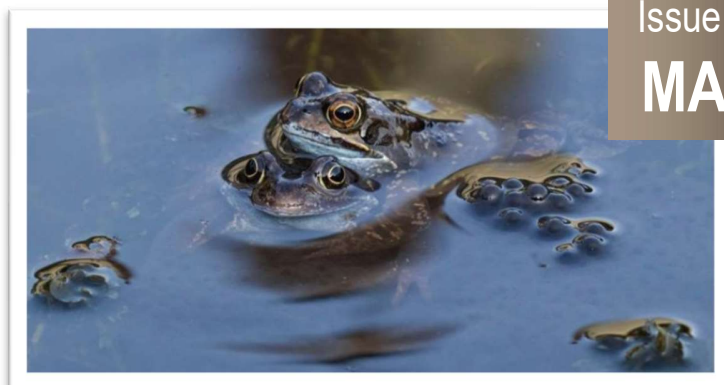


in this issue >>>*Roger's report**The review – March Speakers**Meet your committee**Question corner**Snippets**Battle images**"Happy Frogs" – Karen Hawkins – 1st place group B***A Monthly Insight into the activities of Stroud Camera Club****STROUD
CAMERA CLUB****Contacts >>>****Welcome to
Stroud Camera 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

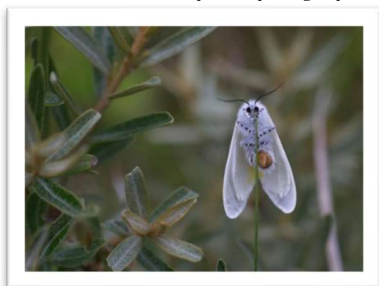
Treasurer: Leslie Holmes

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

"Satin Moth" – Phil Hope – 2nd place group B**Roger's Report** *Technology is a wonderful thing...when it works!*

When it doesn't it becomes very clear that computers are now an essential tool for today's photographers. Fox Talbot never concerned himself with such things, but it has been a frustrating month for me with an iMac that has been more unstable than its owner. A corrupt file and a hard drive full to bursting proved to be the final straw. The iMac is now in ITU and should be back online with a new 'brain' next week - hopefully, I will be able to stay on Zoom through to the end of our next battle on Thursday ...unless we don't win! Sadly, the iMac owner's memory, processing speed and stability are beyond economical repair.

Chairman's challenge proved to be a breath of fresh air for me with a return to old school film photography and my first go at developing the negatives (old hat for many of you, I am sure). I thoroughly enjoyed it and will dip into it again from time to time. If any other members still dabble in film, I would love to hear from you. Many other members rose to the

challenge of trying something new with some great results - hopefully, some will develop their new skills further. Unfortunately, there could only be one prize and Annie was a worthy winner with her 'off the wall' free-lensing images - well done.

Creativity is what keeps photography interesting and we have had some absolutely superb speakers this season to inspire us. This month Glenys Garnett proved that you can achieve some stunning in-camera creative images - so much for investing time in learning to use PS (with Trish's excellent, albeit now old hat, tutorials 🙄)! Judging by members' FB posts in the style of Glenys Garnett and Linda Bembridge, creativity is alive and kicking in our Club. Long May it continue.

AND FINALLY - REMEMBER
Creativity is experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes and having fun.

The review >>>

“Creative Techniques” Glenys Garnett

The enthusiasm of Glenys for her subject was tangible even via Zoom. We were treated to an evening of beautiful creativity showing how Glenys uses her camera as a tool to realise her artistic vision.

Glenys was able to demonstrate to us why she feels creativity should underpin everything you do in your photography, with her stunning images using a variety of techniques from multiple exposure, shoot through and defocusing, through to the tools within her particular camera, the Fuji XT4 which offers various additional modes such as “Toy camera” and “Velvia”.

Glenys’ aim is that the images she captures should portray as “more beautiful” the world around us. Whilst she feels it is very important to get as much right as you can in-camera she also confirmed to us that post processing is very important to finish off your image.

