



The Vale
Photographic
Club

New Member Information



2016/17

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Vale Photographic Club - New Member information leaflet

Who are we?

We are a small, friendly and enthusiastic club consisting of amateur photographers of all ages and abilities keen to promote and support photography as an enjoyable and worthwhile hobby in the Vale.

The club is affiliated to the Welsh Photographic Federation (WPF), and through this body to the PAGB (Photographic Alliance of Great Britain).

When and where do we meet?

We meet every Friday (with the exception of a short break over Christmas and Easter) between September and June each year. Meetings are held in the Ystradowen village hall (behind the White Lion Pub), starting at 7:15pm and finishing at 9.30pm. Ystradowen village hall has a dedicated car park (through the gate), which should always be used in preference to the pub car park.

What do club evenings consist of?

We aim to arrange a varied and interesting programme to suit all tastes and levels of ability. Events include presentations from guest speakers and our own members, practical sessions, demonstrations, social evenings and competitions.

All members are given a printed copy of the forthcoming programme, however it is best to check the club website (<http://www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk>) which will always contain the most up to date programme information.

What happens in the Summer?

Whilst summer provides a break from our regular Friday evening club meetings, we aim to provide a 'summer programme'. In past years we have met up on Friday evenings at nearby photographic locations such as Llandaff Cathedral, St Fagans museum of Welsh life, Llanerch Vineyard, Cardiff Bay, Penarth Pier and Kenfig Nature Reserve. More recently we have run weekly photography projects using the resources of our website. Both these provide a great opportunity to learn from other photographers and really improve your photographic skills. Another summer highlight is our regular stall at the Vale Show, providing an opportunity to showcase our photographs, and attract new members. We're always looking for volunteers to help man the stand (or help erect the marquee!), so please ask a Committee member for further details nearer the time.

Who is eligible to join?

Anyone aged 16 and over with an interest in photography is eligible to join, however persons under 18 years of age will need to be accompanied by a suitable adult (if the suitable adult is purely acting in a 'chaperone' capacity, and has no interest in photography, they are not obligated to join or pay any fees)

Do I need to be an expert to join?

Absolutely NOT! Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome, regardless of ability or type of camera used. Whether you are a complete beginner, already an accomplished photographer, or just wanting to take better photographs of the family, you'll be most welcome.

How much does membership cost, do I need to join right away, or is there a trial period?

The club has two categories of members – New Members and Returning Members – which determine the membership costs.

- New members (defined as anyone who has not attended the club in the preceding 5 years) are simply required to pay a 'Meeting Attendance Fee' (currently £2) for each visit throughout their first year of membership. There is no Annual Subscription Fee to pay. This policy is intended to provide an opportunity for potential new members to attend without obligation and to start at any time during our financial year, and with minimal financial outlay, while determining if they wish to become part of the club. **Please Note:** New Members are unable to vote during General Meetings.
- Returning members are required to pay an annual subscription fee in September (Currently £30) in addition to the £2 attendance fee. Returning members have full voting rights at all General Meetings.
- New Members can, at their own discretion, pay the Annual subscription fee at any time during their first year of membership, at which point they will be deemed a 'Returning' member and eligible for full voting rights.
- Anyone acting as a 'chaperone' for a member aged between 16-18 will not be required to pay either a membership fee or attendance fee unless they specifically wish to do so.

Is there a club mailing list ?

Yes, we use a Google mailing list called 'Valeflash' to email news, changes to the programme, event information or indeed anything else we feel members may be interested in.

To receive Valeflash messages, simply provide your email address on the included 'New Member Information Return Form' which should be handed to our Treasurer and you will be added to the list.

Is there a club website?

Yes, our club website is at <http://www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk>

These pages are an ideal resource to find out more about the club, including the up-to-date club programme, view a gallery of members' images, find out about upcoming competitions, keep up with club news, and find answers to many of your questions that haven't been answered in this guide.

