

**in this issue >>>**

Roger's report

The review – Summer Club

Meet the members

Question corner

Snippets

Have you got GAS?

*"Members on the Slimbridge Safari" – Chris Tracey***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](http://www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk)**

*Ian Peters enjoying the Slimbridge safari  
Shared on our SCC Facebook page*

**Roger's Report** *Competitions are an important part of the Club – minor changes to Group Structures*

The ink had barely dried on my last report indicating confidence that we were moving forward with recovery from the pandemic before case numbers started rising again! However, as I write this we are again moving in the right direction, and we remain on course to restart our normal weekly Club Nights on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Your Committee will, of course, be keeping a close eye on public health guidance as that date approaches (and beyond) so we can continue to support members.

Competitions are an important part of the Club programme and allow members to receive feedback from independent judges - after overcoming my initial reluctance to 'be judged', I have found this aspect of club photography to be the best way to improve (both through feedback of my images and that given to other members' images).

We have operated a two-division structure with an A Group for intermediate/advanced photographers and a B Group for 'beginners'. Although each group have had a similar number of members, the A Group have recently provided the lion's share of competition images (35% of mostly B Group members did not enter competitions last year). Furthermore, the B Group has included members who are far from being 'beginners'.

A recent Survey Monkey poll of members sought to see whether the current two-division structure was still required. Twenty-eight members responded and of these, 55% wished to retain two competitive groups, 30% favoured having a competitive group and a non-competitive feedback only group with the remainder preferring to have a single group for competitions. However, breaking the responses down by the group of the respondent, it is clear that although A Group members are open to change, B

Group members favoured a two-group structure retaining an element of competition in both groups. Taking these findings into consideration the Committee has agreed to keep two competition groupings for the new season with some minor tweaks. **Group A** will be the **main competition group** open to all members who wish to have their images judged against those of other members. **Group B** will be a **development group** for members who feel they need to develop further before being judged alongside other more accomplished or confident members. Judges will be encouraged to tailor feedback accordingly. In addition, we will ask judges to identify the best of the images that are not held back (1st, 2nd, 3rd, HC, and C) with a near-miss 'merit' to add greater fidelity to the judges' feedback.

Members will need to identify their 'group' at the start of the season but will be permitted to move once in the year (the Committee may move members to the A Group if required, to allow B-Group members a fair chance to compete within the group). My priority is to support all members regardless of ability (enthusiasm is a given). We will monitor the changes and review next year.

**AND FINALLY - REMEMBER**

*"It is nice to have valid competition; it pushes you to do better (Gianni Versace)*

## Summer Club Now and the Future >>>

Summer Club has continued to be well supported throughout July, and hopefully this will continue for the final month of August. We will not be holding any event on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September so there will be a one week “holiday” between Summer Club and the new season commencing.

The aim of Summer Club is to offer members a collective experience in the local area, so that they can wander with their cameras and not feel “strange” as they will not be the only one. It also offers camaraderie and friendship opportunities and the chance for an informal chat with other like-minded ‘togs.

The usual idea for Summer Club has been that it is a free of charge evening included in the existing membership subs; we are however aware that for some longstanding members a return trip to Tetbury may be one visit too much! Thus, we are starting to include a few “paid for” trips so that we can experience additional opportunities with fellow club members – it’s so often easier to be able to take photographs when surrounded by similar minded people, rather than one’s spouse!

The Slimbridge safari trip (one of our costed trips) I know has been a highlight for several members and brought some out who have not participated up to now, so this was lovely to see. The evening was slightly warm, but with an incredibly knowledgeable driver/guide in Dave, the Reserve Manager, and some wonderful “behind the scenes” access members had a very enjoyable evening. It was not even marred by the Landrover refusing to re-start and Trish resorting to bashing the starter

motor with a blunt instrument to persuade it back to life! Many thanks to Jenny S for her contact with Dave and organizing the event.

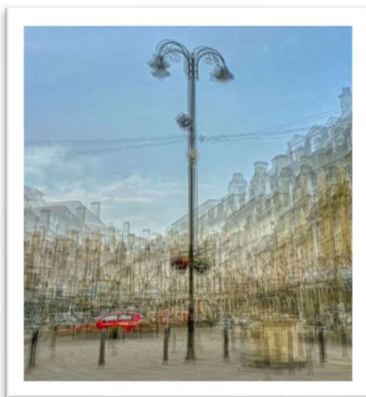
Annie arranged a wonderful evening of exclusive use at the Cotswold Sculpture Park, (previously known as Elemental) which was well supported at a small cost. Looking forward we are very lucky that we have an ongoing relationship with The Rococo Garden so this trip (kindly organized by Richard) in a couple of weeks’ will be free to members but will again give exclusive access. Roger has also been busy planning with Rodmarton Manor for similar after hours use – this will cost £7.50 but again should prove to be an excellent venue with lots of opportunities for imagery.

