

SPS Newsletter

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Well where has January gone, it's flown by! So, here we are already in February, the romantic month! This February will see history made as Her Majesty the Queen enters her 70th year on the throne and her Platinum Jubilee Year. Whether you are a Royalist or not I think we all can agree hers is a remarkable achievement and something unlikely to be seen again. I always think of the Queen's words on her 21st Birthday in 1947, when she said "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong". I wonder if she knew something even then that she would be around for some considerable time?

That got me thinking that it is well-known that she is probably the most photographed person ever in the world. But did you know that one of the Queen's abiding hobbies is photography and she is regarded as an amateur camera woman of some ability making home movies and taking still photographs.



It is said that she is "obsessive" about preserving the photographs she takes and saves them into albums. Not only does she prefer to use a traditional camera but she doesn't like to be too far from her photographic collection. "Her monogrammed leather navy albums of the pictures she has taken of her travels and her family and pets travel with her wherever she goes. They are packed up by her senior page and taken to all her homes, even Balmoral Castle during the Summer. The only time when they are not accessible to her is when she goes on a State visit to a foreign country". And they say she is thrilled that the Duchess of Cambridge also loves photography and is following in her footsteps. And indeed, the Duchess is currently the Patron of the Royal Photographic Society and can take quite a good photograph herself.

We also have the Winter Olympics to look forward to this month and fingers crossed Team GB will bring home a haul of medals. Did you know Greg Rutherford has now transferred from being a track athlete to being part of the British Bobsleigh team?

Best wishes

Liz xx



<https://www.shirleyphoto.org>



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<https://www.instagram.com/shirleyphotosoc/>

02

Through the Lens

‘It’s Snow Joke!’

As it’s technically Winter and we have the Winter Olympics taking place on all things white and icy I thought it would be opportune to look at snow photography (just in case we get a downfall of the white stuff at some point!). So, here’s some tips I found on the Internet by Dena Haines for you:

1. Focus on contrast

Camera autofocus works by identifying contrast ... so when everything is white, your autofocus will have a hard time acquiring focus, which can lead to a lot of frustration and even missed opportunities. Fortunately, there’s a simple way around this:

Switch your camera to its **single-point AF mode**. Then position your main focus point over a **contrast-heavy** area of your snow scene. For instance, you might focus on the bark of a tree, some vegetation poking through the snow, the roof of a house – anything that pops against the white.

Next, press your shutter button halfway. If you’ve found a sufficiently contrasting part of the scene, the focus should lock – but if it *still* won’t work, you’ll need to identify an even more contrast-heavy subject.

Finally, hold down your shutter button as you recompose the shot. And once you’ve created the perfect composition, press the button the rest of the way to take your perfect photo of snow!

Note: If you’re trying to photograph a low-contrast scene, such as a white house against a snowy backdrop, you may want to give up on autofocus entirely. Switch your lens over to manual focus then carefully turn your lens’s focus ring until you’ve achieved perfect sharpness. (For even better results, use your camera’s **Live View** mode to preview the image on the rear LCD and zoom in to check the focus at a high magnification.)

2. Choose the right camera settings for snow photography

While specific snow photoshoot settings will vary depending on the light, the situation, and your artistic intentions here’s a few simple recommendations.

First, set your camera to shoot in **RAW** you’ll have far more information to work with when editing. That way, you can recover clipped shadows and highlights (the latter are pretty common in snow photography, thanks to the brightness of sun on snow).

Also recommended is selecting your camera’s **Evaluative Metering Mode**, also known as **Matrix metering**. This will analyse the entire scene to achieve the best possible exposure in most situations. If you’re struggling to get a good exposure you can always try switching over to **Spot metering** or **Partial metering**, but Evaluative metering is a good starting point.

You’ll need to dial in one or two stops of **positive exposure compensation**. Due to the quirks of its meter, your camera will try to make the snow look grey. Exposure compensation will counteract the meter to keep things bright.

