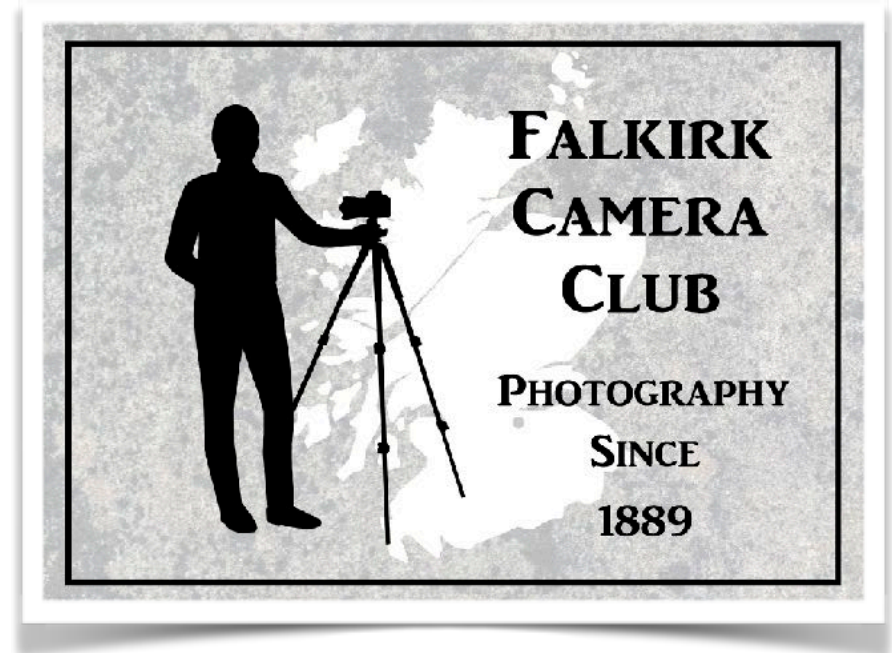


Newsletter

September 2019



Season 2019 - 2020, Welcome

The object of the club is to promote an interest in photography in a relaxed environment where ideas can be shared and practices can be learned. F.C.C. is a member of the Scottish Photographic Federation and affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. These organisations provide access to Lecturers and accredited Competition Judges although we also invite experienced lecturers and adjudicators from outside those circles. We will also organise Workshops in response to requests from the membership so please let us know the type of events which you seek. Our current longest serving club members joined F.C.C. when cameras solely used film, Video Recorders were in many homes and Falkirk F.C. played at a place called Brockville but, please don't remind 'em ! Our newest members joined this season or during recent years and are the future of F.C.C., the legacy started in 1889 so no pressure folks. This has been one of the busiest ever "close" seasons at F.C.C. An exhibition in Falkirk Town Hall by a Past President, David Jones, was followed by work from Agnes Clark L.R.P.S. included in the Royal Photographic Society exhibition in the same venue and we now look forward to an exhibition from Frank Owens at F.T.H. which opens in November. Club members old (sort of) and new are always around to help or advise. Just ask, and enjoy your membership.

Audio Visual Group

An Audio Visual presentation is a sequence of photographs set to music, commentary, or a mixture of both which explores a theme or tells a story. It might last just a few minutes or significantly longer and visiting lecturers may include A.V. sequences within their presentations in the same way that Tom Bowser included Video programmes in his presentation on Argaty Red Kites on 5th September. A.V. has been a feature at Falkirk C.C. for many years and took a step forward a few years ago with the formation of an A.V. Group. It meets most months, often on a Wednesday evening with only the usual £2.50 levy as a contribution towards costs. A.V. 'ists (Audio Visualisers ?) will show sequences under construction or completed, get advice, share ideas and look at what's new in the A.V. world. Some Post Processing packages already include an A.V. facility and there are specialist programmes if your interest develops. Seek out Joan Clarke or Geof Longstaff for more information.

Talking Pictures

Photography is used for many purposes and can change the way we perceive the world. It can be used to tell a story, to report factual events or, more simply, to illustrate an Instruction Manual. It can be used for record purposes or, at the other end of the scale, as a means of self expression. It can be a welcome challenge or a means of relaxation, not that we need relaxation in the calm and ordered world in which we live 🙄 Writing is a similar pursuit and writers have similar avenues open to them as do photographers. Falkirk Writers Circle and Falkirk Camera Club have an annual collaboration which initially took the form of an exhibition. The writers made a selection from photographs supplied by the photographers then produced pieces of poetry or prose inspired by those images. The photographs and writing were then exhibited together. These days, it takes the form of a joint meeting of both groups which you will find in the F.C.C. Syllabus. We call it Talking Pictures and, against the backdrop of the Projected Digital Image, the photographer can explain their motivation for producing the photograph and is then followed by the writer who reads their composition. That composition can be funny, profound or thought provoking and it's great to hear how a writer has interpreted our work. The collaboration sometimes extends into other exercises too. The photograph below is from Ian Trapp and the writing by Jean Currie. We put them together a few years ago as a gift for the, then, Provost who had supported another collaboration between Falkirk Camera Club and the Rotary Clubs of Falkirk District.

