

# BEACON CAMERA CLUB

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## NEWSLETTER

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### Intro

Hi,

Congratulations to everyone who had winning entries in the recent Cup competitions. We had a bumper crop of entries right at the last minute, so unfortunately had to cut back on the number of images per person. Next year, we will spread the “Cup” competitions over more than one evening to allow for a larger number of entries. A big “thank you” to our judges, and also to all members who entered and made the events so enjoyable. The winning images are available to view on the Club website, and are also included later in this newsletter.

This week sees the start of our Summer Programme, which is visible on the Teamup calendar. We have some great presentations lined up, mostly from Club members, and I look forward to seeing you there.

As usual in the summer, this newsletter covers a four-week period, so be sure to keep an eye on Teamup for any last-minute programme changes.

Enjoy the summer and keep clicking!

Simon

Chairman

[chairman@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)

### Thursday 7:30 pm Meetings

*Our usual programme of external speakers and Club competitions is taking a break until September, but Club member Kim Walton has kindly organised a Summer Programme of presentations to keep us all amused. There is a focus on the activities of the Special Interest Groups, but you'll also find many other things to enjoy, such as reports on photo-trips to Lofoten and Namibia. Details of all the talks are on our Teamup calendar, and any changes to the programme will be advertised there. Please come along to support our speakers and find out what's grabbed their attention over the last few months!*

### 8<sup>th</sup> June – Peter Warner and the AV Group, *in person at the Vale*

The first of our Summer Programme events sees Peter and members of his AV Special Interest Group showcasing their work over the last year, including AVs produced for their “Worcester” challenge. They will also be showing some of the successful sequences from MidPhot 2023. If you're not familiar with

Audio Visual presentations, or the activities of this SIG, do come along to find out what you've been missing!

### 15<sup>th</sup> June – Nick Browne, *in person at the Vale*

Fresh (if that's the right word) from running two over-subscribed and very well-received Lightroom courses over the last few months, Nick will be going over some 'top tips' for Lightroom. These will be things that seemed to be most useful (or surprising!) for the people who participated in this year's Lightroom course. Don't worry though, he will not be spending time doing live edits on the big screen.

Most of the evening will be looking at some of the projects Nick has been involved in since his last talk at the club. These will include some work on series of images and photo books. There will not be any snowy images this time but there will be some 'abstract' and some 'street'. This is a rare opportunity to see some images from one of our finest fellow photographers, so make sure you put the date in your diary.



© Nick Browne

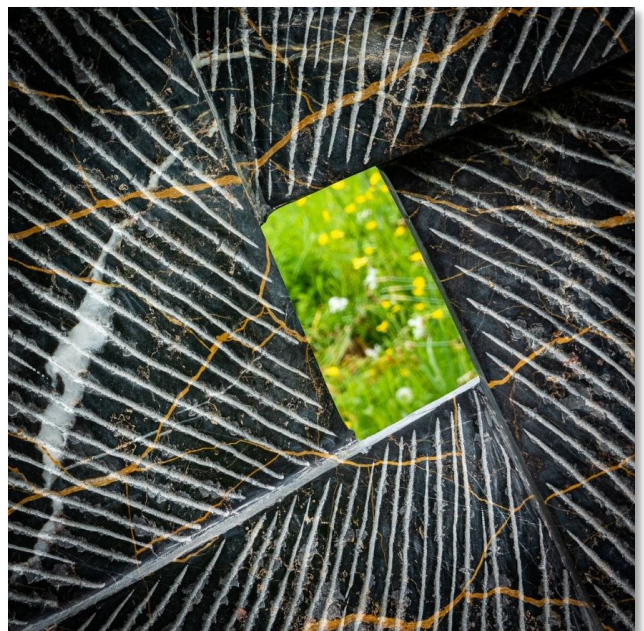
### 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Gareth Roberts, *in person at the Vale*

Gareth leads our Portrait Special Interest Group, and will be showing us some of the highlights of the last year, and talking about the equipment used in the various sessions he has held. This has been a very popular SIG, and Gareth has done an excellent job of organising a variety of models for the photoshoots, and demonstrating an equally wide variety of lighting arrangements.

