



VIEWFINDER



Hemel Hempstead Photographic Society

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

In This Issue

This month there are images from the Fourth Mono Prints competition, held over from last month, together with the full results, as well as the cumulative scores for this season.

There are also the First, Second and Third-placed images from the annual Set Subject competition: 'Two or More people (but not a crowd)'. Clare Long was awarded First Place with her photograph of a group of Scooter enthusiasts swapping stories about their machines.

There's another contribution from John Humphrey outlining another of his creative techniques, this time the Warp Tool in Photoshop, which uses Control Points on a grid to alter the shape of the image - which, as John points out, can be used to correct a distorted image as well as creating unusual effects.

Jim Turner, Editor

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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 2026 listed under three headings - date, author, and topic.

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

June Meetings

- 1st June - **Social Event in Hemel Hempstead Old Town**
(Photo opportunity then drinks in local pub)
 - 8th June - **Social Event: Hidden Secrets Tour in Old Amersham**
(Photo opportunity with interesting facts curated by Emyr Williams)
 - 15th June - **Annual Awards commentary (Judge: Amanda Wright)**
 - 22nd June - **AGM.**
-

This Month's Meetings:

*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.*

Monday 11th May was the annual "I Was Robbed" session, in which members could present images from this season's competitions which they felt were undervalued by judges (or failed to get the appreciation they deserved). Comments were invited from other members and suggestions were made on possible improvements. Generally there were some amicable (if at times heated) discussions on the merits or otherwise of individual images.

Another annual event was the 'Two or More People (but not a crowd)' Set Subject, held on 18th May. Kevin Day did an excellent job of working through 45 projected images, sticking to how well they illustrated the subject rather than just technical perfection or creative intent. One of the things he remarked on was the ubiquity of mobile phones and how they can be an obstacle to communication, which, for photography, can be detrimental. Other points he made were that, although some images were technically competent they didn't engage the viewer; photographing people in the street is difficult - it isn't enough to arrive at a location and start shooting, hoping for a good image - it's important to spend some time observing what's happening and understand how people interact before taking any photographs; when photographing children it helps to get down to their level for a more impactful photograph.

On Thursday 21st May there was a studio session, with six members shooting the model separately. On the next page John Marshall has provided a summary of the session, with photographs of the set-up and final images.

Jim Turner, Editor

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Studio Session 1-to-1 On Thursday 21st May By John Marshall

Kate, who failed to come to our last All Shoot session, came to model for us on this occasion. Her copper-coloured hair is a feature that we wished to highlight. To do this we used a large octobox soft box on the left as the key light and a reflecting broolly high up behind her on the right diagonally opposite the key light. This had the effect of rim-lighting the hair to make it glow.

Kate brought a number of outfits with her and we chose the three shown in the enclosed pictures. The first two outfits were shot against a black background. The third was shot against a bright white background. We turned the hair light around to light this background and used a similar one on the opposite side to give an even light. These two lights were adjusted to give an over-exposure to give a bright white effect in the images.

As can be seen from the images, the participating photographers (Alan, Brian H, David H, John M, Linda and Rob) each brought with them a selection of props to be used in the shots. I am sure that we shall be seeing [images of] Kate in next season's competitions!





