



Newsletter

November 2020

First Frame

It's great to report that our Club membership numbers, in these strange times, are excellent. Indeed our Club President, Bob Black, has opened recent meetings by thanking members and friends of Falkirk Camera Club for their overwhelming support. As we move into a new season the Weekly Roundup pages on our website will keep us informed on what has been happening at the Club, the weekly online meeting invitations and reports give us the information we need to participate each week and the Syllabus provides both familiar events plus outstanding lectures from photographers from all over the U.K., and perhaps beyond! The new Code Of Conduct & Ethics, issued at the recent A.G.M., will keep us on the right track in this new online world and we have undertaken an ambitious and comprehensive review of Club operations to move us forward.

Please remember that our Club is a member of the Scottish Photographic Federation. The S.P.F., in turn, is a member of both the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain and the Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique. Our Club is affiliated to both these organisations. Please look at all of their respective websites as the decisions which we make within F.C.C. will be in accordance with corporate conventions and regulations. Please remember too that they are all voluntary membership organisations who are also adapting to this 'new normal' of our times.

Falkirk Camera Club - Online

As previously reported in a previous F.C.C. Newsletter, our last traditional meeting was on 12th March but we continued online the very next week. An online meeting is a different experience, but one which becomes more familiar each time we use it. A Code Of Conduct & Ethics was issued to all Club members at our A.G.M. and thank you to everyone who attended that online meeting for your contributions. It is the aim of the Club to make these meetings a comfortable, safe and secure way of enjoying our photography.

We have been joined online by some truly amazing photographers and it is an unintended feature of these challenging times that we have established connections with photographers and groups we would not otherwise have encountered.

There are a number of online video conferencing platforms available and it is worth noting that they have all improved their systems and security during the summer. We use Zoom. This is a new medium to most of us and one which does seem strange at first, but the benefits soon become apparent and are transferable to enable contact with friends and family.

We send out an email each week with meeting identity and security information plus a link to the club's meeting on the Zoom website. An alternative is to go directly on to the Zoom website and create an account in your own name, then download the software. That means that each week you simply login to Zoom, click on Join A Meeting, then enter the information from the email. Access is fast, but not instant. An F.C.C. 'host' will verify your details before admitting you to the meeting.

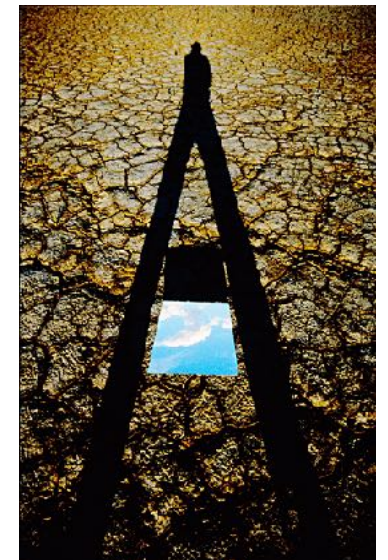
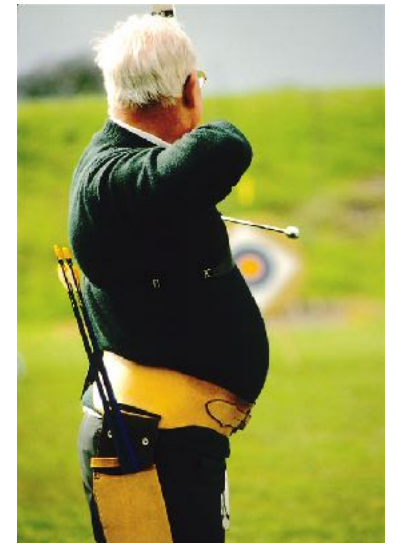
You then hover your cursor over the lower edge of the screen to reveal a line of options. At the left end you click on the Audio option in order to be heard if you wish to speak, and a Video option which switches on the camera in your device so that you can be seen. If you feel more comfortable leaving these switched off then please do so, you will be able to watch the presentation and listen to the speakers and we do ask everyone to switch those options off during a lecture or judging. Otherwise, everyone can hear any family conversations you might have plus any other incidental noises.

Please contact Stuart Pearson for any further advice and assistance or, to arrange an individual demonstration. Many organisations are now using these platforms and this season's Workshops will also be completed online.

40 Years in F.C.C.

All membership organisations rely on volunteers who give of their time and experience to the benefit of the organisation, none more so than Derek Forrest who joined F.C.C. in 1980. As the club's General Secretary for much of that decade he played a vital role during a period of expansion and achievement during which our Club grew in membership numbers and won the Scottish Photographic Federation Colour Slide Championship (now the Digital Championship) on two occasions. Among many other contributions, Derek was closely involved in the construction and many presentations over a period of years of the Forth Valley A.V. project and also the Photographic Competition which our Club ran on behalf of Falkirk Council.

