

SPS Newsletter

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Well we have had a bit of a chilly, cold snap recently but isn't it nice to see a season properly ... winter with its cold and frost. And what a relief that the constant liquid sun (rain) gave us a respite. I feel so sorry for all those people whose homes are constantly being flooded. And on my walks I am seeing lots of snowdrops and crocus coming through which is lovely ... Spring is on its way.

So what awareness days in February have caught my eye this year? As ever, 4th February sees us marking World Cancer Day, 10th February Lunar New Year or Chinese New Year with this year being the 'Year of the Dragon', and the 13th Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) – I did enjoy mine taken with lemon and sugar this year. But the ones that I really liked were 5th February, National Sickie Day (The first Monday of every February is statistically the day when most workers are likely to call in sick!) and 17th February, Random Acts of Kindness Day (A day to celebrate and encourage random acts of kindness).

Talking of the Chinese New Year did you know that the luckiest zodiac sign this year is the 'Rat'. Representing the inaugural position in the Chinese zodiac, the Rat embodies qualities like intelligence, ambition, and bravery. And the lucky colour is evidently 'Green' (although the only Green I like is the one found on the golf course!). The Dragon's natural element is earth however 2024 is a Wood Dragon year. In this zodiac system, wood as an element represents vitality and creativity, as well as steadiness, honesty, generosity, and calmness. The dragon represents success, intelligence, and honour in Chinese culture and is a symbol of power and wealth. To balance and protect your energy, wear coral red, bright yellow, white or gold. And the 12 lucky fruits in welcoming the New Year are apples, oranges, bananas, watermelons, papaya, melons, pears, kiwi-kiwi, grapes, pineapples, mangoes, and lemon or calamansi. The luckiest fruit of them all is the pineapple which in Chinese means wealth will come, so get buying those pineapples before they sell out!

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter, and please continue to send material into me at my email address: 172elizabeth@gmail.com.

With my very best wishes

Liz xx



What's the most stressful thing about being a dragon?

Blowing out the candles on your birthday cake!

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02

Through the Lens

Photography Competitions 2024

- [The British Photography Awards](#)

All entrants must be a full time UK resident or hold a valid UK passport at the time of entry. Categories cover a range of photographic styles and interests including street photography, macro photography, events photography, sports, fashion and drone photography and many more.

Submissions open: 1 July 2024 (TBC)

Submissions close: 31 August 2024 (TBC)

Prize: Exposure & prestige (no cash prize)

Entry fee: £5 per photo (all funds go to charity)

- Amateur Photographer of the Year
- Landscape Photographer of the Year
- Sony World Photography Awards
- LensCulture Photography Awards
- Anthology Photography Competition
- Travel Photographer of the Year
- Astronomy Photographer of the Year
- Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year
- Wildlife Photographer of the Year
- Environmental Photographer of the Year
- Taylor Wessing Photographic Prize
- British Wildlife Photography Awards
- Close Up Photographer of the Year
- International Garden Photographer of the Year
- EISA Maestro
- Nature Photographer of the Year
- SINWP Bird Photographer of the Year
- iPhone Photography Awards
- RPS International Photography Exhibition 164
- British Photography Awards
- Weather Photographer of the Year
- Fine Art Photography Awards
- World Sports Photography Awards
- Historic Photographer of the Year
- Minimalist Photography Awards
- Underwater Photographer of the Year
- Abbey Road Studios Music Photography Awards
- So.co Image of Music Awards

If you are interested in any of these competitions just Google the competition name and all the details for it will be shown. Go on, have a go, you never know how you might do ...! And don't let being an amateur put you off, there's plenty of opportunities to have a go and enter, and I think we have some 'talent' within our Society.



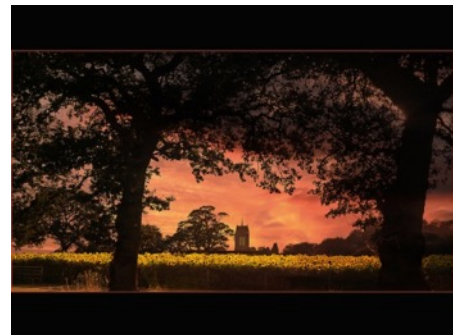
What tree can you use as a calendar?

A Date Palm!

