

## CARLUKE CAMERA CLUB NEWS for Sesssion 2024-25

On **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025** the Club held its Annual General Meeting, which was the last meeting of the Club until its new season starts on the 29<sup>th</sup> August.

There were no changes to the committee with all standing for re-election. The subscription rate remains the same for 2025-26, as do the Competition Rules.

We were also very pleased to announce that one of our members achieved the national award of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain at Distinction level (DPAGB) during the recent April PAGB Adjudications held at Dunblane. This Distinction Award for Prints went to Robert Hendry.

Libby Smith

On **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025** the Annual Club Dinner and Presentation of Awards was held at Carluke Golf Club to which many of the Award winners, and their partners attended. After an excellent meal, the awards were presented by Maisie Chapman, aided by our Competition Secretaries Gaille and Cammy.

Although the Awards were spread amongst a good number of the members, the main Awards were as follows: Best Overall Annual Digital Image went to Gaille Gray. Best Overall Annual Print went to Jim Hill. James McDowall Nature Trophy went to Alasdair Martin. Club Championship section winners were Gaille Gray (Colour Print) and Libby Smith (Mono Print and Digital). Libby won the overall Club Championship, with the runner-up Paul Skehan.

Libby Smith

**29<sup>th</sup> April 2025** News update following the Judging of the Glasgow District Photographic Union (GDPU) Image League Final which we qualified for by winning our heats earlier in the season. The Judging was once again held on zoom to allow a Judge from England to be possible, this year Mike Sharples from Smethwick PS. The finalists were Carluke, Alba PS, East Kilbride CC, Hub Singer CC and Eastwood PS. Although some excellent photography was on display, the Judge gave a wide spread of marks, resulting in not such a tight competition as we have seen in recent years. With many of the top scores going to Carluke images we were to have a very convincing win, to retain the Lizars Trophy for another year. The Best Image went to a very deserving Eastwood image.

Libby Smith

On Friday evening, **25<sup>th</sup> April 2025**, we welcomed Dave Ferguson, a professional photographer from Falkirk, as judge for our Annual Digital Competition, our last competition of this season. A total of 61 digital images covering nine categories from landscape to portrait and from nature to documentary were presented and Dave assessed each and every photograph in exquisite detail and awarded first place in each category. The eight category winners were Gaille Gray, Paul Skehan, Libby Smith, Jim Hill, Alasdair Martin, Robert Hendry and Cameron Scott.

And finally, the well-deserved overall first place of the competition was awarded to Gaille Gray for her beautiful floral still-life image "Delicate Tulip Trio".

Next Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, is the Annual Club Dinner and Presentation of Awards and the Club's AGM takes place the following week on 9<sup>th</sup> May, following which the Club closes for the summer until September.

John Cannon

On Friday evening, **11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**, we welcomed, from Milngavie and Bearsden Camera Club, Neil MacGregor whose illustrated presentation "Nature in the Landscape" was fascinating as he commenced by describing his own progression from film cameras to early digital cameras and now to the wonders of mirrorless equipment. But it was his photographic exploits in the outdoors which had us spellbound as he showed us wonderfully documented series of photographs taken during winter climbs up Ben Nevis, then images of wonderful light in the Cairngorms with wildlife including squirrels, owls, ospreys catching fish, as well as capercaillie and red deer in Rothiemurchus forest. And, whatever the subject matter, it was Neil's ability to capture the subtleties of light and shade which were most impressive. An excellent evening much enjoyed by all!

There will be no meeting of the Club on Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April but the next meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on 25<sup>th</sup> April when we shall have the Annual Digital Competition judged by David Ferguson.

John Cannon

On Friday evening, **4<sup>th</sup> April 2025**, we had a fascinating and very informative illustrated presentation by Libby Smith - "Finding Inspiration and a little bit of Imagination." Inspired by her interest in her own Doll's House, Libby and husband Neil had explored the Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings in Worcestershire and captured many images which later would prove useful for her own miniature house but also for competitive photographic work. Further fruitful trips ensued to the Canal Museum at Ellesmere Port, to Salford Quays with its modern architecture, Aberdeen with its old colourful fisherman's huts and Dundee's V & A Museum, finally ending up in the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, Northern Ireland, each of these venues providing plenty of interesting and unusual "camera fodder". An excellent and much enjoyed presentation!

