

## 2023-2024 SEASON >>>

Roger's report

The review

A tribute to David Hunt AFIAP

Competition news – or not!

Federation & FIAP news



Mark Halling – The Stroud Half Marathon shared on Facebook

## 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

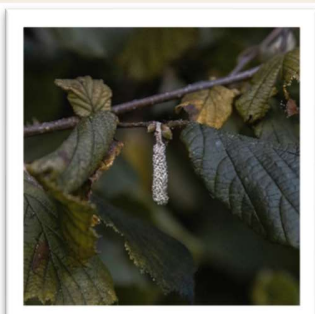
Treasurer: Leslie Holmes

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](http://www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk)



"Is it too late for a catkin" – Paul Edwards  
Via Facebook

## Roger's Report

As I write this on the morning after our rather early 'Xmas Social', I am struck by how lucky we are to belong to a club where everyone rubs along together so well, and the social element of club membership is every bit as important as our shared interest in photography. Yes, it would be great to all take better pictures and improve our skills to unleash our creativity, but we will only stick with club photography if it is fun to do so and where all members feel supported and included. Thanks to all of you, I believe that Stroud Camera Club manages to excel photographically while retaining that crucial social element that keeps members coming back week after week. Sadly, we lost a stalwart supporter of the Club when David Hunt recently died (more on this later in the newsletter), but at his funeral it was clear how much he enjoyed his photography and his membership of our club in particular.

I will save my Christmas wishes and thoughts on New Year resolutions until the next newsletter – 1<sup>st</sup> December really is too early (though I did get my first Xmas card yesterday!) However, I do want to remind members not to be so distracted by Xmas revelry or disabled through over-indulgence

that they forget to plan their Chairman's Challenge images. This advice will no doubt fall on deaf ears and there will be some who leave things to the last minute, but make sure that's not you. I'm after three images that capture your interests other than photography through the medium of photography where the quality of the image is paramount. We will, of course, all be interested in learning more about what you get up to other than take pictures and I may have to offer a prize for the most interesting/obscure. My prizes will be more generous than last night's observation quiz prize - a bottle of gin...OK, a miniature (but well-done John Edwards - you should have been a detective).

AND FINALLY – REMEMBER  
*Art demands constant observation*  
(Vincent van Gogh)

## Jonathan Vaines - Composition

A new speaker was Jonathan Vaines who joined us via Zoom to lead us through the mystical art of composition – or as he said, “putting all the things in the right place to hold the viewer’s attention.” We were reminded about the “rule of thirds,” the golden ratio, and the colour of thirds – with Jonathan telling us that our brains apparently work well with the Fibonacci theory.

Expanding upon these starting points, Jonathan took us on a complete tour of all things that make a composition – depth, height, isolation, balance and corners, leading lines, numbers, colour temperatures and depth of field. Showing us some super images to support his explanations, Jonathan certainly had the “evidence” that a lot of the “rules” of composition do engage the viewer.

Some of this we already knew, and some aspects were new. The use of symmetry in an image needing to be broken by light or a slight difference was an interesting concept. As were the ideas of using just the corners for a composition, including just bottom left and top right! Although we mostly know that odd numbers work well in our images, Jonathan also convinced us that even numbers can work, especially if they are used in pairs, such as 2 men with 2 pieces of art. An interesting evening of theory with some lovely images to support the ideas.

## The review >>>

### Martin Fry – Capturing the moment

*1985 was apparently the first time that Martin spoke at Stroud Camera Club and with 34 members in attendance his preceding talks were obviously not duds! This evening proved to be anything but dud – murmurs of appreciation “wonderful”, “tremendous”, “superb” were heard at the end of each of his audio-visual presentations, and even the final piece which for some unknown reason lacked its soundtrack didn’t diminish the quality of the evening.*

*Martin kept the majority of the evening local with beautiful landscapes inter-twined with AVs often accompanied by the wonderful songs of Jonny Coppin. A highlight for many was the soundtrack actually recorded by Martin some years ago of Laurie Lee reading his poem, and now skilfully blended into an enchanting photo-film.*

*From roof tiles to golden orbs, the creativity and skill with which Martin showcased his imagery was evident and thus not surprising that his AVs have collected many awards along the way.*

*The way that Martin is able to blend his images and set them perfectly to music or vocal was an exceptionally high standard and gave members plenty of inspiration. As Martin suggested – just get out there and capture the moment. Watch for the light and use it to help separate your all-important subject from the clutter of the background.*

*We are so lucky to have such beautiful landscapes on our doorstep, and if that is not your thing, then there is always the “Holly Auctions” in Tenbury Wells – yet another slight quirk of the unique area we live in.*



*René photographed a pacific sunrise from his holiday in Costa Rica*

## 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' Night >>>

### Nature but not “nature”

An excellent turnout of members for the member night to start November. Our theme being “Nature”, but not an image that would qualify as a “nature competition” image. Members showed how many subjects are ineligible for the nature competition with a range of images.

