

# Newsletter

April 2019



It seems like just a short time since this current season began and here we are approaching the Annual General Meeting which is held at Falkirk Bowling Club, starting at 19:30 on Thursday 18th April 2019. This is a business meeting so the £2.50 attendance fee does not apply. An A.G.M. is an opportunity to comment on the reports from Office Bearers which you have already received by email, to listen to the President's and the Treasurer's report, and for you to put forward ideas for the future. This is your Club so please try to attend. If you are unable to come along then please communicate your apologies to the General Secretary. Hope you will agree that we have had another wonderfully varied Syllabus of lectures, demonstrations and competitions. The Thursday evening part of next seasons Syllabus is almost complete so the A.G.M. is an ideal time to indicate the type of events, workshops and demonstrations which you seek as well as your thoughts on lectures for the future.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has helped out at activities during the past season. Your support with the Projector & Sound system, catering, exhibiting Competition prints then dismantling everything and tidying up at the end of a meeting has been very much appreciated. Thank you.

**Congratulations** are due to a number of F.C.C. photographers who have achieved notable successes during this past season. David Jones was awarded the Scottish Photographic Federation Silver Medal for the best Nature image in the S.P.F. Digital Championships in November. In addition, David, Agnes Clarke, Nancy MacArthur and Geof Longstaff were each recipients of Arts Awards from Falkirk Council for bringing distinction to the town from outside the district through their successes in International Salons of Photography. Congratulations also to May Cruikshank, whose dramatic photograph featuring the new V & A building in Dundee with the RRS Discovery alongside, achieved a Commendation in the Historic Scotland photographic competition. The Monochrome section of the Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year competition was won by Vikki Macleod. This particular competition demands the highest skills from photographers by imposing restrictions on what can subsequently be done in post processing. This results in photographers operating in an environment emulating the purity of the silver-halide process. The photographer's technical control, skill in composition, and ability to interpret the landscape therefore become paramount making this a particularly prestigious event in which to achieve success. Please visit the events website at [www.slpoty.co.uk](http://www.slpoty.co.uk) to see Vikki's, and other, inspirational images.

**Further afield** The Annual Lecture 2018 at the Scottish Society for the History of Photography is now available on You Tube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBWEDqdNOdk&feature=youtu.be>

Chrystel Lebas is a French visual artist based in London and best known for her photography and film. Her work explores and illuminates the often complex relationships between human beings and the natural world and her work has been exhibited and published widely internationally and is held in major collections. Among them a major solo exhibition at Huis Marseille Museum for Photography Amsterdam (2016-17). The accompanying publication 'Field Studies: Walking through Landscapes and Archives' won the 2018 Kraszna-Krausz Foundation Book Award. Her work was also included in 'The View From Here: Landscape Photography at the National Galleries of Scotland' (2016-17) at the National Galleries of Scotland. In this lecture she begins by discussing her early work and then goes on to look at 'Field Studies', her most extensive project to date: a five-year engagement with the Sir Edward James Salisbury Archive at the Natural History Museum, London.

## Exhibitions

**City Art Centre, Market St., Edinburgh.**

**On Now, until 12th May 2019. Admission free**

**In Focus: Scottish Photography.** Situated just outside the south entrance to Waverley Station this eclectic exhibition contrasts the work of Hill & Adamson and Thomas Begbie alongside the contemporary photography of Calum Colvin, David Williams, Maud Sulter and others. The exhibition dramatically illustrates how the approach of photographers has changed over the last 176 years.

**Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Queen St., Edinburgh.**

**6th April 2019 - 20th October 2019.**

**Open daily, 10am - 5pm**

**Admission free**

**ARTIST ROOMS Self Evidence: Photographs by Woodman, Arbus and Mapplethorpe** celebrates the work of three of the twentieth century's most influential photographers: Francesca Woodman, Diane Arbus and Robert Mapplethorpe. With a particular focus on self-portraiture and representation, Self Evidence explores the connections and similarities between these three Americans, each of whom produced bodies of work that were revolutionary, ground-breaking and at times controversial.