Our Friend Val Manning



Val with husband Ray and President Mick



Some of Val's recent images

This month we have heard the awful news that our friend and colleague Val Manning passed away on Monday 5th February after a short illness. Val and Ray joined Shirley Photographic Society in 2010, having been active members at Kings Norton Photographic Society for many years. Val whole-heartedly supported everything we do at the club, attending everything from President's Picnics, Awards Dinners, days out, our Exhibitions, workshops, etc. Val was a gifted photographer whose work covered all genres and produced eye catching and different 'creative' and 'colour popping' images. Val will be sorely missed by her friends at the club, and our thoughts are with Ray and their family at this difficult time.

03

'Rules' of Composition

By Phil Moorhouse

Composition refers to the way a photographer arranges the subject matter within the frame. Composing your shots can often be tricky but is always important. Good composition will create a visually interesting shot. Poor composition will almost always ruin a potentially good shot.

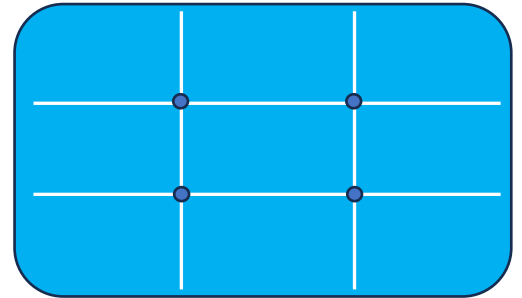
'Rule of Thirds'

Think of the frame divided into 9 (roughly equal) sections, marked by straight lines. Frame your shot so that the main subject is placed on the intersection of these lines or along one of these lines.

Tip: when shooting landscapes try aligning the horizon with one of the horizontal 'thirds'.

Here, the muted horizon is roughly aligned with the bottom 'third' and the main subject is placed on the bottom-left 'third'. Notice, this gives plenty of space for the seagull to 'fly into'.

Additionally, this image features lots of 'negative' space. The space surrounding the subject is somewhat empty of detail to draw the viewer's eye to the subject.



Symmetry

The importance of symmetry in aesthetics has been recognised since ancient times. Symmetries can be repeated elements or objects balanced on opposite sides of a centre line.

Here, a diagonal line of symmetry is used to create a rather pleasing, yet simple, composition. Notice, you will often hear our judges comment that strong diagonal lines enhance an image.



Which birds are religious?

Birds of pray!

Leading Lines / Diagonals



Another common tool employed when composing a picture is the idea of including lines which lead the viewer into the scene. This classic shot of a wintry Auschwitz uses the railway lines to lead us into the gatehouse and the scene beyond.

Notice, the scene also features a degree of symmetry, broken by the structure to the left of the frame, which can make a picture more interesting.

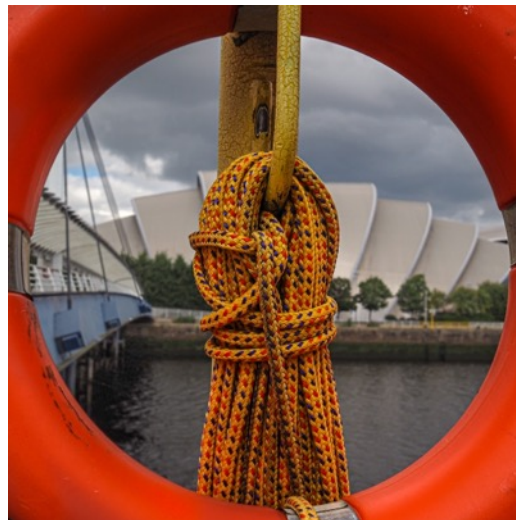
Framing the Subject

If you wish to highlight an element in the shot, or give it more weight, try the idea of framing it with elements surrounding the subject. The subject might be framed by a doorway or window frame in the foreground, for example, or by trees in the background.

Tip: Often two or three lines around the subject are sufficient to frame it.



Also, look out for circular 'frames' which can prove to be very effective, transforming an otherwise dull or uninteresting scene.



Here, we see a view of the 'Armadillo' in Glasgow, viewed through a life-saver on the banks of the river Clyde.

