

# SPS Newsletter

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*The winning images from recent competitions.*

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I hope you all had an enjoyable festive period and Father Christmas brought you all that you wished for. January, the start of another year with all of our New Year Resolutions. Be honest now how many of you made some but have already had a 'wobble' with them? I was reading an interesting take on Resolutions in that instead of thinking about what we are going to do, re-framing it for what I am not going to do – maybe a more achievable target?

I have been musing over photography projects for 2023 and ideas for the President's Assignment (I didn't come up with much though, so hopefully as the year proceeds I will be inspired!). This made me think about all the photography enthusiasts there must be in the country all pursuing their hobby and looking for the 'perfect' picture. Did you know that in the UK there are approximately 1000 societies affiliated with the PAGB, with around 40,000 individual members? That means an awful lot of photographs being taken for Club competitions etc. The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, commonly known as the Royal Photographic Society, is one of the world's oldest photographic societies. It was founded in London in 1853 as the Photographic Society of London with the objective of promoting the art and science of photography and in 1853 received Royal patronage from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain is the umbrella organisation that provides benefits and co-ordinates specific events for the majority of photographic clubs and societies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. FIAP is an international organisation of national associations of photography. More than 85 national associations are members, comprising nearly one million individual photographers. So next time you are out taking photographs think of all those other individuals around the world doing exactly the same thing, all part of the global photography family.

So what have we to look forward to in January? Well it's 'Walk Your Dog' month, National Blood Donor Month and Veganuary to name a few. January is also International Creativity Month, so get going with your creative photography. And did you know the 2023 Pantone Colour of the Year is Viva Magenta, a bold crimson hue inspired by the red of cochineal, one of the strongest and brightest dyes in the world. Just to round things off it's soon Chinese New Year, this year being the year of the Rabbit.



Recently we also lost a long standing member of the Club and ex-President, Margaret Biggs. We send our condolences and thoughts to Heather, Martin, Rosie and all her family.

With my very best wishes

Liz xx

### Visit us On-Line!

<https://www.shirleyphoto.org>



<https://www.shirleyphoto.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/shirleyphotographicsociety/>



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

## 02

## Through the Lens

I have spent some time recently thinking about photography, in particular about cameras with a view to upgrading and improving the equipment I use (which at present is very basic ...!). In this cost of living crisis and inflation busting times, seeing the price of new camera equipment I wondered what the world's most expensive and unusual cameras were. As ever my good friend Professor Google came to my rescue and told me the following ...

When it comes to the most expensive camera ever sold, we have to take a step back to 1923. Leica, widely considered to be the best camera brand in the world, produced a limited series of 25 cameras that year. A century later, one of those ultra-rare cameras, the Leica 0-series no.122, was sold to a private collector for a jaw-dropping \$2.97 million.



The Panoscan MK-3 Panoramic is one of the world's most unique cameras, able to capture a full 360-degree image in one shot (in just 8 seconds), without the need to composite different images together. It can also capture flat panoramas that can be used as backgrounds for virtual reality players. Military personnel and crime scene investigators use this camera as well, to create detailed images and mapping that aids in their work. And it will only cost you c.£40k.



The Phase One XF IQ4 - \$50,000 is the world's first 151-megapixel camera. It's price tag a mere c.£50,000.

I'm not sure my budget will run to considering purchasing any of these cameras ...!

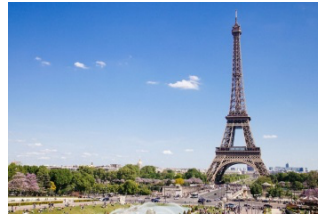


What happened to the woman who stole a calendar on New Year's Day?

She got 12 months!

Having thought about photography equipment, I then began pondering on what images are the world's most photographed. I came up with the following, the majority of which surprisingly I have actually visited and photographed myself.

The world's most photographed monument is the Eiffel Tower in Paris which has been snapped over 5 million times and posted on Instagram alone. And did you know that at night 20,000 electric bulbs light it up.



'Big Ben' at the Houses of Parliament in London is the second most photographed building. Technically speaking 'Big Ben' is the name of the bell and not the tower which is the Elizabeth Tower, named after our late Queen Elizabeth II. 'Big Ben' is set apart from other clock towers because of its 15.1 ton bell and its accuracy. It is accurate to within 2 seconds per week. So, it's safe to set your watch by it!

