CREATING A VIDEO OF PICTURES TO MUSIC

Part Two - Making the Video! - By Les Jones

(FEBRUARY 2025)

In Part One, we installed the necessary software and put our Pictures and Music files all together in a convenient folder on our computer.

If you haven't done this, please do it now before we start.

Here's a screenshot of what I've copied to the folder which I called 'Media':

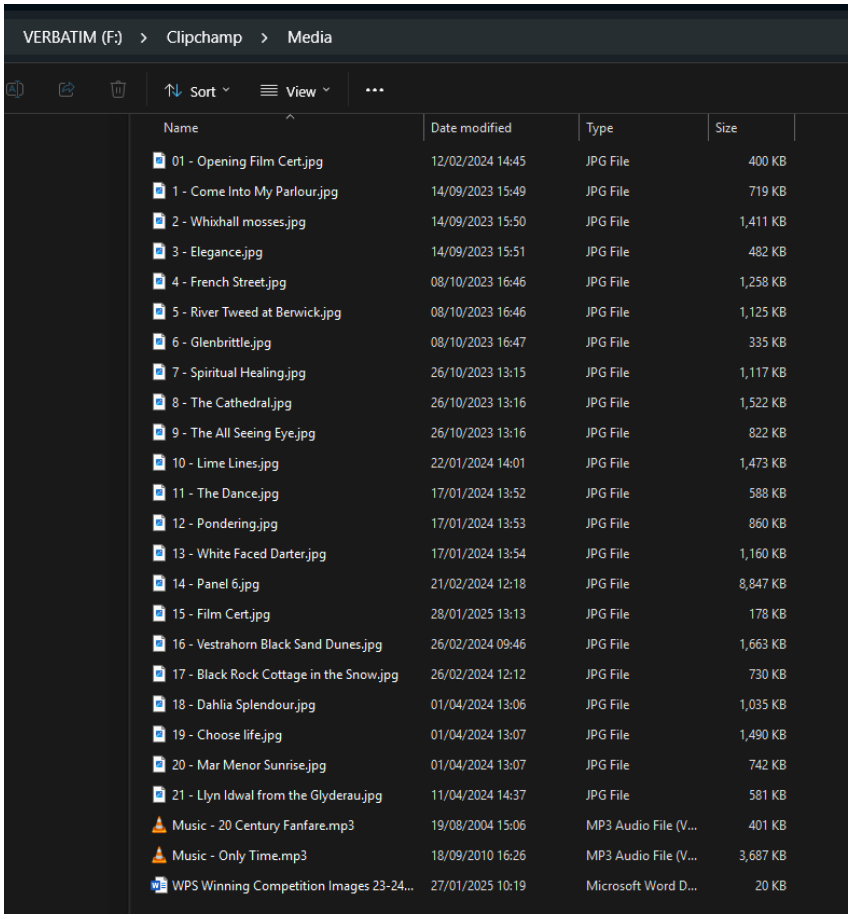
To make it clearer for you, I've renamed each file so that it appears in the list in the correct order.

As you can see, there are 22 images, 2 music tracks and a Word file in which I've listed all the image titles, authors and competitions.

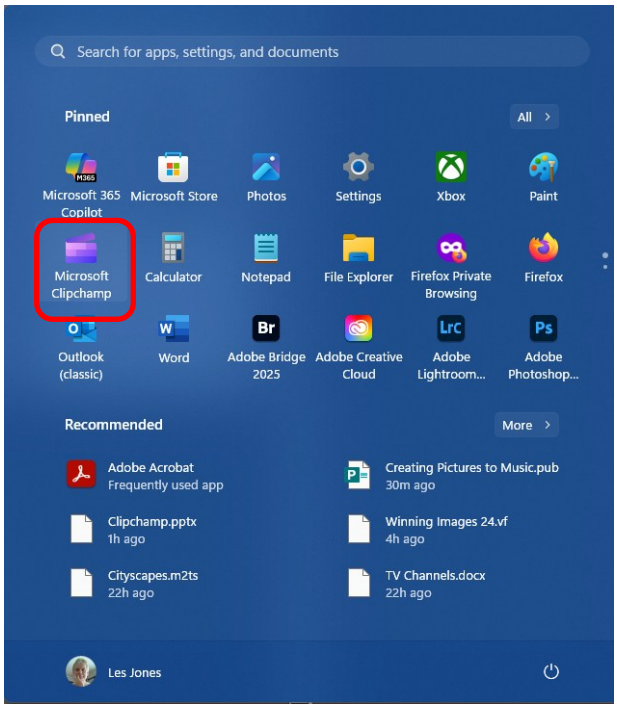
I've created the word file to help me when I place a caption with each image as we create the video, but you can probably remember the names of your own images.

We're going to use Clipchamp to create this.

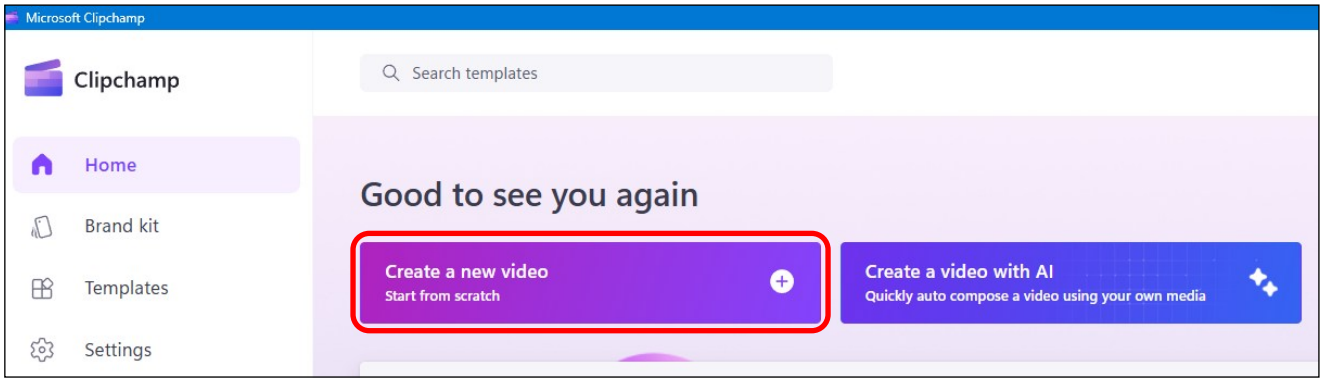
Note that most other video editors work in a similar fashion.