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Members' Articles

Warp Tool

By John Humphrey

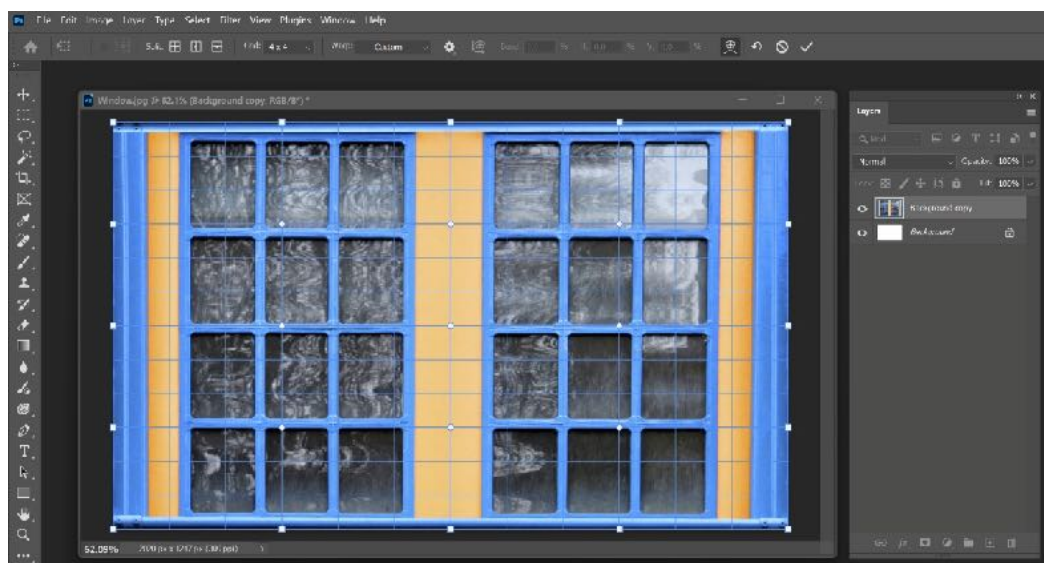
The Warp Tool allows the manipulation of images, text, and shapes by dragging control points. This can be employed for both creative and corrective purposes.

Control Points are the components of the Warp Tool used to manipulate the image. These can be found at the intersection of the grid lines. By clicking and dragging the image can be bent or twisted into a custom shape.

The Layers Panel is required for selecting the elements for warping. The desired layer is selected in the Layers Panel to avoid affecting other elements in the image.

To access the Warp Tool, go to Edit>Transform>Warp. This opens the Warp Tool and superimposes a customisable grid that can have varying sizes to allow for the desired contour or warp effect. The number of rows and columns can be set as needed by choosing Grid from the options panel.

The Warp Tool set with a 4x4 grid, the control handles show as white dots. The image is placed above a white layer. The images below show possible variations from dragging the control points.



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Members' Images

[Please note: For a better view of the images in Viewfinder, your PDF Reader software should allow you to zoom in.]

This month's high-scoring images

Mono Print Competition Round 4

'The Harbour' by Jim Turner

Although my Mono Print of Mousehole Harbour looks like a moonlit scene it was actually taken in the middle of the morning in bright sunlight, as you can see in the first image.

It was taken on a Canon 5D mark iii with a Sigma 24mm-105mm lens at 24mm focal length. Exposure was 1/200sec, f/8, ISO 100.



Original Colour Image

Re-visiting and re-interpreting an image can sometimes achieve a completely different feel to what was otherwise a nice but fairly mundane original.

I first used Lightroom's Landscape feature, which creates individual masks for the sky, water and vegetation, and made adjustments to each without affecting the other elements. After converting it to black and white I decreased the contrast in the lighter areas so they weren't too glaring. The first black and white conversion was really just a straight monochrome version of the colour image.



1st Black and White Image

After looking at it again some months later I decided to create something more dramatic.

For the final image I created the dramatic effect I was after by increasing the contrast overall with the Curves Adjustment, then used Radial Filters to selectively darken areas of the image, before finally creating a vignette with a global Radial Filter.



Final Version



'The View Not Taken' by Clare Long

This photograph was taken next to "The C" sculpture at Sunderland Harbour. Whenever I visit the area, I like to sit in the same local coffee shop, watch the seafront, and try to capture little slices of everyday life.

This particular moment caught a man walking by, so engrossed in his phone that he completely missed the view. It felt all the more poignant by the sculpture itself, which is designed to frame that perfect look at the lighthouse.

Shot on an iPhone 15 Pro Max, it turned out to be a nice reminder of the things we can miss when we don't look up.

'Olga' by Brian Howard

This was taken at a studio group one to one shoot.

