

# SPS Newsletter

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The month of May is upon us and so is the end of our 'formal' programme of activities for the season. I don't know about you but I always feel a little sadness when we get to the point of 'resting' until September as I always enjoy our Thursday evenings. And what a treat of evenings we have had this season with a pipeline of superb speakers sourced by Sue and a varied and high-standard of competitions brought to us by Zoom and the technological magic and expertise of our wonderful Phil. Wasn't it lovely to get to the point that our friends 'The Prints' made a welcome return along with being able to physically attend Shirley Methodist Church Hall again. And what about our AV competition this year? I really enjoyed seeing them all and was thrilled when my first little effort of an AV on San Francisco managed to be voted by you all into 3<sup>rd</sup> place. When reflecting on the Society this year I think it "Promised everything and delivered much more". And it sees the end of my first year as Editor - I very much hope you have enjoyed this year's Newsletters.

Our year has culminated with the recent Annual Awards Dinner that many of you attended and Mick completing his term of office as President. I think we will all agree he has done a sterling job during the Pandemic, as well as finding time to achieve his BPE1\* following his successes in a number of British Photographic Exhibitions. And so the President's baton has now passed to Jenny and we wish her well and an enjoyable and successful term of office. Thank you to all the Committee for everything you have done this year to keep our Society running and to all the members for supporting it.

While I am 'resting' this Summer I will be having a holiday in Devon, a walking holiday in Cornwall traipsing along the South West Coast Path (I am modelling myself on Julia Bradbury!), playing lots of golf, hopefully attending the Commonwealth Games to watch Rugby, Athletics and Cricket, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, visiting Kew Gardens (on my bucket list) and if I have time taking a few photographs so I am well armed and ready for the new season's competitions ... Oh and I might just be able to find time to fit in a few Newsletters ...!

And following the theme of recent Newsletters here's a few things you 'May' not know ...! May, from the Latin 'Maius' is named after Maia, a Roman goddess of growth. According to old superstitions, it is unlucky to marry, buy a broom or wash a blanket in May – so that's me sorted ... no housework this month! May is National Asparagus Month, National Share-a-Story Month and National Burger Month in the UK. And finally, no US President has ever died during the month of May.

Whatever you are doing over the Summer period I wish you good health, happiness and much pleasure and enjoyment. And, if you would like to let me know what you are up to, send me some postcard pictures, write me a little article or anything, do please email me as I would love to hear from you and include material in the Newsletters.

With my very best wishes

Liz xx



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## 02

## Through the Lens

Welcome to our new President, Jenny Ladbrooke.

### A Little Bit About Me ...

Firstly huge thanks to Mick who has been our President for what must certainly have been the weirdest two years this or any camera club has known. The fact that that the Club seemed to seamlessly slip into a different way of meeting virtually is a testament to both Mick and other members of the Committee like Phil. I have big shoes to fill both literally and figuratively.

I suspect most people when explaining how they came to be members of Shirley Photographic Society mention a lifelong interest in photography and then a desire to develop it more seriously and joined the Club et cetera. Well, that wasn't my start to the Club. I came along simply to bring my 15-year-old daughter, who having dropped out of club netball needed another activity outside of school. She was keen on photography and doing a GCSE in the subject so I thought a camera club would give her useful experience and tick the box of having an external interest.

Well the Club did that in spades but it also completely opened my eyes to photography, not merely as a way of recording a point in time but as an art form. I was absolutely hooked from the word go. I'd like to say that my photography skills quickly reflected my new enthusiasm but it would be a lie..... It took a while to get beyond the basics. But don't forget I was starting from a very low point which is if I got all the limbs in the image and any part of it was sharp then in my eyes it was a huge success!

Now don't get me wrong, taking photographs for the sake of capturing a moment in time is extremely valuable. I lost my husband to cancer many years ago when the children were little and having lots of pictures of Nigel with the children has been an absolute lifesaver. The house is full of them. And some of them are even sharp but to be fair usually ones taken by others! So I certainly still take images to capture those happy family moments although I find my teenage children generally very reluctant to be the object of my photography. Although they will grudgingly stand with me if put under duress as here at my 60th....



### Now to the President's Assignment ...

If you're newish to the Club we have a competition where the current President sets the theme and normally they then judge the competition. Such power! This is due in November 2022 and images submitted have to be taken in the 12 months prior to that.

As to the theme you can submit any DPI image you want to from any genre but it needs to show some feeling or emotion. Judges are forever asking for images that go beyond the standard record shot that shows something more than just the subject matter. How you do that is up to you and here are some examples which are images that have been put into competitions and I particularly liked from the point of view of conveying something more than just the subject itself.