So let's get started by opening Clipchamp on your PC.



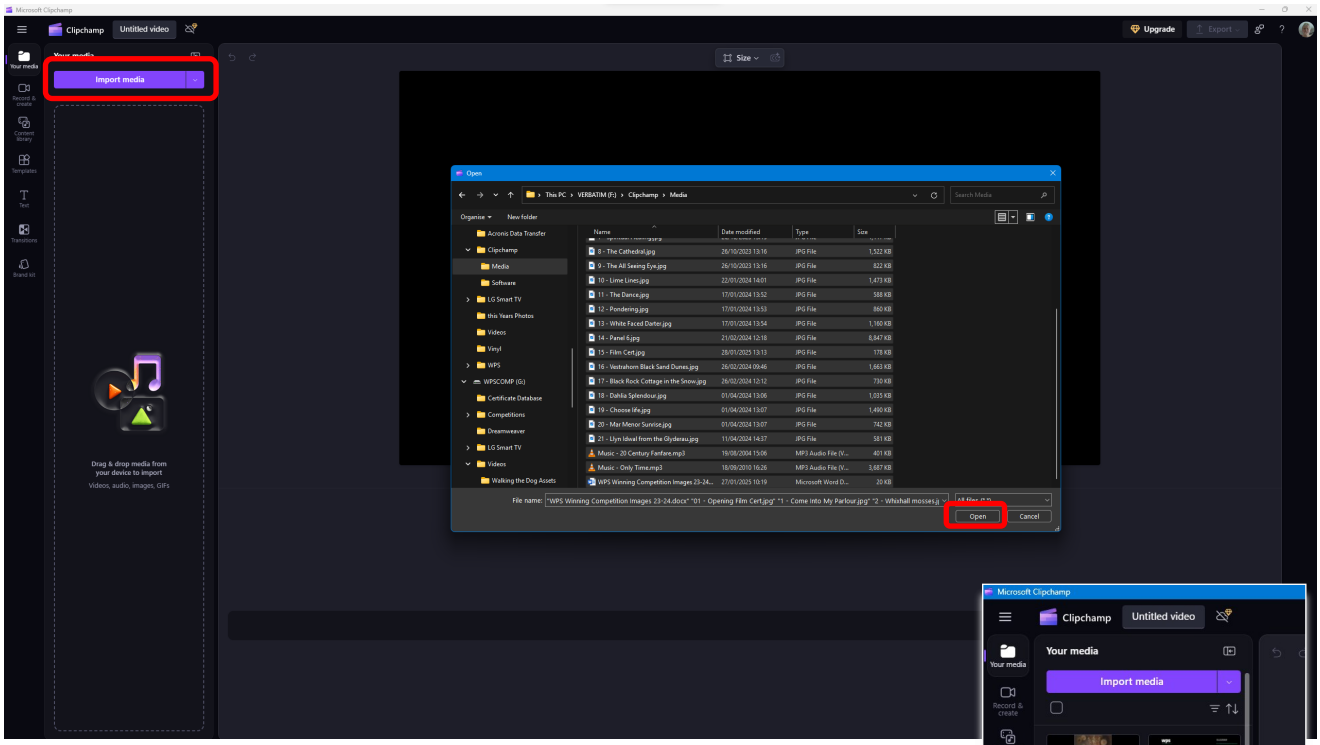
We are presented with the screen below. Click on Create a new video - Start from scratch

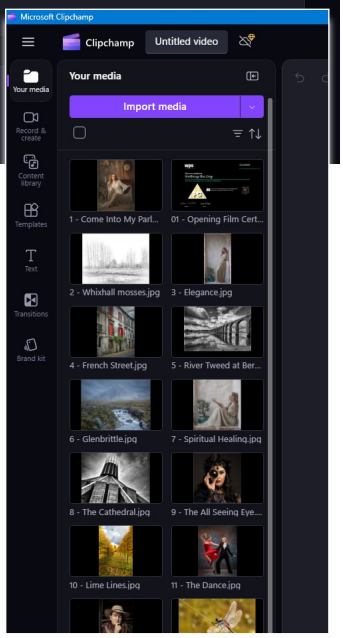


In the next screen, which is the main Clipchamp workspace:

1. Click on the 'Import Media' button. A File Explorer box appears.
2. Navigate to the folder which you created for your images and music.
3. Select all of them (click on the first file, hold the shift button on your keyboard, still holding shift, scroll to the last file and click it. All selected)
4. Now click the 'Open' button in File Explorer.

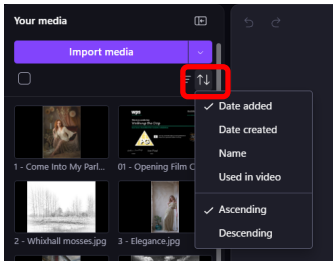
All the images and music will now be imported into the 'Your media' panel.





You can of course import each file one at a time …..

The 'Your media' panel will now look a bit like this. For some reason, Clipchamp always seems to place things in the opposite order to which I want to see them, but this is easily changed by clicking on the 'two arrows' button and selecting how you want to view them.



We're now ready to start making our video.

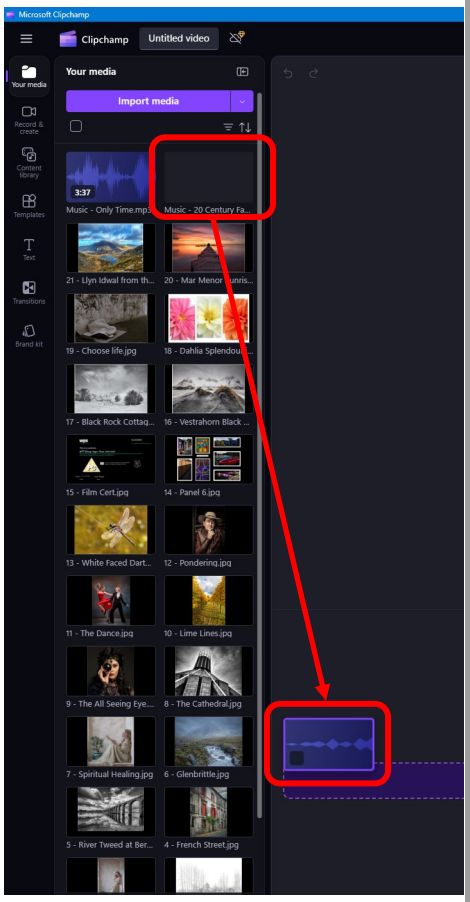
We create our video very simply using ‘drag and drop’

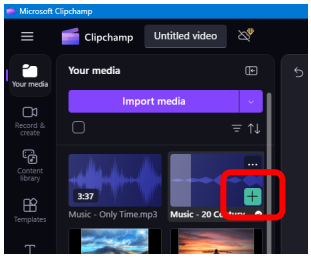
We ‘drag’ the ‘media’ from ‘Your media’, and ‘drop’ it on the ‘timeline’.

