

HPS Newsletter - October, 2024

1954 to 2024
70 YEARS

Website: <https://helderbergphoto.com>

Email: helderbergphoto@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/helderbergphoto/

Member of PSSA: <http://www.pssa.co.za>

United Church: 28 Bright Street, Somerset West, 7130

Meeting: Second Tuesday of Each Month @ 19h15

MONTHLY COMPETITION

Set Subject for Month: Windows

External Judge: Antenie Carstens

Internal Judges (Prints): Those Members Present



First Placed Image: Pigeon Holes For People

Author: Steve Trimby

Digital, Set Subject, 29 Points

 **Kodak Express**
Digital Solutions

SUPERFOTO
PHOTOGRAPHIC

 **SUPERFOTO**

Somerset Mall 021 852 6737



Second Placed Image: Doda and Atie
Author: Izak van Niekerk
Digital, Set Subject, 28 Points



Third Placed Image: A Window in a Window
Author: Nettie Warncke
Digital, Set Subject, 28 Points

FROM THE CHAIR

The run-up to Christmas is going to be a very busy one for Helderberg – many plans and decisions to be made!

This month's Newsletter contains the Set Subjects for next year ... make a copy for your fridge door, as well as your car! I hope you will start making new work instead of looking in your archives – I myself admit that I resort to doing that sometimes ... So let's start afresh.

Welcome back to a number of members who have been in the UK, Holland, Italy, Greece and Turkey – we look forward to seeing your images, and experiencing moments of your travels!

Best regards,

Nettie
Oct. '24

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 70-Year Anniversary of HPS will be celebrated at the December Gala Evening. As usual, included in the Gala evening activities will be the HPS AGM (usually, fairly brief). This year a number of Committee Members and/or assistants will be standing down. As a result, volunteers will be called for to fill the positions vacated. Included here will be:

Nettie, who is standing down as Chairman in accordance with rule 7.6 of the Constitution.

Stephen, who is taking a break from the IT related aspects of club management.

Peter, who will no longer be editing the monthly newsletter. (See Editor's Comment below for more info.)

Please consider if YOU could possibly assist on your club committee going forward.

Stephen Roodt, who has been an active committee member for 5 years, has announced that he will be on a Sabbatical next year. This will give Stephen time to focus on some of his own photographic and creative interests that have been on the back burner for the last 2 to 3 years.

The club needs one, two or three members to take over the Multimedia functions that Stephen has performed over past two year.

Below is a summary of the functions involved:

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

<p style="text-align: center;">HPS email administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gmail account • Respond to Club enquiries – mostly new people wanting to join • Distribute Newsletters etc • Send Church a reminder day before meeting <p style="text-align: right; color: #00AEEF;">Periodically / Monthly</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HPS website administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WordPress hosted website • Update pages periodically • Publish winning image and results sheets after monthly meeting <p style="text-align: right; color: #00AEEF;">Monthly</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">HPS member list administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Google sheets hosted spreadsheets • Members • Mailing lists <p style="text-align: center;">Used for email distribution, membership reporting and WhatsApp admin</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: #00AEEF;">Monthly</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Photo vault administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Via Own Login ID • Event admin (Create / edit events for meetings) • Download photos and score sheets for meetings • Club members admin (approve new members) • Club admin (access control) <p style="text-align: right; color: #00AEEF;">Monthly</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Preparation for Monthly meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WeTransfer Photos and score sheets to External Judge ➤ Prepare Photos for showing at the meetings <p style="text-align: center; color: #00AEEF;">Monthly for Competition event Two monthly for Black and White</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monthly meetings (B&W and Competition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Setup and store equipment ➤ Show photos and AV's ➤ Finalise Score sheets for publishing after the meeting <p style="text-align: right; color: #00AEEF;">Monthly</p>

Please contact Stephen for more details in order to help you make up your mind to assist us in any way possible, to keep the club functioning efficiently from 1 Jan 2025.

The Next B&W Meeting will take place at Issi's house on Tuesday 5 November, 2024.

The two set-subject topics will be "Windows" and "Minimalism". All projected entries are to placed in Photo Vault by Saturday 2 November.

