

2022-2023 SEASON >>>

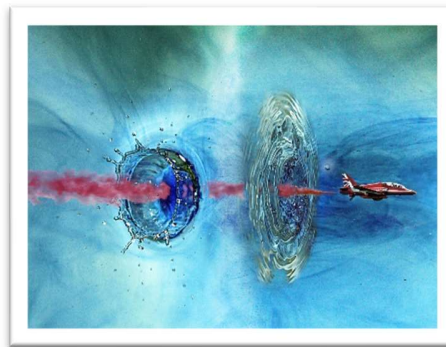
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"Jet wash" – Kerrin Malone

Issue #28
Feb 23

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

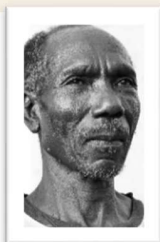
Treasurer: Leslie Holmes

Competitions: Richard Atkinson

Publicity: René Casson

Programme: Ali Garrett

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



"Kwakou" – Jill Parker

AND FINALLY – REMEMBER

(To paraphrase Winston Churchill's assessment of democracy) - Competitions are the worst form of assessing images - except for all the others that have been tried.

Roger's Report

This time of year is a busy one for inter-club competitions with the WCPF DPIC and Print competitions in early February and local inter-club battles running through until early April. On top of this we have had our 4th Club competition of the season and a Club Night when we saw many of the top images from the Cheltenham International Salon of Photography - all told, a lot of images to review and an opportunity to internally judge the images and see how well our own assessment of images matches up against that of the judges. For the most part, I think the judges get things 'right', but I am sure I am not alone in thinking that some great images go unrewarded while others are given high scores despite not standing out from the crowd. With judging being as subjective as it is, how can we avoid disappointment when entering competitions? First and foremost, one should never lose sight of the fact that if you think you have a great image, you have a result. Developing the ability to critically appraise your images is essential if you are going to improve your photography, whether you have a competition winner or not (or even enter the image into competition). Paying attention to technical aspects (exposure, focus, contrast, sharpness etc), composition (focusing attention on the subject, balance within the frame and avoiding distractions) and storytelling (to engage the viewer) are skills that come more naturally if you are used to looking at images with a critical eye - this is where we can all learn from competition images whether they are yours or someone else's. The best judges are adept at assessing images without being influenced by their own personal likes and dislikes regarding the genre of the image and will provide constructive feedback when

feedback is permitted (as it is in all Club competitions). It doesn't always seem to work out like that, but if you find yourself disagreeing with a judge's assessment, remember; it is just their assessment, you are probably not alone, the fact that you have an opinion means that you are developing an appreciation of what is good, and it doesn't really matter! One Tetbury member (a former professional photographer) felt that competitions were ruining photography - I don't agree as they have undoubtedly made me a better photographer, but they are not, and should never be, the prime focus of your club photography. As Graeme Healey's excellent Astrophotography presentation taught us, we are but a pixel on the tiny blue dot that is Earth in a vast expanse of the universe with it's 50 billion trillion stars, so none of it really matters in the big picture of life!

Of course, one thing that does matter is the governance and running of Stroud Camera Club, which relies on volunteers stepping up to the plate. The AGM is a mere seven weeks away and we do need fresh faces in some of the committee posts - most notably Competition Secretary (for the 23/24 season) and Chairman-elect (to start in the 24/25 season). Should you have the time (none of the jobs are too onerous) and enthusiasm to keep the Club moving forwards, I would love to hear from you (ASAP). You may feel more comfortable taking on a different role to the two noted above, that would be equally helpful as it could allow a reshuffle of other posts to keep all bases covered. It's a great Club, but it needs your support.

The review >>>

Cheltenham International Salon of Photography (CISP)

The Cheltenham Salon is always a super evening, with some high-quality images on display. Aleks Gjika (the chairman of the CISP) brought the salon AV to Stroud this year, and was very helpful giving members a little bit of an insight to what may get selected for a salon, and what may not. The main “take away” was that the image must have impact; it is in front of the judge for just 5 seconds, so there must be an immediate connection for the image to do well. Aleks also reminded members of the rules for nature and travel, where cloning, and altering the reality of the image are not allowed.