The camera was my Canon EOS 80D set on manual with an 18mm to 135mm lens set at 85mm.

The Aperture was set at f/11, ISO 200, shutter speed 1/125 sec. which is my camera's sync speed for flash photography.

It was opened and cropped in Lightroom, other than that it was as shot.

She was a very nice girl, and easy to talk to.



'Noir-ish' by Jim Turner

I was trying to capture a film noir look in this photograph - hence the title. I had thought of calling it something like 'The Third Man?' as the person with the pipe, with the long shadows, reminded me of the Orson Welles character in the film of that name. I've since renamed it 'Lengthening Shadows', although I'm still struggling to think of a more suitable title for it.

I spent quite a long time on Waterloo Bridge watching people walk towards it, and took several photographs of individuals and people in groups, trying to capture the patterns created by the people and the shadows they made.

Taken on a Canon R5 set to Monochrome Mode to make it easier to visualise the scene in black and white (the colour information is retained in the image, which can be still be used in editing software if necessary).

The lens was a Sigma 24mm-105mm at 105mm focal length. Exposure was 1/200 sec., f/11, ISO 100.

In Lightroom I cropped the left of the image to remove the base of a tree and an intrusive strong shadow, and cloned out some thin branches on the right using Lightroom's Remove Tool. Like the judge I would have preferred not to have had the shadow of the railings in the top right. I cloned out part of them and tried removing the rest entirely, but that left a blank space which I felt unbalanced the image, so I left it in.



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Mono Prints Round 4 - Results

Group	Position	Score	Author	JS and Title
C	01	18	Brian Howard	12 Olga
			Linda van Geene	17 Concentrating
	03	17	Brian Howard	04 Decorative Dahlia
			Richard Anthony	23 Canal Scene
	05	16	Brian Howard	19 Emma
			Linda van Geene	09 Ready To Go
			Richard Anthony	02 Dublin Bridge Balustrade
	08	15	Linda van Geene	01 Anyone Seen Hercule
Richard Anthony			10 Lookout Posts	
B	01	19	Clare Long	11 The View Not Taken
	02	16	Clare Long	03 Cobblestone Descent
			Clare Long	18 Generations Apart
A	01	20	Jim Turner	13 Noir-ish
	02	18	Jim Turner	05 The Harbour
	03	17	John Marshall	07 Alixxiia
			John Marshall	21 Sitting Pretty
			Rob Harley	14 A Touch Of Class
			Roger Hudson	22 Early Morning On The Grand Union Canal
	07	16	Rob Harley	06 Surprisingly Speedy
			Rob Harley	20 Attitude
			Roger Hudson	16 Side By Side
	10	15	John Marshall	15 The Way To St. Paul's
Roger Hudson			08 Alixia	

