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Happy Christmas – from All the Committee

A Monthly Insight into the activities of Stroud Camera Club

**STROUD
CAMERA CLUB**



Contacts >>>

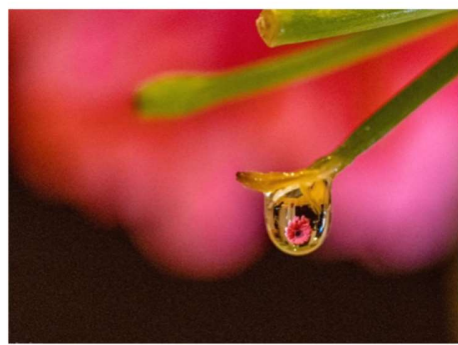
**Welcome to
Stroud Camera Club**

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

René Cason sharing his water drop image on the SCC FaceBook page after the Oliver Herbold talk.



Roger's Report

Strength in depth and quality in breadth

As we reach the end of a very challenging year for SCC, it is easy to look back and mourn the loss of opportunities to socialise with fellow Club members and to get out and about with 'camera in hand' practising our art. However, as a Club we have adapted rather more successfully than I could ever have hoped. We continue to meet in the Zoom room every week and I have been most impressed with the friendly banter in evidence at the start of each session - arguably, we are now more connected with each other than when we met face to face! Although we have inevitably lost some members, we continue to attract new blood who have enthusiastically contributed to the spirit of the Club. We have had a very successful virtual Summer Club with weekly challenges that encouraged members to explore new genres and photographic techniques and I have been blown away by the success that many members have had in entering salons - probably the best showing ever. Many of the salon successes are celebrated in this newsletter and we can also celebrate a new LRPS in our ranks (Jeff K).

As a Club we have managed to attract some outstanding speakers thanks to Chris Tracey, our Programme Secretary, who has excelled

with this year's programme while also coping with late changes to bring all speakers on-line. Our most recent speakers, Oliver Herbold and Steve Varman, were exceptional! Trish Bloodworth has provided first-class small-group Lightroom tutorials as well as bringing energy and fresh ideas to her role as Club Secretary while other Committee Members (R3, Leslie, Annie, Jeff K, Andy H and Jenny S) have continued to give me the support that has enabled the Club to thrive - thank you on behalf of all of our members. We truly are a Club that has strength in depth and quality in breadth.

I will 'look forward' in my next report for the newsletter, but as we end 2020 I would simply like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I can't wait to see your festive images on 14 Jan!

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER
Whenever you feel the urge to buy new gear, just check what you have conquered with your current stuff!

The review >>>

“A LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER AND THE LOCKDOWN - GETTING OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE” Oliver Herbold

Oliver’s website starts: “Born and bred in Germany, I moved to England in 2010 and currently live in Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, at the outskirts of the Forest of Dean. When I crossed the channel, all I brought with me was my car, two suitcases and a six month work contract. Well, I’m still here...” and at SCC aren’t we glad he is!

Oliver made a very welcome return to Stroud CC at the start of December; known to us for his long exposure and generous disposition, we were very pleased to be able to be the “guinea pig” audience for his new talk. Like many of us, Oliver too has been affected by the Covid Pandemic and the limitations that have been forced upon our photographic adventures. Undeterred, he set out to capture new and fascinating images.

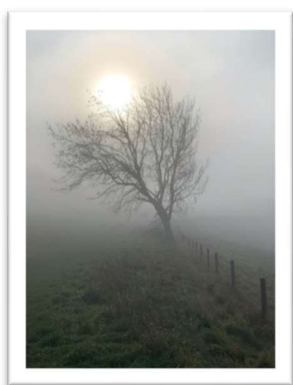
We were treated to not only his successes (which were many) but also some of his less triumphant attempts. It is good to know that even those photographers who make us all “wow” have bad days too! Oliver very much instilled in us the idea that if you have a plan, and make a start, just keep trying until you get it right.

His talk proved that you don’t have to go to exotic locations to get amazing images – although you do potentially still have to get up at “silly o’clock” to nail the shots! His image of Symonds Yat Milky Way (reproduced across the page, and copyright Oliver Herbold Photography) is a stunning example of his dedication. The beauty of the milky way in an area that is definitely not “dark skies” is absolutely amazing.

It was not just the milky way that had us fascinated – most of us are now in search of that macro lens (R3 – how are you doing!) The tiny dandelion seed heads, with water drops and reflections were incredible. The toadstools with torch light illuminating the delicate and intricate beauty was inspired.

Oliver, of course, being a macho man didn’t just stick to arty-farty flowery things, his macros included water drops hanging from screw threads and the spring from a ballpen. A dazzling evening and much to “go home” (or perhaps “stay home”!) and play with! We look forward to welcoming Oliver back to SCC in person as soon as we are able.

<https://www.herboldphotography.com/>



Jeff Wilson’s foggy morning at Coaley Peak shared via our SCC FaceBook Page

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 >>>

Eclectic Photography

Photography is a learning curve – but it seems that the titles of the talks are too! Eclectic as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary is “Deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources” – well Steve Varman definitely does!

