



# FocalPoint

HARROW CAMERA CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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

NO: 208 Jan/Feb 2023

*“ Allow yourself to be surprised by your mistakes.”  
— Fer Juaristi*

## **Club & Member News**

Our first meeting of 2023 will be a PDI competition on 10 January. Open & Built Environment. Please send entries (up to four image files) in the usual way by Thurs 5 Jan.

Our first meeting *at the Guide Hut* in Hatch End will be on Tuesday 17 January. The hall will be in use prior to our new start time so we will not be able to enter the hall before 8.15, with a view to setting up and starting meetings as near to 8.30 as possible.

Please bring images on a data stick: for advice, or to show a finished result or a project concept.

## **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.

13th December: Montage Workshop – presented by Alan Colegrave ARPS BPE1\*

6th December: NWLondon Federation Match 3, judged by Steven Galvin LRPS

29th November: Members' Evening – Photographing Strangers Presentations – led by Judith Gimber

## **Up-coming key dates November:**

**Tue 10th January 2023** Zoom Meeting, Online  
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm PDI Competition - Open & Built Environment

Darren Pullman BPE3\* CPAGB EFIAP

**Tue 17th January 2023** Hatch End

8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Members' Evening

**Tue 24th January 2023** Zoom Meeting, Online

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm Talk - Yellowstone in Winter

Paul Radden DPAGB EFIAP s PSA4\*

**Tue 31st January 2023** Zoom Meeting, Online

8:00 am Members' Evening TBC

## **External Competitions**

We have completed the first set of external competitions.

With external competitions, clubs enter what they think are their best images subject to any quotas in the rules. Unlike our internal events where each image is considered on its own, the judge for an external event has to consider the images presented as a set and try to rank them in a score order. This is not an exact process so the same image is likely to score differently on each occasion.

Going forwards:

We are not in the NW London Federation semi-final but we will be represented at the final in February with our starred images.

We will be entering the CACC Print Championship and Projected Championship in March and we have the images available.

Members can each choose one image for the CACC Chilterns Hundred Exhibition in March, so please think which you would like.

We are not likely to be in the Rosebowl Final in April, but we will be represented with our starred images.

You can each choose one image for the CACC Phone Photography Exhibition in April, so start planning for that.

Regards

Mark

### **Out and About & Inspiration**

Chris Killip: Retrospective, Photographers' Gallery. £8 Till 19 February.

[Chris Killip: Retrospective at The Photographers' Gallery review \(timeout.com\)](#)

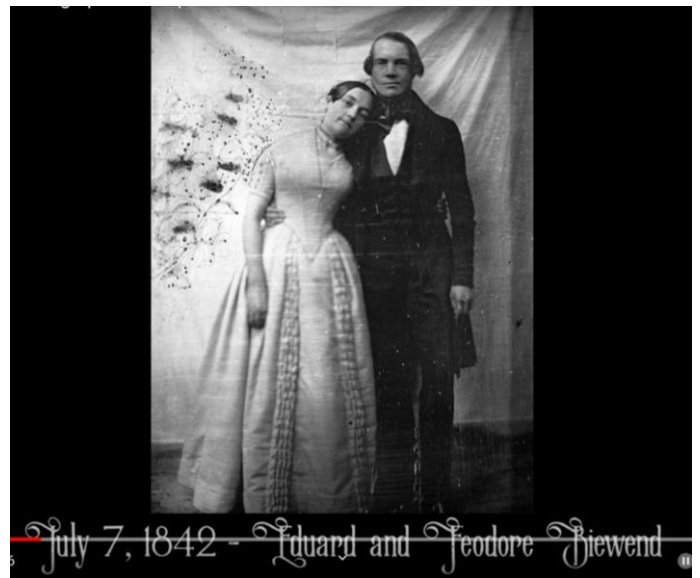
'ROGER MAYNE' is at Photographer's Gallery from Friday March 3 until Sunday June 11.

[Looking into London's past through Roger Mayne's photos - photographer Roger Mayne - Time Out London art](#)

### **Article**

I knew that photography went back to the 1860's and have seen images from the American Civil War. I had no idea it went back further, to the 1840s – 180 years ago. There is a fascinating collection of early portraits to be found at this website: [Early Traces of Reality: Photographs of People in the 1840s - YouTube](#)

Here is a particularly touching example:



Posing for these images must have been a novelty for the participants on both sides of the camera, but often, as here, the presentation is not always overly formal and we feel that a sense of the sitters' characters has been captured..

This brings to mind a recent Harrow Camera Club Members Evening where we looked at a range of candid shots and those taken as part of the One Hundred Strangers challenge. I thought the candid shots were most successful and that the best of the One Hundred Strangers were those where the subject was doing something unusual or even outrageous. Of course part of the challenge is to get to know strangers and their stories and to overcome our natural shyness about approaching people we do not know for a favour. Many of the less ostentatious posed images were, I thought, good record shots but perhaps did not grab the attention much as the candid or more outrageously posed examples.

So what is going on? Clearly a candid shot is nature red in tooth and claw. The subject has no context or awareness within which to prepare themselves, moderate their posture and expression or touch up their hair. They are as it were, naked before the lens. Those who in a theatrical sense are *alienating* the process, by showing off a tattoo or adopting an extraordinary expression or pose, are at the other extreme – they are self-aware to an extreme and may even be said to be subverting the conventions. Strangers who have been asked to pose for a portrait occupy a sort of middle ground. They

may perhaps feel a little flattered and want to come over well in a self-controlled way, often appearing a little passive. They are not engaged in any other activity, as are those in candid shots, and seem content to follow the photographers' instructions, if there are any.

Some subjects are naturals at posing for a camera and at taking portraits. I know I am not. When photographing someone with their knowledge I generally try to get them to do something or look at something that they can react to. This sometimes breaks through the mask I and others often slip on as we fall into the conventions of what we think will make a worthwhile image of ourselves or of others for posterity. Disturbing the conventions seems to be important to get an image that will stand out.

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](#)

***“To consult the rules of composition before making a picture is a little like consulting the law of gravitation before going for a walk.”***

***— Edward Weston***