

SPS Newsletter

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Well, hello there, did you think I had done a vanishing act? Apologies for the delay in getting a Newsletter out but as they say 'Better late than never'! Where has this year gone, I cannot believe how it has flown by? So here's a bumper issue reflecting on a variety of things.

We are well into our new season and what a Programme of talks and competitions we have had so far. Little old me was pleased to have had some of my competition entries doing well with the judges, particularly my 'Leaf Lines' in the President's competition. Watch this space because my objective this season is to enter a print into one of the print competitions, a thing I have never attempted before. It is also nice to see our newer members submitting entries into the competitions.

Well what did we celebrate over the Summer and Autumn? Well in July we giggled with International Joke Day (it's the way you tell them!), enjoyed World Chocolate Day, quivered at Shark Awareness Day, and whetted our lips with National Lipstick Day. In August we had Yorkshire Day (celebrating all things about Yorkshire), and celebrated our animals with Owl Awareness, Cat, Lion, Elephant, Lizard, Orangutan, Dog and Bat Days. My favourites though were Universal and International Infinity Day (but I couldn't see how this ended after only a day!), Lazy Day (on which I didn't do much). But for us the most important day of August was World Photo Day celebrating all things photographic. In September me-hearties it was International Talk Like a Pirate Day, World Reflexology Week from 18th-25th, International Day of Peace on 21st, World Car Free Day on 22nd (good job we had our feet given some tlc during Reflexology Week to be on Shanks' Pony!), and World Heart Day. October saw a plethora of medical related awareness days, weeks and months as well as food related days. My favourites were the Porridge, Baking, Chocolate and Curry weeks. But the ones that made me smile were National Cheese Toastie Day, No Disposable Cup Day and National No Bra Day (I wonder how many supported the latter!). November saw National Sandwich Day and International Stout Day (I thought it was for those of us with more portly frames until I realised it was for the type of beer!), World Toilet Day and my favourite, Odd Socks Day. December sees the themes continuing with Christmas Jumper Day and National Grief Awareness week, an important one as at this time of year many of us reflect on those dear to us we have lost and can find it a difficult time.

We had a great Summer of Sport, the FIFA Women's World Cup (what a shame we lost!) the Rugby World Cup and then being victorious in golf's Solheim Cup and Ryder Cup.

And did you know 'Rizz' is named word of the year 2023 by Oxford University Press? Evidently 'Rizz' is internet slang for romantic appeal or charm and the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner (and is mostly used by young people – Generation Z!). The word is thought to be a shortened form of the word 'charisma'. And the other popular words this year ...:

Beige Flag – a character trait that indicates that a partner or potential partner is boring or lacks originality.

Situationship – a romantic or sexual relationship that is not considered to be formal or established.

Heat Dome – a persistent high pressure weather system over a particular geographic area which traps a mass of hot air below it.

Swiftie – an enthusiastic fan of the singer Taylor Swift.

And Collins Dictionary revealed that their word of 2023 is 'Artificial Intelligence'. Use of the word has quadrupled this year and the word has been the talking point of 2023. And Collins' other words of the year ...:

Canon Event – an event that is essential to the formation of an individual's character or identity.

Debanking – the act of depriving a person of banking facilities (think Nigel Farage here).

Greedflation – using high inflation as an excuse to artificially raise prices in order to increase corporate profits.

Nepo Baby – a person who has been perceived as benefitting from nepotism by having famous parents.

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter, it has some great articles from our members. So, very many thanks to all of you who have sent me items it is much appreciated. Please continue to send material into me at my email address:
172elizabeth@gmail.com.

With my very best wishes

Liz xx



What do you call a snowman in June?

A Puddle!

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On-Line!

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Instagram

02

Through the Lens

The President's Picnic

By Phil Moorhouse



Photos:
Mick Schilling,
Dave Venables and
Phil Moorhouse

On Sunday 25th June, The Recreation Ground in Stratford-upon-Avon, welcomed 21 members of SPS with a day of glorious sunshine for this year's President's Picnic.

Members enjoyed the opportunity to explore the local attractions, including the Butterfly Farm, the chain-ferry crossing to the Church, walks along the river, the canal basin, or just the opportunity to sit in the park and have a chat. Stratford in the summer always enjoys a real holiday atmosphere, but add some picnic food, a drink and an ice-cream, the chance to catch-up with good friends, and the day is complete. Not to mention the delicious sausage rolls provided by Graham! *Legendary!* *



**Legendary* used to mean that you once pulled a sword out of a stone. As it happens, bringing sausage rolls to a party now qualifies!



Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

Mince spies!



What goes Ho, Ho, Whoosh, Ho, Ho, Whoosh?

Santa going through a revolving door!

03

Out and About with Our Members Over the Summer

Five Go to Norfolk

By David Venables

Two grumpy old men (2 Davids) and three lovely ladies (2 Sue's and Fay) spent an enjoyable week in Norfolk. So many places to visit again and some new ones too!