We will ask for contributions to this season's Talking Pictures soon.



Falkirk Winter Wonderland. Poem by Jean Currie, Photograph by Ian Trapp

What do you see when you go through your town ?
A colourless mass all in black or in brown ?
Perhaps from the car there's an idiot ahead,
you try to keep calm but you really see red.
When snow comes down heavy you battle with brolly,
and can't see any further than supermarket trolley.
I'm in a great hurry, I'm watching the time.
I should have left sooner, I'm cutting it fine,
not giving a thought just to look left to right,
to glance all about for a beautiful sight.
But lift up your eyes and look all around.
It's easy to see lovely sights that abound.
For here is our Falkirk on a cold winter's night,
a colourful beauty, a wonderful sight.
Buildings to marvel were built long ago,
deep-steeped in history, what stories they know.
Where Steeple and church spires point to the sky,
does anyone know exactly how high ?
Parks for the people with gardens galore,
who could be asking for anything more ?

Stirling Photography Festival

The Stirling Photography Festival exhibition is now open and spread over several locations within the city.

You will find it at the MacRobert Centre, the Tolbooth, Smith Art Gallery, the Made In Stirling shop, Unorthodox Roasters café and the Loving Food restaurant. The MacRobert Centre is at the university and the other sites are central. Loving Food in King Street might be the first place to visit as you will find a Print by our new Internal Competition Secretary, Scott Farrell.

There are photographs on the festival's website, www.stirlingphotographyfestival.co.uk, from the 2018 exhibition where the theme was Our Place. As Scott says, F.C.C. photographers thinking about how to approach our forthcoming Themed Monthly Competition might be interested to see how photographers approached the Our Place theme. The theme at this year's Stirling Photography Festival is Hope & Passion and photographs on that theme will appear on their website in due course.

Michael Kenna

You might remember a visiting lecturer to the club asking if we were familiar with the photography of Michael Kenna (b.1953). Inspired by Bill Brandt and Alfred Stieglitz, among others, his work is collected by major galleries and museums worldwide and he is renowned for his highly expressive representations of the landscape. This quote from him might be apposite for our time. “ I prefer suggestion over description, the world is pretty chaotic, seemingly always speeding up and getting louder and more visually dense. I am interested in finding and/or creating calm shelters from the storm, places where quiet and solitude is encouraged and inner contemplation possible. I think we could all use a break from time to time.....”

You will find his work online including, www.michaelkenna.net

Exhibitions

City Art Centre, Market St., Edinburgh.

On Now, until 13th October 2019.

Admission £6 single visit, £10 season ticket.

Concession £4.50 single visit, £7 season ticket.

Victoria Crowe, 50 Years of Painting. Still time to catch this major exhibition from one of the UK's most distinguished artist's. There is much for photographers to learn from VC's use of composition, colour and texture in both landscape & portrait. Her ability to tell the story of a life in a single portrait is a masterclass in creative communication.

Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Queen St., Edinburgh.

On Now, until 20th October 2019.

Open daily, 10am - 5pm

Admission free

ARTIST ROOMS Self Evidence: Photographs by Woodman, Arbus and Mapplethorpe Also nearing the end of its run, this exhibition 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 often controversial

also at S.N.P.G.

The Long Look | The Making Of A Portrait

On Now, until 27th October 2019.

A collaboration between painter Audrey Grant, photographer and printmaker Norman McBeath with novelist Val McDermid. Audrey asked Norman to sit for a portrait in charcoal for a project lasting probably several months. She asked him to photograph the drawing at the end of each sitting and then erased the drawing at the start of the next sitting and began anew. The project turned into several years as Val became the second sitter. This fascinating exhibition uses Audrey's artwork and materials plus Norman's photographs to document how the final portraits evolved.

Royal Botanic Garden, West Gate, Arboretum Pl., Edinburgh. EH3 5NZ
East Gate, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh. EH3 5LP

On Now, until 10th Nov. 2019
Admission Free

Microsculpture: The Insect Portraits of Levon Bliss. Held in Inverleith House, near the West Gate, the astonishing clarity of these images of insects which in real life range from 1cm to 3cm in length but exhibited on prints approximately 10 feet long will take your breath away. Levon Bliss is the British photographer who photographed these specimens from the Museum of Natural History in Oxford. There is a life size reproduction of each insect beside each print and a film of the photographer at work using some quite serious equipment. The photographs often involve around 8,000 exposure for one finished photograph.

