



Cheam Camera Club June 2020 Newsletter

From the Chair

Kevin Austin introduces the first newsletter of the Lockdown period:

The introduction of the Lockdown has had significant impact on every person in the UK and beyond. It was very clear from the outset that it would be impossible to continue to meet in the church hall during the restrictions. The decision was taken to try to continue to meet using online technology. After a few minor hiccups we have now managed to hold an online meeting on every Wednesday since the 8th April.

These Zoom meetings have allowed the Club to fulfil so much of what we were able to do previously. Of course, we miss meeting in the hall, but we have still been able to connect with one another. There has always been time for a chat and catch up on members' news before turning to the evening's objective.

We have had external speakers from further afield than usual; we ran two Lockdown PDI challenges; reinstated the formal PDI competitions, including the PDI Photographer of the Year; and we've even had a Club quiz.

More details on those evenings are in this Newsletter, so please read on to learn more about what we've achieved and what we have arranged for the next few weeks.

You'll also see that there are some questions at the end. They are also included in the covering email to this Newsletter. We encourage you to reply to them. You needn't answer them all, but your responses will help inform what we want to achieve at the Club going forward.

I also want to thank all members who have participated on Zoom, with particular thanks to those who have adapted the programme, implemented and managed the technology, and contributed to the content. Well done!

I hope you agree that we've really responded positively in these challenging times – all from the comfort of our own chairs and not those ones at the hall!

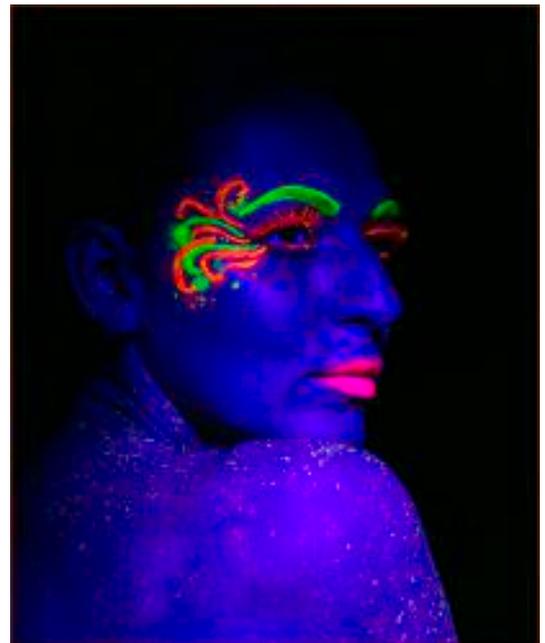
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Photographer of the Year – Projected Digital Images



Winner
The Pit by Gerald Sorenti



Second Place
UV Light by Sue Leathers





What's been going on(line)...

Here's a brief review of the Club's weekly activities since Lockdown began:

Informal Meeting on Zoom

8th April

We held an informal meeting to shake down the Zoom system and to see if a reasonable number of members could access the system and gain something from the experience.

The meeting was well received by more than half of the existing members and the decision was to continue trying to keep the Club running on Zoom.

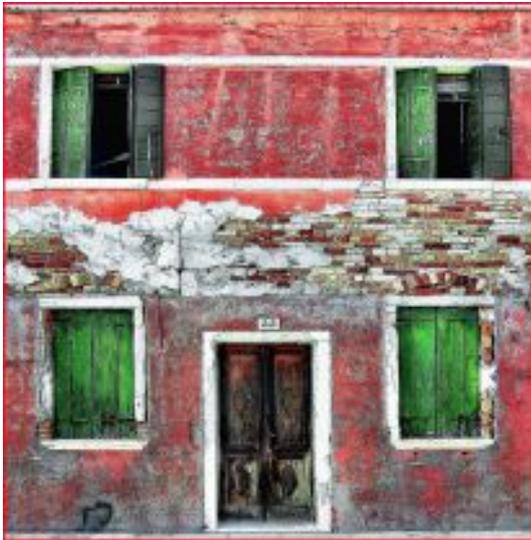
Relaxed PDI Competition

15th April

In order to see if we could handle a PDI competition on Zoom our very own judge, Graeme Wales LRPS CPAGB, kindly volunteered to judge one for us. This was a very successful event and well attended.

