

2023-2024 SEASON >>>

Roger's report
The review
Christmas fun
Competition news
Federation news



"Peter Hickman #60"
- Richard Sellwood

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



"Male Kestrel" – Allan Jeffcutt

Roger's Report

As another year comes to an end, many of us will be wondering which list we are on - the 'good list' where we can look forward to finding some nice new photographic gear under the tree, or the 'naughty list' where we carry on with our old stuff and vow to do better in the New Year. Sadly, I expect to be on the 'naughty list'! Whatever treats you have in store I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a photographically successful New Year.

Having just reviewed all this year's competition images for the annual WCPF inter-Club competition image selection (digital and print), I have been impressed both by the overall quality of images from which to choose our Club's entry and the progress that many members have made since joining our Club. I will be revealing our digital and print entries at our first Club Night of the new year and will also show some of the very good images that narrowly missed out. As a teaser, I can reveal that our 18 digital images represent the work of 9 members, while the 15 print images are the work of 7 members.

With all the merry-making over the festive period, don't forget two important deadlines

– 4th Jan for digital and print entries for Competition #4 (Open) and Sun 28th Jan to get entries in for my Chairman's Challenge.

Finally, just one more plug for Chairman's Challenge #2 - finding volunteers to step up to run our competitions in the 24/25 season. As noted at our recent club nights, we are looking at ways to make the administration of competitions considerably easier (making the elephant smaller) and sharing the responsibility to increase resilience and reduce the burden on any one individual (sharing the elephant). We have a couple of volunteers but need one more to step forward - if you think you can help with Operation Hannibal, please let me know ASAP.

Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

AND FINALLY – REMEMBER
*It's not too late to make it on to next year's
'Good List'.*

The review >>>

Oliver Smart - RAW Nature: Images uncovered

Oliver Smart was a recommendation from René, who had been on one of his photography tours – he thus came highly recommended. We were not disappointed. Oliver is a commercial wildlife photographer, taking images to sell and also running photography training and workshops. The quality of his images was superb from start to finish, and no wonder he was able to bring with him plenty of beautiful merchandise ranging from cards to books.

Oliver was an excellent orator and held the audience for the whole evening, even those who are not generally considered wildlife or nature photographers were entranced by his commentary, expertise, and stunning images.

Oliver was generous in his information, telling members how some of the images were captured and sharing some behind the scenes images to show what lengths he goes to, to achieve his results. The damp sleeping bags didn't look very appealing!

Imagery was shared from around the globe. Oliver commented that he now concentrates on moths, having already taken photographs of every UK species of butterfly!

The Gentoo penguins gliding in on the waves were pristinely sharp and Leslie who has some experience in this genre commented that it is very tricky to get front-on shots of such penguins.

Finland provided stunning shots of warm breath coming from black grouse on an early morning, whilst Hungary supplied bee-eaters on a sublime creamy background.

Closer to home were stunning captures of Red Deer in Leicestershire, Tawny Owl in Powys, and Merlin Falcon in Hampshire.

Oliver explained that his lens of choice is a prime lens often his 500mm or his 600mm and he often pairs this with a 1.4 x converter. He is a great advocate of stability when photographing wildlife, looking for sharpness in his images. Not only using a tripod, but also a beanbag which is often his preferred method of stabilisation. Indeed, he has designed and markets his own "Smart Beanbag" and had one on hand to demonstrate at the break.

As a commercial photographer, Oliver also explained how his images often leave large sections of blank space so that they can be used for magazine covers and showed us several where a publisher indeed used his image.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Oliver, or potentially going on one of his workshops there are full details on his website at <https://smartimages.co.uk/index.php>

Thanks, René, for this excellent recommendation – if any member has a recommendation for the future don't forget to tell us!



"Hop on – nod off"
Gary Canning

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.

Be aware of "privacy" rules before posting.

Please "like" and "comment" on members' posts.

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

Members' Tips >>>

Synchronising two cameras

Richard Atkinson has passed on to me this excellent tip which is likely to interest those members who shoot with two cameras on one trip.

Richard tells me:

"I often take two cameras with me when I go out on a specific outing, so I can cut down the need to change lenses in wet or dusty conditions.

When I upload the images from both cards to the computer, I like all the images to upload to my editing software in the exact same order as they were taken. So, before I go out, I synchronise the time on both cameras.

There is a website which puts a big display of the exact ticking time on my computer screen which makes it easy to set first one camera and then the other. At the end of the day, I upload both cards to Lightroom (my preferred option but others

do the same thing) which will then display them in the right order.