Next meeting of the Club will be next Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m. when we shall welcome Neil MacGregor from Milngavie who will present "Nature in the Landscape".

John Cannon

On Friday evening **28<sup>th</sup> March 2025** we again welcomed, from Eastwood Photographic Society, Ken Lindsay who treated us to two spectacular illustrated travelogues commencing with a trip he and his wife had taken to Cuba. Not only did he show us the wonderful characterful architecture and busy streets of Havana, Cienfuegos and Trinidad, but he also "homed in" on the people, their cultures and their dress and their varied modes of transport.

After the break we had a swift change of venue - this time a trip to Antarctica, travelling by air from Buenos Aires to the Falklands, by sea to South Georgia and finally to the Antarctic peninsula. Of that journey, Ken regaled us with fabulous images of Gentoo penguins and their chicks as well as rockhopper penguins in the Falklands and, having sailed to South Georgia, we saw fabulous images of Antarctic fur seals as well as chinstrap penguins seen in Lombard Cove from trips in a Zodiac inflatable boat. Then we saw Ernest Shackleton's grave at Grytviken beside the Norwegian church and the remains of the abandoned whaling station. And finally to the Antarctic peninsula and the Weddell Sea with fabulous images of land and sea ice.

As if this wasn't enough, we were all remarkably impressed not only by Ken's and his wife's adventures but also by how well he presented his pictures and how much effort and skill he had used in editing his photographs to the perfect degree. Altogether a wonderful evening, much enjoyed by everyone!

Next meeting of the Club will be next Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m.

John Cannon

On Friday evening **21st March 2025** we welcomed Richard Speirs from Carlisle, a highly respected and decorated photographer, whose illustrated presentation "Photography - a Personal Perception" was in two parts. First Richard delved into the science of how our eyes perceive light, contrasts and different colours and how our brains interpret various combinations of light and colour. After a tea break, Richard then took us on a virtual journey to his favourite area of Cumbria, showing us how changes in lighting throughout the seasons or even within a single day can greatly affect the appearance of a landscape. And he also reminded us of the benefits of "Photo Ephemeris", a valuable and freely available app for our phones. A fascinating presentation!

Next Friday 28th March at 7.30 p.m. we look forward to having Ken Lindsay presenting "Travels to Cuba and Antarctica".

John Cannon

On Friday evening **14th March 2025** we welcomed Maybeth Jamieson, a highly respected and decorated photographer from Dumfries, as judge for our second Print Competition of this season. Twenty colour and twenty monochrome prints were painstakingly assessed by Maybeth who not only awarded scores but also gave much helpful advice and guidance. First place in the colour section went to Gavin Forrest with "Misty Eye", a lovely nature shot, while the winner in the monochrome section was Libby Smith with "A Snow Day", a fine wintry landscape taken in Carlisle.

Next Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, at 7.30 p.m. we welcome Richard Speirs, a highly awarded photographer from Carlisle, who will present "Photography - a Personal Perception".

John Cannon

Friday evening, **7th March 2025**, was again a meeting of two parts, in the first of which two of our most active members, Chris Bonnington and Robert Hendry, invited members of the audience to participate in an in-depth interactive critiquing of a selection of random prints, all in an effort to help members be more critical of their own work. Next, Robert and Chris treated us to a wonderful selection of older colour and monochrome prints, some dating back to pre-WW2 days and yet many of exceptional interest and quality.

After the break, Libby Smith presented the results of the PAGB (Photographic Alliance of Great Britain) 2024 National Print Championship, and we were not only treated to some beautiful and captivating photographs but were also happy to see some of our own members' images featuring in this prestigious line-up. The Club was invited to represent Scotland (SPF) in this event. One of our members Robert Hendry was awarded a Judges Medal for his monochrome print 'The Sweep'.

Next Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.30 p.m. we have the judging of the Club's second print championship competition by Maybeth Jamieson of Dumfries Camera Club.

