



# VIEWFINDER



## Hemel Hempstead Photographic Society

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**Viewfinder** is the monthly journal of photography for and by members of the **Hemel Hempstead Photographic Society** (otherwise known as HHPS).

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### Editorial

It's useful, now we're at the end of another season, to reflect on what we've covered during the year: there have been some interesting events, as well as the usual League competitions. Sadly, though, it has to be said that attendance has not been as good as it could be. Out of a membership of nearly thirty (excluding two who live abroad, and honorary members), the average attendance has been fourteen, with some evenings seeing as few as eleven members, which can be embarrassing on League Competition evenings when a judge has taken the trouble to drive sometimes many miles, even in bad weather. Only a few years ago we were regularly getting twenty-five. There will obviously be times when illness, work, or family commitments must take priority, and everyone is entitled to holidays. But perhaps there is something we're not doing right, or something that needs to be addressed that might encourage more people to attend on a more regular basis. It would be useful to know.

Having said that, the new season got a boost in December, with a talk by Andy Skillen on his career as a wildlife photographer. Hosted by Pinner Camera Club with a contribution by HHPS it was possibly the highlight of the season. His illustrated presentation raised £2,500 in aid of the David Shepherd Foundation, which aims to protect endangered wild-life, and covered many of the projects he'd worked on, including with National Treasure David Attenborough.

Before that, though, in September Ullly gave a presentation on one her trips to the US, this time covering the Pacific North West, with a detour into British Columbia. In October Cat Humphries, a regular visitor as a competition judge, gave an interesting Zoom presentation in which she used some of her own photographs to illustrate what judges look for in competitions, aided by an app in which participants could score her images using the criteria previously outlined.

In November Lloyd Moore, who had visited us as a judge a few weeks before, gave a talk on creating images with a narrative, particularly as they apply to club competitions, pointing out that judges have to assess images in a short space of time so they need to have impact in order to stand out.

Also in November, Rob led a session on how to plan and execute a portrait session, looking at what a portrait is and the elements which go to make up a "good" portrait - in particular getting to know the sitter in order to establish a rapport. This was followed by critiques of some of the images taken at a previous studio shoot.

In January, in a change to the published programme, Stephen Ball stepped in at short notice to give an illustrated travelogue based on his book 'Scotland Captured', in which he travelled first along the eastern side of Scotland, then on to the Highlands and Islands and finishing down the west coast, capturing images using a variety of techniques.

In February our own John Humphrey gave an interesting and sometimes humorous and thought-provoking illustration of different techniques for creative images, using some of his own images (not all successful, by his own estimation) as examples of what can be achieved.

Almost as a follow-on from John's presentation, in March Tony North gave a talk on Abstract Photography, with reference to how his own abstract images - and perhaps abstract photography generally - has been influenced by abstract painters. He put forward a general definition of abstract photography: that it is non-representational and consists of different elements such as lines, shapes, colour, but arranged in an aesthetically pleasing composition. He illustrated different techniques from his own images, both in-camera: Intentional Camera Movement, multiple exposures, and a combination of these; and with editing software (eg collages).

Other events have included a practical session in September where members demonstrated how to use Lightroom, Photoshop and Affinity; the traditional Christmas Quiz, with David Howard taking over the role of Quizmaster from Emyr; an external competition on the theme of Intimate Landscapes, an annual event hosted by Tring camera Club, although this was the first time we had submitted entries; and the usual "I Was Robbed" session, giving members the opportunity to show images which they felt judges had not done justice to, with comments and suggestions for possible improvements from other members.

In April Clare Long organised a well-attended walk along a stretch of canal from The Fishery Inn, with warm evening sunlight creating favourable conditions for photography. Rounding off the season Emyr organised another of his Hidden Treasures tours, this time in Berkhamsted (see below).

## **In this issue**

A shorter edition this month as we come to the end of another season. Everyone's efforts in the season's competitions culminated in the presentation of images submitted for the Annual Awards, the results of which are given below.

In addition, John Marshall marks 100 years of the Leica camera with a chronology of its development since Oskar Barnack went to work for Ernst Leitz and conceived the idea of a portable camera using 35mm film.

