



**SPECIAL EDITION Newsletter By Michael J Duke August 2015**

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Welcome to the Hampstead Photographic Society Exhibition 'The Hungry Eye' at Burgh House in Hampstead, we hope you enjoy the wide variety of work on show, which comes from over half of the society's members.

Our next exciting season starts in September which will also mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HPS Newsletter. We will soon also be looking forward to marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society itself which was founded in 1937. With research starting in 2006 by Michael J Duke and completed a few years later by Mike Howell with input from both Michael J Duke and David Reed, the research culminated in a book to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the club in 2012. With better record-keeping, the updated book which will accompany the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017 will be more easily completed than the amount of deep digging that went with researching the earlier years.

Looking back over the master copies of the newsletter over the last nine years, shows the wide range of activities the club has inspired, which is

why we claim it to be northwest London's premier photographic society. The club has developed rapidly in recent years to accommodate rapidly changing technology and mirror the growing interest in photography and art in the world outside. In addition, several of its members have contributed to external events, including exhibitions, salons, awards, both national and international. And, finally, the club has organised a stimulating variety of photographic trips in Europe (with one group set to depart for Italy this coming Saturday!) as well as days out in and around London.

The programme over the years has kept some of the regular features of the past such as competitions, but also has evolved to embrace the new developments since the digital storm began.

**Technological Changes**

In 2005, the HPS benefited from a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant which helped the club purchase its own laptop and projector. At first, projected image

competitions continued as slides only, but within a breathtaking couple of years, as digital photography became cheaper and more widely used, we soon realised that going totally digital was the logical step to take and projected image competitions became totally digital. At the same time, we developed a wide range of digital tutorials, with in-house and visiting experts educating us on the possibilities, so such instructional evenings soon became a regular feature on the programme. We still have the tutorials as we endeavour to keep ourselves up-to-date with the software at each change and update.

What has helped immensely in our development is having a website developed to include news and a very well stocked section of notes from the various digital tutorials and other in-depth discussions. There is also an internal group e-mail which is fantastic for alerting one another to any new developments and has sparked some highly interesting conversations over the years as well as some heated debates!

The e-mail has also been very useful for the committee in bringing members up-to-date with external competition and exhibition news as well as informing us of requirements for exhibition preparations.

More recently, we have created a presence on Facebook and Twitter, adding to the activities on our Flickr account which showcases the latest work of some of the HPS members.

### Guest Speakers

The core of the society's programme is still the wide range of talks and presentations from photographic specialists.

Ten years ago, we had a variety of speakers, but most were on the recommended list from the handbook of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain, primarily members of other clubs and societies where amateurs share their interests and enthusiasm. What has happened in the intervening years is a move towards speakers from professional circles, such as the Imperial War Museum, the V&A, and the British Library, as well as top-level photographers.

We have been pleased to welcome speakers such as Roger Tooth, picture editor of *The Guardian* newspaper, Polly Hancock, a freelance photographer who has contributed to the *Ham & High*, and other speakers from the newspaper and magazine world including a regular Christmas visit from Dan Carrier of the *Camden New Journal*. We had talks from

Vicki Couchman on photographing for the press, Sean Pines and Gavin Fernandes on Fashion Photography, and Daniel Moorey on photography in advertising. Jon Gray is another guest to the HPS who started on a talk on his background in fashion and glamour and now has been for a few visits with models and a full studio lighting set-up, thus helping HPS members with the practical issues of model shoots.

Other speakers include specialist such as various members of the In Public group which specialises in street photography, a recently developed area activity. Dr Peter Brandham of Kew Gardens gave us an excellent array of talks on his travels across the world in search of new botanical specimens for Kew Gardens and John Herlinger of Fotospeed who gave a highly interesting talk on colour management (as well as obviously talking about the products of Fotospeed).

We also had visiting professional photographers such as Yoke Matze and Charlie Philips giving talks on their work which proved highly interesting as they spoke of the challenges faced in getting to their targets, both artistic and commercial.

One of the speakers who has become a regular over the years is Nigel Atherton, group editor photography with Time Inc, publishers of *Amateur Photographer*, *Which Digital Camera* and other magazines, discussing new cameras and equipment about

to reach the UK Market.

Another area where photography has been useful is in the medical world. We have had some terrific speakers including George Kaim who was a medical photographer for the Hospital for Nervous Diseases. HPS member Richard Lansdown also gave a talk on Hugh Diamond, the first doctor to photograph his patients, an important step in medical progress.

We have also had the pleasure of inviting a number of speakers from a variety of organisations within the photographic world including James Moore, Chairman of the British Press Photographers Association, Kevin O'Connor of the London Photographic Association, and Rosemary Wilman, former president of the Royal Photographic Society, Jay Charnock formerly chair of the Surrey Photographic Association is a regular judge of HPS competitions.