Once the ‘media’ is on the ‘timeline’, then we can make changes to it.

Start by putting the first bit of music in the ‘timeline’.

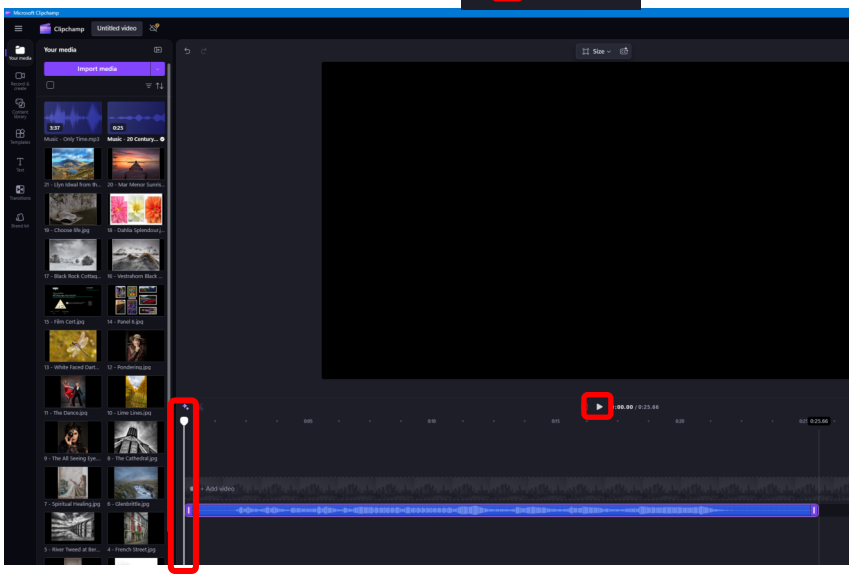
I’ve clicked on ‘20th Century Fox Fanfare’ and ‘dragged’ it (holding the left mouse button) to the timeline, letting go of the left mouse button once over the timeline.





Note that as your mouse ‘hovers’ over an item in ‘Your media’ a + symbol appears. Clicking on the + symbol also adds the media to the timeline wherever the ‘cursor’ is.

In the screenshot below, you can now see the music on the timeline. If you now clicked the play button, 0:00.00 / 0:25.66 all you would



hear is the music playing as you have not yet added a picture.

Note that the timeline is now just over 25 seconds long (the length of the music you’ve just added).

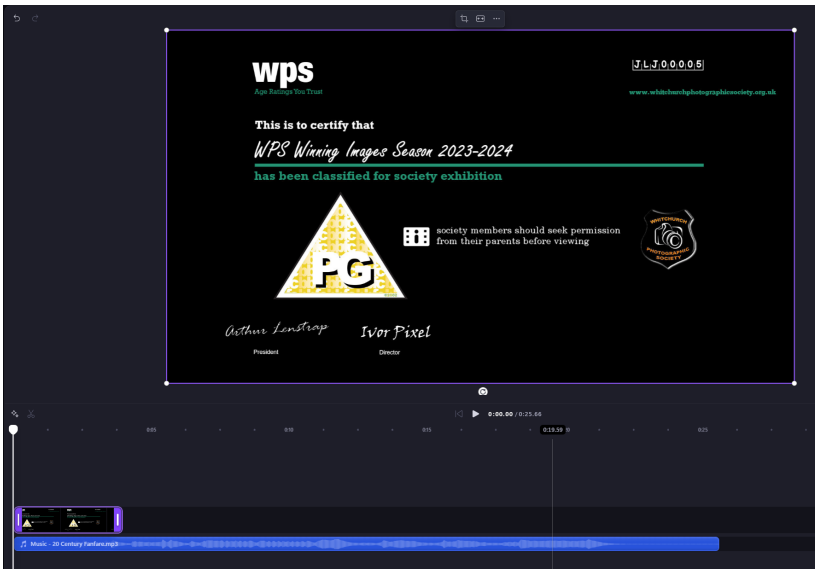
Also note that playback startsfrom where you place the cursor.

So now let’s add a picture.

Part way down the Your media box is ‘15 - Film cert.jpg’.

Now drag this to the timeline, dropping it above the music where Clipchamp says ‘Add Video’.

The timeline and preview screen should now look like this:



Click the play 0:00.00 / 0:25.66 button again and you will see that the picture you have placed on the timeline only plays for 4 seconds and you have a blank screen for the remaining 21 seconds.

We want this first image to be in view for most of the 25 seconds the music is playing.

Lengthening this is very simple.

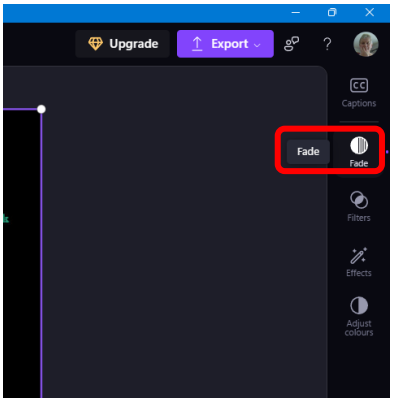
Click on the picture, on the timeline to highlight it. Hover your mouse over the end of the clip and a double

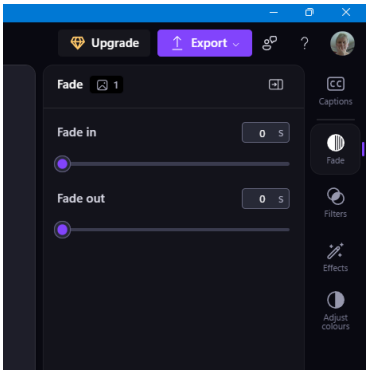
ended arrow appears. Left click on this and you can then drag either to the left which reduces the time it's shown, or to the right which increases it. So drag to the right, stopping a couple of seconds before the sound finishes. The timeline should now look like this:

Click on play and you will see that the picture appears for virtually all of the music now, but you will see that there is still a small problem in that the picture appears and disappears very abruptly.

