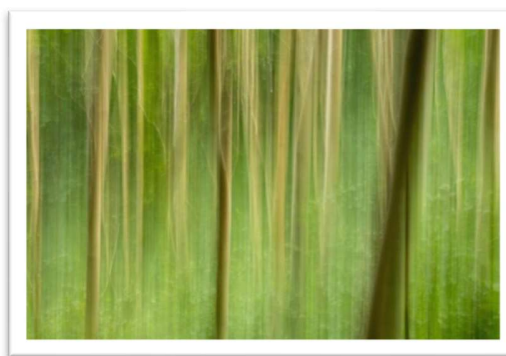


## 2022-2023 SEASON &gt;&gt;&gt;

*Roger's report**The review**How do I do that?**Competition news**Federation & FIAP news**"Popes Wood" – Mick West*

## A Monthly Insight into the activities of Stroud Camera Club



## Contacts &gt;&gt;&gt;

## 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](http://www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk)**

*"Fish forest Stroud" Geoff Perrett*

## Roger's Report

I am fascinated by what motivates and inspires us to go out and capture the world around us on the digital equivalent of film and to keep doing so, week in, week out.

As amateur photographers and unencumbered by the need to make a living from what we do, we each approach the art from very different perspectives. We see this in the different genres of photography that members concentrate on over time and the images that members submit to competition. Some will be landscape, nature, astrophotography, street or portrait enthusiasts, while others may like the creative challenge of capturing abstract images or building creative composites. Whatever our interest(s), competitions provide a way of showing our best images and using the judging process to learn so that our best gets better. However, our personal favourite images may not be competition images at all but resonate with us for reasons other than photographic perfection. Evoked memories and emotions play a key part in how we enjoy an image. Candid photos of family and friends are not competition winners, but for many they are our most enjoyed images and many 'get into photography' so they

can take better images like these. A good camera club should help members develop the skills to enjoy photography in all its forms.

Last week's '8 from 8' Members' Evening was a great opportunity to explore the photography of eight members as illustrated by eight images selected by each member. The presentations provided excellent examples of the diversity within the Club and the different things that motivated and inspired members to capture the images. There were plenty of competition worthy images, but equally compelling were the stories behind the 'non-competition' images. It was a very successful evening and a great reminder that while we all strive to get better, there is still much that we can enjoy in images that are not technically perfect if they capture a moment that means something to us on a personal level. Photography really is a very powerful tool.

AND FINALLY – REMEMBER  
*Your best image has probably not yet been taken*

## The review >>>

### Every Pixel Counts – Aleks Gjika DPAGB,

For anyone who doesn't yet post-process and wonders why a judge marks down their image, Aleks latest talk will certainly have demystified some of the reasons. "Every pixel counts" was an apt title for a talk that illustrated the intricate detail that Aleks will look at before deeming an image finished. Reminding us that the camera is a bit stupid as it takes in the whole picture even though we only saw a small portion, and showing us how even just straightening out some grass really elevated the image to a new level was enlightening.

Aleks demonstrated that the first act of post processing actually begins in the camera – getting your background right. Choose an uncluttered or complimentary spot. Watch for overlapping edges. However, if you can't get it absolutely right in camera, use the software we have to make the necessary tweaks to enhance the image. Aleks advised us that in his view an image can move from being just a postcard, to a magazine photograph, to a work of art. He reminded us that we are striving for an artistic interpretation of what we see, but also said that some members would not agree his final images were better, but he felt they were. He intelligently discussed his moral compass, explaining how he would move things or remove things that were not essential, but that there are limits when a place or feature is recognizable.

An excellent opening speaker for the new season.



"Savernake Forest" – Brian Johns

Will Brian's image inspire our Autumn pictures? Let's see "Autumn wars"!

## 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>

## WCPF Travelling Print Exhibition

The opener of the season started in sombre mood with a one-minute silence being observed in honour and memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II whose death had been reported a few hours earlier. It was however decided that "the show must go on" and our planned evening continued in its usual friendly manner.