The range of inspirational photographers and other image makers that inspire Glenys was interesting of its own right: Ernst Haas, Piet Mondrian and the Tate Modern Abstracts were some of her recommendations.

We can photograph a subject for what we want, was very much the byline of the evening, with Glenys illustrating this with her various abstracts and soft focus natural world images.

Her lenses of choice for the softness were her Lensbaby Trio – which combines 3 different styles of lens in one body and the vintage lenses, which she showed the Helios 44-2 (M42 mount) and the Isco Gottingen Westromat 50mm f1.9. Being very generous in not only passing on her skills but also tips for where and what to purchase – my shopping cart at K&F Concept has already been filled with the M42 to EOS adapter and I’m sure after this outstanding talk a few others will follow suit!

Indeed, we have once again seen the influences of one of our speakers with some of the images that have been shared since the talk via our FaceBook group. If you have not joined yet, give it a go.

Remember also that you can share your images via your own Gallery on our website.

Phil Hope shared this image on our FB page after Glenys’ talk



John Edwards via our SCC FaceBook Page - Magnolia buds, 4 images stacked.

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 - Battles

*March saw the start of the battles. Not only internally with **The Chairman’s challenge**, but externally with our first inter-club **battle versus Newent and Forest of Dean**.*

The annual Chairman’s challenge is always a challenge! And this year’s set by Roger to **‘try your hand at a new technique or genre of photography’** was definitely one to put the thinking cap on for. Several members took the opportunity to document what they had done in the comments space in the online gallery – look at the website for all the images and the interesting commentaries too!

At the end of the night, Roger picked his favourite technique selecting Annie Blick’s “Free-lensing”, in which she demonstrated excellent skill and creative abilities. Well done Annie! Her images and commentary are later in this newsletter.

The first battle of the season, Stroud v Newent v Forest of Dean was superbly supported with members from all 3 clubs attending – in fact we had a record 53 people on the Zoom evening. A very hotly contested evening, with some cracking images from all 3 clubs. **Special mention to Andy Harbin for a well-deserved 20 for Warnscale Bothy, and Jeff Kirby with two 19’s.** At the halfway point Stroud were just marginally in front, but by the end Newent had picked up four of the six 20’s awarded on the night, so were rightly crowned champions.

Martin Cooper had an extremely difficult job judging the 60 images put forward and was very clear in remarking that all the images were of a high standard and many that he marked down would have been 20’s in other competitions but he had to differentiate somehow. How the judges are ever really able to make decisions is beyond most of us anyway! The imagery ranged from beautiful landscapes through to abstract reflections and refractions, with most other genres also represented in the mix.

So, congratulations to Newent, commiserations to Forest of Dean, and we at Stroud must try just that tiny bit harder for the return battle next year!



*“Barn Owl – eye to eye contact” Jeff Kirby
2nd place group A*

Meet the committee: Chris Tracey

March sees us getting to know Chris Tracey who has been our amazing programme secretary for several years:

I have reached the conclusion that photography is something of an obsession rather than anything I am any good at!

My main interest is, and always has been, wildlife photography – butterflies, moths, birds, anything that creeps and crawls – but scanning in my old slides recently I threw away lots of mediocre wildlife images and it was the family photos that made it to the computer.

Starting off with the Kodak Brownie at the age of 8 I have owned many different cameras trying out most of the main brands at some stage. Early attempts at bird photography in my teens involved sitting for hours in the garage with a long cable release attached to my Praktica LB set up next to a net of peanuts hoping for a siskin or greenfinch to come along.

Since then, I have been lucky to have travelled extensively, spending 13 interesting years as an expat in the Far East during which time my daughter was born in Taiwan and my son in Australia.

I upgraded cameras every few years and have been using two Nikons, a D750 and D500 for the last few years so no excuses for wallowing at the bottom end of the A group! Purely to lighten the load of my camera bag I have recently acquired an Olympus EM-1 Mkii so watch this space!