It would be much better and more professional, if it could fade in and fade out gradually. This is very easy to do.

In the ***top right corner*** of the software, there is a 'Fade' button! Click on this and the fade panel slides out as below.





Whatever you highlight, a picture, video or music (by clicking on) on the timeline, you can 'fade in' and / or 'fade out'.

You can tell what's highlighted as a bright purple border surrounds it.

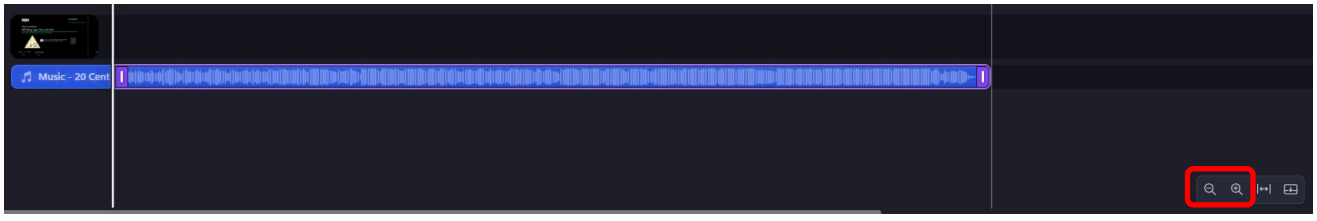
So highlight your first image (in this example '15 - Film Cert.jpg') and drag the sliders. One second fade in and fade out is about right for a 'Pictures to Music' video.

Play this again and you will see, it's already looking much better with this very simple touch.

That's the 'Intro' done, but you don't need to have an 'Intro' like this, you can simply jump straight in by starting with some text and then your first picture.

Now add the main music by dragging this onto the timeline, just after the first music clip.

The timeline now looks like this:



Note that you can zoom in or out of the timeline by either clicking on the zoom control in the bottom ***right corner***, or simply hold **'Ctrl'** on your keyboard and use your mouse scroll wheel (this works as zoom for ***most*** other software designed for Windows).

The total length of our video is now 4 minutes and 3 seconds, so we've got a fair bit of space yet to fill up!

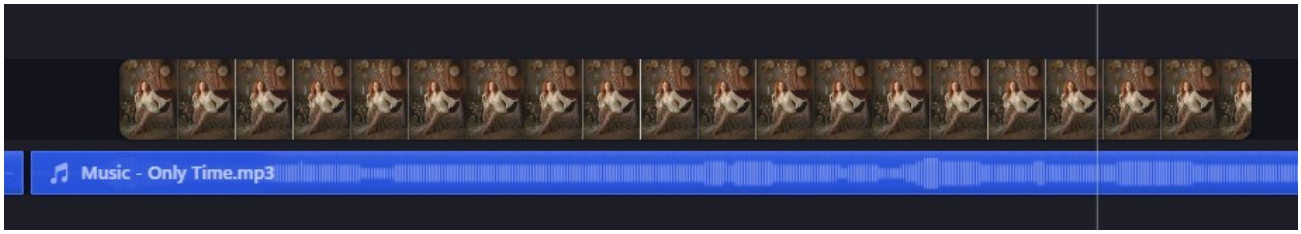
Now the important part, we need to place all of our images on the timeline.

We do this one at a time. ***Take your time with the first one*** and the rest become easy.

I'm creating a video of 'Last Season's Winning Images', so logically, I'll place each one on the timeline in chronological order.

In addition, I want to place a text box either above, or alongside each image containing image and competition details.

The first winning image was 'Come Into My Parlour' so we'll start by dragging this onto the timeline.

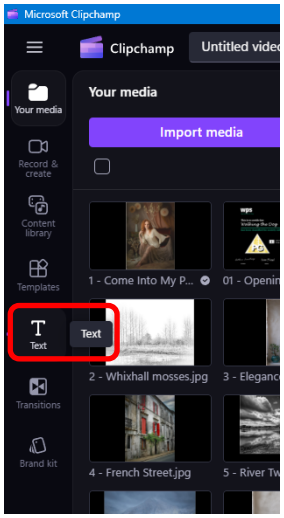


Use the ***fade*** control. One second fade in and fade out, but there's a problem. By default, currently Clipchamp only puts pictures onto the timeline for ***four seconds*** and we want ***ten***.

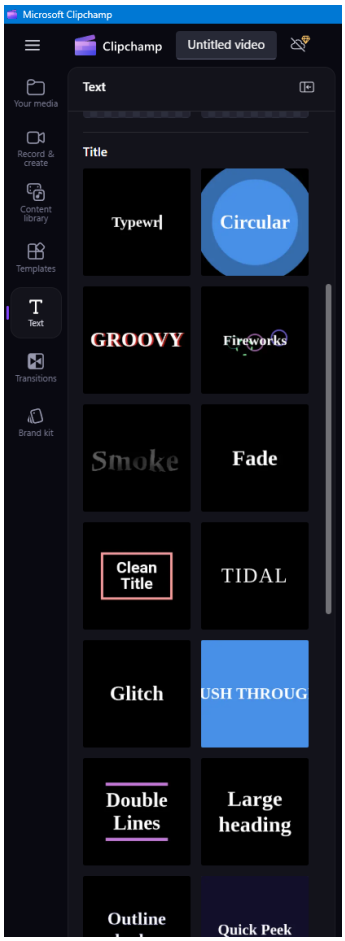
As we did before, we could painstakingly 'drag' it out to ten, but this is tricky and long winded, so what we need is a 'ten second template' placed on the timeline that we can use.

This sounds a bit complicated, but it's not.

The easy way to do this is to add some text (which we were going to add in any event!).