Triangular Tension

Positioning three elements in the form of a triangle can make for an appealing composition, giving the scene 'balance'. Here, the surfer heading towards the surf is our main subject, and placed nicely on the 'thirds', but the rock in the foreground and the seagull add a certain balance to the image. Notice, our judges will often comment that three components (or an odd number) make for pleasing pictures.





Central Perspective



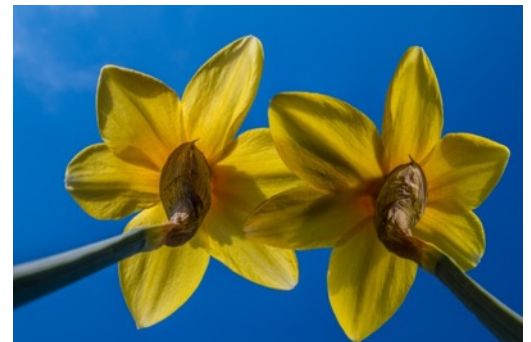
A common compositional instrument is to use a central perspective. Its symmetry draws the viewer's attention to the centre of the picture and adds a sense of drama to the scene.



A Worm's Eye View

Try choosing a low camera position to shoot your subject from an unconventional angle. Even place your camera on the ground and use the 10 second timer mode to capture a photograph of your garden flowers from an unusual perspective.

Try using a wide-angle lens and the effect is exaggerated, as shooting wide-angle can make the closest objects look even larger.



And Finally....

Get to know the rules of composition, but know when to break them, and break them regularly! Know when to place the horizon centrally in the frame, try a square crop with the flower placed centrally, but most of all enjoy your photography.

04

On the Towpath

If like me you enjoy walking the canals we have around and about us locally you might be interested in some interesting facts about them.

The word "canal" derives from the Old French word 'chanel', which means "channel." The oldest known canals are aqueducts built in Mesopotamia thousands of years ago. Since then, canals have played an important role in connecting cultures and facilitating commerce.

And the oldest canal in the UK is a Roman legacy, the Fossdyke Navigation, whilst the newest canal in the UK is the Ribble Link which opened in 2002. And you might wonder if there is a nice simple standard for narrowboats to which the answer is yes, 72ft long by 7ft. But there is no such standard for canal widths. And as for canal depth, according to the Nicholsons Guide (set of guide books to the waterways of the UK) the deepest lock in Britain is Bath Deep Lock on the Kennet and Avon Canal

at 19ft 5", Tuel Lane Lock on the Rochdale canal comes second at 19ft 4 1/2". Finally, Birmingham has 35 miles of canals, which is said to be more than Venice.

And here's a few of the origins of commonly used boating terms:

Helm

The tiller handle or steering wheel, the term helm became corrupted or mispronounced from the word 'elum' or 'ellum'. The word derives from the late-13th Century Old English 'helma' meaning 'rudder' or 'control'.

Gunwale (also Gunnel)

Refers to the top of the side of a ship or boat or the top edge of a hull where it joins the cabin sides. A 'wale' was a strake or ridge/plank on the side of a vessel and so a 'gun' 'wale' was the upper edge of the side of the ship where the guns were carried or positioned. The origin is likely to derive from the mid-15th Century.

Haling Way

Is the name given to the path along which a horse or men would bow haul a boat and as a term is most often found in use in the North East of England and East Anglia. It is equivalent of the word 'towpath'. The word 'haling' is thought to come from the old French word 'haler' meaning 'to pull or haul'. The meaning of the word 'haul' with regard to the distance over which something must be pulled is believed to date from the 1870s.

Guillotine Gate

In nautical terms this is a vertically rising lock or stop gate usually found at one end of a lock opposite a pair of V-gates at the other end. The use of the word comes from the French device, the guillotine, named in recognition of the French physician Joseph Ignace Guillotine whose idea it was to propose to the French National Assembly that capital punishment by beheading would be more quickly, humanly and cleanly done by using a machine with a sharp blade rather than the traditional executioner's axe. The first guillotine machine was built in 1791 and first used in 1792.

Canals offer some great opportunities for photographs as they are full of heritage and engineering wonders as well as being a haven for a wide diversity of wildlife and birds. Last year I was lucky enough to spot a Kingfisher on the canal near Lapworth, a bird I had always wanted to see in its natural habitat. The splendid glory of its blue colour was magical and something I will never forget and feel very privileged for having seen. I was so entranced watching it I completely forgot to try and get a photograph of it though ... so I will keep returning to see if I can spot it again and this time I might be lucky enough to get a picture of it.