If any member has “contacts” or suggestions do let a committee member know – we are always looking for new ideas.

We are also thinking about a few weekend trips for the future, so again if you would like to make any suggestions please do so. Examples could include the 2022 Photography Show, or perhaps a coach trip to Brighton – we are open to suggestions – So, let us know.



Roger Matthews shared this beautifully focus-stacked image on our Facebook page and in the Slimbridge Gallery



Annie Blick posted this “Pep Ventosa style” image from Cirencester on our Facebook group

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 7 – Hawkwood College

Hawkwood College proved to be another of those stunning venues that is so close to home, and that people are not necessarily aware of. Whilst it is privately owned it has various publicly accessible areas and Annie made sure we were welcomed with a polite email to the owners in advance. The sun shone, and members were able to explore ideas not only in the beautiful garden, but also amongst the nooks and crannies, and the woodland. Some enterprising members also took advantage of some willing models for a bit of portrait work.

### Week 8 – Wotton Under Edge

René suggested Wotton as a potential trip, and it was a very worthwhile evening. The challenge to use the historical influences of artists or photographers was taken up by many with some very interesting results. Many members did find the clock to be a godsend for the challenge!

### Week 9 – Cotswold Sculpture Park

On a most perfect July evening 22 members including partners and friends had exclusive use of The Cotswold Sculpture Park. Over 300 exhibits were on show to photograph from the slightly bizarre to the breathtakingly fabulous. Everyone agreed that it was an excellent Summer Club outing.

### Week 10 – Slimbridge

A super evening albeit somewhat hot at 30 degrees, but rewards were well received, a hare, a fox cub, a myriad of dragonflies and a bittern amongst the star attractions seen (if not captured) on the night. Richard reported that his post event cider was perfect with the condensation running down the glass!



Richard Atkinson entitled this image “salvation” The oncoming Landrover having been “mended” with a hammer and out to retrieve the SCC members



## Meet the members: David Hamilton

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of our David's to introduce himself to the members, is David Hamilton:

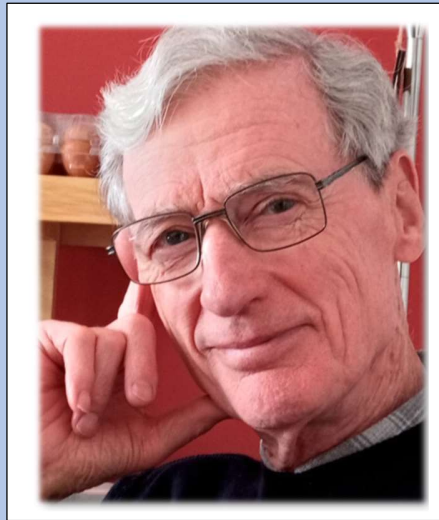
My membership of Stroud Camera Club began in 2013 not long after I retired however my interest in photography began many years before when as a child my father showed me how to process a film then print contact prints. These magical moments made me an addict for life, processing my own black and white film and prints until the advent of digital!

My first camera was a roll film one using 127 film but eventually I was able to progress to better 35mm cameras and ended up on the Nikon system, where for better or worse I still am. I use a D7000 but still have my film cameras 2 Nikon FM's.

An exciting career in the Fire Service presented me with a host of fantastic photographic opportunities but frustratingly I was unable to do anything about it because the urgency of the incident gave me no time as a crew member or driver to take a picture.

However, when in charge of the fire engine I did carry a camera but was only able to take one picture as we arrived then leave the camera in the cab, not a successful attempt.

Later as an officer I did take a considerable number of photographs, but they were for fire investigation or legislative purposes not the sort of pictures one would wish to share! Later still



in my career I was able to attend some incidents, when not on call, just to take photos for publicity but then I retired.

All this time I have been striving to improve my photography, reading books and magazines etc. but I found membership of the club to be the most beneficial because of the inspirational speakers, interaction with other members and the challenge of the competitions.

My main interest is landscapes of all kinds, but I like to try everything such as macro and nature, but portraiture is an area I would like to improve on. My processing skills need improving too so I don't do much creative work!

