

SPS Newsletter

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Well after a rest in October, I am back to entertain you again in November! What a super start to our season at SPS we have had. We have seen the welcome return of the 'Prints' and the standard of entries in our competitions just seems to be getting better and better each season, I thought our Landscapes images were fabulous. We have had some super evenings hosted by our members Tim Hutchin and Jane Roby and Phil has demystified our rules, competitions and qualifications for me ... so I now have no excuse for not entering images into the competitions ...! I have already travelled to India with Barbie, and kept Adrian Donaghue, 'A lonely man walking lonely cities', company. I hope you are all enjoying SPS as much as I am.

Just recently Jenny organised a trip out to Batsford Arboretum in the Cotswolds and although there were only a few of us it was really enjoyable. We at least managed to walk around the grounds before being beaten by inclement weather. And without letting too many secrets out I think our President and Secretary managed to take some good fungi pictures I meanwhile had a lovely walk admiring the trees and their colours along with a delicious coffee and cake ...!



It's a funny time of year, marking the change in seasons, time and our wardrobes. Whilst I adore and marvel at the wonderful displays of colour nature provides us with in the Autumn, I always begrudge having to 'turn back the clocks' and the dark nights. But the good thing about doing this is that candles can be lit, scarves, hats and gloves worn and generally things having that 'cosy' feel to them – oh and we can indulge with mulled wine ...!

Have you noticed this year that the trees seem to be keeping their leaves for much longer? I read somewhere that it has something to do with us having all this dry, warm weather this year. And have you seen how many acorns seem to be around on the ground? I think it is noticeable this year that there seem to be more of them in mounds lying on the floor.

Thank you to the members who contributed articles to this month's newsletter, I hope you enjoy them. And don't forget to send me any contributions you may like to make ... I am always grateful to receive them.

November also marks us starting to think about ... dare I say the word ... Christmas! I don't know whether you feel the same as me but where has this year gone, it has just flown by? I cannot believe that as I write we now have only 38 days until the 'Big Day' and 44 days left of 2022. With this in mind I must dash to get planning as there is so much to do ... Christmas cards to purchase and write, wrapping paper to buy, present ideas to think up, buy and wrap and meal planning galore ...!

With my very best wishes
Liz xx

02

Through the Lens



American photographer Karine Aigner has won this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition with a stunning image of a ball of cactus bees vying for a mate. Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2022 has gone to Katanyou Wuttichaitanakorn from Thailand for his extraordinary picture 'The Beauty of Baleen', of a feeding Bryde's whale, capturing the moment the whale surfaced, feeding on anchovies. And reflecting on our recent Landscape Competition what about the image below by Will Davies that has won Landscape Photographer of the Year 2022. Titled 'Brecon in Winter' he took the image on a December morning from the Pen-y-Crug hillfort which provides a spectacular panorama of Brecon and the surrounding mountains. It captures sunlight breaking through a clearing snowstorm and was taken using a telephoto lens to help compress the sunlit fields and distant snowy hills.



03

Common Problems and how to avoid them Edition 7

By Mick Schilling

The Colours are a Bit Off

This is possibly one of the more common issues. Blues, greens, reds – in fact most colours can be tricky to get right in all conditions. Mixed light can cause all sorts of trouble if there is a tungsten lamp near a window where natural light is coming in. To get the blues right the yellows and oranges will increase and vice versa, so care when shooting is a good place to start.

Your camera will most likely have a white balance setting to enable adjustment. Some even have fine adjustment and bracketing options which help ensure you get the best possible image. Try these settings out and see how they work to help ensure you're on the right option at any given time. The good news is that if you shoot in a RAW file format, you can do all the adjustments afterwards if you need to, and if you have suitable software of course. But if possible, it is best to get it right in-camera.

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04

November

November is the last of the four months which have 30 days, the others being September, April, and June.

