



THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION NEWSLETTER - MAY 2022



This is the second of our newsletters this month and I wanted to give a shout out to another club celebrating their 70th anniversary at the same time as our Queen. Gosport Camera Club started in 1952.

I was lucky enough to be invited to Gosport this month to join them for their Platinum Jubilee celebrations too. It is always fascinating to learn something of clubs' history and to listen to members' stories of their photographic journeys. I came to camera clubs fairly late in life, but my involvement with two clubs has certainly improved my photography and encouraged me to try different techniques and think differently about what I want from an image. I don't think I've been the only person finding the pandemic difficult, and put the camera down for a while, but just lately I have loved getting out and being with other photographers who are just as passionate about photography as I am. Long may all clubs continue.

In 2023 the Southern Counties Photographic Federation are celebrating their "diamond" jubilee, but on a recent visit to Haslemere, Clinton Blackman, just happened to mention that he'd recently written a history of Haslemere camera club who celebrated 110 years last year. I will let him tell you the story.



Gosport's Chair Debbie Bielby cuts the cake.

"Char-a-banc to Midhurst" - the history of Haslemere Camera Club

Thanks to an archive of original records contained within Haslemere's Educational Museum that was discovered and subsequently researched by club members Sheila Noble and David Round we know that Haslemere and District Camera Club was founded in 1910, holding its first public exhibition in May 1911 (fig 1). Previously we believed that the foundations of the Club dated to 1952 but now know that this was just the resumption of activities after the Second World War had finished and the subsequent period of austerity eased.



Fig 1 – The first exhibition of Haslemere and District Camera Club

Clever Victorian marketing as “The Switzerland of England” combined with easy access to London by train convinced many people to relocate to the Haslemere area including Sir Jonathon Hutchison FRS who founded Haslemere and District Camera Club and was its first President. Sir Jonathon had a distinguished medical career in the fields of ophthalmology, dermatology, and pathology and was latterly President of the Royal College of Surgeons. He was a man of considerable means with a passionate interest in education and a strong sense of community who had previously founded the Haslemere Educational Museum in 1888, donating to it his large personal collection of natural history specimens. The museum is still thriving, having moved to its current location in Haslemere High Street in 1926 and in these early years it was the natural home of the Camera Club - which explains how our early records came to be preserved there.

The second President of the Camera Club, Alfred Hugh Harman was another man of means who moved to the Grayswood area of Haslemere for health reasons in 1884, before financing the construction of All Saints parish church, including the adjacent vicarage together with an endowment for the vicar’s stipend. A H Harman was a pioneer of photography, creating a commercial photography business in Peckham before moving in 1879 to Ilford in Essex where he established a business manufacturing dry gelatine plates. The business grew in spectacular fashion over the years, becoming The Britannia Works in 1898, before subsequently being renamed Ilford Limited in 1900. In 1902 George Eastman, recognising a commercial competitor of considerable strength proposed that Kodak and Ilford should merge, but the suggestion was rejected and Ilford continued to provide film, chemistry, photographic paper and other materials to many photographers throughout the 20th century. Harman stood down from the company in 1897 due to poor health but his name was remembered after a management buyout in 2005 led to the formation of Harman Technology Ltd, trading as Ilford Photo.

For an annual fee of 2/6 (12.5p) early members of the Camera Club benefited from a menu of activities familiar to many current photographic clubs: monthly meetings between September and May, summer excursions to nearby places of photographic interest and annual exhibitions. Midhurst was a popular venue for excursions, starting in 1911 with the famous and delightfully worded Char-a-banc trip (fig 2). Sadly subsequent visits appear to have been made were made by train but all seemed to enjoy afternoon tea at Messrs Shorts’ Tea Rooms (8d each in 1914).