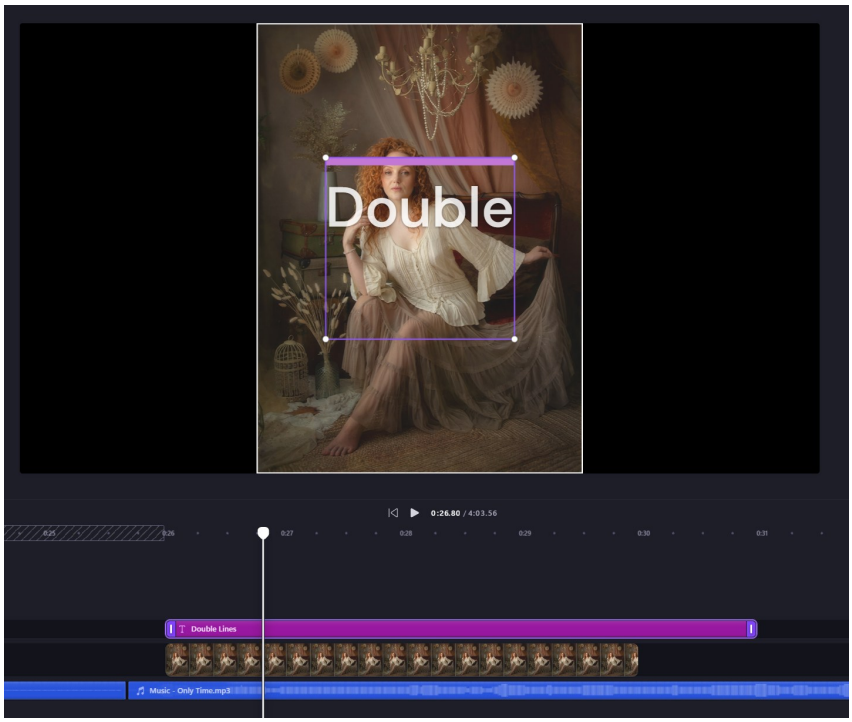
Click on the Text button on the ***left hand side*** of the screen. The left side of your screen expands to reveal quite a variety of 'templates' for putting text into your video.



Scroll down to see all options and if you hover over an option, you can see how it will look in your video.

I rather like the 'Double Lines', so I've dragged this onto the timeline, above the picture, dropping it at the same point the picture starts.

Now we have another problem as the screen shot below shows! As you can see, we have both picture and text, bang in the middle of our screen!



Also, strangely, again by default, the text is placed on the timeline for ***five*** seconds!

So lets put this all right!

Let's start by putting the correct text in the box. I had already typed out all of the winning images for 2023-24 in a Word document as opposite:

So I've got some text I can 'copy and paste'.

The text I've decided to put in the text box is:

Competition / Section / Image Name / Member

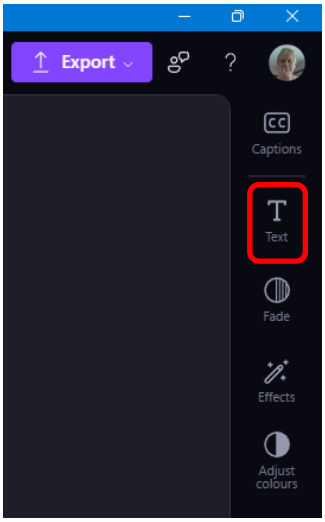
So this first text box will contain:

Open - Colour Print

Come Into My Parlour by Paul Hayward

In Clipchamp, click on the text box to highlight it (it all becomes bright purple), then click on the text button near the ***top right*** of your screen.

WPS Winning Competition Images					
NO:	**DATE**	**COMPETITION**		**MEMBER**	**IMAGE**
1	19th Sept 23	Open	Col P	Paul Hayward	Come into my Parlour
2	19th Sept 23		Mon P	Alan Cook	Whixall Mosses
3	19th Sept 23		PDI	Paul Hayward	Elegance
4	10th Oct 23	Landscape	Col P	Sandy Robertson	French Street
5	10th Oct 23		Mon P	Howard Holden	River Tweed At Berwick
6	10th Oct 23		PDI	Patrick Miles	Glenbrittle
7	31st Oct 23	This Year's Work	Col P	Paul Hayward	Spiritual Healing
8	31st Oct 23		Mon P	Les Jones	The Cathedral
9	31st Oct 23		PDI	Paul Hayward	The All Seeing Eye
10	26th Nov 23	Captured In Camera		Ruth Elner	Lime Lines
11	16th Jan 24	Set Subject	Motion	Paul Hayward	The Dance
12	16th Jan 24		People	Ruth Elner	Pondering
13	16th Jan 24		Nature	Ruth Elner	White Faced Darter
14	20th Feb 24	Panel		Les Jones	Colour All Around You
15	20th Feb 24	AVI		Les Jones	Walking The Dog
16	27th Feb 24	It's A Knockout	Col PDI	Phil Buckle	Vestrahorn Black Sand Dunes
17	27th Feb 24		Mon PDI	Phil Buckle	Black Rock Cottage In The Snow
18	26th March	Image Of The Year	Col P	Judy Naden	Dahlia Splendour
19	26th March		Mon P	Wendy Taylor	Choose Life
20	26th March		PDI	Phil Buckle	Mar Menor Sunrise
21	9th April 24	Mobile Phone	PDI	Paul Sweetnam	Llyn Idwal from the Glyderau