Its name has remained unchanged since the ancient Roman calendar, which was in use until 45 BC. This calendar was only made up of ten months, with November being the ninth month, its name 'novem' translating into "ninth month" in Latin. When the Julian calendar was adopted in 45 BC two new months were added, which pushed November back and despite its change in position, November was never renamed.

The Anglo-Saxons had a fitting name for November. It's usually at this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere that cold winds start to chill you to the bone, and as such, they called it "Wind Monath", or 'wind month'. They also called it "Blod Monath", or 'blood month', as in November that they would traditionally slaughter cows to provide food for the long winter months.

Those born in November can be born under one of two very different star signs. If you're born before 23rd November you have the sign of Scorpio. Those born on 23rd November or later have the sign of Sagittarius. Scorpios are said to value trust and honesty above other things, as well as being quite intense yet imaginative people. Those born under the sign of Sagittarius are quite different, being energetic and idealistic, while also generous and open-minded.

November's birthstone is topaz, symbolic of many things but most of all strength and honour. The ancient Greeks also believed that the stone had the ability to turn oneself invisible.

November has one birth flower, the chrysanthemum, which symbolises cheerfulness. Different coloured chrysanthemums have different meanings though – a white flower symbolises pure love and truth, a red flower says "I love you", while a yellow flower is a symbol of unrequited love.

November begins on the same day of the week as March every year and also February, except in leap years

November is the only month used to represent a letter in the phonetic alphabet.

As part of the seasonal calendar, November is the time of the 'Snow Moon' according to Pagan beliefs and the period described as the 'Moon of the Falling Leaves'. The Full Moon in November is traditionally called the Beaver Moon in the USA, as it was during this time of year that hunters would set their beaver traps for the last time before the lakes and water sources they lived in froze over.

History has seen November as a busy month ...

- 1307 – William Tell shot an apple off his son's head with an arrow
- 1492 – Christopher Columbus' notes included the first recorded reference to tobacco.
- 1512 – Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, Italy were first exhibited.
- 1601 -The Bodleian Library was established in Oxford.
- In England in 1605, a group of Roman Catholics plotted to blow up the English Parliament while King James I was inside. Fortunately, the plot was foiled but every year we celebrate the group's failure with 'Bonfire Night'.
- 1620 – The Mayflower carrying the 'Pilgrim Fathers' landed in the USA, calling their settlement Plymouth.

- 1755 – Lisbon (Portugal) Earthquake & Tsunami when an estimated 10,000-100,000 people were killed.
- 1855 – David Livingstone became the first European to see the Victoria Falls in what is now present-day Zambia-Zimbabwe.
- 1859 – Charles Darwin published 'On the Origin of Species'.
- 1884 – Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) was adopted universally at a meeting of the International Meridian Conference in Washington, DC.
- 1922 – The entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt, in the Valley of the Kings, by English archaeologist Howard Carter.
- 1928 – Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse first appeared in NY in Steamboat Willie.
- 1935 – Parker Brothers launched the board game 'Monopoly'.
- 1952 – Clarence Birdseye marketed frozen peas. He had started freezing fresh fish in the 1920s.
- 1956 – The largest iceberg on record was sighted by the USS Glacier, a US Navy icebreaker, c.150 miles west of Scott Island in the Southern Hemisphere. It had broken from the Ross Ice Shelf in the Antarctic and was 208 miles long and 60 miles wide.
- 1957 - Soviet Russia successfully launches the first spacecraft carrying a live passenger, 'Leika' the dog, an unassuming looking stray pooch who had been found on the streets of Moscow. The Soviets used stray dogs in their tests because they assumed that they would be used to the hunger and cold that they would inevitably experience in outer space.
- 1963 – The first episode of the BBC's 'Doctor Who' aired. 'Doctor Who' is not his name – we don't know it. He is simply 'The Doctor.'
- 1966 – The first photograph was taken from Earth's atmosphere by the satellite Gemini XII.
- 1985 – Microsoft Windows 1.0 was released to the public.
- 1994 – The first trains for the general public ran in the Channel Tunnel (Chunnel) under the English Channel.
- 2007 – Google unveiled the Android mobile phone operating system.
- 2012 – Google's Gmail became the world's most popular email service. Microsoft's Hotmail was the leader before that.