## Snippets

*A big SCC WELCOME to our latest new member – Symon Buck*

*Symon is looking forward to joining us for Summer Club, and has told me that his interests include wildlife, landscape, and seascapes.*

*I'm sure that members will make him feel "at home" when he joins us. He has already taken advantage of uploading his profile image to his member page – I would encourage all members to do this, as it certainly helps when trying to work out who you are talking too!*

*Don't forget as well as the Club galleries you do all have your own gallery into which you can upload your images. **Richard Purchase** one of our more recent members has uploaded this humorous image "Long bovid" to his gallery.*



## 2021/22 Season Subs

Please be aware that the new season subs will be required again in September at the original £32 for the new 2021/22 season from 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.

Renewal details will be sent out to members in the next couple of weeks – ideally, we would encourage online payment to our Stroud Camera Club bank account, remembering to put your surname as the reference. Full details will be in the bulletin/email.

### Question corner>>>

**Q:** What is ICM?

**A:** ICM stands for Intentional Camera Movement, it is a technique employed to creatively interpret a scene, as you are deliberately introducing a blur to the image. This technique is said to resemble that of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century impressionist artists.

The photographer will use a slower shutter speed and pan the camera to create an abstract impression of the subject. Subjects such as trees work well with vertical movement, water works well by following the flow of the tide. Essentially the technique provides the mechanism to capture the core and simplicity of the scenery. The viewer can often become overwhelmed as they witness many elements within the picture. Branches, tree trunks and leaves become too cluttered; ICM subtracts the chaotic nature of the scene and shifts the attention to its core. It's a means of simplification, of reductionism.

The combination of colour, movement and simplicity all help to form an overall feeling of a scene.

# 2021 summer thoughts...

No competitions for the summer – but remember to use this as an opportunity to build up your portfolio for next season, as well as for My Stroud & District. We have instigated regular challenges for the summer club evenings and a selection of the leader's favourite images will feature over the coming months.

Salons are still being well supported by SCC members – so let Trish know of your successes too.



Annie Blick – “Door to the sanctuary”

## Week 6 - Cirencester

Challenge: *Something Red*

A fantastic 83 images were uploaded to this gallery on the website, well done to everyone who participated in this challenge, there were some super ideas.

“Handshakes” went to:

Martin Gill - When is a door not a door?

Ben Blanch – Hot seat

Tim Murfitt – Dancing Pizza boy

Roger Matthews - Union Jack

Top 3 favourites selected by Trish

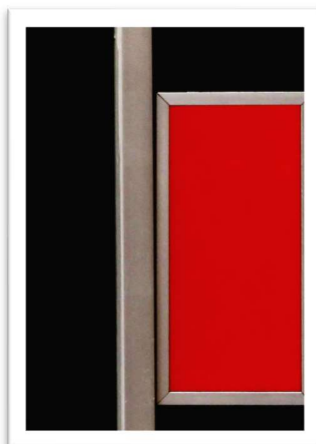
Richard Atkinson – Serendipitous Reds

Scott Antony – Mondrian Red

David Hamilton – A roller in Cirencester



Trish Bloodworth – “Across the valley”



Scott Antony – “Mondrian Red”

coming up >>>

## August 2021

Summer Club events each Thursday evening

No limit on numbers but we still need to be

Covid compliant, so remember to “book” the

week before in person with Trish or send her an

email from the Friday before the event.

[secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk)

### Return to Club 9<sup>th</sup> September

The current aim is a return to The Cotswold

Bowls Club for the opener of the season –

for updates see the bulletins and website

## Next Competition

1<sup>st</sup> Open – closing date will be Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

September – which is our first meeting – so

start to get ready now!

**AND REMEMBER PRINTS TOO!**



Richard Atkinson captured this “Serendipitous Reds” for the Cirencester challenge.

## Week 7 – Hawkwood

Challenge: *Capture the essence of Hawkwood*

A wonderful peaceful evening at Hawkwood with an amazing array of images captured. Annie selected her top 3 from the total of 86 images uploaded to the website gallery:

Nigel Bowsher – And then there was light

Trish Bloodworth – Across the valley

Richard Atkinson – Rhubarb sundowner

## INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had recent acceptances into International Photographic Salons!

René Cason

David Hunt

Trish Bloodworth – including a Salon Gold medal

Please send details of your acceptances or other external “wins” to

[secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk](mailto: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.