**Lillie Art Gallery, Station Rd., Milngavie. 13th April 2019 - 4th July 2019**

**Open Tues - Sat, 10am - 1pm & 2pm -5pm. Admission free**

**Hiding Places.** Mhairi Muir's work explores the hidden aspects of our environment. From the use of cymatics to reveal hidden patterns on a micro level to exploring hiding places familiar to us all in thick forests, pebble beaches, towns and cities. Mhairi utilises old lenses on new camera bodies to achieve a dreamy, ethereal feel to her images.

**The Gallery, Falkirk Town Hall, West Bridge St., Falkirk. 1st June 2019 - 24th July 2019**  
**Open most days, 10am - 4pm. Admission free**  
**'phone to check opening times, 01324 - 506850**

**A Photographic Journey In The Natural World.** Photographs by David Jones.

David Jones bought his first SLR camera when he did a work exchange to Tasmania during their 200th Anniversary year in 1988. Becoming more serious about photography, David found himself becoming equally serious about documenting the Natural World and joined Falkirk Camera Club approximately 20 years ago. He has travelled around the world using his skills as a photographer to document the beauty of our natural environment. David's photographs have received Gold and Silver medals in both national and international exhibitions of photography. He remains actively involved at Falkirk C.C. and during the 130 year history of the photographic group in Falkirk, David has received more awards for his photography than any other photographer.

**The Gallery, Falkirk Town Hall, West Bridge St., Falkirk. 27th July 2019 - 28th August 2019**  
**Open most days, 10am - 4pm. Admission free**  
**'phone to check opening times, 01324 - 506850**

**Royal Photographic Society - Scottish Members Print Exhibition 2019 / 2020**

Founded in 1853 to promote the art and science of photography, the R.P.S. has evolved to meet the needs of 21st century photographers. This travelling exhibition of the latest collection of Prints from the Scottish Members group covers a diverse group of subjects, each photographed with care, creativity and faultless technical control.

**The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh. 31st July 2019 - 24th August 2019**  
**Open Mon. - Sat., 10am - 4pm. Admission free**

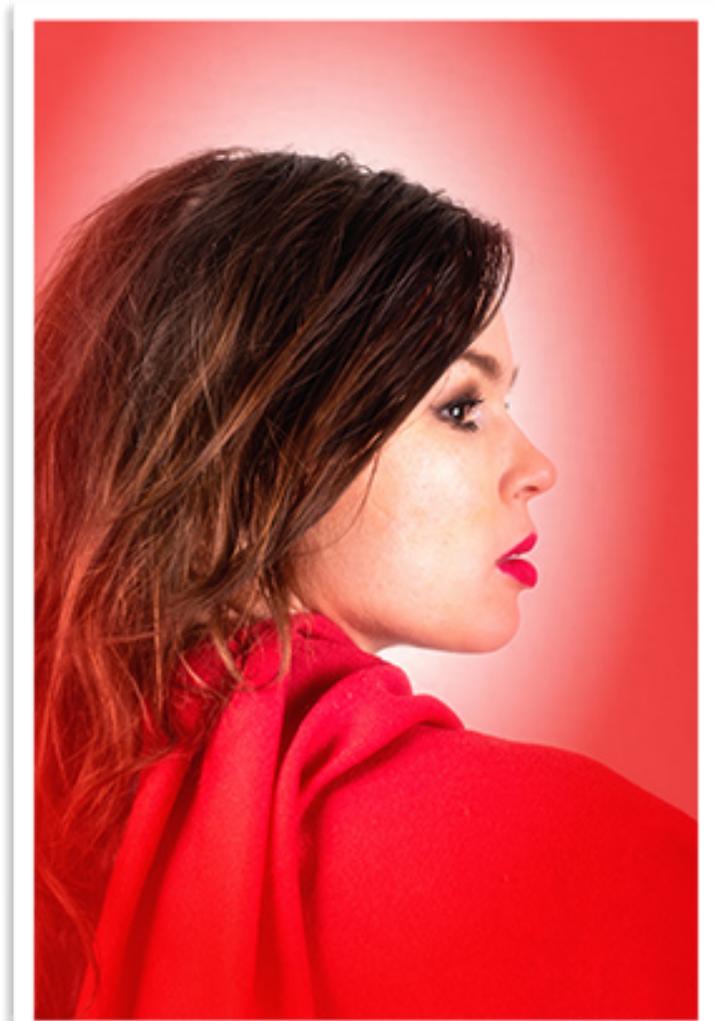
The exhibition of the worlds most prestigious visual journalism competition. This exhibition contains images taken in war zones and other areas of conflict which some people may find distressing.