The evening consisted of separate presentations set to music of mono, creative, travel, colour and nature. The standards as one would expect for an International Salon were high, but definitely not unachievable. It was super to see several images from SCC members within the presentation, and the usual round of applause was given to celebrate these achievements.

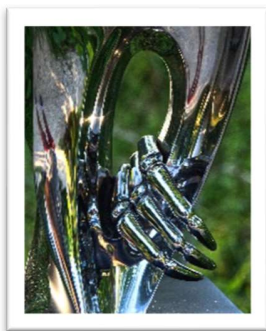
The 2023 CISP is now open, and entries can be entered up to the closing date of 9th April 2023. It would be amazing to see more SCC members in this AV next year.
<https://cheltenhamcameraclub.uk/salon-2023/>

Astrophotography – Graeme Healey

We were delighted to welcome Graeme Healey to SCC for the final speaker event of February, and doubly happy to hear that his daughter to whom he dedicates a lot of his photography has had very successful open-heart surgery. Graeme calls his imagery AstroHeart, showing his love for both his photographic passion and his family. He showed how it is truly a family affair with images in his presentation from his 11 year old daughter, Millie, as well as from two of his sons. Incredibly, all of them captured images that were potentially far superior to those that most of us would achieve. Perhaps it is the dedication that is paramount!

Graeme talked us through how many of his deep space images are works in progress, seeking out a particular nebular, or quasar. Not only were the exposure times “astronomical” in length – think 17 hours using 5 minute frames; it is also the sheer size and time that is involved in deep space – 47,000 years to cross one particular galaxy, or 12 billion light years away for one particular quasar. The most incredible number was surely the 52 million light years ago that a particular supernova exploded – and the point of these numbers? Graeme has photographs of these phenomena! As he remarked, to him it is “the knowing what it is and how far it is.”

We certainly haven’t seen images like these at Stroud CC and what was even more amazing is that the majority of them were captured from his back garden in Thrupp or the centre of Gloucester. So next time you go out in the dark – look up, take time to appreciate what you are seeing, and if you feel up to it, think about taking your camera with you and at least try to capture the moon! Try F11, ISO 100, 1/500th as a start point – remembering to focus to infinity and then dial back a tiny bit. Try when the moon is not full for a more impressive image.



“The claw”
Rhys Owen

Facebook

Why don’t you view some of the member images on our Facebook Group?

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

Upload your image to the group – ideally for an image post use 2048px on the long side (either height or width) to get the best resolution for anyone viewing.

Please “like” and “comment” on members’ posts.

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

Members’ Night >>>

Making a Splash

Making a splash was the February members’ night. Again well supported with nearly half our current membership in attendance on the night. As usual we were treated to a wide variety of interpretations of the theme – which is great. The idea being that this was about anything water related. Amazingly there were very few lakes, ponds, or fountains too!

Rhys and Mick were very inventive with their water balloon photography. Rhys managing to capture the water still in the shape of a balloon, whilst Mick captured his image as the water began to fall.

Geoff showed several images in his signature style of well seen “everyday” events. His “Record shot of a record shop” through the condensation on the window was an ingenious idea and title!

Kerrin impressed us with his oil on water, showing how you can make creative images with just a very simple set up and your imagination.

Leslie took us on her travels, with Victoria Falls, and the cutest lion cubs attempting to jump across a stream.

Other members included ducks and swans having scraps, water drop splashes, and a variety of other balls, fruits etc being splashed into various receptacles. Mark had already confessed that he was in big trouble with his missus for splashing tea all over his kitchen whilst aiming to capture the perfect shot.

Yet another well received, and enjoyable member evening. Several more are on the programme for the remainder of the season.



“Tea splash” – Mark Halling

Virgins, Veterans and Victories! Aka DPIC Review

February 5th was “V-day”! Seven intrepid photographers from Stroud Camera Club set off for Exeter. 4 veterans having been many times previously, 2 virgins having a completely new experience of DPIC and 1 viewed previously on Zoom, but new to the Exeter “live”.