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



David Hunt  
Time Travel



### Week 8 – Wotton Under Edge

Challenge: *an image influenced by a famous historic artist or photographer*

The Tolsey Clock proved very popular for this challenge. Rene judged the challenge from Wotton deciding upon the following 3 images as his favourites.

- David Hunt – (Salvador Dali) Time Travel
- Trish Bloodworth – (Picasso Cubism) Tolsey Clock
- Jenny Smith – (Andy Warhol Pop Art) Shop Window



Trish Bloodworth  
Tolsey Clock

### Website Communications >>>

Several members have remarked that they are not receiving bulletins. This should not be the case, but if you feel that this includes you, please can you contact Richard Atkinson (R3) who will be able to investigate this matter for you.

The same applies for anyone who has managed to “lock” themselves out of the website, or has forgotten their password etc.

We 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](mailto: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 our website – or just use this quick link:

<https://rb.gy/j3oou8>

### Week 9 – Cotswold Sculpture Park

Challenge: *An image suitable for a high-quality calendar*

This event proved incredibly popular with an incredible 93 images uploaded! Trish was missing from this evening so enjoyed viewing these images online and selecting her favourites that in her opinion fulfilled the brief.

- Roger Matthews – Ready to pounce
- Ben Blanch – Sky Painter
- David Hamilton – Elegance
- Phil Hope – The Dancer



Ben Blanch – Sky painter

There are additional comments on the Website about these and several other images. Do remember to check back and look at the comments, and of course make comments yourselves too.

### Week 10 - Slimbridge

Challenge – *something moving*

The full “result” of the challenge will be featured in next month’s newsletter – however, with the added excitement of the Landrover breakdown, it was only right to include several of the images from that event too – plus some of the non-movement ones!



David Hamilton - Elegance



Roger Matthews – Ready to Pounce

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

# “Have you got GAS?”

## **Review by Richard Atkinson (R3) Peak Design Slide and Slide Lite**

Cost (approx.): £60 (Slide) or £50 (Slide Lite)

*I wouldn't have believed I could get excited about . . . . a camera strap!*

That was before I discovered the Peak Design Slide and Slide Lite. These are two revolutionary camera straps by those innovative people at Peak Design. The Slide is for “full weight” camera and lens combinations – perfect for my Sony A9 with 100-400 zoom plus converter attached - and the Slide Lite is intended for compact cameras or mirrorless with a short lens. My personal recommendation for Club members would always be the Slide as it is suitable for all your likely choices of kit, however heavy or light.

The concept is simple in that it is designed to be worn traditionally around the neck, or bandolier-style, or just on the shoulder. For anyone concerned about carrying a heavy camera/lens combination it's perfect.



Wearing it bandolier-style spreads the weight across your shoulders with no pressure on your neck or back and allows you to swing the camera smoothly to the eye in one smooth movement. Special anchors come with the strap which you fix permanently (they remain removable though) to your camera and which allow you to instantly remove the strap if you want to put it on a tripod and don't want a strap dangling. Clever adjusters allow you to alter the length of the strap instantly while you're wearing it too.

It's a truly revolutionary piece of kit which I would now never be without. It's not cheap at around £60 including VAT which may seem a lot of money for a camera strap! Believe me, it's worth every penny. Here's a link to Peak Design's video but the best way to check it out is to ask me for a demo on one of our Summer Club outings – I ALWAYS have it on my camera. I wish I was on commission as I have “sold” four of these to friends and colleagues already. I'm not!

Check out the video:

<https://www.peakdesign.com/collections/straps/products/slide>

## **FUN FACT**

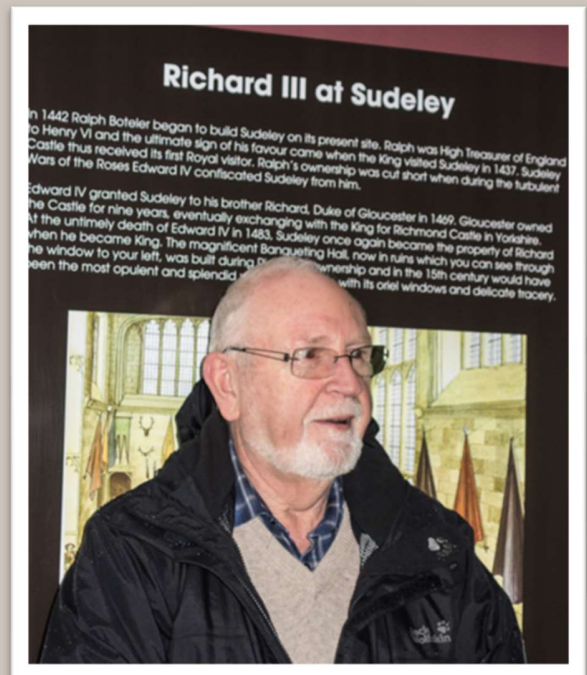
### ***Richard Atkinson – or R3***

Some newer members (and maybe some older ones too) may be mystified by occasional reference to someone called “R3” (or RIII).