He judged competitions at other photographic groups and promotes our Club by lecturing at clubs both within and outwith the photographic community. For over 30 years he was the most successful F.C.C. photographer ever on the International Salon of Photography circuit and continues to guide and advise Club members at all levels. During the past decade, Derek spent 4 years with the F.C.C. group who worked with the Rotary Clubs of Falkirk District on a Young Photographer competition and he also completed another term as the club's General Secretary. Derek carries his commitment and achievements lightly. On behalf of the many members of our Club over the years, Bob Black has now presented Derek with an engraved Quaich and a Certificate as a small gesture of appreciation and thanks for his work on behalf of our Club during the past 40 Years.



All images by Derek Forrest who joined Falkirk Camera Club in 1980 and is an Honorary Life Member.

Competitions & Questions

Camera clubs hold competitions, some more than others, but most will have regular competitions throughout the season and an evening at the close of a season where League winners are announced along with the winners of other individual awards. How then, can photographs be judged when photography is a subjective medium ? Or, is it really a subjective medium ?

Literature, Painting and Theatre, to name just a few, all have their own awards systems. Often there are different awards for different genres but it can be difficult to avoid, for example, a thoughtful and reflective movie about the struggle of humankind against all odds being ultimately judged against the latest CGI packed production about the latest super / power / fantastic hero movie where someone with a questionable taste in lycra saves the planet from doom & destruction.

Falkirk C.C. has an External Competition Secretary, an Internal Competition Secretary and a Web Controller. All are involved in Club competitions and all do the most amazing job. There are rules to follow, judges to find, all the entries to catalogue and track then results and league tables to process. As mentioned on page 1, we follow the lead of the S.P.F., the P.A.G.B. and F.I.A.P. regarding conventions and rules. We source the best judges available and as with lecturers, this task is done on a voluntary basis. There are guidelines for judges, and the S.P.F. has been at the forefront in establishing new guidelines in recent years. However, it would be fair to say that we are all different and some of us are more able to inspire through constructive critique than others. Remember also, any Club member can become a judge ! Start by contacting the Judge's Liaison Officer at the S.P.F.

Falkirk C.C. has 'A' & 'B' Monthly leagues. A new Club member will usually supply a minimum of 4 images so that a panel of experienced Club members can choose the most suitable league for them and here is the first hurdle. It's human nature to want to be seen in the best light so if a selection of high quality images is presented how do the selectors know that these are not the photographer's only high quality images ? If we put the photographer in 'A' section where the judges will be more critical, and they cannot maintain that quality of image, then they will get a bit disheartened by the criticism. If we put the photographer in 'B' section then some people are disheartened because they think they should be in 'A'. If you present a selection of 'A'

class images then that is likely where you will go however, might it be better to be promoted at the end of your first season in 'B' section than to finish in the lower part of 'A' ?

We do not all like the same Paintings, Sculpture, Food, Music etc etc. Therefore, why should we all like the same kind of photography ? There are many types of photography and 'club' photography is only one of many. A 'club' image would not fair well in an exhibition of Contemporary photography and the analogy can be taken further. A 'club' photograph is unlikely to fulfil the requirements of a newspaper picture editor and the reverse is also true.

In addition to Internal Competitions our club is fortunate to have longstanding connections to other photographic clubs with whom we enjoy an annual friendly competition and we also participate in S.P.F. championships. These help us to gauge our standards within the wider Club circuit. We also have a number of high achieving photographers. For example, the first F.C.C. photographer ever to be awarded an Associateship of the Royal Photographic Society, the most awarded F.C.C. photographer ever, and the three most successful F.C.C. photographers on the International Salon Circuit are all current Club members.

There was a time when 'club' photographers entered competitions to hear the comments of the judges. Is that still true ? Remember, we often learn more from the comments about other peoples photographs than about our own. The successful F.C.C. photographers mentioned above didn't necessarily set out to win competitions, they set out to expand their photographic techniques. They also understand that winning individual competitions is not the ambition, the ambition is to be able to contribute to F.C.C. entries in Inter Club and National competition. After all, if you win an individual F.C.C. competition yet your images rate poorly in Inter Club or National competition, what does that say about your internal F.C.C. success ? Winning those wider events is what makes us a successful Club. Why else would anyone want to join ?

You will notice that some of our Judges and Lecturers have distinctions after their name. A brief summary follows but you will find more information on the website of the issuing authority.

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

www.thepagb.org.uk

CPAGB,

Credit PAGB:

The first of three awards for photographic merit for a standard of images which might be expected to represent their club at Inter Club or Federation level.

