

2022-2023 SEASON >>>

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How do I do that?

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"Resting at the Oculus in NYC" – Mick West

Issue #26
Nov 22

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 Casson

Programme: Ali Garrett

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

"Hey human" – Paul Edwards



Roger's Report

As I write this on Black Friday, it is hard to ignore how many retail opportunities are available for today's photographers having received 18 unsolicited e-mails offering limited time deals on photographic equipment, services and software this morning alone! While the volume of marketing e-mails is irritating, the range of offers provides a great snapshot of how photography is advancing. With evermore sophisticated and capable mirrorless cameras, DSLRs are increasingly being relegated to 'legacy' status. Cameras, and to some extent lenses, are getting smaller and lighter while offering more pixels, greater automation and a veritable smorgasbord of auto-focus modes. Short of auto-composition (I'm sure it will come), there are now few excuses for a poorly executed shot.

If you don't want to carry a bulky mirrorless camera, the advances in compact cameras and smart phone cameras have been no less spectacular. Having recently upgraded my phone to the iPhone 14 Pro, I am blown away by the improvement in image quality that can be achieved (though in my hands often isn't!). Another area where equipment has advanced rapidly over the past year has been with consumer drones. Image quality under the right conditions can now match that obtainable from traditional cameras while offering viewpoints that were previously unavailable to amateur photographers.

Having captured the near perfect image with the latest tech, the options for post-processing have seen similarly impressive advances.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) now appears to be at the heart of many of the software suites that amateur photographers use (PS, LR, Luminar, Affinity etc). This has made post-processing easier while delivering capabilities that would only have been available at great expense (time and money) just a few short months ago. Now you can even animate old family photos using deep-fake technology! Our Club's founders could not have imagined what is now possible, though I am sure they would have embraced the changes had they had the chance.

It is difficult to predict what technologies will appear over the next year, but I have no doubt that next year's Black Friday offers will again try to part photographers from their savings with the next 'must-have' technologies. Does it make for better photography? To some extent, it makes it easier to capture quality images, but the best photographs will always come from photographers who have creative imagination, an eye for composition and use light to create an engaging image; none of which requires deep pockets or a degree in IT.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I wish you all a very Merry Xmas and I look forward to seeing all your new kit in the New Year.

AND FINALLY – REMEMBER
Skill in photography is acquired by practise, not by purchase.

The review >>>

Stan Farrow – Photo Art (via Zoom)

Well, that was strange being back on Zoom – but as we have said many times it does enable us to see speakers whom it would be impossible to have at SCC otherwise; Stan being from Scotland would come into that category. Stan enthralled us with his take on “Photo art” where he covers a wide range of genres but always with an artistic slant.

He showed us how he makes backgrounds from MDF, adding crumpled tissue paper, muslin, crackle paste, PVA glue and watercolour pencils to achieve his final look. He then photographs his subjects in these backgrounds, with subjects ranging from old documents, bird skulls, feathers, butterflies, flowers and even A4 card!

His final images are pulled together with post processing work in Photoshop often using a background layer, followed by a blur layer with a cut away (mask) to reveal some sharpness.

Stan also showed us his more abstract images, old boats seemed to be an excellent source of material for this, and again explained some of his editing techniques, inverting images and shifting colours within the image.

A fascinating evening, and with 36 people having attended, obviously a popular event.

Lisa Rendall – Dare to be different

Well, that was definitely different – and so well received by members. Lisa was full of enthusiasm and charisma. Her background in photography was certainly anything but conventional – disco dance champion, graffiti artist and Reiki healer – but it is perhaps from the combination of this background that her skill in creativity has developed.

Whilst she claimed she has no understanding of F-stops, nor how a camera works, her output showed an intimate understanding of light and in particular colour. Many of her images depicted vibrant, quirky subjects – the Zombie parade through Glastonbury, Rockaway Park and Wells Reclamation Yard all proving to be excellent sources of inspiration. Lisa dares to be different, but also showed some more conventional creative techniques, including Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) and multiple exposure – both in camera and in post processing. Her shoreline images from Weymouth were beautiful pastel shades, so for anyone who didn't appreciate the vibrance these were sure to have hit the mark.

Post processing was firmly in evidence, as Lisa uses her camera as a tool for her art – but many times mentioned if it takes more than 10 minutes it gets binned! Affinity users you have the Tone Mapping Persona workspace which Lisa mentioned, Photoshop users, you can imitate via HDR toning or be more selective with curves; Nik has HDR effects. Of course, you don't have to do any of this, but the clear message is play with your camera, experiment, and dare to be different!



Lest we forget was posted by Brian Johns on our Facebook page.

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.

Please “like” and “comment” on members' posts.

For more information go to

<https://facebook.com/stroudcameraclub>

Members' Night >>>

Your Take and Triptychs:

Roger started the evening with the triptychs provided by members. There were as usual some very high standard images, and some very imaginative ways of showcasing. Brian's bridges, Ian's horses, Annie's canoes show the range of ideas. We do apologise to those members whose images were shown at smaller than optimal size – we blame technology – but we don't know why or what!

