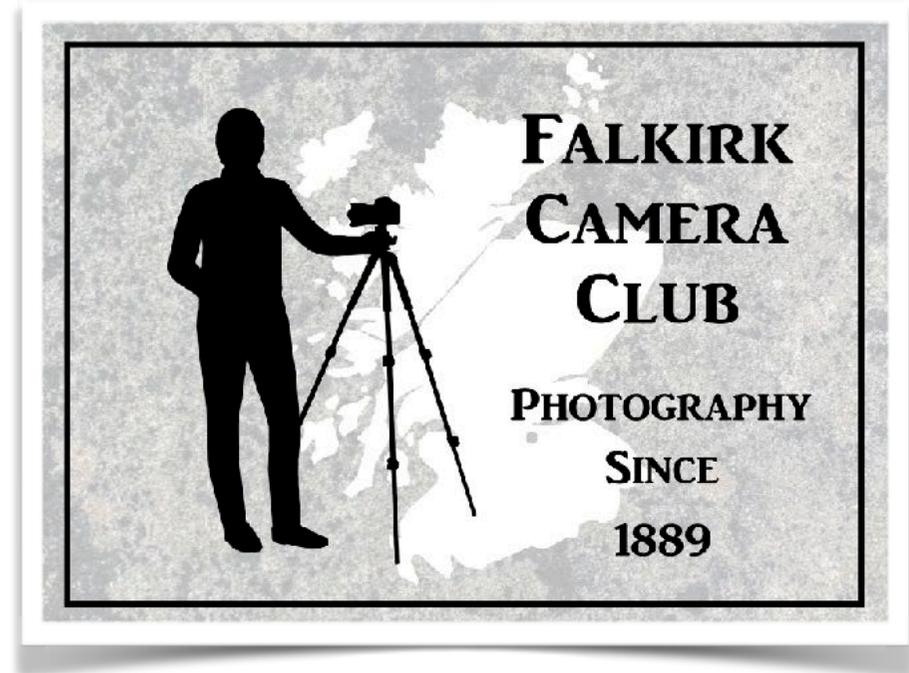


Newsletter

June 2020



Like all membership organisations, operating in challenging times, we have to adapt to a continually evolving situation with the health and wellbeing of F.C.C. members and families always taking precedence. It is not always apparent, but we are associated to an immensely wide community. We are in weekly and monthly contact with local media, other membership organisations locally & nationally including and outwith the photographic sphere, arts & civic representative organisations locally & beyond, plus local Councils and amenity Trusts. Be assured that we continually gather health, safety and operational information directly from them in addition to continually monitoring government advice & regulations. The manner in which we operate will change as we seek to provide an outlet for exploring photography in a safe & secure environment. We will not always get it right first time, we will doubtless make mistakes and cause you to wonder why some events are being handled in a particular manner but we will learn and that is where we need your help. Please get involved, let the Club know what you think of events, come up with new ideas and bring them forward. Together we will maintain the best traditions from the 131 year history of the photographic group in Falkirk, and move forward. Thank you very much for your support. Stay safe & keep in touch.

Looking Ahead

The necessity to end the 2019 - 2020 season of meetings, in a traditional sense, early has brought about huge change and the fact that the Club continued online, uninterrupted, the week after we last gathered at Falkirk Bowling Club was an astonishing achievement. In time, we will resume meeting in person but only when it is deemed safe to do so.

Online video conferencing systems, we currently use Zoom, are a quite different experience and we are working on an Etiquette Guide to help Club members be more comfortable in that environment. It was clear from the first online meeting that there was a need for this service and we hope to continue these online meetings until late July, after that time it will run on a more informal basis until the start of the next Club season in September. The quality of the online lectures has been outstanding with photographers speaking to us live from The Netherlands, New Zealand and around the UK. We know that the security of online platforms is a concern and, at the time of writing, Zoom are releasing a collection of programme improvements to precisely address those concerns. However, remember that Club members can also watch Thursday evening lectures live on You Tube or, can catch up later by watching recordings on the Club's online drive.

Looking further ahead, one of our first obligations will be to hold an A.G.M. although the exact format will depend on the public health situation at the time. Like all membership clubs we are dependant on volunteers. Some people sit on a committee while some help out on a Thursday night, at a Studio or Workshop event or now, assist with online events. The Club is extremely grateful to everyone able to help out in whatever form and thanks are due to everyone who has helped out over the past year, especially by recently remaining in their committee posts beyond their obligated period. The vacancies will include the roles of Treasurer and External Competition Secretary.

