

2023-2024 SEASON >>>

Roger's report

The review

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Federation & FIAP news



"Keem Beach"
- Ali Garrett via Facebook

Issue #33
Oct 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 Cason

Programme: Ali Garrett

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



"Multi exposure abstract" – Annie Blick
Via Facebook

Roger's Report

Sitting in the warm sunshine as I write this piece for the newsletter, it is hard to believe that when the next newsletter is released, we will have fewer than four weeks to go before Xmas! If you are hoping to get some new camera kit for Xmas, now is the time to start dropping some heavy hints - after all, new tech is all that is holding back your photography, if only in your own mind.

Although minimalism may not apply to gadget acquisition, it can produce some great art as demonstrated by Tony Worobiec at the Zoom talk earlier in the month. It was refreshing to see 'rules' being broken and images being created for their artistic merit rather than any story-telling that judges love to see in an image. Great photography may not always win competitions but can be just as rewarding if the resulting image draws you in and evokes feelings.

While competitions are the bread and butter of club photography, one should always strive to take images that you can enjoy. Hopefully, Stroud Camera Club gets the balance right and manages to support members with a broad range of interests, but if there is something that you want to see more/less of please let one of the Committee members know as work is already in hand to look at the 2024/25 programme.

Your Committee works hard on your behalf to keep the Club running and I think it has done a great job keeping the wheels turning and members engaged; however, one of the risks that I am acutely aware of is a lack of resilience should we lose a committee member through illness, temporary non-availability, churn etc. To that end, I ask each and every one of you to see what capacity you might have to offer your support so our Club can continue to thrive when it is time for current Committee members to step back.

We are actively looking for someone (and a deputy if possible) to replace Richard Atkinson as Competition Secretary from next season - a vital role without which the Club will struggle. Further ahead, we will need to rotate some of the other positions - it is, however, never too early to start preparing and getting volunteers onboard. It's our Club, let's all play our part.

AND FINALLY – REMEMBER

If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito.

Minimalism with Tony Worobiec FRPS

Back to Zoom to enjoy the presentation from Tony with the unpronounceable surname! 26 members logged in to be entranced by Tony's images. Starting with a Mark Rothko minimalist abstract and explaining how sometimes less is more, Tony took us on a trip through his extensive galleries. Tony doesn't always travel far afield telling us how he has come to appreciate just how beautiful the fields and woodlands around his home town of Wareham can appear at any time of the year.

Images from the area included beautiful trees, and what he termed mono-colour seascapes. Tony explained how sometimes it works to put the subject of the image in the centre of the frame and how sometimes he doesn't feel an image even needs a subject. He did describe his imagery as "marmite" however, with such a wide range of subjects there was bound to be an image that resonated with everyone present.

Tony was able to create compelling images from a single cloud, a breakwater, a solitary tree or even patterns in the sand. Tony commented that we should look up "The rule of thirds" on Wikipedia and that we should also consider the "Golden Ratio" which he generally prefers.

For further inspiration, take a look at Tony's website:
<https://www.tonyworobiec.com/>

The review >>>

Leigh Preston & PAGB

Unfortunately, due to a mix up the original speaker was unavailable, so we used the power of technology to obtain, at very short notice, a recorded talk by Leigh Preston, a relatively local photographer whom we hope to have in person at SCC in the future. The talk was incredibly informative showing a very wide range of photography with images ranging from "abstract" to "street" to "portrait" – something for everyone together with excellent instructional ideas and constructive commentary.

The second half of the evening, we enjoyed the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) Inter-Federation Exhibition. This was an exhibition of images from the top clubs in 2023 – 14 out of the 15 Federations entered up to 30 images into the selection process for colour prints and 64 images were accepted. Ross McKelvey, whom many members will recall we hosted on Zoom during the Covid period, took home the best exhibit with an image titled "Ayla," a beautifully crafted full-length portrait.

The mono section accepted 55 images which ranged through seascapes, portraits, creatives, architecture, and sport – with whites and blacks being fully exploited by the authors. Rosemary Hughes, also from Northern Ireland Federation picked up the best exhibit with her image "Mary's prayer" a portrait of an older lady with her rosary beads.

A highlight for many (and even those who aren't nature workers) was the nature section – some absolutely stunning imagery, crafted beautifully whilst still maintaining the integrity required in the nature classes. Our Federation (WCPF) were equal 2nd overall, with prints including the overall winner depicting a bittern in flight over a misty moor.

We will show the remaining images at a later date – there are sure to be some stunning images on show.

Members' Night >>>

Frame within a Frame

Twenty-four members attended the evening, and a large number produced images on the theme set for us by our Programme Secretary. A good challenge that everyone could participate in. It was good to see a handful of members had captured images specifically for the evening – in the process spending time thinking about their photography and improving their skills – a particular mention for dedication must go to Annie Blick – for lying prone in a Stroud Underpass tunnel; Gary Canning for trespassing in a tunnel; and David Hamilton for spending hours with a plane and clamp.