Note: If you’re shooting in Manual mode, you can simply decrease the shutter speed by a stop or two to achieve the same result.



What do Snowmen call their children?

Chill-dren

3. Shoot in Aperture Priority mode or Manual mode

Aperture mode allows you to adjust the aperture and ISO while your camera automatically changes the shutter speed to achieve a good exposure. This is great for situations when the light is frequently changing or when you're moving from subject to subject (if you're photographing birds in flight, for instance). Plus, by changing the aperture, you can increase and decrease your depth of field for different artistic looks.

Alternatively, you can shoot in **Manual mode**. You'll need to adjust *all* your settings, not just the aperture and ISO, so Manual mode isn't ideal for fast-moving situations. But if you want complete control over your camera settings, and you don't mind working with cold fingers, then Manual mode is an excellent choice.

4. Capture snow while it's still fresh

Here's a simple snow photography idea:

If you want magical photos, head out just after a fresh snowfall. The world will be sparkly and pristine. You won't have any footprints, yellow snow, mud, or dirt to deal with, instead, you can focus on creating stunning shots of your winter wonderland.

5. Keep your batteries warm

You can't take pictures in snow without fresh batteries – and unfortunately, in cold weather, your batteries won't last long.

So carry at *least* two, and keep one in an inside pocket at all times. When the battery in your camera runs low, replace it with a warm one. Then put the drained battery in your pocket - you may even be able to use it again once it warms up.

6. Bag your camera when you come inside

When you take a cold camera into a warm environment, what happens? You get condensation on the lens and potentially even on camera internals, which is not good. Fortunately, it's an easy problem to prevent.

When you head out into the cold, take with you a large ziplock bag. Then, when you're ready to go inside, just fill the ziplock bag with cold air, put your camera in the bag, and make sure the lock is sealed tight. Once you're in an internal environment, put your camera somewhere it can warm up slowly. When the camera reaches room temperature, you can take it out of the bag and use it normally. And if you decide to go back outside to photograph, you can safely take your bagged camera out in the cold, open the bag outside, and start shooting again.

7. Don't worry about the weather

Snowy landscapes look good in both sunny and cloudy weather so don't restrict yourself to shooting in specific light. Simply learn to work with the lighting conditions you're given. When the sky is cloudy, find elements that will break up the white snow and add interest to your photos, such as trees, grasses, or ice. When the weather is sunny, look for shadows created by the bright sun (and if you shoot in the early morning or evening, do what you can to capture the warm light on the cold snow).

If it's snowing, be sure to protect your camera, especially if the snow is wet and/or heavy. Consider using a raincover, or – if the wind is minimal – an umbrella.



What did the Icy Road say to the Car?

I'll take you for a spin ...

8. Act fast

Snow changes quickly. It can stop falling in an instant. And when the sun comes out, snow melts, so that those beautiful trees go from dazzling to drab in no time at all. Monitor the weather carefully. Look out your window frequently. Have your gear ready to go.

And if you come up with a snow picture idea that you like, or if you look out the window and see beautiful snow photoshoot opportunities, don't dawdle. Capture some snow photography while you still can!

9. Be patient

This tip is a corollary to the one above – because while it's important to always be ready, it's *also* important to be patient, especially when you're faced with rapidly changing conditions. Depending on the light, snow can look sparkly, ethereal, three-dimensional, flat, and so much more. Sometimes, getting the right look simply involves waiting for the light to change. So if the snow doesn't look quite how you hoped, check the light. Is the sun behind a cloud? Is the sun too low or high in the sky? Then wait for the *right* conditions to take your shot.

10. Play with perspective

As with all forms of photography, composition is an essential ingredient of great snow photos – so you should pay careful attention to the items you're including in the frame, and you should also carefully consider your *perspective*.

For creative snow photos, try getting down low to shoot up. You might also find a slope or hill that you can use to shoot downward; that way, you can show how the snow blankets the ground, weighs things down, and clings to things.

And for each photo you take, look for opportunities to make the shot even better. Walk to either side of your subject, consider different angles, get in close, walk far away, even change lenses.

