

2022-2023 SEASON >>>

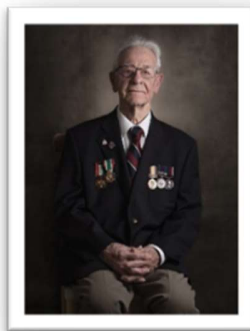
Roger's report

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"Veteran"
By Roger Matthews

1st Place in the
People's Choice

SCC Member exhibition

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 Cason

Programme: Ali Garrett

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



"Getting the right angle" – David Hamilton

Roger's Report

However good your camera, if you don't take it out it will not help you take great images when the opportunity arises to capture something special. I for one do not take my DSLR out unless I am expecting to take photographs, so the rise of the smartphone has been a real bonus - nearly always to hand and with ever increasing quality. The statistics are quite staggering - we now take 1.81 trillion photos worldwide every year (or 5 billion every day), of which 92.5% are taken with smartphones and only 7% with cameras! It is estimated that 12.4 trillion photos have been taken throughout history with nearly 10 billion images shared online every day. The average smartphone user has 2100 photos on their smartphone (I am a bit of an outlier with 36 360!). It is perhaps not surprising that so many great smartphone images were shared by members at our most recent Members' Night. With continuing advances in technology and development of powerful photography apps, mobile photography has a bright future, I just hope we retain a place for traditional, albeit digital, camera-based photography too.

Unfortunately, I missed this year's Image of The Year, but having seen the images on the website, I know that the quality of photography within the Club is as strong as it has ever been. This enabled us to have one of our most successful seasons ever in inter-

Club competitions and to stage our first public exhibition of prints since the pandemic. The Members' Spring Print Exhibition will have concluded by the time this newsletter goes out, but I do hope that you all took the opportunity to visit the exhibition in Stroud Brewery - very much something to build on next year. A number of members also continue to excel in international salons, and I was therefore delighted to see SCC members do well in this year's Cheltenham International Salon of Photography - a local salon with a strong international reputation. Congratulations to all who successfully submitted entries and had their work accepted and especially to Richard Atkinson and Leslie Holmes on being awarded gold medals and Francis Mridha on gaining six acceptances from eight entries! Sadly, my own efforts were unsuccessful, so I am now boycotting Cheltenham and will not even go shopping there (but may make an exception for the Cheltenham Wine Festival) - I will, however, try again next year!

AND FINALLY – REMEMBER
Failure is 'success in progress'!

The review >>>

“Strictly Telephoto” – Phil Savoie

The final speaker of the 2022-23 season was a return via Zoom from the highly acclaimed photographer and cinematographer Phil Savoie (who confirmed his surname is pronounced in the French manner). Phil talked us through the technical and the creative with plenty of useful tips about how to handle a telephoto lens – who knew a frying pan and bag of sand was such a good substitute for a tripod. The low level being ideal as Phil advised us for getting our images at eyeline. Phil reiterated the importance of knowing our depth of field, and using it to simplify the subject with a good background. A suggestion of using an old 35mm slide mount as a preview frame for landscapes was a great idea.

“Pictures are made between your ears” said Phil, and his images of the swallows, hummingbirds, redwing blackbirds, vipers and frogs certainly showed his talent in putting this into practice. Daunting to consider the 16-hour days he used to shoot for the David Attenborough TV shows, but certainly very obvious in the images that have resulted. So now all we have to do is consider the size of lens we want and compare that to the depth of pocket we have – the £1.5 million lens is slightly beyond most people’s reach! Then get out “experiment and fail”. Hopefully however, everyone who attended the Zoom will have far more success now they have these additional tips.

The AGM

The AGM for the 2022-2023 season was attended by 34 members in person and 3 apologies for absence were received. This was a tremendous turnout, and the committee are very grateful for the support of all the members. The full minutes and reports are “live” on the website, so should be read by all members.

The sole proposal was to alter the fee charging structure for next season 2023-24 – a full discussion was held, and the new fee structure will commence from September 2023. Members will pay a single fee of £65 in advance, and this will include your membership fee and all “on the door” charges, covering meetings, back to basics and summer club (except where an individual charge eg. A visit fee is applicable). This will make life on the desk an awful lot simpler! The raffle will revert to a 50 pence cash raffle payable on the night.

Small Group Critique Session

The month started with members sitting down around laptops to give mutual critique. Members were given the opportunity to show an image and then the other people at that station offered tips/thoughts for improvement. Several of the tables used “live” editing software to see whether the comments appeared to work in practice.

The evening was well supported, and members went home with lots to try out on their current and future images.

Thanks to all the members who put images up for peer review/critique and to those who kindly volunteered their laptops for the evening.



