

in this issue >>>*Roger's report**The review – January Speakers**Meet your committee**Question corner**Snippets**My Stroud & District**"The Rococo Wobble" – Jane Bodkin – 1st place group B***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

"Jump" – Mick West – 2nd place group B**Roger's Report** Chairman's challenge and looking at competitions

2021 has got off to a great start - as a club we continue to attract new members and have in excess of 50 members despite only meeting in the ether. Our online offering continues to be well supported and we have an exciting programme through to the end of the season. On top of this, there is a glimmer of hope that vaccination will bring a return to normality later in the year. Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support.

I'm not sure how your New Year resolutions are doing, but my photographic resolution was to learn something new. I've already enrolled in Trish's 'Tweaking Tuesdays' to improve my PS post-processing and am sure that I will learn many new things here; but I was also inspired by Linda Bembridge's recent talk which introduced a whole new way of creating photographic images. It is easy to fall in to a rut and stick to doing the same things, albeit hoping to get better through osmosis, rather than stretch our boundaries, so **my Chairman's Challenge this year will be a challenge for each of you to try your hand at a new skill or genre and share your images and stories on 4th March**. There is no shortage of material online to help you, or you may be inspired to try your hand at something you have seen from some of this season's excellent speakers. I will of course be taking part but won't be eligible for my prize. **Full details are in my Bulletin dated 22nd January.**

Competitions remain a popular feature of the club programme with 80% rating them highly on Trish's recent member survey. The feedback given by peers (members' nights) and judges

(competitions) is the single most effective thing that has improved my photography - not only do I look more critically at my own images, it also helps me better appreciate the work of others. However, I know that competitions are not everybody's cup of tea, so **I will shortly be taking a fresh look at how we structure and judge competitions** with the Committee to make sure they deliver what you as members want.

Should we continue to have two divisions? If so, what criteria do we need to place and move members?

Is the scoring system fit for purpose?

Is winning important, or is the value in the feedback?

Do members want themed competitions, or should these be held as members' nights?

I would love to hear your thoughts - chairman@stroudcameraclub.co.uk

Finally, while on the subject of competitions, I would like to remind you that the **Stroud & District competition will continue in 2021 and be held over four rounds (3 months each)** to capture local images throughout the calendar year, so please continue to capture the beauty of our local area - let's face it, we're not going anywhere else in a hurry!

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER
The Chairman's Challenge is not an assignment you can do the night before!

The review >>>

“Abstract with a bit of Landscape” Linda Bembridge FRPS, EFIAP

Covid has wreaked havoc all through the world, but one small silver lining has been the fact that at SCC we have embraced technology and have invited several speakers from outside our area to share their photography with us; something which would not have been thought about in normal circumstances.

Linda Bembridge (ex-accountant) is one such; and her evening did not disappoint. Right from the start of the evening we were hooked by her inspirational “poem” which set out in her words why she/we picked up a camera in the first place. She talked about how for her, photography can get her into the “flow” state of mind and that she can lose herself in her photography. Linda was also very clear to reiterate that you should do photography for yourself and not just for the judges. “Blacks can be black, you don’t have to have detail in them”.

That having been said, she has impressed plenty of judges along the way, the triptych images she showed us from her Fellowship panel were probably far removed from the sorts of triptychs we would normally be producing – but how powerful and supremely creative. Interestingly as well as producing the triptychs for her FRPS panel, she spoke very highly of creating images in series or as projects and demonstrated to us how her work fitted together.

The Tuscan landscapes – desaturated and squashed - (although how to recreate, and one would need a trip to Tuscany too!) were sublime – and the

addition of real gold leaf or Chinese calligraphic ink to the prints would be an impressive sight – we may just have to visit R3’s house at some stage to view – he seemed rather interested!

A second half of abstract – which is by its very nature “marmite” but the skill and creativity with which they were imagined and then put together from one simple RAW file (albeit an in camera multiple exposure) was just fabulous. Linda’s skill in taking one image and creating a series of 12 simply using that image together with blend modes, transform tool and imagination was remarkable.