Personally, I had been looking forward to this one for a while as Annie had highly recommended it – was it a disappointment – blimey – “NO”! The Sainsbury’s shopping list quickly included: olive oil, balsamic vinegar, baked beans, Weetabix, icing sugar, broccoli, tea-bags I’ll pass on the spiders though! It is impossible to describe how creative Steve is, his mash potato mountain with the pea on top probably sums up the amount of imagination that he has. Take a look for yourselves at <https://stevevarman.co.uk> you will not fail to be excited by how a simple household object can be re-imagined.

It wasn’t just food however, within the eclectic mix we were shown beautiful sunsets, Coniston Water with the jetty using an ND filter was sublime. Then architecture which ranged from abstracts of buildings, through to cardboard cut out houses, on to shooting through an Ebay Twin Lens Reflex (also on my list, but note to self – don’t clean it!) and then levitating leaves and woodland flora and fauna.

Create a stage was one piece of advice from Steve – and use your imagination. Whether it was using smoke to create imaginary monsters, or finger lights to light paint his room or still life, Steve seems to have covered most genres of photography and managed to find a unique perspective as well. Something that is incredibly hard in today’s digital age. More enjoyment to be had with our cameras after this exciting talk.



Pea & Mashed Potato – Steve Varman

Meet the committee: Richard Atkinson

– Publicity & Competitions

I'm originally from Birmingham but I've lived in lots of different places including West Yorkshire, Tyneside, Bedfordshire and Essex before gravitating to Gloucestershire ten years ago. My late parents adopted Nailsworth as their home in the early seventies so I grew to love the area through my visits to them over the years. Twenty years of marriage and even more years of work meant I couldn't fulfil my dream of moving here until divorce and retirement removed the barriers!

I started taking photographs about sixty-five years ago, using my Dad's box Brownie before being given my own Brownie 127 (what would I say about being limited to eight shots these days!) Dad had been a keen photographer in his own childhood and when I was in my early teens, we were lucky enough to have a spare bedroom with a washbasin which was ideal for conversion to a darkroom, with only mild protest from Mum.

We started by simply developing our black and white film and making contact prints. Dad was very practical and good with his hands so he set to making an enlarger out of wood and cardboard and some lenses he bought, all held together with bits of Meccano. I wish I had a photograph of it! Despite its "Heath Robinson" heritage, it worked remarkably well and we produced lots of passably sharp 8x10 black prints with it.

Next came colour slides. By this time, Dad was using a Voigtlander 2¼ square bellows camera and I was the proud possessor of a Mastra V35 35mm camera. There was a slide



film called Ferraniacolour which came in both 35mm and 2¼ and for which you could buy a special home-development chemicals pack by Johnson's (the baby-powder people – no direct correlation!) You first threaded the film into your Paterson tank then added the developer. Next, you rinsed it, added fixer, rinsed again and then removed the film from the tank. But that was only half of the process. You then exposed the wet film to a 200 watt photoflood bulb for a few minutes before threading it back into the tank and adding the final chemicals to finish the process! Boy, was it difficult threading a wet film back into the tank spiral! However, it was all remarkably successful and I still have a few of those slides.

These days, after being a loyal Canon-user for 40 years, I've jumped ship to Sony and now have a state-of-the-art Sony mirrorless (I love it!) and a selection of lenses with which to photograph my main interests of nature, motorsport, steam railways, National Trust properties – and of course, our beautiful Gloucestershire! The old ways were fun at the time but I don't want to go back!



"Escape from Alcatraz"
Richard Atkinson (Salon acceptance)

Snippets

More interesting snippets from the member survey. Adobe clearly still leading the way at SCC.

Software Used

- Photoshop
- Lightroom
- ACR
- Affinity
- Luminar
- Elements
- Topaz
- Paintshop Pro
- ON1
- Capture One
- Manufacturer



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...

MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS to **Jeff Kirby** for achieving the superb feat of gaining his **LRPS**. The Royal Photographic Society states that for the Licentiate, applicants must show (among other criteria) a variety of approach and techniques but not necessarily in subject matter. It's demanding but achievable for most dedicated photographers. More about Jeff's panel in the next section – Well done indeed Jeff!

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.)

Please email secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk if you need a copy of the renewal form.

New members can join at this single fee of £10 and are always very welcome. Let your friends know – this is a BARGAIN!

Question corner>>>

Q: What makes a good Salon photograph?

The simple answer is "Who knows!"

A: In the next section however, we showcase some of our member's salon success in 2020 – and include a few tips that they feel may be useful to anyone who wants to make a start. It is also recommended that you look at accepted salon images on the salon websites, and if you are able get hold of salon catalogues this will give you an idea of the standards required.

Images that do well at Club may not do well at Salon and vice versa. At Salon you have to impress not one but 3 judges and generally less than 25% of images are accepted.

2020 successful thoughts...

As there was no competition this month it seemed appropriate to share some of the external success that has been achieved by SCC members during 2020. Amongst the successes that we have heard about have been salon acceptances, and awards, LRPS achievement and featuring in the Cotswold Life 2021 calendar. Well done to all mentioned, and everyone else who has entered, won or lost, or simply continues to have fun with their photography. Let's look forward to even more in 2021!