Sometimes you can convey emotion using photo editing with this wonderful photo of Val's being a great example.



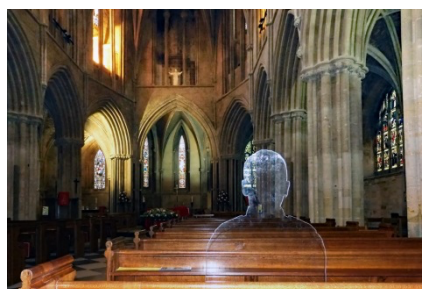
Or this very popular image by Aileen taken in the golden hour but more of a straight shot. Such a tranquil scene.



Another example is this image taken by Jolanta during lockdown. Clever observation of a scene on a daily walk, but again conveys pathos and loneliness. Although the man himself might have been smiling broadly from another viewpoint!



Another poignant image of an empty church taken by Dave also submitted as a lockdown competition entry.



As to my likes and dislikes, I will try to judge it on the image itself and not give any extra points for horses! Yes I know they do feature heavily in my competition images. But I do quite like a fitting title to the image particularly in keeping with the emotion or feeling you're conveying. If you are still uncertain what I'm after and the theme itself please don't hesitate to get in touch.

# 03

## Common Problems and how to avoid them Edition 3

*By Mick Schilling*

### There Isn't Enough Depth of Field Making the Image Sharp Front to Back

We often hear judges say that an image isn't sharp front to back, or the foreground/background is out of focus. This of course may be what you intended and the judge just didn't understand what you were after. However, in landscapes and pictorial images of a general scene it is often desirable to have a wide depth of field with as much in focus as possible.

In order to achieve this one needs to use a small aperture size, which enables the lens to process the light of the image in the required way. It's all to do with the light and physics. I'm sure it's all on the internet but it's a bit deep for this forum.

A small aperture is a big F number, so f20 is small. large aperture might be f5.6, or even as large as f1.4. The meaning of the 'f' is focal length and the f is divided by the number that follows, to give an actual dimension of the hole formed in the lens, through which the light is focused. So, a 100mm lens at f4 will have an aperture diameter through which the image is focused of  $100/4$ , so 25mm. If we reduce the aperture on that lens to f20, the aperture diameter becomes 5mm. The bigger the aperture, the more light gets to the sensor or film if you have film gear. Lenses with a larger aperture need larger glass elements for the bigger iris, and are therefore usually a lot more expensive.

Given the size examples above, it is easy to see that by 'stopping the lens down' (closing the aperture by using a large f number) the amount of light let in is greatly reduced. If the lens is opened up 'wide open', the amount of light will increase. So, bear in mind that as we are looking for a deeper depth of field, we are stopping the lens down, reducing the amount of light reaching the imaging medium. The ISO and/or shutter speed will be affected by this, ISO would need to increase, shutter speed would become faster. This may mean that you need a tripod if your gear doesn't perform well at high ISO values if you are to avoid camera shake in poorly lit environments.



What did the Spring say when it was in trouble?

May-Day!

# 04

## 10 Years of Girlguiding – My Journey

*By Rosie Thompson*

To say Girlguiding has always been a part of my life would be an understatement. I started as a Rainbow at 4<sup>th</sup> Shirley Rainbows at the grand age of 5 in 1998. At that time there were two Rainbow units here at Shirley and one closed when I was 6, so I joined 6<sup>th</sup> Shirley Rainbows, meaning I became the only rainbow wearing a red tabard in a unit wearing yellow tabards! My leaders Skippy and Minnie (They know who they are!) were my new leaders! I remember the huge event we had held at Shirley Methodist Church and the colours of all Rainbow's tabards were all around.

When I turned 7 I was given a place at Brownies with my cousins and joined them at Hall Green Methodist (153<sup>rd</sup> Hall Green Brownies). We had a lot of fun including going to S.T.O.M.P at Blackwell in 2002. I still have my sash and all my badges! My Brown Owl is also well known to the church, so we will keep this one anonymous too. At 11, I wanted to join Guides. Monday night was out the question because of Ice-Skating so it had to be a Friday night and I joined 183<sup>rd</sup> Birmingham Guides at Immanuel Church, Maypole. Guides was a little different, it opened a brand-new world to camping. I remember a game we played called cross the river, which involved standing on chairs and possibly falling off them, doubt this would pass a risk assessment now.

At 14 I lost interest, I was bored, no Ranger Unit and left Girlguiding. I joined Girl's Brigade at Shirley Baptist. At 17 I needed some volunteer service as part of my young leader award at Girl's Brigade and as my sister was a leader with Skippy at 6<sup>th</sup> Shirley Rainbows in 2010, I was welcomed with open arms on a short-term basis. After 2 months, I decided I loved it too much and I started my leadership training with Skippy as my mentor. I continued with Girl's Brigade as I loved it also, so I started my leadership at the same time at Girl's Brigade.