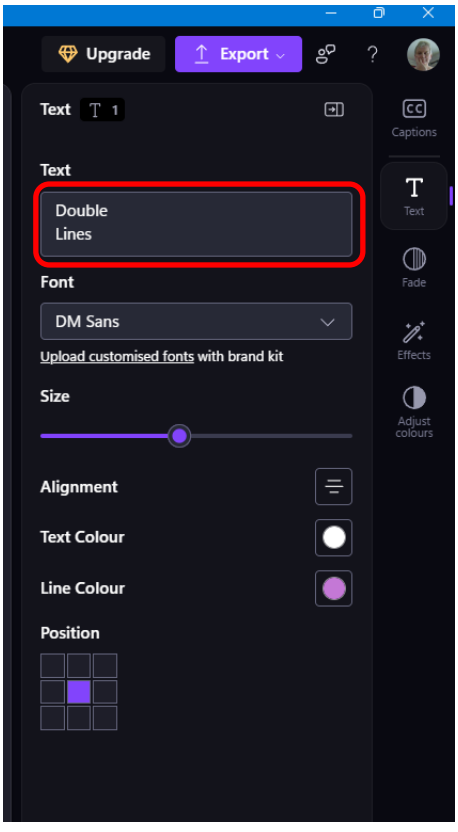


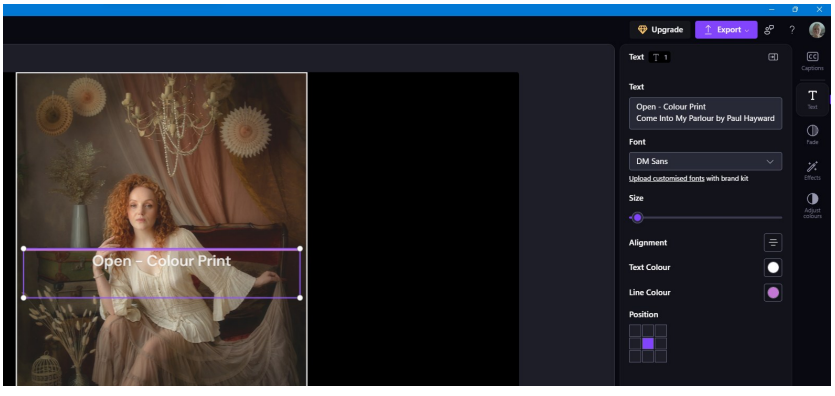
The Text editor pops out on the ***right side***.

The default text is in this instance 'Double Lines' so we need to change this.

As you can see below, the text is now correct, but the size and position are all wrong.

Dragging the 'Size' button down doesn't help much either, so lets change everything on the screen so it looks OK.





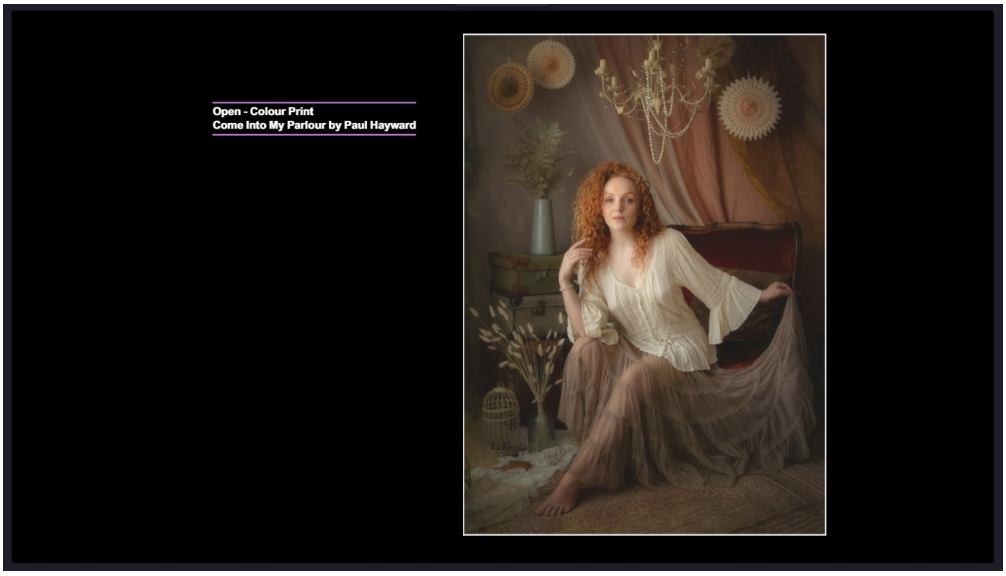
Again, we use ‘drag and drop’, but this time, we’re going to do this directly on the preview screen.

Click on the text box and corner ‘handles’ appear.

Left click on a handle (holding the left click button) and drag it in or out to increase or reduce the size of the box.

Left click on the middle of the text box (holding the left click button) and drag it anywhere on the screen.

Do the same with the image.



Here I’ve now resized and repositioned both text and image.

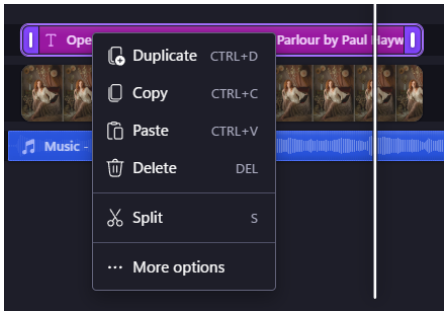
Now let’s create our ***10 second template*** that we can use throughout the document.

We’re going to use our text box.

Highlight it and carefully drag this out on the timeline until it is ten seconds long.

Once you’ve set the text box to 10 seconds, drag out your image so that it occupies the space directly under the text box.

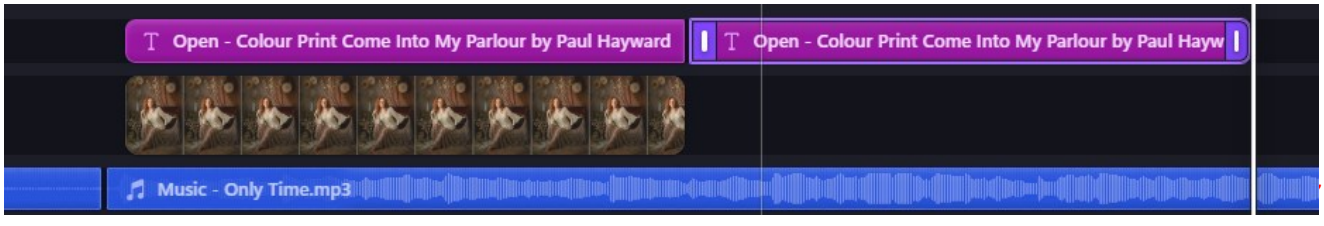
But why is this textbox a template? Simple, we can ’Duplicate’ it multiple times onto the timeline. This also saves you having to start from scratch with a new text box from the side pane for each image . All you need to do is:



1. Right click on the text box - select ‘Duplicate’. This places a copy directly on the timeline next to the original text box.
2. Change the text in the box.
3. Reposition it on the screen.

So before we place the next image on the timeline, duplicate the textbox.

The timeline will now look like this:



As you can see, we now have two identical text boxes, so we need to alter the text.