Five tables were set out with groups of members and a pile of prints from the latest WCPF member exhibition. It was agreed that most images were certainly of a high standard, but not at a standard that is unachievable from our own members. We don't quite know how the rotations got out of sync, but it all worked out in the end and each table saw each set of images.

At the end of the night each table selected their top 3 from the set that was at that point on their table and gave quick comment about their picks. Much murmured consent went around the room at most of the selections – although there was obviously some dissent at some points – we were all the judge tonight!

It is of course not without effort on the part of some of the members that nights like this take place, so a big thank-you to Ali Garrett for arranging the collection and onward transportation of the prints, and to Annie Blick for acting as stand-in Chairman in Roger's absence.



Martin Gill "Lady in the lake"

## Member Nights >>>

### Eight from Eight:

Our new Programme Secretary, Ali Garrett pulled off an excellent evening by inviting 8 members (mainly new to the Club) to show and talk about 8 images. The evening was a great success and thanks must be given to the brave souls who took part.

The evening had a strict remit and running order, with each of the members being asked to show and explain 8 of their images.

René Cason got the evening off to a flying start (quite literally with his sea eagle, puffin and damsel fly), followed by a more sedate amble around the beauty of Croatia from Jane. Martin came out with some cracking images including a floating mannequin head, that only a photographer could see and find of interest to capture for posterity. Jill added to the wildlife portfolio with some gorgeous animals and took us on her journey to date explaining how she is improving her photography by trying different genre whilst knowing nature is where her heart lies.

After the break Brian amazed us with his stunning astrophotography (as well as his

dedication to being awake at 3am!). Ali showed us her creative side and a well thought out self-critique of her older images. Andy sadly had succumbed to covid, but Trish read out his concise notes about his wonderful landscapes with unpronounceable names which were well received by members - the phonic pronunciation of Kirkjufell was useful! The evening was rounded off by Mick, who started with his 2003 image made on film, and hand processed and printed by him in his wet darkroom. His images were diverse, and he explained how he is very much gravitating towards shooting interesting people in "street" situations.

A tremendous evening of entertainment, which showcased the depths of talent that lurk in the club. Ali already has in mind a similar evening next year, and I am sure we will have some more "unsung talent" that will step forward.

Well done and thank you to all for making our Club so amazing.

## How do I do that? Off camera flash

OCF or Off Camera Flash refers to the process of moving your flash (strobe/speedlight/speedlite) from the hot shoe of your camera to an “off camera” position.

You will normally use a light-stand to position your flash “off camera”. However, this could just be a convenient table, or a person holding it, or a tripod or monopod with the right fitment!

To be able to get your camera to communicate with your flash you will need to use a “trigger”.

There are 2 main ways of your camera trigger communicating with your flash.

Firstly, by way of “**optical**” flash trigger. In this method the trigger will send a pulse of light to your flashgun, your flash will recognise this pulse of light and fire the flash. Many cameras with a “pop up” flash can use the “pop up” flash as the trigger, so if you have one of these you do not have to get a separate flash trigger (until you want to get more adventurous!) but you will of course need an additional flash.

The other method of triggering is by “**radio**” triggers. In this setup you will need a transmitter and a receiver. The main camera brands offer dedicated transmitters and their flashguns will automatically respond to these triggers (not all flash has radio built in though, so be careful and research thoroughly). You can otherwise purchase proprietary transmitters and receivers – these receivers attach to the flash unit whilst the transmitter sits on the hotshoe on your camera.



The transmitter and receiver have dedicated “channels” to enable them to communicate, so these must be set to match each other!

Of course, each manufacturer has a slightly different set up, so it is impossible to set out here how you would set up your system – so check your manuals or look online for help!

Some relatively inexpensive systems include those from Yongnuo, Godox and Neewer. The more expensive systems include the Pocket Wizard brands.

For those of you looking to upgrade to higher-end lighting systems such as Bowens, Elinchrom or Profoto, these companies all offer their own dedicated alternatives to the above. The advantage here is that the triggers are designed specifically for use with those lighting kits. Prices are somewhat higher, so it is worth ensuring you know exactly what you want to achieve first, then conducting a comparison check between options before purchase.

