

Banbury Camera Club

President Andrew Spackman

Handbook

Banbury Camera Club was founded in 1946 and still maintains its original aim – to bring together all those in the Banbury area who are interested in photography. Whatever your standard, equipment or interests, you will be very welcome at our meetings. If you have purchased a new digital camera and are wondering how you can get the best from it, then look no further!

Digital or Film – Home printing or Minilab

We are interested in a full range of formats and methods: digital imaging, using home computers and inkjet printers; traditional black and white printing; colour slides. Some of us take our pictures with compact cameras, either film or digital. Others have single lens reflex 35mm film or digital cameras, or large or medium format equipment. We make our own prints, or have them made professionally.

At Chenderit School Arts College

We are fortunate in having access to excellent facilities for practical photography at Chenderit. There is a superb digital imaging suite equipped with the very latest computers, scanners and printers. There is also a fully equipped darkroom with six enlargers. So we can put a big emphasis on practical work, offering opportunities for individual and group use of the extensive facilities, with experienced members offering advice or support. Whether it is learning to use your camera, improving your holiday pictures for

the family album, producing exhibition prints, or simply enjoying other people's photographs, we hope that Banbury Camera Club has something for you.

Winter and Spring Programme

From September to May we meet each week at 7.30 pm on Monday evenings. The programme includes:

- Visiting speakers and exhibitions;
- Discussion and advice sessions;
- Showing of members' prints and slides;
- Practical sessions, including studio work, darkroom and digital imaging demonstrations and tuition;
- Competitions for members and with other clubs;
- Weekend outings

The full programme is on the club's website:

www.banburycameraclub.org

Annual Exhibition – Show your photos

In October we hold our annual exhibition in the splendid Michael Heseltine Gallery at Chenderit School. Every member can have two prints hung in this exhibition, which is open to the public for a week. All photos are displayed in standard 20x16in (50 x 40 cm) frames, and the prints can be of any size as we cut individual window mounts to size.

Summer Programme

From June to August we meet less frequently; there are outings to places of general and photographic interest.

Rules of the Banbury Camera Club

- 1 The Club shall be called the Banbury Camera Club and membership shall be open to all interested in photography.
- 2 Membership of the Club entitles any member to attend and participate in the activities of the Club, and implies an undertaking to comply with these Rules.
- 3 Membership shall take effect on payment of the appropriate membership fee.
- 4 The officers shall consist of a Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Programme Secretary. The Committee may appoint a Vice Chairman at their discretion.
- 5 The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the officers and not more than seven members, to be elected at the AGM.
- 6 Officers and Committee members are eligible for re-election each year, with the exception of the Chairman and Hon. Secretary, who shall not be eligible to serve for more than the following periods consecutively:
Chairman: two years maximum
Hon. Secretary: three years maximum.
- 7 The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings and conduct the correspondence of the Club.
- 8 The Treasurer shall collect all subscriptions and monies due, and make payments, after authorisation by the Committee. At the close of each Club year a balance

sheet shall be drawn up by the Treasurer and examined by not more than two ordinary members appointed for this purpose at the AGM.

- 9 At Committee meetings five shall form a quorum, and at a General Meeting 30% of the paid-up membership.
- 10 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened on a resolution signed by at least 5 members or 5% of the membership, whichever is the greater, stating the object of the meeting, and sent to the Secretary at least 14 days before the date proposed.
- 11 The Club's financial year shall end on 31st March, and the Annual General Meeting shall be held in April or May.
- 12 The annual subscription shall be fixed at the AGM for the twelve months immediately following, and be due as from the date of the AGM. Any person who is a full-time student over 18 may be admitted to membership at one half fee at the discretion of the Committee. There will be special fees for unwaged and for juniors (under 18), and there will be a family membership concession (second subscription at half the appropriate rate).
- 13 Visitors to ordinary Club meetings shall be charged the appropriate fee as laid down by the Committee.
- 14 The name of any member whose subscription is more than three months in arrears may be removed from the list by order of the Committee.
- 15 A member may be expelled or asked to resign from the Club at the discretion of the Committee. The Committee

can request a member to appear before it provided that, where any accusation or charge is made, the member shall be given full and reasonable opportunity to put forward a defence and bring witnesses to a later meeting. Any member expelled or asked to resign shall have the right to an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose. All minutes of Committee meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings called under this rule shall be treated as privileged and confidential.