And did you know ...

- William Shakespeare apparently wasn't all too fond of November. One of the all-time greatest writers of English literature, he wrote 154 sonnets and 37 plays which are still in production today. In all of his works the month of November isn't mentioned once.
- 36 barrels of gunpowder were put under the Houses of Parliament on 5th November, when Guy Fawkes and friends tried to blow it up.

- A rather hairy spectacle occurs in various parts of the world including Australia, the US, and England every year in November. Called 'Movember', it raises money for charity by men growing a moustache. Participants must shave on 1st November and grow their moustache throughout the month, with the ensuing amusement as an incentive for others to donate to a good cause.
- According to research published in 2008, serial killers are more likely to be born in November than any other month.
- According to the 17th-Century astrologer Richard Saunders: "In this Moneth [November], Melancholy much increaseth." He recommended eating eggs and honey and vomiting sometimes.



What do you call someone who commits arson in late November?

A Sagi-terrorist!

What's the most negative month of the year?

NO-vember!

05

Show Time!

By Jenny Ladbrooke

With two years of Covid, prints had to take a bit of a back seat. But thank heavens, with unrestricted mixing and travelling, external print exhibitions have begun to come back. Being new to prints this was very welcome as there is nothing like getting up close and personal to an image and having a chance to really look at it and understand why it works or doesn't. Things like the size of the print to the mount and type of print paper are all things I struggle with particularly when I started out so to be able to see so many examples side by side was too good an opportunity to be missed. And of course, there is something about a print that makes a wonderful digital image even more special. So, I've been taking the opportunity to go to as many as I can.

First off was the Solihull Print Exhibition earlier this year. It was competitive, as they usually are, so only a set number get accepted. It was held in a very nice exhibition space at The Core in Solihull. I went with a number of club members and it was good to see Dave (Venables) entry amongst the 50 plus accepted. There were some really super images some of which can still be seen displayed in the window of a shop in Mell Square, just opposite the entrance to Mell Square car park. As I've said it is so useful to get a real close up look and very inspiring in terms of the presentation of the image in the mount, the use of borders and choice of paper.



Both Roy and I were commenting on how we liked the key line used by some photographers and the creative style of the images. It wasn't a surprise to me to see that Roy used those features very effectively in a club competition with this image of an iconic Birmingham city centre building. This has to be one of my favourite prints of last year and my rubbish iPhone picture does not do it justice!

Another print show I attended with Chris (M) was the panels print show at Smethwick. Panels are my nemesis..... if you live in Solihull and hear high pitched screaming that will be me doing my panels! So inspiration was definitely required. Well, I wasn't disappointed there were so many lovely sets of images, including one of Chris's which was stunning in more ways than one! I hope we will see that shortly at our panel competition so no spoilers here. It was also good to see so many successful entries of friends of the club Graham and Chanardaye Walton. And of course Graham handing out the awards as Chair of the MCPF, which is our regional camera club federation.

Onto the third one I've been to recently and leaving the best to last, the one woman exhibition of club member Jolanta. Held at the Highbury Theatre (Sutton Coldfield), a lovely venue which has rather cleverly given over its front lobby and café wall space as an exhibition venue where local artists, including photographers, are selected and asked to display their work.



Well what a treat that was. I'm sure I'm not the only one who, in our own member judged competitions where we don't know whose images are whose, tries to guess based on style the author of each photograph. But when you see such a large body from one author it becomes very clear Jolanta's distinctive and beautiful style of her fine art images. This image is the perfect example of a print bringing out the luminosity of the image.

