

COEDPOETH AND MINERA CAMERA CLUB



NEWSLETTER

2026

Welcome to the 2025-2026 season newsletter.

I want to start by doing a quick recap of some of the highlights of the season, which began with the launch of our new website, more of which will follow.

It was my first year as the Chair, something that came as a surprise to me, but I feel on the whole it has gone alright.

One of the new initiatives that we have tried was the exhibition in Chirk Library. Although it did not gain us any new members, which had been the intention, it was very well received by the staff, and a number of members of the public that we met while there, either putting it up, or making a change of images half way through the month. Many thanks to Doug, who made the arrangements, and did the majority of the planning and hard work involved with setting up an exhibition of our photography away from our usual base. The staff at the library have offered us the space to use again, on the understanding that it is not in consecutive months, so I think we could certainly repeat the event at least once, if not twice in the coming season. If anyone knows of any other venues that will host an exhibition for us, free of charge, especially a little nearer to Coedpoeth, please let me know.

We have gained a couple of new members during the season, so hello and welcome to Holly and Colin (Robert). There have also been a few who have come for an introductory meeting, only to not return! So...what are we doing wrong? We market ourselves as a friendly club, and I'm pretty sure we did try our best to make visiting people welcome, but maybe we should do what my old Club did, and have a dedicated member who will act as "meeter and greeter" whenever any prospective new members arrive? Volunteers?

Some of us visited other Clubs for their exhibitions, starting with a trip to Chorley, by far the best, with lots of images on show, all of superb quality, but we also went to Conwy, Beaumaris and Menai Bridge, Dwyfor and Ruthin. It was very interesting to see the varied standard of photography at each Club. Also it gave us chance to network with members from other Clubs in the NWPA, to see how other clubs do their exhibitions, and an excuse for taking cameras to areas not usually visited.

Our attempts at broadening the reach of the Club have resulted in offers from both Frodsham and Wrexham to join some of their events, especially when they have external speakers, and this led to us inviting Suzy Freeman to come to our Club as a speaker, which resulted in a very interesting evening. Frodsham have invited our members to joint them on a photo walk to Wepre Park in the first week of our next season, and Wrexham have renewed their invitation for any speaker nights, and also a image processing training course running through the whole of the early part of next season.

Committee News

I want to give a big thank you to all the members of the committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the season. Everyone has fulfilled their remits fully, and gone that step beyond in most cases.

At the AGM at the end of the season, Doug and Tim both stood down, to follow other commitments, but Holly stepped up to fill some of the vacant positions, and some new ones. Since then Steve has also decided to stand down, leaving the internal competition secretary position vacant.

The committee is now :-

Chair	Diana Wynn
Vice Chair	Holly Lloyd
Secretary	Ian Woodward
Treasurer	Katherine Burrows
Programme Manager	Geraint Wyn Jones
Webmaster	Ian Woodward
External Competition Secretary	Diana Wynn
Internal Competition Secretary	Diana Wynn (acting until filled)
Photoshoots Co-ordinator	Holly Lloyd
Exhibition Manager	vacant
NWPA Rep	Diana Wynn
Hon Vice Presidents	DAvid Heard and Michael Lloyd Jones

Over the summer break various people have discussed the need for a membership/recruitment person, as the Club is desperately in need of more members if we are to stay financially secure, and Holly has expressed an interest in taking on this task as well, so it will be discussed at the next committee meeting, early in the new season.

New members on the committee are always welcomed as well, so if anyone would be interested in filling either the Exhibition Manager or the Internal Competition Secretary vacancy please come forward...you will be given plenty of support from the rest of the team.

The Website

We have a new one!

Pixoroo, designed and facilitated by Aleks Gjika, an award winning photographer and an international judge in his own right.

Compared to the old one, this is about half the cost each year, so that in itself is a big bonus, but it is also a lot more sophisticated and useful. In addition to the usual club website functions, it has the ability to manage the membership, provide galleries that can be projected direct from the site, and has a very well designed competition module, which is becoming the software of choice for more and more Clubs.

