

Copeland

Photographic Society

Welcome Pack

2017/18

Last amended 17th Jan 2018

Copeland Photographic Society Welcome Pack

Welcome to the Copeland Photographic Society. Regardless of what your photography experience and skill levels are, it can be a very daunting experience when you first join a group like ours.

The aim of this document is to remove some of the mystery from the activities we are involved in and the terminology we tend to use. It has been written with the assumption that you are new to club photography.

We are an open and friendly group whose common interest is photography. Our hope is that you will go on to become a fully involved and valued member of the society.

Meetings

The society meets on a Monday night, 19.15 -21.30 hrs, from September through to April. There is a planned program of events which include Guest speakers, competitions, Practical sessions and social evenings. The program concludes with an award presentation night.

A full calendar of events is available and if you have not been given a copy, you can find the list on the society's website.
<http://www.copelandphotographicsociety.co.uk>.

There is also an 'Out of Hours' Group who meet through the summer months at pre-arranged locations to take photographs. These photographs are put together and form the basis for one of the social evening's presentation.

As well as a web site, the society also has an online 'Flickr' group and a Facebook Group. Both of which you are welcome to join once you have become a full member of the society. Please ask for details.

The society is affiliated with the Northern Counties Photographic Federation. Please see <http://www.ncpf.org.uk/> for details.

What we do

Guest Speakers

Guest speakers are invited to give talks and presentation on a variety of photographic subjects. These are usually very interesting, informative and well worth attending.

Competitions/Battles/Salons

There are several competitions throughout the year. These include, Internal Competitions, External competitions, two annual trophies and some set subject challenges.

You will already have been given a set of rules from the society which details the requirements for entering your images into the competitions. Please refer
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to these rules for clarification. Note: the website also has a copy of these rules.

Images for most of these competitions can be **Prints** or **Projected Digital Images (PDIs)** with the exceptions of the following

- Panel of Three, - Prints only x 2
- Triptych – PDI only x 2
- Frank Hendren Trophies – PDI only x 2
- Harry Bowness Trophies – Prints only x2

All other competitions allow each member two entries of each type. i.e. 2 x Prints and 2 x PDIs, four in total.

- There are four ‘Open Subject’ competitions throughout the year. Three of which can be either colour or monochrome and the fourth is for ‘Mono’ images only. ‘Open’ means any subject of your choice. Scores for each image are awarded out of twenty by the judge and totalled up at the end of the season with a trophy awarded to the highest print and PDI winners

All other competitions are awarded by 1st, 2nd, 3rd place with further classes of Highly Commended and Commended.

- There is a ‘set subject’ competition each year. The set Subject is chosen at the Society’s previous year’s AGM. The club year 2017-18’s theme is ‘Long Exposure’ ***The definition long exposure is that a tripod is required to take the photograph being longer than a 1/10th of a second.***
- There is also a ‘Panel of Three’ Competition. This involves three separate printed images with a common link and is for prints only. Each member is allowed two sets of three entries.
- There is now a new Triptych competition to be run on the same evening as the Panel of Three. These images will be in PDI format.

What is a Triptych?

Definition:

For the purpose of this competition a triptych (pronounced Trip’tik) ***is a presentation made up of three (and only three) distinctly separated photographic images displayed on a common background.***

Additional Guidelines:

The background should complement the presentation of the three images but must not become a significant “fourth image”

in the message of the triptych's three images.

The only restriction on the arrangement of the triptych's three images is that they must not meet or overlap.

There is no requirement that the three images must be either the same size or the same shape. Added borders, drop shadows etc. are allowed.

- The final competition of the season is the Print & PDI of the year. Each member is allowed to enter two of their best prints and PDI to be judged for best Print and PDI of the year.

Judges

The guest judges are all experienced and recognised photographers, who will critique the images.

The judge's comments generally take the form of constructive criticism. The aim is to learn from the judge's comments and improve your photography skills. It is interesting to hear the judge's opinions, not just on your own images, but those of other peoples too.

