

# SPS Newsletter

## Welcome

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I can't believe we are into March already, that's the first quarter of the year nearly gone! And as I sit here writing in the warmth the snow flakes are falling outside but hopefully they won't stick. Already the trees are starting to bud and tulips and daffodils starting to show their blooms, so Spring is on the way, officially starting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Our programme for the year continues apace and it was lovely to hear Tracy Lund recently. Like many of you I entered some images into MidPhot this year and whilst not getting any acceptances was pleased to receive a couple of 11 pointers, so there is hope for me. Let me know how you got on if you entered. And I am really looking forward to this year's AV competition in the near future. And don't forget we have the Annual SPS Dinner and Awards evening coming up soon. It really is a good night so if you haven't already signed up drop Sue Pearmain an email and do so.

So what's happening this month? Well March is a busy one for our patron saints with St David and St Patrick celebrated. We've had World Book Day – I don't know what literary character I would be but one that made me chuckle this year was the little boy who went as Prince Harry with his copy of Spare! We've celebrated International Women's Day, have British Science Week, Red Nose Day, Global Recycling Day, Mother's Day, Shakespeare Week, Tolkein Day, Piano Day and Wear a Hat Day to name but a few. But the ones I particularly like are World Frog Day, World Sleep Day and Barbie Day. And the best bit about March, we will be putting the clocks forward and getting more daylight, happy days ...!

Have you ever heard the saying 'Mad as a March hare'? Well people have been saying it for hundreds of years and it's all because of the odd behaviour that hares show in the Spring, especially in March. So, what exactly is it? Well March is right in the middle of the hares' breeding season with male hares looking for female hares to mate with. The males chase females but sometimes the females don't want the attention. That's when the boxing match begins! When the female has had enough of being chased, she turns around and wallops the male to discourage him. It looks like they're boxing because the female and male are on their back legs, hitting each other with their front paws, even pulling out fur! And did you know hares are amazing sprinters, reaching 40 miles per hour when they run at full pelt. And the most famous Mad March Hare ... the Mad March Hare in the classic Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll.



With my very best wishes

Liz xx

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On-Line!**

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<https://www.shirleyphoto.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/shirleyphotographicsociety/>



<https://www.instagram.com/shirleyphotosoc/>

## 02

### Through the Lens

Well I haven't managed to get out as much as I wanted to over the past few weeks to play with my new camera but the grass is not growing under my feet! With the weather I am restricted to practising indoors but it's amazing the things you can find to photograph – not sure any are worthy of competition entires more playing and practising, and they say practice makes perfect. I have also been reading up on cameras and getting some more knowledge and information ... there is so much to learn ...!



## 03

### A Couple of Photography Exhibitions You Might be Interested In?

#### Wildlife Photographer of the Year 58

On until 2 July 2023

Monday – Sunday, 10am-5:50pm

Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

Tickets: from £17

#### Landscape Photographer of the Year

London Bridge Station – 23rd March – 6th April 2023

Waterloo Station, London – 7th – 21st April 2023

## 04

### The Colour White

In many parts of the world, white is seen as the colour of everything light and pure, of weddings and winter wonderlands. In some regions it has stood for purity, innocence and cleanliness and in others death, mourning and the passage to new life. In many, it has represented the divine.

To the human eye, white light is a combination of all the colours on the spectrum. Like black, it is technically achromatic, and lacks hue.



Why is everyone so tired on 1<sup>st</sup> April?

Because they have just finished a long 31 day March!



In many cultures white symbolises purity and innocence, while in others it symbolises death and the afterlife. One theme that links the two contrasting views is religion, as white represents all things holy and divine in both life and death. Priestesses in ancient Egyptian and Roman civilisations donned white robes, while many religious buildings, such as Wat Rong Khun (White Temple) in Thailand, were cast in white concrete or marble. In Roman Catholicism the Pope is robed in white and in Japan monks and priests of the Shinto and Buddhist faiths wear white, and it is also the colour of ceremonial and ritualistic objects such as bowls, sculptures and altars. In Renaissance masterpieces, white depicts angels.