One of the places I want to go and visit a bit further away from our locality is the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal. Built over 200 years ago by William Jessop and Thomas Telford, and considered one of Telford's greatest engineering achievements, the Aqueduct was constructed to carry the canal over the River Dee and has been in use since 1805, narrowboats crossing over the river in a cast iron trough held up by 18 stone pillars, with a narrow footpath on it. At a height of 127 ft the Aqueduct spans 1007 ft and has been described as the must-see of Britain's canals and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

If you want to find out more visit www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk

And if you fancy walking across the Aqueduct you will be on Offa's Dyke Path, part of the long-distance National Trail. There is also Trevor Basin and Visitor Centre. During the Industrial Revolution Trevor Basin was a busy wharf with tramways linked to iron foundries, chemical works and nearby coal mines.



05

The Colour Grey

Grey is the neutral hue between black and white, and neutral – a 'grey area' dictates being in-between. But it is used to describe many things, for example the 'little grey cells' of the brain or the stonework of ancient civilisations. It's also the shade used for polished, sleek interiors and architecture of the 21st Century.

When we think of ancient structures from long-lost civilisations that have stood the test of time, we don't immediately think of the colour grey. But it is there in the best of them: the dry-stone walls of Peru's Machu Picchu; England's mysterious standing stones of Stonehenge; Borobudur's andesite stones in Central Java (Indonesia). In countless ancient civilisations, grey-hued rocks and stones were carved into homes, religious monuments and eventually entire cities. Where ochre and chalk were soft and malleable, grey rocks and minerals were sturdy, permanent and tough withstanding the ravages of time and technology.



The phrases 'grey area' or 'in the grey' are used to describe an ambiguous or undefined situation. Because grey sits between the opposing clarity of black and white, it's connotations with impartiality and subtlety, has meant grey has made its way into the phraseology of many languages. In Pagan beliefs it represents neutrality and stability – 'grey magic' is known as a neutral form of spiritual power that lies between the honourable 'white magic' and the evil 'black magic'. The intentions of grey magic are neither to do good or to cause harm.

Grey is also associated with intellect. The Cambridge Dictionary describes the term 'grey matter', when relating to the anatomy, as 'the darker tissue containing nerve fibres found in the brain and spinal cord'. Writer Agatha Christie's well-loved fictional detective Hercule Poirot popularised the phrase 'little grey cells', referring to the detective's psychological deductions that he considers more useful than simple logic or physical clues in order to solve crimes. Poirot says: 'It is the brain, the little grey cells on which one must rely. One must seek the truth within – not without.' The newspaper, *The New York Times*, is referred to as 'The Grey Lady' because of its densely packed words and highly esteemed opinion in the world of journalism.

Grisaille is a technique usually made up of entirely grey shades, both in oil paintings and glass works such as stained glass windows. In oil paintings, artists would paint in grey and white, and then add thin transparent glazes over the top. Grisaille was popular with 15th-Century Flemish painters, which can be observed in the top outer sections of brothers Hubert and Jan van Eyck's Ghent Altarpiece, believed to have been completed in 1432. To achieve the grisaille technique, you need to combine water with pulverized white vitreous enamel to create a paste. This is then mixed with turpentine and oil of lavender or petroleum, and then applied to a black enamel ground. Next, thicker paint is added to the light sections and thinner coats to the dark background colour to create a grey. Because of the effect of light and shade that this creates, the intended effect is a three-dimensional relief of carved stone and the illusion of sculpture.



Grey was also commonly used by artists such as Rembrandt and El Greco for shading, highlighting, backgrounds and skin tones. This tended to be a combination of black and white pigment, such as lead white and ivory black, along with other colours to add warmth or cool the palette. In the early 19th Century a solid grey pigment, known as 'Payne's Grey', became available to artists. Named after the 18th Century watercolourist William Payne who invented the colour it is a dark blue-grey made from a mixture of Ultramarine, Mars Black and sometimes Crimson.

