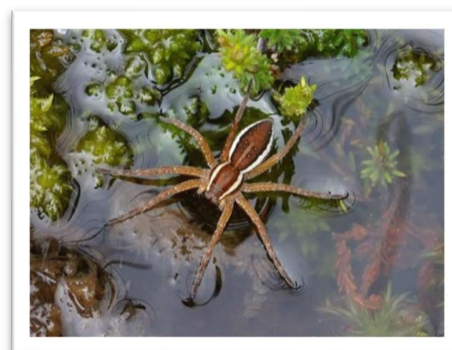


in this issue >>>*Roger's report**The review – Nov Speakers**Meet the members**Question corner**Snippets**Competition news**"Raft spider" – Jill Parker – Highly Commended***A Monthly Insight into the activities of Stroud Camera Club****STROUD
CAMERA CLUB****Contacts >>>****Welcome to
Stroud Camera Club**

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: Jenny Smith

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

*"Wet Hands" – Rhys Owen
Highly Commended*

**Roger's Report**

With 2021 drawing to a close and only halfway through our 2021/22 programme our attention is beginning to turn to the 2022/23 programme! Although it seems a long way off, it isn't when it comes to securing the best speakers. Unfortunately, Paul Martin had to step aside as Programme Secretary to focus on other priorities, but I'm delighted that Margot Page has volunteered to cover the role as a co-opted committee member pending election in due course. If you have any requests or suggestions for next season's programme, please let her know.

Your committee has already looked at the balance of competitions and has decided to make all competitions 'open' (i.e. not themed) in 2022/23 with the exception of the nature competition, which will run alongside an additional 'open' competition for those who would rather leave nature to David Attenborough. I don't have the patience to be a 'nature photographer', but I do enjoy a challenge - the choughs I tried capturing recently only appeared after I had given up and put my camera in my backpack! I don't enjoy getting up before the sun either, so I guess my landscape photography will always be a bit hit and miss too!

On the subject of competitions, it is great to see so many members entering images. I have been extremely impressed with the quality of the images and I'm sure members

are finding the feedback from judges helpful, whether the comments relate to your own images or those of others. The quality of feedback is, I believe, the most important thing a judge has to deliver when judging competitions, so we must ensure that the judge has sufficient time to give each image the attention it deserves. To this end we need to impose a limit of no more than 80 images on competition nights - not only will this help the judges, it will make the evening more enjoyable for all. If entries exceed 80 images, only your first two images may be selected, so when uploading images, you may want to order your entries accordingly. Any restriction on the number of entries will apply evenly across the whole of the competition section.

With Christmas just around the corner I would like to thank you for your support in 2021 and wish you all the very best for the festive season and New Year. If you have been good, you may even get some new kit to help you capture that elusive winning image in 2022. Merry Christmas.

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER

A camera can't make a great picture any more than a typewriter can make a great novel

The review >>>

“Shooting People” Mike Martin

Mike introduces himself as “a hobbyist photographer and keen club member; competitive and sometimes creative, but always hungry to learn or to help others”. This was clearly evident from Mike’s talk, which comprised mainly a selection of some of his print images, together with a session on his before and after showing how his finished images were worked in Photoshop. Mike had an excellent range of portraits with images of both professional models and individuals. His work with Paul Walker, a local Bristol model, were very well conceived and executed including both standard studio shoots and some interesting creative ideas. This set the standard for many of his other works.

At the break members were able to look at the actual prints and see how different paper types assist to “lift” an image. Mike, being a Fotospeed ambassador, was able to offer tips for printing and papers to use. Members can refer back to the bulletin issued after the talk for a discount code for use with Fotospeed papers, which was very gratefully received by us.

You can see more of Mike’s work on his website at:
<https://www.mikemartinphotography.co.uk/>

Members’ night

We know that our members are resilient and always open to change, they did not fail us when we needed to introduce a late amendment in the programme, where sadly Oliver Herbold was no longer able to join us. We instead hosted a “Gentle critique” evening.

Several members kindly brought in their laptops and in small groups we looked at other members’ images that were potentially “not quite there” with what they were aiming to achieve.

As ever, with a varied number of people in attendance and viewing the images there were several points of view, which all adds to the interest with this great hobby. Most people were able to contribute their views and several members went home with new ideas to think about and execute to improve and enhance their future photography projects.