Cumulative Scores - 2025-2026 Season

League	Group	Author	Round and Preference												Total
			Round 1			Round 2			Round 3			Round 4			
			01	02	03	01	02	03	01	02	03	01	02	03	
CP	C	Clare Long	16	16	17	15	17	16	18	16	19	16	19	17	202
		Linda van Geene	15	17	16	16	17	15	17	18	18	15	18	16	198
	B	Brian Burgess	17	17	17	16	16	16	19	17	18	16	18	15	202
		Brian Howard	17	15	17	18	16	15	17	17	18	17	16	16	199
		Richard Anthony	15	15	17	15	19	16	17	17	18	15	15	17	196
	A	Jim Turner	16	18		17	17								68
		John Humphrey	19	20	20	18	20	19	18	20	20	19	19	16	228
		John Marshall	18	18	18	17	16	20	18	15	18	18	17	18	211
		Rob Harley	19	17	19	19	17	17	20	20	20	19	20	20	227
CP Total			152	153	141	151	155	134	144	140	149	135	142	135	1731
MP	C	Brian Howard	15	16	18	18	16	19	16	18	17	17	18	16	204
		Linda van Geene	17	18	18	17	18	20	20	19	17	15	16	18	213
		Richard Anthony	18	18	19	19	16	18	17	18	20	16	15	17	211
	B	Brian Burgess	17	17	16										50
		Clare Long	16	16	17	16	18	18	16	17	18	16	19	16	203
	A	Jim Turner	20	19		18	17					18	20		112
		John Marshall	20	19	20	20	19	20	17	18	18	17	15	17	220
		Rob Harley	19	19	20	20	18	16	18	18	20	16	17	16	217
		Roger Hudson	18	20	17	20	16	16	16	16	19	15	16	17	206
MP Total			160	162	145	148	138	127	120	124	129	130	136	117	1636
PI	C	Clare Long	20	16	17	15	16	16	15	18	17	16	16	16	198
		David Guest	19	17	16										52
		Geoff King				15	17	20	19	18	16				105
		Linda van Geene	20	17	15	19	16	15	15	18	18	16	19	16	204
		Mike Mitchell	18	19	16	17	15	15	15	18	15				148
		Richard Anthony	20	18	17	16	15	19	17	18	15	17	16	17	205
		Emyr Williams	17	16	17	16	14	15							95
		Alan Williamson											14	17	31
	B	Brian Howard	16	17	17	18	15	17	16	17	17	17	19	17	203
		Ian Shaw	16	17	19	18	16	14	16	18	17	17	18	15	201
		James McCracken	20	19	17	17	16	17	18	18	20	18	16	20	216
		John Marshall	17	15	16	15	18	15	20	18	18	15	16	20	203
		David Howard	18	16	17	18	16	15	17	19	17	20	15	15	203
	A	Brian Burgess	16	16	16	15	16	15	16	19	17	15	16	19	196
		John Humphrey	15	19	17	17	17	20	19	17	20	18	19	17	215
		Rob Harley	19	18	16	19	20	16	16	18	19	17	17	18	213
Roger Hudson		17	18	16	15	20	16	16	20	16	17	17	15	203	
Uly Jorimann		17	16	20	17	17	16	17	19	15	16	17	16	203	
PI Total			285	274	269	267	264	261	252	273	257	233	238	221	3094

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Set Subject: Two or More People

Place	Score	Author	Group	JS Frozen and Title
1	20	Clare Long	B	41 Scooter Stories
2	20	Jim Turner	A	37 Fast Food
3	20	Brian Burgess	B	22 Chinese New Year
4	20	James McCracken	C	06 At The Grand Canal
		James McCracken		43 Circles in the Rain
		John Marshall	A	20 Argentine Tango
7	19	Brian Burgess	B	34 It Takes Two To Tango
		Brian Howard	C	04 So Much In Love
		Clare Long	B	28 Who Is On The Winner?
		David Howard	C	19 The Skatuesques
		Jim Turner	A	08 Busking
		John Marshall	A	33 The Bare Essentials Of A Tea Ceremony
		Rob Harley	A	39 In Tate Modern
		Steve Ballard	C	31 Kensington Girls
15	18	David Howard	C	44 The Brighton Belles Plus One
		Jim Turner	A	25 An Evening Stroll
		John Marshall	A	11 Pat-A-Cake Or High-Five
		Linda van Geene	C	12 When A Friend Needs A Hand
		Linda van Geene		26 Roman Guards
		Richard Anthony	C	14 Playing In The River
		Richard Anthony		21 Canal Walk
		Richard Anthony		35 River Trekkers
		Rob Harley	A	09 Distant Yet Close
		Steve Ballard	C	07 Cafe Scene
		Steve Ballard		29 Le Fone Chat
		Ully Jorimann	C	05 Father And Son
		Ully Jorimann		32 The Dancing Lesson
28	17	Brian Howard	C	23 Thank You
		Brian Howard		40 Dozing Off
		Clare Long	B	13 Wembley Lassies
		Geoff King	C	30 Just Hug It Out
		Ian Shaw	C	10 Evening Beach Walk
		Ian Shaw		18 Roofers At Work
		Ian Shaw		45 A Day At The Beach
		Roger Hudson	A	01 Grainsy Day In London
		Ully Jorimann	C	27 Green Hats Worn Here