David's image was spot on theme as well with his clamp fully framing his plane (of the woodworking variety for those who weren't present) and nicely lit with torches to have a minimalist appeal with no shadows.

Gary's steam train theme for his images

was beautifully executed, with his capture from behind broken fencing (!) with the train captured just entering the arc of the tunnel.

It was good to see our newer members also taking part. Carol Barchou sent her images in advance, with excellent commentary – her image of Belsen-Bergen was very moving. (Jane Bodkin had a similarly emotive image in her set). Malcolm Marnier impressed us with his temple captures from various foreign excursions.

It would be excellent if next time we have a member evening a few more members take images specifically for the evening.

And please remember to count your images and resize correctly!

3 – 5 (max) and 1600px (wide) x 1200px (tall) – and label your memory stick!



Annie & Trish photographed for Longfield Hospice at their Run the Rainbow event.

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.

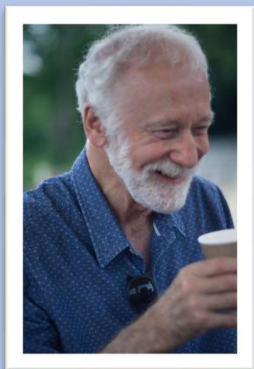
For more information go to

<https://facebook.com/stroudcameraclub>

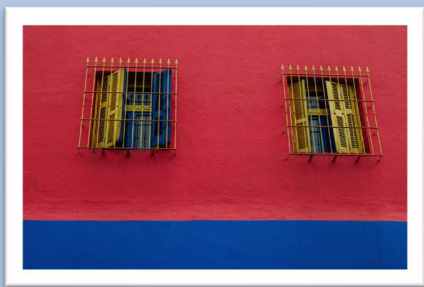
Meet the Member – Kerrin Malone

Kerrin joined Stroud Camera Club at the beginning of 2023, and we have already had a chance to enjoy several of his super images. He has kindly agreed to be our “Meet the member” for this month.

My interest in photography started at school in Bristol where I learnt the basics of developing and printing.



Leaving Bristol to start work in London, and forsaking the Kodak Brownie Cresta II from my parents, my first real camera was a second-hand 35mm Exakta IIB made in East Germany. Very solid, it came with some quite advanced technology including Carl Jena lenses, replaceable prisms and fresnel screens as well as cassette-to-cassette film transport with built-in guillotine.



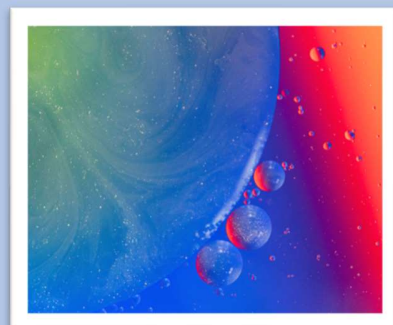
Looking for a lighter camera with TTL metering I swapped this for a Pentax Spotmatic, and became interested in both

street and landscape photography, especially mountains – the latter is still very much a passion today.

I moved to digital in 2011 and now use a Fuji SX-10 and a Canon EOS 90 to photograph wildlife, landscape (and patterns in it), and architecture. Since retirement, travelling on ‘expedition’ holidays has given me the opportunity to pursue these subjects.



In 2021 my wife and I moved back to the West Country from Kent to Horsley, and we’re gradually getting to know this part of the world.



If you haven't already introduced yourself, please remember to send your bio and a couple of your images to secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk – we'd love to get to know you!

Question corner>>>

Q: What is the law about street photography?

Once again there is a relatively simple set of laws about what you can photograph. The UK has some privacy relevant laws, but the laws for photography are generally permissive, which means that if you're in public, you can probably take the picture.

A: However, if the picture is of an individual, perhaps as a portrait or character study, and you intend to publish it in any way (e.g., on the internet), it would be appropriate and may avoid unnecessary complications if you ask that person for permission; you can be sued under the European Convention for human rights if someone takes exception! See more at: <https://law.photography/law/street-photography-laws-in-the-uk>

Federation News

WCPF Members Exhibition

This will open soon for entries.

Look at the previous galleries to get some ideas for your entry and the standard of photography that is expected.

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

New Members

Let's extend a very warm welcome to all our new members:

- **Matthew Willard**
- **Adam Bilton**

We look forward to seeing your work over the coming months.

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.

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.