11. Use a fast shutter speed to photograph falling snow

If snow is falling and you want to capture the flakes as they drift toward the ground, you'll need to use a fast shutter speed. Do a bit of experimentation, as the perfect setting will depend on the speed of the snow – but start around 1/100s or higher, then carefully review the shots on your LCD to see the results.

Of course, snow tends to fall when the world is dark and dreary, so you may struggle to achieve even a 1/100s shutter speed, especially if the snow is heavy or you're shooting in the evening. Consider boosting your ISO or widening your aperture to get the shutter speed you need. Alternatively, you can embrace blurred snow; at 1/30s or so, the flakes will turn into long white streaks, which can give a wonderfully artistic look when done carefully.

Talking of snow photography did you see that the winner of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award 2021 was Cristiano Vendramin with his image of an ethereal frozen lake in Italy. Submitted in dedication to a lost friend the image touched the hearts of 31,800 wildlife and nature enthusiasts who voted online for the image from a shortlist of 25 images. The shortlist of images was chosen out of 50,000 images from 95 countries. Mr



Vendramin said the image was of Santa Croce Lake in northern Italy and taken in 2019. He was struck by the beauty of the scene and was reminded of a friend who had loved the special place and was no longer here. All the images from the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition are on exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London until 5th June 2022.

03

‘Love Is In The Air’

As February is the month to celebrate romance I thought you might like to see what are deemed to be the world’s best, most iconic ‘Valentine’ photographs. So, here you go but censor warning you might find some images a little risqué!

[Le Baiser de l'Hôtel de Ville](#)



The 1950 photograph by French photographer Robert Doisneau, titled *Le baiser de l'hôtel de ville* (*Kiss by the Hôtel de Ville*) shows a young couple Francois Delbart and Jacques Carteaud) kissing in a crowded Paris street. The image went global after being published in Life magazine, for its romanticism, as well as the controversy surrounding it. After a couple sued the photographer, thinking it was them in the photograph and that their privacy had been violated, Doisneau admitted to the court that the picture had been staged. He had asked a couple to repeat their kiss after seeing them do it earlier without taking a photograph. In 2005, Françoise Delbart sold the signed copy she got from the author for 155,000€ to an unidentified Swiss collector. Even though the couple’s love only lasted nine months, it was immortalised while it did, in one of the most famous images in the world.

[The Vancouver Kiss](#)

Even though it doesn’t exactly belong to the genre of fine art photography, it is a bit more than a simple photojournalism shot. It was 2011 in Vancouver, and a young couple was photographed kissing in the middle of the post-Stanley Cup.

When Alexandra Thomas got “knocked down by the riot police” and fell down on the street, her boyfriend Scott Jones came to help her and give her a kiss. Getty Images photographer Richard Lam was at the right place at the right time, and his image went viral.



[Jane and Serge](#)



Jane Birkin and Serge Gainsbourg’s 12-year relationship documented by Andrew Birkin, Jane’s brother, was published as a book in 2013. The couple’s turbulent and passionate love attracted admiration and intrigue, and led to a globally known song titled “Je t’aime...moi non plus”, banned for controversy on many radio stations.

Yoko and John

Other than unfortunately being known as the last photograph of John Lennon, the Annie Leibovitz's image of the Beatle and his wife Yoko Ono is regarded as the very definition of how to photograph intimacy. The completely nude John and the completely dressed Yoko share a moment that "explained their relationship exactly", in their own words - Yoko as a persistent but caring, and John as an open and infantile in his innocence. The photo ended up on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine in 1981.



V-J Day



Alfred Eisenstaedt's picture of an American sailor kissing a woman in a white dress on Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) in Times Square in New York City, on August 14, 1945, when the lights were switched back on after 4 years darkness. It was a celebration of the end of a war and more importantly - love. Published in Life magazine it has become a cultural iconic photograph.