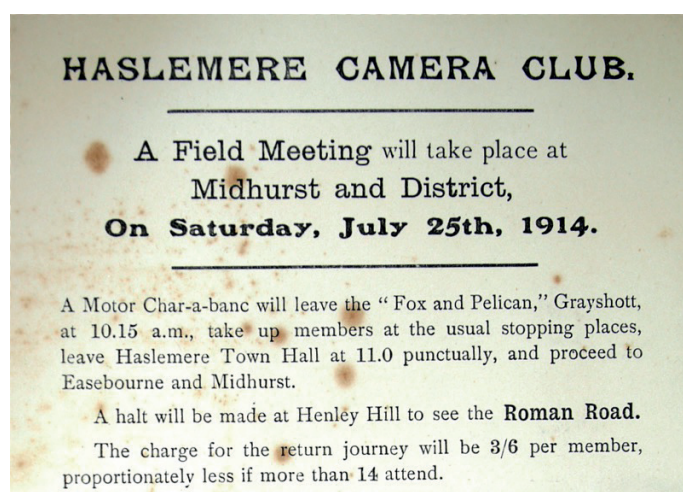


Fig 2 – An early field trip for the Camera Club

Catalogues from the annual exhibitions staged in the Haslemere Educational Museum between 1911 until 1939 show that these were major events with more than 100 photographs and Lantern Slides on display, organised into as many as 12 different classes. Sadly none of the original photographs have been kept but we do know that they were mostly monochrome, produced by

Platinum, Bromide, Carbon or Gum Bichromate processes – but there also were a small number of colour prints produced using the Autochrome and Colour Bromoil methods that would certainly be museum pieces today. Members of the public could buy photographs from the exhibitions with prices ranging from 2/6 for a Bromide print “In Wonderland” by Miss K.M. Woods in 1911 to 5gns for a colour Bromoil “A quaint corner in Constantine” by R. Macfarlane Cocks in 1916. A 5% commission was charged by the Club for all sales, but no profits were made as the net proceeds were given to charity, for example the Three Counties Nursing Association, Haslemere Red Cross Workroom Fund and the Serbian Relief Fund.

Haslemere and District Camera Club ceased to function during WW2 but was revived as the Haslemere Photographic Society in 1952 before finally changing name back to Haslemere Camera Club. The relationship between the Club and Haslemere Educational Museum changed in this modern era with club meetings being held in a variety of different locations in and around Haslemere (most recently the Millennium Centre in Liphook) but reverting to the Museum for major Anniversary Exhibitions, in particular the Centennial Exhibition in 2010 where Simon Galley, one of the directors of Harman Technology, was guest of honour.

Current members of Haslemere Camera Club enjoy the usual mixture of talks, competitions and outings, both in person and on line. We also support the local community by documenting major events, most notably creating a photographic record of Haslemere at the Millennium and this work, in excess of 500 photographs and digital files has been donated to the Museum to form a permanent collection, enabling anyone updating this brief history in the future to have clear insight into the work of their predecessors.

by Clinton Blackman LRPS, CPAGB - Chairman, Haslemere Camera Club

Thank you so much Clinton for that fascinating information and if any other club has a history you'd like to share with others please let me know.

News from the PAGB Audio Visual Adjudication

The PAGB had a very successful Adjudication in Audio Visual earlier in May though were a little disappointed at the number of people who “attended” by Zoom. The Adjudicators saw some very good sequences throughout the day and the pass rate was at, or close to, 50% for both the Credit and Distinction levels. There was one entry at Master level which was also successful. The SCPF did not have any entries this time round.

A huge thank you!

To all the clubs who gave us prints from which to select ninety entries for the up and coming PAGB Inter Federation Competition. With many clubs not doing prints this season and others needing to hold their prints back for best of the year competition, the number of clubs putting images forward was a lot lower than usual and with finals day being a virtual meeting, arrangements had to be made to get the prints to one of the selection team, but thank you so much to everyone who bent over backwards to make an entry possible this year.

This year there was no digital selection, so we had to submit thirty prints for each of the three classes Mono, Nature and Open. Selection is usually done on the Tuesday following Finals Day when I call upon the combined skills of Roy Lambeth, Tony Oliver, Leo Rich and Peter Roccicchioli to make our selection.

Normally this event is hosted by a federation and open to spectators, but this year at the time of writing it is expected to be being done “behind closed doors”. If a zoom link is available then I will let you have it in due course.

Congratulations to Glyn Paton ARPS from Winchester for his recent success at the RPS Associateship level adjudication in Portraiture and Applied category with a panel of amazing monochrome images.

The 2023 Newbury Challenge Plate was won by Hungerford Camera Club, so it seems only fitting that Hungerford's own Graeme Sleeman explains what it is.

