

Muswell Hill Photographic Society

Notes for New Members March 2021

Meetings

We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7.45pm about 40 times a year. During the lockdown we are currently meeting on Zoom; later in the year we hope to return to either Friends Meeting House, Church Crescent, Muswell Hill or to Jacksons Lane Community Arts Centre on Archway. We have short breaks at Christmas and Easter and a longer break in August. We start the actual events promptly at 8pm so we ask everyone to join the Zoom meeting at 7.45.

We also have informal meetings on Zoom at 8pm on Thursdays. These meetings are for socialising, sharing ideas, creative tips or information about events, talks, exhibitions etc that we think the group would find interesting and of course, for showing some of our work that we might not otherwise be able to share in the structured meetings. This includes work from our archives as well as recent work.

Instructions for joining the regular Wednesday Zoom meeting are included in the weekly Newsletters. Instructions for joining the informal Thursday Zoom meetings are included in the reminder emails sent round each week by Charlotte or Adam.

Officers

President	Charlotte Mann*	* Committee Member
Vice President	Mary Davis*	
Secretary	Daphne Trotter*	
Treasurer	Malcolm Hemmings-Portas*	
Membership Sec.	Stephen Gainsley*	
Digital Team	Adam Adamis*, Janson Woodall	
Website	Jonathan Mears, Janson Woodall	
Programme Team	Graham Parkinson* (Co-ordinator and Portfolio Nights), Angela Dougall(Walkabouts), Paul Plummer (Competitions and Judges), Esther Serrano, (Lectures), Martin Goldman (Magazine Evenings)	

Newsletter

We email a Newsletter to all members every weekend. It is produced by Daphne with the help of other Committee members, reports on the previous meeting and gives all the necessary information about the next few meetings. We also include information about current photographic exhibitions and other items of news.

Website

The website, www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk has recently been redesigned - and we are very proud of it. Feel free to tell friends about it. It contains basic information about the Club and a schedule of our meetings. There is also a Gallery where members' images can be seen. Potential members, visiting judges or speakers may look at these. Every member is invited to select up to 21 of their images to be shown on the website. Contact the Website Team to arrange this. Email jonathan@genial.co.uk We may also show recent competition entries, Showtimes etc. There is a password to the Members Section, which we ask you to keep secret.

Emails

After registering their own email address, members can send emails to all other members at mhps-members@muswellhillphoto.org.uk

Guests

Generally we allow members to bring guests - either friends/partners or potential new members; but please check with the Membership Secretary or President first. Potential new members can come a couple of times for free but MUST discuss their visit in advance with the Membership Secretary to help control the numbers and to keep a proper record of who is interested in joining. We also have Associate Membership. This is offered to Full members who for various reasons cannot renew their Full Membership but would like to attend a few times. It is not available to new members.

Competitions

We have about 6 competitions each year, with invited judges. One or two of the competitions will be only for prints (when we have actual meetings); the others are for digital images or prints.

For each competition 3 images may be submitted, in any combination of digital or printed format (except of course for the print-only events). They may have been shown before at the Club in other events but you may not re-submit images which have been shown before in a competition. Most competitions are judged by experienced external judges but once a year we judge the entries ourselves. The photographs must have been taken within the last 2 years.

One of the competitions is called "The Mike McCarthy Award" in memory of a member who died in 2011. Mike was very fond of nature and wildlife photography, The photographs entered for this competition must reflect this, in form and subject. The general title is "Nature." More detailed guidance on the qualifying rules are given nearer the time of the competition, which is in July.

For some, the competitive element and the score given is important, a reward well-deserved for taking a good picture. For everyone it's an opportunity to get serious feedback, and to see how a judge sees your own familiar images - though a lot of the fun is sharing our disagreements (even incredulity) at the judge's comments. But mainly the competitions are evenings to show interesting photographs to each other and thus entertain each other. So don't be shy and refrain from entering just because you don't think you have any masterpieces. We, and the judge, may disagree anyway!

Detailed technical instructions for submitting digital images are given in the Programme and in the email which is sent in the week before each event. It is very important that the rules are followed. The maximum size of 1920 x 1200 pixels is chosen to match our projector. Prints should be mounted.

Set Subject and Showtime evenings.

Members can normally show 4 photographs at these evenings, in any combination of prints and digital images. Alternatively, members may show a short video. If it's a Set Subject the subject is shown in the Programme. For Showtimes we strongly urge members to show photographs on a related theme, to explore some specific aspect of photography which interests them. Members talk about their photographs and, with luck, others join in for a discussion. The two year rule normally applies.

Portfolio Nights

These meetings give members the opportunity to show a larger number of their images ie to share a project or explore in more depth a particular type of photography. There is time for 6 members each evening so the space must be arranged in advance. Full details are provided a few weeks before these events.

Inter-club Competitions

We take part in 3 competitions each year with other local clubs, some for digital images and some for prints.

We also have Walkabouts, Studio Nights, Lectures and Social events.

Image of the Year and Print of the Year

At the end of the year we have 2 special competitions:- Print of the Year, and Image of the Year. The important eligibility rules are:-

1. The photographs submitted must have been shown before at the Club during the year, in any of the Competitions, Set Subjects, Showtimes, Portfolio Nights or similar events. If a member has given a talk or personal show with a lot of their own pictures, these are not eligible, though probably the best ones will have been shown at other times and are therefore eligible.
2. The photographs must be in the same format as when they were shown before (ie as prints or as digital images.) But to encourage prints, for the Print of the Year we may allow you to submit one extra print which had been previously shown digitally.

Members may enter up to 3 photographs for each of these competitions.

Submitting Digital Images

It is very important that digital images are submitted strictly according to the instructions so as to simplify the work of the Digital Team who prepare them for showing.

For COMPETITIONS, SET SUBJECTS and SHOWTIMES your images must be titled with YOUR NAME first, a dot, followed by a Number, a dot, and then the TITLE. A dot and JPG normally follow automatically. e.g. Julia.1.Beach Huts.jpg The number is essential so that your pictures are shown in the right order (but are randomised in competitions). A title is not required for Portfolio Night submissions.

To suit our projector, the maximum number of pixels is 1920 horizontally and 1200 vertically. For best results, to fill the screen, use the maximum possible. You have to assess if the vertical or horizontal dimension is critical. If in doubt about this process discuss with another member. All images MUST be submitted by Midnight on the Monday before to:-
digital.team@muswellhillphoto.org.uk

Membership List

A list of members giving their email addresses and telephone numbers is distributed. If you do not want your telephone number included, please contact the Membership Secretary.

Keeping Records

It is a good idea - almost essential - to keep a clear record of all the photographs you show during the year, to help you select entries for the various end-of-year shows. A dedicated file/album on your computer is recommended, with a cross reference to any prints shown.

Old Projector

The Club has an old digital projector and screen which members may borrow.

Affiliation

The club is a member of the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies, which is a member of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

GDPR

All members must comply with these regulations. Details can be found on the website in the Members Only section, where a link to the Constitution can also be found.