I have now produced five SCC programmes and am ready to hand over to someone else at the AGM. There are always new and exciting photographers who are only too happy to talk about their work so this is your chance to take control and steer the club in the direction you want it to go!

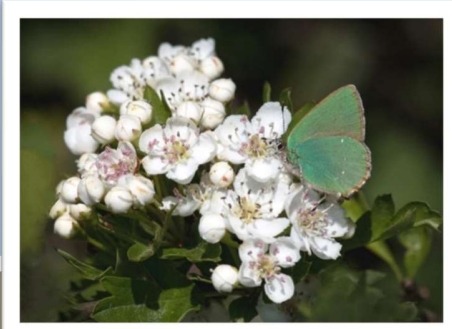
*"Green Hairstreak"
Chris Tracey
3rd place group A*



For those of you who are new to SCC I will also mention that Chris is one of the most knowledgeable people around when it comes to natural history, and her skills with moths and butterflies in particular.

Chris gave us a superb talk a season ago at Camera Club taking us on her trip in her caravan through France, with her dog, Saffy, and sharing with us many amazing images capturing the beauty of the area and the bugs she loves.

The image above is one that Chris kindly let me put in the newsletter, a gorgeous image of her and Saffy – a fitting reminder to us all to take photographs just for the fun of capturing memories, and not just for competitions; sadly this is the last photograph Chris has of her and Saffy, who left for The Rainbow Bridge a couple of weeks ago. I'm sure all members, but especially those of you with animals, all join in sending our sincere condolences to Chris.



Question corner>>>

Q: What are extension tubes?

An extension tube is a spacer that sits between your lens and the camera body to alter the MFD (minimum focus distance). The MFD of a lens is a measurement of the closest point a subject can be from the camera's sensor, whilst still being able to focus. If a subject is closer to the sensor than a lens' MFD, you cannot focus on that subject.

A: The thicker the extension tube used on a lens, the higher the lens magnification becomes as you're able to move the lens much closer to the subject and still achieve focus. What all this means is that you can turn a normal lens into something with much a much higher magnification factor to achieve macro-like images, without needing a dedicated macro lens. You are no longer able to focus to infinity and often you will have to use manual focus – but another interesting creative tool for photography.

Snippets

Don't forget with the AGM coming up that Roger wants to know your thoughts about competitions.

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

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...

Our Publicity Secretary, Richard Atkinson has made contact with the new **Stroud Times, an independent community-based news website, which launched in March.** <https://stroudtimes.com/>

Living in the community they serve, editor Ash Loveridge, journalist Matt Bigwood, and photographer Carl Hewlett (Ex member of SCC) have joined forces to provide free-to-view local content devoid of a clickbait agenda and pop-up adverts.

If you know of anything that you feel would be newsworthy relating to SCC, please let Richard know so that he can assist with getting a piece to press.

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.

Some of our Battle Images



“Warnscale Bothy” – Andy Harbin – Scored 20

“Eilean Donan” – Ian Peters



“Golden Moment” – Nigel Bowsher



“Spoon” – Leslie Holmes



“The riverside Museum Glasgow” – Steve Vines

“What I like about photographs is that they capture a moment that’s gone forever, impossible to reproduce” – Karl Lagerfeld

2021 competitive thoughts...

With March seeing not only the usual monthly competition but also the battle, Chairman's challenge and the closing date of the "My Stroud and District" we've seen a busy period. We've also seen success from members continuing in the International and British (BPE) Salons as well as selection for the Western Counties Photographic Federation (WCPF) Member's Exhibition.

March **Nature** competition was hotly contested – and whilst images were slow to be entered, we did end with a worthy number for judging.

Sandie Cox, who has spoken at the Club on several occasions, was more than up to the task of selecting the winning entries.