John Cannon

Friday evening **28th February 2025** was a night with two in-house speakers.

We kicked off with Noel Fenech who firstly presented fantastic seascape images captured whilst living in Malta. These were followed by a number of images forming an exhibition project in the making, on the theme of derelict houses in Malta. A very interesting presentation from Noel.

For the second half Robert Hendry presented part 2 of "Every image tells a Story", a follow up to his previous talk. Not only were we presented with Robert's award-winning sports photography, for which

he is known, but also landscapes and nature images too. Robert shared many tips to help members improve their photography.

Next Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, we start with an interactive critique of a number of prints to help members critique their own work for achieving best quality. We then have the pleasure of viewing an archive selection of prints from the Scottish Photographic Circle with prints dating back into the 1970's. We finish off with some images from the most recent PAGB inter-club competition.

Chris Bonnington

Friday evening **21st February 2025**, was a meeting of two parts, in the first of which Libby Smith gave us some wonderful advice and tips on the use of some of the newest features of Photoshop to achieve blurring and darkening and also de-saturation of the background of an image in order to make the principal subject of a photograph stand out and the final results, done very expertly, were most impressive. After the break she then presented the results of the Scottish Photographic Federation (SPF) Portfolios monochrome and colour prints of 2024, showing us a huge selection of the images by the top contending authors of Scottish photographic clubs: interestingly, the top monochrome winners were from Brechin and Paisley clubs with Carluke coming 11<sup>th</sup> in the pecking order but a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the colour prints. A very inspiring presentation indeed!

Next Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, at 7.30 p.m. we have presentations by two of our own members, namely "Malta" by Noel Fenech and "Every Picture Tells a Story" by Robert Hendry - something definitely not to be missed!

John Cannon

**News update** following the Judging of the Scottish Photographic Federation (SPF) Print Championship held at Dunblane 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 where some 1080 prints were Judged. The Club had mixed fortunes on the day finishing 8<sup>th</sup>= in the Colour Print section but finishing an excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Mono Prints. This meant we finished a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup> overall, although not as high as in recent years.

Club members also took Individual Awards with Robert Hendry winning Best Monochrome with 'The Sweep' and Gavin Forrest winning the Paper Spectrum Award for his colour print 'Young Bulls Aggression'.

Libby Smith

On Friday evening **14<sup>th</sup> February 2025** Libby Smith presented the results of our recent GDPU Interclub competition between Carluke and Armadale camera clubs. This, of course, had been planned as a live event for 24<sup>th</sup> January but was cancelled on account of storm Eowyn. However, Simon Allen of Dumfries had since judged all 40 projected digital images, 20 each from Armadale and Carluke, and not only provided scores but also very comprehensive assessments of each and every photograph. In the end, Carluke were the winners with 355 points against Armadale's 301 and Carluke also excelled with three authors, Libby Smith, Gaille Gray and Robert Hendry each gaining full 20 points for their images.

Next Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, at 7.30 p.m. we have a meeting of two parts, firstly a discussion by Libby Smith on the subject of Image Editing, followed by a viewing of the Scottish Photographic Federation Print Portfolios.

John Cannon

On Friday evening, **7<sup>th</sup> February 2025** we welcomed Rodger Shearer who had worked in local industry and, on retirement, had undertaken a course on photography at West Lothian College. Rodger's illustrated presentation, "The Abandoned Journey" was a wonderful compilation of images of abandoned buildings, industries and businesses in our area including Hartwood Hospital, Braidwood House, old mines at Breich and iron and steel works of Motherwell, many of these photographs having recently been presented at exhibitions in the Scottish parliament. After the break, Rodger continued showing us splendid images of abandoned and ruined churches before ending with stunning photographs of lions and wildebeest taken on a trip to the Massai Mara in Kenya.

Next Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 p.m. we shall be viewing the Glasgow District Photographic Union images as well as the results of our recent competition against Armadale Camera Club - our meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January having been cancelled on account of the storm.