A number of us went over the 4 weeks or so the exhibition was on. It clearly had gone down very well and a number of theatre members, when I was there, came up to Jolanta to congratulate her and more than a few of the images had the red dot to confirm a sale! But I don't underestimate the huge amount of work involved after all it was something like 30+ images all of which would have had to be printed off, quite possibly multiple times to get the right toning, and then of course mounted. As that's the bit I hate I just can't imagine doing 30+ amounts over a relatively short period of time. Then there was the challenge of figuring out a way of displaying them so that they were grouped in an attractive way as well as practically hanging them. I know Jolanta would want me to mention that Tony (Dyson) was an absolute star and was a huge help in the practical side of this venture. It takes a club sometimes.....

As to the images themselves a small number I recognised from previous competitions but the vast majority were new images. Now that is quite a feat since Jolanta was only asked earlier this year. I'm sure we'll be seeing quite a few over the next few months. Needless to say they were all beautifully presented and stunning to look at. I'm hoping Jolanta will tell us more about how she approached this venture perhaps in an article for the newsletter?

So, I hope I have inspired you that if you get the chance, visit a print show near you.

06

Joiners

By Phil Moorhouse



A technique motivated by the work of British artist David Hockney, 'Joiners' make use of a collection of different photographs to form a collage, or representation of a scene, rather than a perfect depiction. The idea came to Hockney by accident, when he was working on a painting of a terrace and living room, in Los Angeles. He happened to take a collection of polaroid images of the scene, gluing them together to form the wider view.

Hockney's 'Joiners' tend to offer an abstract view, providing an impression of the scene, rather than an accurate record. As a photographer, it is a fun technique to try, especially if you find yourself photographing a subject with the wrong lens!



A visit to Gloucester Cathedral last year, with the wrong lens attached, presented the perfect opportunity to shoot a collection of photographs to represent the scene. For some reason, the resulting 'Joiner' is inherently more interesting than the straight shot with a wide-angle lens. The trick is to plan your 'Joiner', by noting the detail in each corner of the viewfinder and making sure the next

two or three shots include that detail in the overlapping area. You will find you take many more photographs than you actually use in your final collage. Once home, each image is imported as a separate layer in Photoshop (or other editing software) and adjustments to positions, angles and tones can be made to create the effect. If you find the images do not quite match, no problem, it simply adds further interest to the picture!

Everyday objects photographed using this technique can be transformed from the mundane to the interesting. Here, the Les Paul Electric Ukulele, photographed on a wooden floor is presented as a 'Joiner'. Having complete control of the lighting set-up and camera position, the images are easier to match almost perfectly.



A recent trip to Cornwall, presented the opportunity to revisit some childhood memories and apply the 'Joiner'-treatment to a few coastal scenes. Here, we see Chapel Rock in Perranporth, each image captured with a 300mm lens and carefully placed to form the overall scene.



07

Upcoming Event on Underwater Photography

Bob Breach at Solihull has asked us to share an up-coming evening they are putting on, details below:

[Wednesday 23rd November 2022 - a talk by David Keep on underwater photography.](#) You may have seen some of his spectacular shots in various exhibitions and you can see more on his website:

<https://www.davidkeepphotography.co.uk/>

He will talk about the images and how he managed to plan and set up the shots with short videos. If you are interested in coming along to this you would be most welcome and as our local partner club would only pay the same door fee as our members (£3.50). It's not essential, but it would help us if you could let us know the names of any Shirley members who might want come and join us for the evening.

So if anyone is interested in attending that in-person evening at Solihull (the Church Hall near the station I believe?) please let me know so I can let Bob know how many to expect.

Following a few requests, Mick and Jenny are also looking at a basic camera set-up, 'settings explanation' based workshop on Zoom on a Monday evening in the next few weeks. So, it's things like: shutter, aperture, iso, white balance, raw/jpeg, focus modes, etc.

If this is something you feel you would like to brush up on, please let us know so we can gauge how many and how much needs covering.