Internal competitions: The club invites guest judges throughout the season and as mentioned previously, 'open' competitions are commented and scored, whilst 'set subject' competitions require the guest judge to choose 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prints and PDIs, from the images entered and additionally several images may be awarded Highly Commended or Commended.

Frank Hendren Trophy: This is a PDI only competition for landscape Images of the Lake District. This competition is judged by a guest judge. A memorial Trophy is awarded to the winner at the end of season presentation night.

Harry Bowness Trophy: This is a print only competition for general Landscapes. This competition is judged by a guest judge. Again, a memorial Trophy is awarded to the winner at the end of season presentation night.

Both the Harry Bowness and the Frank Hendren Trophy competitions are held on the same evening.

Print and PDI of the Year Competition

Images, prints and PDIs, entered in this competition must have been entered in previous competitions of the current season. The images may be changed to incorporate the judge's comments from the previous competitions, as long as this does not substantially alter the image.

As per the other competitions each member is allowed two prints and two PDIs

The winning images of the Print and PDI of the Year competition are announced at the society's annual presentation evening.

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External Competitions

These are competitions between Photographic clubs/societies often referred to as 'Battles' or 'Salons'. Each club is allowed to enter a certain number of prints and PDIs.

Generally speaking, a guest judge will award the images from each club, a score out of ten or twenty points, depending on what is agreed beforehand. The scores from the individual images are added together and the club with the highest score wins. The entry conditions for these competitions can vary.

Any member of the society is free to put their images forward to represent the society in these competitions but the number of images any club is permitted to enter is restricted. Images are chosen to represent the society in these competitions and are selected by the committee.

Currently there are two main inter club battles that involve the society. These are hosted by a different Club in the area each year and comprise the Western Area battle and the Three-Way Battle.

Western Area Battle

This is an inter club competition which can involve several from the north of England and South of Scotland. Each club involved takes it turn to host the event on an annual basis. This competition is judged by a guest judge

Three Way Battle

This is a more local competition involve three clubs Copeland, Workington and Morton (Carlisle). This competition is judged by a guest judge

External Competitions/Salons

There are other external competitions in which individuals can enter their images. The society has an 'External Competition' Officer on the committee who will provide you with more information should you wish to enter an image in one of these competitions.

Practical Sessions

These are club nights when you can bring your camera with you and take photographs, on predetermined subjects such as 'table Top' photography, taking still life images of objects using a light box.

These sessions are good for watching and discussing other people's techniques and seeing how they use their equipment. They give you the opportunity to ask questions and learn how to improve your own skills.

Model Session

The club will arrange for a modelling session. This will give you the opportunity to work with professional/amateur models. The sessions are ideal for helping you to practice your technique and learn by watching others and asking questions.

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Show and Teach

On these sessions the members are placed in small groups and asked to critique a set of photographs. The author of the image can also explain how the image was planned/shot and processed. The aim is to help members to understand how the images are prepared and how they are judged in the competitions, with particular regard to the types of things judges tend to look for in an image.

Social Evenings

These evenings are purely social, where we all bring along some food, i.e. nibbles etc. A club member may present a slide show of his/her own photos and give a little talk. We also have an informal meeting with Whitehaven Ramblers where each group shows a selection of their photographs.

It is also a chance for an informal chat amongst members to discuss the various issues within the club.

AGM

An Annual General Meeting is held at the later end of the season where the committee and officers can stand for re-election or members can volunteer for the committee posts or any vacancies. Members can discuss any issues raised and theme for the themed competition can be decided.

Finally

As previously stated, we are an open and friendly group whose common interest is photography. Hopefully this document has explained some of the jargon that we tend to use. All these activities are optional. You simply choose which ones you want to take part in, if any. If nothing else, come along and enjoy some high quality and interesting photography.

If you have any further questions, then please just ask. Someone in the club will know the answers and will be only too willing to help.