

PICTUREMAKER

Mashonaland Photographic Society

NOVEMBER 2022



WINNER - NOVEMBER 2022
SET SUBJECT 'FOCUS STACKED'
Bridget Henderson with "Circle of Life"



WINNER - NOVEMBER 2022 'OPEN' CATEGORY
Chris Collyer with 'Stilts'

We wish each and every one of you, our loyal and supportive MPS Members, a safe and happy rest of the Festive Season with only the good things coming your way in 2023.

Alas, all good things must come to an end, so this is the last issue of PictureMaker, in its present form, under the Editorship of Chris Sheppard and Sub Ed & Proofer, Caro - who have worked as a good team over the years, to bring you this informative and, we hope, a worthwhile newsletter.

Is anyone out there who would like to take up the challenge of continuing with this longstanding MPS tradition? It's fun! Please W'App Chris if you're interested.

Nige will be in UK. Pse send him a W'App soon as you've emailed yr January entries with Titles and if in Set or Open. 0772 309 841

IN THIS ISSUE

Chris's Comment
Nige's Viewfinder

2023 Set Subjects
How I Got the Shot
MPS Top Image Gallery

S/Subject Inspiration

Image Improvement School
Nov 2022 Montage

**MEETINGS & VENUE
WILL BE CONFIRMED
FOR 2023**

**NEXT
COMPETITION
JANUARY 2023**

**‘OPEN’ CATEGORY
&
OPTIONAL
SET SUBJECT OF
‘RAIN AND
ALL IT BRINGS’**

**Entries Close
12 NOON MONDAY
9TH JANUARY 2023**

**WHATSAPP NIGE IN UK
WHEN ENTRIES
EMAILED WITH TITLES
& IF IN SET OR OPEN
0772 309 841**

**NEXT MEETING
Results Show
Provisionally Wed,
25th January 2023**

MPS COMMITTEE 2022

NIGE WESTWOOD - President
westwood@zol.co.zw 0772 309 841

CARO DEAN - Membership
thedeans@zol.co.zw 0783 138 150

**NIGE WESTWOOD
Competition Entries Collator**
mpsphotos@hotmail.com
0772 309 841 / 2-884222

**CHRIS SHEPPARD -
PictureMaker Editor**
chris.sheppard471@gmail.com
0772 283 652

Nettie Rogers * Andy Roberts
Dave Dell * Chris Collyer

Editor's Comment - November 2022

This is my last PictureMaker.

I have really enjoyed adding words to the amazing work of our Society's members.



It is always with a sense of expectation that I get the folder with each month's submissions from Nige Westwood. Each interpretation of the Set Subject has a different take on what we as a Committee originally envisaged.

Sure, sometimes technical ability needs expanding and maybe a touch here and there when post processing, but, an Author has seen something that he or she feels is worthy of a place in the competition.

It remains the aim of our Society to work with and to improve members ability to take pictures that are worthy of display and subsequent Judges critique.

In PictureMaker we have a platform that encapsulates all of the above ethos and keeping in Digital Print so to speak.

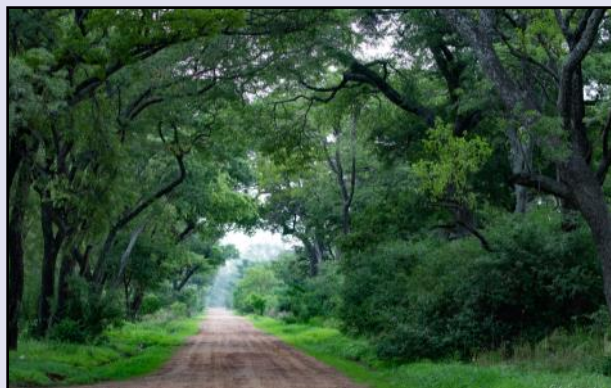
I am not sure if anyone has taken the time to actually print out an edition or two of PictureMaker? If you did, you would be impressed by just how good the photography looks on paper.

We can be overwhelmed by the sheer volume of Digital Media available. I find myself wasting time flipping through endless reels of what other people find fascinating enough to post.

I like to think we all have original minds and that our own work stands out. By having this publication we commit our efforts to a record that becomes a historical memory for others.

If I can add to an image by creating a written description it makes me feel closer to what is depicted.

To the next Editor — I wish you well and hope that you will find the emotive pleasure of a written accompaniment for all the efforts that our members provide.



‘Into the Green’

Zimbabwe's dry brown bush magically transforms almost overnight into a green wonderland when the rains come. Colours that rival temperate Europe's Summer vibrancy. Picture - Chris Sheppard

From the President's Viewfinder - November 2022



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Brenda Collyer on Sunday 4th December, surrounded by her loving family after a brave battle against Cancer. On behalf of all members of the MPS we send our deepest condolences to Chris and his family.