Many of the systems will allow you to control multiple off camera flash units from the one trigger – Canon for example can control 15 in 4 different “groups”!

Once you have your system set up, it is time to start to experiment. YouTube is an excellent resource for tutorials.

SLRLounge has a video worth looking at which is a 10 minute tutorial.  
<https://youtu.be/Z95NoQB8A20>

Digital Photography School has a good written resource.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/a-beginners-guide-to-working-with-flash-off-camera/>

## Federation News

*2023 Knightshayes Trophy - Saturday 11th March 2023*

*The subject for the Knightshayes Trophy is*

*‘Decisive Moment’*

*and will be judged by the new WCPF President, Helen Jones ARPS, DPAGB*

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](mailto:secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk)*

## Back 2 Basics

Back to Basics at The Cotswold Bowls Club – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

This season we are running what we are terming “Progressive” courses. The first evening saw members start to explore Lightroom Classic and the global post processing features. Although we used Lightroom, the techniques are very similar whichever software package you use.

Next Back to Basics session will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm at The Cotswold Bowls Club. (£3 fee for members - Cash only please)

You don’t need to have been to session 1 if you have some knowledge of basic global adjustments. This next session will cover some slightly more refined aspects and start to look at targeted adjustments.

If you have a laptop, or tablet or even a phone with Snapseed, or Lightroom Mobile etc. please bring it with you as we will be doing some interactive editing of your images.

The final session before the Christmas break will be 21<sup>st</sup> November with the conclusion of this series of post processing.

## Question corner>>>

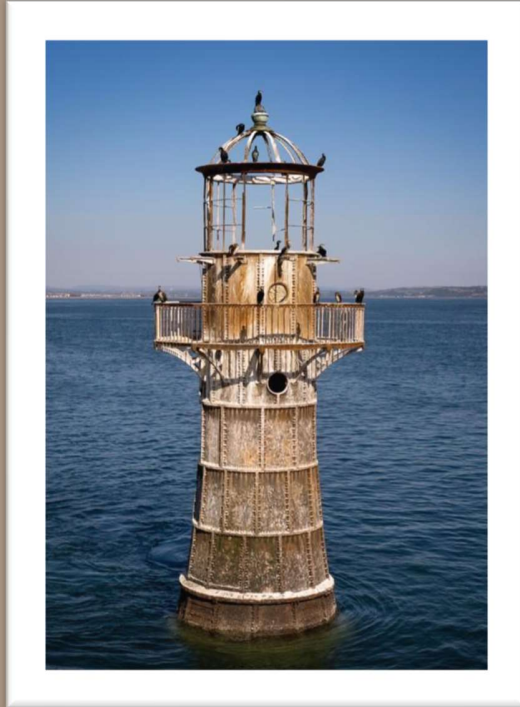
### Q-What are modifiers?

Modifiers in photography are used to alter the quality, color, shape, or direction of light. The right modifier depends on your creative vision and intended use. This can also include natural light, by way of a diffuser or a reflector.

A: A simple modifier is a stofen, which is a small piece of diffused plastic placed over the flash head to soften the light produced by a bare flash. Think of the difference between the light from a bare bulb compared to one with a lamp shade.

More complex modifiers include umbrellas, octaboxes, snoots, beauty dishes and grids. Once off camera flash has been mastered there are various specific uses for each of the modifiers. Or, if funds are not available to purchase, a simple piece of muslin or shower curtaining can be draped in front of the flash to create a makeshift modifier.

## Open 1 – Prints – Judge's Choice



“The Old Lighthouse, Whiteford Point” – Roger Matthews – Score 20

## Open 1 Digital – Judge's Choice



“The Peacemaker” – Trish Bloodworth – Score 20

*“Great photography is about the depth of feeling, not the depth of field.” – Peter Adams*

# 2022 competitive thoughts...

Richard Atkinson reported that the first competition of the new season was a success with 16 prints and 66 digital images entered. Don't forget to check the closing dates for future competitions and remember that your images can be selected for DPIC and The Battles for this season if entered up to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Open competition. TAKE CARE when you enter your images that you use the correct "class" there is one for Prints, and one for Digital images.

