



Focal●Point

HARROW CAMERA CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.harrowcamera.co.uk

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"The irony of life is that those who wear masks often tell us more truths than those with open faces." – Marie Lu

Club and Member News

Congratulations to Ian Roberts, who was awarded his CPAGB distinction on 24th November.

HCC Programme – Jan 2022

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- Tue 4th January 2022: Members Evening led by Mark Buckley-Sharp ARPS(Hon) CPAGB HonPAGB (over Zoom)
- Tue 11th January 2022: Interclub Competition: Rosebowl (over Zoom)
- Tue 18th January 2022: Talk: 'Charms of Chile and the Fabulous Falklands' by Julia Wainwright FRPS MPAGB BPE3* (over Zoom)
- Tue 25th January 2022: Talk: 'Photography on the Darkside' by Peter Benson ARPS AWPf CPAGB BPE3* (over Zoom)
- The first annual PDI competition of the (calendar) year is scheduled for 1 February.

The new Montage competition together with the Annual Print Set Subject (Every Picture

Tells a Story) will now be on Tuesday 12 July

RECENT Club MEETINGS

These accounts are written by Avril Candler and can be found in full on the website. The most recent are listed below.

[7th December: "Echoes of Silence" – Talk by Graham Harries](#)

[30th November: NorthWest Fed Interclub Competition Round 3 – judged by Paul Burwood](#)

[23rd November: Members' Evening – Capturing a Day in November – led by Avril Candler](#)

[16th November: Annual Monochrome & People and Portraits Projected Competitions, judged by David Lowe ARPS DPAGB](#)

[9th November: Montage #2 Workshop – led by Julia Wainwright FRPS MPAGB BPE3](#)

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

Since the last Newsletter, we have completed the first round matches for the North West London Federation and unfortunately we do not progress to the semi-final. Along the way we picked up a star for "Pensive Ethiopian Man" by Julia Wainwright and another star for "Worshipper Western Wall Jerusalem" by Alan Colegrave. These will compete at the NWFed Final day. Several members

submitted to the Photographic Alliance Masters of Print and Julia had an acceptance with "Young Jackal with Hide". Our second Rosebowl round is imminent. We have submitted entries for the Photographic Alliance GB Trophies (prints) and GB Cups (projected) and these will be judged later in January. That will bring us to the various Chilterns Association events in March and April. An entry has been chosen for the print championship and an entry for the projected championship is in hand. Every member is entitled to submit one image for the Chilterns Hundred Exhibition, and also one for the Phone Photography Exhibition. Detailed requirements will be notified.

Mark Buckley-Sharp

OUT AND ABOUT & INSPIRATION

A Helen Levitt retrospective runs at the Photographer's Gallery in London until 13 February. Admission: £5/£2.50 concessions. Details here:

[\(Helen Levitt: In The Street | The Photographers Gallery\)](#)

Not a exhibition, but a YouTuber, Brian Lloyd Duckett, gives a review of his photographic year here, including some book recommendations.

[My Street Photography Year: 2021 - YouTube](#)

And here is an illustrated obituary to the French photographer [Sabine Weiss: Legend of street photography dies at 97 - BBC News](#)

ARTICLE

Repairs

A recent flurry of emails has resulted in some advice on where to go for camera repairs. Amongst those favoured is SRS Microsystems in Watford.

In addition I have been recommended Sendean in the City, Fixtation (Vauxhall) and Camserve in East Sussex and consulted all three earlier this year over a

repair to the focus and aperture mechanisms of an ancient M42 Soviet era lens. Fixtation did not provide a service for such old lenses while the other two both offered to look at the lens and give it a clean and oiling for around £70. Since the Sussex one required post and packaging I opted to ring Sendean Cameras in EC1. They said to bring the lens in so I trundled along the Met line to Farringdon station.

Sendean is a short walk from the station. One route is up the beautifully named but disappointingly unattractive Saffron Hill.

You may have to ring the bell to gain admission to the small "foyer" of the shop. It's about 6 feet by 10 feet - roughly the same dimensions of Ghislaine Maxwell's NY bail cell. The two sides are covered with glass-panelled shelves holding second-hand cameras for sale. Behind the glass fronted counter sit one or two women who will take your equipment and write a note to the technician about the problem. In my case when I got the lens back a couple of weeks later there had simply seemed to have been a good clean and re-oiling. This sorted out the aperture problem and some of the focussing operation's stickiness. However, focussing was still difficult and though they were happy for me to take the lens back for them to give it another look for free no improvement was forthcoming. It was suggested that things would improve as the oil worked its way in. It hasn't and it is still maddeningly difficult to finetune the focus.

That's four journeys into central London, however: not an opportunity to be missed. Smithfield meat market is nearby and I have been told that when the apprentices walk in in the morning they have snow white aprons, only for these to be blood-soaked when they leave at the end of their shift. Sadly, it seems all these photo-opportunities happen far earlier in the morning than I am ever likely to be there to witness. But architectural shots were available of the by-then deserted building.

A stone's throw away is the Barbican, with its brutalist architecture a honeytrap for

black and white grainy image takers. And they were there aplenty, making one feel like you are at a photography convention.

But although the repairs were not satisfactory and I probably did not take full advantage of the photography opportunities afforded by the trips, what an enjoyable way to spend time – on the look out for that killer

shot when in the area anyway. A bit like fishing – enjoyable for the hunt even if you return empty handed.

Peter Keeble

***“Behind every mask, there is a face,
and behind that a story.” - Marty Rubin***