We may all gradually improve, ever mindful of Henri Cartier-Bresson’s sentiment that “your first 10,000 photographs are your worst”!



*“Large blue nectaring on selfheal” Paul Martin
Highly Commended Plus*

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 >>>

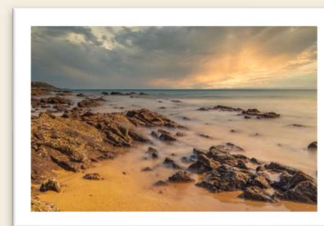
The month in review:

We found out last year that the use of Zoom for camera club nights does open up a whole new realm of speakers for the Club. Whilst we had not originally intended to have any Zoom only nights, a combination of technology and last-minute changes to the programme forced our hand. However, this does seem to have been well received, not only could members attend who are currently unable to visit the club in person, we were also able to invite one of the most prestigious speakers on the circuit at the present time – **Ross McKelvey**. His “**Eclectic Mix**” was certainly that. A predominance of portraiture, as that is his specialism, and led to him founding the “Catchlight Camera Club” in Belfast, but many other genres excellently captured and presented. His Scottish landscapes were a match for many landscape photographers, as were his timely bird shots. His friendly manner and ability to explain each image without even a script was very impressive too!

We will be aiming to include a few more events such as this over the next year. If anyone has any particular requests, get these in soon to Margot, or Trish.

An SCC Season would not be complete without the presence of Ray Grace our local photoshop guru. This year we were entertained and informed about the new features in Photoshop, including the use of the camera raw masking system, and the AI now included in Photoshop attempting to rival some of the other platforms, via the “neural” filters.

An excellent presentation once again. If anyone wants more Photoshop there will be a further Back to Basics session in February – so watch this space!



*“Sunset on the Gower” Dave Swinburne
Commended*

Meet the members: Gallery images

No “bios” for the newsletter, so this month I have once again taken a little journey through the Member Galleries on our website – this time I have picked out a few of our more longstanding members to showcase here.

If you haven't had a look at your own gallery space yet, why don't you take a look now. It is a wonderful place to showcase some of your own work – and put up your “mug-shot” so we know who you are!

Ben Blanch

One of our “quieter” members but with a super sense of humour. Ben is normally found in the back row on a club night thoroughly enjoying the entertainment. Ben says on his gallery that he shoots with a Sony A6000; a delightful member to wander out with at Summer Club, as I had the pleasure to do during our Chalford evening.



“Three cliffs bay”

Gerry Chance

If you've not yet met Gerry, he is another of the “back row” and will be found anytime we have a judge or a speaker sorting out all the sound issues.

Gerry has a wealth of technical knowledge about gear both camera and computer – if you are looking to update your computer just have a chat to Gerry and it will potentially save you an awful lot of “Google” time! Gerry also runs the U3A Group for photography, so if you are looking for some U3A action give Gerry a shout and he will no doubt give you all the details.

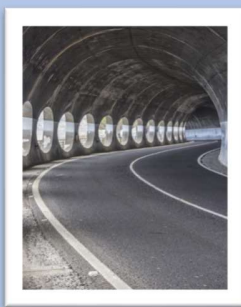


“Nutshell bridge Stroudwater Canal”

Rhys Owen

I believe that Rhys makes up the 3 musketeers on the back row! But I probably can't count and there may be a D'Artagnan lurking somewhere too!

Rhys won the latest round of the Group B digital with his excellent capture of the moorhens fighting, but also turns his hand to landscapes and other creative styles. He particularly impressed me at the “Your Take” evening where he produced some very nice painterly styles of images, something which he tells me he is dabbling in.



“Tunnel view”

As the newsletter does take a fair bit of time each month, I will have a break for December, but will be back in full force again in January – if anyone would like to send me any interesting (or not interesting!) info, please email me as normal on: secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk Have a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year. Trish x

Question corner>>>

Q: What does BPE stand for?

You will often find judges and lecturers with post-nominals (initials) after their name recording their photographic distinctions. AFIAP and EFIAP relate to the FIAP salon distinctions, LRPS, ARPS, etc are the Royal Photographic awards, and CPAGB or DPAGB are the PAGB awards. The mysterious BPE* or BPE5 and similar are distinctions awarded by the British Photographic Exhibitions (BPE) for receiving a stated number of acceptances within the salons under their patronage. Unlike international salons these are for British photographers only and acceptances are highly competitive, in particular due to the limited number of salons of this ilk available each year. They start at BPE 1 star and range all the way up to BPE 5 star.