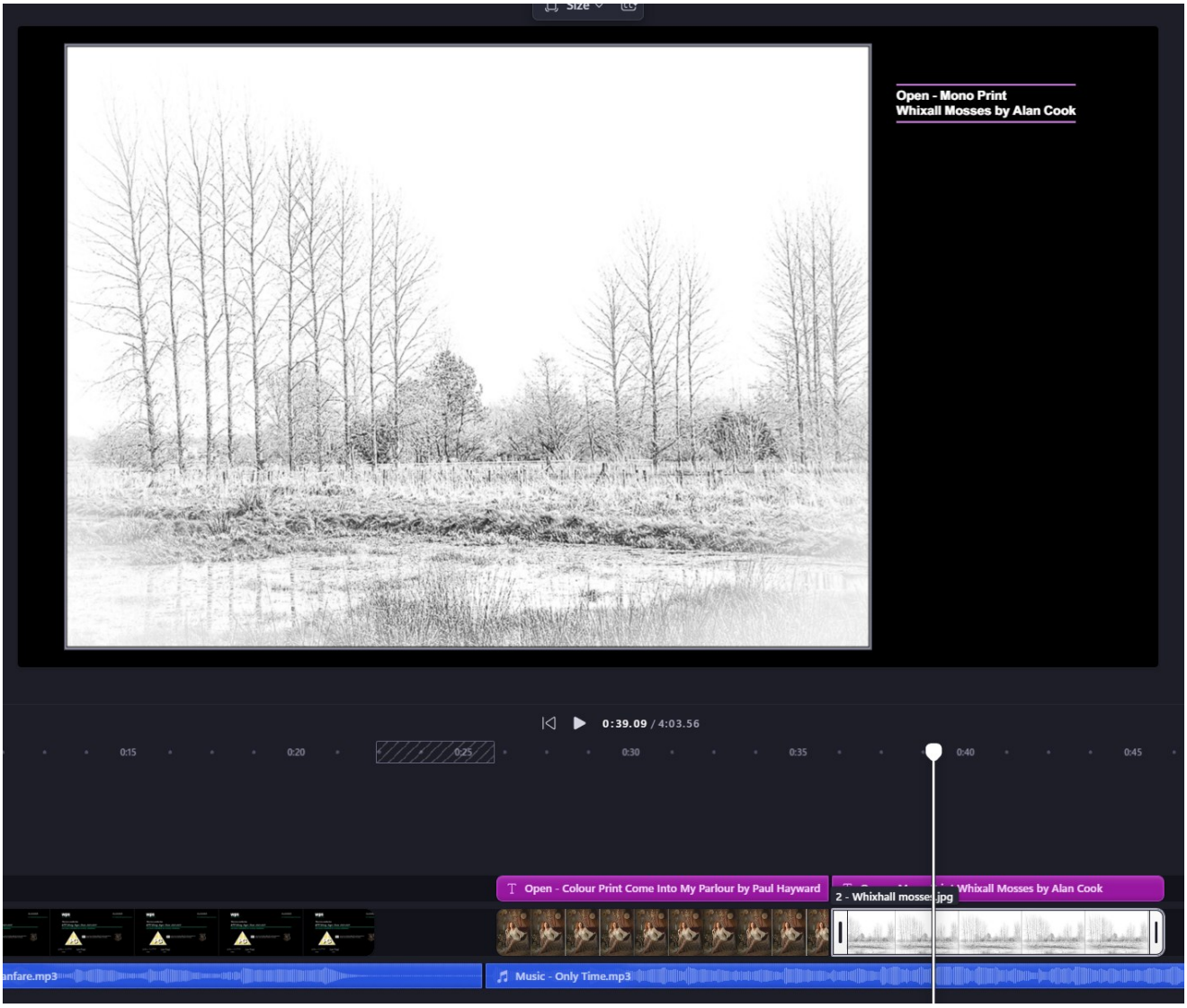
This second text box will contain:

Open - Mono Print

Whixall Mosses by Alan Cook, so type (or paste / Ctrl+V) that in.

In the screen below, I've now done a number of things.

1. I've changed the text in the text box and repositioned this on the screen.
2. I've Dragged and dropped 'Whixall Mosses' onto the timeline directly after the first image and also resized and repositioned this on the screen (choose different positions for different images to make the video more interesting).
3. I've stretched out Whixall Mosses on the timeline to occupy the 10 second space below the text box.
4. I've faded in and faded out Whixall Mosses by one second.



So now we have two images on the timeline and a text box for each telling us about the image.

Play this to see how it looks. If the image ends abruptly, you've forgotten the fade.

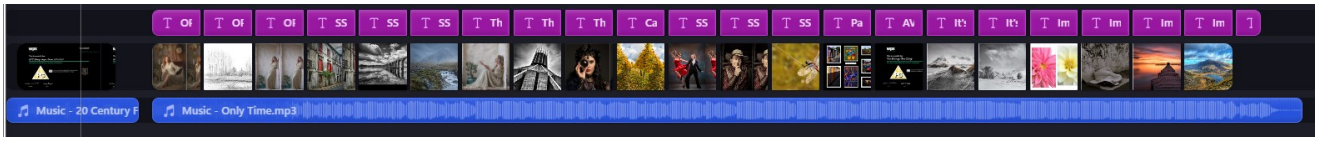
Already, this should be looking very professional.

Now all that needs to be done is to place the ***rest*** of the images on the timeline!

Get into a workflow, each one will be quicker that the last!

1. Duplicate the text box.
2. Change the text in the box.
3. Drag and drop the next image onto the timeline.
4. Stretch the image to occupy the 10 seconds under the text box.
5. Fade the image one second beginning and end.
6. Resize and reposition the image directly in the preview screen.
7. Reposition the text box in the preview screen.
8. After you have placed the final image on the timeline and have completed all the stages above, finish off with another text box.
9. Make this bigger (by stretching it out) and place in the middle of the screen. You could simply type 'The End', but a simple message is better. I ended the Winning Images video with "A year of beautiful Images - Well done to all winning members - an inspiration to us all"

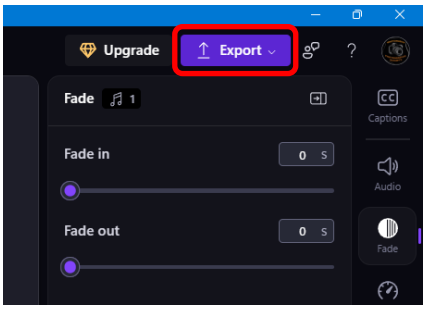
The final Clipchamp timeline looked like this:



If the music you have chosen is a bit too long, click on it (as you do with an image), hover your mouse over the end and drag it backwards. This will remove some of the song and it will now end abruptly, so go to your fade controls and ***fade out***. Suggest you use the maximum fade of two seconds. This won't sound too bad.