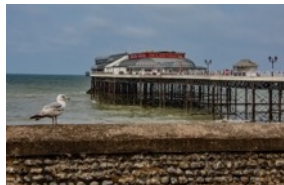
Penthorpe was still a magical place to visit, lots of birds to see and photograph. It was surprising how close we were able to get to many of the birds.



Brancaster with the salt marshes. Morston Quay with the interesting estuary and a short walk to Blakeney where the estuary and many varied boats seem to disappear into the far horizon. Unfortunately the seals were not around during our visit.



Holt still has its many quirky lanes and alleyways together with its different and interesting stores. Ice cream is good too! Great fish and chips at Cromer. The pier which opened in 1901 is only one of five UK seaside piers with a working theatre.



Blickling estate has an amazing Jacobean mansion to visit and Felbrigg Hall nearby has extensive grounds and a lovely working walled garden.

Old Hunstanton beach with its colourful cliffs, unusual boulders and nesting birds.

Norfolk has many photo opportunities including landscapes, seascapes and plenty of nature.



We all enjoyed our stay, accommodation was a bungalow in its own grounds and there was plenty of wild life in the fields around the property.



Reflections of Glasgow

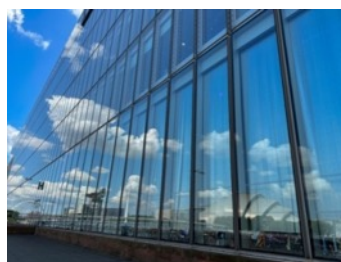
By Phil Moorhouse

Following my successful *'Sojourn to Scotland'* this time last year, another visit to Glasgow was inevitable, this summer.

Once familiar with the lay-of-the-land, it's always good to set yourself a challenge, and this time, mine was *'Reflections'*. The local landmarks seen from a different perspective. Located on the River Clyde, opposite the *Hydro* and *Armadillo*, my hotel proved to be the perfect location to photograph the reflections on the water. At night, Glasgow really is quite a spectacular sight.



Scotland's largest city treated me to four days of glorious sunshine, meaning early morning reflections on the River Clyde were especially clear, and scenes reflected in the windows of BBC Scotland and the Science Centre, made for some interesting *straight lines!*



Returning to the hotel for a meal in the evening, I reviewed the product of my labours, and, to my astonishment, I captured quite a *cohesive* set of images. Similar themes, similar tones, blue skies, architectural, straight lines, etc.

Maybe not competition winners, individually, but I think there might be a panel in there somewhere.



My original motivation for flying to Scotland was to see Pink Floyd's controversial front-man, Roger Waters, in concert, at the OVO Hydro. Our friend, Martin Sproul joined me for the concert, and we agreed, we were truly *blown-away*. Quite a spectacle! With inflatable sheep floating around the Arena, a backdrop that was both thought-provoking and entertaining, and a sound quality that could make your nose bleed!



Martin has described me as an honorary '*Weegie*' (Glaswegian!). A compliment I am only too happy to accept! No trip to Glasgow would be complete without a trip to a whisky distillery, and the Clydeside Distillery was in wobbling distance back to the hotel. After all, I don't think anyone has ever been arrested for being '*drunk in charge of a wheelchair!*'. I wish I'd had a £pound every time someone has made that joke! I would be a millionaire!



I must confess, I managed to *liberate* a bottle of the Clydeside *fire-water*, and transport it home safely on the flight home to Birmingham Airport. Once again, a truly memorable trip, the most-friendly, vibrant and interesting city I have visited. Highly recommended!

Now, this single malt isn't just going to drink itself!





Out and About

Mick has organised a couple of outings for the Club. Here's a photo courtesy of Mike (Goodwin) of Mick, Mick, Mick and Martin in Hay Wood on 14th October. There were a lot of Mick's that day ...! 7 of the Club's members met up for a walk and social around the woods looking at fungi and other bits and bobs for a few hours.



What do Elves do after school?

Their gnome-work!

04

The Colour Pink

The word 'pink' derives from the *Dianthus* species of flowers, which includes Carnations, Pinks and Sweet William. Pink is commonly known to be a mixture of red and white, but it comes in a wealth of different shades, humans having created it through dyes. Red-pink dye, such as that made from Brazil wood or madder diluted with paler gypsum, existed since antiquity across Asia, Europe and North Africa. Ancient Egyptian mummy portraits used the dye combination, and cloth dyed with madder and gypsum were excavated from Tutankhamun's tomb and discovered in the buried ruins of Pompeii.

Carmine (also known as cochineal) is another dye used to produce pink. Carmine is derived from insects found on the prickly pear cactus. Introduced to Europe from Mexico in Spanish treasure fleets, it took thousands of insects to make a small amount of dye. It is still used for colouring fabrics, make-up and food.

