

Join the Club

Sevenoaks Camera Club

Kent

We highlight another club with a long, proud history, and members of all ages

When was the club founded?

It was founded in 1952. We were quite involved and successful among Kent clubs from the early days, and now have about 80 keen members, who come from the area and up to 15 miles around.

What does the club offer new members?

We offer a friendly environment – confirmed by many visiting speakers and judges as well as new members – in which to enjoy and improve their photography. We have opportunities to enter competitions and learn from visiting judges' assessment of the pictures. There are talks about photography that people can enjoy and there is always a club member who can help out another person in some way.

Describe a typical club meeting

Members arrive from about 20 minutes before the start, chatting and helping with the hall set-up. At 8pm the chairman opens by making club announcements. Meetings finish by 10pm but we have a refreshment break around 9pm which gives us more time to catch up with members, chat with visitors or look at any photos displayed.

Do you invite guest speakers?

Each season we have several outside speakers – whether amateurs talking about their areas of interest or professionals talking about their work. Recent speakers have included practising photographers, photojournalists and newspaper picture editors.

Do members compete in regional or national competitions?

The club takes part in as many competitions run by the Kent County Photographic Association (KCPA) as we

can. Some of our members enter external competitions individually, with varying degrees of success. We have internal contests too, but we try to keep the competitive spirit friendly and balanced with the supportive culture of the club.

Has the club ever won any big competitions?

We have done well in KCPA contests and represented the KCPA in the 2015 Photographic Alliance of Great Britain print competition, although we didn't win. Some members have done well in regional, national and international contests, including London's 'Open House' weekend photo contest. One member started entering his stereo photos in international stereo exhibitions and in 2016 won two best newcomer awards.

What about national photographic society distinctions?

Some of our members have earned Royal Photographic Society (RPS) distinctions. We currently have one Fellow of the RPS (FRPS) and a couple each with Associate (ARPS) and Licentiate (LRPS).

What are the most popular photographic genres among your members?

Landscapes and natural history are popular, but so are architecture, abstract, street photography, montage and still life. Each of our competitions includes an 'imagination' award – left to the judges' discretion – to try and encourage that. Some members respond admirably!

How old are your members?

We have people in their 30s up to senior citizens. We have had members in their teens and 20s, but they left the area to pursue their studies. But our more mature members do not automatically exhibit less creativity than their juniors!

What are the club's goals for the future?

We want to continue to offer a welcoming environment for people of all levels to share and improve their photography. We'd like to continue to have some success in contests, but we don't want it to be at the expense of our friendly culture. We want our club to be a pleasurable pastime, not a cut-throat clique.

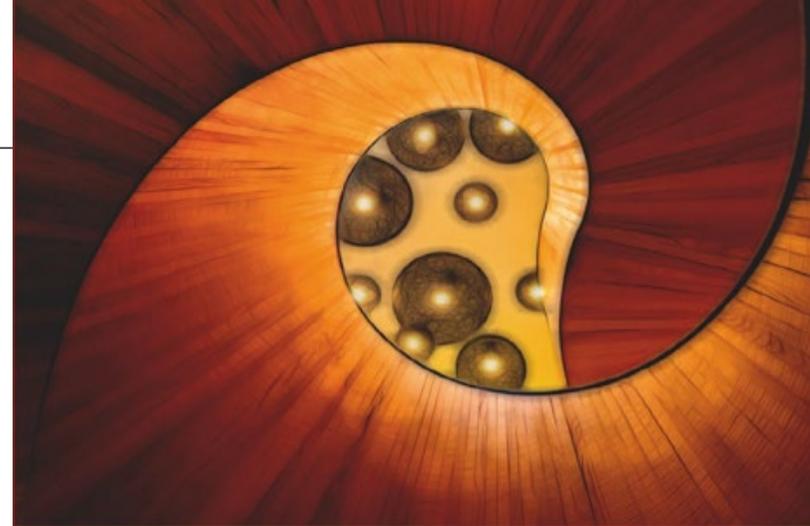
Club essentials

Meets Most Monday evenings between September and May (see website for details) at Mencap Hall, 71 Hitchen Hatch Lane, Sevenoaks, TN13 3AY. Meetings start at 8pm and finish by 10pm.

Membership £48 single for adults, or £77 for couples per season. Students pay only £20.

Contact info@sevenoakscameraclub.org.uk.

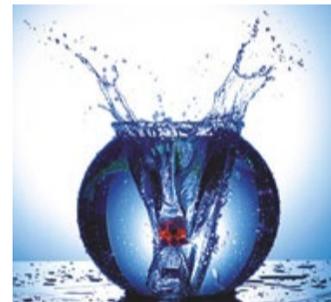
Website www.sevenoakscameraclub.org.uk.



'Wave Form (Citizen M Hotel Staircase)' by Peter Humphrey ARPS



'Blur Rouge' by Gyula Magyar



'Six' by Sue McMahon



'Cogs and Wheels' by Andy Barber



A group of Sevenoaks Camera Club members out on one of their shoots



'The True Story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears' by Ron Harding