BCC Meeting
Speaker Event – Robert Harvey

On Monday 29th September 2025 we had the pleasure of welcoming Robert Harvey to BCC. Robert has been a regular guest speaker to the club over the years and his talks always inspire.

Speaker Event – Robert Harvey – Landscapes for all Seasons

A talk from Robert Harvey is about so much more than photography. Robert has an in-depth knowledge of the geology of his landscapes and with his ability to interpret weather conditions he can identify glorious opportunities for impactful images. I think you will all agree that last night we had a feast of compelling landscapes.

Robert demonstrated to us how important it is to revisit epic views not just at different times of the day but also in different seasons and you may find that an ordinary image can be transformed into something extraordinary. This was illustrated beautifully with an image of Hadrian's Wall at a time when the direction of the sun cast unfortunate shadows over half the view and the view was dominated by lush green grass. Returning in winter, with the sun low in the sky the shadows were lost and the vivid greens were toned down to beautiful soft pastels with a sprinkling of snow on the ground.

Robert explained to us how each season has a different colour palette creating an entirely different mood. So it was that Robert led us on a tour of the seasons, setting off in the depths of winter when the hues centred around cool blues, greens and whites.

Whilst the days might be shorter, the photo opportunities are greater as the sun remains low in the sky throughout those winter months creating very special light. During this time chances are that at some point we will experience, snow and frost or maybe, if we are lucky, a hoar frost or rime ice.

Robert suggested that we should not be discouraged by white skies but should embrace them. He showed how a skeletal tree against a white sky can produce something more like a charcoal sketch.

Alternatively, you could simply avoid having the sky within the frame.

Robert says, 'there is no such thing as bad weather for photographers'.

From winter we stepped into spring and so the colour palette changes, with warm greens and yellows, along with colourful spring flowers, with snakehead fritillary, ramsons and bluebells. He suggested using focus stacking to obtain front to back focus in a landscape with foreground interest. He discussed the frustrations of capturing the dense blue of bluebells and suggested carrying a small stepladder. He talked of the advantages of mist to reduce chaos and create atmosphere in an image with recessive colours.

Then the summer sun arrives. The palette is at its warmest and most vibrant with the sunny yellows of oilseed rape in bloom, scarlet fields of poppies, warm sunlit faces of sunflowers as they lift their heads to the morning sun in the east. Added to this

exotic mix are the rich purples of lavender, phacelia and heather.

With the arrival of autumn those colours mellow as greenery turns yellow, orange and even rosy and pastel pinks. With this come more opportunities for mist and cloud inversions. The harsh light of summer is replaced by soft subtle light. Even on those drizzly days it is worth venturing into your local woodland for some moody images.

Robert started the evening with a poll to identify the most popular season. I think we could have guessed that autumn would come out on top. However, I wonder if by the end of the evening any of you were swayed into another season. Certainly, I for one was encouraged by those summer scenes and saw that there is a way to work around the long bright days.

You can checkout Robert's website.