John Cannon

**News update** following the opening of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) Masters of Print Exhibition held in St Martin in the Bullring, Birmingham. The Masters of Print exhibition totals only 60 prints, with only one print per photographer so it is a great achievement to get something accepted in the Exhibition. We are very pleased to report that two Carlisle members gained acceptances this year with two very different prints. They were an artistic still life 'Sunflowers and Daisies' by Gaille Gray and a documentary monochrome 'Shouting the Odds' by Cameron Scott.

Libby Smith

Friday evening **31<sup>st</sup> January 2025** was the occasion of the judging of this session's second championship digital competition. A total of 36 projected images were carefully and painstakingly assessed by Guy Phillips of Paisley Colour Photographic Club. And not only did Guy examine each image in meticulous detail but he also provided much helpful advice and encouragement. In the end, first place went to Libby Smith for a wonderful double portrait, "Sunshine on a Rainy Day", while three authors achieved second place equal and two third place equal for photographs ranging from wildlife and macro to candid street images and architecture.

Next Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, at 7.30 p.m. we welcome Rodger Shearer and look forward to his presentation with the intriguing title of "The Abandoned Journey".

John Cannon

Friday **24<sup>th</sup> January 2025** was to see us host to a Glasgow District Photographic Union Inter-Club competition against Armadale Camera Club. Unfortunately, due to Storm Eowyn the event had to be cancelled.

Next Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January is the judging of this session's second Club championship digital competition.

Libby Smith

On Friday evening **17<sup>th</sup> January 2025** we were treated to a wonderful and inspiring presentation, "From a Single Image to a Major International Exhibition" from Alexandra McOrist, a highly decorated photographer from Edinburgh.

During several trips to Adelaide, South Australia over recent years, Alexandra had explored and photographed in detail two long abandoned and derelict farmsteads dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century: having amassed an extensive portfolio of images, she then spent many months researching old newspaper articles to retrieve long forgotten details of the farms, their owners and families, their

successes and failures and their reasons for abandonment in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. That done, Alexandra had then collated her photographs and research findings into a splendid series of composite images including relevant texts, producing what was a highly successful international exhibition which attracted more than 10,000 visitors.

A wonderful presentation much enjoyed by all club members!

Next Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m. the Club is host to a competition against Armadale Camera Club.

John Cannon

Friday **10<sup>th</sup> January 2025** was the first Club meeting of this year, and our own Gavin Forrest treated us to a wonderful, illustrated presentation, simply titled "Kenya", based on a three week photographic tour which Gavin and his wife had taken there last year. Their arrival in Kenya was at Nairobi whence they headed north on dreadful roads to the Samburu reserve, and we were shown stunning photographs of lions, elephants, cheetahs and hyenas, each image accompanied by a very in-depth and fascinating description by Gavin.

Next, they travelled south to Lake Naivasha where Gavin's mighty 600mm lens captured sea eagles, cormorants and rhinos, then finally to the Massai Mara camp where Gavin was able to acquire some stunning shots of cheetahs and we were able to learn about the culture and lives of those people as well as admire their amazing dress.

Next Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m. we have a presentation by Alexandra McOrist, a photographic artist from Edinburgh, and we fully expect that to be another great evening!

John Cannon

After our Christmas and New Year break, the Club's next meeting will be this coming Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30 p.m. when Gavin Forrest will treat us to his illustrated presentation, "Kenya", which promises to be not only a fascinating talk but also to include some fabulous photography and spectacular images.

Guests and prospective new members are always very welcome at 7.30 p.m. on Friday evenings at the United Reformed Church Hall, Carnwath Road, Carluke.

John Cannon

Friday evening **13<sup>th</sup> December 2024** was the last Club meeting of this year and comprised a Fun Night with a rather challenging Quiz set up by Gavin Forrest and Cammy Scott while we were also treated to lots of soft drinks and festive snacks.

So that is it for 2024 - until the Club meetings begin again on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January on which evening Gavin Forrest will give us his illustrated presentation, "Kenya" - an evening not to be missed!

