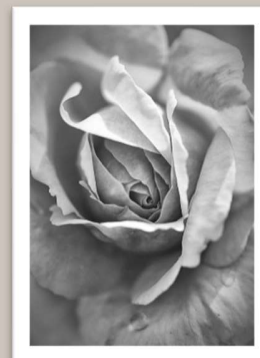
“Market day” – Margot Page – 1st place group B



“Nun’s Cross Farm” – Andy Harbin – 3rd place group A



“Storm clouds over Bangor” – Ben Blanch – 3rd place group B



*“A rose by any other name”
– Margot Page – Highly
Commended*

*“It isn’t the alphabet that’s important. The important thing is what you are writing, what you are expressing. The same thing goes for photography.”
Andre Kertesz*

My Stroud & District AND Longfield Community Hospice

As mentioned in the last newsletter, from January 2021 the “My Stroud and District” competition will continue to run year by year but will be split into four separate competition Rounds with closing dates on 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December.

The idea is, as before, to **build an archive of Stroud & District as seen through our lenses, capturing the beauty and interest of the area in all seasons. In 25, 50 or 100 years time, just think what a valuable and fascinating archive we will have built for our successors.** Turning it into a competition just makes it more fun. So, don't forget to enter your images in the current round.

SCC has been approached by Longfield Community Hospice to see if we could provide images to display in their newly decorated main corridor.

They would like around 20 framed images of the local area that would brighten the walls and provide points of interest for users of the hospice, many of whom are no longer able to explore the magnificent countryside we have the good fortune of living in.

Roger would like to collect a wide variety of images from across county (Longfield Community Hospice's catchment area covers the whole of Gloucestershire) and create a portfolio of images from which staff can select their preferred images. He will then arrange to print, mount, and frame the selected images hopefully in time for the hospice reopening after Easter.

For consistency, **the images need to be in colour** (though one wall in one room could accommodate four B&W images) **and landscape in orientation.** We have been asked to *avoid images of churches to be as inclusive as possible.* Stroud & District (S&D) competition images might be suitable, but for this exercise we are not limited to images that are in the S&D area and images may be taken from your archive and include images that have previously been entered in competitions. Think of the images that you might like to see on the wall that showcase our county.

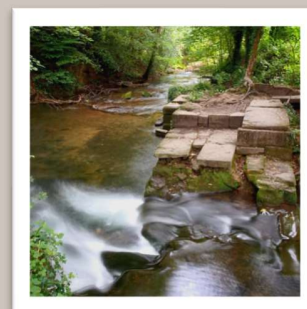
Please think about images that you already have that might be suitable, or images that you might take to meet the brief, Roger will provide details on getting these to him in the next week or two.

The aim will be to present candidate images to staff at Longfield Community Hospice by the end of March.

Some more of the 2020 My Stroud & District images



David Hamilton – Whiteshill with Stroud behind



Glynn Heskins – River Frome

Trevor Blundell – Ebley Mill Lowryesque



Mike Guest – Lynch Brook.



“Photography for me is not looking, it's feeling. If you can't feel what you're looking at, then you're never going to get others to feel anything when they look at your pictures.” *Don McCullin*

WCPF DPIC 2021 - Review

DPIC – What a result!

Sunday 8th Feb started miserable, grey and cold, so perfect for setting up the laptop to connect to the big TV and settle down to a morning of DPIC – the coffee and sticky bun brought in at half time improved my comfort even more. Having never been to DPIC, this was an exciting event for me – but also slightly worrying as I was part of team Stroud CC carrying the load to try to better our 22nd place of 2020.

The technology was pretty good all things considered, and they reckoned that at one point over 350 people were zoomed in; remarking that was a far higher number than they actually get at the Corn Exchange in Exeter (although there was also a comment that people were missing out on a nice afternoon of shopping!) The judging had already been carried out so that the judges saw the images at full resolution and not impacted by zoom or online technology. The judging was done in the usual manner with simultaneous scores being given by 3 judges, scoring between 2 to 5.

