

# Join the Club

## Beckenham Photographic Society

Beckenham, Kent

Welcome to our new regular spotlight on camera clubs. We start with Beckenham PS

### How long has Beckenham Photographic Society been going?

We have been in existence since 1921. We want the next 95 years to be as good as the first!

### What does your club offer new members?

We are a friendly and welcoming group, and we've got some splendid new premises. New members come along to meet like-minded enthusiasts, share their images among friends, get tuition and advice on photographic techniques, and be inspired by visiting guest speakers with great images and stories to tell. We meet from September to May but during the summer we organise photographic visits.

### Describe a typical club meeting

Meetings are two hours each Wednesday during the season and are very varied. There could be a visiting guest speaker or members showing work on different themes. At other times we hold internal print or digital competitions, or take part in competitions with neighbouring clubs.

### Do you invite guest speakers?

Each year we invite 10-12 guest speakers. Visitors have included renowned photographers like Margaret Salisbury, Robert Canis and Chris Palmer.

### Do members compete in regional or national competitions?

A number of members do compete in national and international competitions, and take part in various international photography salons on regular basis. They often win medals and receive various commendations for their images. One example is Cathy Roberts. Her images 'Rushes in the Mist' and 'The Cold of Winter' have both been accepted for this year's London Salon of Photography exhibition.

### Has the club, or individual members, ever won any big competition awards?

Ross Farnham's 'Electric Web' received a commendation in the Your View category of the UK Landscape Photographer of the Year 2015. And Polina Plotnikova was named the winner of the An Apple a Day category of the Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year 2016 with her image 'Unstill Life' [see right]. Cathy Roberts' image 'Winter' [below right] has received international recognition by being selected for the RPS permanent Tyng Collection at the National Media Museum in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

### What about national photographic society distinctions?

We have three members who are Fellows of the Royal Photographic Society (FRPS), seven with Associateships (ARPS) and seven with Licentiatehips (LRPS).

### What are the most popular genres among your members?

Last season we had more members showing monochrome images and we will encourage that with a new competition. At our annual exhibition we award trophies for best landscapes, portraits, pictorial and natural images, as well as best print and digital images on open themes.

### How old are your members?

We have a wide range of ages, from early 30s to 80s. Our longest-standing member is David Wood ARPS, who has been a member for 57 years. David is 81 and honorary president.

### Tell us a funny story about the club

One evening we had a presentation from Jonathan Haslam and Sheree Dodd, who took us through the history of images in public life with some great anecdotes. Jonathan, who once worked in Downing Street, told of the time he narrowly prevented a very senior minister from looking 'a right plonker' by posing for an unfortunate photo with Del Boy's Reliant Robin from *Only Fools and Horses*.

### What are your goals for the future?

To keep growing the club and attracting new members by being welcoming and open to photographers of all standards and interests.

## Club essentials

**Meets** Every Wednesday at 8pm at St John's Church Hall, Eden Park, Beckenham BR3 3JN

**Membership** £50 for individual members and £20 a year for full-time students and jobseekers

**Contact** bpsenquiries@beckenhamphotosoc.org or scdodd@mac.com

**Website** www.beckenhamphotosoc.org and www.flickr.com/groups/beckenham\_photographic



Steve Wilbur



'Morning Light' by Nenne van Djik



'Unstill Life' by Polina Plotnikova



'Three Shires Head' by Ross Farnham



'Winter' by Cathy Roberts



'Lone Tree Dartmoor' by David Rees