Linda also expounded the virtues of printing and understanding soft-proofing and print profiles. Metal garden prints, whilst expensive may certainly be something we will investigate – Hello Canvas was her tip for a supplier.

If one thing is taken away from this evening, it must surely be Linda’s sentiment “It’s fun and that’s the tick in the box”! I, for one, certainly don’t think she fitted the stereotype of the boring accountant!

<https://www.lindabembridge.me>

*Paddy Doyle
shared this image
on our FB page
after Linda’s talk*



Highlights >>>

The month in review

January has been one of those months with 5 Thursdays! So, I have had to condense the remaining highlights into one section as this newsletter would be becoming a newspaper otherwise!

The season opener was Peter Weaver, who has apparently been coming to Stroud CC for 28 years – he has staying power! His technology unfortunately meant we had a bit of a rocky start, but once we got going Peter shared with us many of the digital images he has created over the past 10 years. The range of images was impressive; from animals to castle interiors, and a large section of the aspects of country shows – how I long for them to start up again!

Peter had a couple of valuable tips: 1) Point your camera somewhere different, even to the ceiling – you never know what might be there 2) If it needs to be sharp – get it sharp – don’t worry so much about ISO – just concentrate on shutter speed and aperture 3) Use a lens hood, especially when you are out and about – this could just save your picture from distracting sun flare. Lastly – do photos for yourself and not the judge – I wonder what he will make of mine when he comes back to judge in February!!!

Week 2 saw us uploading our “Seasonal” images and as ever there was a wonderful array of images from members. Well done to all who contributed and to all those who Zoomed in on the night. The evening wasn’t complete without its normal share of banter and whilst not the same as meeting in person it is still so lovely to see everyone. We are also hearing of the numbers of vaccinations being done within the membership which hopefully promises brighter days ahead.

The culmination of the evening was the members vote for My Stroud – but this has its own section



*“Tree felling” Trish Bloodworth
3rd place group A*



Jeff Kirby’s stonechat 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>

Meet the committee: Annie Blick

This month we will meet one of the stalwarts of Stroud Camera Club, who gives us this small insight into her photography life:

Hi, I'm Annie Blick, once a professional wet darkroom worker and photographer for over 40 years until retirement in 2008.

Photography is my calling, has been my profession, and the thing that will, or I suspect already has, drive me insane someday.

I don't photograph subjects, I photograph the way they make me feel. Admittedly, it's a bit of a strange concept but it's honest – and it's the best way to describe my approach to the craft. I challenge myself with nearly every image I shoot, pushing the boundaries between photography and creativity; to tell a story in a single frame is my end game and I want to wring it out of every picture. If that's all you ever know about me, it's enough to say you probably know me very well.

What Annie fails to tell you here is that she is incredibly knowledgeable about most aspects of photography and is very generous sharing this with members. She is also incredibly well known around the area, both within camera clubs in general and the wider community; in part due to the fact that her working career was with the very well respected Peckham Photography Studio, based here in Stroud. It will also probably be of interest to SCC members to know that Steve Russell who so generously let us visit his studios in 2019 is one of Annie's protégés – he told me Annie was incredibly influential in starting his career as a photographer.

It is fascinating listening to Annie talk about her life in the professional studio, both as a photographer and a darkroom specialist. Although rather disappointing to hear that my precious rolls of film taken into the

"Ride to the light"
Annie Blick
2nd place group A



professional studios for processing were probably just sent away to a commercial developer, the likes of Peckhams actually only developing and printing the real professional images!