FUTURE SET SUBJECTS

Set Subjects - 2024

Month	Date	Meeting	Set Subjects	
November	Tue 05 Nov	B&W	Windows	Minimalism
November	Tue 12 Nov	Competition	Minimalism	
December	Tue 10 Dec	GALA Evening	Special Project Show	

FUTURE SET SUBJECTS (CONTINUED)

Set Subjects - 2025

The set subjects for 2025 are as follows:

January	The Beach
February	The Progress of Time
March	Street Photography
April	Macro
May	A South African Landscape
June	Abstract
July	Humour
August	Creatures
September	Movement
October	Bokeh
November	A Colour, or, Colours

"Set Subject" for December 2024 - Special Project

The HPS write-up for this states:

"A Series of five to ten related images is required. All images must be linked together by a common theme. You are free to choose the theme to suit yourself. You should also provide an additional title image giving your Name and the Title of your Collection. It is envisioned that you will work on this collection throughout the year."

Stephen has created a category slot for this in Photo Vault. The collection consists of a Title Page; and a further allowance for up to ten images that will be displayed in the order that you have entered them into Photo Vault.

The entries will be shown during the Gala Evening in December.

In case you have not yet finalised your submission, I asked [Chat GPT](#) to come up with some suggestions for this Special Project. Here are some of the ideas it came up with:

1. Seasons of Change

- **Concept:** Capture the beauty of nature throughout different seasons.
- **Photos:** Ten shots showing the transformation of a single location or subject (like a tree, park, or field) over the year.
- **Title Sheet:** A title showcasing a blend of the seasonal colours.

2. Textures of the Urban Jungle

- **Concept:** Focus on the various textures found in a city or town.
- **Photos:** Include details like weathered brick walls, smooth glass windows, rough concrete, shiny metal, and soft foliage emerging from cracks.
- **Title Sheet:** A mosaic or collage of these textures.

FUTURE SET SUBJECTS (CONTINUED)

3. Light and Shadows

- **Concept:** Play with lighting to create a collection that emphasizes shadow play and contrast.
- **Photos:** Each photo could explore different sources of light and the way shadows fall—natural light, streetlights, indoors, etc.
- **Title Sheet:** A striking contrast image of a subject half in shadow, half in light.

4. Reflections: Mirror of Reality

- **Concept:** Use reflections to tell a story about your surroundings.
- **Photos:** Capture reflections in water, glass, mirrors, or other reflective surfaces in different environments.
- **Title Sheet:** A reflection photo that frames the whole concept.

5. The Forgotten Corners

- **Concept:** Highlight overlooked or forgotten areas.
- **Photos:** Focus on spaces that go unnoticed, like abandoned buildings, back alleys, or quiet corners with hidden beauty.
- **Title Sheet:** A faded, almost eerie shot of one of these forgotten places.

6. Human Connections

- **Concept:** Capture moments of human interaction.
- **Photos:** Snap candid shots that display different types of human connection — friendship, love, teamwork, community, etc.
- **Title Sheet:** A meaningful portrait of hands or faces showing emotion.

7. Motion in Stillness

- **Concept:** Explore the tension between motion and stillness in photography.
- **Photos:** Capture moving elements (like flowing water, moving cars, or wind-swept trees) with a still background, using long exposure for effect.
- **Title Sheet:** A dynamic long-exposure shot that reflects movement.

8. Colour Stories

- **Concept:** Create a project based entirely on colour themes.
- **Photos:** Each of the ten photos could highlight a dominant colour and tell a story through its use—red, blue, yellow, etc.
- **Title Sheet:** A vibrant splash of colours representing the palette of the project.

9. Symmetry in Chaos

- **Concept:** Find symmetrical compositions in unexpected or chaotic places.
- **Photos:** From urban landscapes to nature, search for balance in the middle of disorder.
- **Title Sheet:** A balanced, symmetrical shot contrasting a chaotic environment.

Fancy one of these Chat GPT ideas? Then, give it a go.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The Camera Club Monthly Newsletter

Purpose of the Club Newsletter

What is the purpose of a club newsletter? Basically, it is to communicate useful information, and mainly to encourage/motivate members.

As is my habit these days, I asked [Chat GPT](#) for an answer.

Chat GPT said:

A camera club newsletter serves several important purposes within the club:

Communication: *It keeps members informed about upcoming events, meetings, competitions, workshops, and other club activities. This helps ensure that members are aware of opportunities to participate and stay engaged.*

Education: *Newsletters often contain tips, tutorials, and articles on various aspects of photography, such as techniques, equipment reviews, or creative ideas. This helps members improve their skills and stay up to date with the latest trends.*

Showcasing Members' Work: *It provides a platform to showcase members' photographs, achievements, or awards. This fosters a sense of community and recognition for individual accomplishments.*

Inspiration: *By highlighting interesting photography projects, challenges, or themes, the newsletter can inspire members to try new techniques or explore different genres of photography.*

Club News and Updates: *Important club decisions, changes in leadership, or updates about the club's progress can be shared in the newsletter.*

Encouraging Participation: *A well-designed newsletter encourages active participation by announcing opportunities for photo contests, critique sessions, and collaborative projects within the club.*

Building Community: *It helps build a sense of belonging among members, promoting interactions, feedback, and collaboration. It can also include member profiles, interviews, or guest articles to foster a closer-knit community.*

A good newsletter can be a vital tool to keep the club vibrant, engaged, and continuously growing in skills and creativity.