But getting the website up and running has not been an easy task, to ensure it fits exactly to our requirements. For this Ian has spent hours and hours of his time over the year, initially aided by Tim and Steve who need our thanks, with me as guinea pig many times. First it was concentrating on the website side of the system, to get a public facing offer that will look both attractive and professional to any members of the public, and to provide a user friendly interface for our members. Now the development has progressed to the competition module of the site, which has given Ian plenty to do over the summer break. Not a day has gone by without him beavering away at it, giving a new meaning to 24/7, as often I have a message from him, sent any time after about 03:30am! For this dedication I think we should all be very grateful. Oh, I forgot to mention, he has also fully documented every aspect of the system, so anyone should be able to carry on as Webmaster, should he no longer be involved...thank you Ian! The document is currently in excess of 400 pages when I last looked, and I am sure it will be a lot more than that now..

Now we just need to commit to using the website. Not only can you have your own gallery of images, you can enter the monthly challenge, ask for critique of images, see the programme in either list or calendar format, enter Club competitions, book to attend official photoshoots and keep up to date with new notices. I'm sure there are many other aspects to what you can find on the website, and now that it is so far advanced in its build, we will start to use it more often to communicate with you all, as indeed you can all do, to message the other members using the notification tab. I know there has been a certain reluctance or even hostility to the new site, but now it is far more advanced, please give it another chance.

A change is as good as a rest as they say!

What is coming up in the next season

Enough of looking back, lets look forward.

There have been a number of changes introduced to the Club over the last year; best for me, the acceptance at the AGM of the idea that the Chair will only serve a two year stint in future. It is not that I don't like being on the committee, but I know the public facing position of Chair is not my forte, so I am very pleased to know it has an end in sight, even though it will be another two years in the future.

Another major change will be with our internal competitions. As a committee we feel that the awarding of the trophies based on member judged contests is not a worthy use of the awards, so in future there will be four Club competitions a season, each with a dedicated judge. The first three this coming year will be judged by one of us, with me doing the first one, followed by Geraint and finally Steve. Doing this saves the fee for an external judge, and allows any hiccups with the new website based competitions to be fixed before we then have an external judge for the final one of the season. The savings in judges fees for these three competitions will then be used to pay for some quality speakers through the coming season.

In April next year, we are hosting a return Battle against Deeside, so another judge will be needed for this event, and I hope that we can produce a stunning selection of images to come out on top this time, against a Club with very similar abilities as we have. So, right from the very start of the season I am asking that you remember your best images from the last few years to put forward to the selection panel. As well as the Deeside Battle, we have been challenged to another Battle, by Wrexham, which I believe will be early in the new year, so this can be a testing place to see our work being judged against another Club. More details will be available for this one when we have them.

As well as these two Battles at Club level, there are the NWPA PDI and NWPA Print Interclub Challenges. The PDIs are first, and I will have the full details of this contest after the NWPA Executive meeting on 6th September, but we don't have much time as I think the closing date is mid October. Watch the news or notifications sections of the website for further news on this one.

Geraint has already got a couple of speakers lined up, one of whom is Robert Millin, who holds the highest level of distinctions of anyone in the UK, so if we can't learn from him we are doomed! As well as being a judge on the international circuit, he is an entertaining speaker, with a strong Scottish accent. Glancing through the programme I think I saw another speaker who is going to give us a travelogue style presentation, so that should be very interesting as well.

So, lets look forward to the 2026-2027 season, and all of us get the most from our Club and activities.

Obituary

As I was getting this newsletter ready to send out to you all, just in advance of the new season, I had the very sad news that Jill Clark, one of our longer serving members had passed away at Nightingale House.

I don't know a great deal about her, as she was a very private person, but I do know that she had a very good eye as a photographer, although she always refused to accept how good her images were.

She attended as many of our meetings as she could, even though she hated driving in the dark, and joined in on many of our photowalks and trips to see other Club's exhibitions, and was always very good company.

Rest in peace Jill, we will all miss you, but are privileged to have known you.