In the meantime, think about using You Tube or Zoom and please have look at the recordings of previous online meetings. Especially, watch Alan Harris's lecture from Thursday 4th June. It's a thought provoking presentation where he discusses documentary and contemporary photography from the 20th & 21st centuries.

Annual Exhibition 2020

Sincere thanks to Agnes Clark, Brian Taylor, David Jones, Dominic McAdam, Frank Owens, Iain Jamieson and Ronnie Anderson for their work in installing our Annual Exhibition in The Gallery at Falkirk Town Hall. It opened at the end of January immediately following Voyage To Antarctica by Frank Owens, which like last summers solo exhibition from David Jones, drew immense praise.

Our Annual Exhibition featured a tremendous variety of work from F.C.C. photographers including Portraits, Still Life and Landscapes plus, a significant portion of the exhibition followed the theme of Scotland's Coast & Waters. This allowed us to support Falkirk Community Trust's involvement in this scheme and assisted in promoting the exhibition. Everyone who submitted prints for the exhibition was included so sincere thanks to you for your support. As always our thanks are also due to our friends at Falkirk Town Hall and elsewhere at Falkirk Community Trust. Due to Covid-19 the exhibition ended one week early on 19th March, sincere thanks to Bob Black and Frank Owens for their help in removing the exhibition at short notice.



The Twig

Agnes Clark L.R.P.S.



Audio Visual World

The arrival of the Digital era revolutionised Audio Visual presentations. The aim of AV is to produce a sequence of images, supported by music or the spoken word, which tell a story, convey a message or illustrate a theme. The length of time an image is on the screen, the manner in which it changes into the next image, the music which is chosen and the delivery of the spoken word are all variable and can set the mood and tone of the sequence.

Our club first produced a programme using colour slides titled *A Meander Along The Forth* in 1972 with sound on a reel-to-reel tape recorder. At some point during the 1970's it was filmed on video tape and later put onto DVD which was donated to the Falkirk History Archive in Callendar House.

During the early 1980's the club obtained a second Rollei slide projector and a mechanical Dissolve Unit. Imagine two slide projectors sitting in a frame side by side. In front of each lens is a diaphragm just like the one in your lenses. Each diaphragm is connected by cable to its own slider control which both sit between the two projectors. You move one slider backwards and the other forwards, at the same time, so that as one image fades out on the screen the other fades in. You then change the slide in the dimmed projector and continue. Music or speech is controlled separately. Simple !

During 1984-85 there was a Club project to update the 1972 presentation when a list of locations was made which volunteers visited and photographed. Commentary was by Rex McFarlane, who went on to become an Honorary President and the AV was assembled in Callendar Park College courtesy of another H.P. in waiting, Jim Stewart. You will find Rex and Jim on the H.P. page on the Club website. The club then purchased a pair of Enna AV slide projectors and a Phillips cassette recorder with a Pulse facility. Now music or commentary could be recorded on to tape with a pulse placed at the point you wanted the slide to change, connect it all together and off you went. This updated presentation was titled *The Forth Valley* and was taken round other membership clubs in the district and

beyond. Jimmy Young, also to become an H.P., thoughtfully kept the slides and tape of that presentation. It was passed to Geof Longstaff who put it on DVD and a copy again donated to the archive at Callendar House. The Club also has copies of those DVD's.

These days image enhancement programmes like Lightroom have an AV facility. Powerpoint on a Windows computer or Keynote on a Mac can be used too and other more sophisticated programmes are available.

Don McDougall, was one of a number of ardent AV enthusiasts and is remembered by the annual competition we now hold in his name. This year the competition was judged by Andy S Hayes A.R.P.S., E.F.I.A.P./b, D.P.A.G.B., P.P.S.A. who kindly supplied an extract of his judging criteria which is printed below.

Our Club's AV group has learned a great deal together since forming a few years ago so, perhaps this is a good time to look at all the dormant images in our respective files and practice compiling sequences. Joan Clarke or Geof Longstaff can supply more information. Geof also provides a Supplement this month on life in the International Salon Of Photography world.

SOME OF THE CRITERIA

PICTURES

Should be competent, well composed, correctly exposed and balanced. Composition requires to tie in with other images.

