



# Focal●Point

HARROW CAMERA CLUB

NEWSLETTER

[www.harrowcamera.co.uk](http://www.harrowcamera.co.uk)

NO: 206 Sept/Oct 2022

*"Photography is the story I fail to put into words."*  
– Destin Sparks

## Club & Member News

Our first meeting on 6th September is your opportunity to bring up to 6 images for discussion. Please do use this chance to get feedback from the membership on some of your images.

## 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.

- [12th July: Annual Print Montage and Set Subject Competition, judged by Paul Burwood LRPS, CPAGB, QPSA, BPE3\\*](#)
- [5th July: Print Competition #5 – judged by Kevin Day](#)

## Up-coming key dates Sept:

Tue 6th September 2022

[Members' Images](#)

Harrow Camera Club

Tue 13th September 2022

[PDI Competition - Open & Nature](#)

Zoom Meeting

Tue 20th September 2022

[Workshop: Mono](#)

Harrow Camera Club

Tue 27th September 2022

[Ron Wake Trophy](#)

Harrow Camera Club

## External Competitions

*Information from Mark Buckley-Sharp*

**This year.**

- The Ron Wake Trophy is at home on 27<sup>th</sup> September and participating clubs have been notified.
- Rosebowl These will be via Zoom. Our home round is on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Our away rounds are on 5<sup>th</sup> December (Princes Risborough) and 16<sup>th</sup> February (Park Street)
- NW Fed matches will be physical meetings and include prints. Our home match is on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## Out and About & Inspiration

### **10 Best Spots For Photography in London**

Here's a website with some ideas from livening up images of some typical London sites.

[10 Best Locations and Photography in London \(expertphotography.com\)](#)

There are so many Youtube series on street photography. This one is interesting – central London at dusk and night with a fast 85mm lens.

[\(11\) POV STREET PHOTOGRAPHY LONDON - DAY TO NIGHT \[ 85MM 1.4 SAMYANG \] - YouTube](#)

## **Article**

### **Photography and Politics**

We talk from time to time about the ethics of photography – perhaps most obviously in relation to the rights and wrongs of taking pictures of people without their permission, especially if they are in some way vulnerable or compromised. Less so about the uses of photography in politics. Some examples spring to mind: the literal airbrushing out of those who fell into disfavour with Stalin, Ed Milliband eating that ham sandwich. Another infamous example is that of a former Daily Mirror editor's sacking for allowing a staged image to be published as authentic.

At our amateur level we are unlikely to be involved with these sorts of national issues. However, there can nonetheless be political implications, whether conscious or not, in the images we show each other. We may present pictures of dishevelled or otherwise troubled individuals intending to illustrate that we live in desperate times. That is to record a reality that the viewer may or may not interpret in the way we wish. Sometimes the message is lost, as when the viewer wonders aloud why they have been presented with a grainy image of old pyjamas hanging from a hook – unaware of the Holocaust reference.

Looking at images members of the Harrow Camera Club present in their online galleries provides some material for these considerations. For example, pictures of beautiful Islamic works of art and calligraphy may help to balance the often jaundiced view of that religion in the UK. Similarly, a policewoman engaged in friendly conversation with a beggar could be a counterbalance to some of the appalling behaviour within the Metropolitan police force that has been surfacing of late. A commemorative plaque for a nineteenth century philanthropist has something to say about the ability of some in the past to see beyond the limited blinkers of the prevailing self-help ideology of the time. A rusted old sign alerting passersby of the nearby danger of a cliff may call to mind the dire straits many services run at a local level now find themselves in. Returning to the Holocaust, travelogue images of Jewish memorials in Poland help to keep that tragedy in

mind. An abandoned car wreck can serve as a cartoon highlighting the dangers of motorised transport, wastefulness and our disrespect of the environment.

The philosopher Jean Baudrillard has highlighted how reliant we are on indirect sources for our information, to the point of suggesting most of us in some sense do not really know the first Gulf War actually took place. Photographs are part of the vast web of random or mutually reinforcing messages we receive from the outside world so it is beholden on us as viewers to at least think about what the messages, intentional or otherwise, are that we may be receiving from the images we view. This is as much to appreciate as it is to avoid manipulation.

Peter Keeble

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More club news and images can be found on Flickr: [Harrow Camera Club | Flickr](#)

and Facebook: [\(20+\) Harrow Camera Club | Facebook](#)

*"The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do." – Andy Warhol*