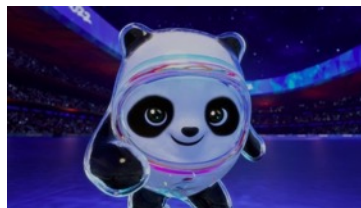
04

'The Winter Olympics'



"Together for a Shared Future" is the official motto of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

The motto represents the power of the Games to overcome global challenges as a community, with a shared future for humankind. The words reflect the necessity for the world to work together towards a better tomorrow, especially given the difficulties faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It demonstrates unity and a collective effort, embodying the core values and vision of the Olympic Movement, and the goal of pursuing world unity, peace and progress. The motto considered the key values of the Paralympic Games, in particular the role they play in contributing to a more inclusive society.



Created by Cao Xue, **Bing Dwen Dwen** is the mascot for the Olympics and is depicted as a Giant Panda, China's national animal. In Mandarin Chinese (China's official dialect), "Bing" has several meanings, though the most common is **ice**. The word also symbolises purity and strength, while "Dwen Dwen" means robust and lively, and also represents children. The mascot embodies the strength and willpower of athletes and will help to promote the Olympic spirit.



The Speed Skaters refused to spend much money on equipment

Cheapskates ...!

Bing Dwen Dwen wears a full-body “shell” made out of ice, which resembles an astronaut suit - a tribute to embracing new technologies for a future with infinite possibilities. The shell also helps the panda to skate, snowboard and ski alongside the Olympic athletes. The bright colours of the halo around its face are a representation of the latest advanced technologies of the ice and snow sport tracks at the Games, while the heart on its left palm symbolises China’s hospitality for athletes and spectators at the Winter Olympics.



The medals’ look is simple and classic and is based on traditional Chinese astronomy and astrology as the Games will be held coinciding with the Chinese New Year festivities. Both sets of medals for the Olympics and Paralympics are composed of five rings and a centre, based on Chinese ancient jade pendants. The shallow carved designs on the rings are all based on traditional Chinese patterns. On the back is the name of the medal event, engraved on the outermost ring. The Paralympic medals are similar, but one difference is the engraved words “Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games” appearing in Braille beads as well as English.

The IOC (International Olympic Committee) dictates the physical properties and specifications of the medals and has the final decision about the finished design. Shape: Usually circular, featuring an attachment for a chain or ribbon

- Diameter: A minimum of 60 mm
- Thickness: A minimum of 3 mm
- Material:
 - First place (Gold Medal): Composed of at least 92.5% of silver, plated with 6 grams of gold. At the 2020 Summer Olympics held in 2021 in Tokyo, Japan, the medal at current prices is worth about £800.
 - Second place (Silver Medal): Composed 92.5% silver. At the 2020 Summer Olympics held in 2021 in Tokyo, Japan, the medal at current prices is worth about £460.
 - Third place (Bronze Medal): At the Tokyo games it was 95% copper and 5% zinc. At the 2020 Summer Olympics held in 2021 in Tokyo, Japan, the medal at current prices is worth about £300.
- Event details: The sport for which the medal has been awarded should be written on the medal.

The top three competitors in an event receive medals and every athlete placed first to eighth place receives an Olympic Diploma.

This is the first year the Winter Olympics are taking place in China, and the third consecutive Olympics held in East Asia, following the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, and the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. Beijing will also make history as the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics!



The Olympic Skiing started really well

But it was all downhill from there ...!

The Beijing Olympics will feature 109 events across 15 disciplines in 7 winter sports. The sports include biathlon, bobsledding (bobsleigh and skeleton), curling, ice hockey, luge, skating (figure skating, short track speed skating, and speed skating), and skiing (alpine, cross-country, freestyle, nordic combined, ski jumping and snowboarding). 7 new events have been added: women's monobob, freestyle skiing big air (men's and women's), mixed team events in short track speed skating team relay, ski jumping, freestyle skiing aeriels, and snowboard cross.