### 29<sup>th</sup> June – Colin Walls and Phil Morgan, *in person at the Vale*

The one-a-day photo-maestro Colin Walls will be showing us some of his favourite recent images, and giving us an insight into his unique way of seeing the world. The theme is "how 2023 is going, so far". Be there, or be square, as they say.

After the break, Street Photography SIG leader Phil Morgan will take us on a romp through the streets of Birmingham, Bristol, and beyond with a selection of his own and other Club members' images from the last few months.



© Colin Walls

## Special Interest Groups

SIGs are open to all members—there's no formal sign-up: just contact the group leader to find out more.



### Beginners and Improvers - Paul Harwood-Browne

Hi everyone!

Hope you're all well and have been enjoying the warmer weather.

I'd like to say a big thanks to all those who entered the Beginners and Improvers Competition. It made a very enjoyable evening, going through your photos. Also, a huge thanks for Ian stepping in to judge. I hope his comments will give inspiration for your future photography.

A big "well done" to Neil Homer-Forbes, who was awarded the top spot with his photo entitled 'Landing Gear Down'. Ian also added "special mentions" to a further photo from Neil and another from Granville Orange.

Our final session of the current season is on **Monday June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** at the Great Malvern Hotel. This will be a further "how to do better" practical evening. Please either email some photos to me, or bring them on a USB on the evening (RAW files preferred, JPEG will be OK if RAW files are not available).

See you soon and thanks again for your competition submissions. Well done Neil!

See you soon!

Paul

[bandi@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:bandi@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)



### Portrait – Gareth Roberts

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7:30pm** at the Great Malvern Hotel. We will be concentrating on practical and motivated light sources (*whatever those are—you'll have to come along to find out! Ed*). We will be utilizing the wonderful Tiff as our model, in a Gypsy / Boho fortune-teller look (*whatever that is, etc, Ed*)!

See you there!

Gareth

[portrait@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:portrait@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)



### Landscape - Phil Hitchen

At our next indoor (Zoom) meeting we'll be tackling the ins and outs of Focus Stacking. The meeting is on **Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**.

That will be it for our indoor programme for this season. It has been hugely enjoyable and very well-attended throughout. I want to give a massive thank you to everyone who has attended and for making it such fun, through our healthy exchange of information and banter.

We hope to run an outdoor trip to the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve (within the Shropshire Hills AONB) in July: rock formations, sunset (if we are lucky) and heather in bloom. So, a bit of landscape and a bit of nature. Let me know if you are interested in coming along. You have a chance to influence the trip, because the date and all other details are yet to be decided! Let me know your preferences, and keep an eye on the WhatsApp chat to find out what's going to happen and when!

The Zoom link for indoor meetings is on the Club Forum. If you would like to join our WhatsApp group send me your number via email.

All the best

Phil

[landscape@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:landscape@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)



### Wildlife & Nature - Simon Pugh

Thank you to everyone who entered such an excellent range of images for the recent Wildlife Cup competition, and a big thank you to Richard Williams for a very difficult job of choosing the winner ... who was David Meredith, with a beautiful image of Great Crested Grebes. Congratulations, David! I should also mention the Highly Commended rating awarded to one of our newest (and youngest) Club members, Alex George—very well done!

Our next trip is scheduled for **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June**, heading to the beautiful wildlife-rich Gloucestershire meadows (probably Rodborough / Selsley Commons and Prestbury Hill). At the moment, there is some doubt about whether I will be available for this trip, but I will confirm as soon as possible, subject also to sightings and the latest information from the reserves. Keep an eye on Teamup and the WhatsApp channels for the latest updates.

Soon after that we have our Norfolk and Suffolk trip to look forward to, on **25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June**.