John Cannon

On Friday evening **6<sup>th</sup> December 2024** we spent viewing those digital images accepted into the Scottish Photographic Federation (SPF) Digital Portfolio 2024. There was a remarkable mix of stunning and beautiful images from categories including landscape, portrait, nature and macro from 24 Scottish camera clubs. And we are delighted to be able to report that, after the judges made their final decision, Carluke shared first place with Stirling and District Camera Club! Well done, Carluke!

Next Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, on the approach to Christmas, we shall be having a Fun and Quiz night with hospitality, being arranged by Gavin Forrest and Cammy Scott prior to three weeks' break before the Club restarts on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

John Cannon

On Friday evening **29<sup>th</sup> November 2024** we were treated to a splendid illustrated talk, "Realms of the Penguin and the Polar Bear" by Jean Robson of Dumfries who began by telling us firstly of her trip to Svalbard in the Arctic with stunning images of snow-capped mountains, pack-ice, calving glaciers, icebergs, Arctic foxes, polar bears, seals, whales and walruses, many of which photographs she had submitted as a "panel" to the Royal Photographic Society and subsequently, in 2023, was awarded Fellowship of that prestigious society.

After the break, Jean took us to the Antarctic to which she had travelled via the Falkland Islands and Tierra del Fuego with spectacular images of rockhopper penguins, albatrosses and landscapes from those places until her final destination of Elephant Island in the Arctic Ocean (after a very hazardous trip by boat) when we were treated to glorious photographs of icy and snowy landscapes, emperor penguins and leopard seals. Altogether a wonderfully captivating and fascinating presentation!

Next Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December we shall enjoy seeing the Portfolios of the Scottish Photographic Federation - yet another opportunity to whet our appetites for picture taking.

John Cannon

Friday evening **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024** was the judging of our 1<sup>st</sup> Club Championship Competition of this season for colour and monochrome prints, and the judge was Gordon Scott, from Mid Calder Camera Club who painstakingly reviewed all 49 prints, giving much constructive advice on each and every one. In the end there were four authors who achieved top marks - Robert Hendry, Libby Smith, Gaille Gray and Jim Hill. A most enjoyable and instructive meeting!

Next Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November we look forward to the presentation, "Realms of the Penguin and the Polar Bear" by Jean Robson, FRPS, a highly awarded photographer from Dumfries.

John Cannon

**News update** following the Judging of the Scottish Photographic Federation (SPF) Digital Championship held at Dunblane 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024 where some 34 Clubs from throughout Scotland competed on the day in either the smaller Plate or the larger Bowie competitions.

Carl Luke competed in the larger Bowie competition and finished a very creditable 4<sup>th</sup> after the two rounds. Club members also took several Individual Awards with Gaille Gray winning Best Creative with 'Gerbera Hearts Entwined' and Jim Hill winning Best Portrait with The Acolyte, additionally Libby Smith won a Judges Medal for Preaching to Lost Souls.

Libby Smith

On Friday evening **15<sup>th</sup> November 2024** we welcomed Paul McDougall, a professional wildlife photographer based in Scotland who not only has won many international awards but also runs several workshops and guided tours, both at home and abroad, for budding wildlife photographers. Having spent more than a year exploring the Masai Mara reserve in Kenya, Paul presented more than 100 spectacular images of lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, zebra, elephants and birds including

flamingos and ostriches, explaining in detail how he had sought out these creatures as well as his camera settings for each shot. Then onto Uganda for gorillas, India for Asian elephants and tigers, Finland for bears and reindeer, Canada for polar bears and finally Scotland for kingfishers, squirrels, grebes, pine martens and otters.

After the tea-break Paul gave us a pile of tips on wildlife photography from lighting and equipment to camera settings and safety. Altogether a fascinating, very enjoyable and very instructive evening!

John Cannon

On Friday evening **8<sup>th</sup> November 2024** we were treated to another double-bill of illustrated talks by two members of Paisley Photographic Society, Allan Donaldson's "Newfoundland" and Iain McFadyen's "Astrophotography".

Starting at Newfoundland's capital, St. John's, Allan had travelled extensively around the island and began by describing its history, its people and its industries. Then followed spectacular images of the rugged terrain, ancient fortifications, the people, seaports, oil and fishing trade and its amazingly colourful houses as well as beautiful nature shots of gulls, gannets, razorbills and puffins.