The Corn Exchange provided a good auditorium for the event, with a sizeable stage area holding the large screen, plus additional rooms offering viewing of the printed images. Roger and Richard both had an image on display for all the visitors to enjoy.

The day started with viewing of the digital representations of the prints. 30 clubs from our Federation had entered the first print competition since Covid-19 with 450 prints to be judged. Judging was carried out prior to the event, using Smethwick Photographic Society’s excellent facilities. Each print was presented to the judges on the print stand, with some prints taken in hand for a closer look. After scoring, the high-scoring prints were displayed together for the judges to discuss and select the print awards. In Exeter the image was projected for 5 seconds, with the title called out, and then the score. It was a nerve-racking experience waiting for the SCC prints to be projected and the score be given. It is probably fair to say that the scoring was quite harsh overall, and only 2 images, from all the prints, were given the top score of 15. Several clubs did not hit the 12 mark, but at SCC we had 3 images with the creditable score of a 4 from each one of the 3 judges:

Richard Atkinson’s Power Over Shipping and Storm Light, and Roger Matthews’ Pool of London.

Overall, we ended up on 155 points and 23rd equal. There is certainly room for improvement with our prints entry, but this can only be done if more members enter prints into our monthly competitions thus giving the Battles committee more choices..

The same judges, Peter Gennard MFIAP, EFIAP/p, Ann Sutcliffe FRPS EFIAP, PPSA and Graham Walton DPAGB also scored the digital

images (DPIC), so we were not surprised that these scores were also lower than might have been anticipated. It was however the same for all clubs, so it was still a very fair process.

The 20 images are shown in 20 rounds, so with 48 clubs competing there were 864 images to be shown. Overall winners of the competition were Dorchester with a massive score of 217, beating Bristol into 2nd place. These clubs do generally finish in these positions and the majority of clubs are looking to achieve a top 10 ranking. Our intrepid band of members were desperately attempting to keep a tally of the marks, but with scores being generally lower than previous years it was very hard to gauge what our position might be. We knew we had achieved two of the very few scores of 13, Trish Bloodworth’s Faithful Friends and Leslie Holmes’ Dinner is Sorted, and that not a single score of 15 had been given, but whether we might have achieved anywhere near our previous best of 5th equal seemed unlikely.

The final score sheet was projected and it took some time for us to realise that we were on the left hand side of the list, and not only that, we were very near to the top! In fact, we finished a superb 5th out of 48! Our score of 200 was just 2 points off 4th place Taunton. What an achievement – we were ecstatic.

Well done to the eight photographers whose images were chosen by the Battles selection committee; Annie Blick, Ali Garrett, Andy Harbin, Geoff Perrett, Jeff Wilson, Leslie Holmes, Roger Matthews and Trish Bloodworth. The selection committee should also be commended for their choices. It is always a difficult choice as there is an excellent standard of photography at SCC – but in the end the Battles committee have to pick on the basis of the images that they think should do well in the DPIC environment, against 844 other excellent Club images!

The icing on the cake was a selector’s ribbon for Trish’s Faithful Friends. A successful “V-Day”!

Federation News

WCPF Members exhibition now open for entries -
<https://photoexhib.co.uk/wcpfex/login.php>

Council Meeting, Knightshayes Trophy Competition and Fotospeed Presentation
Saturday 11th March 2023
Bovey Tracy Golf Centre, Monks Way,
Bovey Tracy TQ13 9NG
Starting at 10:30, open to all WCPF Club Members, Admission Free

PAGB Masters of Print – catalogue now online at
http://www.thepagb.org.uk/catalogues/mastersofprint_catalogue_2023.pdf
Well worth a look.

Back 2 Basics

February back to basics saw members getting a grip on off camera flash. Trish and Roger took them through the basics of the technical aspects and then there was a good period of time for members to try their hand at connecting their camera and flash at distance!

Several members had experience and were on hand to assist the less experienced members which made for a very convivial evening.



Ali taken by Trish whilst demonstrating the set-up procedure for off camera flash

Ali Garrett was one of the attendees and posted on our SCC website: “Last night I joined the back to basics workshop facilitated by Trish and Roger and wanted to share my thanks to them both for providing an excellent hands on learning experience. We were provided with some theory before having a go with the benefit of 3 lighting set ups. All members worked together sharing kit and knowledge. A thoroughly professional and enjoyable evening. 10/10.”