Over these busy years, a number of HPS members have gained accreditation by the Royal Photographic Society and we have had a number of speakers giving talks on the subject of RPS awards and how to achieve them.

Recent years have seen guest speakers from museums and galleries giving presentations of the history and archives of their photographic collections such as Michael Seabourne of the London Museum, Alan Wakefield from the Imperial War Museum, Martin Barnes from the V&A, John Falconer of the British

Library, and Giles Huxley-Parlour on his favourite images from the Beetles & Huxley gallery.

We have also had some fascinating presentations on practical photography such as Brian Rybolt and Helene Binet on architectural photography, Julian Hawkins on commercial portraits, Lydia Shalet who is official photographer for the Eurostar Group, Jay Pearce of the Photographer Academy on mobile phone photography, David Malarkey with his home-made pin-hole cameras and just this year we welcomed Stefano Ceretti, a professional photographer from Italy showing us some of his interestingly different sports and social events photographs.

On a historical note, we have had some wonderful presentations including Kenneth Rubens on the History of Leica, Lady Frances von Hoffmannstahl discussed her book about her father Lord Snowdon, and Marc Pardoe on how social history is preserved on old picture postcards.

This array of activities confirms our claim that we are northwest London's premier photographic society: we are open and receptive to new ideas, new topics of discussion and, most importantly of all: new members are equally welcome!

### **Other Programme Features**

We have had a number of members' evenings where people can talk about any photographic matters, recent exhibitions they have visited, books they have read and so

on. Or they can present and discuss work in progress or show images where they would appreciate advice for improvement.

We have even invited judges along for extra sessions of advice on how to improve our images to give them a better chance in a competition setting.

Members' evenings have also taken the shape of presentations by members discussing their favourite photographers or those who have been most influential. We have also welcomed members of other clubs such as the City & Cripplegate Camera Club and the Muswell Hill Photographic Society, discussing their work and activities. The HPS also made a return visit to the Muswell Hill Photographic Society.

The other welcome addition to the programme has been the digital tutorials which, as discussed earlier, provide welcome updates in software changes with plenty of notes kept as reference on our website. I am grateful to the digital team who have also made available their notes for reproduction in the newsletter.

The final major components of our programme are the monthly competitions where an expert external judge is invited to come and discuss members' work, appraising its merits and discussing how they think it could be improved. These are split equally into print and projected image competitions. Most are open, where any sort of picture can be shown, but we also have Panels and Set Subject

competitions, one of each in both prints and projected images. In all of these, the judge is invited to score images out of 20, evaluating all aspects of the pictures including aesthetics and technical matters. The points awarded are added to running totals and eventually determine the annual trophy winners, in time for presentations at the AGM, the last meeting of each season.

### **Other Highlights From The HPS Newsletters**

#### **Trips**

Numerous trips have been made by members of the HPS, mostly organised by Chris Burrows. These have included various locations in Germany and France as well as many places in the UK from Dungeness, Rye, Orford Ness, Mersea Island, Bexhill and Hastings and Scotland.

The only time that plans were scuppered was a few years back when the Icelandic Volcano put flights out of the UK under threat, however Chris being clear-headed about the situation managed to make plans for further travels within the UK.

Chris has also organised very successful Easter Bunny Hops and Christmas Turkey (or Grouse) Shoots, with the results being shown in various members evenings and club competitions.

#### **Club Exhibitions**

Until ten years ago, the HPS was quiet on the exhibition

front, but with the 70th anniversary in 2007, Michael Duke got the ball rolling with a number of small showings including the Everyman Cinema in Hampstead and a one day joint publicity event at the Pagliacci Restaurant in Kingsway. He also managed to get a good showing in north London Churches which were part of the Tower and Music series which included art and photographic exhibitions.

This prompted the formation of a sub-committee for exhibitions which culminated in two major exhibitions celebrating the society's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007: one in Burgh House, the other at the Swiss Cottage Library Gallery. Books showing the range of entries were produced and are on display here.

The committee itself has developed a lot in these years and with the proper software installed, the selection process has been hugely simplified and more effective. The current exhibition – The Hungry Eye 08/2015 – is not the first at Burgh House which is a wonderful location enabling us to show our work to a wide and appreciative audience in the most prestigious location in northwest London.

### **External Competitions**

In the past, much of our participation in external competitions was ad-hoc until the formation of the committee role of External Competitions Director which Mike Howell has filled to perfection.

In this role, he has organised our entries in the London-wide inter-club competitions organised by the Surrey Photographic Association (of which the HPS is a member) as well as national events organised by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain, the body which represents most amateur photographers in the country, boasting more than 30,000 members affiliated thought clubs and societies such as ours.

Although our results have been mixed, the HPS has improved over the years thanks to Mike Howell's organisation. Not satisfied with just local club competitions, Mike has also organised club entries into the Glennie Nature Salon a US group, The Sharrow Photographic Salon and the Merrimack Valley Camera Club (Boston, USA) club competition.