We'd like every club member to have a gallery of their work on the website. To submit images for the website (which should be displayed at 900 pixels along their longest edge), please email at least 6 of your best images to webmaster@vale-photographic-club.co.uk (there is no upper limit, within reason!).

The club website also has a 'members only' area, which may contain information, such as photographs that we will be entering into forthcoming national competitions, that we may want to keep just to ourselves for the time being! The 'members only' area of the website is password protected. Details can be obtained from our webmaster (see pictures at the end of this brochure), either at a club meeting or contacted through the website.

Is there a Club Facebook group?

Yes, the club's Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ValePhotographicClub/>

The Group is closed, meaning posts are only visible to club members. If you wish to join the Facebook page, log onto Facebook, visit the club page at the address above, and click the 'request to join' link.

We use Facebook as a great online social meeting place – a chance to meet members, share images, post useful articles, ask for constructive criticism or ask a technical or photographic question that you'd like another member to answer. We have only one rule – be polite!

If you've never used Facebook before, we've some great instruction sheets on how to get started available through the members area of the website. These deal with joining Facebook, joining the Vale Club page, posting images and commenting on other peoples' images within the forum.

What about Flickr?

Yes, we have a Flickr page, however at the moment the club doesn't actively use this page. You can view it at

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/vale-photographic-club/>

What about competitions?

Our annual programme typically includes six competitions that are open to all members to enter should they wish to do so.

We appreciate competitions can be quite intimidating if you've never entered one before, but don't be put off! They provide a fun way to receive constructive appraisal of your work from accredited and experienced photographers, which will really help you develop as a photographer.

Our guest judges award scores for each image entered. We subsequently use these scores to determine which images go forward to represent the Club in other inter-club and national competitions.

Tracked over a number of years, your improving scores will show that you're improving as a photographer.

OK, I'm tempted. What competitions do you run?

Each of our internal competitions has both a set subject which you are free to interpret in any way you wish (e.g. Age, Solitude, Dereliction), and an 'open' category, meaning you can submit any photograph unconstrained by subject matter.

Each year's set subjects are printed in advance in both the printed programme and on the website, so you'll have plenty of notice of the subjects coming up.

Check out the 'Comps -> Internal' page on the Club website for more information including subjects, hand in dates, judges' details and once the competition date has passed, a full write up on the competition results and winning pictures.

What Format do competition entries need to be in.

For each competition you can enter up to 2 digital photographs (called PDIs – Projected Digital Images) and up to 2 printed photographs all distributed as you wish between the set and open subjects.

For example, if the competition was 'Age and Open' you could enter 2 digital images both into the Age category, one print into the Age category and one print into the Open category.

- *Digital Images (PDI)* – Digital images, which must be in JPEG format, will be displayed using the club's projector that has a resolution of **1920 pixels wide x 1080 pixels high**. The ratio between these two numbers is known as the Aspect Ratio of the image. It isn't necessary to use all the pixels in both dimensions, but you should make sure that the image is cropped so that neither width nor height exceed these pixel numbers. If you do, the projector may squash or expand your image on the longest edge, which may reduce the image quality. For example, a panoramic image that has dimensions 1920 x 800 pixels would be displayed perfectly by our projector but a square image of 1440 x 1440 pixels would not. Any digital software will have the ability to convert images into the required JPEG format and export them using the dimensions described above. If you are unsure how to do this, any existing club member would be happy to help.
- *Prints* – All print entries to internal competitions should be mounted on board and be 50 x 40 cms in either landscape or portrait format. The actual image can be sized to the photographer's preference within these dimensions and can be either surface mounted or recess mounted. These dimensions are now standard as between internal and external competitions. Do not place any watermark or copyright information on the face of the image. Use the reverse top left-hand corner of the mount to label each print with

- Competition and category entered
- Title of image
- Your club membership number
- A reference to Vale Photographic Club (in case the print goes forward to an external competition)
- DO NOT include your name as your prints must be anonymous to the judge

If you are unsure how to get a print mounted, there are a number of local framing shops that can do this for you for a small fee. Ask an existing club member or a member of committee, who will be happy to recommend somewhere for you. NEW FOR 2016/7 – Members should also submit digital versions of competition prints (to the above specifications) as these may be called for by competition organisers or be used on our website or in reports of the club's activities.