The website is <https://time.is/>

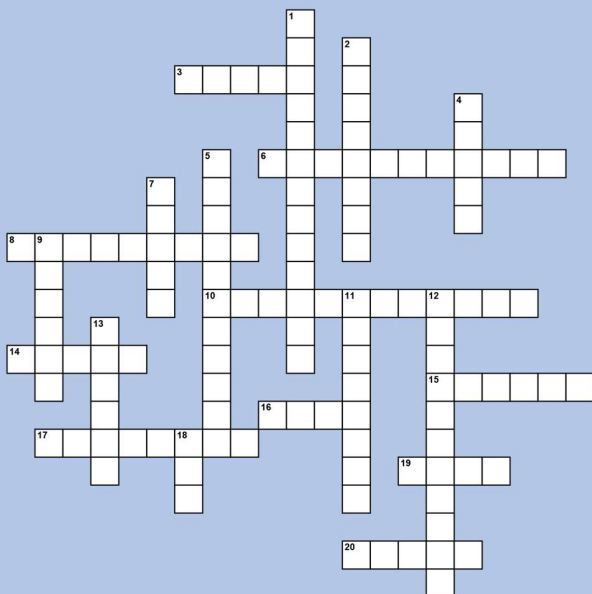
It also has the facility to display the time now, for anywhere in the world and has a built-in calendar too."

Thank you, Richard, for this excellent tip – although obviously you will also need to know how to amend the time on your camera – if you don't know how and have lost your manual, don't forget that most manufacturer websites do offer free downloads of the original manuals, or failing that there are generally YouTube videos that might give you step-by-step instructions.

If any members have any tips to share, please email me on secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk so that I can include in a future newsletter.

Christmas Crackers!

Photography Fundamentals



Across

- [3] Effect on image when ISO is too high
- [6] Means 'writing with light'
- [8] Style of photography showing natural formations
- [10] Measured in fractions of a second
- [14] Brand of camera
- [15] Keeps the camera stable, has 3 legs
- [16] Attachment on front of camera where light enters
- [17] Cutting / removing part of an image
- [19] Old way of recording images
- [20] Extreme close up

Down

- [1] Different values of one colour
- [2] Measured in f-stops
- [4] Burst of artificial light
- [5] How elements are framed in the image
- [7] Controls how blurry the image looks
- [9] Photograph shot from high above the ground
- [11] How light or dark an image is
- [12] Style of photography showing people
- [13] Shows movement
- [18] Controls sensitivity of image to light

Match the photographer with the image title:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ansel Adams | Identical twins |
| Steve McCurry | Fredau in Yellow |
| Nadav Kander | Pepper No 30 |
| Diane Arbus | Afghan Girl |
| Marcel Van Balken | John Lennon & Yoko Ono |
| Bill Ward | Bay of Life (series) |
| Annie Liebovitz | Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico |
| Frans Lanting | Kings theatre, Glasgow |
| Edward Weston | Runner |
| Ross McKelvey | Barak Obama III |

You can use the internet! In fact, it is encouraged!

Question corner>>>

Q: What are the main focus points available on most cameras?

Single-point autofocus, allows you to select a single focus point using the camera controls. This provides precise control over the area where the camera will focus. It's commonly used for still subjects or *when you want to focus on a specific part of the scene*.

Multi-point autofocus uses a group of focus points to track and focus on a moving subject. The camera automatically selects the focus point within the group based on the subject's movement. This mode is *suitable for capturing subjects in motion*.

A: **Zone autofocus** divides the frame into larger zones, and the camera focuses within the selected zone. It offers a balance between the precision of single-point autofocus and the tracking ability of multi-point autofocus. This is useful when photographing *subjects with moderate movement*.

Understanding how to use different focus point modes can greatly enhance your ability to capture sharp and well-focused images.

Federation News

WCPF Member Exhibition opens for entries 6th January 2024 to 2nd March 2024

The classes are 3 Digital & 3 Print classes (Open Colour, Open Monochrome, Nature). The cost is £8 for one class, plus £3 for each additional class.

<https://www.thewcpf.com/copy-of-exhibition>

CAN YOU HELP?

1) Competition Secretary

Would you like to help with running of our club?

We are seeking a new competition secretary for September 2024; potentially splitting the season between several members to reduce the workload.

2) Programme Secretary

Whilst the 2024-25 programme will be in place, we are seeking a new programme secretary from September 2024.

For either of the above speak to a committee member and register your interest.

If we don't get volunteers we won't have a club – it's simples!

Remember that we need to fill these posts by the AGM in April 2024 – time is ticking.....

3) Newsletter.

Can you provide me with any of the following?

A meet the member bio

Any Q&A

Any article about your photography – your travels, your "journey", a tip etc.