It's hard to believe that the end of the year is almost upon us but perhaps I can hear sighs of relief that 2022 is almost done and dusted. It's been a challenging year for most of us considering our day to day individual situations but one thing has always been a constant: our photographic passion. No matter what happened it was always there to provide happy, light relief and a fantastic distraction for us.

If I was to look back over the past year, I believe that we at the MPS had a good outcome. It's fair to say, not only from the judges' comments but also from past members and outsiders who sometimes attended our meetings that the standard of our members' pictures have improved enormously and if I were to go by the external judges' comments, then we are up there with the best anywhere.

Our in-house publication bears witness to the foregoing comments and I believe that new and aspiring members have learnt much from perusing PictureMaker and taking note of all the submitted competition entries. Our vision as a Society remains 'To teach people to take better photographs' and in this we can be proud that we have achieved our objective. Attendances throughout the year have been small with our hardy bunch of regulars who are the ones who not only support the Society with monthly entries but make themselves available to encourage and support new members. Hopefully 2023 will see a larger group of members doing exactly the same.

Talking about PictureMaker brings me to remind you that this is the last issue. Ably steered by Chris Sheppard and Caro Dean for as long as I can remember, the time is now ripe for a change and unless some other willing body steps into the breach, the Committee will have to revise the way in which we communicate with members, circulate results, pictures and current info, etc. If you feel you're up to the challenge don't be shy – just shout.

Whilst everybody else appears to be obsessed with mirrorless full frame cameras and the capabilities of extremely long telephoto lenses, I have been revisiting my roots and experimenting with 'vintage' lenses. Let me say here and now that if you're an auto-focus freak and don't do manual then this is not for you and don't go there. As an engineer I can't help but drool over an Olympus Zuiko lens, marvelling at its metal superior build and tremendous optics. (They didn't make cameras and lenses out of plastic in those days)! The sight of a Zuiko 150mm mounted on my micro four thirds Panasonic gives me a warm all over feeling, let alone the finished picture results. Try it!

As with previous end of year editions of PictureMaker all that remains is for me to give my thanks where due. Firstly and most importantly to you the members because without you there would be no need for a Committee, the judges and time spent reviewing pictures. Thank you for your dedication to the Society and its aims and may you continue to feel so committed to our cause. To the judges, thank you for all the time you commit to reviewing entered pictures and your meaningful comments which are such a learning aid for our members. To the Committee, without your support and commitment my job would be a lot more difficult and time consuming. In this I must include our 'consultants' Chris Collyer and Dave Dell who are always there to assist, help out and offer advice when required. To all our friends from South of the border, thanks for your input and support over the year and may it not be too long before we do it all again. Lastly, to all those others from outside the Society who assist from time to time, thank you.

On behalf of the Committee I wish all members and their families a prosperous New Year and if you're travelling take care and travel safely.

Should you have been lucky to find a full frame mirrorless camera in Santa's sack – good on you!

In photography,
Nige

MPS 2023 OPTIONAL SET SUBJECTS

Members to email entries to mpsphotos@hotmail.com ensuring they're received by no later than 12 noon on the Deadline Dates indicated below.

OUR FIRST 3 COMPETITIONS OF 2023

(Full list will be sent in the New Year)

JANUARY

'RAIN AND ALL IT BRINGS'

Entry Deadline: Monday, 9th January

Put your raincoat on, find a helper with an umbrella and capture all the glory of a rainy day.

In colour or monochrome. No manipulation.

FEBRUARY

'INMATE FROM A TINY WORLD'

Entry Deadline: Monday, 6th February

For nature lovers. Close-up /macro. It's all about the details.

In colour. No Manipulation.

MARCH

'ROCKS, PEBBLES, STONES'

Entry Deadline: Monday, 6th March

Explore the terra firma - look around your environment with new eyes, then create your images from various angles. In your garden or out and about, along river beds and roadsides.

In colour or monochrome. No Manipulation allowed.

NOTE : FOR SET SUBJECTS - WHERE STIPULATED ABOVE

'No Manipulation' means no Composites.

However, editing is totally acceptable to enhance exposure, colour, clarity, noise removal and cropping, etc.,

'OPEN' CATEGORY

Your choice of subject. Edit as you wish - to create images which depict 'your' individual style ... no editing rules!

‘HOW I GOT THE SHOT’**WINNER NOVEMBER 2022 SET SUBJECT
‘FOCUS STACKED’*****‘Circle of Life’ by Bridget Henderson***

This is a stacked image made up of 200 or so individual images taken in early September 2022.