Meanwhile, I will be following up on the great suggestions for skills topics to cover during next season's Zoom meetings:

- low level lighting, including use of flash;
- 'real' macro, eg for use on slime moulds;
- Lightroom / Photoshop techniques, eg:
  - \* removing blemishes
  - \* avoiding/removing haloes
  - \* blending modes
- time lapse;
- de-noise tools and techniques;
- YouTube videos on tools, tips, techniques and anything else I can think of beginning with 't'.

I hope you are able to make the most of the summer wildlife opportunities! See you soon.



If you would like to join us on this or other activity, but are not subscribed to the Wildlife WhatsApp group, please contact me on the email link below.

Simon

[nature@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:nature@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)



## Street – Phil Morgan

Thank you to everyone who entered the Street Competition, for the “Tony Mac Trophy”, and congratulations to John Mather on his winning image, “The Kiss” (see Club Competitions, below). Time was a little precious on the night, but there were some other entries that I thought deserving of a Commended or Highly Commended

rating, as follows:

- Mark Parkinson—*Undercover*: HC
- Mark Parkinson—*Reflection*: HC
- John Mather—*Too Cool*: C
- Philip Rogers—*Graffiti Man*: C
- David Hall—*Society Disconnected*: C
- Karen Williams—*Man’s Best Friend*: C
- Brian Metcalf—*Deflated*: C
- Cliff Williams—*Please*: C



© Mark Parkinson—*Undercover*

Our next meeting will be on Zoom on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June**, when I plan to review some of the recent competition images, discuss more of your recent street photos (from wherever you may have been) and maybe try a bit of on-the-go editing (what could possibly go wrong?). We will also talk about our next trip. *Keep an eye on the usual communication channels, as there continue to be some challenges with the Club’s Zoom licence.*

Our next “event” is going to be a trip to Cardiff on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July**. Full details will follow, but it’s open to all. If you’ve ever considered giving “street” a try, do come along and we will gladly show you the ropes and welcome you with open shutters!

Another date for your diaries is **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June**, when yours truly will be showcasing some street work from Club members: do come along to see what we get up to.

Finally, as always, thank you to those who continue to show their enthusiasm and commitment to the street group, and help to make it the success that it is. Please seek me out at the Club meetings: I’m there most weeks if you want to find out more about our SIG, or you can contact me using the email address below.

Keep an eye on Teamup for the latest news.

Take care!

Phil

[street@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:street@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)



## Audio Visual – Peter Warner

We will be presenting our work to the rest of the Club at the Vale, on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June**, and we hope you will be able to join us to see what we've been up to. This will include some of our responses to this year's challenge to produce an AV on 'Worcester'. We will also be showing some of the successful sequences from MidPhot 2023.

Our next meeting will not be until **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**, which will be a workshop on putting together a sequence. So, if you are interested in exploring this great way of showing your images then please come along.

Peter

[av@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:av@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)



## Introduction to Lightroom, Cohorts I and II – Nick Browne

The final session for Cohort II was on 29<sup>th</sup> May. We are having one more Zoom session, on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm** (where both groups can join in) to look at questions that any members of either group might have.

I would like to thank all the participants of the course this year for their involvement, their cheerfulness and their patience with the various calendar and technical challenges we have faced. The feedback has been good which is encouraging and I hope everyone is ending the year knowing a little more about the power of Lightroom. I certainly am.

Nick



## Photo Café

The Photo Café is currently closed for renovations and to give the staff a break (although they were all on zero-hours zero-pay contracts anyway).

For those who aren't familiar with the Photo Café, it's an informal get-together of Club Members for a chat over drinks (tea and coffee!) and perhaps a slice of cake (if you're lucky) about all things photographic (or anything else really).

***If you'd like to host one of these events in the future, please contact me*** and suggest a date/time/place (after checking the Forum to see what is already 'booked'). The Club is prepared to reimburse hosts for the cost of refreshments.

Colin Walls

[membersec@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:membersec@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)



## B Creative – Maddy Pennock

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm**. I'm hoping that we'll be able to get together at the Great Malvern Hotel, but will have to confirm that nearer the time. Whether in-person, or on-Zoom, I look forward to seeing your latest images for sharing and discussion!