After the tea-break we had something completely different: Iain began by describing the choices of telescopes available for examining the night sky - from refracting to Newtonian and Cassegrain - and what types of camera are needed to capture the images. He then described how, when photographing deep space, exposure times can take from minutes to hours, so requiring the telescope to move and "track" the object. But his hard work and patience paid dividends as we saw when he presented spectacular images of the Andromeda galaxy, various nebulae and planets and even the surface of our own Sun.

Altogether a fascinating, enjoyable and very instructive evening!

Next Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November we look forward to welcoming Paul McDougall, a renowned Scottish wildlife photographer with his presentation, "Touch the Wild".

John Cannon

On Friday evening **1<sup>st</sup> November 2024** we were treated to a splendid double-bill of illustrated talks by Jean Manson of Edinburgh, a very much travelled photographer. Her first talk, "Fragile Wilderness" comprised a wonderful compendium of images from the Arctic, which she had visited on many occasions in all seasons - beautiful landscapes, close-ups of massive glaciers and icebergs, fabulous sunrises and sunsets and splendid pictures of polar bears, walruses and Arctic foxes. After the tea-break (during which time we could examine about forty beautiful prints which Jean had brought along), was the presentation of her second talk, "Wildlife Tales from Home and Abroad", in which we were regaled with a huge variety of images from underwater pictures of sharks and seals to brown bears in Canada, leopards and tigers in India and lions, giraffes and wild dogs in Africa, finally ending with hares and wild birds from her native Scotland. Many spectacular images and a perfect presentation, very much enjoyed by all!

Next Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November we look forward to welcoming Allan Donaldson and Iain McFadyen from Paisley who will present "Newfoundland" and ""Astrophotography".

John Cannon



Friday evening **25<sup>th</sup> October 2024** we were treated to a wonderful, illustrated talk, "Call of the Wild" by Robert Quig, a highly awarded photographer from Kilmaurs who presented a series of beautiful images, chiefly from the Scottish Highlands and Islands and from locations as varied as Applecross, Torridon and Diabaig on the mainland to Elgol on Skye and Luskentyre on Harris. As testament to his dedicated and painstaking efforts, his landscape images were often in quite severe weather with snow, dark skies, heavy seas and spectacular lighting conditions including glorious autumnal colours. And if that wasn't enough, Robert proceeded to show beautiful nature shots of birds and stags as well as superb macro images of a variety of butterflies and damselflies. All accompanied by his fascinating and very instructive commentary. A splendid presentation much enjoyed by all!

Next Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November we look forward to a presentation "Fragile Wilderness" by Jean Manson of Edinburgh who is a landscape and wildlife photographer with a passion for the Arctic.

John Cannon

Friday evening **18<sup>th</sup> October 2024** was the judging of this year's 1<sup>st</sup> Club Championship Digital Competition, and our judge was George Robertson from Kirkintilloch who is not only an award winning photographer but is also an International Mountain Leader and World Traveller, having in the past given us a spectacular illustrated presentation of his exploits in Nepal, Africa and his native Scotland. His judgement of 40 digital images was painstaking and thorough with much helpful advice on composition and image editing, the final winner being "The Cobbler", a fantastically clear and beautifully lit portrait by Libby Smith, while second and third places were taken by Paul Skehan, Libby Smith, Noel Fenech and Jim Hill. Altogether an excellent and very informative meeting!

Next Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October we look forward to a presentation "Call of the Wild - Landscapes" by Robert Quig of Kilmaurs Photographic Club.

John Cannon

On Friday evening **11<sup>th</sup> October 2024** our guest speaker was Lorna Hayton of Ayr Photographic Society and who has achieved the Distinction of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (DPAGB). Her illustrated presentation was "Anything That Moves and a Lot That Don't". She was indeed an inspiring speaker, admitting a lifelong obsession with photography, and proceeded to show us stunning landscape and architectural photographs, many "moody" images taken in bad weather, but every single one outstanding in its "impact" on the viewer. She then went on to show us further Nature images and every one of those, be they of birds of prey, pine martens, foxes, kingfishers or even pelicans, they were all equally impressive. Not only that, but Lorna was always at pains to describe how she had managed to capture each of these marvellous images, frequently in very difficult circumstances. A splendid and very informative evening much enjoyed by all!