Send any thoughts and ideas to:
secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk

Question corner>>>

Q: *What’s the difference between shutter types?*

Mechanical shutter - the traditional mechanical shutter has two curtains or blinds, each made of several blades, that open to let light reach the sensor and then close at the end of the specified exposure time. It uses two curtains so that the exposure is consistent across the whole sensor.

A: Electronic shutter - an electronic shutter doesn't have any moving parts. Instead, the image information is gathered from the sensor over the specified exposure time, which can be much shorter than any mechanism could support. The catch, however, is that for technical reasons, the sensor data cannot be saved all at once but must be read off sequentially, one line (or several lines) of pixels at a time, much like the way a scanner head moves down the bed of a flatbed scanner. As a result, the "shutter speed" can be much faster but the readout speed can introduce limitations and potential problems eg. Rolling shutter. Check you are using mechanical shutter if you are using flash; but, potentially use electronic shutter for fast action photography, or to take advantage of silent shutter – theatre, golf, even a wedding ceremony.

DPIC – High Scoring Images



“Dinner is Sorted” – Leslie Holmes

DPIC – Selector’s Ribbon



“Faithful Friends” – Trish Bloodworth

“The eye should learn to listen before it looks” — Robert Frank

2023 competitive thoughts...

No Club competition this month, as the next is our Mono competition on Thursday 9th March, but that doesn't mean competition has stopped during February. If anything it got even more competitive as we had the 3-Way Team Challenge, as well as DPIC and the battle at Tetbury.

3 Way Team Challenge had entries from 38 members which was tremendous, and there were over 35 members present on the evening to do the judging. Scoring was given on the basis of 1-5 with 5 being excellent. Different images provoke varying emotions in us all. Of the 2,160 scores given, 205 were 5's (so just under 10%); and less than 5% were scored at 1. There were only 12 images which did not score each of 1,2,3,4, and 5. All the other 48 images literally had scores in each range. Individual images scored between an overall value of 80 to 158. 35 images averaged a score of over 3, whilst only 3 averaged above 4.

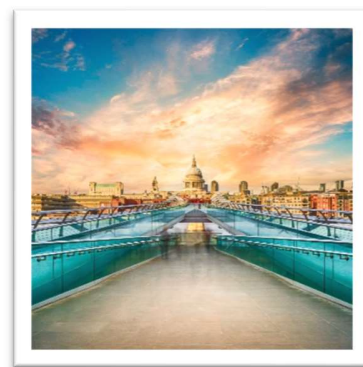
Our top 5 individual images (in no particular order in this list) were:

David Swinburne – Colours of Sunset
Richard Atkinson – Crowded Air Space
Leslie Holmes – Cheetah Cubs
Kerrin Malone – Jet Wash
Francis Mridha – Sunset in Glencoe

It is however ultimately a Team Challenge, and for the 2nd year in succession Roger's team triumphed with a total score of 2,379; Trish's team came in 2nd place on 2,209 and Annie's team valiantly took 3rd place on 2,189. Congratulations also to Mick West, Ali Garrett and Kerrin Malone who were the "Captains' picks" on the night.

Battle at Tetbury

An excellent battle was hosted by Tetbury – this was a digital only battle, with many of the images having been seen from both clubs at DPIC – Ralph Snook was the judge, and he gave some excellent feedback about the images. It was a very close battle, with Stroud CC just managing to sneak a win to continue our winning streak in this particular battle. Next time will be against Newent and Forest of Dean.



"Millennium Bridge" – Francis Mridha

coming up >>>

March 2023

Thu 2nd Mar 2023 – Chairman's Challenge

Tue 7th Mar 2023 – Battle at Newent

Thu 9th Mar 2023 – Mono competition

Thu 16th Mar 2023 – Members' AV

Tue 21st Mar 2023 – Playing with textures

Thu 23rd Mar 2023 – Nature competition

Thu 30th Mar 2023 – Simon Caplan speaker

Full details on the website under Programme

Next Competition

NATURE

deadline and print hand-in

Thurs 9th March 2023

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had acceptances into International or National (BPE) Photographic Salons! The following members achieved acceptances in international salons.