Though it was a largely uncommon colour for fashion and artwork during the Middle Ages in Europe, pink was used in religious artworks and women's clothes. The pink pigment used was known as light cinabrese and was made up of earth pigment Venetian Red, and white pigment called Bianco San Genovese, or lime white. In the delicate garments of Early Renaissance religious paintings such as *The Annunciation* by Fra Angelico (1395-1455) a statement was made – this was the first instance in which pink was used to depict clothing rather than simply flesh, and it altered the usage of pink in European paintings from here on.

By the 18th Century pink tended to be used in paler shades to depict softness and youth at a time when pastel shades were popular in textiles and porcelain. A colour worn by both genders in the 1700s, pink then transitioned to a masculine colour, and young boys were dressed in pink because it was a lighter and therefore more youthful version of the red worn by men.



King Louis XV's mistress Madame de Pompadour championed the wearing of pink in French courts, and was said to have a tint of pink created for her by the Sevres porcelain factory. In England, the shade 'Potter's Pink' was created in the late 1700s in Staffordshire by an unknown potter and used as a ceramic glaze, a soft rose semi-opaque colour with excellent lightfast qualities.

The 19th Century saw many more pinks being added to artists' palettes through synthetic inventions from the likes of coal tar, such as Perkin's Mauve. By the 20th Century brighter pinks were more in vogue, in part because chemical dyes that were now widely available were resistant to fading. Much of this is also owed to designer Elsa Schiaparelli who in 1931 created Shocking Pink by mixing magenta with a small amount of white. Daisy Fellowes, a French socialite and fashion icon, wore a 17.27ct pink Cartier diamond called the Tête de Bélier (Ram's Head) as she went to meet the designer Elsa Schiaparelli. Schiaparelli was immediately taken with the colour, so much so that she packaged her new perfume 'Shocking' in it – the same name as the fragrance later popularised by Marilyn Monroe and Madonna.

In the late 1960s, the scientific researcher Alexander G Schauss discovered that a particular shade of pink (P-618) had a highly calming effect on the human endocrine system. He convinced the Seattle Naval Correction Facility to paint its cells with this colour in an attempt to pacify prisoners, and it has been used in holding cells ever since. The results are sometimes contradictory, although the phenomenon has been such that at some US sports grounds the visiting team's changing rooms have been painted in P-618 in an attempt to gain an advantage. In the 1990s, the Western Athletic Conference banned the practice and made a ruling that home/away locker rooms must be painted the same colour. P-618 is now widely known as Baker-Miller Pink (after the directors of the original Naval facility), drunk-tank pink or Schauss pink.



Why is a fish shop always full?

Because the fish fillet!

05

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Photography – Next Steps Part 1

By Jenny Ladbrooke

We have all seen the rapid developments over the last few decades of change within photography. Not just the switch from analogue to digital, but what that has meant in terms of both editing power and the incredible ability of our cameras to use AI to help us get the very best images we can.

Although the press seems full of the impact of AI on our lives and jobs, mostly doom and gloom predictions, in fact in photography and elsewhere AI has been with us for some time. Just look at the way our cameras can auto focus, or specifically focus on faces, or can track eyes in some cases and have automatic adjustments that take into account light and setting. The list is endless. Then you turn to photo editing and AI algorithms can analyse an image and automatically adjust lighting, colour balance, saturation, and sharpness to enhance the overall look. Adobe Photoshop's Auto Tone, Auto Contrast, and Auto Color are prime examples of AI-powered features that

quickly optimize photographs, saving time and effort. The same with Lightroom, click the auto setting and magic happens to your raw image!

Even in my short time of being interested in photography and using Photoshop and Lightroom, I have seen vast improvements particularly in the precision of selections and masks of subjects. So, for example, the latest iterations can select subjects seemingly effortlessly so, now isolated, you can then have a play with the subject or the background separately.

Then think about the spot healing tool, cloning and content-aware fill. All clever ways of using existing pixels to remove the unwanted!

I was introduced to the content-aware fill by Jolanta. Thank you Jolanta! We'd gone on a photo walk on a cold misty January afternoon, and she had magically made a rather ugly structure disappear. Not in real life of course, she's not Derren Brown! But in post processing, it was amazing. If you're not familiar with this feature, it's well worth having a look. You simply draw around the offending item, right click and choose content-aware fill.

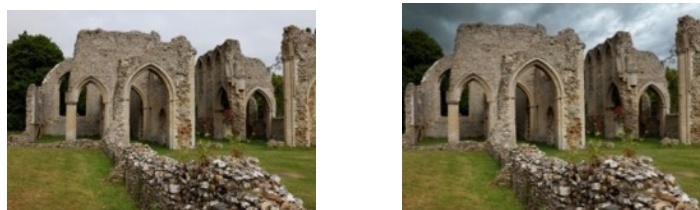
The AI is able to read what is already in the picture to fill-in areas we want to remove or make tweaks. It seems to blend in so cleverly that sometimes it just seems like magic! Although of course it is not always perfect.