As usual, I have selected a few recent images from our [365 project](#), below.



© Maddy Pennock—*Altered Reality*



© John Mather—*Pleasantly Altered Reality*



© Haridas Stewart—*Untitled*



© Lawrence Brown—*Untitled*

If this group interests you, please contact me, using the email link below.

Maddy  
[creative@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:creative@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)

## Club News

### The Club Shop

If you're planning to keep your printer going over the summer, you'll be wanting to top-up your stocks of paper, mounting boards, etc. We sell a few items (at the Club's Thursday evening meetings) specifically for printing. Currently the prices are as shown in the table below.

Mount boards Ice White 400*500	£1.60 each, pack of 5 £8
Mount boards Black 400*500	£1.60 each, pack of 5 £8
A4 Oyster 271 (packs of 50 or 100)	45p per sheet, Box 50 £22.50, Box 100 £45
A4 Ultra Pearl 295 (packs of 25 or 100)	50p per sheet, Box 25 £12.50, Box 100 £50
A4 Gloss (pack of 100)	40p sheet, Box 100 £40.00
A3 Oyster 271 (packs of 50)	85p per sheet, Box 50 £42.50
A3 Ultra Pearl 295 (packs of 50)	90p per sheet, Box 50 £45.00
A3 Gloss (packs of 50)	80p per sheet, Box 50 £40.00
Tape	£2 per roll
Spray Cans	£6/per can

If you would like to buy any of these items, then contact me on a Thursday night meeting. In my absence, another member of the committee will be able to help you.

Not sure which paper to use? The Permajet website states the following information about the papers:

- Oyster has a subtle lustre: a great "all-round" paper.
- Ultra Pearl is suited to bold high key work.
- Gloss is suited to sharp vibrant images.

Vicky Willis

### Membership Referrals

We are always on the lookout for new members! If you refer someone to the Club [just ask them to mention your name when they join] *you will be rewarded*. If they sign up for 6 months, you get an extra month added to your membership; if they go for 12 months, you get an extra 3 months.

### Future committee meetings

Our next two Committee Meetings will be on Zoom, on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm** and **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7:30pm**. Any member can 'sit-in' on the meetings to see what goes on behind the scenes, using the same link as for Thursday Club Nights (which you can find on the Forum under "Club Activities"). Please contact [Ruaridh Macdonald](#) if you'd like a copy of the agenda.

If you have any feedback for the Committee about the running of the Club, please get in touch with any Committee member, or [Phil Morgan](#) and [Granville Orange](#), who are your Members' Representatives.

Ruaridh Macdonald, Club Secretary  
[secretary@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)



## Fundraising

### Beacon Camera Club Equipment Fund “50 Club”

Congratulations to David Meredith on winning the May 50 Club draw. You’re having a good month, with the Nature Cup as well!!

The 50 Club is a monthly lottery, open to BCC members. A ticket costs £5 and members may buy as many tickets as they wish. Tickets need to be purchased by the 20th of each month and the draw will normally take place at the club meeting on the last Thursday of the month. The winner receives half of the income for that month.

To buy tickets, transfer your payment to:

Beacon Camera Club    Sort Code 40-31-09    Account Number 21071424

With the reference “50 Club” *and your name*.

You can purchase your tickets each month, making the payment manually or using a standing order. Alternatively you can order any number of future tickets by paying the appropriate amount (e.g. £60 buys one ticket each month for a year). If you buy a batch of tickets this way, I will remind you when they run out.

Colin Walls

[membersec@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:membersec@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)

## Club Competitions

### The “Cup” Competition Results

If you missed the results of the recent Malvern Hills Cup, Portrait Cup, Practical Cup, Nature Cup, Beginners and Improvers Challenge Cup and the “Street” Competition, you can find them all [here](#), together with the listings for all our recent competitions, with links to the winning images. Having told you that, there doesn’t seem much point in repeating the information here, but I’ll just include a few thumbnails of the winning images overleaf.