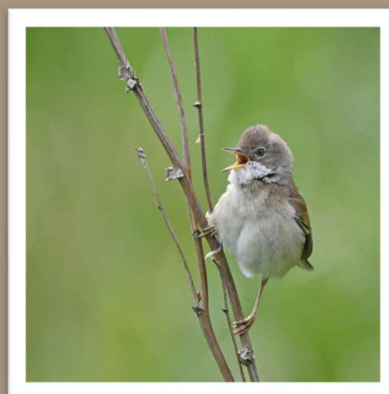
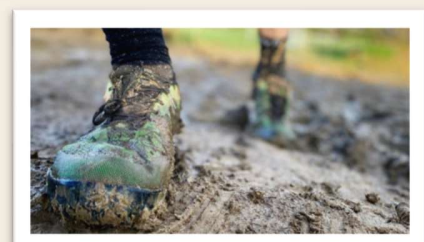
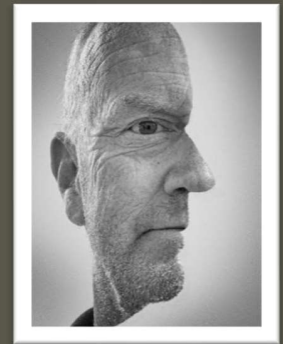
We were off to a good solid start with our new member, James Pantons's Mud scoring a solid 11. A relief to me that my first one, Social Distancing (balloons lifting the house from Minchinhampton) scored a healthy 12. Annie (A street cat named Bob), Andy (Warnscale Bothy) and Jeff Kirby (Common whitethroat in full song) must be hugely congratulated on giving SCC superb 13's – this meaning that they all achieved the incredibly hard task of getting a score of 5 from one of the judges.

By the midway break we'd had further 12's from Andy (Glencoe cottage) and Annie

(Where's baby) so were looking at quite a healthy potential score.

The break came and went, and off we went again with Roger (Two-faced) also picking up 12. Richard Atkinson and Paul Martin had also secured SCC very good 11's for DC3, Mating Chalkhill Blues and Poised & ready for action respectively. Incredibly the final 5 images were Jeff's and mine – so the pressure was mounting. Jeff's images went through in sequence, a slight disappointment that his Aphid farming was judged as 10 (Annie too had a 10 in the first half – so we were robbed for these!); but Nettle Weevils had already picked up a 12. All down to my images to bring us home! Ice Queen – phew 11! The Artist, which I felt should be OK a 12 – well done my dog! Last image – Moonlit Walk – please don't get a 9! Almost the end of the event – a 12. What a superb result for the SCC team; 3 scores of 13! 7 scores of 12; 6 scores of 11; and just 2 of 10. To put this in context, plenty of images went through scoring 9 – and there were even a couple with just 7 and 8.

No surprises that Bristol were overall winners, but they are also a massive club; Dorchester also maintained their top two position. Then the full list of scores went up – where was Stroud – I was scanning the screen – no sign of Stroud – no wonder, I was looking too far down! Stroud Camera Club were a triumphant 5th Place!!! What a superb result for us – well done to all at SCC for this tremendous achievement. With the strength that we are seeing in club competitions, whilst it will no doubt be hard to maintain or beat this result, I'm sure we will have a damn good try next year.



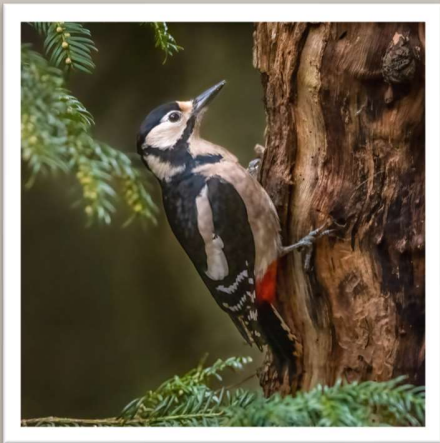
Just some of the recent images shared in the SCC FaceBook group

René Cason – shortlisted image for 2021 Bird POTY competition



Jeff Kirby – Spotted Woodpecker

Jeff has been asked for permission for this image to be reproduced in Amateur Photographer magazine



Paul Edwards – Playing



See more on the Facebook Group - <https://facebook.com/stroudcameraclub>

Richard Atkinson - Kingfisher



René Cason – Dramatic view of the Severn



Trish Bloodworth – A bit of abstract



Jeff Wilson – Times gone by