Before wool was dyed, its raw state was often grey. Its accessibility and inexpensiveness meant that it was worn by the poorer classes throughout the Middle Ages. Because of these associations, monks opted to wear grey robes and sack-cloths as a sign of humility (eg. Franciscan friars and monks of the Cisterian Order, and Taoist and Buddhist priests in China, Japan and Korea). In Christian faiths grey robes are often worn during times of fasting such as Lent.



Do you know why the colour grey is always calm?

It never gets blue!

In 19th Century France, grey clothing came to represent a very different role in society. Many working-class women employed in factories and workshops were given cheap grey clothes to wear, earning them the name 'grisettes', stemming from the French word for grey – 'gris'. In 1694 The Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française described a 'grisette' as 'a woman of lowly condition'. The notion of a grisette then developed, and by the dictionary's 1835 edition it meant 'a young working woman who is coquettish and flirtatious'.



This had further connotations, where the name grisette was colloquially given to low-class Parisian sex workers who frequented the bohemian scene, showcased in literary characters such as Fantine in Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables*.

By the 20th Century, grey became a common colour for military uniforms (eg. the stone-grey regalia of the German army). Other European nations soon followed suit, along with the American Confederate Army during the Civil War. By this time a transition to grey from reds, blues and greens meant that there was a greater ability to blend into the environment now that longer-range weapons were in use. After the two World Wars grey became a popular colour in men's fashion, particularly in suits, symbolising post-war conformity. This was popularised by famous actors such as Gregory Peck and Cary Grant in films such as 1956's *The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit*. Grey was still worn for its subtlety, but it had become ubiquitous in the textiles of the modern world.



What's grey, has spikes and runs round a field?

Barbed wire!

By the late 20th Century and 21st Century, grey transformed into a contemporary, futuristic shade. A colour that meant slick and high-tech in chrome and stainless steel, and featured in paint and glasswork in everything from skyscrapers to home interiors. As design became more pared back, the neutrality of grey grew in popularity. More and more cars have been made in shades of grey, and it's also one of the most common colours chosen to furnish home spaces in recent years.



In 2020, a blog post written by Cath Sleeman on behalf of the Science Museum Group reviewed findings from a research experiment that used computer vision to analyse colour pixels in photographs spanning the 1800s to 2020. Over 7,000 samples were taken from five British museums and fell into classifications such as photographic technology and domestic appliances. The outcome was that where browns and yellows were once popular colours, a dark charcoal grey has become dominant.

This got me thinking more about grey and how 'Fifty Shades of Grey' fitted into things ... I am still thinking on this one!

And talking of this infamous novel, did you know that it stands at No. 5 in the chart of the 100 best-selling books of all time. And what may you ask is the best-selling book of all time? Well, it's the Christian Bible, at somewhere between 5 -7 billion copies, followed by the Quoran at 3 billion copies! Believe it or not evidently the Holy Bible holds the record of being 'the most stolen book' of all time. And the most expensive book of all time, well that's the "Codex Leicester", basically a handwritten collection of scientific writings by Leonardo de Vinci from the 1500s, which Bill Gates (of Microsoft fame) bought in 1994 for \$30.8 million.

And another interesting fact about the Average Books Read Per Year by Country that I bet you never knew:

India – Ranked at No 1, India spends approximately 10 hours and 42 minutes reading per week. ...

Thailand – It ranks No 2, and the weekly reading rate totals 9 hours and 24 minutes ...

China – Ranked at No 3, reading 8 hours a week or 416 per year.

06

Competition Corner

Thank you to all of you who submitted entries for the January Competition. Unfortunately no-one guessed the correct answer. However, a good effort by Helen Beston who said 'A Pencil'. But the right answer is given below:

I am tall when young and short when I am old - What am I?

The Answer: A Candle

And here's another little teaser for you this month:

February Competition

I am white when I am dirty, and black when I am clean - What am I?

