



FocalPoint

HARROW CAMERA CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.harrowcamera.co.uk

NO: 210 May/June 2023

"That frame of mind that you need to make fine pictures of a very wonderful subject; you cannot do it by not being lost yourself."

- Dorothea Lange

Club & Member News

Tribute to Jenny King APAGB

We are saddened to announce the passing of Jenny King.

The record of when Jenny joined Harrow Camera Club is lost but she probably joined the committee soon afterwards and that was in 1986 as Social Secretary. Jenny was President in 1990 and again in 2002 after which the post was retitled as Chairman and she was Chairman in 2003 and 2008. In 2009 Jenny settled into the combined roles of Programme and Competitions – both Internal and External, which she filled until recently making a total of over 30 years on the Committee. Jenny stepped back from her role as Programme and Competitions' Secretary when Covid-19 and lockdown impacted. Jenny was honoured with life-time membership of our club

Over the years new members could be initially taken-aback by Jenny's forthright plain-speaking but soon learned she had a heart of gold and welcomed all.

Jenny joined the Chilterns Association Committee in 2003 taking over the role of Rosebowl Organiser from her late husband John (Jock) King. She continued in that role until late

2022. In 2012 Jenny received the Meritorious Service Award (APAGB) from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

Jenny will be remembered for her hard work and dedication and support she gave to us all.

We know how important Jenny's family was to her and she to them. We send them our heartfelt condolences and sympathy.

New day and venue from September

We have now committed to moving our in-person meetings to a cheaper venue new Preston Road underground station on Monday evenings. We will be able to set-up to begin at 8.00pm and the venue has a car park. The venue is Century Bowling & Sports Club, 51 Logan Road, Wembley HA9 8PY

Barry Sampson has recently put the final touches to plans for next season's programme of events, which looks amazing! Many thanks to Barry.

Recent Club Meetings

Summaries of club meeting are written by Avril Candler. You can read her accounts by double clicking on the hyperlinks below.

[18th April: 'Creative Photography', talk by Colin Harrison FRPS FBPE FIPF MFIAP MPSA GPSA EFIAP/d3 FRPS MPAGB AWPF](#)

[28th March: Open and Monochrome Print Competition judged by Chris Drury LRPS](#)

Up-coming key dates May:

Tue 2nd May 2023: 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Members' Evening or Workshop
Zoom Meeting, Online TBC

Tue 9th May 2023: 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Print Competition - Open & Set Subject: "The Elements"
Harrow Camera Club, Hatch End Amanda Wright

Tue 16th May 2023: 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Talk - Black and White Portraiture
Zoom Meeting, Online
Eileen Mccausland AIPF ARPS

Tue 23rd May 2023: 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Print Competition - Open & Panel of Prints
Harrow Camera Club, Hatch End
Lloyd Moore DPAGB BPE4 EFIAP

Tue 30th May 2023: 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Talk - Where I Photograph England
Zoom Meeting, Online Malcolm Hupman

External Competitions

We are a member of the Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs (CACC) which itself affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). Here is its website: [Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs – Member of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain \(theacc.org.uk\)](https://www.chilterns.org.uk)

The CACC has held its Championship Day. This included the Chiltern 100s exhibition in which we entered 12 images; a Print competitions in which we came twelfth out of thirteen clubs and a PDI competition in which we came ninth out of sixteen clubs. We received no awards for any of our entered images.

We have 5 entries into the CACC Phone photography competition. You can see all of the entries on the CACC webpages here: [2023 – Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs \(theacc.org.uk\)](https://www.theacc.org.uk) We received no awards.

We made it into the CACC Rosebowl final which was held on 23 April and came 11th, with no awards in the Rosebowl Stars.

We have entered into Pinner's Wildlife competition in May.

Mark Buckley-Sharp is our External Competitions officer.