Richard Sellwood with some excellent captures of his lurcher running through water; Nigel Bowsher showing how nature reclaims, in his well-executed image of an old rusty tractor being engulfed by weeds. Carol Barchou followed a similar theme but in a minimalist version with a single weed climbing through a shed.

Several members had captured the highland cattle, with images ranging from serious to highly amusing, including Glyn’s very much “not nature” set up of a china cow on a printed background!

A variety of dogs were photographed, both portraits, candid and the super sled dogs

from Malcolm Marnier. Cats also featured including Mark Halling who had a splendid portrait capture of a ginger puss and Trevor Blundell who captured an interesting feline subject of a cross between a serval and a domesticated cat.

Sheep and horses also featured in the evening, with Richard Atkinson expressing quite a fondness for sheep – to much hilarity within the room, Gary Canning and Jeff Wilson both using sheep as an excellent subject capture for the evening.

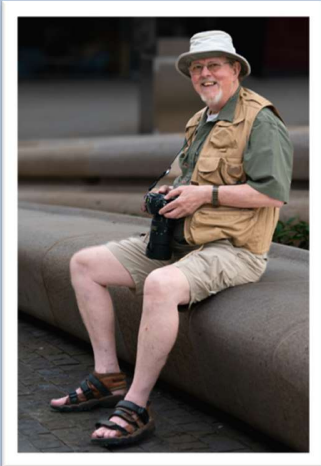
Flowers included tulips, dahlias, and clematis. Chris Organ showed a beautifully captured peach rose.

Several members had a humorous slant to their images which added to an overall fun evening. Well done to all who took part in an entertaining event.



## In memoriam – David Hunt AFIAP – A tribute to a friend

We were very sad to hear of the passing of David on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Jan, his wife, told me that he passed away peacefully in the Sue Ryder hospice at Leckhampton having fought heroically for many months with cancer and more than defying



the odds to see not only Christmas 2022, but also Valentines, Easter, and the Summer of 2023.

David who was aged 71, was born in Stockwell, South London and spent most of his teenage years in Epsom, before moving to Hertfordshire then back to Surrey, then Slimbridge, the Forest of Dean and finally to Leonard Stanley. David joined Stroud Camera Club in 2019 he told me he was inspired to join having had a speaker whilst he was a member at FOD camera club who was a previous member at SCC. David grew up with an older brother, David Bowie as a neighbour and a love of singing – he was apparently an angelic choir boy!

David spent his working life in the IT industry, including a spell with Kodak – his progression through cameras he reported as including the “revolutionary Kodak Instamatic camera with the replaceable flash cubes” – I’m sure many members will relate to that! His passion for photography having started

when he was young with a Box Brownie, he progressed to several Fuji 35mm cameras before a large commission cheque enabled him to fully indulge in his passion with the purchase of his first SLR kit. He chose a Nikon FA with kit lens and a Tokina 200mm F2.8 lens, and was a lifelong Nikon fan. Many cameras later, he invested in a Nikon D500, with an everyday lens - the Nikon 18-300 zoom – David told me that he “got fed up having the wrong lens on my camera when a great photo opportunity presented itself”.

David had many varied interests in photographic subjects; airshows, birds of prey, landscapes, macro shots of insects and, of course, his family. I think he will be very much remembered for his many beautiful Red Kite images, and also his super Red Arrows and his stunning “Taking the Air at RIAT” image, which I know earned him significant success on the FIAP Salon circuit.

David was incredibly proud of his photographic achievement and was deservedly thrilled to achieve his AFIAP distinction in 2022, one of only a handful of members to have achieved the distinction at that time.

The camera club sends its sincere condolences to Jan, and David’s daughters Georgina and Ros, he will be much missed at SCC.



His funeral was held in Cheltenham on 14<sup>th</sup> November with 6 club members present to pay their respects. RIP David.

## Federation News

### WCPF Members Exhibition

*This will open soon for entries.*

*Knightsayes Trophy – don’t miss this one – a print competition with entry at DPIC in February “Water in all its forms”.*

*DPIC is renamed The Inter-Club Championships – Roger and the DPIC committee will sort out entry after the next competition.*

*Watch this space for ticket details – date for your diary is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.*

### Early Christmas Social

Due to scheduling requirements our Xmas social came early this season – still just in November! With a wonderful buffet once again provided by Liz Merrett at the Bowls Club there was certainly no reason not to be jolly!

The evening started with a slide show from the PAGB of some of the high scores of the 2023 GB Cup.

