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"Nightship" – Paddy Doyle – 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

*"3 Breitling wing walkers" – David Hunt
Commended*



Roger's Report

We are back to normal, or as close as makes no difference. After 18 months of social distancing, Club Nights have restarted and they feel pretty normal - indeed, positively social. Support has been excellent and I would like to thank all our members for staying with the Club throughout the pandemic and providing the foundation to recover stronger than ever. We continue to attract new members and I am confident that our best days lie ahead. We have already had a members' night, an excellent external speaker and our first open competition - on each occasion there has been a palpable buzz around the room and it has been great to see members engaging with each other again discussing their shared interest in photography.

We all have different ways of learning and our varied programme aims to provide a variety of ways for you to learn new skills and develop your art whether through seeking inspiration from others or critical feedback on images submitted for competition. While I thoroughly enjoy the invited speakers, and often marvel at what can be achieved with a camera, a dash of patience and a bucket load of skill, I have learnt more from critical review of competition images than anything else. Brian Swinyard did not disappoint with his appraisal of images in our first competition and I hope the expanded scoring system with an additional near-miss (Merit) category helped identify the strengths in some images where members might previously have missed out on gaining the recognition they deserved. Unfortunately, there were too few B Group images to run a

separate competition on this occasion, but it is our intention to provide separate feedback to our foundation level members when numbers permit - with a number of new members, some of whom are starting out on their photographic journeys, we should be able to do so.

Back to Basics is another benefit for the Club, but over recent years lost its focus on supporting members gain new skills. Targeted sessions aimed at introducing members to new techniques and skills in smaller groups should address this and Trish made an excellent start with an introduction to Lightroom for members new to post-processing. In future we will be looking at printing, Photoshop layers and off-camera flash. If there is something that you would like covered, speak to myself or Trish and we can see if we have an expert among our ranks who can run a session. Similarly, as our attention starts to drift toward planning next year's programme, it would be great if you identify topics or activities that you think may be of interest to members. Finally, if you have capacity and would like to contribute more to the running of the Club, please let me know and an 'opportunity' will be found.

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER

We can all learn from one another as everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't.

The review >>>

“Seeing Shapes” Stephen Spraggon

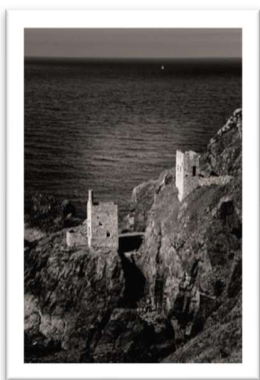
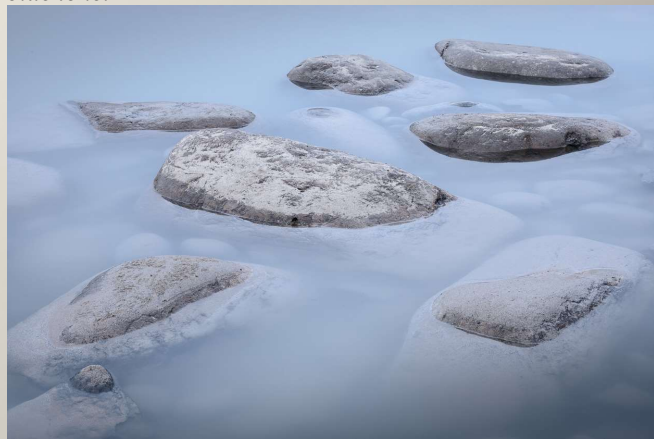
How wonderful to be back at The Bowls Club to welcome a real live speaker – Stephen Spraggon did not disappoint us. He is an accomplished landscape photographer based in North Somerset and is very familiar with the many iconic locations of Somerset such as Glastonbury Tor, Burnham Lighthouse and Wells Cathedral, but also introduced us to many simple compositions he had shot in random fields, lanes, hillsides and shorelines.

Stephen helped to show us how a composition works, explaining the fundamentals of leading lines, rule of thirds etc but then also showing us some images where he broke the rules. His visualization of the shapes in his images was important to his final pictures and one of the very interesting aspects of his talk was showing us where images didn't quite work, but then how a slightly different angle, position or time of day changed the resulting image dramatically. Stephen covered not only the usual types of landscape photography, but also showed us how sometimes the simple shapes in nature can produce excellent images.

You can see much of his work on his website at:
<https://spraggonphotography.co.uk/>

Southerndown Beach, South Wales – Stephen Spraggon Humpback Wales

Stephen said “Rather than photograph a wider view of the beach at Southerndown, I spent most of my time looking down, studying rockpools and limestone formations. A couple of hours passed and I felt like I wasn't going to find a shot that worked. On the way back to the car I came across this shallow pool of water that looked like a mirror. It was dusk so the light reflected on the surface of the water was a muted blue tone.”



“Cousin Jack's legacy” – Derrick Whitmore
Commended

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're back!