Annie personally worked alongside Edwin Peckham (although I can confirm that she is no-where near as old as he would be now!) He was reported in the Stroud News and Journal as being "a small man, who always had a trilby hat on, and people used to say he was a bit like a Charlie Chaplin figure". In that same article Annie also explained how he started making picture postcards in the 1920s of villages within five miles of Stroud, including Chalford and Brimscombe; later turning to weddings and publicity photographs for local businesses; but always adding to his archive of more than 60,000 negatives of the local Stroud area. Annie is the custodian of this important archive and says "It really shows Stroud at its best. The people have changed, yet the buildings remain so much the same."

It is much with that ethos in mind that at SCC we are promoting the idea of the "My Stroud and District" competition and archive. So please do take part to create our own historic record.



Question corner>>>

Q: What is the best file type to save images as?

Most people will capture their images as RAW files on their camera and then process using a variety of software. Importantly you should remember that your RAW file has the most image data, so where possible do most of your edits using the RAW file for best results.

A: When it comes to saving the file this is personal preference, but as a rule of thumb save in the highest quality possible. Then from this high quality image you will be able to extract lower quality files eg. For sharing on social media, camera club PDI competitions, gallery uploads or salons. If you are going to print you will need the highest quality possible for anything over a 6" x 4" print.

If you are a Photoshop worker saving as PSD or TIFF can also preserve your layers and if you have the space is the preferable option. Otherwise save as a high quality JPEG – but remember every time you save again you will lose some detail.

Snippets

More interesting snippets from the member survey. Genres at least 5 members or more enjoy.

Top Subjects

- Landscape
- Nature
- Flower
- Macro
- Mono
- Abstract
- Travel
- Portrait
- Architectural
- Aviation
- Fine Art



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...

Well last month we offered congratulations to Jeff Kirby on gaining LRPS – this month it is MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS to Jeff Kirby for achieving CPAGB. This being a Blue badge and certificate from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) for its stated standard: "Good Club Photography"

We now have Jeff Kirby LRPS, CPAGB within our midst – Well done indeed Jeff!

I know that Jeff will be only too happy to assist any member that is considering obtaining their distinctions. You just have to ask – his email is on the committee details of the website.