After the break (technology sorted – or at least a change of laptop and Trish at the helm!) we moved on to Your Take. Again, members had a go at being creative with their composites and editing skills. Roger was very happy to be commended by Trish for his image of the bird of prey; Rhys was also commended on his beautiful painterly edit of the tall ships; whilst the members chuckled at John Edwards' hang-gliding rhinos and Mark's flame throwing bird!

Gentle critique (some very tongue in cheek) was given and several members commented that Trish should think about becoming a judge! R3 was probably relieved not to be in

the room with the very “harsh” critique of his edit of the horses – as Trish commented he shouldn't have tried to ruin her photo!

It is a fun evening and taken in the right spirit - it is never going to produce spectacular images, but it is always interesting to see the many different “takes” on the one image.

As ever a big “thank you” goes out to all the members that took the time to enter into the spirit of things.



Rhys Owen – “Your take”

Instagram - Inspirational image makers

Instagram is often an annoying platform with all the adverts popping up everywhere, but it is still an excellent source of inspiration and wonderful photographers, if you spend the time just searching for them and going directly to their feeds.

Some ideas include:

Adam Senatori a photographer who specialises in posting breath-taking aerial shots. Any drone enthusiasts will appreciate his images.
<https://www.instagram.com/Adamsenatori/>

If black and white is your thing, **Richard Koci Hernandez** is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated photojournalist with an Instagram account brimming with vintage-esque pics.
<https://www.instagram.com/Koci/>

An interesting photographer is **Marcus Rodriguez** He likes to edit his still life photos using Snapseed on iPad. His images are very colourful and full of detail.
<https://www.instagram.com/Memoryweaver/>

Simone Bramante describes himself as a storyteller first and a photographer second – well captured images certainly worth looking at.
<https://www.instagram.com/brahmino/?hl=en>

Eye catching colour and lines are in evidence with **Dirk Bakker** who is a graphic designer with a deep passion for patterns and architecture.
<https://www.instagram.com/Macenzo/>

Steve McCurry is one of the most well-known names in photojournalism. His Instagram feed is packed full of photographs spanning across a multitude of countries, cultures and from across the years.
<https://www.instagram.com/stevemccurryofficial/>

Something completely different is the imagery of **Mária Švarbová** who has a fascinating passion

for colour, reflections and perspective. Many of her images feature bold, striking colours and images from swimming pools. Hard to explain, but brilliant to observe.
<https://www.instagram.com/maria.svarbova/>

Another slightly “off the wall” instagrammer is **Laura Zalenga** who makes beautiful, if unsettling, surreal works with a focus on the human body. She's got an amazing Instagram account filled with weird and wonderful compositions that'll keep you scratching your head.
<https://www.instagram.com/laurazalenga/>

Ossi Saarinen is a wildlife photographer from Finland who has a passion for photographing his local wildlife.
<https://www.instagram.com/soosseli>

Alan Crowhurst is a Getty images sports photographer. Mainly horse-racing, but his images are always creative and show the subject in a very different way.
<https://www.instagram.com/alancrowhurst1962>

Don Komarechka is an amazing macro photographer with a passion for snowflakes. His images are unbelievable.
<https://www.instagram.com/donkomphoto>

Barbara Macferrin is an American photographer and educator; her portraits are beautifully styled in an almost Dutch fine art manner.
<https://www.instagram.com/barbaramacferri>

If members have recommendations of inspirational photographers don't forget to share your knowledge – use the comments section below this newsletter on the website, or why not send in an article for the newsletter!

Federation News

2023 DPIC – Exeter Corn Exchange Sunday 5th February 2023

WCPF Members exhibition opens for entries in January 2023 – watch for bulletins

FIAP Congress is due to take place in Spain 1st to 4th December – there may be changes to the rules for obtaining AFIAP or EFIAP distinctions, so watch for further news.

Further information will be given when known.

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

Back 2 Basics

Back to Basics was very successful this half of the season. Many members learned new skills in Lightroom Classic and undoubtedly they will be using their new found skills in future edits, which we look forward to seeing. The November evening was attended by 10 members who all got to grips with the new masking facilities in Lightroom Classic. The selection tools are now really very good. After a demonstration of the main masking tools, members got to work on their own images and shared their knowledge with each other.

This will be the final session before the Christmas break so we will be looking for new ideas for next year. Let me know if you want more post processing or something different. Bear in mind it is dark so the ability to do camera skills is limited – we will aim to cover a few of these in some summer club evenings if this is something that appeals to members.

Remember it is your Club, so let your committee know what you would like to see and do!

Send any thoughts and ideas to: secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk

Question corner>>>

Q. *What are the different sensor sizes?*

A camera sensor and its size determine image size, depth of field, resolution, low-light performance, a camera's physical size, and more. Your camera sensor is basically a photo-sensitive site that captures light and color.