It is well worth considering this route as an option to share your work, and further information is available at the website: <http://www.britishphotographicexhibitions.org.uk/>

Snippets

Websites with useful tips!

Whenever I can I am on the lookout for useful tips, in particular to enhance my photography. These are a couple of potentially useful websites for members to get some tips from:

PRINTING SUPPORT

<https://fotospeed.com/support/>

<https://www.permajet.com/category/support/>

INSPIRATION WITH LENSBABY

<https://lensbaby.com/pages/inspirationcenter>

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

Other news...

Our local “International Salons” are starting to open for entries for 2022. For those who want to try their hand these are great starting points.

Bristol 2022 (includes Prints)

<https://bristolosalon.co.uk/>

Cheltenham 2022 is not yet open, but normally does so early in the New Year.

All FIAP Patronage salons can be found on their website:

<https://www.myfiap.net/patronages>

Back to Basics

Back to Basics sessions will run on the 3rd Monday of the month in January, February and March.

Jan 2022 – Off camera flash

Feb 2022 – More Photoshop

Mar 2022 – Colour Management

Watch for details in your bulletins.

Digital A Image – Open 3 - Winner

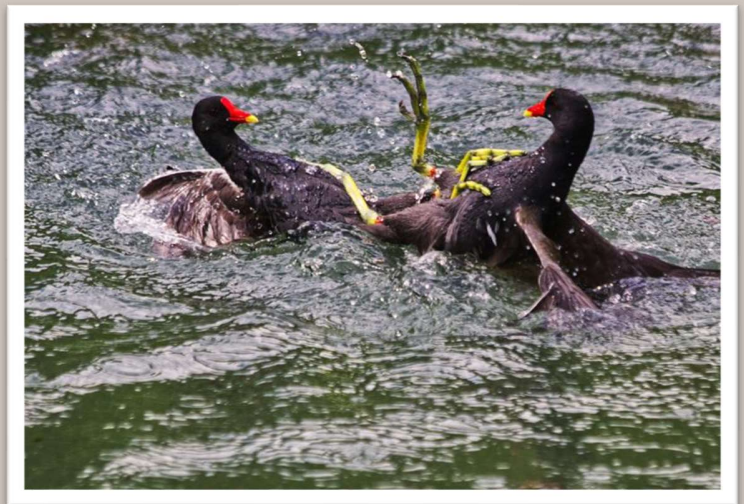


“Kingfisher shift change” – Richard Atkinson – 1st place
Digital A

Open 3 - Winners



“Resting Damselfly” – Roger Matthews - 1st Place
Prints



“Moorhens fighting” – Rhys Owen - 1st Place Digital B

“It is more important to click with people than to click the shutter.” - Alfred Eisenstaedt

2021 competitive thoughts...

Open 3 was a very well supported competition and enabled us to run a Group A and Group B competition for the first time this season. Many congratulations to all the members who entered the competition and in particular to those from Group B our foundation group. We will continue to monitor the situation as to whether it is viable to run both Group A and Group B as separate classes in all future competitions, so please Group B members do enter to enable us to continue this excellent basis.

Bob Train was a returning as judge for this round of our competition. His judging style offering yet another individual appraisal of our images, and he offered some very useful tips and critique. Bob was also very impressed with a large number of images and awarded such a high number it is not possible to showcase them all in this newsletter, so don't forget to look at the website for the full competition scores and gallery. He also introduced a Highly Commended Plus award for the images he felt could have been awarded a higher score in an alternative scoring system.

Prints

1st place Resting damselfly – Roger Matthews
2nd place Rat run – Steve Vines
3rd place Power over shipping – Richard Atkinson

Digital B

1st place Moorhens Fighting – Rhys Owen

2nd place Twigman from the web – Paddy Doyle

3rd place Boot lace eye view – Paddy Doyle

Digital A

1st place Kingfisher shift change – Richard Atkinson

2nd place Contemplation – Andy Harbin

3rd place Wet Day in Town – Annie Blick



David Hunt – "Crowded New York"
– Highly Commended Plus



Highly Commended Digital A

coming up >>>

January 2022

Thu 6th Jan – Your winter images from 2021

Thu 13th Jan – Daniel Sands – Changing Perspectives – NOTE this is via ZOOM from home only

Thu 20th Jan – Competition Night – THEME – "Impressions"

Thu 27th Jan – Simon Pizzey – Press Photographer

MY STROUD & DISTRICT

Upload your 1st Oct to 31st Dec images before the year end.