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08

Photographic Filters

Mick Schilling has been given a bag of filters by a friend who's dad has died. There's a set of cokin Nd and grad filters and a holder with a 55mm ring. Would also fit 58 and 52 with the right size ring. There's some cpl and some star effect filters too. They're just after a donation to keep the widowed mum happy.

Anyone interested in these please contact Mick directly.

09

Photography Podium

'First Projected Image' Competition



Congratulations to everyone who submitted images for this competition. And what a 'showstopper' we had with some super images to look at. And I was thrilled to get a 'Highly Commended' with my picture 'The Sink', which I took at the National Trust property 'Castle Drogo' in Devon in the Summer.

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First Place:	<i>Canoeist</i>	Mick O'Malley	<i>Cheetah</i>	Chris Johnson	<i>Frozen Rose</i>	Jenny Ladbroke
Second Place:	<i>Suitcase Handle</i>	Mick O'Malley	<i>Confetti Field</i>	Richard Postill	<i>Pomegranates and Grapes</i>	Jolanta B. Axon
Third Place:	<i>Genevieve, Boggle and Patch</i>	Mike Goodwin	<i>French Alps Sunset</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Great Grey Owl Coming into Land</i>	Jane Storer
Highly Commended:	<i>The Sink</i>	Elizabeth Smith	<i>Lion</i>	Chris Johnson	<i>Solitude</i>	Mick Schilling
			<i>View of Manhattan Bridge from Brooklyn</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Her Favourite</i>	Jenny Ladbroke
Commended:	<i>Blackberry Blossom</i>	John Leighton	<i>Bembridge Lifeboat Station</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>Inventive Lampshades</i>	Mick Schilling
	<i>Toothless</i>	Roger Cooper	<i>The Poser</i>	Heather Thompson	<i>Close Encounter</i>	Val Manning
			<i>Over the Top</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>Red Panda, Up Close and Personal</i>	Jane Storer
					<i>Owlet on the Window Ledge</i>	Chris Mallett

Group 1



Canoeist



Suitcase Handle



Genevieve, Boggle and Patch



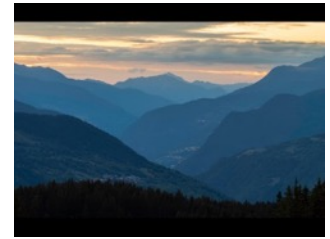
Group 2



Cheetah



Confetti Field

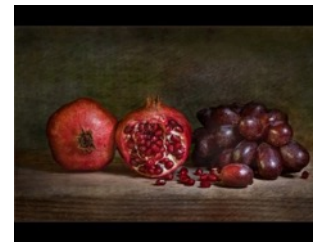


French Alps Sunset

Group 3



Frozen Rose



Pomegranates and Grapes



*Great Grey Owl Coming
In to Land*

'First Prints' Competition

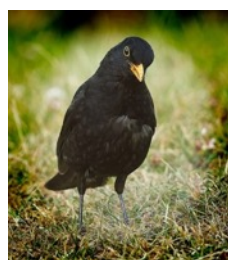
On their welcome return the 'Prints' did not disappoint. Some beautiful images but my personal favourites were Rosie's 'Alpaca Portrait' and Chris's 'Piggy in the Middle' – they really made me smile.

