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## SYPC– New Member’s Information



## Welcome to Sodbury and Yate Photography Club (SYPC)

- Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced photographer you will find that our program has something to offer.
- We hope that you will join in our activities and we look forward to seeing you at club meetings on Monday evenings.
- Participation is encouraged, and is a certain way to both learn and share photographic knowledge.

### What is in this information pack?

The purpose of this information pack is to provide new members, like yourself, with information about Sodbury and Yate Photographic Club (SYPC) and to help new members understand what we do and how we do it. This is what it covers:

**Club Background** – here you will find all the basic information about the club, its aims, activities, affiliations and membership.

**How to get the best out of membership** – engage in the opportunities to participate in club activities and ways to find out more about what we do.

- Programme – more information about the range of activities provided throughout the club year.
- Competitions
- The Annual Exhibition
- Members Evenings
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### Club Background

Sodbury & Yate Photographic Club was formed in 1972 by a group of enthusiasts, who met mainly in local schools and sometimes in members’ homes or garages.

The club has flourished over the years beginning with black and white photography using a dark room to develop the prints to the now ultra-modern digital photography, which goes hand in hand with the software on the personal computer. Both systems get wonderful results; it is just down to personal taste to which system the photographer prefers. Naturally, nowadays, darkroom activity is virtually obsolete.

The vast majority of the membership now work in digital imaging, some prefer prints for display and competitions, others prefer digital images displayed on a computer and projected onto a large screen, some even present both. This all adds up to varied and interesting presentations and competitions.

Our club meets every Monday evening, except Bank Holidays, in the Watkins Room, at the Old Grammar School in Chipping Sodbury. We have a varied programme which includes, hands on photo shoots, members work, “battles” with local clubs, bi-monthly competitions and excellent speakers with many varied topics to interest everyone. All this makes for interesting informative and entertaining evenings.

SYPC has about 50 active members covering a wide range of backgrounds: mostly amateur photographers; a wide age group with some working and some retired; we have beginners and experienced photographers using all types and makes of camera from compact to DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) type.

The club is a member of the WCPF (Western Counties Photographic Federation) which covers the West Country from Stroud in the North West to Swindon, down to Weymouth and all counties to Cornwall. Founded in 1932 the WCPF is affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). For more information, please visit their website at [www.wcpf.org.uk](http://www.wcpf.org.uk).

Our club is also closely affiliated to Photographers with Disabilities (PWD). PWD has a well-equipped studio/workshop which, for a small fee, we often make use of. Our Thursday Photoshop tutorial group meet there for example. Additionally the PWD often hold studio workshops with models, if it is studio work that you want to enhance then joining and working with PWD may satisfy that need.

### How to get the best out of membership

The club is an ideal forum to exchange views on photographic matters and to obtain guidance on anything to do with photography from cameras and equipment to printing, computers, software and exhibitions – there is sure to be someone who will have something to say. All you have to do is ask. The best thing is to nab a committee member who may well know who is an expert on a particular point, or just try the person sitting next to you.

### Programme

The SYPC Annual Club handbook is available when you become a. In the handbook you will find a full programme, a copy of the Club Constitution an introduction to our Competitions and their rules and a list of our committee members.

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### Competitions

Throughout the year we have a schedule of 6 bi-monthly competitions where you can optionally submit 2 prints and/or 2 digital images. Towards the end of the year we hold several end of year competitions. Namely an Audio Visual (AV) competition, a panel of 5 digital images on a theme, a panel of 5 related prints, an Enprint competition and finally a ladies only competition. All the competitions and the rules are fully documented in the Annual Club handbook.

Competitions provide an excellent opportunity for you to hear an experienced photographer (judge) assess your prowess, both technically and artistically. This is probably the best way to improve your photography, and there is no need to fear embarrassment as complete anonymity of entrants is maintained.

All members are welcome, indeed encouraged, to participate in the competitions as it is an excellent way of showing your work to others, and of getting constructive feedback from the judges. You will be given a club membership number and it is by this number that all your competition entries will be identified.

When you feel ready to submit images for competition, (and there is no pressure to do so), then it is best to talk to one of the committee members who will be only too pleased to explain the process. Full details of all of the competitions rules and processes are documented in the Annual Club Handbook.

Additionally there is one inter-club 3 way battle – between Thornbury, Crossbow Camera Club (at Winterbourne) and ourselves. A “battle” is an inter-club competition judged externally. The sponsoring club nominate a date and a location. On that date all photographs must be taken. Each of the 3 clubs enter 25 images each. The images are intermingled, and the judge does not know which images are from which club. Images are scored out of 20 and the club with the highest aggregate score wins. Each year, club members are asked to submit images for the battle and we have a small selection committee who reduce the submissions to the required number; the selections are put to the rest of the members for approval, prior to entering in the competition.