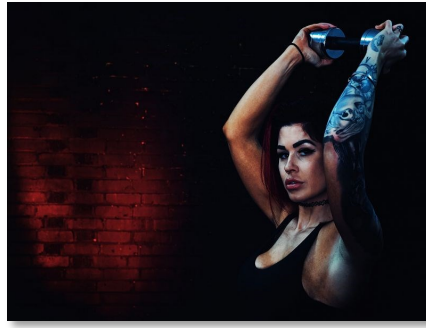
At the time of writing this, you can still see all the entries for most of the competitions (with the photographers’ names) in the Gallery section of the Forum.

Many thanks to everyone who entered (and apologies to those who had their entries “culled” - next year we will do things differently to allow for a greater number of entries).

The standard was high, and the judges had a difficult job, so don’t be disheartened if it didn’t go your way. There’s always next year, and, looking on the bright side, you won’t have to polish any additional silverware!



© Phil Hitchen—*Frost Pocket*  
Winner: Malvern Hills Cup



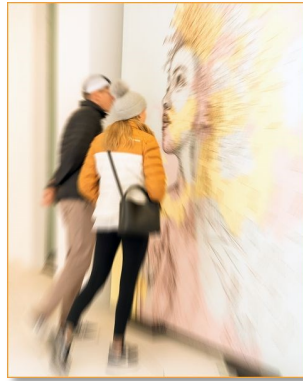
© Brian Metcalf—*Vicky*  
Winner: Portrait Cup



© Ruairidh Macdonald—*Blue Damsel*  
Winner: Practical Cup



© David Meredith—*Courtship Display—Great Crested Grebes*  
Winner: Nature Cup



© John Mather—*The Kiss*  
Winner: Street Competition



© Neil Homer-Forbes—*Landing Gear Down*  
Winner: Beginners and Improvers Challenge Cup

## The Charlie Williams Competition 2023-24

We would like to encourage a few more of the creative photographers among you to have a go at our themed “Charlie Williams” competition, so there is going to be a slight change this year.

I have been given a slot on the opening night for next season, which will be on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7:30pm**, where I can explain the process and make sure everyone is aware of what this competition entails, and the fact that the aim is to improve our photography by giving and receiving constructive feedback.

This later-than-usual start to the competition means there will only be 8 themes this year, and the end of the season will be before Awards night, as usual.

If you are interested, you have a chance to shape the competition by submitting ideas for possible themes via the Forum, under the [CWT section](#). The chosen themes will be announced on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 and the first review will be at the end of the September.

Vicky Willis

[cwt@beaconcameraclub.co.uk](mailto:cwt@beaconcameraclub.co.uk)

Etc...

## Photoshop CC Tutorials

Adobe Photoshop is one of the most popular and complete image editing packages available, and (together with Adobe Lightroom, as part of the Creative Cloud Photography Plan) is the benchmark against which other creative processing software is usually judged. However, it is a vast and labyrinthine package of software, and if you're new to selections, layers, masks, etc, it all looks overwhelmingly difficult.

As with everything else in life, there is a lot of "help" available on the internet. But did you know that Adobe themselves have produced lots of short on-line videos to take you through (and beyond) the basics? Take a look at the Photoshop CC tutorials, here: <https://helpx.adobe.com/uk/photoshop/tutorials.html>.

If you're looking for something even more advanced, subscribe to [Julieanne Kost's](#) You Tube videos, or have a look at the selection of "what's new" and short, single-technique videos available in the [Photoshop You Tube videos](#).

Get stuck into those, and that's your summer gone before you know it! (You will be pale-faced, and square-eyed, have a bad back from sitting too long, and a severe case of repetitive strain injury from all the mouse-clicking, but just think how you'll be able to stun us all with your new-found editing skills next season.)

Whatever you choose to do, have a great summer!

John Mather,  
Newsletter Editor  
[beacon\\_newsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:beacon_newsletter@btinternet.com)



© John Mather—*symptoms of PS  
tutorial video addiction.*