A total of 91 countries are set to compete in the 2022 Beijing Olympics, with Haiti and Saudi Arabia making their Winter Olympics debut. Jamaica is sending its four-man bobsled team to compete for the first time since the 1998 Games in Japan.

Norway holds the record for the country with the most medals in Winter Olympic history, totalling 368 overall, with 132 gold, 125 silver, and 111 bronze. Great Britain on the other hand has only won 32 medals over 23 Winter Olympic Games. But then again we are not a snow nation ... but neither are Jamaica, Haiti and Saudi Arabia!

In Beijing, 45% of athletes are women and 55% men.

And finally, here's one to make you smile ... There are two athletes representing Team USA with seasons as their first name: Summer Britcher (luge) and Winter Vinecki (aerial skiing). Winter is the first person named Winter to compete in the Winter Olympics.



Did you hear Dolly Parton was angry she had to compete in the Olympics?

She was a Cross Country Skier ...!



4th place in the Olympic Luge?

You win some, you luge some ...!

05

Underwater Photographer of the Year

I noticed an article today reporting that the Underwater Photographer of the Year 2022 had been announced. The winner was Rafael Fernandez Cabellero with his image 'Dancing with the Giants of the Night' of five whale sharks feeding together in the Maldives. The picture came first out of 4,200 images from 71 countries. Matty Smith was named British Underwater Photographer of the Year for his portrait of a great white shark in the Neptune Islands, South Australia.

This got me thinking that we don't see much underwater photography either in our competitions, from our speakers our in other photography competitions like Smethwick International etc. Is that because they don't have this as a specific entry category, is it included under nature or what, or maybe we are not very good swimmers? Anyone know the answer to this conundrum or have any thoughts on why this may be? Perhaps it's a topic for a future Newsletter article or a genre you might want to consider exploring further? Looking at the images they were stunning and it must have been incredible to take such photographs. Anyway hope the

following images may whet your appetite (excuse the pun!) for some underwater photography:



06

Photography Podium

Here's a round-up of the results from our recent competitions.

'Monochrome Competition'

What a great competition we had with some stunning monochrome images, both in digital and prints formats. Congratulations to both Jenny and Jolanta who managed to get placings for two of their digital images.



Digitals Section:

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
First Place:	Holt Bridge River Severn	Aileen Nock Faded Glory *	Jenny Ladbroke Falling Mists Mick Schilling
Second Place:	Rough Seas	Chris Lee The Conversation	Dave Ward Come on Eileen Jolanta B Axon
Third Place:	Stone Walk	Elizabeth Smith Strike a Pose	Jenny Ladbroke Joe, Jake and Jack in the Box Jolanta B Axon
Highly Commended:	Lemur	Rosie Thompson Wishful Thinking	Dave Ward Dear Step Conversation Sue Pearmain
	The Beach Huts	Chris Lee Kelpies	Heather Thompson Foundry Man Graham Walton
			Bonamargy Friary Tim Hutchin
			Wet Rocks Graham Walton
			Blind Lady Resting Chanardaye Walton
Commended:	Belsay Hall Northumberland	Michael Prince Back Street Canal	Martin Thompson Cuboid & Prisms David Steele
	Leaf	John Leighton Remembering the Commandos	Jeannette Strange Gypsy Gathering Chanardaye Walton
			Meerkat David Steele
			Three Men of Messina Phil Moorhouse

Group 1



1st – Holt Bridge River Severn



2nd – Rough Seas



3rd – Stone Walk

Group 2



1st – Faded Glory



2nd – The Conversation



3rd – Strike and Pose

Group 3



1st – Falling Mists



2nd – Come on Eileen



3rd – Joe, Jake and Jack in the Box



Prints Section:

And in the Prints section congratulations to Kevin and Graham for two placings and Jenny and Jolanta to get placings in this section too.