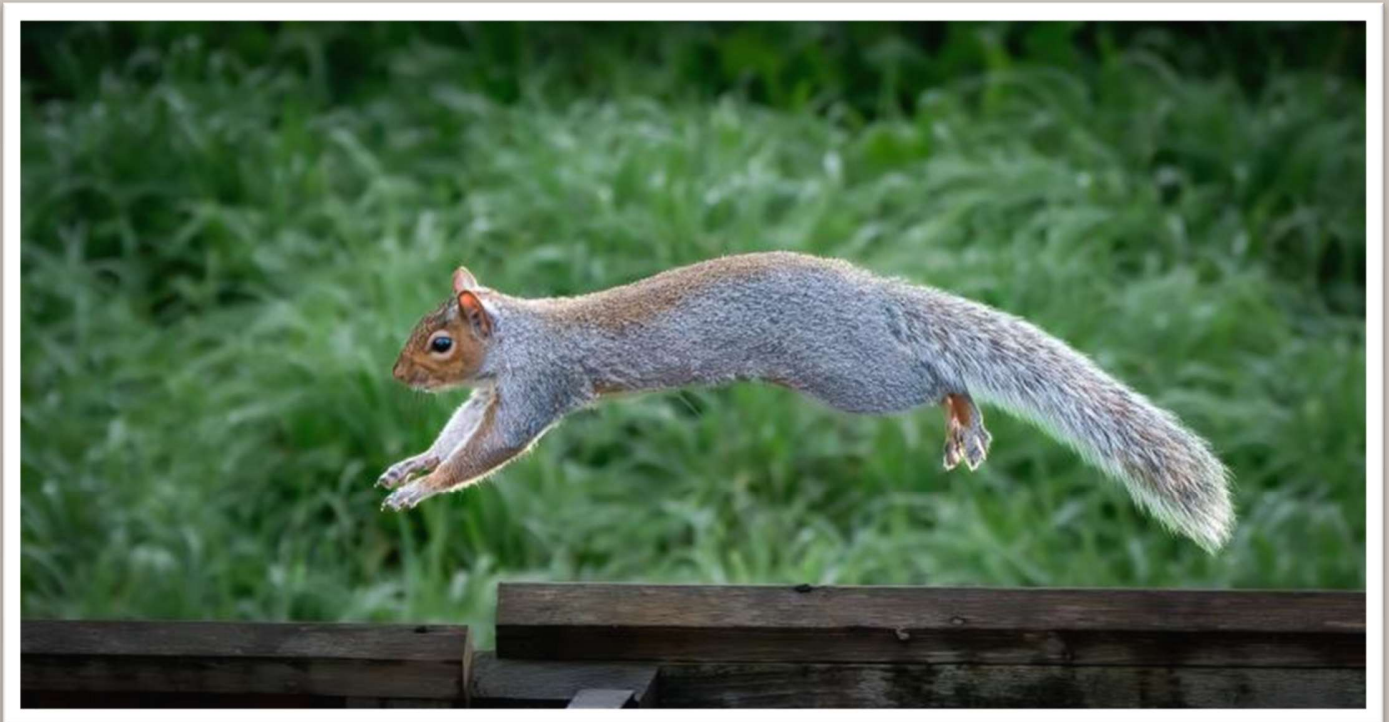
THANK YOU!

