

A perfect camera club.

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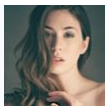
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By J.S. creative images., 6 days ago

Just like to say I went to my first ever camera club meeting a few weeks ago and i feel it was everything a club should be, it was very informative friendly and it is something that I feel every camera club should strive to be, unlike the horror stories I have heard of other clubs.

It is run by someone who has a real passion and talent for photography and art. For me the best way of learning is to be with others that share your passion, I really hope this club thrives as it has endless possibilities to become even greater, what is your idea or experience with camera clubs. The club is a long way to travel but definitely worth it



Ciaran Whyte said, 6 days ago

Glad you enjoyed it, but don't always believe the hype. I was a long term member of one club and it was far from a horror story. Visited many others, same thing. all lovely enthusiastic people.



MidgePhoto said, 6 days ago

Clubs vary in size and preferences, but nothing stops 5 people getting together and being one.



J.S. creative images. said, 6 days ago

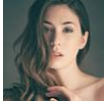
I must admit the first meeting was fantastic as for me it was a way to meet more people and learn a bit at the same time, as I am looking after my elderly mother I do not get a chance to get out as much as I would like I do hope I can contribute as time goes on .



MikeGardinerPhotography said, 6 days ago

My experience is limited but the main issue I have is in the name 'Camera Club'. I found that it was often about having the latest and greatest kit rather than photography itself! The other issue, with 'camera clubs' that I've visited is that generally, only way to show one's work is through competition. There are so many fantastic photos on here which would NEVER win at a club competition (and many would never even be accepted!) Lots of 'pot hunters' too, just photographing purely to win a competition, NOT to make great images!

OK, getting off soapbox now!



[Ciaran Whyte](#) said, 6 days ago

I was definitely a pot hunter, and helped/drive me to improve my work greatly. I do accept though, that once I reached a certain level of confidence/competence, I no longer needed that drive.

I'm still very proud of the fact that in less than 1 year in Ireland, I went through my Licentiateship, Associateship and Fellowship in 3 consecutive sittings.

Edited by Ciaran Whyte



[Holly Alexander](#) said, 6 days ago

That's great to hear, I'd also like to add that every camera club I've modelled for have been so friendly, professional, and you can see the love for the group.

Long live camera clubs!

I think the biggest threat is that they feel outdated, so I think encouraging young members is so important and changing things up a bit in terms of activities and competitions.

Edited by Holly Alexander



[MikeGardinerPhotography](#) said, 6 days ago

[Holly Alexander](#) ([Go to reply](#)) said

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Edited by Holly Alexander

In defence of the CC I was a member of for quite a few years, I used to organise 'model evenings' and the members were always very friendly and welcoming towards the models I used. Some of the images produced were very good...but they NEVER appeared in competition, which I felt was rather sad!

They do tend to be rather old fashioned as well as set in their ways. Younger potential members would often attend at the start of the season, then disappear after 2 or 3 meetings. I did catch up with a couple of them and they told me that 'it was not for them'. They cited that there was no help or assistance, no teaching, competitions were everything. I couldn't disagree with them unfortunately.

They were, and indeed are, a lovely bunch of people, always friendly but just unwilling to embrace new ideas and their numbers continue to fall and fall 😞



MidgePhoto said, 6 days ago

[link report reply](#)

During the Plague years, Exeter CC which is large took to Zoom meetings, and has continued a proportion of them among the meetings in person.

This allowed speakers from New York, New Zealand, the island of Ireland, Scotland* and just up the road to amuse us, which is more difficult otherwise.

There isn't an equipment sub-group, although there could be if people wanted one.

There is a competition for digitally projected images, once a year, and perhaps 1 in 4 members enter an image or two; and one for prints to which rather fewer do. Some clubs have more.

We also have image discussions, which if one were paranoid might feel like a competition.

The club puts on a couple of sessions for groups of new members at the beginning of the year, and makes some effort to look after individual ones. There isn't teaching, although there is a lot of show and tell, but other clubs do I think act as extra-mural classes in photographic practice or theory of art or whatever, and there is a university and a college.

Names: well ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Photography_organizations_established_in_the_19th_century

The earliest such club was the Edinburgh Calotype Club of 1843 an informal grouping of photographers

* Including The Yerburys

random said, 5 days ago

Definitely think Camera Clubs should rebrand as Photography Clubs.

