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Group A Winner – 1st Place – Scott Antony - "Laughter"

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
 - Publicity & Competitions: Richard Atkinson
 - Programme: Chris Tracey
 - Social Media: Jenny Smith
- For more information, including contact emails for all the committee please go to www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk**

Group B winner – 1st Place – René Cason
"Two is better than one"



Roger's Report

Despite Zoom.....there has never been a better time to be a member of SCC.

With the lockdown still in force, days getting shorter and the weather providing little encouragement to venture outside, there are many excuses to put the camera away and put photography on the back burner. However, time spent indoors can also be used creatively and productively...and you don't need a home studio! Looking back at the Summer Club Challenge images over a quarter of the images were captured indoors and yet more images were post-processed on the computer so no excuse to stop.

For my part, and spurred on by Ray Grace's excellent Photoshop presentation, I have been trying to get my head around using Photoshop rather than rely solely on Lightroom to post-process my images. To be fair, progress has been slow, but I am beginning to see the light and appreciate some of the tools that we can all use to bring images to life. The recent Photoshop Virtual Summit also provided some inspirational tutorials and I would highly recommend members sign up for the next Summit in Apr 21.

There will be some who think that Photoshop is cheating and not real photography, but all forms of photography involve some degree of manipulation. Film photographers would use different films to capture different moods and styles while darkroom techniques would be used to enhance the printed image with different papers, cropping, dodging and burning. Modern digital images are often captured as JPEG images that not

only reduce file size but adjust dynamic range, saturation and contrast to present images that are appealing. How is this any different from doing the same in post-processing with greater control over the output? RAW images capture more information but can rarely display images as we see them in our minds eye without manipulation. ***The camera is a great tool for capturing a scene, but, as Aleks Gjika noted in his critique of our most recent competition images, it is an unthinking instrument and we see the world very differently and must therefore use a range of techniques to recreate the image we were trying to capture.*** I am more convinced than ever that Photoshop, Lightroom and other post-processing tools are essential to get the best from our images. While you may not think you do 'creative photography', all photography is creative! Let's all be more creative and strive to learn new skills to enhance our images. To support this, we are working on better identifying members with specific skills who are willing to share their knowledge with other members - despite operating over Zoom, there has never been a better time to be a member of SCC

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER
*We all have a photographic memory;
however, some of us are lacking the film!*

The review >>>

“Commercial Photography” Terry Livesey

A completely different style of speaker this week, and something completely new to SCC. Terry is a commercial photographer, with an extensive portfolio of clients.

How he was able to build up his clients, was really the first half of his talk; Terry explained to us the steps he took, and would recommend to any budding commercial photographer. This ranged from the basics of business planning, getting insurance and your outline plan. Through to the types of marketing he used, in particular Instagram and LinkedIn with the full facilities for networking that these online environments offer.

He then took us through the basic set up of a studio, showing us that a start-up studio can be very basic and in fact so long as you can fit in with a 70-200mm lens you should manage in a small room. Moving on to types of commercial photography we were surprised at how many different opportunities there are. Not just wedding, products and events, there is commercial lifestyle, architecture, business headshots, fashion to name but a few.

Terry is a Nikon shooter, and has many cameras in his possession, and when he needs a specialist camera, for example a Hasselblad, he simply rents it!

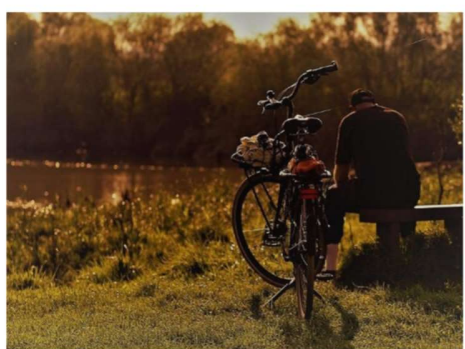
Lighting is key to many of his shoots, and he kindly showed us several “behind the scenes” set ups, and explained the intricacies of different light modifiers, from basic umbrellas, through softboxes, to grids and snoots.



Group A – Highly Commended
David Hunt
“I’m staying here - so there!”

Post processing he assured us was relatively minimal, but even so full use is made of Lightroom and Photoshop, with assistance from PortraitPro, Affinity Photo, Xero and Acuity Scheduling.

An informative and interesting evening enjoyed by members.



Group B – 2nd Place – Paddy Doyle
“Lockdown Peace”

FaceBook 

Upload your images to be the “face” of Stroud Camera Club for a month.

Why don’t you share some images via our FaceBook group? It will be lovely to see them, and **if you would like to be the featured image**, just tag it #coverphoto and our social media secretary Jenny Smith will add it to her collection of potentials for the cover image.