In the above video, the song selected is just the right length.

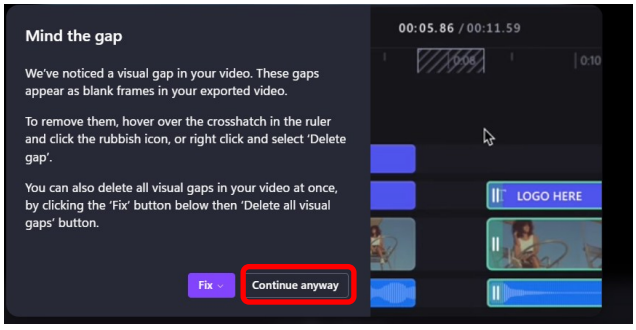
Before we get Clipchamp to make this into a playable video file, we need to have one last check, as it's easy to overlook the odd thing, so play it all again in the preview screen.



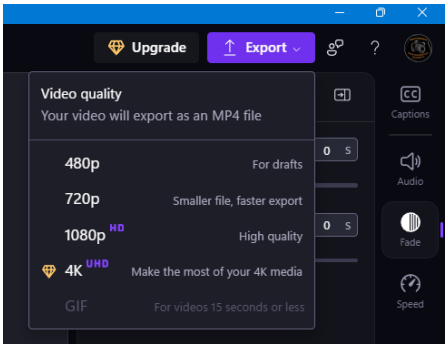
When you're happy, now click the Export button in the top right hand corner of the screen.

A 'nag' box appears immediately telling you that it can fix the gaps in your video.

I deliberately placed a couple of small gaps in at the beginning, so just click on 'Continue anyway'. We don't want Microsoft messing up our video.



Another box now appears as alongside.



These are the 'quality' options and for this, click on **1080p**[hd].

This is more than good enough and in any event, 4K is only available as a (costly) upgrade.

The video rendering screen now appears.

A progress bar shows you the rendering process (and a screen view not shown here) and once rendered, you can save it to wherever you wish as the options show.

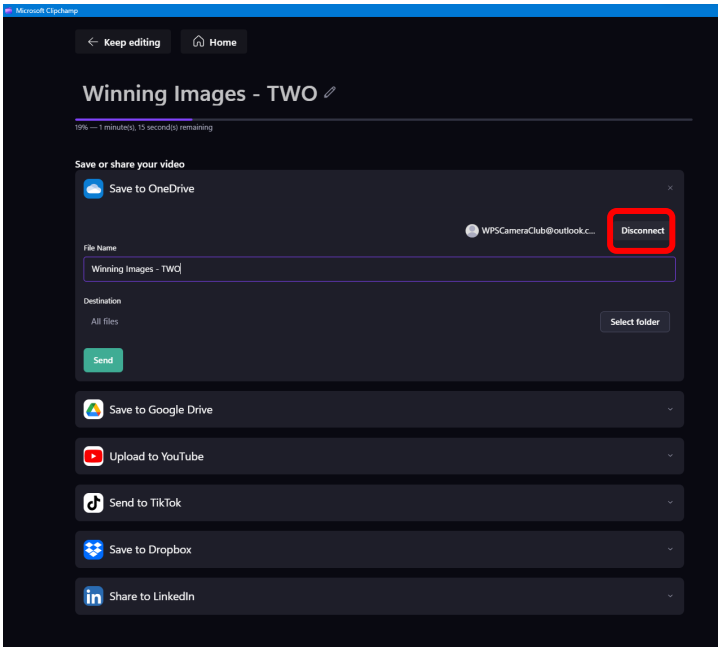
Being Microsoft it wants to connect to One Drive, which is fine if that's where you want it (given the limitations of your account with MS).

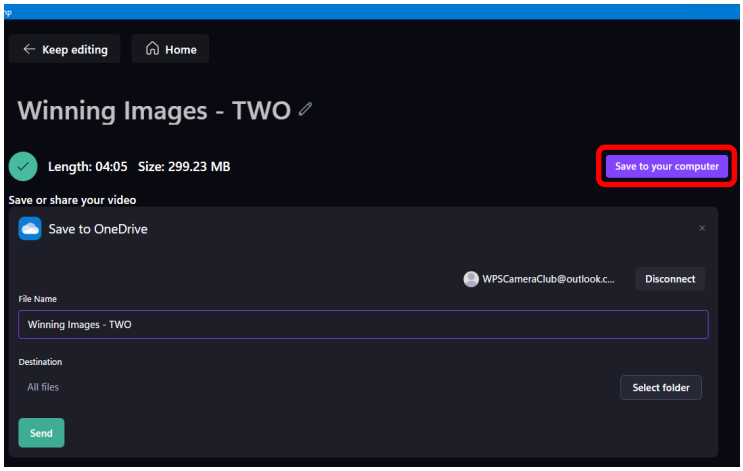
I want to save it to my hard drive and initially, there are no options to do this, but there is an easy way around this.

Click 'Disconnect' .

A button appears like magic 'Save to your computer' and if you reconnect, it stays there!

Only Microsoft…..





Click on 'Save to your computer' and the usual File Explorer box appears.

Navigate to the location you want it saved and type in a suitable name as Microsoft rather irritatingly adds the phrase 'Made with Clipchamp'!

Note that it saves your video as an **.mp4** file which will play on many devices.

I really hope that this tutorial will help you to put together some good videos of your images.

It's quite satisfying to complete a project and if you think that all this is a bit fiddly and time consuming, think of the time you spend tweaking your images in Lightroom, Photoshop and Affinity!

If you want more information or get stuck on something, contact me by email / WhsatApp / or see me at the club room.

One last thing, note that I've not used 'Transitions' in this tutorial, using a simple 'Fade in and Fade out' instead. Using the right transition can be quite effective, but use the wrong one and your video can look a bit OTT. By all means, try transitions between your images, but the best advice I can give to all is

KEEP IT SIMPLE!