I also asked [Chat GPT](#) for comments as to what could be included in a camera club newsletter, but the response is a bit long to publish here.

EDITOR'S COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Distribution of the Club newsletter

Generally, these days, there are two methods of distributing the newsletter. It is either sent directly to a member's email in-box, or it is stored on a web-site and the member is required to download a copy if they want to. In some cases (e.g. PSSA), each member is sent a reminder that the newsletter is ready on the website, where it may be read or downloaded.

I, personally, prefer the case where the document is sent directly to my email in-box. I then have to decide whether to delete it, or to save it.

A look at other club newsletters

At my first camera club in the digital era (F-Stop – Kempton Park), the newsletter was issued as a folded A5 paper booklet at the monthly club meeting. If you required an electronic version, you could download a pdf copy from the website. However, the A4 pages of this copy were a bit confusing, having been laid out for the folded booklet version. The photocopier printing was done by an advertiser, in exchange for carrying a free advertisement. Initially the newsletter was B&W, but later a coloured version was provided.

Most Gold and COM images were included. Also, all scores were summarized, which took up quite a bit of space. We had six categories, instead of just the two (Set-subject and Open). And then, for the Barometer, the total of all scores per photographer were summed by month, and ranked. At the end of the year, this table was used to identify the POTY (Photographer of the Year).

My second camera club (NEPG – Perth WA) had the news on a rolling page on the website. Information was entered as it became available, and removed when it was no longer applicable. All images and scores were also available on the website, as was the POTY table, which were updated monthly. Over and above the POTY competition, the December meeting also included judging, where each photographer would enter what they considered to be their two best images for the year. Various prizes were awarded for category winners in this competition too.

My third camera club was HPS. Here, a digital newsletter is forwarded to the email addresses of all members. Most were issued as pdf files, although a few were issued in MS Word doc format. The monthly scores have appeared on the website since 2017, but there are no tabulations for the individual photographers, and the club does not normally identify a POTY or similar sub-categories, at the end of the year.

Perhaps the ultimate newsletter is "[Cape Camera](#)", prepared by CTPS. This has scores of pages, and is obviously a combination of the work of many authors. Many images from the last monthly competition are included. To limit the number of these, the cut-off image score varies from month to month.

EDITOR'S COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Editing and Publishing Software

I would imagine that, the CTPS newsletter mentioned above uses some professional publishing software to prepare the final product.

When I started thinking about editing the HPS Newsletter some two years ago, I considered various inexpensive solutions. Towards the end of my working life, I used to do all my own typing, layouts, etc. using the MS Office tools. When I retired, I took to using Open Office, and then, Libre Office. Unfortunately, I had problems with both of these, typically due to converting my old Office files into the “open” system equivalent. So, I started to use an cast-off copy of MS Office 2003. With my latest computer, I bit the bullet, and installed MS Office & Home 2019. Since then, I have found that using Word or Excel is very frustrating. Things that I know must be in there somewhere, I cannot easily find. So, I was not keen on using MS Office.

Talking to Fiona, she recommended using MS Publisher. However, my version of Office does not include this. I tried out a couple of free publisher software solutions, and came to the conclusion that Scribus would do the job. (Rather annoyingly, many of the so-called free tools are free for a while, but when you get more dependent upon them, you are required to pay for an update!)

Scribus, being [Open Source](#), tends to be designed by programmers, for programmers. The help and support are sadly inadequate. For instance, the biggest problem I had with the old version, was that I investigated, and concluded, that it had no spell-checker. So, as an extra step, I did spell checking on the completed document using the free version of Ginger Writer (which too, has its problems). In mid-2024, Scribus came out with a new version. I decided not to upgrade, since I was stopping the newsletter work at the end of this year in any case. However, recently I wondered if the new version included a spell checker, and, on investigation, found to my surprise that my old version does, in fact, have a rudimentary spell checker! As a result, this particular edition of the newsletter will be the first one I have done using the Scribus spell checker.

Generally, I do all of my draughts in MS Word. I use its spell and syntax checking to make corrections/alterations. I then do the layout work in Scribus, and paste the draught work in as required. Afterwards, I may do some minor editing in Scribus. (It is normally here that many of my own errors occur!)