Annual Exhibition

Our annual on-line exhibition can continue to be seen at You can view the all here: [Harrow Camera Club Exhibition 2023 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
Many thanks to Alan Colegrave for putting it all together. Don't forget to send the link to friends and relatives who you think may be interested.

Out and About

Notice of a Wild Matthew Williams-Ellis

I wanted to let you know about a fine art wildlife photography exhibition that I am having in London this Summer in case it is of interest to any of the members of Harrow Camera Club.

The exhibition is titled 'Individuals' and focuses on telling the personal stories of animals from the Maasai Mara in Kenya. By highlighting these unique, personal stories and showing animals to be emotional individuals rather than just an anonymous statistic in a wider population, I hope to promote a desire to protect and care for this precious wildlife. You can read more about the exhibition here: <https://www.matthewwilliams-ellis.com/journal/individuals-maasai-mara-wildlife-photography-exhibition-london>

It is free to visit, and is on from 22 June to 2 July, 10am to 6pm each day at 19 Kensington Park Road, London, W11 2EU.

I hope it might be of interest to some of your members. Please feel free to pass on the information to anyone you think might like to visit!

* * *

Focal Point's attention has been drawn to the humorous street photography of **EDAS WONG**
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/edaswong/>

What do you think?

Book Review

"On Photography" by Susan Sontag

This book by Susan Sontag is highly influential as an early book on the impact of photography on society and the arts. It was written in 1977 and consists of 6 essays which overlap a bit and a collection of quotations. For a book on photography, it oddly has no images! So you are expected to be familiar with the photographers referenced. A lot of the essays are about photography being contrasted with painting and considering photography's place in the arts. Sontag on the one hand knows quite a bit about the history of photography, but is doubtful about the art involved in photography, especially as it seems too easy and mimetic.

The other aspect of the essays is photography's impact on society and the dominance of images, which she feels is a bad thing. The biggest weakness is the rather sweeping generalisations she makes, with little supporting argument, such as there are no schools of photography in the way there are schools of painting. However there are good insights. Also she really does not like Diane Arbus!

So in summary, this will teach you nothing about taking photographs, will be challenging on philosophy and impact of photography and teach a little bit about the history of photography.

Peter Polkinghorne

Article

Artificial Intelligence

It's in the news and comment columns constantly now. Why is it relevant to photography. Well for one, it can be used to crawl all over stock photographs to generate artificial images that are copyright free. So

much for the royalties of those who created the primary originals on which they are based.

Secondly, AI can produce interesting images. Here is the "winner" of a recent Sony prize:



You'll be glad to hear that the "author" turned down the prize, saying he'd been a cheeky monkey. Full details here:

[Photographer admits prize-winning image was AI-generated | Sony world photography awards | The Guardian](#)

I can feel the gore rise in the throats of amateur and professional photographers everywhere. But is this much more than the latest stage in a progression to easier and easier ways of producing images? First there was drawing and painting, then film photography with all the fuss and bother of darkroom techniques, then there were digital cameras that take thousand of pictures for you to choose from at no extra expense, plus transferring the postproduction from the dark room to the much more forgiving computer. It gets easier and easier with each stage of the more in this progression. Now the skill seems to be in knowing how the AI works well enough to coax it into producing the sorts of images you want it to. So what if it gives you a hundred to select from? Isn't that what a lot of us are doing with our electronic cameras – pressing the release button and selecting what we deem to be the best of a wide range of images that the camera churns out? Increasingly it feels as if we are "mere"

curators of what has been randomly acquired.

I'm sure that just as many painters sadly shook their heads at the advent of cameras and photography most members of the Harrow Camera Club will stay firmly attached to their cameras and the thrill of that indefinable but brilliant, pleasing, thought-provoking capture.

From one self-aware AI system to all the others in the Harrow Camera Club,

Peter Keeble

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

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

“What do we feel when we look at a good photograph? We just want to be there, right at the exact moment that photo taken!”

- [Mehmet Murat Ildan](#)