The Newbury Challenge Plate is an annual print competition involving up to nine clubs from the Southern Counties Photographic Federation. This print competition has been running for some 20 years and usually comprises of Clubs that Newbury do not habitually meet in the SCPF Leagues. It was originally established by Mike Harding, who donated the Trophy, which is held for one year by the winning club. Although Mike moved away, to Wales, he will always try to attend the competition and still has family and friends in the Newbury area.

Covid struck, and the competition was not run in 2020. The rules were varied to allow a PDI competition in 2021, and so everyone was delighted to get back together for the Print Competition on Thursday 24th March 2022.

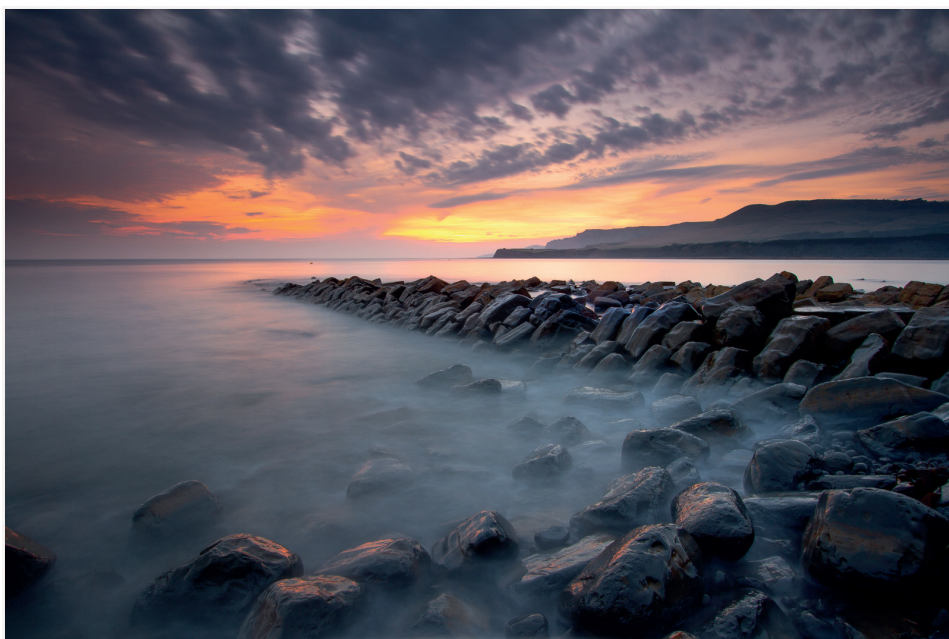
This year the competition was entered by six clubs, Alton, Andover, Beaulieu, Hungerford, Newbury and Wantage. All had the opportunity to visit Newbury's new meeting place at the Royal British Legion - with Bar ! The Judge was Cricklade's - Peter Crane ARPS.

To say it was close would be an understatement, with only 2 points separating the top three clubs. But it was a nail-biting run right up to the finish line and the last print of the competition! With the last print (Hungerford's) to be judged, Newbury had 71.5 points and Hungerford 63 so an 8.5 on this last image would produce a draw for first place.

The image 'Kimmeridge Sunset' by Tony was waited with bated breath. '9.5' declared the Judge, giving Hungerford Camera Club the win by just one point. Only the second time that the competition had been won by a jubilant Hungerford CC. Hungerford's top scoring images were 'Rain Bomb' by Brian (10) and 'Kimmeridge Sunset' (9.5). Both shown here.



Rain Bomb by Brian Price, Hungerford



Kimmeridge Sunset by Tony Leach, Hungerford

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Saturday 24th September 2022
at
The Millennium Memorial Hall
The Hall Way
Littleton
Winchester
Hampshire
SO22 6QL

There are a few spaces still available for the September Advisory day.

We know that there are a lot of talented photographers in our region and this is a once in seven years opportunity for you to come and meet the PAGB team who arrange the awards and have work assessed for a future adjudication, or, just come along and see the standard of work required. It promises to be a great day.

Please email: -pagb.awards@southerncountiespf.org.uk for further information or to secure a place.

This will be an in person meeting and not via zoom.

The team are very experienced and will be able to provide you with unbiased opinions on whether you meet the standard of the level of award you are considering.

Spaces for assessment are £15.00 and for observers are £8.00



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