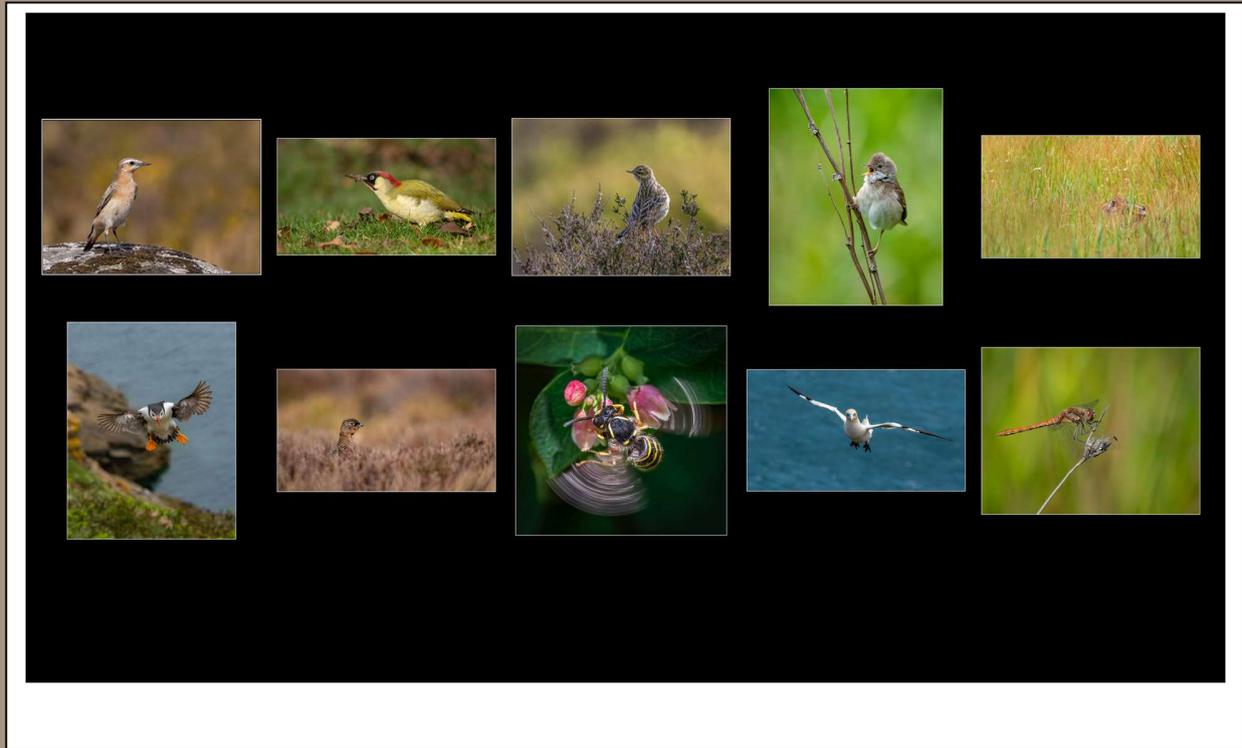
New Members

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 for more details.

Jeff Kirby's successful CPAGB Panel



"Crikey.... he thought" – Ian Peters – 1st place Group A



"Light trails" – Gerry Chance – 3rd place group B



"Scrambling at Tarlton" – Nigel Bowsher – Highly Commended – Group A



"Wedding veil" – Paul Martin – Highly Commended – Group A

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

2021 competitive thoughts...

Back to competition this month, with results on display on the SCC Website. Roger and the Battles Committee have also selected our entries for DPIC which takes place on Sunday 7th February – make a note in your diary as this will be on Zoom, and we will be wishing SCC the very best of luck at this prestigious club competition for our region – Western Counties Photographic Federation (WCPF). Hopefully many of you have also entered the Knightshayes Trophy and the WCPF Members Exhibition.

The January competition was our “themed” competition and as usual showed the variety of interpretations of a theme. The judges for the evening have even more letters after their names than our own Jeff Kirby; **Sue O’Connell** FIFP, ARPS, EFIAP/d2, DPAGB, BPE5 and **Peter Brisley** ARPS, EFIAP, DPAGB, BPE2, so we were in very competent hands for our judgements.

“On the move/Movement” Group B

1st place Jane Bodkin

2nd place Mick West

3rd place Gerry Chance

Highly Commended Jane Bodkin, René Cason

Commended René Cason, Glyn Heskins

Special congratulations to our new members Mick and Rene for doing so well.

MY STROUD & DISTRICT

2021 OPEN NOW

Don’t forget our annual competition – upload your images of Stroud and surrounds – enter via your competition page. Remember this is a two-fold competition 1) to create a local archive 2) for the chance to win.

Refer to the website for further details and in the next section for the new “rules”.

“On the move/Movement” Group A

1st place Ian Peters

2nd place Annie Blick

3rd place Trish Bloodworth

Highly Commended Nigel Bowsher,

David Hunt, Paul Martin

Commended Annie Blick, Trish

Bloodworth, Jeff Kirby, Ian Peters

My Stroud & District - winners

Group B

Margot Page – Stroud Station

Rene Casson – Sunset by that famous tree

Group A

Trevor Blundell – Stroud High St – hooray for the busker

Keith Hart – View from Haresfield Beacon

As usual a selection of winning images are within this newsletter – but all are on show on our website.



René Cason – “I’m watching you” – highly commended group B

David Hunt – “2 Breitling wing walkers” – Highly commended group A



coming up >>>

February 2021

Thu 4 Feb 2021 – Sarah Howard - "An Image Seen - landscape photography thoughts and techniques"

Thu 11 Feb 2021 – Peter Bartlett ARPS EFIAP/b CPAG BPE3 – “The Way We Were”

Thu 18 Feb 2021 - Cheltenham International Salon

Thu 25 Feb 2021 - Competition No 5: Monochrome

Join via Zoom – login details in bulletins

Thu 4 Mar 2021 – Chairman’s Challenge – Be Ready – check out details in the bulletin already sent!!