DPAGB,

Distinction PAGB:

Awarded for a panel of photographs which might be accepted into International Salon's of Photography.

MPAGB,

Master PAGB

Awarded for a panel of photographs which might receive awards at International Salon's of Photography.

British Photographic Exhibitions

www.britishphotographicexhibitions.org.uk

BPE1*

BPE 1 Crown:

You will have achieved 25 acceptances in International Salons Of Photography who are members of British Photographic Exhibitions.

BPE2*

BPE 2 Crown:

You will have achieved 50 acceptances in International Salons Of Photography who are members of British Photographic Exhibitions.

Photographers can continue up to a BPE5* award which requires 300 acceptances in associated exhibitions then, apply for further distinctions.

Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique

www.fiap.net

AFIAP

Artiste FIAP

The photographer must have achieved no less than 40 acceptances in at least 15 different International Salons of Photography, in at least 8 countries over a 12 month period.

EFIAP

Excellence FIAP:

AFIAP holders must then achieve no less than 250 acceptances from 50 different images.

Photographic Society of America

www.psa-photo.org

- PPSA Proficiency PSA
The photographer must have achieved a minimum of 288 Salon acceptances from one, or more, PSA divisions.
- EPSA Excellence PSA
The photographer must have achieved a minimum of 700 Salon acceptances from one, or more, PSA divisions.
- MPSA
The photographer must have achieved a minimum of 1500 Salon acceptances from one, or more, PSA divisions.

Royal Photographic Society

www.rps.org

- LRPS Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society
The photographer must submit a panel of 10 images which illustrate their skill in Camera Work & Technical Quality, Visual Awareness, Communication, and Overall Impression.
- ARPS Associate of the Royal Photographic Society
The photographer must submit a panel of 15 images accompanied by a written Statement Of Intent. The panel must depict and communicate the aims and objectives set out in the Statement Of Intent. It must also communicate the photographer's vision and understanding as well as a high degree of technical skill and artistic presentation.
- FRPS Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society
The photographer must submit a panel of 20, or 21, images accompanied by a written Statement Of Intent. The panel must demonstrate the highest level of technical skill and artistic interpretation.

Competitions 2019 - 2020

Courtesy of our Archivist & Historian, Geof Longstaff, a wealth of information on F.C.C. competition winners and multi-win achievements are available on the Club website.

Among last season's successes were a number of notable achievements. David Jones won the Donald Poulson Wildlife Competition for the 9th successive year. This is the most successive wins of any one competition since Eric Bryson's run in the Colour Print of the Year competition during the 1970's & 80's. David also has 14 wins in the Colour Slide / PDI 'A' Section league which is the highest number of times anyone has won any single competition. This means that David has won F.C.C. competitions during each of the last 4 decades, the '90's, the '00's, the '10's and now the '20's. This moves him clear of Mick Cameron, Derek Forrest and Charles Woodford who all won F.C.C. competitions in 3 successive decades. Geof Longstaff has fewer overall wins than David but they are spread over 5 decades with successes during the 1980's too. Geof has also amassed more acceptances in International Salons of Photography than any other F.C.C. photographer in the long history of the group having moved ahead of Derek Forrest only in recent years and with Nancy MacArthur also featuring strongly on the International scene. Note that we can trace International successes from Falkirk photographic group photographers back to the 1930's !

Elaine Woodford is now only the second person to win all 3 'B' Section leagues following Robert Wallace in 2014. Add Elaine's 'Best Beginner' win and she joins 8 other F.C.C. photographers with 4 wins in 1 season and is only the 4th 'B' Section photographer after Robert Wallace, Lena Honey and Martin Ross with that achievement. Finally, Joan Clarke is the first person to have a 'shared' win of 2 competitions during 1 season. Although, David Jones has 3 'shared' competition wins overall.

In The Picture

The *In The Picture* spot in the Falkirk Herald is still open for submissions from F.C.C. photographers. Very occasionally, they use these photographs elsewhere in the publication. 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. Best of luck.

Closing Quip

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

Last time it was Eve Arnold OBE, Hon. FRPS who said: “ If the photographer is interested in the people in front of his lens, and if he is compassionate, it’s already a lot. The instrument is not the camera but the photographer “.

Eve Arnold (1912 - 2012) started her photographic journey in 1946 using a Rollicord. Tutored by Alexey Brodovitch she first published in Picture Post magazine in 1951 before joining the Magnum agency. In addition to photographing actors and royalty she photographed the plight of migrant workers in Long Island, the McCarthy hearings and drew attention to those suffering injustices.

This time, who said: “ A photograph fulfils my deep need to stop things disappearing. In photography I have tried to create order out of chaos, to find stability in flux and beauty in the most unlikely places. “

Was it: Dorothy Bohm, Jayne Fincher, or Inge Morath ?