If you are not yet a member simply click the link within FaceBook and answer 3 very simple questions.

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

Highlights >>>

Photoshop Maestro

Ray Grace made a very welcome return to Stroud CC this month, with his instructive Photoshop clinic. Members had asked some excellent questions, which Ray answered.

What a fascinating evening with so much to take in. We started by learning that we could un-mute ourselves with the spacebar when using Zoom! Ray then followed up with an excellent edit of Chris Tracey’s Cornish sunset showing us how to use Adobe Camera Raw – and imparting the fact that we should “work on the thing that needs most adjustment first” before taking the image into Photoshop itself and demonstrating not only a dust removal action, but also how to make the action. We also all need to get ourselves the Eyelead Gel Sensor tool – a sort of sticky stick to remove the dust from our sensors before we click the shutter!

Ray took us through various techniques using adjustment layers and then showed us the use of textures and the benefit of brushes that are not just the “soft round brush” – including how to obtain Kyle’s brushes and to make our own. After covering how to make ourselves a personalised watermark the evening ended with a quick lesson on dodge and burn, using the overlay blend mode for dodging and the soft light blend mode for burning. Don’t forget to adjust your opacity and flow and build up gradually too!

Group B – Highly Commended
Jenny Smith - “Wood Nymph close up”



Group - 3rd Place – René Cason
“Bokeh of feathers....”

Meet the committee: Leslie Holmes - Treasurer



I've been a keen photographer from age 10 when I was gifted a polaroid camera. Then appropriating my grandmother's half frame camera and being delighted to be able to get twice as many photographs on one roll of film. This meant I could play with picture taking and going digital in 2005 felt like an unlimited opportunity to experiment and take photographs of anything and everything I wanted to.

When I joined SCC in 2017, one of the most frequently asked questions was what's my genre of photography. I didn't have an answer to this and reflecting now - I take record shots. I aim to make them half decent, but the vast majority of my pictures are record shots – something that has caught my eye because it was quirky, the light was just right or it was meaningful to me in some way. I want to capture the moment as I saw it and want to remember it. Most of my pictures are personal records and it wasn't until I joined SCC that I started sharing images and hearing what others made of them. This has been both encouraging and occasionally deflating, but always informative.

Most of my photographs are taken whilst travelling and taking pictures is a great excuse to travel – plan where to go and what to photograph; sometimes with long suffering family members in tow, or best of all by myself. Having a camera in hand whether it be my DSLR or iPhone gives me license to

explore, slow down, look at the light and see things in a completely different way.

In my 20's, I remember going to the Grand Canyon and being blown away by it – just standing staring and trying to capture even some small part of it to remind me of the experience. Behind me were a group my age talking about dates, clothes and where they were going drinking that night – they could have been anywhere. I like to think that being into photography stopped me from being oblivious of my surroundings and it definitely makes up for being “Billy no mates”.

Travel photography is probably the ultimate record shot, particularly if you're on the move; you have to work around the weather, time of day, other visitors and trying to find something different. I enjoy exploring and looking for photo opportunities and I like to think this means I see more of the world than I when I'm just walking through it. Nothing better than not only experiencing weird and wonderful places, but coming back with images that capture the feel of somewhere and tell a story – hopefully something that engages and reminds long after the tan has faded. There is the small challenge of actually sifting through and editing 100's of record shots, but that's what long winter evenings are for!

Question corner>>>

Group A – Highly Commended
Ian Peters "Global warming what utter nonsense!"



Q: What is Hyperfocal Distance?

Very simply, it is the distance you set your focus in order to give you the greatest depth of field. It is used often in landscape photography to ensure both the foreground and background (and everything in between) of your image is in focus.

A. If you focus on the foreground, the background will not be sharp. If you focus on the background, the foreground will not be sharp. To maximise the depth of field you need to focus somewhere between the two, at a point known as the Hyperfocal distance. The Hyperfocal distance will vary depending upon focal length and aperture. Don't waste time trying to work this out yourself, there are plenty of mobile phone apps available, which will do this for you. These range from free to around £2.99. This is by far the most reliable method but there are two others you can use.

Rule-of-thumb - The Thirds Rule:

An approximate 'rule-of-thumb' is to set your focus 1/3 of the way up from the bottom of your view finder.