An example is this picture of my ragged Victorian girl. As you can see in the original image, she has a pole coming out of her head and a boy in front. Using content aware fill you can see how cleverly the AI has worked to remove the pole and boy by recreating the background. Again it's not perfect but a good first stab which I could then work on.



Another clever AI trick up Photoshop's sleeve is the ability to replace the sky with pretty much a single click. Obviously to make it fit our camera club rules it needs to be your sky and also you can't use that technique for competition categories like landscape, travel and nature where manipulation of the image should be minimal. But in the open/mono sections it's all to play for!

This is an example of an image where the sky is quite flat and boring. For the second image I've added a storm cloud for a bit of variety. Judges love an interesting sky! It's a Norfolk sky as are the ruins just taken 3 months earlier.



So what else? Photoshop introduced neural filters a couple of versions ago. Here you can, amongst many things for example, change an autumnal scene into one of snow. None of this is allowed in competitions of course but it's fun to play with.

So for the image above now a snowy scene. No I agree not very convincing.....



Perhaps more interesting for someone like me who likes to composite their images is the new generative fill feature which at the moment is only in the beta version of Photoshop. Creating a composite means adding into your image elements from other images that weren't in the original image. Replacing the sky is an example of this. Another example is with the Victorian girl image. The finished version below has snow on the ground, a basket and a snow overlay all taken on the same day but from different images.

I think it makes the final image more impactful but that maybe because I just take boring straight photos!! As I bombed in the Straight Out of Camera competition, I think there is strong evidence to that effect!



Anyway, back to generative fill, how does it work? Basically you take your base image and then draw a circle/square where you want to add a new element and then type in what you want to go there. Yes, it is that easy. Photoshop, it could be argued, is a bit late to this game as many photo apps can add in extras and tweaks to your images. You can age yourself, you can have yourself singing and moving – all clever stuff but not high resolution and more gimmicky. I guess they are mainly for a social media market so not 'serious' photography.

So here goes my first attempt. I asked Photoshop to add rabbits in the bottom right hand corner looking at the view of this Welsh valley. And then I circled the lake in the distance, and asked Photoshop to add a boat.



I think we can safely say that this wouldn't fool anybody. I thought it was quite clever that the rabbits were looking towards the view and not at the camera. But choosing what looks like to be a seagoing vessel into a small lake was a mistake. It does offer you 3 alternatives so you do have choice. The boat is also out of scale but you can play with that.

So, I tried again. This is an image I took at a studio photoshoot. I haven't yet entered it other than internal fun competitions because I think it's quite boring if I'm honest. The dark dress against a dark background doesn't give a great deal of contrast. And crucially, what is she looking at?



So, I thought this would be a prime candidate for having a play. So I asked Photoshop to add in some ruins, then a horse (no surprise there...), then a dog and finally an owl. To be fair again it all looks a bit false but the AI was clever enough to work out where the light was coming from. It's certainly a more interesting image but maybe too busy with too many elements?

I was of course having way too much fun with this to leave it there and decided to keep playing with the base image of the girl. And after lots of iterations came up with these two.



The AI was clever enough to get the shading right of the girl against the wall and against the woodland floor. The trick with compositing is to get all the extra elements to have consistent lighting, tones and coloration so it looks natural. Perspective and shadows play a very big part as well. This hasn't been done so well and all the extra elements don't really fit in for those reasons. I had to do a fair few global changes to reduce the lighting on the elements which were initially too bright and contrasty. They also have poor resolution and appear almost like cartoons with little detail and therefore don't look real close up. And the final image is only circa 1200 by 1400.

Obviously on lots of levels these images are unusable for camera club competitions and rightly so, so why bother? Well other than it was fun to do on a wet summer evening, it gave me composition ideas which you can quickly try out. For example I hadn't thought about her looking at an owl or creature until I, or rather Photoshop, added in the landscape background. I like both the ruined wall as a perch for the owl but you can see with the wall picture the owl is too far back. It works better with the tree more to the front with the squirrel. So it also helps with positioning the object of interest and crucially sparks ideas. Much needed with me.

So what next? How do we ensure that this isn't abused and people 'cheat' in this way to make images more interesting by adding in extra element that aren't theirs anyway? Already one of the winners at one of the biggest, most prestigious photography awards this year admitted, after he had won it, that it was entirely generated by AI and he had entered it to make a point!

Our committee are already ahead of the game and have updated the rules to make it abundantly clear what is and isn't acceptable. It's worth a read but the principle remains the same, if it is not your photographic creation with your photographs then it's not allowed.