"Nature" Group B

1st place Happy Frogs – Karen Hawkins

2nd place Satin Moth – Phil Hope

3rd place Frozen Cascade – Jane Bodkin

Highly Commended Paddy Doyle, Glyn Heskins

Commended Mervyn Dawkins, Glyn Heskins,

Margot Page

Special congratulations to our new member Phil for his 2nd place.

"Nature" Group A

1st place Onodata Mirage - Trevor Blundell

2nd place Barn owl - Eye to eye contact – Jeff Kirby

3rd place Green Hairstreak – Chris Tracey

Highly Commended Trish Bloodworth, Paul Martin (x2)

Commended Richard Atkinson (x3), Roger Matthews

WCPF Members' Exhibition

Members with accepted images:

David Hunt –

Taking the Air at Riat

Armed and Dangerous

Trish Bloodworth –

Back in Lockdown (HC award)

Demise of Medusa

S-O-S

Paddy Doyle – "Short eared owl looking for its prize"
– Highly commended group B



coming up >>>

April 2021

Thu 1 Apr 2021 - Battle - Stroud v Cheltenham v Cirencester

Thu 8 Apr 2021 - Speaker - Polina Plotnikova – "Starting from a blank canvas"

Thu 15 Apr 2021 – AGM

Thu 22 Apr 2021 - Image Of The Year Competition

Thu 29 Apr 2021 - Mobile Phone Challenge

Join via Zoom – login details in bulletins

Next Competition

Remember My Stroud & District – see Left panel

April competition is IMAGE OF THE YEAR

Next deadline is 8th April – this is the BIG ONE!

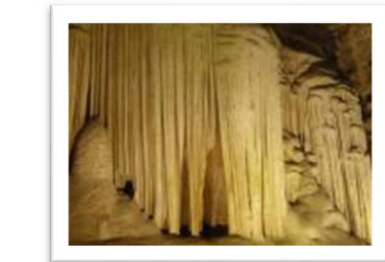
MY STROUD & DISTRICT

CLOSING FOR ROUND 1

31st MARCH 2021

You still have a few days left to upload your images.

Member judging of the winning images – after the AGM
(subject to timings!)



Jane Bodkin – "Frozen Cascade"
3rd Place group B



Glyn Heskins
"Cheery Chaffinch"
Highly commended group B

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 India, Moldova, Finland and UK in the British Photographic Exhibitions (BPE)

Jeff Kirby

Jenny Smith

David Hunt

Trish Bloodworth

René Cason

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.



Roger Matthews
"Amazon Black Tarantula"
Commended Group A

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

An Interesting Local Charity with a Photography Competition

We have recently been sent the following email by Cobalt Trust, who are trying to raise funds for a Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Nurse, who offers a lifeline to some of the most vulnerable in our society; 16 - 25-year-olds who have been given a life-threatening diagnosis.

“Dear Photographers of Stroud,

I have news of a local charity photography competition which I thought may be of interest to your membership.

Cobalt, a local medical charity, have just launched a **2021 Photography Competition running from 1st March to 31st August 2021 for all ages and abilities with an entry fee of just £2.**

There are some amazing prizes including a Canon EOS 2000D camera kit, studio tour of a leading art photographer, a Charlie Waite workshop and subscriptions to Amateur Photography as well as memberships for The Royal Photographic Society. Twelve winning images will be made into a calendar for sale in October, as well as featuring in an exhibition. This is a new venture for Cobalt as we seek to find new digital ways to engage our community since community fundraising was all but lost last year.

Here is the link to the web page, it would be fantastic if you could share it as widely as you can.”

<https://www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/capture-a-moment-for-cobalt/>

Cobalt pioneer innovation in medical imaging diagnosis by investing in equipment, integrate research and education, to improve outcomes for patients now and in the future. The Charity was founded over 50 years ago by Dr Fred Hanna, who launched a public appeal to build a Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham.