Next Competition

Remember My Stroud & District – see Left panel

February competition is MONOCHROME

Next deadline is 11th February

INTERNATIONAL SALON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who have had acceptances into International Photographic Salons! This month (and latter December) we have seen our club members accepted in India, Ukraine, Portugal and Serbia. A special “well done” to Richard Atkinson being one of only 2 English acceptances in Ukraine.

Jeff Kirby

Richard Atkinson

David Hunt (incl. HM)

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.



David Hunt
“Armed and ready”
Highly commended group A



Jane Bodkin
“In a spin”
Highly commended group B

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

My Stroud & District – revised process 2021

From January 2021 the “My Stroud and District” competition will continue to run year by year but will be split into four separate competition Rounds with closing dates on 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December.

The idea is, as before, to **build an archive of Stroud & District as seen through our lenses, capturing the beauty and interest of the area in all seasons. In 25, 50 or 100 years time, just think what a valuable and fascinating archive we will have built for our successors.** Turning it into a competition just makes it more fun.

In each of the quarterly Rounds, *you may enter up to three images* which you feel best capture the area, or an interesting or well-known feature or event in our area. *Please submit your photographs as we go along, rather than waiting until just before each closing date.*

Just because you have submitted an image during a Round doesn't mean you are committed to making it part of your entry. If you have already submitted your three images for a Round and you then find you have taken an absolute cracker that you'd like to submit instead, simply go back into the

competition at any time before the closing date of the Round, delete one of your images and replace it with your “cracker.” Please do try to make sure that the images you submit into each Round were taken during that Round – for example, images in Round 1 should have been taken between 1st January and 31st March.

Because it's more about building a Stroud Camera Club archive of photos of the area over the years, than just being a competition, *we will look at the images submitted each month and will copy images for the archive which are most interesting or representative of the area.* So, if you come along and remove an image from the current Round because you've found something better as a competition entry, we may have already taken a copy of that image for the archive.

I hope that's all reasonably clear, but if not, then please don't hesitate to contact me, or any of the Committee and we will do all we can to help. It's a new venture and a new way of doing things and I must emphasize that it **ONLY** applies to “My Stroud & District” and not to any other competition.

Richard

The Winning My Stroud & District images – as chosen by you - the members.



Trevor Blundell – Stroud High Street – hooray for the busker

Margot Page – Stroud Station



Keith Hart - View from Haresfield beacon

René Cason – It's that famous tree at sunset.



“Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything.” - Aaron Siskind

Just some of the other 2020 My Stroud & District entries

Glyn Heskins – Progress at Dudbridge



Annie Blick – Vintage Mary opening for business

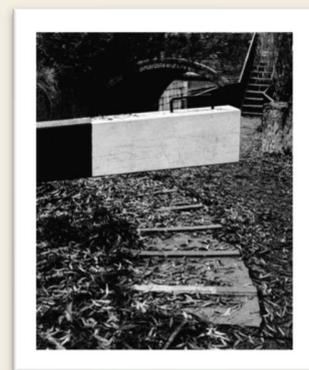


Gerry Chance – Winter at St Cyrs Church



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

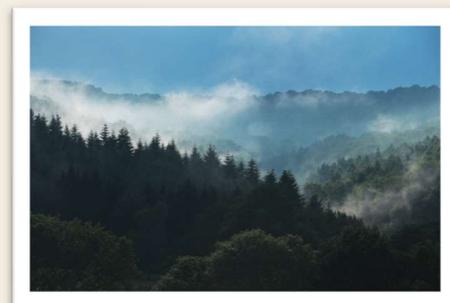
Mike Guest – Lock-down



Roger Matthews – Winter on the common



Jane Bodkin – Woodchester Park from East



Derrick Whitmore – North Nibley Tyndale Monument