It would be interesting to get viewpoints of these new developments, so if you've time let me know on j.ladbrooke@outlook.com

06

Christmas Facts



Here's some Christmas facts for 2023 I thought you might like to know:

- UK consumers bin 13,350 tonnes of glass over the festive period.
- We eat c.175 million mince pies, using 175 tonnes of aluminium packaging.
- The UK uses 227,000 miles of wrapping paper each year.
- The card material used at Christmas would stretch between London and Lapland over 103 times.
- On their busiest day in the run-up to Christmas, Amazon receives 47 orders per second.
- The Royal Mail estimates that it delivers 150 million cards during the Christmas period. On average, each person in the UK sends and receives 17 Christmas cards. Other sources claim that one billion Christmas cards are sold in the UK annually.
- One tree makes 3,000 Christmas cards, meaning a single tree is enough for only 176 people to send cards.
- Consumers and businesses use 300,000 tonnes of card packaging and material during the festive period. It could cover Big Ben 260,000 times, the Giants Causeway over 1,800 times, wrap the Angel of the North c.2 million times and cover the London Eye c.50,000 times.
- Traditional Christmas colours used on gift wrap are greens, reds, and golds. But did you know the human eye can distinguish more shades of green than any other colour?
- Estimates indicate that the UK uses around 40 million rolls of sellotape each Christmas. On average, every UK household uses a roll-and-a-half of sticky tape each.
- An average UK adult spends around £300 buying Christmas presents. Total spending on Christmas gifts was £20.1 billion in 2022. 39% of UK consumers limit themselves to shopping for between 5 and 10 people.
- Approximately 6.8 million people activate iOS and Android devices on Christmas Day.

- People in the UK use 189 million batteries over Christmas (and throw away seven batteries over this period).
- UK residents cook 19,000 tonnes of turkey over the festive period.
- UK consumers typically use over 4,500 tonnes of tin foil when preparing and storing Turkey and other Christmas foods, equivalent to the weight of 2,000 Rhinoceros.
- The area required to grow Brussels sprouts eaten at Christmas is the size of c.3,000 football fields.
- If you lined up all of the sprouts the UK buys for the festive period, they would stretch from London to Sydney.
- The UK eats 25 million Christmas puddings each year.
- If Santa were to visit every UK home on Christmas Eve, his sleigh must travel at 2,340,000 mph, and would weigh c. 354,430 tonnes due to the volume of presents (and their packaging).
- Not everyone gets the presents they want on Christmas day, with 2,590 people filing their online tax returns on 25 December in 2017.
- UK consumers spend around 17,000,000 hours shopping online during the Boxing Day sales.
- The big three Christmas songs – ‘Last Christmas’, ‘Fairy-tale of New York’ and ‘All I Want for Christmas is You’ – are played around 404,000,000 times on UK radio each year.

07

United Photographic Postfolios of Great Britain

By David Venables

The United Photographic Postfolios of Great Britain (UPP) is a photographic club that comes to you by post or electronically at regular intervals. The UPP's roots go back to about 1931 and it is currently Britain's largest postal photographic club. Current membership is around 240, and is spread throughout the length and breadth of the UK as well as a few overseas members.

Each month, members receive a 'folio' of photographs to view, comment on and, of course, add their own picture to for comment by their peers. Naturally, with a membership of this size it would be impossible to circulate one set of pictures among every individual. To enable manageable circulation of folios the Club is subdivided into a number of smaller clubs, known as Circles. Each Circle, typically, has 12 to 15 members and works to a specific 'discipline' or format. In effect, each Circle is a club in its own right and, as such, can determine its own method of operation within the broader rules of the parent organisation. Because the Club reaches into your own home, your participation can be enjoyed in comfort over a few days.

For those photographers who live too far from a town with a photo club, or those with a disability who find travelling difficult or access to club rooms inconvenient, postal folios are an ideal means of gaining active participation in their hobby. Of course, if you already belong to a local club, UPP participation can be an excellent supplement to your existing activities and a great way to expand your photographic friendships. Folio circulation is either by post or by use of the internet using e-mail or Dropbox, plus we have 11 Zoom Circles in operation. Using the internet obviously reduces the significant cost of monthly postage but, of course, images can only be viewed on screen and not by high quality print. There is also an AV Circle.

At the end of each UPP year we hold an Annual Convention and Annual General Meeting (AGM). This usually takes place over a weekend in September. During this event, the monthly (Gold Label) winner of each folio from each Circle is exhibited or projected. The exhibition is competitive, with a number of trophies awarded and is judged by three independent judges. The trophies and circle certificates are presented at the AGM. As well as the formal aspects of the event there is also entertainment with lectures by very prominent photographers.



“Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie”

Courtesy of Tim Hutchin

08

“The Elderly”

Sent in by Dave Venables

They call us “The Elderly”
We were born in the 40-50-60's.
We grew up in the 50-60-70's.
We studied in the 60-70-80's.
We were dating in the 70-80-90's.
We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90's.
We venture into the 80-90's.
We stabilise in the 2000's.
We got wiser in the 2010's.
And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020.
Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades...
TWO different centuries...
TWO different millennia...

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.
We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and Whats App.
From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, colour TV and then to 3D HD TV.
We went to the Video shop and now we watch Netflix.
We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.
We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans.
We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.
We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!
They could describe us as "Exennials": people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analogue childhood and a digital adulthood.
We've kind of "Seen-It-All!"
Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.
It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE".
A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be UNIQUE.

09

Christmas Competition

Here we go for our Christmas Competition. The lucky winner (the person with the right answer who emails me first) will win a little 'Secret Santa'. So put your thinking caps on and send me your answers to the following question a.s.a.p. to 172elizabeth@gmail.com. Closing Date for Competition Entries 31st December 2023:

The more you take away the more I become - What am I?

10

Photography Podium



Bring 2 Prints

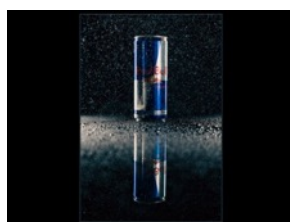
- 1st Jane Roby
- 2nd Sue Pearmain
- 2nd Mike McShane
- 3rd Ian Cooke

Quite an accomplishment against 70+ prints of such quality.

First Digital Competition

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	<i>Spray Can</i>	John Leighton	<i>Canoes at Rest</i>	Fay Venables	<i>Feral Cats</i>	Jane Roby
Second	<i>That Wanaka Tree</i>	Myles Ensor	<i>One of the Few</i>	Ray Manning	<i>Little Bee-Eater</i>	Jane Storer
Third	<i>Room to Sit</i>	Elizabeth Smith	<i>You Don't Know What's Coming</i>	Dave Ward	<i>Fragile</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke

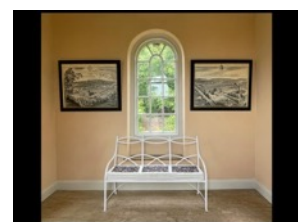
Group 1



Spray Can



That Wanaka Tree



Room to Sit

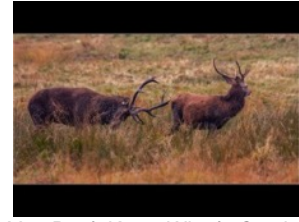
Group 2



Canoes At Rest



One of the Few

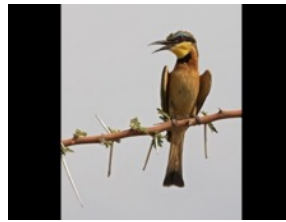


You Don't Know What's Coming

Group 3



Feral Cats



Little Bee Eater



Fragile

First Prints Competition

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
<i>First</i>	<i>Old Style Miner</i>	John Leighton	<i>Red Squirrel Reflections</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Dalmation Pelican Dipping a Toe</i>	Jane Roby
<i>Second</i>	<i>Hello Ladies</i>	Dave Cornish	<i>Lilac-Breasted Roller</i>	Kevin Watts	<i>Pelicans and an Egret by the Palace</i>	Chris Mallett
<i>Third</i>	<i>The Golden Girl</i>	Graham Newman	<i>Pass the Salad Cream</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Leopard Staring Match</i>	Chris Mallett

Group 1



Old Style Miner



Hello Ladies

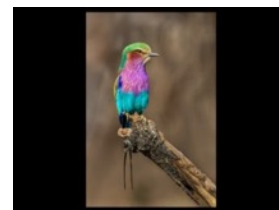


The Golden Girl

Group 2



Red Squirrel Reflections

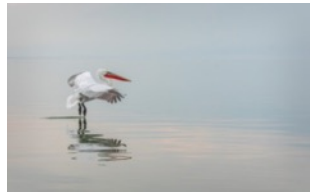


Lilac-Breasted Roller



Pass the Salad Cream

Group 3



Dalmatian Pelican Dipping a Toe



Pelicans and Egret by the Palace



Leopard Staring Match



and for quirkiness Roy Buckle's 'Upside Down House'

Nature Digitals

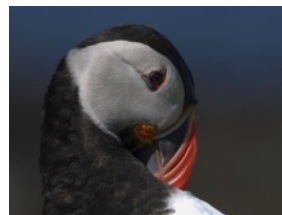
	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	<i>Emperor Dragonfly (Anax Imperator)</i>	Myles Ensor	<i>Egyptian Goose</i>	Fay Venables	<i>Six-Spotted Burnet Moths</i>	Jolanta B Axon
Second	<i>Puffin Portrait</i>	Ann Ashford	<i>Hoverfly</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>Teasel and Web</i>	Dave Venables
Third	<i>Nursery Spider Web in Environment</i>	John Leighton	<i>The Pheasant</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Mycena Fungi</i>	Mick Schilling
Third					<i>Grey Seal and Pup</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke

Group 1

What a superb and wide ranging set of images we had in this competition.