St Andrews Photography Festival, St Andrews, Fife.

4th October - 27th October 2019

Soon after Henry Talbot (1800 - 1877) at Lacock announced his Calotype process in 1839 he visited his friend Sir David Brewster (1781 - 1868) at the University of St Andrews. DB introduced him to Dr John Adamson (1809 - 1870) who began a series of advancements making St Andrews the cradle of photography. Organised by the Photographic Collections department at the University, this years festival has the theme of Science & Photography. In a number of central locations a series of exhibitions, talks and demonstrations provide a unique and meticulous experience of photography. Visit www.standrewsphotographyfestival.com

Street Level Photoworks, Trongate 103, Glasgow. G1 5HD

On Now, until 24th November 2019
Tues. - Sat. 10am - 5pm
Sunday, 12 - 5pm
Admission Free

Marking the organisations 30th year, this exhibition of contemporary photography from over 60 photographic artists includes many processes from both the analogue and digital era's. Photography is used in its many forms in this eclectic mix of imagery.



British Photographic History

Launched almost 10 years ago, this website has over 3,000 members comprising regular readers, museum & gallery curators, academics and students. It's a forum for events and news within the British photographic history community including exhibitions, lectures and information on ongoing research in the UK and further afield.

As you know there has been much about the history of Falkirk C.C. in the club and within Newsletter pages over recent years. Our late nineteenth century forebears really were photographic pioneers so, while we have ensured their ongoing presence in the Falkirk History Archive at Calendar House, we are also grateful to our friends at the Scottish Photographic Federation who have archived our history and to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain for their coverage of our 2018 celebrations.

Looking further afield, I sent three late 19th century photographs of our forebears to the collection at B.F.H. and it was very satisfying to see them on the front page of this website during the summer. They are now on Page 2, under the website's Photos tab which you can find at:

www.britishphotohistory.ning.com

3 From 6, 2019-2020

In 3 From 6 F.C.C. photographers are asked to submit up to 3 Projected Digital Images from 6 topics. This is an exercise in exploring photography and not a competition. The P.D.I.'s can be on different topics or, all the same topic. This year's topics follow and are also under a yellow tab on the Notice Board page of the website. Please make your contributions through Photoentry by 6th January 2020, 3 From 6 night is on 6th February 2020 in the F.C.C. Syllabus.

Self Portrait.

Whether captured with a Mobile 'Phone or a Camera there are many ways of representing yourself and remember, a self portrait doesn't need to include your face.

Commuting.

The commute to work happens in all sorts of weather conditions, all year round on every means of transport available. People walk, cycle, carshare, use the boat, bus or train and perhaps even an aircraft.

Exasperation or Determination.

Photograph that moment when the going gets tough or, when the tough get going.

Interpret a Book Title.

Think of a favourite or familiar book then produce a photograph which interprets the title.

Hope.

Positive or poignant, produce a photograph to signify optimism for the future.

White.

Photograph something white. Can you retain the texture or detail or, will it be impressionistic ?

In The Picture

Thanks to everyone who submitted photographs to the In The Picture spot in the Falkirk Herald last season. Several F.C.C. photographers were featured so please continue to email P.D.I.'s sized at 1600 x 1200 maximum to editorial@falkirkherald.co.uk. Use In The Picture as the Subject line in your email, state your name and Falkirk Camera Club and add a couple of lines about the photograph. They look for something reasonably local or from surrounding counties. Best of luck and well done to Agnes Clark L.R.P.S. who fills that spot in the Falkirk Herald of 26th September 2019.

Closing Quip

the aim here is to present
some photographers from
the wider photographic
community whom you
might want to research
online

Last time it was Sally Mann (b. 1951) who said “Every image is in some way a “portrait,” not in the way that it would reproduce the traits of a person, but in that it pulls and draws (this is the semantic and etymological sense of the word), in that it extracts something, an intimacy, a force.” One of America’s most renowned photographers. Time magazine wrote: Few photographers of any time or place have matched Sally Mann’s steadiness of simple eyesight, her serene technical brilliance, and the clearly communicated eloquence she derives from her subjects, human or otherwise - subjects observed with an ardor that is all but indistinguishable from love.

This time, who said:

Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still.

Was it:

Dorothea Lange, Steve McCurry, or Jane Bown

FALKIRK CAMERA CLUB



PHOTOGRAPHY SINCE 1889