Next Competition

Open 4- Prints and Digital

This is the THEMED competition – "Impressions"

CLOSING DATE 6th JANUARY



Paddy Doyle – "Boot lace eye view"
3rd place Digital B

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 throughout the world once again

Trish Bloodworth AFIAP

(including awards in Toronto, Finland and England)

David Hunt

CONGRATULATIONS

René Cason having work selected for the Studio 18 exhibition: Spaces, Places, Faces – this runs to 12th December, so still time to visit

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.

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

Award-Winning Images - Prints



"Rat run"
Steve Vines – 2nd Place Prints



"Power over shipping"
Richard Atkinson – 3rd Place Prints

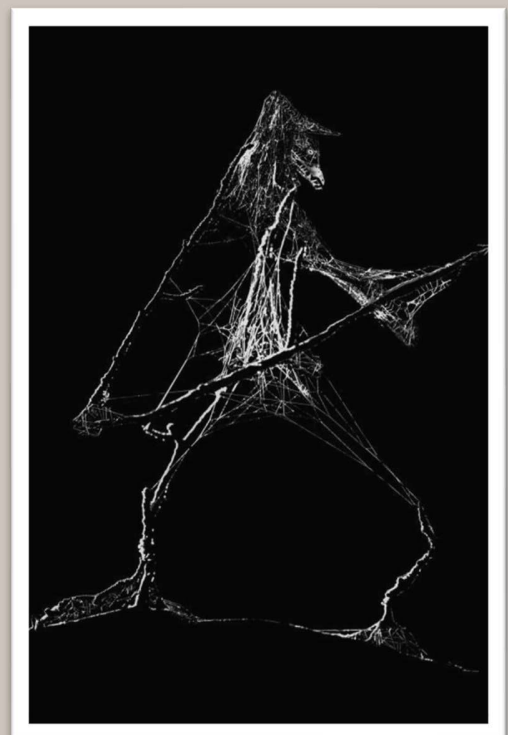
Award winning images - Digital



2nd Place Digital A – Andy Harbin – Contemplation



3rd Place Digital A – Annie Blick – Wet day in town.



2nd Place Digital B – Paddy Doyle – Twigman from the web.

More from the Competitions

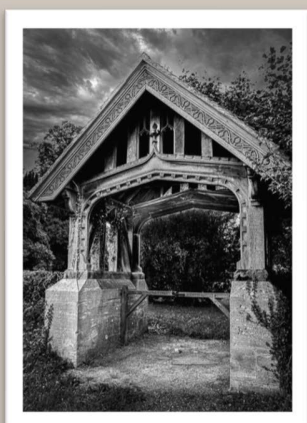
*Martin Gill – G Force
Highly Commended Digital*



*Tim Murfitt – Gloucester's most wanted
Highly Commended Plus*

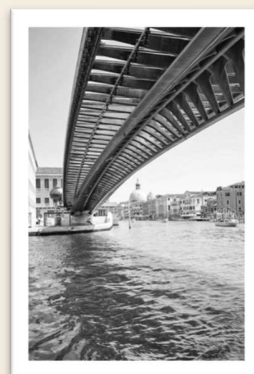


*Brian Johns – St Peter's Lychgate
Highly Commended Digital*



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

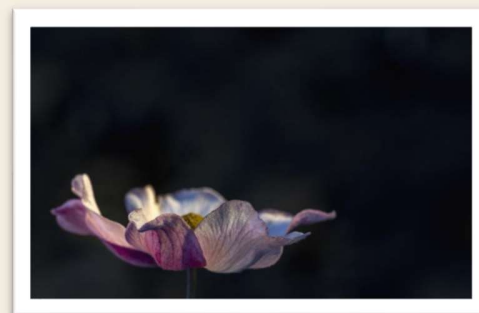
*Margot Page – Venice then and now
Highly Commended Prints*



*Trish Bloodworth - Remembering
Highly Commended Plus*



*Leslie Holmes – Anemone
Highly Commended Plus*



*Chris Tracey - Pearl-bordered Fritillary on Bluebell
– Highly Commended Plus*