### The Annual Exhibition

Our Club showcase for members’ work is our annual exhibition which is displayed locally in Yate. This year we presented over 40 prints in Yate library for 4 weeks. All members are invited to participate and the detailed arrangements are discussed at a club night several months beforehand. The general public are encouraged to comment and select their favourite print. An invited guest opens the exhibition and selects their favourite print. The winning author then has the opportunity to present his own work later that year. A copy of the winning print is also used as the cover for the Annual Club handbook.

### Members Evenings

On the practical side, from time to time the club organises a “hands on” session for all of us to get to know our digital cameras. Past workshops have included models with studio lighting, a live band and macro work. We have a programme of photographic outings to various locations; recent visits include The Owl sanctuary at Ebbw Vale, Yate shopping centre by night, Bristol Suspension Bridge at night, Sport in Action (Football and Netball activities).

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### Special Interest Groups

We have several Special Interest Groups. The principle one meets every Thursday morning currently at the PWD RIGEWOOD centre in Yate. The focus of this group is to enhance and advance Digital photo manipulation – basically understanding and developing Photoshop skills. There is also an AV (Audio Visual) group that looks to advance the use of AV’s particularly using the software package of Pictures to Exe. This group also meets at the Ridgewood Centre but on a monthly basis. We have recently started a small group that is looking at long exposure photography. For further information about all of these groups is available by speaking to a committee member.

### BBQ and Annual Dinner

Every year we hold a club dinner in February and a BBQ in early summer. These are informal occasions where we get together for a natter and a bite to eat.

### Website

The SYPC website [www.sypc.org.uk](http://www.sypc.org.uk) has lots of information about the club. You can download tutorials that members have found useful, check the programme, and view a gallery of images submitted by members. You will be given an identifier and password so that you will also have a ‘member’s folder’ on the website where you will be able to upload images for all to see.

### Calibrate your computer and printer with the loan of calibration device

The club owns a Colour Munki device that members may borrow to colour calibrate their computer monitor and printer. Committee members can explain what this is for, how it works, and why you may want to do this.

### The AGM

Towards the end of the year we hold our AGM, where Committee members stand for election/re-election and other club business is transacted. If you would like to become a committee member please let us know – we are always keen to find new members willing to participate in this way.

It is essential to remember that this is **YOUR** club. If it isn’t doing what you would like then please tell a committee member. All ideas and suggestions will be considered.

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## SYPC– New Member’s Information

### Committee members

A list of the Committee members and contact details are on the back of the Annual Club handbook and their names and roles duplicated below –

#### **Ray Grace ARPS DPAGB– President**



“I first developed an interest in photography when, as a young man in the RAF, I was posted to Singapore. I bought my first camera there and joined a camera club in order to learn. I built my own darkroom and learned to develop and print my own photographs; mostly in black and white in the early years. My interest waxed and waned over the years as my family took a higher priority and I was also a very keen sportsman taking part in a few of them competitively. Much later in life, towards the ends of my career, I found myself posted to a station very local to here and I took up the hobby again and joined another local camera club in order to learn more and be involved with other people who had the same interest.

As digital imaging came along I took to it with enthusiasm. As digital camera technology improved and the processing software along with it I really began to enthuse more and more. The more I learned, particularly about the post-processing software (Photoshop), the more I enjoyed what I was doing. Very soon I found that not only was I learning but I was in a position to pass on my knowledge to others who were just starting their photographic journey. As well as just being a camera club member I began to get involved in running the clubs I was involved in and have served in many committee posts. Currently I am a member of four photographic groups and am a council/committee member on two of them. Being involved in the running of a society helps me to give back something to those who have provided my entertainment. As well as being a keen sportsman throughout my life I have also been a keen hill walker and have combined my love of the landscape with my photography. As well as photographing the landscape I enjoy wildlife photography and close up (macro) photography of flowers. Recently I have also developed an interest in re-enactment groups.

I have found being a member of a camera club to be very beneficial to my hobby. It has helped very much in the learning process as knowledge was gleaned from fellow members more knowledgeable than me. In the latter years I have found myself in a position where I have been able to pass my knowledge on to others. That’s the way it goes. We are all friends and there are no secrets in photography so if spreading the knowledge helps to instil enthusiasm and interest in others then that’s all to the good.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to our Society. I hope you enjoy it and get as much from it as I do. We are a friendly bunch with a membership that extends from beginners to very experienced with many aspects of photography being embraced.”

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### **Stuart Lewis – Chairman**



“I’ve been interested in photography since my primary school years, even building my own darkroom in my bedroom. Family life and work commitments prevented me from developing my skills further, although I continued to take many snaps with a variety of cameras. Like a lot of people, on retiring, I decided to investigate joining a Camera Club and reinvigorate my childhood hobby and enthusiasm. I couldn’t have joined a better club. If you join, you will find us to be a warm and friendly group of enthusiasts, you can participate in as much or as little as you like.”

