



H² Photographic Society

NEW MEMBER'S WELCOME PACK

We are here:

- To improve the standard of photography of all our members.
- To provide an environment for photographers to flourish
- To learn from the very best photographers in the world
- To be a gateway for members to enjoy and improve through practical support

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H² Photographic Society

Welcome to **H² Photographic Society**. In this pack you will find the following information:

- A short history of our club
- Information for new members
- Membership form including the cost of membership
- The current programme

History

H² PS's origins can be traced back to when Harlow was chosen as a 'new town' in 1947: small groups of keen photographers grouped together to exchange ideas. Some were employees from the many international companies who encouraged their staff to run their own photographic clubs. These photographers joined together to form Harlow Photographic Society (HPS).

Those were the days when black & white photography was the norm and most members processed their own photos. Within a few years HPS had established itself as one of the leading photographic clubs in the region, winning many awards and regional competitions. Through membership, many people have acquired enough experience to gain qualifications with the Royal Photographic Society; Photographic Alliance of Great Britain; The British Institute of Professional Photographers and The International Federation; some members even turned professional and earned their living from photography. Most, however, still enjoyed it just as a creative hobby.

Today, the internet and digital capture opened up photography to all. Today, the majority of people have a camera with them in the form of a smartphone or tablet, and we started to realise that our club needed to evolve to meet the needs of the modern photographic enthusiasts. The format for clubs has not changed for decades and it was decided we needed a change in direction; a new plan: be progressive but without losing the qualities that were most prized by its membership and appeal to all photographers, no matter what age, sex, cultural or social background.

H² Photographic Society is the result of that change and we are very pleased you have joined us on our journey. Our new name, H², comes from our move to Much Hadham; we are now the photographic society for Harlow & The Hadhams. Welcome, again.

Information:

Learning – you will see from our programme that we have many ways to assist our members to reach their photographic potential:

- practical evenings where you will be shown how other members work, be it table-top, still life, portrait or landscape photography;
- digital projected image (DPI) contests that are judged by an external judge;
- and we have regular tutorials aimed at inspiring members to attempt something new, stretch their abilities and advance their creativity.

Flickr – this is our club’s chosen image-viewing internet platform for club members to share their images. The H² Flickr group page is a private site that only invited club members can access and view and we encourage all members to contribute their work to it. Members can post positive & helpful comments to the images. Also on the page there are several discussion groups, covering topics such as club trips, technical advice and upcoming photographic exhibitions. If you are not an existing Flickr user, there are many members who will be happy to help you get up and running.

“Buddies” - our club has a buddy system whereby, if you wish, you can be assigned a couple of more experienced photographers who will be able to introduce you to other members and answer any questions you may have. From experience, we have found this speeds up integration and helps you get the most out of our club.

Social – our club is where photographic enthusiasts can enjoy their photography and meet like-minded people to share their passion in an enjoyable & inclusive environment. And have fun - the Bull pub, opposite the Village Hall, is normally busier after the club finishes on a Thursday evening.

Continuous improvement – we are always interested in gaining feedback from our members. We do this by asking you to complete regular online questionnaires and would encourage you to complete them, to assist us to continually improve our club.