The first correct answer emailed to me will win. So send your answers in by email to 172elizabeth@gmail.com. **Closing Date for Entries: 10th March 2024.**

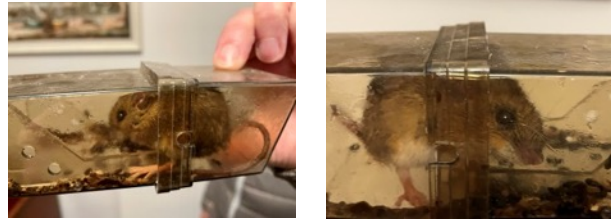
07

'MOUSE GATE' UPDATE

If you recall last month I told you about 'Mouse Gate' and the nibbled box of chocolates I had discovered in my car. Well I am very pleased to say that the culprits, yes the plural, have been apprehended, found in the humane mousetrap enjoying the chocolate, cheese and crackers and digestive biscuits put in it to tempt them. The first one, S/he (not sure of their sex), was let out in a nice green space (well away from my car!) and is now back enjoying a natural habitat. I called it 'Mr Mouse' as it was so big



Having caught 'Mr Mouse' I was sat having my cup of tea a bit later on congratulating myself on my success when I suddenly thought "What if it had babies or a partner ...?" So back out I went, refilled the trap with cheese and biscuits and put it into the car again. Just to be on the safe side



And look what appeared ... I couldn't believe it! I called this one 'Mrs Mouse' as it was very slightly smaller than the previous inhabitant of the trap. It obviously had a liking for cheddar cheese and Jacobs Cream Crackers!

By now I was becoming paranoid about mice and so re-set the trap again just in case there were child mice ... This time I tried digestive biscuits and decided to move the trap into the boot of the car (as that was where something had taken a liking to my hessian shopping bag and nibbled a hole in it!). I didn't really expect to find anything but as they say 'Never say never'. So the next morning no-one was more surprised than me when I lifted the boot and found not one but two little mice in the trap! I think these were the babies as they were so small but unfortunately they had died which was sad as I do like to set them free. I haven't shown these two little mites out of respect for their departed souls.

I will let you know if anything else is found but fingers crossed no more have appeared yet. Oh and if anyone knows what type of mouse it is I would love to know so drop me a line and tell me please.

Evidently it is quite a common thing to find mice in your car and it can be quite serious as they have been known to chew through electrical wires etc. in the car engine area. Suffice it to say I have been through my car engine with a fine toothcomb to check there is no evidence of chewing or nesting in there! Oh and if you happen to fall victim to a mouse they evidently like peanut butter so use that in your trap ... not sure if they prefer smooth or crunchy though!



What's the biggest mouse in the world?

A hippotomouse!

Here are some facts about Mice:

Mice are flexible and can fit through a hole as small as a Pencil and even an opening as small as 6 mm!

A Mouse can have over 100 babies in a year.

Mice Have Ultrasonic Hearing. Research shows that mice can hear ultrasound up to 90kHz! They also use ultrasound to communicate with one another and even serenade each other with love songs.

Mice Teeth Grow Longer Every Day. ...

Mice can run up to 8 mph, which may not seem like much. However, to put things in perspective, that's the speed equivalent of an average sized human being running up to 160 mph. That certainly explains why they can be so difficult to catch!

Mice have been recorded to jump to a height of around 25.4cm. Considering their average size is between 3 and 10 cm, that's impressive!

Have any of you ever had any strange infestations or for that matter funny or strange experiences with animals? If so I am sure we would love to hear your stories so drop me a line and I will publish them in the Newsletter.

08

Photography Podium



Monochrome Competition

Digitals

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
<i>First</i>	<i>Bluebird Belle</i>	Dave Cornish	<i>The Speedo *</i>	Martin Green	<i>Innocence</i>	Sue Pearmain
<i>Second</i>	<i>Ellen and Prefect</i>	Mike McShane	<i>Broadway Houses</i>	Patrick Reynolds	<i>Enjoying the Ale</i>	Chris Mallett
<i>Third</i>	<i>Kelpies</i>	Ann Ashford	<i>The Busker</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>The Captain</i>	Sue Pearmain

Group 1



Bluebird Bell



Ellen and Prefect



Kelpies

Group 2



The Speedo



Broadway Houses



The Busker

Group 3



Innocence



Enjoying the Ale



The Captain

Prints

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
<i>First</i>	<i>Graffiti in Digbeth</i>	Mike Goodwin	<i>Boy on the Coal Heap</i>	Dave Ward	<i>Watch the Birdie!</i> *	Jolanta B Axon
<i>Second</i>	<i>Metropolis</i>	Mike McShane	<i>Walk on the Beach</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Canary Wharf</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke
<i>Third</i>	<i>A Beak Full</i>	Graham Newman	<i>Boating Flourishes</i>	Martin Green	<i>Looking Back</i>	Mick Schilling