The moon was up till midnight so alarm set for 1am and then set up to capture images till dawn with intervalometer.

Aimed camera due South and then took 1 minute long exposures with 2 seconds intervals until the sun came up.

Sky images:

Canon R5, Samyang 14mm lens at F2.8, ISO 800. Foreground shot: f 8, ISO 3200, 10 sec. Tree light painted with torch.

All images composited in Photoshop.

Key ingredients: \$10 lens warmer to stop lens condensation, coffee and blankets to keep photographer sane!

‘HOW HE GOT THE SHOT’

WINNER NOVEMBER 2022

‘OPEN’ CATEGORY

Chris Collyer’s with ‘Stilts’



SHOT DETAILS

Camera—Canon EOS 7Dii

Lens—Canon EF100mm f/2.8L Macro IS

Shutter—1/250

Aperture—f/10

ISO—400

Fill in flash

Post Processing—Photoshop Elements

NOVEMBER 2022 TOP IMAGE GALLERY 'FOCUS STACKED' & 'OPEN'



2nd — "Pink Delight"
by Bridget Henderson



3rd — "The Alien Seed"
by Andy Roberts



4th — "Pink Pair"
by Andy Roberts



6th — "Still Hunt"
by Kerry Orphanides



7th — "Beautiful Poison"
by Bridget Henderson



8th — "White Hollyhock"
by Andy Roberts

**NOVEMBER 2022 TOP IMAGE GALLERY 'FOCUS STACKED'
& 'OPEN' CATEGORY (Cont'd)**



9th — "Peering Out"
by Nettie Rogers



10th — "Robbers"
by Chris Collyer



11th — "Purple Crested Turaco"
by George Fleet



12th — "Something is Happening"
by Chris Sheppard



13th — "Bugged Up"
by Catriona Borman



14th — "Flower Detail"
by Catriona Borman

SET SUBJECT INSPIRATION : JANUARY 2023**‘RAIN & ALL IT BRINGS’**

Put your raincoat on, find a helper with an umbrella and capture all the glory of a rainy day. In Colour or B/W. No Manipulation

ENTRY DEADLINE : 12 NOON ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9th 2023

There are so many examples of rain related photography images on the internet.

[Try These 15 Techniques for Perfect Rain Photography \(expertphotography.com\)](https://expertphotography.com)

The trick is to actually go out there and try find something. Even if it does not look technically perfect — as the article also says, sometimes perfect is not perfect, getting the shot is more important.

A blurred scene of a cityscape taken through the window of your car, focused on the drops on the window with blurred buildings in the background is an easy one to reproduce.

When it rains you get reflections on the water adding colour and texture to your work. I have that Christmas Tree on Village Walk entrance in my mind and will try to get that in frame immediately after rains at night, using a tripod. What I'm not sure of is if my wife will be prepared to be up at 3.30am to be my wingman?! Come on Carol, you can do it!

Huge rolling clouds looming over a cowering foreground will provide a simple emotive image without much technical skill required.

Grab an umbrella, find a willing model, fix your flash onto your camera and take some portraits IN THE RAIN, the flash will highlight the falling raindrops creating a special effect

Water splashes on concrete using a high speed shutter will create unusual shapes and forms.

Some dogs, like my Jack Russel love the rain and will rush around in the wet. Your job is to be ready with camera as they come in and then shake themselves dry. Another high speed shot that will have water everywhere and an interesting animal in center frame. (careful though, not too close, else your camera lens will get wet and you will end up smelling of wet dog! :)

There is plenty opportunity coming at us for the next few months — go out and enjoy while learning something at the same time.



<https://expertphotography.com/author/dora-jokkel/>



Pic—Chris Sheppard



Not quite the model and umbrella, but you can see rain drops falling on and around this rural mommie.

Pic — Chris Sheppard

Image Improvement School

with *Chris Sheppard**Adjusted image*

George Fleet's "End of the Day" submission is a very emotive one as many of us can identify with that "Kariba Feeling" where, at the end of the day we sit on a Houseboat, watching the sunset and recounting ever more enhanced fishing stories from the day.

Warm tones, setting sun, parked boats are just the ingredients for such a picture.

I feel that the boats need more emphasis in picture so changed the crop to a 9:16 bringing them forward more, with a better placing on intersection of thirds, bottom right.

*Original Image*

I found the tender rope distracting so removed it using Photoshop repair tool. Obviously these changes are on the actual image and are limited by what was submitted. For what it is worth — it was possible to have been able to change the perspective of the camera slightly to have the boats more prominent in frame and a lower camera position I think, might have changed the "feel" of the final picture.

My thoughts only.



A selection of entries submitted in
'Open' Category & Set Subject of
'FOCUS STACKED'