The relationship between images is important.

Images should be same size and orientation.

SOUNDTRACK

Quality and complexity should be achievable and precise. Dialogue should be clear with gaps to absorb.

PRODUCTION

Should have a beginning, middle and end.

The whole should be the sum of the parts and fluid.

Transitions should be carefully chosen and used where needed but not over used.

AV should create another world for others to be invited into.

The audience should be changed in some way, informed, happy, angry by the use of appropriate images, sound, music and transitions.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. IS THERE A TITLE
2. DID IT HOLD TOGETHER
3. WAS IT A SEQUENCE OR A COLLECTION OF IMAGES
4. WAS THERE A STRUCTURE
5. WAS THE PHOTOGRAPHY TECHNICALLY AND PICTORIALY GOOD
6. DID THE SOUNDTRACK MATCH THE MOOD OF THE IMAGES
7. WAS THE SOUNDTRACK CRAFTED OR JUST A PIECES OF MUSIC
8. WAS THE SOUNDTRACK CLEAN, SCRIPT GOOD AND DIALOGUE WELL SPOKEN

9. WAS THE SOUNDTRACK BALANCED WITH THE DIALOGUE

10. WERE THE TRANSITIONS APPROPRIATE

11. HAS THE SEQUENCE BEEN PADDED OUT

12. WAS THERE AN OBVIOUS END

Exhibitions, Websites & Videos - June 2020

The Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield www.hepworthwakefield.org

Bill Brandt / Henry Moore Online now, until 1st November 2020

Photographer Bill Brandt & sculptor Henry Moore are two of the most distinguished artists of the 20th century. They first met during WWII and used their respective mediums to explore labour, society and industry. Much of the exhibition is now on the gallery's website.

Stills Gallery, Edinburgh www.stills.org

Projects 20 Selection Online now

This exhibition presents work from artists & photographers based in Scotland who are in the early stages of their career.

Google Arts & Culture <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/the-invention-of-photography/fAJij3PkQZd1Lw>

An extensive online resource for researching various genres of art including photography. The link is for a section examining how photography emerged through the work of early pioneers as recorded in the archives of the Royal Society. Enter Photography in the Search space for other exhibits.

Aperture

www.aperture.org

A not-for-profit foundation connecting and inspiring the photographic community. Established in 1952 by photographers and writers seeking “ common ground for the advancement of photography “. Among its founders were Minor White, Ansel Adams and Dorothea Lange.

Document Scotland

www.documentscotland.com

Website of 4 contemporary Scottish documentary photographers. Collectively and individually they examine the relationship between the nation’s people, history and landscape.

F.I.A.P.

www.fiap.net

The International Federation of Photographic Art comprises national governing bodies from around the world and exists to promote photographic art. F.C.C. is associated through membership of the Scottish Photographic Federation which, in turn, is a member of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. The P.A.G.B. is a member of F.I.A.P. When visiting their website, you might need to change the language to English. Then click on the Menu (3 Bars - top right of homepage) then choose Best Of The Best. The icon on the extreme right of each photographer brings up their images and the rest of the website informs about the work of the organisation.

You Tube

www.youtube.com

There is a plethora of video’s about photography online. The BBC Master Photographers series includes Bill Brandt & Ansel Adams while On Camera - Photographers At The BBC from 2017 includes more great photographers including Martin Parr. Top 10 Photographers Of All Time will introduce some other names while videos on Albert Watson, Charlie Waite, Steve McCurry & Yousuf Karsh are just a few other photographers you can find. The ‘Capture - Mark Seliger’ series might be of interest and being You Tube, it brings up similar programmes.

In The Picture

The *In The Picture* spot in the Falkirk Herald is still open for submissions from F.C.C. photographers indeed, Peter Easton featured in a recent issue and is again featured in the current issue. 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. The F.H. look for something reasonably local or from surrounding counties. 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 George Eastman who said “ Light makes photography. Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above all, know light. Know it for all you are worth, and you will know the key to photography.

George Eastman revolutionised photography when he founded Kodak in 1888 making the medium available to a much wider public. In the 1970's it was a 24 year old Kodak Engineer, Steven Sasson, who first produced a Digital camera which would evolve into a consumer product.

This time, 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.

Was it:

Mary Ellen Mark, Harry Benson CBE, or Eve Arnold OBE Hon, F.R.P.S. ?