Emperor Dragonfly



Puffin Portrait

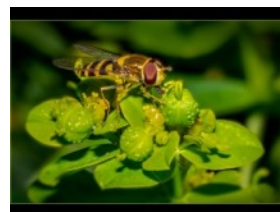


Nursery Spider Web in Environment

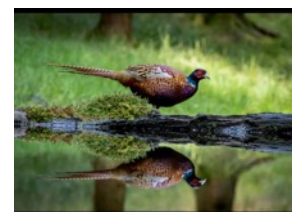
Group 2



Egyptian Goose

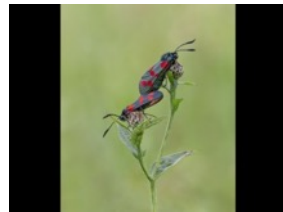


Hoverfly



The Pheasant

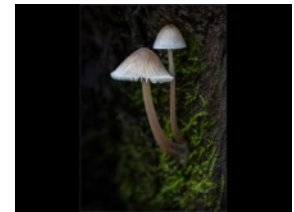
Group 3



Six Spotted Burnet Moths



Teasel and Web



Mycena Fungi

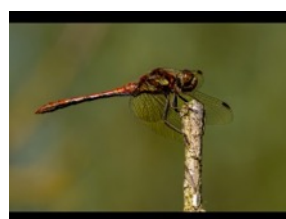


Grey Seal and Pup

Nature Prints

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	Male Common Darter	Mike Goodwin	Gelada Baboons Grooming	Kevin Watts	Pond Skater Motion	Mick Schilling
Second	Monochrome Badger	Ann Ashford	Leopard at Rest	Kevin Watts	Feeding Time for Great-Crested Grebe Chick	Jolanta B Axon Chick
Third	Wood Anemone	Michael Prince	Brown Bear Scratching	Dave Ward	White Rhinoceros	David Steele

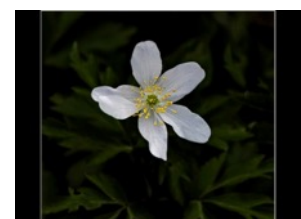
Group 1



Male Common Darter



Monochrome Badger

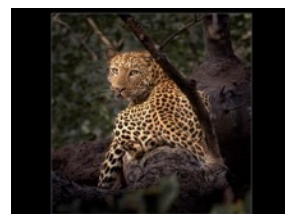


Wood Anemone

Group 2



Gelada Baboons Grooming



Leopard at Rest

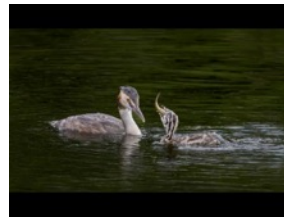


Brown Bear Scratching

Group 3



Pond Skater Motion



Feeding Time for Great Crested Grebe Chick



White Rhinocerus

President's Assignment

Well what an interesting and varied set of images we had for this competition. The topic certainly made you think of creatively.

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	Leaf Lines	Elizabeth Smith	One Step at a Time	Kevin Watts	Linking Straight Bits *	Mick Schilling
Second	Yoga in Palma	Georgina Foxwell	Stepping Out	Chris Lee	Collecting Water	Sue Pearmain
Third	Straight Lines	Myles Ensor	Reflections of Power	Chris Lee	Pavement Reflections	Sue Pearmain

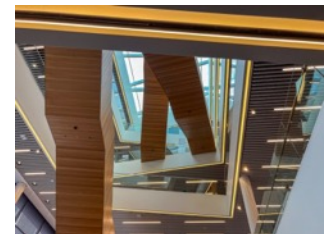
Group 1



Leaf Lines

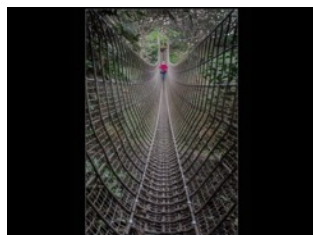


Yoga in Palma

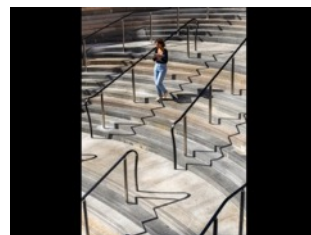


Straight Lines

Group 2



One Step at a Time

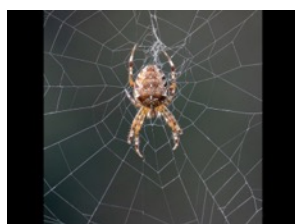


Stepping Out

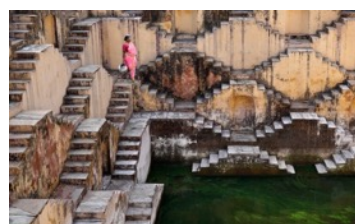


Reflections of Power

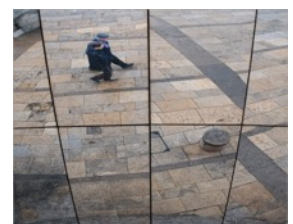
Group 3



Linking Straight Bits



Collecting Water



Pavement Reflections

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External Recognition

74th Midland International Salon of Photography

August saw the closure of the exhibition of the 74th Midland Salon, an international exhibition hosted by the MCPF.