## Portrait Sunday by Joan Clark

Just under a dozen of us gathered in the clubhouse one Sunday in February for a day of portraiture, packed lunches in hand. Skills varied from 'expert' ( that was Doug R. ) to the rest of us who were either completely out of our comfort zones and trying something new to.....almost out of our comfort zones and trying something different. There were two studio set-ups to use - the 'grown-up' one in the upstairs hall complete with the big lights and big background, and the smaller set-up downstairs with a smaller backdrop and smaller lights ( more a 'home' studio ). The model for the day in the big studio was Sharon who had visited us before. Downstairs, we relied on ourselves to be the subject ( thank you Paul M. for being mine ). Doug supplied us all with technical help, enthusiasm and the reassurance that we could easily ( ? ) take good portraits. Thanks to Steve who organised the



day and to Allistair & Ronnie for helping Steve set up the studios on the Saturday. Many thanks to Sharon who showed great patience with all of us and for smiling all the way through the day and to Doug for happily passing on his expertise. We all ended the day with some excellent images, a better knowledge of our cameras and the technical aspects of portraiture, and a collective enthusiasm to repeat this at regular intervals.



## A Tale of Two Toms by Geof Longstaff

As many in the club will know, I have researched many facets of the history of Falkirk Camera Club. The club started out in 1889 as Falkirk Amateur Photographic Association and, as part of my researches, I discovered the names of the founders and early committee members of FAPA. Once I had the names, I was superbly assisted by Sandy Porteous (who, himself, is an ex-Secretary of the club) in uncovering the genealogy of these early club members.

One objective of the exercise was to locate photographs of the committee members of 1898 in order to put names to faces on an unearthed group portrait of that year. I was also hoping to uncover some examples of the early photographs of these members.

On the former objective, I have only been able to put a positive identification on one man – Thomas Dougall Chalmers, who served on the committee during 1896-98. However, around 1908 and after serving an apprenticeship at Carron Iron Works to become an engineer and then visits to the USA, Tom went on to be a cycle shop owner in Bannockburn and a local photographer having built a studio in his garden. His great-nephew, Roy, identified Tom's photograph and, to my great surprise and pleasure, has amassed a tremendous amount of Tom's work. Tom created many postcards of the Bannockburn area and, in some cases, has hand-tinted them to create a coloured souvenir of the area. One example is shown below and an AV on Tom and his postcards can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDpm5qj5YRwRt=4s>

In addition, Sandy recognised the name of Thomas Easton as someone who also became a local photographer of note. Thomas Easton was on the FAPA committee between 1902 and 1905 but, unfortunately, no photograph of him has been found as yet. However this Tom was also published and many of his photographs can be found in a book, published by the Falkirk Museums, called Easton's Falkirk. The photographs cover the period of 1900-1914 and include a photograph of our previous F.C.C. venue, Erskine Church.

I am delighted that the work of two of our early club members has survived for over a century and I would like to think that some of the current club members' work would do likewise.



*Old Town, Bannockburn.*

CHALMERS, BANNOCKBURN.

## ***Closing Quip***

It was Andy Warhol ( 1928 - 1987 ) who said “ The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do “ An artist, printmaker, director and producer who made extensive use of photography in his creations. His famous series of prints of Marilyn Monroe, made by his innovative process of printmaking, is currently hanging in the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art - Modern Two as part of the exhibition I Want To Be A Machine which combines his work with that of Leith born Eduardo Paolozzi ( 1924 - 2005 ). Exhibition runs until 2nd June 2019.

This time, who said:

“ A good photograph is one which communicates a fact, touches the heart and leaves the viewer a changed person for having seen it. It is, in a word, effective “

Was it:

Irving Penn, Terence Donovan, or Brian Duffy ?

**FALKIRK CAMERA CLUB**



**PHOTOGRAPHY SINCE 1889**