When do I need to submit my entry?

Submission dates are normally two weeks prior to the judging evening, and will be clearly shown on the club programme. You can also check out the website, which has details of all our competitions, competition categories, and all relevant hand-in details.

- Prints should be brought to the club meeting on the submission date for collection by the competition coordinator.
- Digital Images can be sent by email to the competition coordinator or passed to him/her on a memory stick at a club meeting.

How does competition scoring work

Images are assessed and awarded a mark between 1-20, with a mark of 20 representing the highest standard. Some judges will announce that their scoring reflects their assessments relative to the other images entered into the same competition whilst others prefer to keep the higher scores to signal that an image is of the highest standard that would compete satisfactorily with others at regional and national levels. Just remember, judging is not an exact science and the same image entered into a different competition (with a different judge!) may score differently, for example if many images that are considered to be stronger are entered into that competition.

What about external competitions?

The best entries from our internal competitions are, with the member's permission, automatically selected to represent the Club at inter-club, regional (WPF) and national (PAGB) levels. If you are lucky enough to score 18 or above in one of our club competitions, don't be surprised if your print is held onto for an external competition, or your permission sought to re-use a digital image again in a forthcoming external competition which uses this medium.

You can find a full list of the external competitions we'll be competing in this year on our website, along with dates and locations if you wish to attend, together with the judges' details. Once the competition date has passed check out the 'Comps -> External' page on

our website, to see a full write up of the competition results and winning pictures. Our External Competitions coordinator will liaise with you about the return of prints.

Committee Members

Of course, any Club has to have its committee and we are no different! We hope we'll all get to know you quickly. But as an 'aide memoir' here is the current rogues' gallery with their roles! Please approach us if you think we can help with any further questions you may have.

	Role	Name	Email Address
	Chairman	Gerald Harbour	chairman@vale-photographic-club.co.uk
	Treasurer	Tony Tarlton	treasurer@vale-photographic-club.co.uk
	Secretary	Bridget Craddock	secretary@vale-photographic-club.co.uk

	Role	Name	Email Address
	Internal Comp. Coordinator	Nick Thornton	intcompsec@vale-photographic-club.co.uk
	External Comp. Coordinator	Nick Craddock	extcompsec@vale-photographic-club.co.uk
	Programme Coordinator & Webmaster	Terry Verrinder	programmesec@vale-photographic-club.co.uk Webmaster@vale-photographic-club.co.uk

Useful Websites:

The Vale Club pages - <http://www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk>

Welsh Photographic Federation (WPF) - <http://wpf.swifthost.net>

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB)- <http://www.thepagb.org.uk>

Digital Photography School - <http://digital-photography-school.com>

Notes:

New Membership Information Return Form

To help us keep in touch, inform you of any changes to the programme, and allow us to more closely match future club evenings to your requirements, we'd appreciate it if you could take a few moments to complete and return the following new member fact sheet:

Name:

Email Address:

Yes, please add my email address to receive Valeflash email alerts.**

Postal Address:

Tel:

Your Camera:

How would you describe your photographic ability (beginner intermediate or expert)?

.....

Do you belong to any other club affiliated to the Welsh Photographic Federation? (We only need this information to be able to comply with the rules of some of the competitions we enter.) NO Yes - which club(s)?.....

Is there anything you'd like to learn more about (e.g. portrait photography, flash etc) as we may be able to provide this information at a future club evening)

Thank You, and Welcome to the Vale Photographic Club



**** We undertake to comply with the Data Protection Act as regards our use and maintenance of all personal data.**

(Detach and return to the club Treasurer.)