The objective is to enjoy photography and I've always found it that way in clubs. If you enjoy gear more than the pictures that's fine, but I've never seen any camera snobbery in play.

Socialising with like minded people is a big part of it. Let's all have fun!



JPea said, 5 days ago

I have experience of two clubs.

The first was OK. Emphasis was on competitions and the images that did well were...how can I put it...artisan and not artistic. This isn't quite correct but as near as I can get.

It was nevertheless a pleasant experience.

The second Club was very cliquey and lacked warmth.

There is a certain old fashionedness about Camera Clubs and as Holly says they don't provide what younger people want.

I no longer have an interest and just muddled along alone.



LRM Studio Hire said, 5 days ago

Just had my first ever booking from a Camera Club who want me to host them and show how I shoot and edit the Studio's headpiece collection so a handy thread for me, thank you



Keith Lee said, 5 days ago

It's nice to see some positive comments about camera clubs for once as I recall reading a while ago another posting about camera clubs that was quite negative in most of the comments.

I have been a member of my local camera club for about 10yrs or more and have found the experience overall a positive one. Meeting like-minded people who share a common interest is always going to be beneficial to help progress one's knowledge and expand horizons. People are always going to lean towards whichever genre they are interested in. Some like landscapes, others nature, portraits etc. I personally enjoy street, portraits and action events.

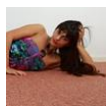
For the last few years, I have run the portrait group within my club and there has been a regular core of people who attend with a few dropping in or out as and when they have time. I'm glad to say that a lot of the portraits taken at these sessions are used in competitions both club and external. The sessions are run as much as a social event as they are a serious attempt at taking portraits as we have varying degrees of expertise in attendance. It's open to all who wish to take part, there's no clique in this area...

I agree that there is a certain demographic within our club and in clubs in general in that it seems to be older generations and few "youngsters" ie: those under 40. Recruitment of under 40s has been elusive but we are trying some new angles to attract them. Unfortunately, because of the bureaucracy involved in enrolling under 18s it is something we as a club have discouraged. I don't know what the solution is to encourage

younger members. We have special introductory evenings for new members at the beginning of the year to help them and to find out from them what they want from a club which helps us to integrate them. Join any club and it's not easy to get the full impression of what it's like until you've mingled and made a few friends, much like joining a new school.

I'm not saying clubs are for everyone, they have their place for like-minded people and some clubs are better than others in different areas. We as a club are trying to progress with different sub genres like phone groups, print groups and outings. We also offer help those who wish to get their distinctions from the RPS. I don't know what the younger generations want from a club or whether the future lies in Youtube, Instagram and the other platforms that pop up everywhere.

At the end of the day, clubs aren't for everyone, it's horses for courses.... I've made some good friends within the club, and I get what I want from my club although it can be quite frustrating at times so I have some idea of what can put people off.



[Grey Lensman](#) said, 5 days ago

I tried my nearest club last year. They usually have a weekly guest speaker. One was inspirational; one was interesting but was flaunting a budget I will never have access to, most were boring. I stopped going after an evening where no one bothered to speak to me. I can watch videos from YouTube at home; in more comfort; with better presentation and better content; cheaper and with more social interaction than the club experience.



[MidgePhoto](#) said, 5 days ago

[link report reply](#)

[JPea](#) ([Go to reply](#)) said

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There is a certain old fashionedness about Camera Clubs and as Holly says they don't provide what younger people want.

...

What do young photographers want?



[BIMS](#) said, 5 days ago

I have never been to a camera club meeting but I am attending a 'portrait session' at my local club later in the year. I've looked at their itinerary and they do things like macro, mobile phones, shutter drag and tons of

other stuff that I have zero interest in. For camera club members, are you kind of interested in all genres or do you go for the social or other reasons? My local camera club does portraits maybe once a year and that's why it's never appealed to me. Also, (because I have been known to make mistakes) I only ever shoot in manual and raw (wedding I might shoot a priority if outside) and I noticed a senior member of the club instructing people to shoot jpeg and jpeg only as the camera is the best tool out there are processing images. Well, I can put my hand on my heart and say for a fact that LRc beats my R6's hands down at denoising. I thought I haven't even been yet and already I can sense the kind of friction I've heard so much about.