3) Newsletter

Whilst Trish is happy to continue to produce and edit the newsletter, it is very time-consuming to do it solo – so if any member can provide any of the following this would really be of help:

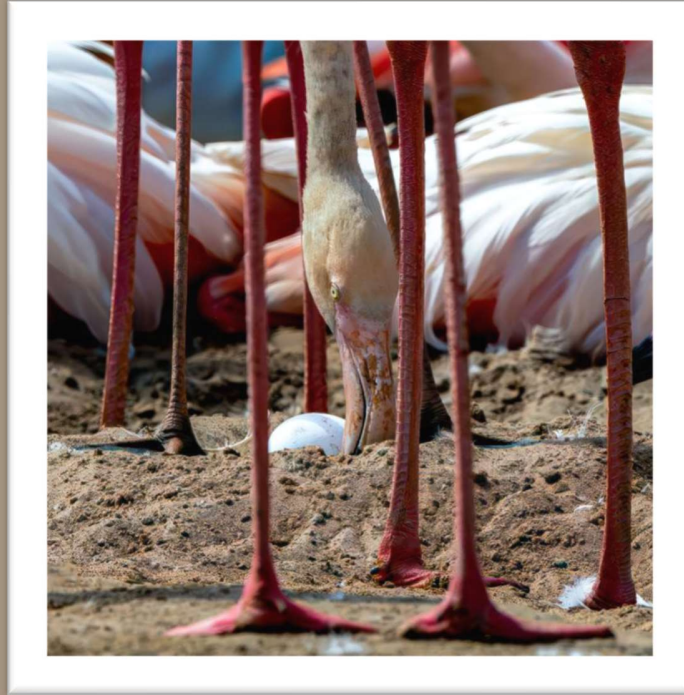
A meet the member bio

Any Q&A

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

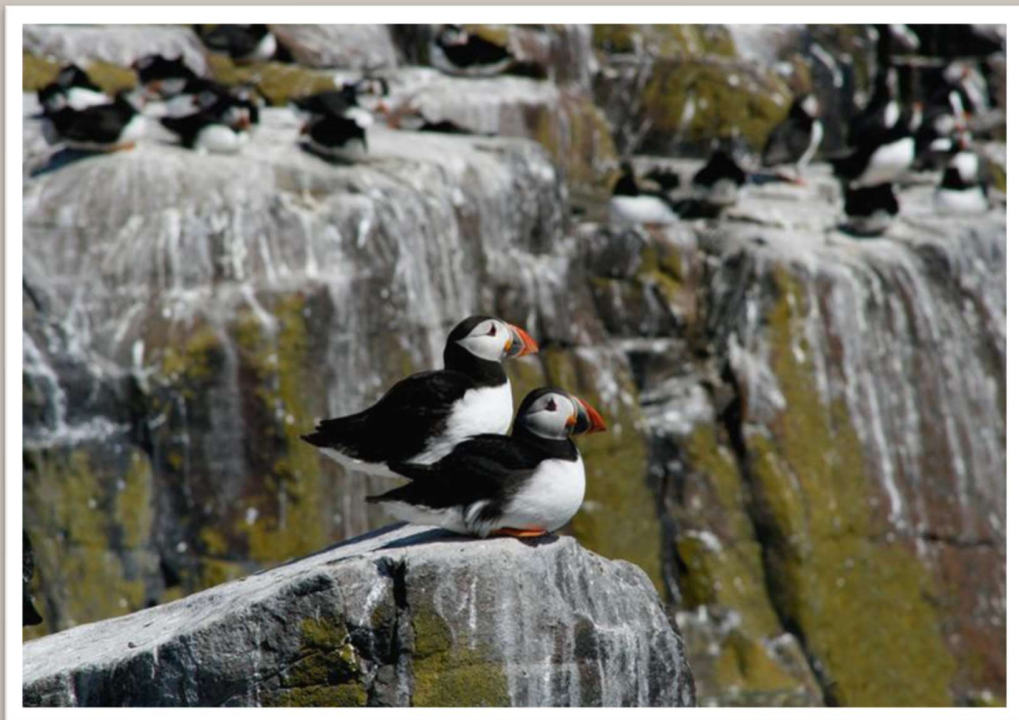
THANK YOU!

Nature – Top Print



“Flamingo – next generation” – Richard Atkinson

Nature – Top digital



“Puffin Pair” – Derrick Whitmore

*“Normally, the best photos are arrived at not by coincidence”
– Paul Goldstein*

2023 competitive thoughts...

Peter McCloskey was the judge for our nature competition. A rocky start to the evening with the website not behaving, was quickly overcome, and some constructive comments were given to the images. Sadly, many images were deemed "pictorial" and not "nature" so this is something that members need to take on board when entering "nature" competitions.