- 17 The Club shall be affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs.
- 18 All other rules made since the formation of the Club, and not included in the above, are rescinded.
- 19 No alteration of, or addition to, these Rules shall be made except by the Annual General Meeting, or an Extraordinary General Meeting called in accordance with Rule 10.

Updated September 2007

Competitions

The Club holds competitions both annually and at intervals during the year. Members' competitions are held during the winter programme, usually with open subjects. Annual competitions, for which trophies are awarded, are open subject. Two trophies are also awarded annually on the basis of the monthly competition results.

All members are very welcome to enter the competitions; equally, if you prefer to come along and look at other members' entries that's fine too. Wherever possible outside judges are used, and all our judges are ones who offer constructive comments and advice on entries. The main purpose of the competitions is to get external comments on our work, and so help us to form our own judgements about our photographs.

Entry fee is £1 for each competition, which cover entries to all or any of the classes (see Competition Rule 8 for details of entries). There's an entry form to be filled in on the evening or you can download it from the club's website in advance.

Members' Competitions

There are five rounds of these monthly competitions, with three classes in each competition – monochrome prints, colour prints and colour slides. Points are awarded within each class as follows: 4 for First, 3 for Second, 2 for Third, 1 for Commended, plus 1 for each entrant. There shall be no ties.

Entries will usually be judged on the following criteria:

a. Interpretation

- 1 Set Subjects** – how well the picture fits and interprets the subject. A picture which does not, in any way, fit the set subject will be disallowed, but judges should be aware that there may be more than one interpretation of the subject.
- 2 Open Subjects** – how well the picture explains and interprets its subject and the photographer's aim in taking it.

b. Artistic merit – on the basis of composition, colour and tonal balance, special effects, use of filters etc.

c. Technique – on the basis of accuracy of exposure, accuracy of focus, use of flash and lighting, use of shutter speed and aperture etc.

Annual Competitions

There are annual competitions for monochrome prints, colour prints and colour slides, held in two sets – one for photographs taken at club events, and the other without any restrictions on where taken. All of these are open subject. In addition, there is an annual *John Saunders Competition* for a set of photos, and the *Photo Finish Impact Trophy* for prints. Trophies are awarded for all of these competitions.

The competitions are:

• ***For photographs taken at a club event or evening:***

The **Beechcroft Cup** for the best colour slide. This competition may not be judged by a club member.

The **James Church Cup** for the best monochrome print.

The **Brantwood Cup** for the best colour print.

• *For photographs taken at any time or place:*

The **Club Colour Cup** for the best colour slide.

The **Wordsworth Cup** for the best monochrome print.

The **Alcan Shield** for the best colour print.

• *For a set of photographs:*

The **John Saunders Cup**. This annual competition is for *a series of between three and seven prints or slides, linked by a common theme, which together tell a story*. Prints may be mounted and displayed in any way that the author feels enhances the series. There is no restriction on the size of prints. This competition is rather different from our usual events where it is individual images which are being judged. In 1991 John Saunders, a retired lawyer and keen photojournalist, came to the club to judge our monochrome print competitions and, being impressed by the standard of the work, suggested a competition based on a panel of photographs suitable for illustrating a newspaper or magazine article. He presented a trophy an annual contest and judged the early events.

• *For photos illustrating a theme:*

The **Walford and Round Trophy**. This competition is for prints or slides taken to illustrate set subjects which are notified at the AGM and in the summer programme.

• *For photos illustrating “Impact”*

The **Photo Finish Impact Trophy**. Mike Carwithen of Photo Finish is very generously sponsoring a competition for prints with the subject of “impact”, for which he is offering an annual trophy and a voucher for the winner. “Impact” is a

subject which is open to all kinds of interpretation – it could be a landscape or architecture, it's not restricted to photos of action. The winning print and other entries may be put on display in the Photo Finish shop window, and the winner will be hung in the club's annual exhibition. Entries must be brought to the club the week before the judging of the competition. Club members who are Photo Finish employees or members of their families are not be eligible to enter.