We often say that it is as much the comments received from the judge as the scores that assist with our improving photographic skills, and Steve Varnam certainly offered us plenty of encouragement with his well-considered critique. This was a new era for our competitions, as we are currently running with no distinction between more or less advanced members – something that was certainly not evident in the standard of photographs put forward for judging. Well done to everyone. It was also the first time for a while that we have used definitive scores; tonight ranging from 12 – 20. Those who scored 19 or 20 should rightly be very proud, but the lower scoring images could, on a different night, of course have scored differently, as it was only one judge's opinion. Often it is a simple "tweak" that would elevate the image from a 15 to a higher score – a slight crop, a distraction removed, additional thought on the photographer's position before pressing the shutter – 2 steps to the right or left can often pay dividends. Take note of the comments Steve gave your own image, and try out at home what he suggested – do you agree or disagree after the changes?

Steve also selected his favourite images of the evening selecting:

## Prints

Judge's choice – Roger Matthews

"The Old Lighthouse, Whiteford Point" (20)

## Digital

Judge's choice – Trish Bloodworth

"The Peacemaker" (20)

In addition to the above:

## Scores of 20 – Prints

Richard Atkinson – "Profile"

## Scores of 19 – Digital

René Cason – "White tailed eagle with catch"



"Bibury Mill"  
Gerry Chance (17)

## 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

Trish Bloodworth

René Cason

René also was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Bristol Zoo/Wild Place competition 'Native Wildlife – 18 and Over' category

## CONGRATULATIONS

Please send details of your acceptances or other external "wins" to [secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk)  
Apologies if you are missed here – please let me know so you can be added next time.  
If you entered and didn't get in – keep trying – Roger did!



"Portrait of a lady" – Jeff Wilson (17)

coming up >>>

## Oct 2022

Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – Svalbard, Kingdom of the Ice Bear – Eddy & Pam Lane

Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Oct – Member Evening – "A Great British Summer"

Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Oct – Back 2 Basics

Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Oct – Member Show and Tell on the theme "Forgotten"

Thu 27<sup>th</sup> Oct – Competition – Open 2

## Next Competition

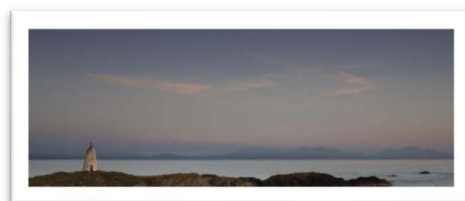
OPEN 2

deadline and print hand-in

13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Andy Biddell
- Chris Organ
- John Abbott



"Sentinel" – Andy Harbin (17)

UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES – to your gallery and our FaceBook Group

## Open Competition 1 – High Scores - Digital



*"White tailed eagle with catch"*  
René Cason (19)



*"Mirror, mirror"*  
Ali Garrett (18)



*"Working the land"* – Trish Bloodworth  
(18)



*"A Successful hunt"* – Leslie Holmes  
(18)

## High Scoring Images - Prints



*"Profile"* – Richard Atkinson  
(20)



*"Tenby RNLI Past & Present "* – Roger Matthews  
(19)



*"Hard Fought"* – Trish Bloodworth  
(18)

## More from the Competition

*“Coverack Harbour” – Derrick Whitmore (Print)  
(17)*



*“Eurasian otters” – Jill Parker  
(17)*



*“From Bamford Edge” – Scott Antony  
(16)*

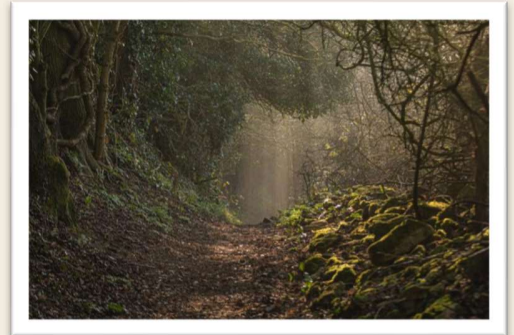


## From our newer members

*Steve Harris – Seaside holiday*



*Mark Halling – Hobbit Alley*



*Kerry Williams - Fir*