"Must dart" – Ian Peters

OPEN No 1

Prints

Judge's choice – Richard Atkinson – Flamingo – next generation (20)

Digital

Judge's choice – Derrick Whitmore – Puffin Pair (20)

In addition to the above:

Scores of 19– Prints

Leslie Holmes - Arctic Fox: Blue Morph

Scores of 18 - Prints

Roger Matthews – Blue-winged Kookaburra

Scores of 19 – Digital

Nigel Bowsher - Sparrowhawk

René Cason - Kingfisher dive

Malcolm Marner- Red Squirrel with nut in mouth

Scores of 18 - Digital

Richard Atkinson - Vixen and Juvenile

Carol Barchou - A Little Minch Seal, Skye.

Mark Halling - Watching the Matrix

Kerrin Malone - Sealion

Paul Martin - Chaser With Exuvia

Francis Mridha - A Busy Puffin

Rhys Owen - Snowdrop

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.

Look at the Programme on the website for the upcoming deadlines for the next competitions. Remember to be selected for "DPIC 24" you need to have an eligible entry in the competitions before December 2023.

coming up >>>

November 2023

Thu 2 Nov 2023 - Nature - but not Nature
COMPETITION Photography!

Thu 9 Nov 2023 - Jonathan Vaines -
"Compose Yourself" ZOOM

Thu 16 Nov 2023 - Martin Fry The Cotswold
Lad returns

Thu 23 Nov 2023 - Colin Walls - Observational
Photography

Thu 30 Nov 2023 - A very early Christmas
celebration - plus Circles & Rectangles!

Next Competition

14th December 2023

OPEN 2

Hand in and enter by 23rd November.

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

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

Annie Blick - Edinburgh

Mark Halling - Edinburgh

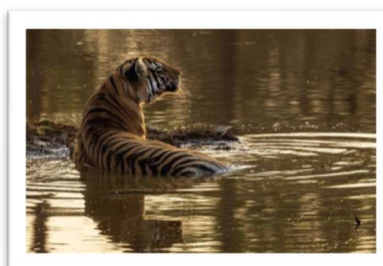
René Cason - Edinburgh, Columbia, Ontario

Richard Atkinson - India

Trish Bloodworth – Edinburgh, Australia, Poland

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.



"Tiger at dusk" – Leslie Holmes

ADVANCE WARNING

- IMAGES YOU WILL NEED!
 - Monthly comps
 - Member nights:
 - Nature but not "Nature"
 - Circles and Rectangles

UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and our Facebook Group

High Scoring print



“Arctic fox: blue morph” – Leslie Holmes

High Scoring Digital



“Kingfisher dive” – René Cason AFIAP

“Photography, as a powerful medium of expression and communications, offers an infinite variety of perception, interpretation and execution.” – Ansel Adams

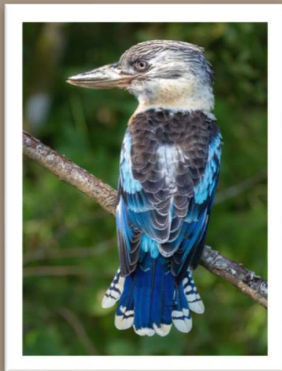
More High Scores from Nature Competition



*"Female olive backed sun bird" –
Malcolm Marner*



*"Red squirrel with nut in mouth" –
Malcolm Marner*



*"Blue-winged kookaburra" – Roger
Matthews*



"Sparrowhawk" – Nigel Bowsher



"Snowdrop" – Rhys Owen



"Chaser with exuvia" – Paul Martin



"A busy puffin" – Francis Mridha



"Vixen and juvenile" – Richard Atkinson

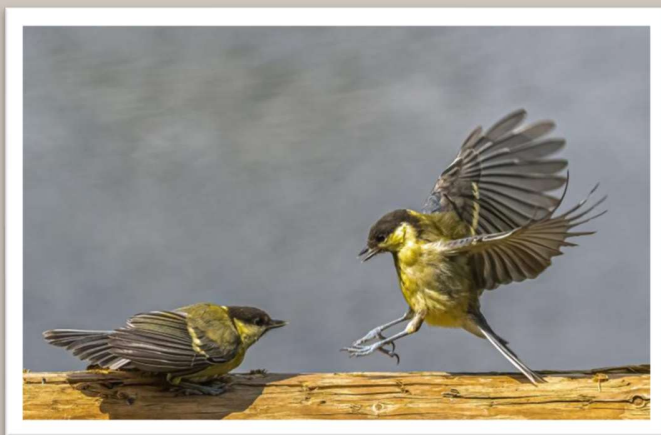
Nature images



"Pearl bordered fritillary" – Richard Sellwood



"Sealion" – Kerrin Malone



"Watching the matrix" – Mark Halling

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

From the competition



"A little minch seal, Skye" – Carol Barchou



"Giant golden orb weaver spiders" – Roger Matthews



"Ruskin Mill Heron" – David Hunt AFIAP



"Prairie Dog Delights" – Scott Anthony