Roger’s dastardly quiz was “kicked into touch” and instead Trish provided an entertaining matching game, with 10 people having provided “Then and Now” images and the aim being to match the images and the photographer. 2 “tables” had a score of 21 but the men’s table led by Mick took the prize with the most correct photographers. Well done.

Roger still had the chance for something tricky with his observation quiz – good fun trying to second guess his observational questions – but in the end it was John Edwards who triumphed, and Annie (knowing birds as she does!) who was closest to identifying 65 birds in the “tie-break” image within 2 seconds.

The committee agreed that the jumbo raffle proceeds would be split with 50% being sent to the Sue Ryder charity in memory of David Hunt. Leslie will confirm the sum at a future meeting.

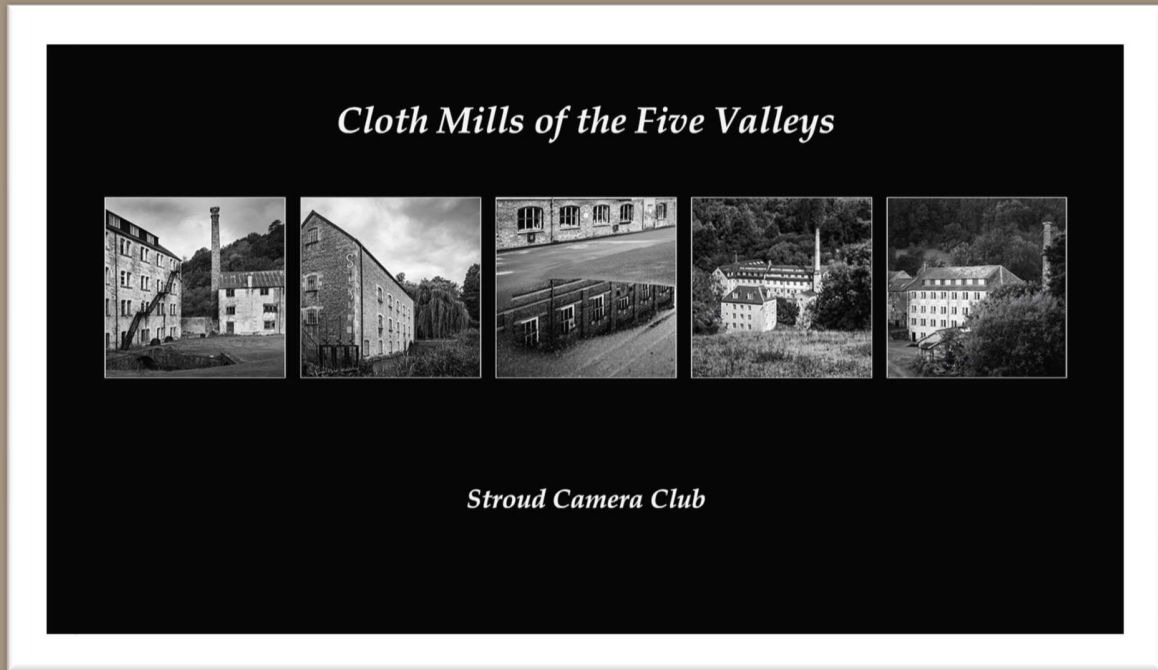
### Question corner>>>

## Q: Who’s who in the Camera Club world?

We are often guilty of quoting abbreviations without a thought for new members who may not realize what we mean. Apologies to them, and hopefully here is a reminder of what some of the main ones we use are:

**A:** FIAP – International Federation of Artistic Photographers (our World body)  
PAGB – Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (affiliated to FIAP our National body)  
WCPF – Western Counties Photographic Federation (affiliated to PAGB our Regional body)

# The Kingswood Salver



Our Kingswood Salver entry

## Images and comments from the day

The Western Counties Photographic Federation (WCPF) Kingswood Salver is a Federation competition which requires 5 images from 5 different members to be presented as a panel. It was judged by Leo Rich at Bovey Tracey on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Sadly, Bovey Tracey is a bit far for us to travel from Stroud, so it was lovely to see some pictures of our panel which were uploaded to the WCPF Facebook page.

Whilst our panel didn't win, we took part and thanks go to the members who provided images for selection – in order across the panel L-R, Annie, Mark, Trish, Roger, René.

Congratulations to Dorchester who were the winners on the day with their panel “Fast and Furious”.



Helen Sarah Jones, WCPF President commented:

*I really liked this – the presentation was great, and the black mounts worked well. Good story telling and a sense of place and history. Looked very good from where I was standing at the back of the room.*

*“People say photographs don't lie, mine do” – David LaChapelle*

# 2023 competitive thoughts...

The next competition will be judged in December – so there are no current images from the competitions, instead this issue is celebrating images that are available on our website in the previous competitions, our Facebook page and your member galleries. Don't forget to start your preparations for next year! Two more open competitions, plus mono and the Image of the Year.