The third most photographed monument is The Louvre in Paris, followed by the Empire State Building in New York. On a clear day the 102 storey art deco skyscraper provides a view of 5 different America States. And New York is the region in the world with the most photographed places as a whole.



And lastly, the 5<sup>th</sup> most photographed monument in the world is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, the world's tallest building. Interestingly and surprisingly no top spots for the Pyramids in Egypt or Great Wall of China.



And thinking about social media and how today everyone seems to be photographing things using their telephones and other mobile devices I did a little research on who were regarded as 'top of their game' in terms of this type of photography and their proliferation and presence on Instagram etc. So if you are interested in this area of photography and what's happening there check out some of the following:

### **The Wild West Photographer (@Kevinruss)**

Kevin Russ is an iPhone-only photographer who mostly posts gorgeous snaps of America's Wild West. Following him you'll see plenty of brilliant landscapes like you've never seen before.

### **The Eye In The Sky (@Adamsenatori)**



Adam Senatori is a photographer-pilot extraordinaire who specialises in posting breath-taking aerial shots. As camera capable drones become more and more popular the number of drone photographs like this is on the rise, but Adam Senatori has an eye for the incredible.

### **The Smartphone Photojournalist (@dguttenfelder)**

David Guttenfelder is a National Geographic Society Photographer by day and an Instagram-snapper by night. His posts are always taken with just his smartphone.

### **The Master of Still Life (@Memoryweaver)**

Marcus Rodriguez is a UK-based photographer who doubles as a web developer by day and still life photographer in his spare time. He likes to edit his photos using Snapseed on iPad. His images are often colourful, macro shots and he occasionally captions them with pro tips.

### **The Eye-Catcher (@Macenzo)**

Dirk Bakker is a graphic designer with a deep passion for patterns and architecture, as evident by his abundant and eye-catching posts. If you're a fan of colourful snaps, satisfying symmetry and amazing angles, then this is the photographer to follow.

### **The Architect Master (@trashhand)**

Serdar Ozturk has an account full of urban landscape and architecture photos that show an awesome eye for detail. Sometimes mixed with people to present the perfect blend of portraits and architecture, other times just striking images from intriguing angles.

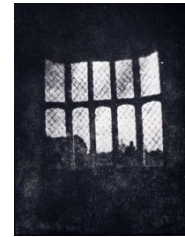
If you 'follow' any photographer on Instagram or other social media platforms that you think is interesting let me know and I will share their details with our membership. I often start following some of the speakers we have at the Club whose images and talks I have particularly enjoyed.

# 03

## Places to Visit

Anticipating the arrival of Spring and better weather to come somewhere you might want to consider visiting if you haven't already done so is Lacock in Wiltshire, a village remarkably time-capsuled 200 years in the past. The higgledy-piggledy collection of half-timbered and thatched buildings and Lacock Abbey not only represents the quintessential English landscape but provides a frequent location for historical films and television programmes, including Downton Abbey and Cranford. Not only that, it is widely regarded as the birthplace of photography.

In 1835 Lacock Abbey, home to the scientist and inventor William Henry Fox Talbot, had its Oriel Window and South Gallery captured in the world's first photographic negative.



His invention of the salted paper and calotype techniques made it possible to produce multiple copies of a given image. In 1833 while on honeymoon in Italy Fox Talbot had become frustrated with his inability to fully capture his surroundings with pencil and paper writing "How charming it would be if it were possible to cause these natural images to imprint themselves durable and remain fixed upon the paper. And why should it not be possible? I asked myself." His work in the 1840s on photomechanical reproduction led to the creation of the photoglyphic engraving process, the precursor to photogravure. The holder of a controversial patent that affected the early development of commercial photography in Britain, Fox Talbot was also a noted photographer who contributed to the development of photography as an artistic medium. He published *The Pencil of Nature* (1844–46), which was illustrated with original salted paper prints from his calotype negatives and made some important early photographs of Oxford, Paris, Reading, and York.

You can learn more about Fox Talbot and the history of photography in the village's Fox Talbot Museum where you will find amongst other things his mousetrap camera and the extensive Fenton Collection of cameras, optical devices and c.3,500 photographic images, exploring the development of photography from its creation to the present day. In 1944 the village was bequeathed to the National Trust by Matilda Talbot, so if you are a National Trust Member even better, you will get in for free!

**If you have any suggestions on places to visit, days out, what's on etc. do please let me know and I will include them in the Newsletters. I am sure other members would appreciate some ideas and suggestions.**



How did Jack Frost get to work on New Year's Day?