### **Member Exhibitions**

Over the years, a number of members have had solo exhibitions including Carole Rawlinson with her images of the Middlesex Hospital during its redevelopment (which Carole published in a book of the same name), David Kaye (Indian Journey), former member Angela Inglis 'Railway Lands' based on the redevelopment of King's Cross and St. Pancras, Michael J Duke having a few exhibitions including '07: Covent Garden.' Most recently, an exhibition of Portraits by Adrian Dell.

A number of members have also had images accepted

in external group exhibitions such as Chris Burrows and Michael J Duke in the Community Focus exhibition at artsdepot in North Finchley, Chris Burrows in the Barnet Open (with Chris achieving Second Place Prize in the competition) and a number of members including David Reed, Chris Burrows, Michael J Duke, David Kobrin and Marilyn Markham having work shown in the Camden Open Open in Swiss Cottage Library Gallery (the 2015 edition is on display from now to September).

### **Outside Organisations**

A number of members belong to other organisations including the London Independent Photographer which has an annual exhibition. The acceptance level for their exhibitions are very high and Carole Rawlinson has had entries accepted as well as being published in the LIP magazine. More recently Edward Bowman has had an article published in the magazine, confirming his role as a major inspiration in the wider world; one highlight of this was his creation of the Creative Group within the RPS, pushing a rather stuffy academic group into the wider world of contemporary photography.

A number of our members are also members of the Royal Photographic Society and the newsletter has carried news of successes by members including Harold Ludman, Stuart Bentley, Carole Rawlinson, Mike Howell and Deborah Loth.

Andrew Gasson won the Gold Medal in the RPS 2011 International Projected Image Exhibition in the nature section. Bob Slott belongs to the Cape Cod PS in the USA where he has had numerous successes and Michael J Duke also belongs to the Isle of Wight Photographic Society and has appeared in a number of their group exhibitions. As part of a photo-shoot at St Mary's Hospital in the IoW, Michael's 'Ambulance' image was included in both the ensuing exhibition and the IoW NHS Trust 2014 Report which was recently published. Michael also belongs to the International Freelance Photographers' Organisation and had an article published in their Summer 2014 magazine.

### Outside Events

The International Salons, like the RPS events, are difficult to gain acceptances, with some more difficult than others. Mike Howell has a long history of acceptances from Scotland to Smethwick and Southampton via Wales as well as on the International stage. However, with his advice, Michael J Duke has more recently been gaining acceptances in Smethwick, Sydney Harbour and more recently Port Talbot as well as in independent international galleries at Balboa Park in San Diego and the Light Space & Time gallery where he received a special merit award.

Deborah Loth has also started gaining plenty of acceptances, including receiving Highly Commended Awards in the SPA

competitions.

Lauderdale House runs a regular Summer Exhibition and various members receiving acceptances and awards including David Kaye, David Reed, Sally Platt and Julian Sainsbury.

With the Merrick Valley Camera Club (mentioned earlier), Adrian Dell, David Reed, Sally Platt and David Kobrin all had acceptances with Sally Platt and David Kobrin both receiving Merit Awards

Edward Bowman, a long standing HPS member, former Chairman and founding member of the RPS Contemporary Group as well as regular speaker at the HPS has succeeded in achieving acceptances in the Association Of Photographers exhibitions and The Royal Academy Summer Show, as well as winning prizes in the Mixed Media Competition at the Saatchi Gallery and the Jewish Artist Of The Year at the Ben Uri Museum of Art.

In recent years at the Hampstead Festival, the HPS has embarrassingly swiped numerous prizes including for works by Oliver Samuel, John Lane and Mike Shellim.

### Sports For Charities

This has nothing to do with photography – however a number of members have taken part in charity runs or walks, including Adrian Dell and Carole Rawlinson for the North London Hospice. Penny Thesen ran the London Marathon in 2009, 2011 and

2015. David Reed has done his bit for Sports Relief as has Michael J Duke along with the John Lewis Gold Challenge for the NSPCC. There have been a number of other charitable activities by other members such as Michael Sheehan who entered a photographic competition with his image 'A Moment Of Calm' being one of 12 finalists used in a calendar.

### Summary

This is just a precis of what has been over the last ten years in the Hampstead Photographic Society, in response to developments in the wider photographic world. Our history up to 2012 (75 years) is due to be updated to help celebrate our 80th anniversary in 2017. Feel free to come along and help us make more history in the years ahead: pick up a copy of our latest programme and see what we have in store!

### Committee

Chair: **David Reed**

Vice-Chair: **Chris Burrows**

Treasurer: **Alan Gubbay**

Publicity/Programme:

**Andrew Hornig**

Secretary: **David Reed**

Competitions Director:

**Deborah Loth**

Digital Activities Manager:  
**Harold Ludman**

External Competitions:

**Mike Howell**

Webmaster: **Mike Shellim**

Social Media Manager:  
**Michael Sheehan**