More importantly we were able to decide we could continue our PDI competitions.

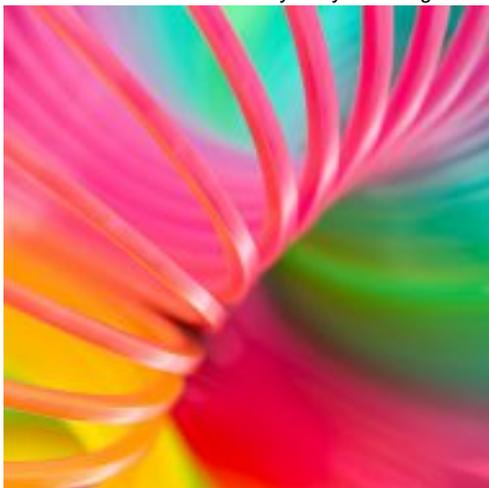
Here are some of the images put forward that evening:



No. 35
by Gary Weaving



Looking for Lunch
by Colin Churcher



Slinky Abstract
by Jane McGuire



Friday Afternoon
by Mark Smith



Snow Flower
by Mark Brown





Q&A Evening

22nd April

Kevin England co-ordinated the event, inviting members to send in some questions that they hoped the other members could answer. Mark Brown raised a number of interesting questions, these led to a fascinating discussion about Infra-red photography where Andrew Sanders shared some of his experience and subsequently posted on the our Facebook site some examples and information.

Here are just a few of the questions and answers from the evening:

Q: I don't think I've ever had lens flare in a photo I've taken, so why do so many people have lens hoods on their cameras?

A: We had a conversation about advantages of hood, both in terms of stray light and as protection for the lens

Q: How do you take InfraRed photos? Every time I try with an IR filter, I just get a black image.

A: Camera can be modified to have IR filters removed.

Andrew Saunders subsequently posted excellent help on the Club's Facebook page.

Q: One for the bird photographers – how come I can see every barb on every feather on your birds, but others' pictures just look smooth – what makes the difference?

A: Discussion about shutter speeds and fast lenses. Avoid dull days as low iso and high shutter are essential

Q: What is the recommended workflow for getting images from camera onto my laptop and then the process for getting them into Lightroom catalogues?

A: A general discussion followed which resulted in Jonathon Bartle agreeing to demonstrate some techniques on 3rd June.

“Landscape Photography” by Guy Edwardes

29th April

Guy is a professional landscape, nature and travel photographer with over twenty-five years of experience.

His work has been published worldwide with clients that include: Amateur Photographer, Outdoor Photography, Practical Photography, Digital Camera, Photo Plus, Digital SLR, Telegraph, Guardian and many more. He has also published two successful books on landscape and nature photography techniques.

His main interest is photographing the wildlife and wild places of the British Isles but also photographs on his overseas. He aims to capture subjects in new ways, often working on new techniques in order to produce a unique image.

Living in Dorset, he has a variety of beautiful landscapes and interesting habitats right on his doorstep and many of his most successful images were taken within a few miles of his home.

Guy's presentation covered a variety of his techniques and locations, sharing practical advice on recommendations for our landscape photography, including:

- Composition e.g. setting square format in-camera
- Using Liveview to aide focusing
- Astro shots using Start Tracker using long exposures (with one exposure taken before conditions are too dark and used for the foreground, merged with another with long exposure taken after dark)
- Bracketing, especially when the sun is in the shot
- Using different strength ND filters
- Stitching panoramas (8 images with 50% overlap, taken vertically)
- How to get effective staburst effects
- Use weather apps (e.g. Magicseaweed) to check optimal conditions for misty images
- Coastal drone images

For more information take a look at Guy's website:

<https://www.guyedwardes.com/> and sign up to his Newsletter.