Group 1



Graffiti in Digbeth



Metropolis



A Beak Full

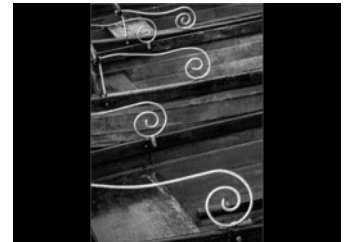
Group 2



Boy on the Coal Heap



Walk on the Beach



Boating Flourishes

Group 3



Watch the Birdie



Canary Wharf



Looking Back

Well I don't know about you but I was blown away by the stunning images that we saw in the Monochrome competition this year. Genuinely I think over the past few years the standard and variety of the monochrome images submitted by our members has improved considerably. And also the titles being given to the images are really appropriate and really set the photographs in a context.

I don't know what it is about monochrome images but personally I think they evoke much more emotion than colour photographs. Maybe it's because the absence of colour makes you look at them more closely, gives an image more impact or simply makes you think more I don't know, but I for one love them.



Panels Competition

What a great set of panels we saw in this year's competition, so creative and clever. I really take my hat off to my fellow members who come up with such interesting and clever images – I don't know how you think them up! And my favourite, John's 'Component of the Orange', which made me smile. It must have taken him ages to place the segments and peel in the manner he did and I thought the lighting was wonderful. Why is it my orange's peel never look that neat when I peel them ...?

Digitals

	All Groups	
First	<i>The Four Seasons</i>	Tony Dyson
Second	<i>Worth Collecting</i>	Roy Buckle
Third	<i>Component of the Orange</i>	John Leighton
Highly Commended	<i>Ullswater Ice</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke
Commended	<i>Peek a Boo!</i>	Jolanta B Axon
	<i>Yanks</i>	Tony Dyson
	<i>Spring is in the Air</i>	Dave Venables



The Four Seasons



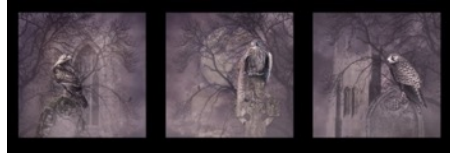
Worth Collecting



Component of the Orange

Prints

	All Groups	
First	<i>Graveyard Visitors *</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke
Second	<i>Winter Canal</i>	Mick Schilling
Third	<i>The Ballet Dancer</i>	Chris Lee
Highly Commended	<i>Vintage Patina</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke
Commended	<i>Industrial Layout</i>	Mick Schilling



Graveyard Visitors*



Winter Canal



The Ballet Dancer

Travel Competition

Digitals

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	Cathedral De La Almudena	John Leighton	Korean Couple Admiring The View	Chris Lee	Running the Bull	Chris Mallett
Second	Edgbaston Village	Dave Cornish	British Museum London	Dave Ward	The Trade	Sue Pearmain
Third	A Frosty & Misty Canal Walk	Michael Prince	Exploring Bagan	Kevin Watts	Gondolas at Rest	Jane Roby

Group 1



Cathedral De La Almudena



Edgbaston Village



A Frosty and Misty Canal Walk

Group 2



Korean Couple Admiring the View



British Museum London



Exploring Bagan

Group 3



Running the Bull



The Trade

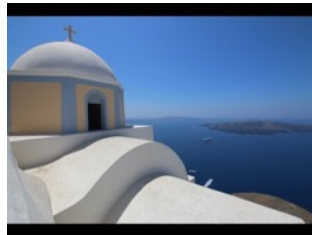


Gondolas at Rest

Prints

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	Church View	Mike McShane	Collecting the Alms	Kevin Watts	Tatra Mountain Celebration	Jolanta B. Axon
Second	A Drive Through Macclesfield Forest	Michael Prince	Barga Sunset	Chris Lee	The East Coast Pier	Jenny Ladbrooke
Third	Barga, Tuscany	Mike Goodwin	Cruise through Ljubljana	Kevin Watts	Reykjavik Harbour Lighthouse	Mick Schilling