*Jim Turner, Editor*

## Contents

Click on the link below to go to the page

<b><u>News, Information, Meetings</u></b>	Page 4
<u>Hidden Treasures Tour by Emyr Williams</u>	Page 6
<b><u>Committee Members 2025/26</u></b>	Page 8
<b><u>Members' Articles</u></b>	
<u>Happy Birthday Leica by John Marshall</u>	Page 9
<b><u>Annual Awards 2025</u></b>	Page 14
<u>Snippets</u>	Page 17

## News, Information, Meetings

### Back Issues and Contributions

*Previous editions can be viewed and/or downloaded from the HHPS website in the Viewfinder Archive, (under the Viewfinder tab) which goes back to 2016. There you can also find the Viewfinder Index which has been updated to include links to all the articles from January 2016 to March 2025, listed under three headings - date, author, and topic (the index will be updated to include the April to June issues next month).*

***Content from any member for future editions is always welcome, whether short, helpful, snippets, or longer articles (preferably illustrated with photos) of one or more A4 pages, and they can be about any photographic topic.***

### Reminders

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**If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining HHPS please bring them along. They can sample up to three sessions for free before deciding to join.**

### Summer Challenge

The Summer Challenge is an opportunity (and an incentive?) to continue to practice your photography during the summer break, and present your best images - on any subject - at the first meeting of next season on 1st September in a fun competition. **You can register up to three images (DPis) taken since 1st June by the deadline of the 25th August.**

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## This Month's Meetings:

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*The majority of meetings will be scheduled for the Salvation Army Hall. However, it is still possible for circumstances to change, e.g. an event planned at the hall might be changed to a Zoom meeting or alternative venue at short notice. Consequently, **be aware of any special announcements**, usually posted on the web via email and/or on WhatsApp, which might indicate a change of location and/or activity.*

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The first event this month was originally intended to be a walk in the woods at Ashridge, a regular item at the end of the season. It was felt, however, that after a few years we had probably exhausted its photographic potential, and discussions about other suitable venues eventually resulted in the decision to take a casual walk around St Albans, taking in the lake, the cathedral and parts of the town. Whether the word had not reached people or it just didn't appeal, only three people turned up (myself, Rob, and Peter) so it was decided to curtail the walk and go for a drink in the Fighting Cocks at the cathedral end of the lake where, from an outside bench, we enjoyed the light from the setting sun on the lake and on the remains of the Roman wall on the far side.

A more successful, and well-attended, event was Emyr's annual Hidden Treasures walk, this time in Berkhamsted, on 9th June. Emyr pointed out some of the interesting history of the town and some of its quirkier "hidden treasures" (see Emyr's summary on the next page).

The main event of the month, rounding off the season's competitions, was the Annual Awards commentary on 16th June, judged by Ben Pyke. Always a daunting task for any judge, this year Ben had to sift through and assess 130 images, consisting of Mono and Colour Prints and Projected Images. Some of the categorisations seem to have had him slightly confused, but he was able to provide some insightful commentary on most images. The results can be found below (images will appear in the September issue).

The final meeting was given over to the AGM, with the main item on the agenda the election of the Chair, and the Committee for the 2025-2026 season. The new Committee members are listed below, David Howard taking on the role of Chair for the next two years.

Although it was decided last year to increase the fees from £40 to £45, and abolishing the discount for pensioners, the club is still making a loss. Brian Howard and the auditor Ron Smith therefore proposed increasing the fee to £60, which would allow the door levy to stay the same at £3. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Brian also proposed that, in the event that a new Chair was not forthcoming at the end of the current Chair's tenure, the current Chair could continue for a further three years in yearly increments if they were willing. This was also carried unanimously.

## Hidden Treasures of Berkhamsted

By Emyr Williams

In what's now becoming an annual tradition, this being the fifth one, a good group of us took a June walk around some of Berkhamsted's hidden treasures. The weather was amiable enough, though without last year's golden hour glow.

Starting outside the picturesque Town Hall, we headed eastwards towards Hemel, taking in the several blue plaques on Berkhamsted's established Heritage Walk, but much else besides.

Surprisingly, Britain's oldest half-timbered building, currently occupied by Sterling Estate Agents, and formerly Figges Pharmacy, doesn't have a plaque. Built in 1270, when Berkhamsted was already an important town with a population of 3,000 - London itself only having 50,000 at that time - it was only 'discovered' in 1999, and it's thought it was originally a shop.

We took in many ancient dwellings, wandered through old alleyways, then up Rectory Lane and the cemetery with its curiosities including the very recent 'Flying Cross', as I term it, before spotting strange gargoyles, eerie door knockers and much else amongst the slightly hidden High Street houses.

Tales of murder, romance and old traditions brought us nicely through to our journey's end, at The Bull, with its Tudor (1535) bow window and fireplace, good Tring Brewery Ales and some great group conversation.