Similarly, with inputs from contributors, these generally arrive as Word documents, and I copy/paste the text/images into Scribus. If some editing is required (typically, from persons whose first language is not English), I first do that in Word.

Finally, the pdf file that is exported from Scribus is too large for some members email systems. So, some compression is necessary. I tried out many systems, and eventually settled on using the [online compressor provided by I Love PDF](#). So far, this has done a good job. Unfortunately, the pdf's are not searchable in Acrobat Reader, but the uncompressed searchable version is twice as big as the non-searchable one!

EDITOR'S COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Editor Free to Do as He/She Feels

Whoever takes over the task of editing the HPS Newsletter, is generally free to do whatever appeals to them (unless the Committee has some objection of course).

Please Help.

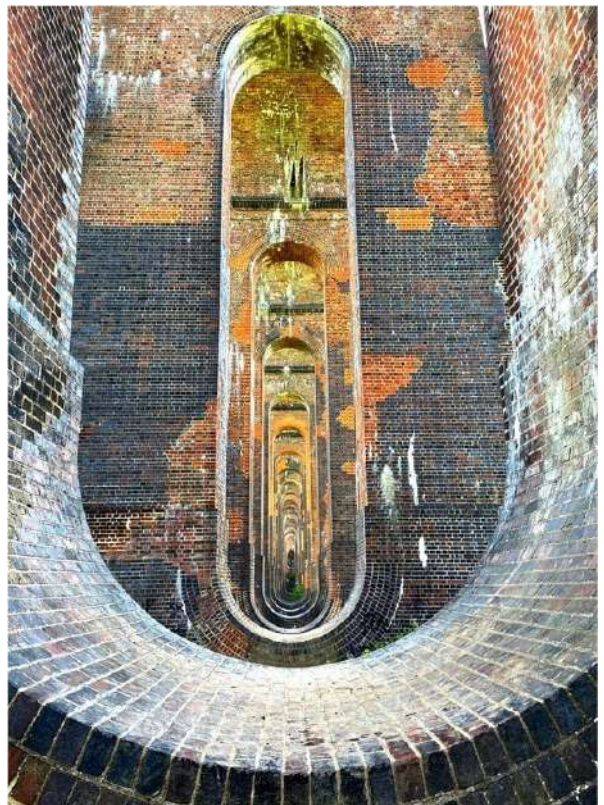
ODDS & ENDS

The Ouse Valley Viaduct - by Nettie



I recently visited the [Ouse Valley Viaduct](#) in Sussex. It carries the Main Line between Brighton and London, and is located north of Haywards Heath, and south of Balcombe. Known for its ornate design, the structure has been described as 'probably the most elegant viaduct in Britain'. (It is not the viaduct that Harry Potter flew through ... that one is in Scotland in Glen-Finnan, Inverness-shire).

The architect was David Mocatta, and the viaduct was opened in July 1841. At 29 metres high it is carried on 37 semi-circular arches, each of 9.1 metres, surmounted by balustrades, spanning a total length of 450 metres. It has been estimated that 11 million bricks were used in construction. At present it is being maintained and strengthened.



ODDS & ENDS (CONTINUED)



Nettie Warncke

September 2024

Martin Osner's Retreat

HPS recently received a reminder concerning the Art Photography Retreat to be held in the Swellendam area from 19-23 May, 2025.

For further information, click on the image or visit Martin's [Retreat website](#).



ODDS & ENDS (CONTINUED)

Chelsea Flower Show Comes to Stanford



Some of us visited the flower show reconstruction at Stanford recently.

Here is a sample of what was available to photograph.

2024 Interclub Celebration of Photography

It gives Paarl Photography Club great pleasure to invite the Western Cape Photography Clubs/Societies to take part in the 2024 Western Cape Photography Forum Celebration Event at the PJ Olivier Art Centre, Blom Street, Stellenbosch.

The formal Event Opening will take place on Saturday 9 November 2024

Doors Open: 12:00

Opening Address: 13:00

Gallery Closes: 17:30

Free parking will be available on 9 November (Entrance to Parking in Mark Street, just behind the Art centre).

The Exhibition itself will be open from Monday 11 November, 09:00 to 17:00 on weekdays, until 20 November 2024.

Returned prints may be collected on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 November 2024 between 09:00 and 12:00 from gallery. (Alternative arrangements for collections may be made with the coordinator).

Please remember to support our sponsor - Kodak Express in Somerset Mall!



Somerset Mall 021 852 6737