• ***F-Stop and Bodicote Trophies:***

These trophies are awarded annually to the two club members with the best performance in members' competitions during the year. The following rules apply to the awarding of these trophies:

- 1 The **F-Stop Trophy** shall be awarded to the member scoring the highest number of points in any one class.
- 2 The **Bodicote Trophy** shall be awarded to the member scoring the highest number of points in all classes combined, subject to Rule 3.
- 3 If the member with the highest number of points in all classes combined has already been awarded the **F-Stop Trophy** for the year, then the **Bodicote Trophy** shall be awarded to the member with the second highest number of points in all classes combined.
- 4 The points awarded to each competition entry shall be accumulated by entrant, both by class and for all classes together.
- 5 If there is only one entrant in any one class, in any competition, then the points awarded shall be

accumulated towards the entrant's total, but the placings shall not be used to resolve a tie under Rule 7.

- 6 No picture shall be awarded points more than once (other than "Commended" entries scoring 1 point).
- 7 In the event of a tie for either trophy, the member with the highest number of first places shall be awarded the trophy. If there is still a tie, then the member with the highest number of second places, then the highest number of third places. If there is still a tie the trophies shall be shared.

• ***Jack Keen Cup for prints (colour or monochrome)***

The **Jack Keen Cup** competition is run in one round at the end of the Winter Programme, and is open to all members who have not yet achieved a first, second, third or commended place in the monthly or annual club competitions, or who have not yet entered competitions at the club. The winner of this cup may not compete in this competition in the following year.

Competition Rules

The following rules shall apply to all of the club competitions, except where explicitly stated herein or by the rules of a particular competition.

- 1 All images, including digital images, must be produced by a recognised photographic process.
- 2 Digital images will be accepted in all club competitions, and should be identified as such on entry, as records are kept for information.

- 3 All prints and slides may be home or commercially processed.
- 4 The copyright of an entry must belong to the entrant.
- 5 Prints should be mounted. Unmounted prints are acceptable for monthly competitions.
- 6 Prints should preferably be of a minimum of 5" x 7" (13 x 17 cm) in size. Mounted prints should preferably not exceed 16" x 20" (40 x 50 cm) in size.
- 7 Colour prints may be produced from colour negatives or slides, from digital images, or by the manipulation of a monochrome image.
- 8 In members' competitions, a member may submit *up to two print entries in total – either two colour, two monochrome or one of each*; third or fourth entries may be accepted depending on the overall numbers. For slides, up to two in total may be submitted, with third or fourth entries depending on numbers.
- 9 For annual competitions, each member may submit up to three entries in each competition.
- 10 Photographs entered in members' competitions are eligible for entry in the annual competitions.
- 11 Photographs entered in club event annual competitions are eligible for entry in the open annual competitions.
- 12 Photographs which have been placed (first, second or third) in members' competitions are not eligible for entry into following members' competitions, in the same or any other year.

- 13 Photographs entered in annual competitions are not eligible for annual competitions in following years.
- 14 Competition entries should reflect the photographer's current work and interests.
- 15 Entries for the members' competitions, especially set subjects, may not necessarily be current, but should be no older than two or three years.
- 16 The film for annual competition entries must have been processed, and/or the original digital image captured, within the twelve months preceding the date of the competition.
- 17 A title is required for each competition entry, and the title should be put on the back of each print.

Definitions

Monochrome⁽¹⁾

A monochrome image is defined as being one of the following:

- 1 An image which consists purely of black and white and intermediate shades of grey (a black and white image).
- 2 A black and white image which has been toned with a single colour.
- 3 A black and white image to which a single colour has been added by toning, dyeing etc.
- 4 A black and white (grey scale) digital image to which a single colour has been added.

Colour⁽¹⁾

A colour image is defined as being one of the following:

- 1 Any image originating from colour film or on colour paper.
- 2 A toned black and white image in which one can see at least two differently coloured surfaces.
- 3 A black and white image to which two or more colours have been added by toning, dyeing etc.
- 4 A digital image in full colour or containing at least two colours in addition to any grey scale image.