Competition No 3 Prints – Score 20



“Giza pyramids” – Roger Matthews

Competition No 3 Prints – Score 20



“Little Bounder” – Richard Atkinson

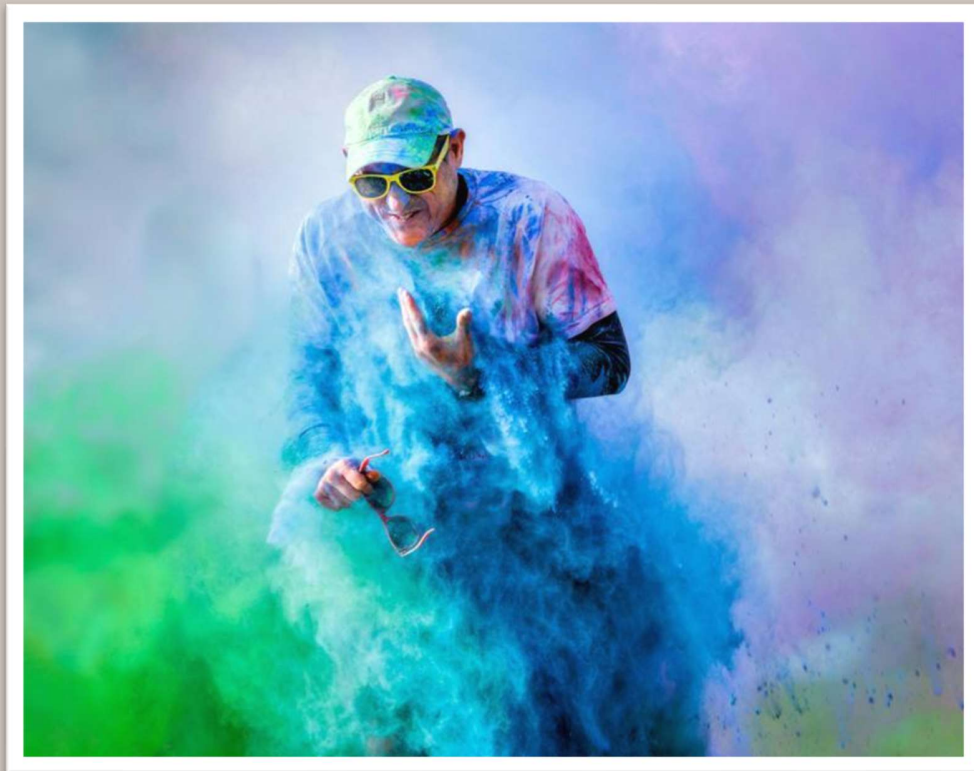
"In a world where you can be anything, be kind. In a world where you can capture anything, capture beauty."- Anon

Competition No 3 Digital – Score 20



“Another six” – Brian Dinnage

Competition No 3 Digital – Score 20



“Run the rainbow” – Trish Bloodworth EFIAP

Competition No 3 Digital – Score 20



“What lies beyond” – Annie Blick

Competition No 3 Digital – Score 20



“Serious Friends” – Trish Bloodworth EFIAP

2023 competitive thoughts...

Peter Crane ARPS travelled from the Swindon area to judge our 3rd competition of the season – an open competition.

This saw 15 different members entering the print competition and 28 entering digital images – this is a great representation from our membership – with nearly 60% of our members entering this competition.



“Cleaning day” – Derrick Whitmore

Prints

Score of 20

Roger Matthews – Giza pyramids

Richard Atkinson – Little Bounder

Digital

Score of 20

Annie Blick – What lies beyond

Brian Dinnage – Another six!

Trish Bloodworth – Run the rainbow

Trish Bloodworth – Serious friends

In addition to the above:

Scores of 19– Prints

Trish Bloodworth - Patrice

Trish Bloodworth – Reflective peony

René Cason - Northern Fulmar

Malcolm Marner - The Huntsmen and Dog

Scores of 19 – Digital

Richard Atkinson - Incoming

Annie Blick - Good Friends

René Cason - Rufous Backed Wren

Ian Peters - Marina and Markia's High Jinks!

Ian Peters - Shake it all about!

There were also 6 images with a score of 18 and 4 with a score of 17 in prints; plus 7 scored 18 and 9 images scored 17 in the digital section.

A special mention must go to **Adam Bilton** with his excellent 18 for Cat Bells in his very first camera club competition – well done Adam.

All images can be viewed on our website under “Results”.

coming up >>>

JANUARY 2024

Thu 4 Jan 2024 - Members' Evening - A New Year

Thu 11 Jan 2024 - PortraitScapes - Sylvain Guenot

Thu 18 Jan 2024 - Competition No. 4 - OPEN

Thu 25 Jan 2024 - VIA ZOOM - JP Stones - Story Telling for Photographers

Thu 1 Feb 2024 - Chairman's Challenge (entry deadline 28th January)

FULL DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE

Next Competition

18th January 2024

OPEN 4

Hand in and enter by 4TH January 2024.

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

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

René Cason

Trish Bloodworth

Bristol Salon is now open for entries

Bristolsalon.co.uk

It is a print salon – so worth trying your prints here

Cheltenham Salon will open 1st January 2024

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.