Then there are the cultural connotations denoting white's purity. Consider harmless 'white lies', 'white flags' raised to signify peaceful surrender in warfare and the white 'yang' of Taoist Chinese yin and yang philosophy that represents everything good, light and sunny that balances out the contrasting 'yin', or 'dark side', of black.

While white wedding dresses are now worn the world over, thought to represent innocence and new beginnings, the trend actually stems from a fashion statement made by Queen Victoria in 1840. Here white lace wedding dress inspired many to follow in her footsteps – prior to this, brides would wear their best dress when marrying, no matter what colour it was.

White in the 20th and 21st centuries tends to represent cleanliness and clean lines. As a result, it has been a popular foundation to much contemporary architecture. The Modernist movement saw a rise in the popularity of angular white-hued buildings, from the Sydney Opera House to the Villa Maillart in Brussels. Today, titanium dioxide is used in coatings, white concrete or render on buildings, giving them a white opaque look and, most impressively, enabling the buildings to act as an anti-pollution device through its filtration properties – titanium dioxide removes harmful nitrogen oxides from the air through a process known as 'photocatalysis'. An example of this is the Palazzo Italia building in Milan, created for the Milan Expo in 2015.

White is also worn in spaces that promise to be clean and hygienic – in hotel laundry and linen, and in coats worn by doctors and nurses in hospitals, and scientists and technicians in laboratories, as well as bakers, butchers and chefs in professional kitchens. In another vein, because white garments would prove to be difficult to clean, white has been used in formal attire, and would grow to be popular amongst the growing middle and upper-middle class, hence the term 'white collar worker' – a phrase that linked its wearers with higher-status professions through the white dress shirts of office employees as opposed to the blue boiler suits of manual workers.

Because snow reflects every colour, and light bounces off its crystals, snow is white. It's one of the most synonymous colours of winter



Why is March the most popular month to use a trampoline?

It's Spring-time!

## 05

### Places to Visit

[Sarehole Mill, Moseley](#)

As March sees a celebration of Tolkein through 'Tolkein Day', have you ever been to Sarehole Mill? It's local on our doorstep and where you can walk in the footsteps of Tolkein, one of the most famous authors of all time, and discover the inspiration behind the *Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. JRR Tolkien grew up across the

road from Sarehole Mill and, in later life, he would draw on its rural surroundings to create Middle-earth.

The Mill also has connections with another famous Birmingham son, Matthew Boulton. Boulton, manufacturer and business partner of engineer James Watt, leased the building between 1756 and 1761 and used it as a 'flattening mill' to produce sheet metal to make buttons.

### **Sarehole Mill Opening Times:**

The Shop (11am - 4pm) and Pizza in the Courtyard (12noon - 3pm) are open Wednesday to Sunday.

The Mill is open on Friday (1.30pm), Saturday (11.30am and 1.30pm) and Sunday (1.30pm) for guided tours only.

On the first Saturday of the month the Mill is open 11am - 4pm for you to explore the mill at your leisure without a guided tour. Pre-booking is advised.

Sarehole Mill  
Cole Bank Road  
Birmingham  
B13 0BD.

**If you have any suggestions on places to visit, days out, what's on etc. do please let me know and I will include them in the Newsletters. I am sure other members would appreciate some ideas and suggestions.**

### **Broadway Arts Festival Photography Competition**

Broadway Arts Festival 2023 is holding a photography competition. Cash prizes for the best portrait, best landscape and best photo essay. Closing date for entries is 6 pm, 1st April 2023. Further information can be found at

<https://broadwayartsfestival.com/event/the-2023-photography-competition/>

## 06

### **A Little Teaser of a Competition ...**

Thank you to those of you who submitted captions for February's competition. My favourite ones were from Helen and Tim. I couldn't decide on an outright winner so you are both winners, many congratulations.



Helen Dufficy 'Life on the Edge'  
Tim Hutchin 'China's Latest Surveillance System'

## March's Little Teaser

Question:

What can be seen in the middle of March and April but can't be seen in the beginning or end of either one?

Email your answers to me at [172elizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:172elizabeth@gmail.com) by no later than **28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**.