Nature⁽²⁾

Includes all observations of facts and phenomena from all branches of natural history including botany, zoology, geology, physics, chemistry, meteorology, palæontology, anthropology etc. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject material. The human element, if present, should be unobtrusive. Cultivated plants, still life studies, domestic animals etc., are not acceptable.

Wildlife⁽²⁾

Should depict one or more living organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Photographs taken at zoos are not acceptable.

Contemporary⁽²⁾

The concept which stimulates the mind of the viewer to interpret the message through the creative use of line, form and colour.

Based upon FIAP⁽¹⁾ and MCPF⁽²⁾ definitions.

Annual Exhibition

Michael Heseltine Gallery, Chenderit School

Since 2004 the club has held an annual exhibition, open to the public, in the splendid Michael Heseltine Gallery. All members are invited and encouraged to exhibit two prints (a third reserve may be possible). There is no selection process; each member makes his or her own choice, though advice and help are available if needed. We use standard 20 x 16 in (50 x 40 cm) black frames with white card window mounts, giving a very professional presentation. Frames and mountboard can be purchased from the club, and frames can also be borrowed. Members of the club will cut mounts and help with framing as necessary. The sale of prints from the exhibition (both framed prints from the display and unmounted photos from a “hayrack”) benefits a local charity.

Framing and mounting your photographs

The following are a few hints for preparing your pictures for the exhibition. If you follow the guidelines below, the volunteers who catalogue and hang the exhibition will not be wasting their time on basic chores which the exhibitor should have done beforehand.

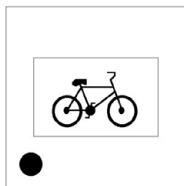
- 1 Are you sure that you want to exhibit the pictures you have entered? Do you want to change your mind? Please decide before the programme is printed
- 2 Please make sure that the pictures and mounts are clean and free from dust specks and that the glass is clean inside and out.
- 3 If you are using standard club frames please make sure

that they are assembled the right way up and that the hanging tabs are correctly positioned before the pictures are put in the frames. Twisting the tabs into position on the day of the hanging can cause damage to the photos and wastes a lot of time. If you are using non-standard frames, they should be similar in appearance to the club's standard and the hanging cords should not protrude above the tops. The suspension points should be 65 mm from the tops of the frames.

- 4 Please see that there is a label on the back with your name and details of the photo.
- 5 If you have any problems with printing, mounting or framing your photos, please let a member of the committee know before the day of the hanging and another member of the club will gladly come to your aid.
- 6 Please let the secretary know whether or not your picture is for sale. There is a space for this on the entry form.
- 7 If your picture is for sale is it a "One-off" or are you prepared to make another print for another purchaser?
- 8 The prints in the "Hayrack" are usually sold in aid of a charity. They are usually mounted but unframed. Please ask a member of the committee about the florists "Cellophane" for wrapping them in. If you have any nice prints, which might sell, please donate them.
- 9 Are you prepared to supply a "bespoke" mounted print to suit an existing frame? We could offer this option (at a price) to a prospective purchaser.

Slide Spotting and Print Mounting

All slides should be spotted to enable the projectionist to load them into the magazine so that they will be correctly projected. To spot a slide, hold it up to a light source, in such a way that you view the image as it should appear on the screen.



Then mark the lower left-hand corner of the mount with a spot, either with a permanent marker pen or a small self-adhesive coloured label. When the slide is placed in the magazine for projection, it will be positioned with the spot in the top right-hand corner, facing the rear of the projector. The slide will then be correctly projected.

Prints should be mounted, both to provide a suitable surround to enhance the subject, and to protect the print. A print is mounted by fixing it to a piece of stiff card, preferably using a spray adhesive, such as Scotch PhotoMount, although double-sided tape may be used. The print may be left surface-mounted, or a second piece of card, containing a cut-out window, with bevelled edges, may be positioned over the print. This is known as a mat, and the first piece of card is then attached to it with adhesive tape. More complex effects can be achieved with multiple layers of card. For a stronger, more durable, mount, the use of mounting board, obtainable from the club and art supply shops, is advised.