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First Place:	<i>The Beautiful Natasha</i>	Graham Newman	<i>Manhattan Skyline</i>	Chris Lee	<i>A Parliament of Owls</i>	Jenny Ladbroke
Second Place:	<i>Quizzical Look from a Blackbird</i>	Graham Newman	<i>Love in the Mist</i>	Dave Ward	<i>Piggy in the Middle</i>	Chris Mallett
Third Place:	<i>Alpaca Portrait</i>	Rosie Thompson	<i>Relaxed Meerkats</i>	Hazel Lane	<i>Brown Hare</i>	David Steele
Highly Commended:	<i>Shetland Pony Cooling Down in the Shade</i>	Graham Newman	<i>Lizzie Dodds and Daughter</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>Bluetailed Damsels Mating</i>	Mick Schilling
			<i>Sunflowers</i>	Fay Venables	<i>Simply Wild Garlic</i>	Jolanta B Axon
Commended:	<i>Out of the Blue</i>	Michael Prince	<i>Wave Breaker</i>	Hazel Lane	<i>Alleyway Walkers</i>	Dave Venables
	<i>Suitcase Handle</i>	Mick O'Malley	<i>The Green Man</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>The Chinese Flowers</i>	Jenny Ladbroke

Group 1



The Beautiful Natasha



Quizzical look from a Blackbird



Alpaca Portrait



Group 2



Manhattan Skyline



Love in the Mist



Relaxed Meercats

Group 3



A Parliament of Owls



Piggy in the Middle



Brown Hare

'Landscapes' Competition

Congratulations to all who entered this competition, what a strong field of entries we had to feast our eyes upon. The biggest "Well Done" goes to our President, Jenny, though who took First place in the prints, First and Second place in the digitals, and a Highly Commended thrown in for good measure!

Prints

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First Place:	<i>River Scene</i>	Mick O'Malley	<i>Global Warming</i>	Hazel Lane	<i>Autumnal Inversion</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke
Second Place:	<i>Can You See It?</i>	Michael Prince	<i>Arches</i>	Kevin Watts	<i>Autumn at Rydal Water</i>	Jolanta B Axon
Third Place:	<i>Hartland Point Lighthouse</i>	Michael Prince	<i>Barga at Twilight</i>	Kevin Watts	<i>Blue Anchor ICM</i>	Mick Schilling

Group 1



River Scene



Can You See It?



Hartland Point Lighthouse

Group 2



Global Warming



Arches



Barga at Twilight

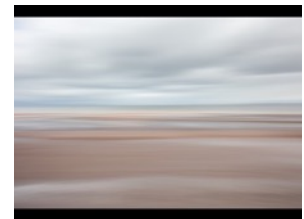
Group 3



Autumnal Inversion



Autumn at Rydale Water



Blue Anchor ICM

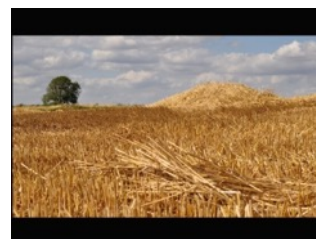
Digitals

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First Place:	<i>Down Hill all the Way</i>	Mike Goodwin	<i>Sunrise Rainbow</i>	Chris Lee	<i>Padley Gorge</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke
Second Place:	<i>Haystack</i>	Mick O'Malley	<i>Antarctica</i>	Hazel Lane	<i>The Sands of Morar</i>	Jenny Ladbrooke
Third Place:	<i>The West Highland Way</i>	Richard Goulding	<i>View of Llyn Cau</i>	Heather Thompson	<i>The 'Squinty' Bridge</i>	Phil Moorhouse

Group 1



Down Hill All the Way

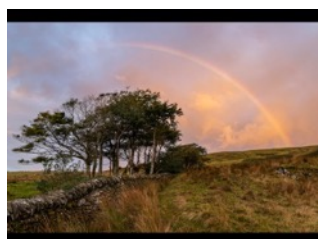


Haystack



The West Highland Way

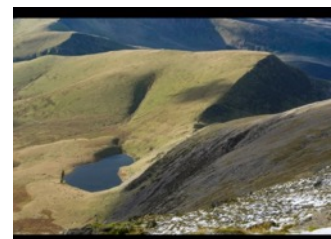
Group 2



Sunrise Rainbow



Antarctica



View of Llyn Cau

Group 3



Padley Gorge



The Sands of Morar



The 'Squinty' Bridge

10

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 December