There were lots of fantastic images on show. Mick Schilling had 6 acceptances, including a gold medal in the landscape section and a ribbon. Kevin Watts received 2 acceptances in his first foray onto the international stage.

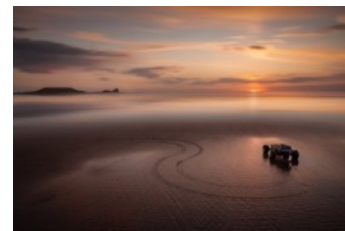
Many congratulations to both of them

Please give some thought to entering external competitions and if you need any help or advice do please let me know

Chris Mallett
External Exhibition Secretary



Gull Rock Sunset
(Gold Medal)



Lines in the Sand
(Ribbon)



Which Birds are religious?

Birds of Pray ...!

DPAGB – Mick Schilling

Within Shirley we are fortunate to have several members whose photography skills have been recognised externally and are able to put letters after their names. Not only is this a wonderful recognition of their abilities but it also means that we as members are able to see some high quality images in our competitions and are lucky enough to be able to learn about photography from their generous sharing of their knowledge, experience and photography tips, making us all more appreciative of good images and become better photographers ourselves.

Our latest member success is Mick Schilling. Many congratulations and well done to Mick on his successful assessment in November for the award of DPAGB. Mick entered as a Shirley member and not under his other club, Arden. Mick's DPAGB scores for his images were as follows:

Image 3, 'Drift Car Fuel Leak' was kept back by the organisers. The Pass Score was 300, or 20 per image average score.

1 Trapped By Circumstance	24
2 Male Banded Demoiselle	22
3 Drift Car Fuel Leak	19
4 Mayfly	22
5 Whitelegged Damselflies In Tandem Positi...	23
6 Carder Bees On Purple Loosestrife	21
7 Gull Rock Sunset	23
8 Broad Bodied Chaser	21
9 Mating Shield Bugs On Whitebells	17
10 Puffin With Nesting Materials	21
11 Recently Emerged Banded Demoiselle On Re...	18
12 The Candlemaker	19
13 Mayfly With Exuvia Skin	24
14 Lines In The Sand	20
15 Blue Tailed Damselfly (green Form)	20

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MCPF – David Venables' Enrolment onto the MCPF Roll of Honour

Very many congratulations to David Venables on his latest award which is extremely well deserved and a superb recognition of his skills as a photographer and contribution to photography. Please find below the citation which was delivered for David when he was enrolled onto the MCPF Roll of Honour for his services to the Midlands both at Club and Regional level.

David Venables Roll of Honour 2023

It gives me the greatest of pleasure in presenting your Roll of Honour Certificate and Medal

Many congratulations and very best regards

Mike Sharples
President MCPF



Citation

It gives me the greatest of Pleasure to be presenting this Roll of Honour tonight. Joining Wythall Photographic Society in c.1987, he became a very active member straight away and was soon elected to the Committee where he was an active committee member for many years making a great contribution to that club

Some years later he also joined Shirley Photographic Society where he still is very active. Over the years he has taken on committee work and has been President on two occasions. He is currently also a member of Solihull Photographic Society and has made a great contribution to that club also.

This photographer took up judging some year ago and rapidly advanced from the B list to the A List serving well over 10 years as an MCPF Approved Judge. Judging many club and national competitions he became a highly respected judge receiving many accolades from fellow judges

This person is a very well respected photographer in his own right, entering many local and national competitions and being awarded many awards.

He was voted onto the MCPF Council many years ago serving continuously for more than 10 years as a MCPF Council member. From 2011-2017 he held the role of Awards for Photographic Merit Secretary carrying out all his roles with great zeal and distinction

For all the work and dedication that he has given to Federation Clubs and his loyal Service to the MCPF and Midlands Photography in general the MCPF Council has no hesitation in presenting this award for his continuous service for more than 10 years as a MCPF Council member.

The MCPF are pleased to award David Venables his place on the MCPF Roll of Honour.

If any of you enter any competitions and get any external recognitions like this then please drop me a line so that I can add it into the Newsletter. It's great to see what everyone is up to and the accolades they receive.



See you next in January 2024!