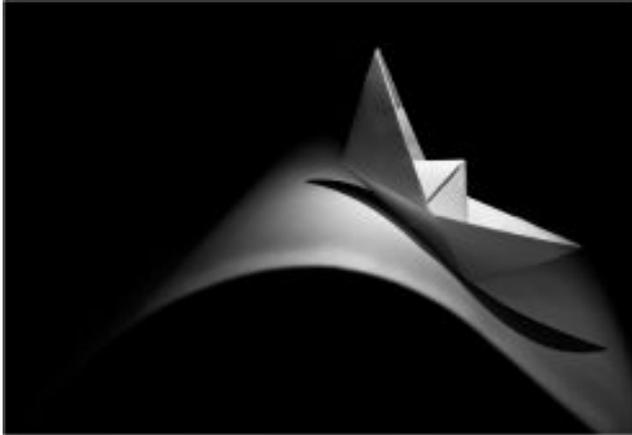
Lockdown PDI Competition

6th May

The membership thought an informal PDI competition based on pictures we had been captured during Lockdown would be fun. All pictures had to have been taken since the 23rd March 2020 from within the boundaries of members' homes or when on daily exercise outings. Entries included some key worker street shots to some interesting desktop photos. Karen invited her friend, Paul Edmunds, to be our guest judge for the evening. You may recall that Karen wrote an article in the December 2017 Newsletter covering her photographic trips to Paul's photography tuition business (www.frenchphotographicholidays.com) based in the Dordogne area of France.

On the evening, Paul provided some provocative comments and marks covering a broader range than normal. As an aside, this led to an interesting dialogue about normal SPA judges marking between 7 and 10 compared to a handful of 4s given out this time!!

Here are some of the images put forward that evening:



Origami Tsunami
by Jonathon Bartle



The Life of a Welsh Poppy
by Michael Nightingale



My Best Side
by Kevin England



'Fig Leaf
by Mark Smith



Reflections
by Sue Leathers



Industrial Landscape
By Keith Wellbelove



Corn Flower
By Debbie Arnell





PDI Round 5

13th May

In a change to the planned programme Ian Brash CPAGB BPE2* agreed to judge the fifth round of our reinstated PDI competition rather than the Endeavour Cup, which has been cancelled for this season.

Ian coped extremely well with viewing images for the first time whilst using Zoom; he gave encouragement whilst also providing constructive feedback. This was another very successful event with the Clubs technical team co-ordinating well with presenting images and muting members during the judging.

Here are some of the images which received high score from Ian:

Standard Class:



*Jack Steadman, Bombay Bicycle Club
by Kevin England*



*Kalifa Tower, Dubai
by Jon Griffiths*



*Ranunculus
by Debbie Whitton*



*Silver Steps
by Lindy Sewell*



*Invisible Cyclist
by Mark Smith*



*Smoke and Glass
by Mark Smith*

More on the next page....





Intermediate Class:



A Furtive Fox
by Michael Nightingale



Ashness Jetty
by Debbie Arnell



Facing Up To The Storm
by Jonathon Bartle

Advanced Class:



Tulip Kaleidoscope
by Elvio Morcillo



Derwent Water
By Kevin Austin



Harris Tweed Colours
by Graeme Wales



Crashing Spray
By Karen Begg





“Documentary Photography” then “Celebrating British Life Today” by Janey Devine FRPS 20th May

Two years ago we were fortunate enough to get a slot in Janey’s diary to present at Cheam in April this year. When the lockdown started Janey was one of the speakers we had to cancel.

Then the Club was very lucky to be able to get Janey to present on Zoom with a background talk on Documentary Photography, illustrated by her own work and some classic archive shots.

Janey then went on to present groups of images from her portfolio covering a fascinating range of photography in celebration of life in Britain today, in both colour and monochrome. This is an area which has not been covered much within the club, and Janey pointed out that the photos were not the sort of images normally seen in club competitions – standing more as an essay viewed as a group and not stand-alone images. This section included photography from Janey’s involvement in a number of Social Documentary projects, including a charity dedicated to preserving the future of SS Shieldhall and another, Rising Stars, which is a non-profit community theatre group.



A special thank you goes to Janey for a thoroughly absorbing evening for which she didn’t charge her usual speaker’s fee but asked us to donate to a local worthy cause. We gifted the fee to St Raphael’s Hospice.

For more information take a look at Janey’s website <https://www.janeydevine.com/>

PDI Round 6

27th May

Gerald Kitiyakara LRPS judged the sixth and final round of the PDI competition.

This was another very successful event and, as Gerald noted, with many excellent images despite the current restrictions. There was again a good number of participants on the Zoom meeting.

Here are some of the images which received high score from Gerald:

Standard Class:



Living in the Shadow of Others by Mark Brown



*Mumm, can we go home now?
by Michael Atwell*

More on the next page....