By icicle!



What did the chimney resolve to do for the New Year?

Stop smoking!

# 04

## A Little Teaser of a Competition ...

I thought it would be fun to set a little teaser competition. So if you think you know the answer to either or both of the following two questions, email it to me at [172elizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:172elizabeth@gmail.com) by no later than **5<sup>th</sup> February 2023**. And just to make it interesting there will be a little goodie prize for the winners with the correct answers. In the event of a tiebreak the winner for each Question will be the one who submitted their answer first.

**Question 1:** What gets harder to catch the faster you run?

**Question 2:** The more of these you take, the more appear behind you. What am I?

# 05

## Photography Podium

### Christmas Fun Knockout

The Christmas Fun Knockout was a great end to 2022, and I can still hear the echo of window or door or left or right ringing in my ears! Congratulations go to Jane Roby and Mick Schilling for ending up with the top two images as voted by the audience. The competition attracted 354 entries, generating £177 towards club funds, even without the proceeds of the raffle.

**First** – Jane Roby with 'Wren Splits'

**Second** – Mick Schilling CPAGB BPE2\* with 'Gull Rock Sunset'

### 'Straight Out of the Camera' Competition

What a great start to this new competition with some lovely images being submitted. And I was chuffed to bits to find that the judge liked two of my images, it was certainly a surprise and 'Dear Diary Day' for me when he awarded me First and Second Place in Group 1. Congratulations to everyone who submitted images for this competition.



	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<b>First Place:</b>	Looking up at Kew Liz Smith	Gaudi's Casa Mila Roof Chris Lee	A Trio of Hydrangeas Jolanta B Axon
<b>Second Place:</b>	On the Pier Liz Smith	The Gorgan Tony Dyson	Blending In Sue Pearmain
<b>Third Place:</b>	Red Clover John Leighton	Bluebell Wood Fay Venables	Fungi David Steele
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	Pigeon Man John Leighton	Classic Robin Tony Dyson	Beech Wood JCM Mick Schilling
	Iceland Richard Goulding	Iceberg Hazel Lane	The Mumbles Lighthouse Phil Moorhouse
	Hungarian Horsemen Mike Goodwin	Duomo Di San Cristoforo, Barga Kevin Watts	Ground Squirrel Sue Pearmain
	Tree Surgeon John Leighton		Reflections of Cardiff Phil Moorhouse
<b>Commended:</b>	Harbour Scene Helen Dufficy	Ancient Columns Chris Lee	Amazing Grey Poppy with Bud Jolanta B Axon
	Autumn Fruit Myles Ensor	The Snook Dave Ward	Cardiff Bay Phil Moorhouse
	The Tree at Sycamore Gap Michael Prince	River at Betws y Coed Ray Manning	Red Squirrel Jane Roby
	Sri Lankan Lad Mike Goodwin	Who's Looking at Who Dave Ward	St Marks Square Jane Roby
			The Hi Life Jolanta B Axon
			Puffin Sue Pearmain

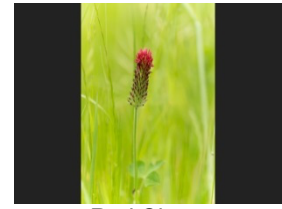
### Group 1



*Looking Up At Kew*

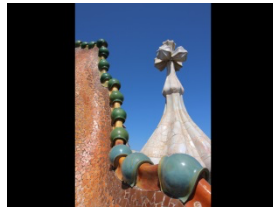


*On the Pier*

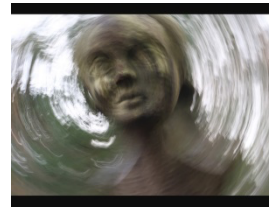


*Red Clover*

### Group 2



*Gaudi's Casa Mila Roof*



*The Gorgon*

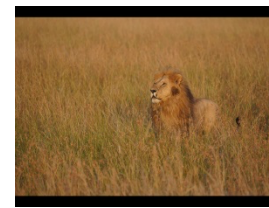


*Bluebell Wood*

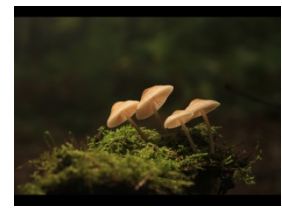
### Group 3



*A Trio of Hydrangeas*



*Blending In*



*Fungi*

## 06

## External Recognition

*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 month!***