People often ask how to get acceptances at International Salon level, and at Stroud CC we have had an astonishing success rate during this difficult year. A few tips have been provided by members who have seen their images accepted literally worldwide.

"Try a photo multiple times and don't be disappointed if it fails first time. Often a non-acceptance can be followed by a string of acceptances" Jeff Kirby

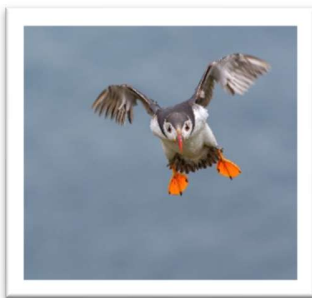
"It must have impact – remember the judges see it for 5 seconds and make an instant decision; somehow it has to stand out amongst around 1,000 other images" Trish Bloodworth

"If it's your first, don't let it be your last" Annie Blick

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.



Jeff Kirby LRPS
"Puffin – on target for landing"
Accepted 16 times

Salon success during 2020

Jeff Kirby
Richard Atkinson
Andy Harbin
Nige Bowsher
Annie Blick
Trish Bloodworth
Jenny Smith
Derrick Whitmore
Jeff Wilson
David Hunt

LRPS success during 2020

Jeff Kirby

Cotswold Life Calendar competition success during 2020

Chris Tracey



Jeff Wilson "Rodborough Common"-
accepted Cheltenham Salon

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 Toronto, Bangladesh, Serbia and Montenegro

Jeff Kirby
David Hunt
Jenny Smith
Trish Bloodworth

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.

Trish Bloodworth "The Artist"
Judges Choice – Lanterna Magica Print
Toronto CC Ribbon – Toronto Salon



coming up >>>

2021 starts.....

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

Thu 7 Jan 2021 - Peter Weaver - My Digital View

Thu 14 Jan 2021 – Members' Seasonal Images

Thu 21 Jan 2021 - Linda Bembridge FRPS -

"Abstract with a bit of Landscape"

Thu 28 Jan 2021 – Competition night – Judges Sue O'Connell and Peter Brisley

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



Annie Blick
"A cat named shadow"
Accepted Cheltenham Salon

WWW.STROUDCAMERAclub.CO.UK

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

Jeff Kirby's successful LRPS Panel



LRPS Sequence Plan

For RPS Reference



01 - (first)



02



03



04



05



06



07



08

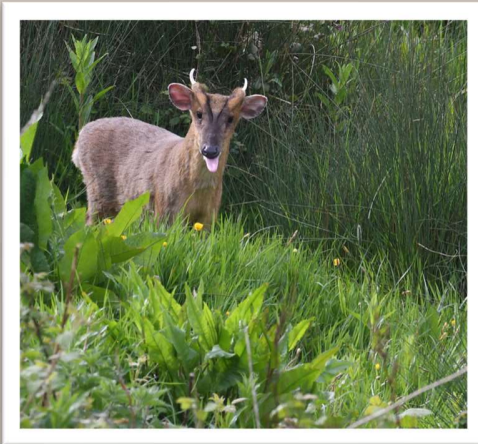


09



10 - (last)

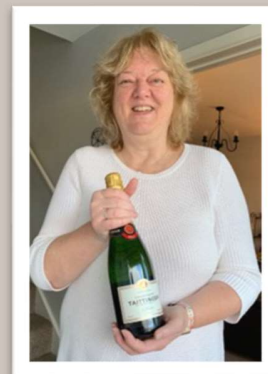
Chris Tracey's image "Cheeky young Muntjac" featured as May 2021 in The Cotswold Life Calendar.



Jeff Kirby LRPS – Common Whitethroat in Full Song. 21 salon acceptances to date!



Richard Atkinson – Broad Bodied Chaser (salon accepted)



Jenny Smith accepting her prize for winning the Christmas Social Quiz – Well done Jenny!

*Remember it isn't all about winning – it is just taking part and having fun that is equally as important
"Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst." Henri Cariter-Bresson*

Just some of the Salon Awards during 2020

*Andrew Harbin DPAGB – “Buchaille Etive Mor”
CISP Silver: Landscape Cheltenham Salon*



*Annie Blick – “Where’s Baby?”
Richard Spiers MCPF Medal Midland Salon*



*Richard Atkinson – “Out of the Shadows”
Salon Merit award*



And more acceptances and an award:

*David Hunt – “Taking the air at RIAT”
8 acceptances to date*



*Jenny Smith – “Something for the weekend, Sir?”
Acceptance Bangladesh ABP Salon & Bristol Salon*



*Derrick Whitmore – “2 x 2”
Open Colour Acceptance Cheltenham Salon*



*Trish Bloodworth – “Stay in your houses”
LM Gold Medal: Lanterna Magica Print Salon*



*Don't be shy - Please send details of your salon acceptances or other external "wins" to
secretary@stroudcameraclub.co.uk
We can then celebrate your achievement and showcase the wonderfully diverse skills of our club members. Let's look forward to further successes in 2021 – Good Luck to everyone!*