Standard Class (cont.):



The Quaytside
by Lindy Sewell



Nature Taking Over



Strange Seeds
by Peter Thomas

Intermediate Class:



Busy Bee
by Debbie Arnell



A Female Pheasant Jetty
by Michael Nightingale

Advanced Class:



Tackled
by David Wilkinson



Lockdown Thriller
By Gerald Sorenti

More on the next page....



Advanced Class (cont.):



Blue Tit
By Kevin Austin



Cheetah with Cubs
By Martina Bennellick



Home with a view
by Graeme Wales



Lone Passenger
by Keith Wellbelove

A two-part evening:

Members discussion about the forthcoming programme led by Gerald Sorenti then a demonstration of Lightroom by Jonathon Bartle

3rd June

In the first part of the evening Gerald described the plans for the programme in the coming weeks including details of the speakers which he and Kevin England have managed to book (see Coming Up Next, below for details). There was a general discussion in which members were able to contribute ideas for how the Club should operate under the Lockdown restrictions and suggestions for how we can adapt to make the best of the situation (e.g. having Zoom meetings with presenters who wouldn't normally travel to Cheam or would be too expensive). Given the challenges that we are facing, it was an extremely encouraging and positive discussion which reaffirmed our intention to meet on a weekly basis without a summer break, incorporating a mixture of members' evenings, external speakers and PDI competitions.

In the second half, Jonathon demonstrate how he uses Lightroom to import and edit images. He described how he uses folders on his computer in conjunction with Lightroom's Collections to organise his images in the Library Module. He also gave a whistle stop tour of the Develop Module, showing some of the editing capabilities of Lightroom. Jonathon has agreed to provide a more comprehensive demonstration of the features in the Develop Module on another evening.

Photographer of the Year – Projected Digital Images

10th June

Tim Morland ARPS judged the concluding official competition of our 2019/20 season.

Members could enter a maximum of two images which had scored 9 or above in the current season's PDI competition.

There was a total of 57 images from 31 members representing all three categories.

Tim was provided with the images the day before the event (with Exif data removed by Elvio) so that he could take time to assess them on his profiled screen without the deterioration which can happen on Zoom. Thank you, Tim, for taking your responsibilities so seriously and for your considered and constructive commentary. As a result, we enjoyed seeing some of our season's best images and reminded ourselves of the high standard of photography at the Club.

The first place (The Pit by Gerald Sorenti) and second place (UV Light by Sue Leathers) images take pride of place on the front cover. Here is the third place image, along with those that were highly commended. Well done to you all!



Third Place - Racing Shadows by Jonathon Bartle



The Bleeding Doors by Matthew Spring



Defined Muscles by Sue Leathers



Fetch by Ken Underhay



Cheetah With Kill by Martina Bannelick



Call Me A Cab by Gary Weaving



Quiz Night – hosted by Mark Brown

17th June



Approximately 20 members took part in a thoroughly entertaining evening of photography related, quick fire questions prepared by Quizmaster, Mark Brown.

A really big thank you goes out to Mark who had clearly put in a huge effort to devise a quiz to appeal to all who took part. Congratulations to David Wilkinson who, after eight rounds of ten questions, came out as the clear winner with 62 points.

The rounds included identifying: celebrities who'd been treated with filters, years of historic events, locations of famous tourist attractions, famous photographers, animals, Time Person of the Year and more.



Coming Up Next on Zoom

The Club's Programme for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season:

June 2020

Presenter(s)

24 th	Talk: 'A Project Based Approach To Photography' David says "I'm passionate about all forms of photography & confess to spending far too much time doing it! However, I'd describe myself as an image maker not a photographer as I enjoy the post-processing as much as I do taking the photo." For more information see his website www.davidkeepphotography.co.uk/	David Heap
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July 2020

1 st	Talk: 'Working with Textures' Answering all the what and how questions, Jane will go through sourcing and creating textures, how to use blend modes and then some different methods of how to apply textures to an image. For more information see her website www.ejlazenbyphotography.co.uk/	Jane Lazenby
8 th	To be arranged	
15 th	Demonstrating what we learnt about textures on 1st July Members are invited to show their new creative talents by submitting images using techniques demonstrated by Jane in her previous talk. Jane will join the meeting to critique some of the images.	Jane Lazenby
22 nd	Talk: 'Journey to the end of the World – The Fjords of Patagonia' Julian is an award winning professional freelance landscape and travel photographer based in the Loire Valley, France but also travels across Europe mainly encompassing France, Italy and the UK.	Julian Elliott
29 th	The Annual General Meeting Details are being circulated by Club Secretary, Debbie Whitton	