When I joined the Club in 2014 there were already two “Richards” – Richard Pearse (our Chairman) and Richard Sparrow. After a bit of toying with nomenclatures like R2D2, R3D2 etc., Richard Pearse settled on R3 for me.

The following year, I became Publicity Secretary and, cutting a long story short, I did a deal with Sudeley Castle & Gardens to give Club members free access in return for our photographs of the Castle.

Sudeley has strong historical connections with King Richard III and lo, R3 was fixed for me, and I remain very happy to answer to that, although when written I do prefer R3 to RIII! Here's a photo, taken at Sudeley by Richard Pearse, to illustrate my christening!



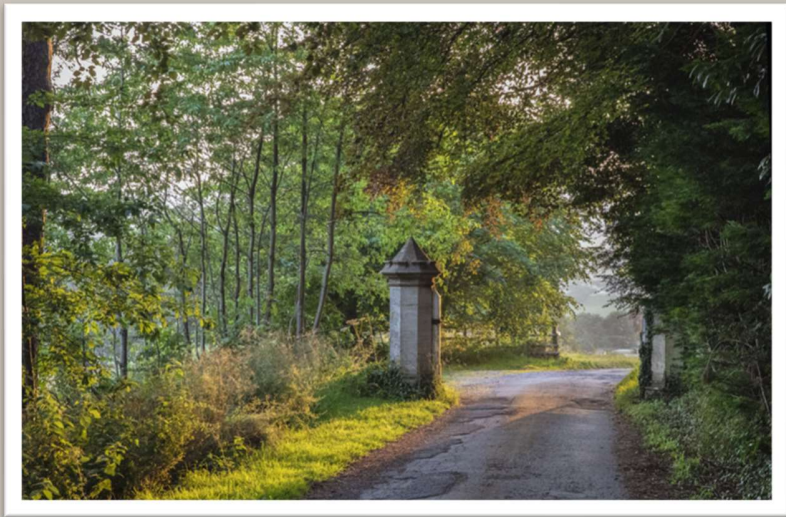


# Summer Club Challenge Images

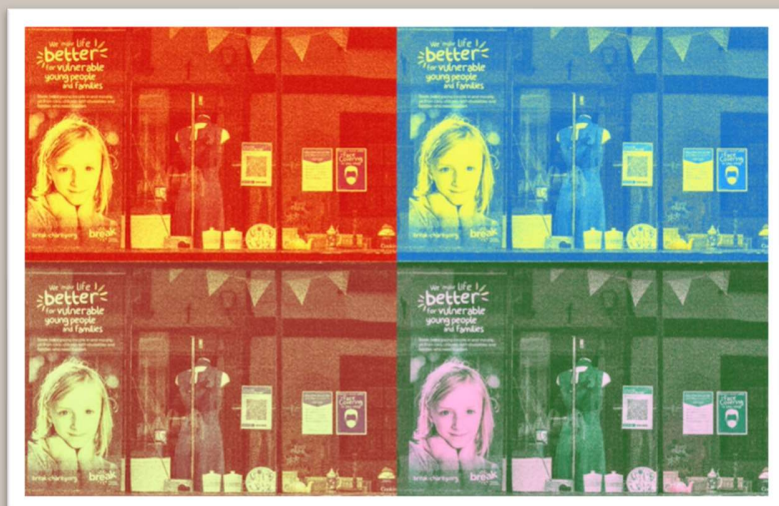
*"A roller in Cirencester" – David Hamilton*



*"And then there was light" – Nigel Bowsher*



*"Shop window" – Jenny Smith (in the style of Andy Warhol Pop Art)*



See more on our website: [www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk)

*"Sliding cat" – Gerry Chance*



*"The Forge" – Guy Bryan*



*"I was here first" – Tim Murfitt  
Capturing Mick West in action at Hawkwood College*



*"Mr June and friends" – Jenny Smith*



*"Rhubarb sundowner" – Richard Atkinson*