"I'll bee collecting pollen" – David Hunt AFIAP

## Colin Walls – Observational Photography

Quite why we hadn't invited Colin back for 10 years will remain a mystery! His talk was inspirational, educational and full of humor. It was very interesting to note many of his comments about his own images from a "judges" perspective, in particular as he will be our "Image of the Year" judge this season – you have been warned!

Colin took us on a meander through his images, showing us a wide range of photography from architecture, street, abstract, and through to his "signature style" - reflections. What was abundantly evident was that if you just open your eyes you can find an image – as Colin said he is never bored when he is out as he will either have a book to read or a form of camera to hold. He urged us to make sure that we are creating new images,

don't dwell on the old ones, (or take up woodwork!)") and commented that the best camera is the one you have with you. He showed us how even a stairway handrail, an old shutter or a shiny car can be used to create interesting images. Using the whole frame, but with care in your composition (straight horizons, and careful use of corners) can pay dividends. His more recent work focused on removing the larger part of the image and instead just concentrating on the detail that the image is really about.

Colin reminded us that our eyes are drawn to 4 things: brightest part, red, people's eyes, and words. Showing us that sometimes it is necessary to carefully include text in an image, even flipping the photo to make it make sense. A super evening with plenty to please members.

coming up >>>

## December 2023

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> December – Oliver Smart speaker

Thu 14<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Competition

No meetings then until 4<sup>th</sup> January

Coming in January we have:

Competition

2 speakers

A discussion/member evening

Back to basics

## January Competition

18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

OPEN 4

HAND IN 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

## INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

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

René Cason – Smethwick & Toronto

Trish Bloodworth – Smethwick & Toronto

## CONGRATULATIONS

Please send details of your acceptances or other external "wins" to [secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk)  
Apologies if you are missed here – please let me know so you can be added next time.

Bristol Salon is now open for entry



"Antarctica" – Leslie Holmes

UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and our Facebook Group



## More of David Hunt's Images



"Crowded New York" – David Hunt AFIAP



"I see the light" – David Hunt AFIAP

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/161300077@N06/with/5107362895/>

## Autumn Colours - Facebook Images shared by members



*"At the Ashmolean" – Ali Garrett*



*"Off the hook" – Geoff Perrett*

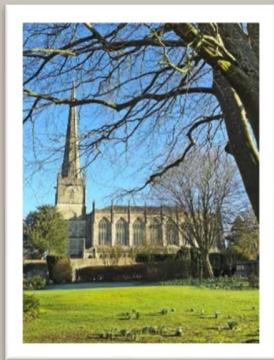


*"Nailsworth Autumn colour" – Gordon Hart*



*"Toadsmoor Valley and Lake" – Annie Blick*

## Website Gallery Images shared by members



*"St Mary's Church, Tetbury" – Kerry Williams*



*"The tube" – Brian Johns*



*"Happy Hour" – John Edwards*



*"Into the night" – Mike Calnan*



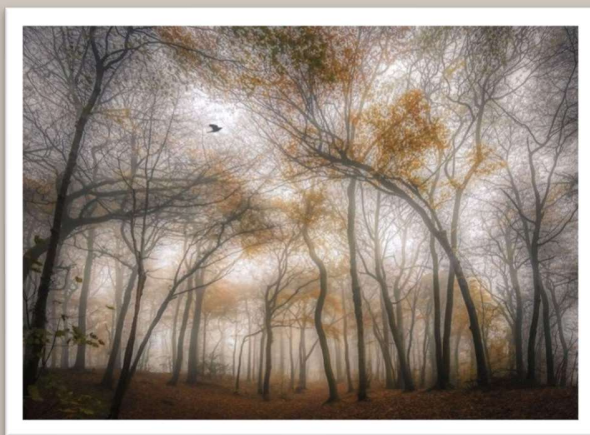
## From the previous open competitions



*"Fast Food" – Derrick Whitmore  
2021-2022  
1<sup>st</sup> place digital image of the year*



*"All by myself" – Jeff Wilson  
2022-2023  
1<sup>st</sup> place digital image of the year*



*"Autumn canopy" – Annie Blick  
2020-2021  
1<sup>st</sup> place digital image of the year*

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

## From the previous mono competitions



*"Noble profile" – Richard Atkinson  
2022-23 Mono digital 1<sup>st</sup> place*



*"The lecherous angel" – Ian Peters  
2021-22 Mono digital 2<sup>nd</sup> place*



*"It's OK Mum" – Trish Bloodworth EFLAP  
2019-2020 Mono print 1<sup>st</sup> place*



*"The coldness of snow" – Annie Blick  
2020-21 Mono digital 2<sup>nd</sup> place*