The High Street



Contemplating  
"The Flying Cross"



The Bull Inn



Historic Back Streets



Cat and Mouse  
Door Knocker

Photos provided by Lai Chan

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[\[back to Contents page\]](#)

## HHPS Committee 2025-2026

### Officers

Chair	David Howard
Vice Chair	Emyr Williams
Treasurer	Brian Howard
Secretary	Vacant
Programme Secretary	Rob Harley
Publicity Secretary	Emyr Williams

### Associates

Viewfinder Editor	Jim Turner
Webmaster	Brian Burgess
Internal Competition Secretary – Prints	Clare Long
Internal Competition Secretary – DPIs	David Guest
Projectionist DPIs	David Guest
Studio Group Representative	John Marshall
Members' Representative	Ully Jorimann
Programme Secretary – Assistant	Ian Shaw
External Competition Secretary	Mike Mitchell
Social Media Secretary	Vacant
Honorary Auditor:	Ron Smith

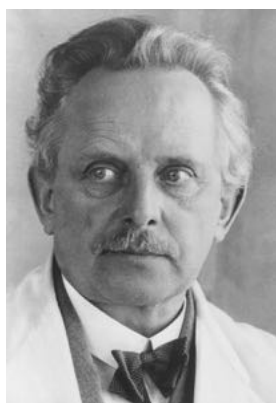
[\[back to Contents page\]](#)

## Members' Articles

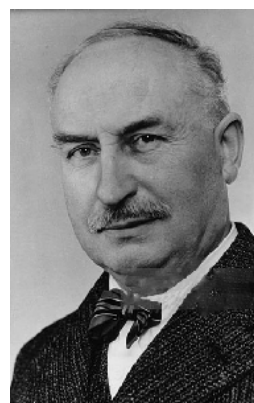
### “Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Leica!”

By John Marshall

*I would like to dedicate this article to the late Martin Arnold - a former HHPS member - who was a dedicated Leica user throughout his photographic journey. Had he been alive he would no doubt have written a far superior article to celebrate this milestone.*



Oskar Barnack



Ernst Leitz

**1911** Oskar Barnack leaves Zeiss to join Leitz – a company renowned for high quality optics and microscopes.

**1913** Barnack begins to consider the idea of a camera which can use standard 35mm cine film, and eventually designs and builds the Ur Leica.

However, the name Leica, from Lei(tz) Ca(mera), had not yet been decided upon.



1914 UR-LEICA

**1923** Barnack continued with his idea after World War I and got agreement to have a small production of hand made cameras called the O Series Leica for Leitz employees to test.



O-Series Leica

**1925** The first commercially available Leica – the Leica 1 Model A – was introduced at the Leipzig Spring Fair in March 1925 making this year (2025) the Leica's 100th anniversary. The Leica 1a had a fixed lens and a focal plane shutter which remained open when re-cocked. This meant that the lens had to be capped when the film was wound on to prevent the film being fogged.



Leica 1a

**1926** Alongside Model A, Model B was launched with a Compur Shutter rather than a focal plane shutter. This removed the need for capping the lens during wind-on and introduced the slower speeds missing in the Model A.



Leica 1b

**1930** The Leica 1 Model C saw the introduction of interchangeable lenses using the L39 39mm screw thread lenses. However, at first lenses had to be matched to individual camera bodies, though soon lens mounts were standardised so that lenses could be fitted to all bodies.



Leica 1c

**1932** The Leica II (Model D) was the first model with a coupled rangefinder.



Leica II

**1933** The Leica III (Model F) brought slow speeds to its focal plane shutter with a control on the front of the body next to the lens.

In 1925 the sales of Leica cameras accounted for just 5% of Leitz sales but by 1933 this had risen to 60%.

The Leica III was improved through different models from the Leica IIIa to the Leica IIIg from 1933 to 1956, the Leica IIIg being the last of the L39 screw thread cameras.



Leica IIIa



Leica IIIg

**1954** The first production model of the M-series Leicas, the Leica M3 was released with the new bayonet-fitting interchangeable lenses.

Developments to this series of rangefinder film cameras continued through to 2002 with the Leica M7. Professional models designated with the letter P were also produced.



Leica M3



Leica M7

**1964** Leica's first SLR made its appearance in the form of the Leicaflex. A series of lenses with a new bayonet fitting were produced for the Leicaflex, though an adapter made it possible to use other Leica lenses. Later models, the Leicaflex SL and the Leicaflex SL2, were produced before the R series of SLR's were produced in collaboration with Minolta.



Leicaflex

**1989-2003** Leica produced a number of compact and sub-miniature film cameras.

**1998-2006** Working with FujiFilm and Panasonic the Digilux digital cameras appeared on the market.

**2006-on** The Leica M series were produced as digital cameras from the M8 to the M11 including the M Monochrom which was designed for black-and-white photography only. These remain as Leica's flagship cameras.



Leica M8



Leica M11

**2015-on** The SL digital cameras were produced with the latest flagship SL3-S being a full-frame mirrorless camera with a 24MP sensor.



Leica SL3-S

I have just discovered that Leica Camera AG have recently announced that they have produced their first ever 35mm black and white film to mark their centenary. The description of Monopan 50 is a new, high-resolution black-and-white film with enhanced spectral sensitivity. Leica still produce three 35mm film cameras - the Leica MP, the Leica M-A and the Leica M6.