Looking Further Ahead

Programme Secretary, Gerald Sorenti, with help from Kevin England are putting in place a weekly programme for August:

At the discussion on 3rd June, it was agreed that the Club should try to meet on Zoom every week during the summer. One idea is to have a member marked competition. It was clear from some of the activities in lock down, and before, that different judges have different ideas of a "10" and it might be fun to be marked by our peers; having lots of eyes assessing the pictures may even out individuals' preferences and add an interesting new perspective on members' work.

Please watch your emails for details of these new events.

Please also take time to answer the questions in the section below or to provide other feedback to the them about what you'd like to happen at the Club.





Seeking your help...

In order to better understand what our members want from the Club and to assist with planning our future programme with Gerald, Kevin England is seeking answers to some questions. Please feel free to only answer as comprehensively as you can or simply answer just a few – everything will help.

Please send your answers to him by replying to the cover email to this Newsletter or use his Club email address: cheamcsexhibition@gmail.com

1 What aspects of photography do you actively pursue?	
a. Landscape b. Street c. Portraiture d. Sports	e. Live events / concerts f. Architecture Other (please state):
2 What aspects of photography would you like to hear about at the Club?	
a. Landscape b. Street c. Portraiture d. Sports	e. Live events / concerts f. Architecture Other (please state):
3 What camera (or cameras) do you use? (Tick all that apply) e.g. Canon DSLR or Sony Mirrorless or Nikon Compact Camera	
a. Canon b. Fuji c. Leica d. Nikon e. Olympus f. Panasonic g. Pentax h. Sony	a. Digital SLR b. Mirrorless c. Compact d. Digital Medium Format e. Bridge f. Film Other (please state):
4 What photo editing software do you use	
a. Adobe Creative Cloud (comprising Lightroom and Photoshop etc.) b. Photoshop Elements c. Capture One	d. Any others (please state):
5 Would you class your ability with photo editing as:	
a. Absolute beginner b. Fairly competent	c. Can do everything I want to d. Comfortable and willing to share my knowledge with the Club
6 Do you have any suggestions for the Programme or what the Club offers to its members? We would welcome specific ideas (e.g. speakers you would recommend; topics for discussion such as tutorials on Lightroom) or general thoughts (e.g. I would like to learn more about using my camera, I would like a review of the Club's internal competitions)	
7 Some clubs have started informal competitions where the members score the images. This could give a broader range of tastes and likes. We could investigate running a Club evening where we vote for images members have submitted, perhaps either voting in real time in Zoom, or a "postal vote" using e-mail. a. Would you be interested in this? b. Would you submit images? c. Would you prefer to vote for best photo in each class (Standard, Intermediate, Advanced)? d. Would you prefer to vote for your favourite three in each class?	





About the Club and Contacts -

Secretary: Debbie Whitton 01306 884206
Chairman: Kevin Austin 020 8394 0286
Web: <http://www.cheamcameraclub.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CheamCameraClubPhotographyForAll/>

The club is open to all visitors, young or old. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced photographer you are very welcome to join us and we are sure you will find our club meetings very inspiring. No worries if you have never been to our Club before, you can just walk in and introduce yourself and a warm welcome will soon make you feel at home.

If you would like to contact someone before visiting us, you can contact Michael Nightingale (tel. 07989 316624).

Normally, we hold our meetings from 8.00pm until 10.00pm on Wednesdays from September to June.

Meetings were being held in The Tweddle Hall, one of the halls attached to St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Northey Avenue, Cheam, Surrey SM2 7HF.

Interim Lockdown arrangements:

During 'Lockdown' however we are meeting on Zoom on Wednesdays every week and are planning to continue through summer.

If you would like a hard copy of the Newsletter please contact us by emailing newslettercheamcc@gmail.com. For information about the content of this document please contact The Editorial Team (email: newslettercheamcc@gmail.com).

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