### **Clive Rushton – Secretary**



“I have been a member of Sodbury & Yate Photographic Club for around 7 years and have served on the Committee as Secretary for 4 years. I became interested in photography in my early twenties and was given a Canon QL camera at that time. Although I never set up my own dark room I did have some experience at Wolverhampton C A T (now W’ton University) when I was studying metallurgy and we were required to take photomicrographs of metallic structures using microscope attachments. Despite taking lots of photographs as my children grew, and now photographing my grandchildren I have never lost the enthusiasm for the hobby and found a seamless entry into pairing it with computers. My major regret is not having, yet, adopted my own style.

### **Eileen Scantlebury LRPS - Treasurer**



“My first camera was most probably only used a few times, snaps of school friends, a trip to the Lake District with my Secondary School and a holiday with the Bristol Youth Choir to Norway. After moving back to Bristol, my Dad with some friends formed SYPC, and when my children were old enough I joined the club. I have had quite a few “jobs” during my time with the club. I started working in the dark room developing and printing the pictures, eventually gaining my LRPS distinction. Then digital, a completely different ball game. I then had to master a computer and all that goes with it, to eventually make a print or a digital image. The complexities involved with digital has sometimes been hard to grasp and remember, but I have enjoyed the journey from a dark, wet, sometimes smelly environment to working always in the light and staying dry.

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### **Dave Dyer – Programme Secretary**



“Devon born, Devon bred, Home town Exeter where first steps in photography were taken using a Brownie film camera and taking mainly photos of steam locomotives (current passion). A degree in Modern Languages ( French, German & Russian) at Kingston / Thames led me into teaching and thereby a nomadic way of life living & working in France, Germany, Sussex & Suffolk before arriving in Yate in 1984. After 22 years as Head of Modern Languages Faculty in Winterbourne (the former Ridings High School) retirement called.

A significant part of my teaching career revolved around taking pupils abroad and documenting their experiences in photos for the benefit of parents. I had moved into the world of compact cameras while in Germany with an Agfa Silette. My first SLR was the Pentax K1000 - a lovely, fully manual film camera, a real workhorse and great learning tool. In the 90s I moved to my first automatic SLR - a Canon and have stayed with the brand ever since, although my first digital camera was the Olympus Camedia - a solid beast, let down by the batteries, This frustration led to my first DSLR - the Canon 400D so that I could continue to use the lenses I already had. This camera is still running, although for longer trips I travel with my SX50 Bridge for compactness. Most recently I’ve invested in an extra pixel or 2 in the shape of the D760 which I’m still figuring out.

I think my ‘photography’ changed in the 90s after joining SYPC. We used to meet in Poole Court in those days with dark room sessions at Brimsham Green School. A mutual friend dragged me along to the Club, but left soon after and I stayed on.

This is about my third stint on the committee, initially as a committee member, then treasurer and now as Programme Secretary. This current post is proving to be the most enjoyable..... so far. Photographically, I’ve not really settled to any one genre. Most of my images would fall into the landscape category. There are so many different genres to explore and try out. Macro fascinates me, as do long exposure and A/V, even time lapse photography. In fact if you analyse the content of the programmes you’ll recognize them.

### **Jenny Craft – New Member Host**



“I have been a member of Sodbury and Yate Photography Club for several years and thoroughly enjoy every aspect, particularly the eclectic mix of speakers on Monday evenings. In my role as New Member’s host for the club, I meet and greet any potential new members on Club Nights and enjoy answering any questions they may have about the club or photography in general. My other interests include archaeology, walking and volunteering as a Conservation Assistant for the National Trust at Dyrham Park. “

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### **John Scantlebury LRPS CPAGB– Committee Member**



“My photographic story began when I was an apprentice; I bought myself a ‘compact’ 35mm Camera an ‘Agimatic’ at that time quite a sophisticated camera. After that I bought a Wrayflex, an English 35mm SLR, this did not last very long as the viewfinder worked backwards. I had various other SLRs in between all this.

I joined the new Sodbury & Yate Photographic Society. Eileen joined a year or two later. I later joined the committee as Programme Secretary. We both started doing darkroom black and white printing together. We became quite proficient at printing, I tried and gained my LRPS in B/W in the 1980’s.

I took early retirement from Rolls Royce, in August 2000. I joined Ace Camera’s the same year. This meant learning all about this ‘Digital’ Photography, I found after a short time that it made things a lot easier! I was persuaded to try for the CPAGB award; It took two attempts.”

### **Alan Monaghan – Publicity Secretary**



### **Russell Dew – Health & Safety**



### **Hugh Jones – Web Master**



### **Tim Edwards – Competitions Secretary**