360 Cup 2020 and Nature of Devizes

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) has released the results for the open national 360 Cup and 360 Cup for Nature competitions. As usual, the results are very impressive and the quality of the images submitted is very high indeed.

For the 360 Cup Nature Portfolio Image of the Year and Open Nature Portfolio Image of the Year the winner was Richard Bickerdyke from Devizes with his image of a Kingfisher. Congratulations to Richard on his success in these two very prestigious competitions.

For the 360 Cup for Nature Projected Image 2020 overall open, both nature and non-nature, the winner was Ian Ford from the Devizes Camera Club with his image of a Kingfisher. Congratulations to Ian on his success in this very prestigious competition.

Our club came second in the open competition and above nature, but there is a second 2019 Cup trophy, meaning a trophy winner's score of 19. Below that in open competition and nature, there was a tie between Devizes and Swindon Camera Club with a score of 18.

Congratulations to Swindon Camera Club on 2nd. Through The Nature, and also to their score of 17.

Members scores

21 January 2020

Manchester Print and PI Competitions

Our Manchester Print and PI competitions are now in progress as they are the two consecutive competitions. Sandy always looks very carefully at the images and as with all entrants we are completely impartial. Sandy's comments are very helpful and we have had some very good results in these competitions.

Starting with the print image Sandy awarded Gold medals to two members, one for a Kingfisher and one for a Grey Wagtail both beautiful images. We also had one silver and two bronze awards.

In the PI class we ended with a Gold and a Silver medal for a Kingfisher and a Bronze for a Grey Wagtail.

Congratulations to all our members who received awards in these competitions. Sandy's comments are very helpful and we look forward to his visit in February when he will be judging our Open Print competition.

Members scores

17 January 2020

Lightbox Competition Evening

Paul Hitchman, who needs no introduction to our members, has sent Christmas time, with a Science theme. Members were asked to describe the image, the settings used and the story behind the image. Members scores were very good and Paul's comments were very helpful.

17 January 2020

Sandy's Print Competition

15 January 2020

Back to the Middle of Salisbury Plain

Chris Hitchman's great photo-journalism was interesting and informative presentation by his wife photographer Sue Bennett. Now is not known for its amazing Stonehenge sunrises and sunsets, but Sue showed us that there is more than just Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain. Sue's photos showed the Plain in all its glory.

Sue's image processing showed a certain creative flair and her photos showed the Plain in all its glory. Sue's photos showed the Plain in all its glory. Sue's photos showed the Plain in all its glory. Sue's

different 'Office Block at Sunset' also by David showed a city- scape with windows reflecting many colours. Three more images were awarded Highly Commended including an impressive portrait of a snow leopard.

After a short break Peter gave his comments on the 30 images entered in the Advanced section.

With an amazing range of landscapes many of which were taken by members on a recent visit to Iceland and some impressive nature images it must have been difficult for the judge to pick a winner. The image chosen was 'Through the Glacier' by Caroline Wright which was an unusual shot from inside an Icelandic ice cave showing the interesting patterns in the ice. Second place went to something entirely different with a creative image of butterflies flying out of a book. 'Flight to Freedom' was by Pam Mullings. Third place went to another of the Icelandic images 'Ice on Diamond Beach' by Robert Harvey ARPS EFIAP showing the colours in the floating ice. Six more images were picked out for HC's including several snowy scenes, an Icelandic aurora, a macro insect and a leaping dog.

Thanks to Peter for his excellent critique and to competition secretary Dave Eagle for compiling and projecting the entries. Thanks to all the members who entered such an interesting range of images and many congratulations to the winners.

See the full results All the awarded images can be seen in the Galleries

Capture the Moment

5 April 2022

The presentation tonight was on Zoom and Mike Bennett LRPS, DPAGB, EFIAP, BPE3 gave his thoughts on his approach to photography. Mike likes to challenge himself and he says he 'will have a go' at any photographic genre. We saw some of his interesting sport images where he got shots of the action on the field and track. One of the challenges he set himself was to get nature images of birds and butterflies in flight and he showed some well caught images. He likes to set himself projects and has photographed the smoked fish industry near Grimsby where he lives, the casting of iron, an old railway and many more local industries. Mike has an interest in Street photography and showed a range of images taken of people as they went about their life unaware that they were being photographed. Many images were in monochrome which suited the lone people, old buildings and cobbled streets. Mike looks for light and shadow and many images had the subject caught in a shaft of light. Particularly moving was a sequence of mono images taken in Hull which were put together in an AV titled 'Northern City and set to 'Sound of Silence' by Disturbed.

Mike showed some portraits of interesting faces with the models often in period dress and he showed how he sometimes changes the background to suit the characters. A range of creative images was shown wherehe had used software to add textures and overlays.

Finally Mike showed how he had created the image of a trawler which looked as if it had been taken in a raging storm at sea. Mike showed how he cleverly put together the composite image. When photographed the ship was moored in calm water but using layers, a stormy sky was added as a background and then turbulent waves to complete the effect in the foreground. The secret is to make all the layers blend seamlessly, add texture and give an overall colour hue to create a realistic looking scene.
Mike was thanked for showing the club his wide range of images. PM
See Mike's **Website**

Animals on the Edge: Reporting from the Frontline of Extinction

29 March 2022

It was great to have a 'live' speaker once again and wildlife photo-journalist Chris Weston said it was good to see am audience once more. Chris is passionate about turning the tide in the battle against the extinction of critically endangered animals. His book 'Animals on the Edge' was published 10 years ago but sadly in many cases little has changed to bring red listed animals back from the brink.
Chris has travelled extensively over the last 20 years photographing the conflicts faced both by humans and animals. Land where once animals roamed freely is now farmed and animals often trample crops and kill livestock which leaves the farmers with little income. In other areas endangered species are hunted for bush-meat, skins or even trophies. Chris related many sad stories of the conflicts but also a more upbeat story about the Highland Gorillas of Rwanda where eco-tourism has encouraged the local population to regard the Gorillas as an asset to the country.
Chris showed us some of his amazing wildlife photographs and explained that he prefers to not use large telephoto lenses. He likes to get close up images by spending time and getting close to his subjects by gaining their trust. If that is not possible, then he uses hides or remote cameras. Chris likes to plan beforehand exactly what he wants to portray in his images and goes to great lengths to get his images. Sometimes its months or even years before he gets the ideal conditions to get the image he has in his mind. Chris likes to experiment with his images and he showed how he managed to photograph lions hunting at night with a background of star trails. ICM and panning resulted in some interesting images that gave an impression of animals on the move.
A range of AV's were shown featuring images of the lives of Big Cats, Elephants and Great Apes.
Chris was thanked for giving such a thought provoking and interesting presentation. *PM*
*See **Chris's website** for images and information on conservation, workshops and safaris.*

Open Print Competition No 2

Two in the Bush

Creative and Close-up/Macro Competitions

'Britain's Best Landscapes and How to Photograph Them'

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