07

## Photography Podium

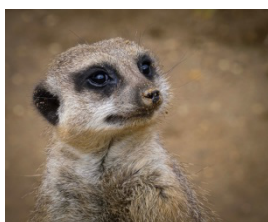
### Natural History Competition

PRINTS:

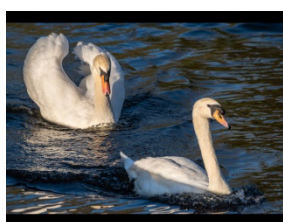


	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	Meerkat Portrait	Rosie Thompson	Elephants Look Out	Dave Ward	Cheetah Stare	Sue Pearmain
Second	Mute Swans	Mike Goodwin	African Wild Dog Pup	Kevin Watts	Cormorant Spreading its Wings	Jolanta B Axon
Third	Lioness and Cub, Masai Mara	Helen Dufficy	Hawker Dragonflies	Tony Dyson	Grey Heron Stalking its Prey	Jolanta B Axon
Highly Commended			Gentoo Penguins	Hazel Lane	Suckling Grey Seal Pup in Early Morning Light	Jenny Ladbrooke
					Newborn Atlantic Seal with Mother	Chris Mallett
Commended	Bee Collecting Nectar on Anemone	Rosie Thompson	Brown Pelican	Hazel Lane	Brown Hare	David Steele

### Group 1



Meerkat Portrait

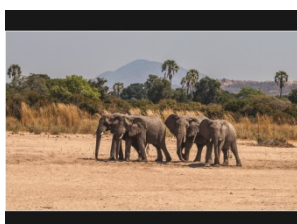


Mute Swans

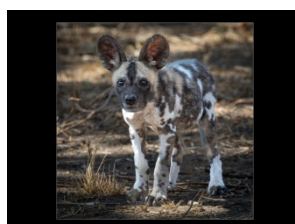


Lioness and Cub Masai Mara

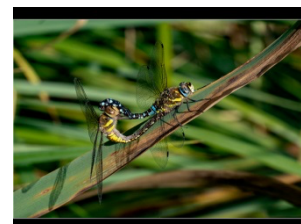
### Group 2



Elephants on Lookout



African Wild Dog Pup

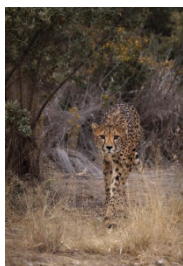


Hawker Dragonflies

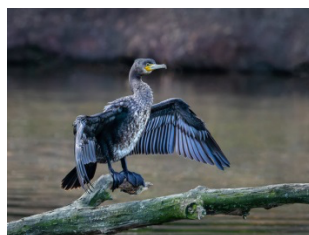




## Group 3



Cheetah Stare



Cormorant Spreading Its Wings

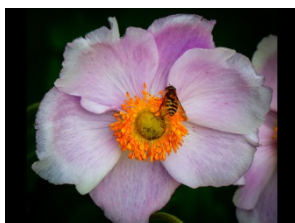


Grey Heron Stalking Its Prey

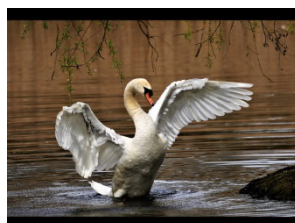
## DIGITAL IMAGES:

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	Bee on Lilac Anemone	Rosie Thompson	Heron	Tony Dyson	Rhino Mud Bathtime	Jenny Ladbrooke
Second	Mute Swan	Ann Ashford	Squacco Heron	Dave Ward	Stonechat on Teasels	Jolanta B Axon
Third	Larvae to Ladybird	John Leighton	Black Neck Swan	Hazel Lane	White Backed Vulture Quarrel	Sue Pearmain
Highly Commended	Broom Flower (Cytisus Scoparius)	John Leighton	Vulture Take-Off	Chris Lee	Snow Leopard and Cub	Jane Roby
			Wildflower Meadow	Jeannette Strange	Beady Eyed Nile Crocodile	Chris Mallett
Commended	Robin	Michael McShane	The Kudu Deer	Chris Lee	Sitting Baboon	Jane Storer