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[\[back to Contents page\]](#)

## Annual Awards 2025

### Colour Prints - General

Group	Image Title	Author	Award
C	Well Past its Best	Richard Anthony	1st
	Perfect Control	Clare Long	2nd
	Concert Hall Facade	Richard Anthony	3rd
B	Olga	Brian Burgess	1st
	Running to the Start	Brian Howard	2nd
	Sir Nigel Gresley	Brian Burgess	3rd
A	Railway Carriage	John Humphrey	1st
	Flower Power	John Humphrey	2nd
	Seated Lady in Sandstone	Rob Harley	3rd

### Mono Prints - General

Group	Image Title	Author	Award
C	The Coat Rack	Clare Long	1st
	Fred and Ginger Building, Prague	Brian Burgess	2nd
	Anne Hathaway's Cottage	Brian Burgess	=3rd
	Bull Elephant	Brian Burgess	=3rd
	Black and White and Striped All Over	Brian Burgess	=3rd
	Genevieve	Brian Burgess	HC
B	Alan	Rob Harley	1st
	Looking Back	John Marshall	=2nd
	Behind the Veil	Dawn Murphy	=2nd
A	Rice Fields with Hut	Jim Turner	1st
	Dune	Jim Turner	=2nd
	A Lake in the Mountains	Jim Turner	=2nd

### DPIs - General

Group	Image Title	Author	Award
C	Blue Hour in Cromer	Jim Turner	1st
	As the Sun Rises	Jim Turner	=2nd
	Flow	Clare Long	=2nd

**DPIs - General (continued)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Award</b>
B	A Geezer	David Howard	1st
	Now Look Here	David Howard	2nd
	Wow! What a Sandpit!	David Guest	3rd
	A Harrier Just Hovering Around	David Howard	HC
A	Walls and Ceilings	John Humphrey	1st
	Baring Her Sole	John Marshall	2nd
	Civic Centre Corridors	Ully Jorimann	3rd
	Vortex	John Humphrey	HC
	Scaly Curves	Ully Jorimann	C

[HC=Highly Commended    C=Commended]

**Special Categories****Landscape - DPIs**

<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Award</b>
Blue Hour in Cromer	Jim Turner	1st
As the Sun Rises	Jim Turner	2nd
My Sand Slurry Sculpture	Richard Anthony	3rd

**Landscape - Prints**

<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Award</b>
Rice Field with Hut	Jim Turner	1st
Dark Wood	John Humphrey	2nd
Snowed In (Airy BnB)	Jim Turner	3rd

**Special Categories (continued)****Natural History**

<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Award</b>
Flower Power	John Humphrey	1st
Early Evening Hug	Rob Harley	2nd
Matriarch Leads Her Herd to Water	Rob Harley	3rd

**Studio**

<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Award</b>
Alan	Rob Harley	1st
Baring Her Sole	John Marshall	2nd
Behind the Veil	Dawn Murphy	=3rd
Looking Back	John Marshall	=3rd
Now Look Here	David Howard	HC

**Figure**

<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Award</b>
Baring Her Sole	John Marshall	1st
Behind the Veil	Dawn Murphy	2nd
Reaching Up	Rob Harley	3rd

**Overall First Place - DPs**

Walls and Ceilings	John Humphrey
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**Overall First Place - Prints**

Railway Carriage	John Humphrey
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***NB: the placings have been corrected so that they reflect the scores given by the judge.***

[\[back to Contents page\]](#)

## Contributions

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If you have any stories to share, or any useful hints and tips to pass on to other members, please think of Viewfinder. It would be great to have a different member's article every month.

Perhaps you have an image, or a set of images, that tells a story, or demonstrates a photographic technique or the use of a much-loved piece of equipment; or illustrates an interesting place or an unusual scene. If there is anything photographic that you would like to describe or explain for members, consider submitting something for inclusion in a future edition. You need only to supply a text and the images, and I will put it all into a suitable format for Viewfinder.

If you have something to contribute, please email me using the address in the footer and/or discuss it with me at a Monday meeting. Thank you.

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### Snippets....

Congratulations to David Guest on completing his 5 mile sponsored walk on behalf of DENS, the Dacorum charity for homeless people. At the time of writing he had raised £330.



David at the start in Berkhamsted Castle

## Snippets (continued).....

One to make a note of: [An Evening with Annie Leibovitz](#), Barbican Hall, 24th November 2025.

### Food For Thought

"No individual photograph explains anything, that's what makes photography such a wonderful and problematic medium. It is the photographer's job to get this medium to say what you need it to say"  
Joel Sternfeld

"Comparison is the thief of joy" (unattributed)

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[\[back to Contents page\]](#)