After so much disruption caused by the continuing pandemic it has been great to experience some form of “normality” at Stroud Camera Club at last. A welcome return to The Bowls Club was heralded in with a new idea for the programme which proved very successful and was really well supported.

Our “demonstration stations” gave members a chance to talk to other members and look at various new bits of kit that fellow members recommend. Richard Atkinson commented that he had never thought that a camera strap (Peak Design “Slide”) could generate such interest. Gerry had the room jumping with his various balloons and party poppers being captured via remote flash and various other demos ranged from new camera bodies, through software (Snapseed) to examples of salon successes.

The My Stroud and District (Group A) competition was member judged with a show of hands deciding on a winner between 2 images and at each round “knocking out” half the entries, until an eventual favourite image was selected. Trish's image “Coaley Peak” was the Group A winner. The Group B images are still to be decided due to a slight issue with technology – Roger leaving his mobile phone in Wales!

The programme continued with the well supported Stephen Spraggon talk, and then the first Open Competition. Much credit to Richard Atkinson for the slick organization.

A mention must also go to all the members who help set up and pack away the room each week – it was fabulous to continue to have such willing help from so many – and everyone seemed to have remembered where everything went!

Finally, Roger told us at the last meeting he has entered a salon at last – to get his hair cut!!! Made me laugh at any rate!



“Storm coming” Jeff Wilson
Commended

Meet the members:

René Cason

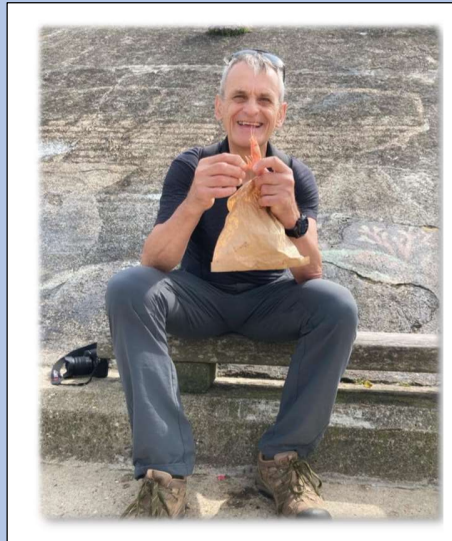
I retired on the Thursday of our first Open competition in September which followed 42 years with Renishaw in a product Marketing role. I started as an electronics technician following an engineering apprenticeship at Mawdsley's in Dursley. This eventually evolved into a technical product marketing role which took me to many far-off destinations, including, Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea and Brazil to name but a few. During that time I made many friends abroad and enjoyed many memorable trips to some amazing places. If only I'd been a photographer then!

Before lockdown the only camera I owned was my trusty iPhone which whilst being used as a camera often, was not something I considered to be a hobby. In the April after lockdown began, I bought a Micro Four Thirds Panasonic G85 second hand. This came with the 12-60mm Lumix kit lens. I soon discovered that I really enjoyed using it and before long I had acquired an Olympus 60mm macro and a 9-18mm Olympus W/A lens both from the secondhand dealer MPB. This has evolved even more with some upgrades in the lead up to retirement. (If I can't afford to treat myself now, then when will I?)

So, after some excellent advice from Paul Martin, I have traded in my Panasonic G91 for a new Olympus OMD E 1 Mk iii and at the same time traded the Lumix 12-60mm for the Olympus 12-100mm Pro lens. The OMD camera is a supercomputer in a small black box, so it's going to take a long time before I fully understand all the amazing technology that it has.

Then there is post-production, which is another huge subject that needs knowledge and understanding. So far, I do almost everything in Lightroom and hope to progress as time goes by.

In the time since April 2020, I have been extremely grateful for all the help and advice that I have received from the more experienced members of the club. This has led me to a few decent



performances in club competitions in the B section, and this, in turn, gave me the confidence to have a go in a few Salons. I have been lucky enough to achieve 19 acceptances to date and this is after I set myself a personal target of getting one acceptance in 2021! These come from many countries including the likes of Argentina, Albania, Italy, Guatemala, Kenya, Australia, China and the UK. It's a great feeling when something gets accepted and now the target has moved on to getting something more.

Whilst I recognise I have a long way to go, I have to say that the best way to improve is to talk to others and enter competitions. The feedback we receive for our images from external judges is invaluable in helping you improve and understand what is required to make a memorable image.



"Neon lavender"
Derrick Whitmore – Commended Digital

Question corner>>>

Q: How do I resize my image?

Most editing software allows you to export your images and will give you the opportunity to choose your sizing.

A: If you are not sure about how to use your software, or you don't have software that will do this for you, why don't you take a look at the extensive document Richard Atkinson has put together and is available on the website under our Useful How to Guides.

<https://www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk/club/some-useful-how-guides>

Snippets

WIN A CAMERA – FREE ENTRY

A well-established camera shop in Wells, Somerset is now running competitions to win gear. Whilst most of the competitions require you to buy a ticket, their current competition for a Canon EOS 850d is free to enter.

