

In Focus

Tavistock Photography Club | Newsletter No. 3 | August 2026

A warm welcome

What a summer we are having! With the continuing spell of hot weather — and all the excitement surrounding astronomical events — there has certainly been plenty to keep photographers interested.

As we look ahead to the new season, there is plenty happening within the Club, so here's a quick update on some of the things your Committee has been working on.

Club news

Our links with DartPrint and DartPhoto are developing well, and it is particularly pleasing to see some of our members' work now being displayed in the shop window. We hope this will help raise the Club's profile locally and encourage others to take an interest in what we do.

The 2026/27 programme is now complete, and I'm delighted to say that, thanks to the generosity of DartPrint, printed programmes will be available at the Exhibition on 27 August.

Speaking of the Exhibition, plans are well advanced to make this year's event a more vibrant and engaging occasion. We hope to see plenty of members, friends and visitors there, so please do spread the word and come along. And, importantly, let me or any member of the Committee know what you think — your feedback is always welcome.

I've also been encouraged by the number of enquiries we have already received from people interested in joining the Club. It is great to see continued interest in photography and in what the Club has to offer.

Our selectors for external competitions have been hard at work, but plans are also well advanced to broaden the range of images available to them when making their selections. We'll tell you more about this later.

Photography Together

A few members have mentioned that they are sometimes less confident going out to take photographs on their own — particularly at night — and would prefer to go out as a small group.

To help with this, we are in the process of setting up a Club WhatsApp group. It will be completely free to join, with no obligation to participate. The idea is simply to provide an easy way for members to suggest informal, impromptu photographic outings.

For example: a member might post:

"I'm thinking of going to Windy Cross tomorrow evening for a sunset shoot. Anyone interested in joining? I'll be at Pork Hill car park at 6.00pm and leaving at 6.15pm."

It's deliberately informal. This is not a formal Club event — just a simple way of saying, "I'm going out taking photographs; does anyone fancy coming along?"

Barbara, our Club Secretary, will shortly be sending out more information, including details of how to join. There will be a prize for the first person to post an outing that others attend!

And Finally...

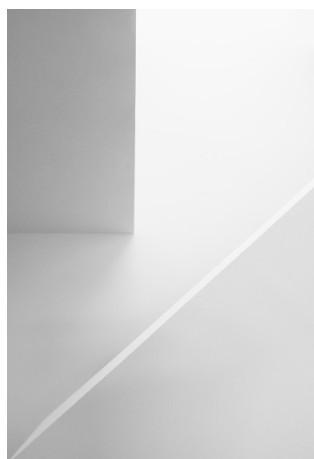
There are currently some top-secret plans being developed for a fun-packed Christmas event, which we hope will replace the Summer Picnic this year.

That's all we're saying for now!

More details will be revealed later... do I hear the oooooos?

Member spotlight / Conversation with an Image

I'd like to introduce you to Rex Waygood, a good friend of mine and exhibited member of 'Arena – Photographers From The South'. <https://arenaphotographers.com/>. Some of you may have seen his 'Editions' booklet on Minimalistic Monochrome Imagery. This image titled 'Stairs', is part of a series of abstractions which was highlighted in Arena's latest newsletter. Below Rex explains its origin.



This image was taken in a friend's house on Skye. The clean lines of the house were very beautiful to me, everywhere I pointed my camera I saw something simple, graphical and enchanting. There were lots of subjects in the house where I could make the subject intriguing and not obvious as to what it was. I felt this image did not immediately reveal its identity. I made the house the subject of a photographic book.

I was given the opportunity to have an art historian critique my image. I was interested in his view because he claimed to have no knowledge of photography, he would just view it as a piece of art. He would use a different tool box from my normal viewers to assess its artistic merit and that interested me. He said he would not look at the title unless he could not work out what the image was. He decided that in order to create this image I had cut out pieces of paper and then photographed them in the style of Ben Nicholson. Ben Nicholson often produced all white art which used lighting to emphasise the 3D nature of his work.

The art historian became unsure and looked at the title "Stairs" and he said he then appreciated he was looking at a banister with stairs behind and a balcony above, he was correct. I formed a new appreciation of Ben Nicholson's art!

Summer photo opportunities

With hot weather continuing this is a wonderful time to get out and about with your camera. Here is a selection of local events that may offer plenty of inspiration over the coming weeks but please do check the event is still on before you leave!

- **13 August – Okehampton Show**
Another excellent event for colour, movement and candid photography.
- **22–23 August – RAF Harrowbeer**
Interesting possibilities for heritage, re-enactment and documentary-style images.
- **27 August – Club Photography Exhibition, Butchers' Hall**
A date to support the club and celebrate members' work.
- **29 August – Walkhampton Show, including flowers, vegetables and home-made delights**
Chris Powell and past member Graham Coker will judge the photography section.
- **August Bank Holiday – Sampford Spiney Sheepdog Trials**
Ideal for capturing rural life, movement and traditional local events.
- **29 – 31 August** North Devon Legendary Grand 'Mini' Run Tour (also known as Mini Madness) takes place near Bideford and Westward Ho!, the event features over 200 classic and modern Minis driving in a massive open-road convoy.
- **6 September 2026 - Bideford Water Festival** featuring a retro-futuristic Steampunk theme, complete with brass goggles, gears, a fancy dress parade, and the signature cardboard boat race on the River.
- **12 September – LCE Photo Show at Haynes Motor Museum, tickets £5**
A great opportunity to get hands-on with new equipment and perhaps capture images from the vehicle museum.

A final note

I'm looking forward to seeing you all for our first club meeting in September and seeing your opening shots. And hopefully many of you at the Club's Photography Exhibition at the end of August.

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