

THE EXMOUTH PHOTO GROUP

A GUIDE FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

1. History and Details of the Group

In 1969 a number of the active members of the long-established Exmouth Camera Club formed a new Club with the principal rule that it would be for active photographers only. It was named the Exmouth Photo Group. Some of the founder members are still active today. The Group has a large amount of equipment and has always preferred to support its active members rather than its bank manager.

2. Committee

The Group is organised by a committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting in March or April. This is made up of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Competition Secretary and one Committee Member. The names of these officers are included on the back of the annual programme.

3. Archives

The Group has an Archivist who keeps the full history of the Group. Any members wishing to see the archives, or contribute anything to them, should approach the person responsible. (See the annual programme for the name of the archivist.)

4. Meetings

The Group normally meets at Exmouth Community College, Judith Telfer Centre, Gipsy Lane, Exmouth, EX8 3AF on Friday evenings from September to May. The meetings start promptly at 7.30 p.m. and finish no later than 9.45 p.m. These meetings are detailed in the programme, which can be obtained from the Programme Secretary or Club Secretary.

During the summer months there are various outings on Friday evenings, usually followed by a pub meal if desired, and some daytime outings on Sundays. A separate summer programme is produced which is printed separately. Occasionally Sunday walks are held during the winter months. Members often share lifts by pre-arrangement, particularly for those which are further afield.

5. The Programme

This includes club competitions, lectures on techniques, projects by members, Inter-Club League matches, visits from other Clubs in the area and distinguished outside speakers showing their work. Any suggestions for lecturers or activities for the Group are welcomed by the Programme Secretary. Organisers for Summer outings are also welcome.

6. Membership

There are two classes of membership of the Photo Group - Full and Associate - with reduced rates for students aged 18 or under and full family members. Current rules for members can be found on the Notice Board or obtained from the Secretary. Associate membership is reserved for the spouses/partners of members. Associate members are able to attend all main club functions, but not any of the specialist groups. They cannot enter club competitions, vote at the AGM or use any of the Group's equipment. A list of all members, addresses and telephone numbers is given to all members each year. Associate members may be asked to leave the Group should full and active members

wish to join and the Group has its maximum membership number. (This will depend on the size of the meeting room)

7. Fees

Fees are due September of each year and are determined by the membership at the AGM of the previous year. New members are required to pay a small joining fee. Members joining part way through the year pay a proportion of the fee. The Treasurer will give details of fees payable.

8. Joining the Photo Group

Prospective members are welcome to come along to a few meetings to see whether they would enjoy the activities. There is a Membership Secretary who will endeavour to introduce you to members and to make sure your stay is a pleasant one. You will be given the names of two members (sponsors) to whom you can turn for any advice or help on the Group's activities. If you know someone who is already a member, almost certainly he/she will be there as a supporter. An Application Form to join the Group can be obtained from the Secretary together with a copy of the Rules.

9. Advice

Most members are more than willing to give help and advice on any aspect of photography should you need it. We have members within the group who have knowledge on working in the darkroom, studio work and anything digital and we would encourage you to ask for any help or advice you want.

10. Projects

Members are encouraged to undertake a project on a subject of interest to them and at the same time broaden their photographic experience. Some members do this every other year and derive a great benefit from it, as do the rest of the Group members. In fact, members' Project Evenings often give some of the most satisfying evenings in the whole programme. The project should take the form of a series of prints, slides, AV(audio/visual), or digitally projected images with some kind of commentary and should not be less than 10 minutes, though if you wish to have the whole evening that can be arranged. It may suit a small group of members to work together to produce a joint project on a subject of mutual interest.

11. Exhibitions

Once a year, the Group tries to stage an exhibition in Exmouth at a venue to be decided wherein all members are invited to show examples of their work. These exhibitions are arranged primarily to present our work to Exmouth visitors and residents, to give some pleasure and also publicise our Group. Members can also exhibit in the Western Counties Photographic Federation (WCPF) Members' Exhibition, which is held each May. The WCPF is an association of the majority of the clubs in the South West.

12. Club Competitions

Please refer to the separate sheet describing club competitions.

13. South Devon League/Inter Club League

Please refer to the separate sheet describing club competitions.

14. Library

The Photo Group owns an extensive library on all aspects of photography. All of these are available for loaning to members. Most are stored with the Secretary and can be seen by request. Please contact the Librarian whenever you wish to borrow a book. A list of the Library Books can be seen in the Members Area of our website.

15. Specialist groups within the Photo Group

Digital Discussion: The Photo Group now has three extra evenings during the season which are held at The Manor Cottage, St Andrews Road, Exmouth. The idea of each evening is to centre on images you have taken based on 2 set subjects given in advance and each member must bring along up to 4 images. These images to be discussed/criticised on difficulty/ease, composition, exposure, quality to encourage more members to become involved.

16. WCPF: The Western Counties Photographic Federation is an association of the majority of the clubs in the South West, from St. Ives to Swindon to Sherborne. The WCPF arranges an annual exhibition and folios, which all clubs may enter. The folios of both print and slide work are seen by us at the Clubroom during the season, and the Exhibition is also open for members to view at whichever Club is staging the Exhibition that year. The WCPF also organise weekends away somewhere in the South West each year. These are most stimulating and enjoyable.

17. Website

The club has a website (<http://www.exmouthphotogroup.com/>) which is our "window to the world". Amongst other things, a newsletter about recent or future club activities appears here from time to time, and competition winners are displayed.

18. Other Matters

If there is anything else you wish to know about the Photo Group not already covered by these lengthy notes, please ask any member for that information. We should also like to know of anything that you don't like, so that it can be discussed.