“Storm warning”
Kerrin Malone

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 >>>

Mobile Phone, Drone and AI!

The annual mobile phone challenge was widened this year to include imagery created by anything that was not a conventional camera. Members, as usual, did not disappoint. We were treated to an evening of interesting images, created on iPhones, Android phones, drones and even Bing Image Creator. The latter being an inspired idea by our recently elected Chairman-elect, Mick West. Intriguingly Mick took an image himself and then asked Bing AI to create a similar image – to say that the results were astonishing was an understatement! AI is scary but is here to stay and we will probably be embracing it within our photography over the coming years.

Drone images also featured, with some stunning shots from Roger, Richard Sellwood, Francis and Richard Atkinson. It did seem to be a case of who managed to achieve the scariest feat of drone piloting without losing their drone! Richard S admitting to having crashed one into the canal, but at least it enabled him to upgrade!

As ever, it was shown that the best camera is that which is in your pocket, Brian’s love of

QPR shone through in his images – a football stadium obviously not being somewhere you can really take a large DSLR; Ali’s street capture at the XR rally in London, Annie’s Westminster tube station, René’s daffodils, John’s Redler factory, and Kerrin’s sports car all showed creative uses of the various mobile technologies on offer. Jeff, of course, showed his images with his favourite Snapseed overlay, and Ian explained how with his forgetfulness he finds it useful to photograph words to help him in day-to-day aspects. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.



“Cattle Trough” – Gerry Chance

Meet the member – Francis Mridha

Bangladeshi born Francis, moved to the UK at the age of 11 years old. A graphic design graduate of The University of East London, he first began teaching himself photography in 2013, namely through informal training, online tutorials, utilising local resources by joining a camera club.

His photographic journey started in and around Aberdeen and along the coastline of the north east of Scotland.

By focusing on basic principles and techniques of photography, gradually he developed a unique style, which provided him with a sense of self-confidence. This encouraged him further to enhance his skills and keep up to date with the latest techniques.

Francis loves to explore the countryside in the UK. Working with different weather elements, the sky, the rich colours of dawn and dusk, capturing the movements are only a few of many other expressions that he is fascinated by when he comes to create a moment through a lens. Hence, he finds landscape photography his main subject of interest.

After his recent relocation from Scotland, today Francis lives in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

At Stroud Camera Club we have recently begun to experience Francis' stunning images and look forward to seeing plenty more in the future. It was no surprise that 2 of his images featured in the top 5 people's choice vote at the Member Exhibition.

Enjoy a couple of his images here and take a look at his Club Gallery too.



"Millennium bridge" – Francis Mridha



"Durdle Door" – Francis Mridha

Federation News

WCPF Knightshayes Trophy 2024 has a theme chosen by the WCPF President, Helen Jones, "**Water in all its Forms**". Start thinking about images you might capture over the summer months for this trophy. It is normally free to enter, with entries as prints and handed in at DPIC in February 2024.

The Member Exhibition will be viewable in person at Bovey Tracey Golf Club until 14th May, so if you are in the area don't forget to go and take a look – apparently the lunches are good there too!

Member Exhibition

What a thrill to be able to host a real exhibition once again; Stroud Brewery kindly offering us the use of their "Loft" space at no cost this year so that we could trial the space and see whether this is something we could do again in the future.

We exhibited nearly 100 prints, from 33 members which was a wonderful showcase of the work of SCC members. Compliments have been lovely, with everyone saying that the standard is high and that they look forward to returning to a future exhibit.

To put on an exhibition takes a huge amount of work, and thanks must go to the wonderful volunteers that put up (and took down) the exhibition, Ian Peters (also thank you for the coffees), Brian Johns (plus partner, Theresa), Richard Atkinson, Mick West, Geoff Perret, Ali Garrett, Annie Blick and of course Roger for organizing.

The people's vote choice went to Roger for "Veteran", with Ian Peter's "Sea dogs" and Francis Mridha's "Standing Alone" jointly in 2nd place. If you didn't get a chance to visit, there is a very brief tour of the exhibition on YouTube



Question corner>>>

Q: Mobile phone grips – any good?

After the mobile phone challenge, Geoff Perrett showed his phone grip UURIG PH-10 on our Facebook page and commented, "I paid about thirty pounds for this one, they can reach £80.00 and more but was pleased with the improved handling. It's not so easy to carry in your pocket so as Annie said it is at best when you have a project in mind and not wanting or unable to take your main camera with you...recommended."

A: Annie Blick had previously commented "I have a phone grip if I'm specifically going out using phone for shots. Really excellent!"