I successfully completed both courses and became an Officer at Girl's Brigade and an Assistant Leader at Rainbows. In 2012, Kathryn and I lead a team at Arden International Camp for the Splash Zone, an incredible experience! In 2014, we acquired a Brownie Unit and Kathryn became Brown Owl and suddenly after Skippy's retirement I was thrown into being the leader of Rainbows. At this point I left Girl's Brigade, my officer ship will never go away, and I have been helping 35<sup>th</sup> Birmingham for a while too and they know they can always message me if they need me!

Rainbows was my baby. I loved it, spent so much time on it, made sure the girls had a fab time. In 2016 I was a leader for Brumjam, another international jamboree. Girlguiding was at the forefront of my life - all I had was Sainsbury's and guiding at this point. I had the opportunity to apply for District Commissioner and myself and Kathryn took up this post as a joint effort. Kathryn had to step down a few years later, meaning I was District Commissioner. I was loving every single second of being Commissioner.

My mental health declined not long after this, and Girlguiding became my escape. We took the girls to Cadbury's, Harry Potter World, Gulliver's Kingdom, Chester Zoo and gave them so many experiences and I will never forget these. Girlguiding Warwickshire County was my home and as such at one point I did hold the social media position at County level. In 2019 I lost my love and went back to college and began studying again and it became a chore to go out and do Rainbows and Brownies. It didn't help that I was getting absolutely no support at County or Division Level. And the Pandemic broke me. I tried to keep going for the girls and tried so hard, but I couldn't anymore after the way I was spoken to in November 2019. I felt like a number, I was disheartened, I put my heart and soul into this and it was broken by three people. I handed back the keys and all the boxes to division - that was my guiding life over.

Or so I thought....

In 2020 at the height of the Pandemic, I joined university to study Speech and Language Therapy. I became friends with a lot of people and we sat in groups of 12-15 enjoying a coffee and talking about our interests. One day during a class in 'how to speak to patients correctly', I came across someone at the back that had stickers on their laptop, stickers which shared a lot of interests with me. We got talking, we laughed, we joked. Low and behold a week later, after copious amounts of Starbucks, she tells me she's a Division Team Leader in Worcestershire.

And then it crumbled down even more and we spent the rest of our time online, we spoke on text but that was it. In September 2021, I realised how much I missed Girlguiding, particularly the admin (weird I know!). I became her admin assistant, re-doing my DBS and renewing my membership with Girlguiding. Girlguiding Worcestershire have been nothing but welcoming and Girlguiding doesn't seem as much as a burden anymore.

In March 2022, I was offered the opportunity to be an assistant at Guides and Rangers ... I had difficulty turning this down. It's a new challenge, a new start and finally I can claim my 10 year service! I want to thank Skippy for her huge impact on my Girlguiding 'career'. I wouldn't have had such an amazing time if it wasn't for her, she is truly a Guiding Light.



And here's a few more things for you to know about the Guides:

- They were established in 1909, by the founder of the Scouts, Robert Baden-Powell's sister Agnes.
- Members always shake hands with their left hand when greeting one another. Guides and Scouts alike do this. There are a number of reasons for this. The first, Baden-Powell was once told a West African legend: two hostile sites sought peace and in turn, downed shields which were held in the left arm. They then thrust forward their left hands in a display of friendship. The second reason, the left hand is closest to the heart, a sign of friendship and sincerity. The third reason, the left handed handshake allows members to salute with their right hand.
- Today there are 27,000 groups in the UK, with 110,000 members.
- Alongside Rosie, other famous Girlguides include Her Majesty the Queen, the Duchess of Cambridge, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, Mariah Carey and Taylor Swift, Grace Kelly, Bette Davis to name but a few.

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# 05

## Members' List

*By Jenny Ladbrooke*

One of the downsides of two years of having to keep largely to ourselves with limited opportunities for socialising is I think we have lost a little bit of a sense of community. Zoom has been fantastic for keeping us together and sharing what is largely a visual art but it isn't quite the same as seeing people in person.

I thought therefore it might be a good idea if we had a list that could be circulated of contact details for members. I've often wanted to reach out to the author of a particular winning image and although Phil is always happy to act as go between it would be good if we could do that directly. But equally I know there are some people who would rather their information be kept entirely private.

So this is completely voluntary but I will be zapping out an email to that end of inviting you to agree (or not) to your information being shared. You will have to opt in, I won't assume no response means you are happy to have your information included.