“Fox on ice” – Leslie Holmes

ADVANCE WARNING

- IMAGES YOU WILL NEED!
 - Monthly comps
 - Chairman’s challenge
 - Triptych/Creative
 - Pattern/texture/many

UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and our Facebook Group

High Scoring print



“The huntsmen and dog” – Malcolm Marner

High Scoring Digital



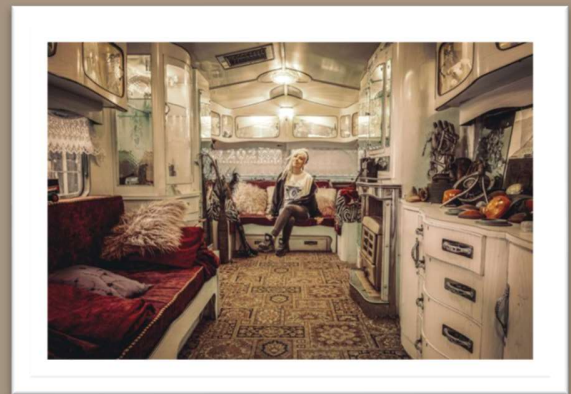
“Incoming” – Richard Atkinson

"A thing that you see in my pictures is that I was not afraid to fall in love with these people." – Annie Liebovitz

More High Scores from Open No 3 Prints



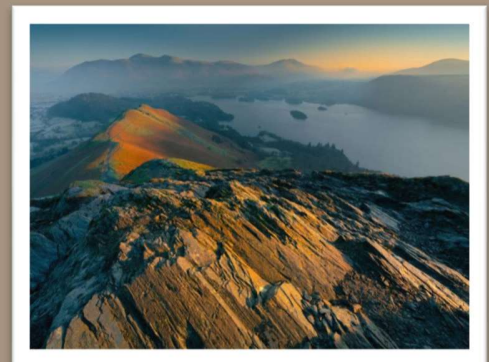
"Northern fulmar" – René Cason AFIAP



"Patrice" – Trish Bloodworth EFIAP



"The violin" – Jeff Wilson

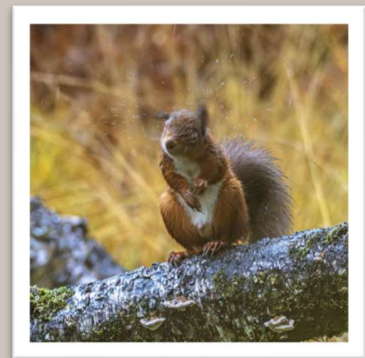


"Cat Bells" – Adam Bilton

More High Scores from Open No 3 Digital



"A Malta street scene" – Geoff Perrett



"Shake it all about" – Ian Peters

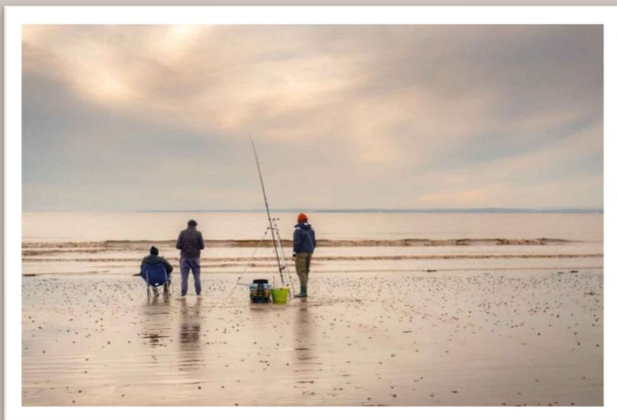


"Mine is bigger than yours" – Rhys Owen



"Malvern railway station man" – Carol Barchou

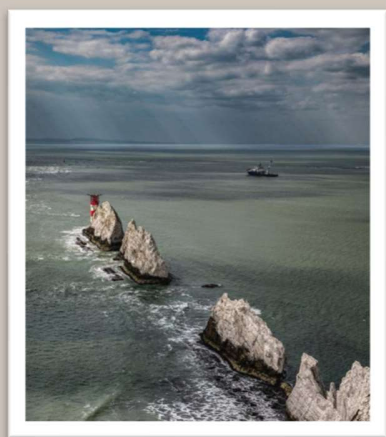
Others from the competition



"Fisherman's friend" – Steve Vines



"Canyonlands of Utah" – Kerrin Malone



"The Needles" – Nigel Bowsher

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

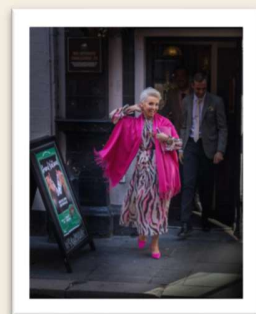
And more!



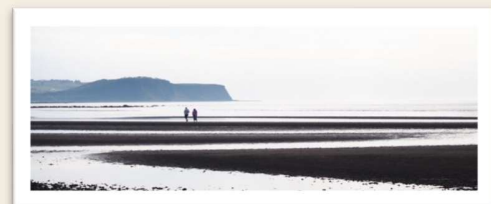
"Changing of the guard" – Gerry Chance



"Chalford Hill fireworks" – Glyn Heskins



"And they're off" – Mick West



"Evening stroll on the beach" – Gordon Hart