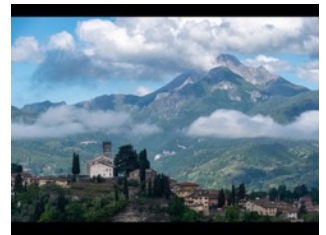
Group 1



Church View



A Drive Through Macclesfield Forest



Barga, Tuscany

Group 2



Collecting the Alms



Barga Sunset

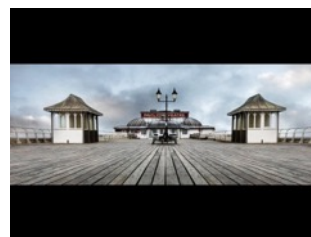


Cruise through Ljubljana

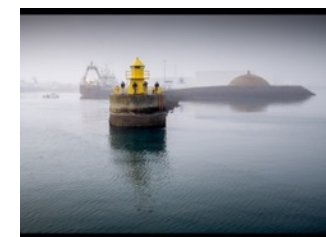
Group 3



Tatra Mountain Celebration



The East Coast Pier



Reykjavik Harbour Lighthouse

A super set of images that took me around the UK and the world, our members are certainly a well-travelled lot! And I wondered to myself with Kevin's 'Collecting the Alms' just how big the statues were, they looked like giants looking at the size of the trees ...

And Mike's 'Church View' took me back many years to the first time I visited the Greek Islands. Wherever you looked you always saw those church domes and roof with the deep blue sea behind – just beautiful.

09

External Recognition

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain



GB Cup Results

Congratulations and well done to all members whose images were entered into the GB Cup.

The highest 12 scores are counted with a score of 12 or over accepted. In the 'Open', Shirley Photographic Society scored 141 and came 41st out of 58 clubs. We had 6 acceptances: 2 for Christine Mallett; 1 for David Venables; 1 for Jolanta Bujalska-Axon and 2 for Sue Pearmain.

We did somewhat better in the 'Nature', scoring 147 coming 18th out of 62 clubs. We had 9 acceptances: 2 for Christine Mallett; 3 for Jane Roby; 1 for Jolanta Bujalska-Axon; 1 for Kevin Watts; 1 for Sue Pearmain; and 1 for Tim Hutchin. Very well done Jane on your 3 acceptances. Kevin Watts also received a Highly Commended for his image of Gelada Baboons Grooming.

'Open' Scores

Chris Lee	New York Skyline	10
Christine Mallett	King of the Castle	12
Christine Mallett	Pelicans and an Egret by the Palace	12
David Steele	Sheep	11
David Venables	Alone on the Beach	13
Graham Newman	The Beautiful Natasha	10
Jenny Ladbrooke	Fragile	11
Jenny Ladbrooke	The Beach Hut	11
Jolanta Bujalska-Axon	A Man's Best Friend	14
Jolanta Bujalska-Axon	Alice	11
Jolanta Bujalska-Axon	Towering Heights	11
Kevin Watts	Tuscan Doorway	11
Kevin Watts	One Step at a Time	11
Myles Ensor	The Wanaka Tree	9
Sue Pearmain	Collecting Water	12
Sue Pearmain	Alongsides	12

'Nature' Scores

Christine Mallett	Leopard Staring Match	13
Christine Mallett	Nile Crocodile at Waters Edge	10
Christine Mallett	Hyena Feeding on Buffalo Joint	12
David Steele	Brown Hare 2	11
David Venables	Red Squirrel	11
David Ward	Elephant Stand Off	10
Jane Roby	Dalmation Pelican Dipping a Toe	12
Jane Roby	Red Squirrel Leaping	13
Jane Roby	Snow Leopard and Cub	13
Jenny Ladbrooke	Warthogs at the Water Hole	11
Jolanta Bujalska-Axon	Great Crested Grebe with Chick	10
Jolanta Bujalska-Axon	Six Spotted Burnet Moths	12
Kevin Watts Highly Commended	Gelada Baboons Grooming	14
Kevin Watts	Lilac Breasted Roller	11
Kevin Watts	Juvenile Yellow Baboon	11
Sue Pearmain	Young Serval	9
Sue Pearmain	Red Squirrel in Pine Forest	12
Tim Hutchin	Red Bellied Jumping Spider	13

If any of you enter any competitions and get any external recognitions 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 March 2024!