Rule-of-thumb - Double The Distance:

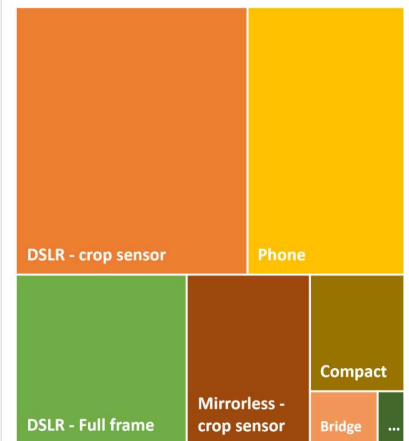
Find the nearest object in your frame that you want in focus, then set your focus to double that distance.

Thanks to Andy Harbin for answering this question – if you need more information contact him via our member hub on the website www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk

Snippets

Thank you for completing the member survey. Results will be published over the next few issues and are being used to formulate the future programme for Stroud Camera Club.

Types of Camera



Let Trish know any snippets of information that you would like included in future newsletters. Contact her using email: secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk

Member news...

We're delighted to hear of the safe arrival this month of **new baby Elizabeth Rose Peake** – first daughter **for Kate Peake** (née Rendell) and first **granddaughter for Angela Rendell**. Many congratulations to all concerned (not forgetting Dad - Jack) from everyone at Stroud Camera Club. Lots of photographic opportunities will be presented here!

Membership fees 2021

Don't forget to pay your membership renewal fee of just **£10** for the season **from 1st January 2021** to the season end – May 2021 (but to include Summer Club, in whatever format that can be.) A renewal form with full details was sent to members in November. If you don't think you received yours, please email

secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk
New members can join from November at this single fee of £10 to include the remainder of 2020. Let your friends know – this is a BARGAIN!

Competitive thoughts...

Stroud Camera Club has a very active competition scene, both internally and externally, including DPIC, Battles and Salons. We fall within the auspices of WCPF (Western Counties Photographic Federation), who in turn are affiliated to PAGB (Photographic Alliance of Great Britain) and overseen by FIAP (Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique)

"I want Jesus!" and "Chop the bl*dy thing off" – just a couple of Aleks Gjika's unique judging comments – but always fair and to the point, we welcomed Aleks back partly with open arms and partly with trepidation! Aleks gave us his usual interesting commentary and timekeeping! Members rose to the challenge however, and we gave Aleks plenty of mood for him to appreciate but left in far too much "criss-cross" for him to critique. We will learn, and one day we'll all impress him! Having said that, he enjoyed an awful lot of our images, and even gave three 3rd places in Group A!

Once again, thank you to everyone who entered, take any criticism "on the chin" – learn from it, and come back fighting in 2021!

MY STROUD & DISTRICT

2020 DEADLINE
31st December 2020

Don't forget our annual competition – upload your images of Stroud and surrounds – enter via your competition page. Even if you don't feel "up to" the monthly competitions, you can show us your local images here so we can make a historic record as well as showcase your talents, and select an annual winner.



Group A – 3rd place (jt) – Andy Harbin
"Glencoe Cottage"

The Stats:

Group B

Total entries 24 images

Commended 3

Highly Commended 4

1st René Cason "Two is better than one"

2nd Paddy Doyle "Lockdown Peace"

3rd René Cason "Bokch of feathers...."

Group A

Total entries 53 images

Commended 7

Highly commended 7

1st Scott Antony "Laughter"

2nd Annie Blick "A cat named Shadow"

3rd = Andy Harbin "Glencoe Cottage" &
"Autumn leaves"

3rd = Roger Matthews "Tongariro Crossing"



Group A – 2nd Place - Annie Blick
"A Cat named Shadow"

Group A – 3rd Place (Jt) – Andy Harbin
"Autumn leaves"



coming up >>>

The rest of 2020

26th Nov - "Astrophotography" - Oliver Herbold

3rd Dec – "Eclectic & creative photography" –

Steve Varnam

10th Dec – WCPF Members Exhibition &

Seasonal Quiz

No meetings – 17th, 24th, 31st December

HAPPY NEW YEAR – let's hope it is!

7th January - "My digital view" – Peter Weaver

14th January – Members night – "Seasonal images"

Join via Zoom – login details in bulletins

Next Competition

Remember My Stroud & District – see Left panel

The first THEMED competition of the season – is

"On the move" – movement of any kind – 28th

January 2021.

Next deadline is 14th January

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had acceptances into International Photographic Salons! This month we have seen our club members accepted in Finland, Asia, Smethwick and the interestingly named "Layers of Passion" Salon

Jeff Kirby

Richard Atkinson

David Hunt

Trish Bloodworth

Annie Blick

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.



Group A – 3rd Place (jt) – Roger Matthews
"Tongariro Crossing"

WWW.STROUDCAMERACLUB.CO.UK

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