I thought it would also be a good idea to share Instagram and other social media accounts as it's good to see what people are posting.

It will also include the usual data protection requirements because clearly this is not a ruse to sell your details onto any photographic organisation, you can be assured of that!! And of course in return people need to acknowledge that they can't forward on the list to anybody else either but it's an entirely private list for our own use. There will be a form of words that will cover that.

If you have any queries or concerns don't hesitate to contact me on [j.ladbrooke@outlook.com](mailto:j.ladbrooke@outlook.com) or 0797 924 4664.

***“Photography is the art of making memories tangible.”***

– Destin Sparks

***“It is an illusion that photos are made with the camera... they are made with the eye, heart, and head.”***

-Henri Cartier-Bresson



If April showers bring May flowers what do May flowers bring?

Pilgrims!

# 06

## Annual Awards Dinner

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022, saw us meet up in person for the first Annual Awards Dinner since April 2019. The newly refurbished clubhouse at Fulford Heath Golf Club, once again, proved to be an excellent venue. Great food, great company and our very own version of the Oscars Ceremony, happily without the boring acceptance speeches or slaps! Here are some photographs of the winners on the evening courtesy of Dave Venables.



Many congratulations to all the winners this year, to all those who got placings and commendations but most of all to everyone for entering the competitions. If you didn't enter there would not be a competition and such a strong field of entries for the judge. Congratulations also to those of you who have moved up Groups. And here's a summary of all the winners of silverware this year.



Eric Jones Memorial Trophy	Nat Hist Proj Gp 1	Chris Lee
David Bently Memorial Trophy	Nat Hist Proj Gp 2	Tony Dyson
Norman J Prue Trophy	Nat Hist Proj Gp 3	David Steele
Hugh Owen Trophy	Nat Hist Print Gp 1	Michael Prince
Haydn Jones Memorial Trophy	Nat Hist Print Gp 2	Jenny Ladbrooke
Don Mallett Trophy	Nat Hist Print Gp 3	Chanardaye Walton
Mobley Trophy	Set Assignment	David Venables
Watkins Trophy	Digital Panel	Jolanta B Axon
Don & Elsie Wardell Trophy	Best Theme Gp 1-3	Mick Schilling
Landscape Colour Trophy	Landscape Project Gp 1	Chris Lee
Strange Trophy	Landscape Project Gp 2	Heather Thompson
Kirk Cup	Landscape Project Gp 3	David Steele
Suffield Rose Bowl	Landscape Print Gp 1	Chris Lee
Biggs Salver	Landscape Print Gp 2	Jenny Ladbrooke
John Hogg Salver	Landscape Print Gp 3	David Steele
Timbrell Trophy	Annual Proj Gp 1	Kevin Watts
Roy Holmes Placque	Annual Proj Gp 2	Jenny Ladbrooke
Colour (Slide) Goblet	Annual Proj Gp 3	Chanardaye Walton
Ken Bowless Salver	Annual Print Gp 1	Kevin Watts
Walker Challenge Placque	Annual Print Gp 2	Tony Dyson
Frank Smyth Memorial Trophy	Annual Print Gp 3	Chanardaye Walton
Tom Bartlett Trophy	Best Mono Print	Graham Walton
John Burton Memorial Trophy	Best Mono Gp 1-3	Jenny Ladbrooke
David Venables Shield	Best AV	Rosie Thompson
Intermediate Merit Award	Best Total Prints Score Gp 1	Michael Prince
Advanced Merit Award	Best Total Prints Score Gp 2	Jenny Ladbrooke
Advanced Plus Merit Award	Best Total Prints Score Gp 3	Chanardaye Walton
Tri-Colour 6 Cup	Best Total Proj Score Gp 1-3	Chris Lee

# 07

## Photography Podium

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

### 'Audio Visual Competition and Creative Competition'

What a great set of AVs we had to watch this year. Congratulations to Rosie for her evocative winning entry and well done to Phil and Liz who came second and third respectively. And in the Creative Competition what a varied and clever set of images we had to view. I don't know about you but I found it hard to choose between them to give them my votes as they were all so good. But very well done to Jenny for her winning image 'Parliament of Owls' and to Roy on his second place and Tony on his third place.





### 'Fun Knockout Competition'

Congratulations to David Venables whose picture 'Tanglewood Creek' took first place in our fun 'Knockout' competition, with Graham Walton's 'Village in the Mountains' as runner-up.

### 'President's Evening'

Many thanks to Mick for his very entertaining recent President's Evening. I think the Lake District might be getting a bit busier with us all going up there now!

# 08

### 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 in June**