It's reassuring to hear such a good review, and only just down the road from me too. But alas, even if the people are lovely and well capable there's just so many genres I'm not interested in.

[Matt Lakin](#) said, 5 days ago

Never had a bad experience modelling for a camera club, I really enjoy those type of events.

And if I try and picture it from a tog's viewpoint, I think they're a great way for them to work with a variety of different models at a more affordable price point...And it's an excellent way for inexperienced photographers to learn from and be mentored to a degree by more experienced photographers. Certainly helps develop skillsets.

These meets become a melting pot of ideas with usually a nice sociable aspect too.... Some great groups out there!



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How much noise do modern cameras have in a well-lit subject?

Big clubs will special interest groups, and ours for instance does a show and tell once a year. A portrait SIG seems an entirely reasonable thing to have, although we don't.

We don't have instructing either, although if you put an image up for discussion - you asked what people think, right - then there may be opinions on how to do it.

We have the black white and mono group, and also the shades of grey group, which is less colourful than some might hope. I'm in the BWM. I rather avoid the Visual Arts stuff, although selected items are nice to see. I suppose it is good that people record landscapes etc, and Nature is interesting, but nobody is obliged to photograph it or care, are they.

Some clubs have nude groups, others ... don't.

We also have buffets.



Ringo said, 5 days ago

[Ciaran Whyte](#) ([Go to reply](#)) said

[J.S. creative images.](#) ([Go to reply](#)) said

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Glad you enjoyed it, but don't always believe the hype. I was a long-term member of one club and it was far from a horror story. Visited many others, same thing. all lovely enthusiastic people.

Indeed, I, too I'm glad you've not only been able to join and gain benefit from a camera club but brave enough to post it here. Having the right person run a club is very important and this can change as roles change within the organising committee. Being a long-standing member of a club, I'd advise that you only get out of a club the effort you put into it.



Ringo said, 5 days ago

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Many clubs offer a pay to attend a (single) lecture or presentation. So you need not even join and be a full member (although they'd prefer you joined). I've attended talks at various clubs from superb speakers and photographers at minimal cost across the country.



Ringo said, 5 days ago

[JPea](#) ([Go to reply](#)) said

...as Holly says they don't provide what younger people want...

That's not exactly what Holly said. The essence here is that most camera clubs are members who have retired and may have taken the hobby a little more seriously (to get away from just looking after grand kids). So share a common life challenge(s). Younger people have a very different outlook on life, and having them enter a room filled with an aged generation and their mindset is just not...cool. Enticing them to come is not too much of a problem, but having them stay is seldom indeed. Many clubs are seeing membership reduce as the years go by, but are finding ways to provide activities that can be enjoyed by all age groups.

[Models in the Landscape](#) said, 5 days ago

[link report reply](#)

We attended and eventually ran a club for some years and can definitely state that not all clubs are the same. Someone has mentioned competitions - our club came 3rd or 5th in every inter-club comp (depending on whether there were 3 or 4 clubs participating).

Other clubs worked as our club had previously with the 10 or 20 images selected being those deemed the strongest even if only from 2 or 3 club members.

Our approach was to include the membership and if we have 20 members submit images then each would have an image included.

Whilst not everyone likes the idea of group model shoots, they present opportunity to those that would otherwise not have the option whether due to space, kit, knowledge, or confidence.

Yes, some clubs can be elitist but not all.



[J.S. creative images.](#) said, 5 days ago

Thank you for your replies I have not been in a camera club before and have limited chance to meet people at present as I am a carer for my mother, the first meeting at the club was great I am just thinking of what I can contribute to the club, I do not have technical experience to offer but may be practical contributions.



[BIMBS](#) said, 5 days ago

[MidgePhoto](#) ([Go to reply](#)) said

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if you are denoising a well lit image taken with a modern camera and lens combo then something is amis. I'm referring to those uncontrollable events, wedding, concerts, wildlife and many more in which case it's crazy not to use raw (its what its for)

From what you described there (buffet aside), I'd rather go it alone or form a group from a site like purple port where we all share a common interest.



[Gothic Image](#) said, 5 days ago

[BIMS](#) ([Go to reply](#)) said

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I've seen the same on group shoots though, the "expert" who needs to tell people how they should shoot the images. Unfortunately, there are quite a few of them around

