**St. Ives Camera Club**

**Bill Jenkins Shield Round 2.**

**Judges Preamble**
I decided to retire from judging a couple of months ago, driven by several issues, night driving being one! So, my initial reaction when asked to judge for this competition was to refuse. However, when offered to do the judging remotely, I accepted with pleasure.

I do not normally do “Natural History” either but was persuaded to have a go!

St Ives has been a favourite place of mine since my childhood, so, although this task did not involve a visit, I was thrilled to be of service to St Ives Camera Club.

I always load all competition photos which I judge into Lightroom, to review them. Some club members do not like me “playing” with their images but I like to try out any suggestions I make, so that I do know at least that the suggestions work for me! I hope you find my comments useful but please bear in mind that we all see things differently, photography is a very subjective art and there are no rights or wrongs. All that matters is that you enjoy the results of your labours.

The overall standard of photography offered for review was commendably high and selecting “winners” was extremely difficult. In many cases, the choices made were rather arbitrary and I certainly do not wish to imply that those chosen were in any way significantly better, whatever that means, than those not selected. I often had to go with what pleased me most at the time and that was often influenced by the subject! On a different day, the selections would probably be significantly different.

I run a U3A Photography Group in Launceston and we managed to keep going during lockdown by group members offering me some photos each month, which I would critique, in writing, looking all the time for “learning points”. I always write a script when judging, so producing this review for you was very much in keeping with what I would normally do. The only difference is that Phillip will speak on my behalf.

It is part of my style to look for things to compliment, rather than to grumble about.

All judges suffer from too much repetition, which I dislike, but it is difficult to say different things all the time when faced with 50+ images.

You will notice repetition of words, such as: like, love, diagonal, composition, and maybe a few more, in my comments. Please forgive them!

Thank you for the invitation to judge. Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to discuss any of my thoughts. . . .

Hugh Letheren

15 October 2021