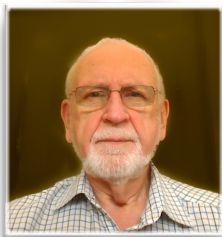


## **COPING IN COVID - HOW CLUBS HAVE MANAGED DURING THE PANDEMIC**



*Written by Richard Atkinson  
Publicity Secretary  
Stroud Camera Club.*

In response to your request for some information about clubs' Zoom activities, which you made at the recent WCPF AGM, I thought I would drop you a line to say what we have been doing in Stroud.

Upon initial "lockdown" we of course cancelled meetings for the rest of the season. At Stroud we usually run a weekly Summer Club from May to September where members can meet at a different location each week, take some photographs, have a chat and adjourn to a local hostelry before going our separate ways. All very pleasant and usually supported by around 18 – 25 of our members each Thursday evening. Clearly that wasn't going to be possible this year and so we organised a "Virtual Summer Club" each week.

Our Chairman, Roger Matthews, set a challenge each week – macro, abstract, food, landscape, nature, design an album cover, portraits etc etc. Each participant would then submit up to three images. Fortunately our website allows us to easily set up "galleries" so one was set up for each challenge and members posted their images there. Then, on the Thursday evening Zoom session, all the images would be reviewed by Roger online and he would award a winner. Also in the style of Bake-off's Paul Hollywood, Roger would award a "handshake" for "near miss" images worthy of note.

We ran the above challenges each Thursday throughout the summer and regularly had around 60 images to look at from around 20 to 30 members out of a total membership of 60. What made it all possible was the ability to easily set up ad-hoc galleries on our website.

Now the new season has been up and running from September, we have had all our meetings via Zoom and have had a good level of support from our members. Our website also allows us to run, judge and present our competitions online too, although of course these are limited to digital only at the moment. The system will allow us to run print sections too and so we will continue to use it for all competitions once things return to what used to be called 'normal'!

If anyone is interested in having a new website which can do all of the above, I can of course recommend having a look at [www.cameraclubwebsites.co.uk](http://www.cameraclubwebsites.co.uk) and there is a "Contact" link on that website. It was developed by the owner of the company who is a member of Dumfries Camera Club so it's very much been built from the "inside out."

Anyone interested in what we do at Stroud is very welcome to visit our website. Not everything we do is visible to non-members of the club but there IS plenty to be seen as a non-member. Go to [www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.stroudcameraclub.co.uk) and have a look around.

Enjoy a few images which come from the weekly challenges, set by Stroud's chairman.



*The Ice Queen by Trish  
Bloodworth  
Winner in Portrait Week.*



*Playing with Cutlery by  
Leslie Holmes -  
Winner of Abstract Week*



Rescued Mountain Ponies by Annie *Blick* : Winner, Monochrome Week.



Faded by Jeff Kirby - awarded a 'Handshake' in Past Its Prime week.