Next Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October is the judging of the 1<sup>st</sup> Club Championship Competition Digital of this season, the judge being George Robertson.

John Cannon

On Friday evening, **4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**, was the judging of our annual print competition. The judge, Gordon Rae, from Dumfries Camera Club commented on the excellent standard of the prints which was emphasized by the number of awards he gave.

The eight Category winners went to Jim Hill, Libby Smith, Gaille Gray and Cameron Scott, with Jim Hill taking the Best Overall Print for his print The Acolyte.

Gordon's critique included lots of helpful advice, delivered with a good dose of humour which made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The Club also held an EGM at the start of the meeting. There was one item on the agenda, to elect a new Club Secretary. With one nomination, Jim Hill was duly elected unanimously to the post.

Next Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October we welcome Lorna Hayton from Ayr.

Chris Bonnington

On Friday evening **20<sup>th</sup> September 2024** our guest speaker was Alan Cameron, now of Queens Park Camera Club, who presented a wonderfully personal and superbly illustrated talk, "Photography My Muse". Alan commenced by telling us that his enthusiasm for photography was first sparked when he borrowed his father's Agfa 35mm camera. Thereafter his skills blossomed, his equipment improved and the images he showed us were chiefly of landscapes and seascapes, many taken around his local area but also from the Scottish Highlands and Islands as well as from as far away as Iceland and New Zealand.

Very much an all-weather photographer, many images were in misty or snowy conditions or with moody skies, so making impeccably clear and sharp foreground features stand out impressively against their backgrounds. And after a tea break Alan gave us a very informative talk about his method of achieving high quality prints - many of which we were then able to examine in detail. A splendid and very informative evening!

Next Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September is a holiday but the next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October will be the judging of our Annual Print competition by Gordon Rae.

John Cannon

On Friday evening **13<sup>th</sup> September 2024** we were treated to a splendid and most informative illustrated talk, "Landscapes My Way", by Jim Stevenson from Kilmaurs Photographic Club. Regaling us with a series of wonderful and inspiring colour and monochrome landscape images, he progressed through a list of very helpful tips, firstly suggesting that rather than travelling miles to a distant location we should first concentrate on our local town or countryside with which we are familiar. He then went on to the use of a sturdy tripod, long exposures, night photography, panoramas and the occasional use of black and white as opposed to colour - as well as not to confine our photography only to clear sunny days but to get out taking pictures whatever the weather throws at us. And all the while concentrating on the perfection of composition. A most inspiring presentation!

Next Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September Alan Cameron from Glasgow will present "Photography - My Muse" and this promises to be an equally inspiring meeting.

John Cannon

On Friday evening **6<sup>h</sup> September 2024** we held a Members' Digital Night where any member could bring along a few images on what they had been doing over the summer. A very varied selection of photos was viewed on the evening with individuals sharing where they had been on holiday, or photos they had taken while pursuing another hobby, or simply subjects that they enjoyed photographing. A very entertaining evening.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September sees Jim Stevenson from Kilmaurs revisit us with his talk, "Landscapes My Way".

Libby Smith

Friday evening **30<sup>th</sup> August 2024** was the first meeting of the new 2024-2025 season of the club: there was a good turn-out and members were re-registered while we were regaled with tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. Libby Smith welcomed all members, existing and new, and first of all told us with regret that Ed Willis had sadly made the difficult decision to step down from his position as club secretary, praising him for his hard work and devoted service over many years. She then went on to outline details of the club's syllabus for the next few weeks which included presentations, competitions and fun and social events. Altogether a good evening with fine chat and catching up with friends after what has not been the best summer of weather from the point of view of outdoor photography.

Next Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September is a Members' Digital Night, and all members have been encouraged to submit up to 25 digital images of their choice - be they traditional pictures like landscapes or portraits - or ones which reflect their other hobbies and pastimes. Should be an interesting one!

John Cannon