Take a look at
www.cameracompetitions.co.uk

<https://cameracompetitions.co.uk/product/free-giveaway-canon-eos-850d-camera-18-55mm-is-stm-lens/>

When based in Somerset I used this company for all my kit – so I know they are reputable - Trish

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...

Two new grandparents this month – both **Ian Peters** and **Trish Bloodworth** welcomed their first grandchild – so plenty of images to come no doubt!

René Cason also completed a milestone with 42 years at Renishaw coming to an end when he retired on Thursday 23rd – he will now have plenty of time for his photography - assuming he remembers to take his camera on his many long cycle rides! Enjoy retirement René!

If you know of anything that you feel would be newsworthy relating to SCC, please let Richard/Jenny or Trish know.

New Members

A very warm welcome to the following new members:

Gary Phillips
Geoff Perrett
Gill Turnbull
Ian Holder
Jill Parker

We look forward to getting to know you over the coming months.

Digital Image – Open 1 - Winner



“The Steam Crane” – Annie Blick – 1st place

Prints – Open 1 - Winner



“Windmills of my mind” – Trish Bloodworth AFIAP - 1st Place

“When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence.”
– Ansel Adams

2021 competitive thoughts...

And the new season starts.....

A superb first Open Competition with the welcome return of prints.

We do want to encourage Group B members to enter the competitions, as we had insufficient entries this month to validly run a separate Group A and Group B digital competition. Well done to all who took part and we look forward to seeing more of your images in the coming competitions.

Brian Swinyard judged this opening competition and kindly gave full feedback, including written which is available to view via our website under the "results" tab.

Prints

1st place Windmills of my mind – Trish Bloodworth

2nd place What beach? – Steve Vines

3rd place Bredon Poppies – Trish Bloodworth

Highly Commended Margot Page, Steve Vines

Commended Roger Matthews (x3), Richard Atkinson (x2), Trish Bloodworth

Digital

1st place The Steam Crane – Annie Blick

2nd place A world out of balance – Trish Bloodworth

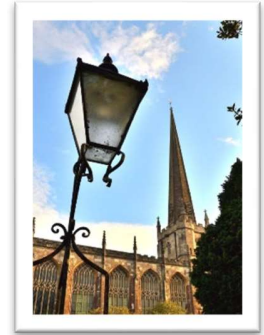
3rd place Female kingfisher with fish – Richard Atkinson

Highly Commended Trish Bloodworth (x2), Paul Martin, Steve Vines
Commended Derrick Whitmore (x2), Leslie Holmes, Paddy Doyle, Ian Peters, David Hunt, René Cason



René Cason "I'm off"
Commended Digital

David Hamilton – "A lamp and a spire"
– "Near miss" Prints - merit



coming up >>>

October 2021

Thu 7th Oct – Eddy Lane – In the footsteps of Shackleton

Thu 14th Oct – Scott is hosting an AV Night

Thu 21st Oct – Competition Night

Thu 28th Oct – Your Take & Triptychs

BACK TO BASICS

Mon 18th October – Beginners Printing with Roger

All spaces are currently filled, but we do have a wait list.

Next Competition

Open 2- Prints and Digital

CLOSING DATE 7th OCTOBER



Roger Matthews
"Puffin flyby"
Commended prints

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

Jeff Kirby LRPS CPAGB AFIAP (including an award)

Trish Bloodworth AFIAP (including an award)

David Hunt

René Cason

CONGRATULATIONS

Phil Hope – front cover of "The ringing world" magazine

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

More Award-Winning Images



*“What beach?”
Steve Vines – 2nd Place Prints*



*“Female kingfisher with fish”
Richard Atkinson – 3rd Place Digital*

My Stroud & District – 2nd Quarter 2021



Group A – Trish Bloodworth – Coaley Peak

*My Stroud and District had another good uptake – although remember this is an ongoing project to provide local images for posterity – so this is definitely the “**taking part, and not the winning**” competition that we run at SCC. As usual a shortlist of entries were selected by the Battles Committee and these were then voted on by the members at the end of the AGM meeting.*

The winner – selected by you – were:

A Group

Trish Bloodworth - Coaley Peak

B Group

Awaiting result

Enter by 30th September for Quarter 3

*Find the link under your own log-in
Go to **COMPETITIONS***

This is a member voted competition – so a great way to start competitions if you are not yet sure about putting your work in front of a “real” judge.



Group B – Phil Hope – Randwick Winter from Round 1

More from the Competitions

*Paul Martin – Adonis Blue nectaring on salad burnet
Highly Commended Digital*



*Margot Page – Postcard from Venice
Highly Commended Prints*



*Steve Vines – Eagle Star
Highly Commended Digital*



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

*Trish Bloodworth AFIAP – Cossack Tricks
Highly Commended Digital*



*Leslie Holmes – Collie in the lavender
Commended Digital*



*Richard Atkinson - Ferrari
Commended Prints*



*Ali Garrett
Abstract interior – “Near miss” – merit*