Cobalt primarily focus on medical diagnostic imaging, believing that all patients should have access to the very best equipment, helping doctors to make a clear diagnosis and an appropriate personalised treatment plan.

Their unique scanning centre in Cheltenham stays at the forefront of diagnostic imaging technology; they see over 100,000 patients a year both at the Imaging Centre in Cheltenham, at their Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM) Imaging Centre in Birmingham and with mobile MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) and CT (Computerised Tomography) scanners that travel nationally including the three counties (Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire).

This is certainly something members may wish to look in to.

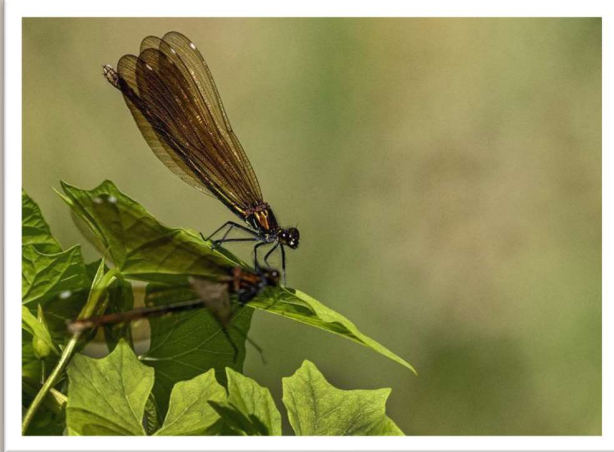
Annie Blick's winning Chairman's Challenge – Free lensing



Free Lensing or Lens Whacking was my challenge. It can be referred to as a poor man's tilt and shift. The technique is to set everything on your camera to manual, lens focus on infinity and detach the lens from the body. It is recommended that a 50mm prime lens works best. By holding the lens close to the body and moving fractionally and trying to find a focus point which is usually 'bent' for your image. I struggled immensely in the technique as holding the lens away from the body (approx. 2cm) created a telephoto effect and a fraction of movement or shake produced a total blur or complete light leak over the image. In retrospect a tripod would probably have helped just to have one stable source. An interesting experiment that I have never tried before. Did I enjoy doing it?...no. Would I try it again?...definitely not! :)

More from the Nature Competition

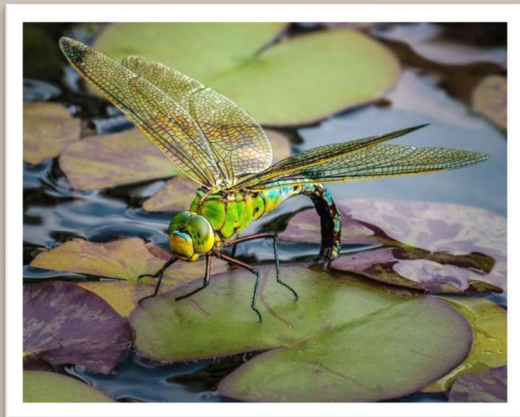
*Trevor Blundell – Onodata Mirage
1st Place Group A*



*Paul Martin – Female Demoiselle
Highly Commended Group A*



*Paul Martin – Emperor Laying Eggs
Highly Commended Group A*



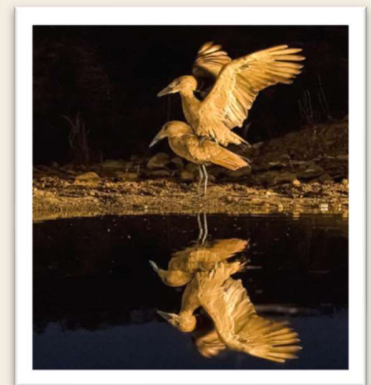
*Trish Bloodworth – Meerkat & Baby
Highly Commended Group A*



*Richard Atkinson – Mute swan bathing
Commended Group A*



*Richard Atkinson – Hammerkopf Mating
Commended Group A*



*Richard Atkinson – Stoat
Commended Group A*



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