37	16	Brian Burgess	B	02 Delhi Gossip
		David Howard	C	03 Masked Girls In Camden
		Geoff King	C	15 Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime?
		Geoff King		38 Salsa Street
		James McCracken	C	24 Of Course I'm Pleased to See You !!!
		Linda van Geene	C	42 Busking
		Roger Hudson	A	17 Cold Night On The Staten Island Ferry
		Roger Hudson		36 Free And Beautiful
45	15	Rob Harley	A	16 All Shook Up

1st Place



**'Scooter Stories'
by Clare Long**

On Bank Holiday Monday, Brighton Pier was lined with classic scooters as local Mods gathered to catch up and show off their bikes. While plenty of people were happy to pose for a quick portrait, I wanted to get something a bit more natural. After chatting with this group for a while, I asked them to just carry on with their conversation and ignore the lens.

This candid shot, taken on an iPhone 15 Pro Max, hopefully captured a genuine moment of laughter among friends who clearly still loved the seafront scene.

2nd Place



'Fast Food' by Jim Turner

One of many food stalls/cafés in Xi'an's Muslim Quarter. You can either have the food cooked in front of you to take away, or take a seat inside and have it brought to you. Watching Chinese chefs cook on a wok is fascinating and I watched them transfixed before deciding to take a photograph.

Of course, just as I pressed the shutter the one in the middle spotted my camera, which I think adds to the image, as his colleagues are completely immersed in their task.

3rd Place



'Chinese New Year' by Brian Burgess

We went to London in February, to see the Chinese New Year celebrations. This was a procession near China Town. I took a few photos but thought this was the best, with the two girls in the background.

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Editor's Pick

A selection of other images from this month's competitions



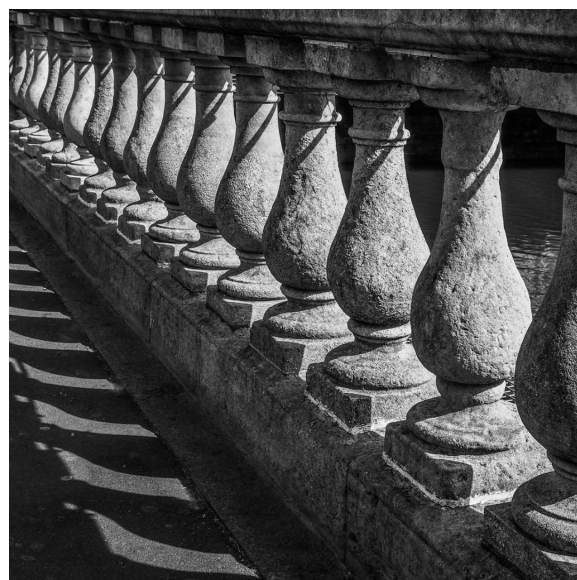
'Early Morning on the Grand Union Canal'
By Roger Hudson



'Side by Side' by Roger Hudson



'Attitude' by Rob Harley



'Dublin Bridge Balustrade'
by Richard Anthony

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Contributions

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.

Snippets....

Some stunning black and white architectural photography from Adrian Beasley's winning entries in the [Architectural Category](#) in the 2026 B&W International Awards. Adrian is a long-standing workshop host for the Light & Land photography tours company, established by Charlie Waite.

[A selection of images](#) from a new book by the American photographer [Lee Friedlander](#), showing a humorous aspect of American life.

Exhibitions

If you happen to be in Belfast sometime in June the [Belfast Photo Festival](#) runs until the end of the month. Billed as the largest festival of photography in the UK and Ireland, it "challenges creators and audiences to explore technological, environmental, geopolitical and automated AI."

Food For Thought

"Perfection is one thing, creativity is another. The camera invites perfection - it's the perfect instrument in order to create reality. But sometimes imperfection can tell a better story."

Martin Osner, Fine Art Photographer and Educator.

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