<https://youtu.be/gBVjXhV1ct4>

Image of the Year – winning digital



“All by myself” – Jeff Wilson

Image of the Year – winning print

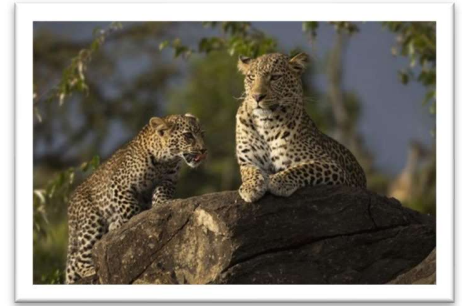


“Unity” – Trish Bloodworth EFIAP

*“The camera sees more than the eye, so why not make use of it?”
— Edward Weston*

2023 competitive thoughts...

Image of the Year is always a highly sought after win, and as ever the standard was very high with members putting in both images that had already been entered in earlier competitions, as well as new images. The judge for the evening was Martin Fry who was very constructive with his commentary about each image. In the end he awarded just two scores of 20, one in the prints and one in the digital.



“Leopard & Cub” – Leslie Holmes

Image of the Year

Prints

Judge's choice – Trish Bloodworth – Unity
(20)

Digital

Judge's choice – Jeff Wilson – All by myself
(20)

In addition to the above:

Scores of 19– Prints

Roger Matthews – Veteran
Mick West - Crossing the River to Saint Pauls

Scores of 18 - Prints

Richard Atkinson - At The End Of The Day
Francis Mridha - Standing Alone
Francis Mridha - Path into the sea
Geoff Perrett - Calla Lillies.

Scores of 19 – Digital

Annie Blick - Quiet Time
Ali Garrett - Greenwich Foot Tunnel
Jeff Wilson - A Portrait of a Child

Scores of 18 - Digital

Annie Blick - One Hundred Thousand Knives
Trish Bloodworth - Flowerpot baby
Leslie Holmes - Tower Bridge at Dusk
Leslie Holmes - Leopard and Cub
Roger Matthews - Gateholm Island
Roger Matthews - Guardian
Geoff Perrett - Scales

Don't forget you can view all the entered images on our website, and if you are logged in using your member log in you can also leave comments should you wish to.

coming up >>>

Summer Club

Full details will appear on the website under Programme – so please keep checking back. It will start on Thursday 1st June and details will also be issued in bulletins. There may be a slight tapering of bulletins for a couple of weeks, but they will be back weekly once summer club starts.

Next Competition

28th September 2023

Open 1

Hand in will be 14th September

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had acceptances into International or National (BPE) Photographic Salons/Exhibitions!

Leslie Holmes – Salon Gold Cheltenham

Richard Atkinson – Salon Gold Cheltenham

Annie Blick - Cheltenham

Francis Mridha – Cheltenham

Ian Peters – Cheltenham

Jeff Wilson – Cheltenham

Trish Bloodworth – Cheltenham & Italy (HM award)

René Cason – Hong Kong (HM Award)

CONGRATULATIONS

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.



“The last visitors” – Derrick Whitmore

UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and our Facebook Group

High Scoring print (19)



“Crossing the river to Saint Pauls” – Mick West

High Scoring Digital (19)



“Greenwich Foot Tunnel” – Ali Garrett

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

More High Scores 19 or 18 from Digital



"Quiet Time" – Annie Blick



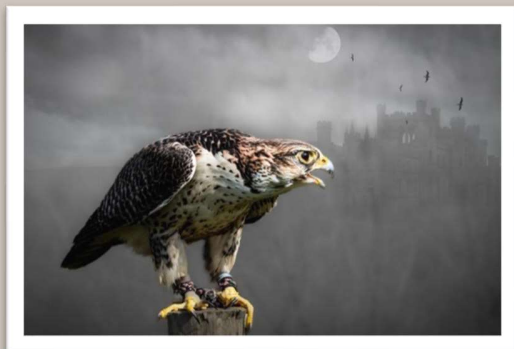
"Portrait of a child" - Jeff Wilson



"Scales" – Geoff Perrett



"Flowerpot Baby" – Trish Bloodworth



"Guardian" – Roger Matthews



"Tower bridge at dusk" – Leslie Holmes



"Gateholm Island" – Roger Matthews



"One hundred thousand knives" – Annie Blick

High Scoring Prints



"Common Blue" – René Cason



"At the end of the day" – Richard Atkinson



"Cala Lillies" – Geoff Perrett

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

People's Choice results



*"Nesting heron" – Mark Halling
5th Place*



*"Skye bridge" – Francis Mridha
4th Place*



*"Standing alone" – Francis Mridha
2nd = Place*



*"Sea dogs" – Ian Peters
2nd = Place*