



Focal●Point

HARROW CAMERA CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.harrowcamera.co.uk
2024

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"A picture is a secret about a secret, the more it tells you the less you know."

Diane Arbus

Club News

Following the **AGM** our new committee consists of Mark Buckley-Sharp (chair), Peter Polkinghorne (Treasurer), Avril Candler, Barry Sampson, Peter Keeble and Marcus Ornstein. This is the last year on the committee for several members and we will need to know by Christmas if anyone would be prepared to join the committee next year if the club is to continue in its current form beyond summer 2025.

The **Images and Poems** is progressing well with eleven members providing two images each. They will each shortly receive two poems from which to choose ONE to respond to with an image. Poems and images (as well as poets and photographers) will be brought together at our meeting on 10 March.

Youth Chess Tournament, Brent.

Peters Keeble and Polkinghorne and YC Wei attended this event, taking photographs of play and trophy presentations. No doubt some images from this will be appearing in forthcoming camera club competitions.

2 September

A reminder that for our first meeting back on 2 September you are invited to share images taken over the summer break,

especially those that have a minimalist element.

Recent Club Meetings

Summaries of club meeting will continue to appear on the club's website, written by Avril Candler.

2023/2024 Virtual Exhibition

Some of our 23/24 work may be viewed on the PAGB hosted Exhibition System which offers viewing options of a traditional slide show and a dynamic virtual gallery. Click on the link and choose 'Featured Clubs' to find us: <https://ukcpg.co.uk/main.php>

Up-coming key dates in May

2 September marks the start of our 2024-25 programme with an online members workshop. Details of the first few meetings appear below and the full programme is available on line here:

Mon 2nd September 2024
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Member's Workshop - Minimalism & Summer projects
Workshop, Online

Mon 9th September 2024
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Member's workshop - Printing & Print mounting
Harrow Camera Club – New, Wembley

Mon 16th September 2024
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

PDI #1 Open and Nature Workshop, Online

Darren Pullman EFIAP/b BPE3* CPAGB

Harrow's Photographer of the Year competition is now open. Full details are here: [Harrow Photographer of the Year 2024 opens for entries - Harrow Online](#) The deadline for entries is 1 August.

The competition organisers, Voluntary Action Harrow are also organising photography courses for community groups and would welcome any spare cameras you may have lying about that could be used to help provide instruction. Contact Peter Keeble (pwkeeble@btinternet.com) in the first instance.

External Competitions

Our first external outing of 2024-5 will be the Ron Wake Trophy held at the club on Mon 23rd September 2024

Mark Buckley-Sharp is the club's External Competitions officer.

Out and About

Here is list of exhibitions in London you may be interested in. Thanks to member Mariam Mathew for coming up with these.

Ernest Cole, South African photographer, is considered to be one of the most important chroniclers of Apartheid politics. House of Bondage at Photographer's Gallery: <https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/whats-on/ernest-cole-house-bondage>

Roger Mayne, British photographer, has a show of his images of youth from the 50s and 60s Youth at The Courtauld <https://courtauld.ac.uk/whats-on/exh-roger-mayne-youth/>

Zanele Muholi, also South African, has a retrospective of her work as a visual activist Retrospective at Tate Modern <https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/zanele-muholi>

Judith Simmonds
The Chiltern Open Air Museum have several events over the summer <https://www.coam.org.uk/events>

There will be good opportunities for members to take photos (especially if they arrive early), admission charges are not too high and it's not so far away.

Article

Photography on a Budget

It is a truism that you do not need expensive photography equipment to produce excellent images, though in some cases it certainly helps. But how little do you have to spend to get going as an amateur photographer who wants to experiment beyond taking snaps with their phone – though of course that technology is increasingly good.

MPB is an excellent source of second hand equipment and may be regarded as trusted supplier. E-bay is also excellent, though you do need to be a bit more knowledgeable to get best use of that platform.

Point and shoot cameras, Micro-four thirds, and DSLRs, whether with APCS or the larger full-frame sensors, are all available at reasonable prices. Personally, I am wedded to mirrorless cameras for their small size and ease of use. As well as owning mid-price Fuji X-T2 and X-T20 cameras (both APCS) with a variety of lenses, I have a 12 year old Sony Nex 6 with kit zoom lens. It set me back less than £200. It's compact and light and produces some good images, though it struggles with interior lighting,

much more so than many more recent camera phones.

Once you have your equipment you are able to capture images. But what do you do with them? Printing is an obvious option and you can do this with commercial providers such as Boots or PhotoBox. I also use such providers to produce photobooks and have a small collection of these for recent holidays in a variety of overseas locations.

You may also want to frame your especially good and larger images. I believe this can be done commercially, but it is also possible to do it yourself, and the club will be having a session on how to achieve good results on 9 September.

Many members also print their own images, liking the control this gives them over the final product, though this is something that has never attracted me because of the extra expense and time involved.

However you print your images, you will want them looking as good as possible. This is where software plays a vital role. There are some free products available to download. These tend to be basic but are excellent for learning the basics. I use a free piece of software called FastStone (available here: [Download FastStone Image Viewer](#)). This is fine for cropping images (an essential for getting images looking as you want them) and some light editing of the global image (eg making everything look a

ⁱ We are a member of the Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs (CACC) which is itself affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). Here is its website:

bit lighter). However, as far as I am concerned, it is unsurpassed as a simple viewer of large numbers of images. Once you have selected an image you can then seamlessly click into your favoured piece of more sophisticated software. Among other things this will allow you to more easily change small areas of your image. I use Luminar Neo. It's cheap (I was an early adopter and got it for about £80) and does everything I want in an uncomplicated way. Like other rivals such as Affinity and Elements (both a bit more involved) it is available to buy as a one-off purchase, as opposed to a rolling rental with more sophisticated products such as Lightroom and Photoshop. I once downloaded a completely free copy of GIMP, which is said to have most of the capability of Photoshop. Be that as it may it was a pig to use and I soon deleted it.

So there you have the basics. Photography does not have to be expensive. You can do a great deal for under £300 and the on-going expense of printing your best and favourite images. If you're new to photography I'd recommend that approach before splashing out on more expensive equipment and software.

Peter Keeble

"All the planning, intuition, technical prowess, and knowledge, as well as the trust and rapport you have (or haven't) established, will show up in the picture, frozen forever."

Gregory Heisler

[Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs – Member of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain \(thecacc.org.uk\)](#)

You can find the latest edition of the PAGB's "E-News" magazine here: [Issue 360 | enews \(pagbnews.co.uk\)](#)