



# FocalPoint

HARROW CAMERA CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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

NO: 214 Jan/Feb 2024

*“The Earth is Art, The Photographer is only a Witness”*  
— Yann Arthus-Bertrand, [Earth from Above](#)

## **Club & Member News**

### *Two New Members*

Welcome to Godfrey Dyan, Leo Firman, Jeffrey Edmunds and Pradeep Luther who all joined the club at the end of the year. You and other newer members may find this introduction to the club useful on our website. [Some-advice-for-new-members-November-2019.pdf \(harrowcamera.co.uk\)](#) It is a few years old now and the competition categories have changed, but it may help to familiarise you with what goes on in the club.

### **Recent Club Meetings**

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

[11th December: 3rd Round NWFed Inter-Club Competition, judged by Amanda Wright](#)

[4th December: Projected Open & Triptych Competitions judged by Caroline Colegate ARPS APAGB](#)

[27th November: Nature and Open Print Competitions judged by Michael Lurie](#)

## **Up-coming key dates in January**

Mon 8th January 2024

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm Workshop  
Century Bowling Club, Wembley

Mon 15th January 2024

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm Talk - A Passion for Nature, Ann Miles MPAGB FRPS  
Zoom Meeting, Online

Mon 22nd January 2024

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm Print Competition 3 - Open and Landscape, Paul Burwood  
Century Bowling Club, Wembley

Mon 29th January 2024

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm PDI Competition 5 - Open and Set Subject, Johnnie Rogers ARPS DPAGB  
AWPF AF  
Zoom Meeting, Online

[Competition Rules | Harrow Camera Club](#)

### **External Competitions<sup>i</sup>**

We came second in our North West Federation group so we do not proceed to the semi-final. However, we have three starred images for the final.

The Rosebowl is in three rounds and our next round is on 10th January hosted by Leighton Buzzard. The third round will be in February.

It is time for each member to think about one digital image for submission to the Chilterns Hundred Exhibition. These need to be decided by early February. Further off,

there is also the opportunity to submit one image for the Phone Photography Exhibition.

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

## **Out and About**

### A NEW CENTRE FOR BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHY

A new home for British photography will open in London in late January 2023. More information here: [A NEW CENTRE FOR BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHY](#)

### TATE MODERN EXHIBITION

A WORLD IN COMMON CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN PHOTOGRAPHY  
[A World in Common | Tate Modern](#)

Emily, of MicroFourNerds, is starting an online free-to-enter photography competition. You can use any camera and she will be announcing the topic/details at the start of each month. I really like her Youtubes, she has a lovely personality, and full details are available here: [Photo Contest — Micro Four Nerds](#)

Society of Photographers convention 2024 and London photo show: 18-20 January. It's free to attend but you must pre-register. It is in Hammersmith. Hundreds of trade stalls, demonstrations and presentations. (*We have gone as a group in the past. Would anyone like to organise it as one of our meet-ups?*)

Full details here: [Get your FREE tickets for the Society' Convention and Trade Show now! \(swpp.co.uk\)](#)

## **Article**

### **AI and Photography**

Mariam gave a fascinating talk about AI in photography at a recent Harrow Camera Club meeting. Avril followed this with consideration of the use and abuse of AI in photography. These prompted the following thoughts

AI talk is all around us now. How does it affect photography?

Much has been made of the image generated by AI that won the Sony Image manipulation. I have nothing against this and think it is an interesting effort. There may have been skill in learning how to master the commands necessary to produce such an image and to have the judgement to choose one over others to show. It is something different to what we do in this club though.

Many programmes (Lightroom, ON 1 Luminar Neo) now use AI in several ways. Most common at the moment is to identify discrete elements within an image in order to mask them for specific treatment. In Luminar Neo for example this can be done for elements such as people, vehicles, sky, water, natural landscape and human landscape. This is useful and timesaving.

More sinister perhaps is the ability in the latest version of Neo to drag in elements from other images on the internet. This strikes me as crossing some sort of border and of course would involve incorporating elements that you did not photograph yourself.

### Chatgpt

This free AI interface can be useful though needs to be taken with a pinch of salt regarding facts. This is what I got when I asked for ideas of what to photograph for the theme of "shambles":

### ChatGPT

*Capturing a dilapidated and rundown building with broken windows and crumbling walls, highlighting the architectural shambles.*

*Photographing a chaotic and messy artist's studio, showcasing paint-splattered canvases, scattered brushes, and disorganized art supplies.*

*Taking a close-up shot of a tangled mass of electrical wires and cables, representing the technological shambles we often encounter.*

*Snapping a picture of a crowded and disorganized bookstore with books haphazardly piled on shelves and scattered on the floor, portraying a literary shambles.*

*Photographing a group of abandoned shopping carts in a neglected parking lot, symbolizing the consumerist shambles.*

*Capturing a tangled mess of tree branches and foliage after a storm, representing the natural shambles caused by unpredictable weather.*

*Taking a picture of a cluttered and chaotic kitchen with dirty dishes, spilled ingredients, and disarrayed utensils, highlighting the culinary shambles.*

*Snapping a shot of a jumble of mismatched shoes and socks in a messy wardrobe, symbolizing the fashion shambles of an indecisive dresser.*

*Photographing a cluttered desk with scattered papers, pens, and office supplies, symbolizing the disorganized work environment and professional shambles.*

*Capturing a disheveled and chaotic children's playroom with toys strewn all over the floor,*

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<sup>i</sup> We are a member of the Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs (CACCC) 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 \(theacc.org.uk\)](http://theacc.org.uk)

*portraying the playful shambles of youthful energy.*

These are perhaps useful stating points, though I don't know where you would come across a book shop with haphazard piles on its shelves.

Peter Keeble

*p.s. Since writing this I've started using Google Bard and find it superior to ChatGPT.*

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

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

*"I used to think that I could never lose anyone if I photographed them enough. In fact, my pictures show me how much I've lost."  
— Nan Goldin*