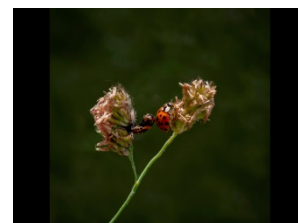
## Group 1



Bee on Lilac Anemone



Mute Swan

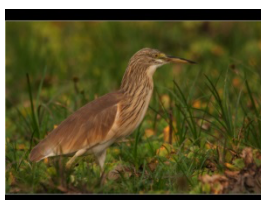


Larvae to Ladybird

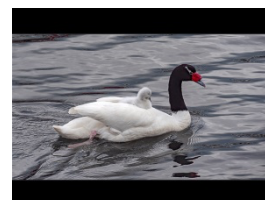
## Group 2



Heron

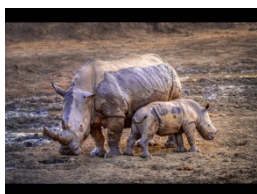


Squacco Heron

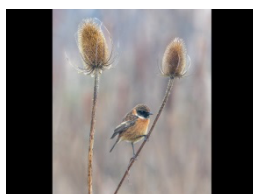


Black Neck Swan

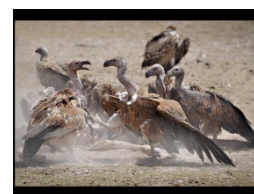
## Group 3



Rhino Mud Bathtime



Stonechat on Teasels



White Backed Vulture Quarrel



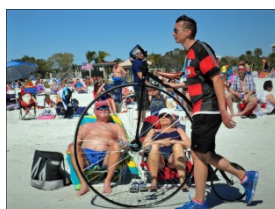
## Annual Digital Open Competition

Another super competition of digital images. Well done to all those who got a placing and to Jane Roby and Jane Storer for sharing the honours in Group 3.

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
First	<i>Beach Peddler</i>	Mick O'Malley	<i>Antarctica</i>	Hazel Lane	<i>Lion Kill</i> <i>Snow Leopard and Cub</i>	Jane Storer Jane Roby
Second	<i>Pink Peony</i>	Michael Prince	<i>Tuscan Doorway</i>	Kevin Watts	<i>A Man's Best Friend</i>	Jolanta B Axon
Third	<i>Bonny Brie</i>	Ann Ashford	<i>Painted Lady</i>	Tony Dyson	<i>Their Favourite Toy</i>	Jolanta B Axon

### DIGITAL IMAGES:

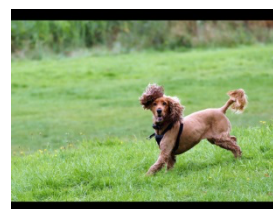
#### Group 1



*Beach Peddler*

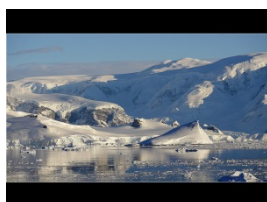


*Pink Peony*



*Bonny Brie*

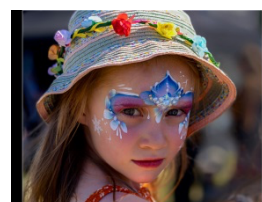
#### Group 2



*Antarctica*



*Tuscan Doorway*

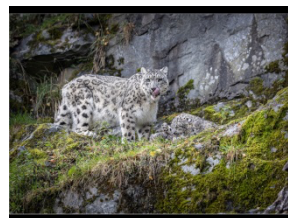


*Painted Lady*

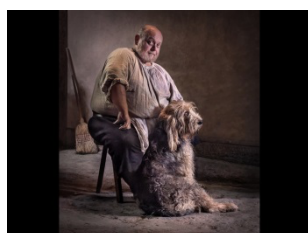
#### Group 3



*Lion Kill*



*Snow Leopard and Cub*



*A Man's Best Friend*



*Their Favourite Toy*



## 08

## External Recognition

*If any of you enter any competitions and get any external recognitions like this then please drop me a line so that I can add it into the Newsletter. It's great to see what everyone is up to and the accolades they receive.*



Did you hear about the first restaurant on the moon?

It had great food but no atmosphere!



**See you next month!**