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First Place:	<i>Slate Quarry Building</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Calla Lilies</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke	<i>Lady of the House*</i>	Graham Walton
Second Place:	<i>Architecture Gehry</i>	Kevin Watts	<i>On Your Way</i>	Dave Ward	<i>Chicken Seller at War Memorial</i>	Graham Walton
Third Place:	<i>The Abbey</i>	Kevin Watts	<i>Baddesley Clinton</i>	Chris Johnson	<i>We've Been Waiting for You</i>	Chanardaye Walton
Highly Commended:					<i>Inquisitive Youngster</i>	Mick Schilling
					<i>Robert</i>	Jolanta B Axon
Commended:					<i>Heelstone Stonehenge</i>	Dave Venables
					<i>Fed Up</i>	Dave Venables

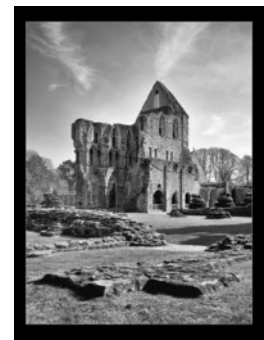
Group 1



1st – Slate Quarry Building



2nd – Architecture Gehry



3rd – The Abbey

Group 2



1st – Calla Lilies

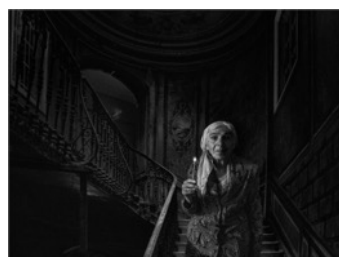


2nd – On Your Way



3rd – Baddesley Clinton

Group 3



1st – Lady of the House



2nd – Chicken Seller at War Memorial



3rd – We've Been Waiting for You

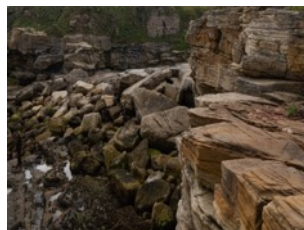
'Nature Competition'

What a stunning set of images we had to look at across the groups both in the Digitals and Prints sections. Congratulations to Michael Prince and Jenny Ladbrooke for their two placings in their Groups.

Prints Section:

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First Place:	<i>Carved by Wind and Water</i>	Michael Prince	<i>Ural Owl</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke	<i>Asian Elephant Affection</i>	Chanardaye Walton
Second Place:	<i>Ready to Pounce</i>	Michael Prince	<i>Cortinarius Fungus</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>Grey Heron on Alert</i>	Jolanta B. Axon
Third Place:			<i>Brown Hyena Retrieving Kill</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke	<i>Stonechat</i>	David Steele
Highly Commended:					<i>Male Banded Demoiselle at Rest</i>	Mick Schilling
					<i>Pond Skater Motion</i>	Mick Schilling
Commended:					<i>Lion Pair</i>	Sue Pearmain

Group 1



1st – Carved by Wind and Water

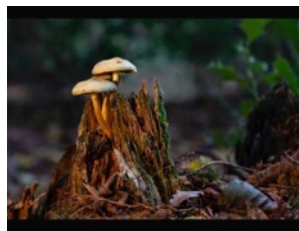


2nd – Ready to Pounce

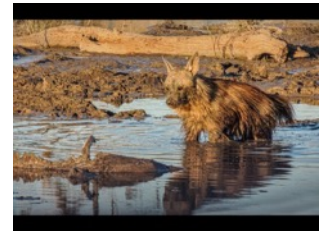
Group 2



1st – Ural Owl



2nd – Cortinarius Fungus



3rd – Brown Hyena Retrieving Kill

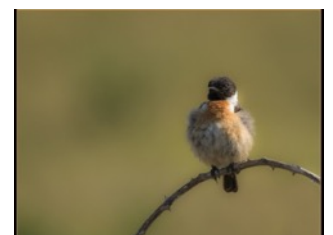
Group 3



1st – Asian Elephant Affection



2nd – Grey Heron on Alert



3rd – Stonechat

Digitals:

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First Place:	<i>Angry Baby Elephant</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Robin</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>Puffin</i>	David Steele
Second Place:	<i>Just Chilling</i>	Rosie Thompson	<i>Hover Fly</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>Pallas Cat</i>	Sue Pearmain
Third Place:	<i>Ranthambore Tiger</i>	Kevin Watts	<i>Lounging Leopard</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke	<i>Namaqua Chamelion</i>	Sue Pearmain
Third Place (equal):					<i>Redpoll</i>	Graham Walton
Highly Commended:	<i>White Throat</i>	John Leighton	<i>Log</i>	Hazel Lane	<i>Small Copper on Dried Clover Head</i>	Jolanta B. Axon
					<i>Mayfly in Canola Field</i>	Mick Schilling
					<i>Red Mongoose</i>	Graham Walton
Commended:	<i>Puffin on Skomer Island</i>	Elizabeth Smith	<i>Crow Taking a Look</i>	Martin Thompson	<i>Brown Hare</i>	David Steele

Group 1



1st – Angry Baby Elephant

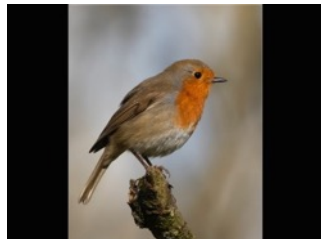


2nd – Just Chilling

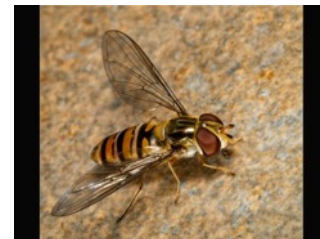


3rd – Ranthambore Tiger

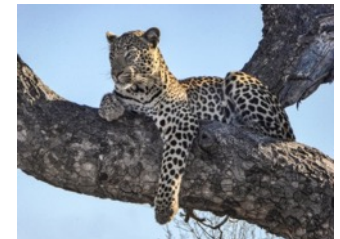
Group 2



1st – Robin



2nd – Hover Fly



3rd – Lounging Leopard

Group 3



1st – Puffin



2nd – Pallas Cat



3rd – Namaqua Chamelion

07

External Recognition



The GB Cup - Open and Nature 2022 *Open (Digital)*

Chris Mallett has advised that the result of our Society's entries into The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain's competition were as follows:

24 images were submitted into each of the two sections (Open and Nature) and the top 12 were counted.

In the Open we scored 130 and came 33rd out of 87 clubs. In the Nature we scored 127 and came 35th out of 127 clubs.

Congratulations to Jolanta, Mick and Sue who had images accepted (scores of 12 and over) and these images will be exhibited in the virtual gallery on the PAGB website. It's great to see our Society performing so well on the national stage and reinforces publically the strong photography skills and talents our members have. Well done to all those who were selected to be submitted for the competition.

View some of the images at:

<https://pagbhost.co.uk/gallery/newbuild.php?cid=MTAwMDE2Nw%3D%3D>

Bird Fair

Jane Roby has advised that following the news that the Bird Fair would no longer take place at Rutland Water, she has received the following information from a very reliable source:

The Bird Fair will resume on 15th, 16th and 17th July at Rutland County Showground on the outskirts of Oakham, just a couple of miles from Rutland Water itself.

Global Birding (Tim Appleton) is behind it - that's no surprise - and more details will no doubt emerge. <https://globalbirdfair.org/>

The details seem to still be emerging, so exactly what the format will be and who will take part is still in the early stages, but generally hopeful news for all who have enjoyed this event in the past.

Jolanta's Instagram Post

Congratulations to Jolanta who recently posted an image on her Instagram account. It was picked up by the BBC who featured it on the Countryfile Facebook and Instagram accounts on social media as their 'Picture of the Day'. Their comment was "Celebrating the beauty of winter with this frosty teasel image. Taken by @jolantaphotosandcats.



See you in March

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.

And finally, a plea from the Editor. I would love to receive some articles etc. from members to include in the Newsletter. So, please don't be shy and send me something. It can be anything. If anyone needs help writing anything let me know, I am here to help.