A: The size of the sensor capturing the image can vary greatly. A full-frame sensor is sized 36 x 24mm (similar to the original 35mm film camera); a crop sensor (also called APS-C) is 23.6 x 15.6mm or 22.20 x 14.8mm if a Canon. Micro four thirds sensors are 17.3 x 13mm and mobile phones are as small as 4.54 x 3.42mm.

The smaller the actual sensor the less light that can be captured by the camera – thus leading to lower quality, less shallow depth of field and reduced low-light performance. However, the best camera is always the one you have with you – whatever the sensor!

Open 2 – Prints – Judge's Choice



“Storm light” – Richard Atkinson – Score 20

Open 2 Digital – Judge's Choice



“Tower Bridge at Dusk” – Leslie Holmes – Score 20

“There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.” — Ansel Adams

2022 competitive thoughts...

The competition season is in full swing. The Battles committee meet shortly to select for DPIC and the Battles, and 2023 will see our remaining 4th Open competition, followed by our Mono and Nature ones. Don't forget to check the rules on our website for these 2 more specialist competitions. Watch out for bulletins and the programme for deadlines. We'd love to see more of you entering.

Beryl Heaton was warmly welcomed back to Stroud having last judged for us at a Battle, where she sensibly allowed Stroud to win!

She enlightened the members with her knowledge of judging and offered various suggestions for potential improvement.

Beryl also chose her favourite images of the evening selecting:

Prints

Judge's choice – Richard Atkinson "Storm Light" (20)

Digital

Judge's choice – Leslie Holmes "Tower Bridge at Dusk" (20)

In addition to the above:

Scores of 19 & 20 – Prints

Roger Matthews – "Sgwd y Pannwr" (20)

Geoff Perrett – "Found on a bus stop" (19)

Nigel Bowsher – "Ragged Victorian" (19)

Geoff Perrett – "Bernard" (19)

René Cason – "Red kite incoming" (19)

Roger Matthews – "Ocean rowers" (19)

René Cason – "South Stack" (19)

Scores of 19 & 20 – Digital

Glyn Heskins – "I've gone for a walk . . . I need to think" (20)

Jeff Wilson – "In the quiet times" (20)

Jeff Wilson – "The apple" (20)

René Cason – "Red Kite" (19)

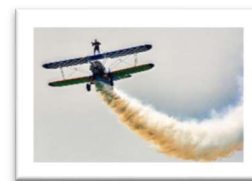
Richard Atkinson – "Red Kite" (19)

Andy Harbin – "Storm dance" (19)

David Hamilton – "Sunset over the Severn"

Glyn Heskins – "I like being on my own" (19)

David Hunt – "Walking in the air" (19)



"Walking in the air" – David Hunt AFLAP

coming up >>>

December 22

Thu 1 Dec 2022 – AV Presentation – Scott

Anthony - and including the WCPF winners

Thu 8 Dec 2022 – Christmas Social

No meetings then until January 5th – Members'

Night – "Shades of Red" – check the

programme page on the website for further

details.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Next Competition

OPEN 4

deadline and print hand-in

Thurs 5th January 2023

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had acceptances into International or National (BPE) Photographic Salons! This month we have seen our club members accepted throughout the world

René Cason

(Including Tajikistan and Smethwick)

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.



"Street colour"
Rhys Owen

ADVANCE WARNING

IMAGES YOU WILL NEED!

- Red
- Water
- Mono
- Nature



"Sunrise in the Jordanian mountains" – René Cason

UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and our Facebook Group

Open Competition 3 – High Scores - Digital



"I've gone for a walkI need to think" – Glyn Heskins (20)



"The apple" – Jeff Wilson (20)



"Sunset over the Severn" – David Hamilton (18)



"Storm dance" – Andy Harbin

High Scoring Images - Prints



"Ragged Victorian" – Nigel Bowsher



"Sgwd y Pannwr" – Roger Matthews (20)



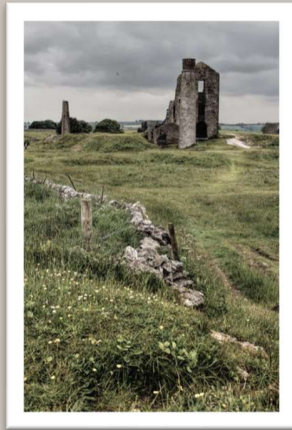
"Red kite incoming" – Rene Cason

More from the Competition

"Found on a bus stop" – Geoff Perrett



"The Magpie Mine" – Derrick Whitmore

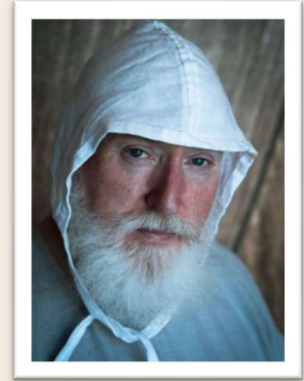


"A storm's a coming" – Mark Halling



Other Entries

Ali Garrett – Contemplation before battle



Scott Antony – Red White and Blue



Ian Peters – Variable Storks Bill and bees



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