René Cason – Nicaragua

Trish Bloodworth – New York & Maitland (Australia)

CONGRATULATIONS

Also, to Glyn Heskins who had a main page feature in SNJ of his image of the recent steam train through

Do ask if you want any details about Salons – in particular with Cheltenham Salon coming up with a closing date of April.

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.



"Sierra Leone" – Glyn Heskins
Featured in Stroud News and Journal



UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and our Facebook Group

Images from our WCPF Print Entry



"Pool of London" – Roger Matthews



*"Ragged Victorian"
Nigel Bowsher*

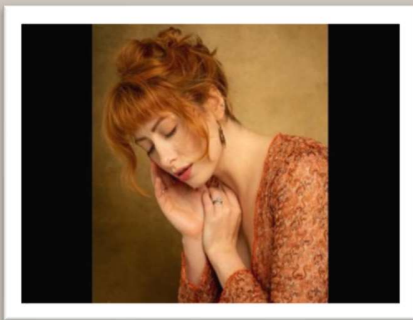


"Power over shipping" – Richard Atkinson

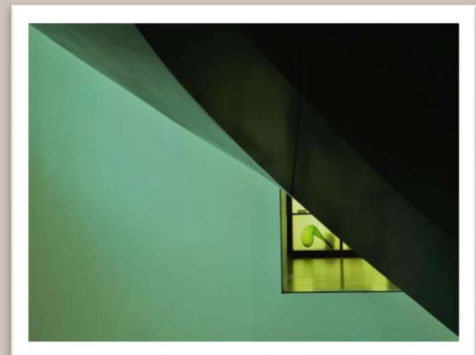


"Short cut" – Steve Vines

Images from our WCPF DPIC entry



"In the quiet time" – Jeff Wilson



"The Wellcome Foundation" – Ali Garrett

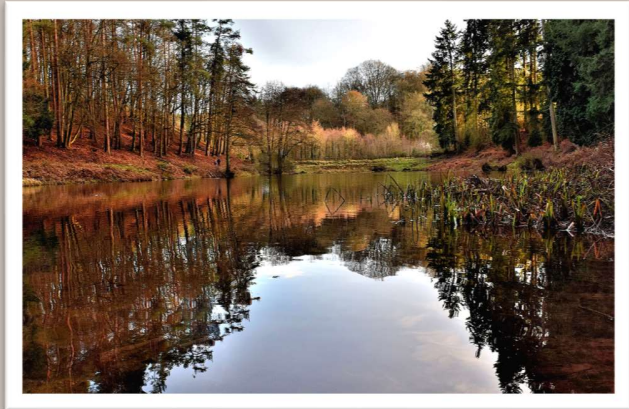


"Pear" – Geoff Perrett



"Autumn Beeches" – Annie Blick

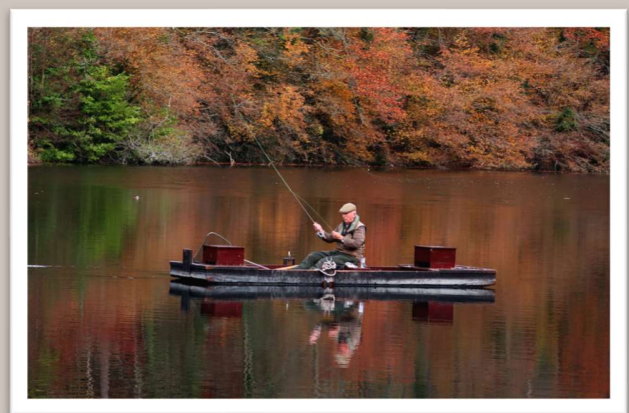
More from the 3 Way Team Challenge



"Soudley ponds" – Chris Organ



"Autumnal growth" – Gerry Chance



"Gone Fishing" – Andy Biddell

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

Recent FaceBook Images



"Friendly locals" – Guy Bryan



"Untitled" – Mick West



"Doing a Lisa Rendell" - Paul Edwards



"Drone over Nibley" - Richard Sellwood