



**1 Bough Beech
Sunset by Derek
Griffin**

**2 Osprey with
Fresh Catch by
David Godfrey**

**3 Just Another
Day in Paradise by
Tony Sharp**



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Join the Club

This friendly club has regular outings as well as fascinating speakers who give practical tips

When was the club founded?
Tonbridge CC started in 1966.

What does your club offer to new members?

Socialising with friendly people in a splendid new venue. Before, we were in a school hall, and meetings felt like a school assembly. We now meet in a smaller venue with a bar, tables where you face each other. This means a warmer welcome to new members.

Learning new skills. Our club offers a wide array of subjects so members can get advice on most photo styles.

Exhibiting your pictures. We have two exhibitions a year where you can display and sell your work. There are visitors' feedback forms so you could see if the public liked your shots.

Taking part in practical sessions, everything from macro to portraiture.

Enjoy outings to places of photographic interest. These are a great way to try different photo styles.

Enjoying a varied programme of weekly meetings.

Participating in club competitions. There are open contests and themed ones, covering various subjects.

Gaining assistance if working towards recognised awards. We have very competent photographers who are happy to assist in your goals.

Describe a typical club meeting

No two meetings are the same. There will normally be announcements, reminders of competition dates, any club news. Judges and guest speakers are welcomed. There is time for questions at the end of presentations.

If there is a practical evening the purpose will be explained and members can then try their hand.

There are also online sub meetings for Image Discussion (for those who want advice on an image prior to entering it to a competition) and Audio Visual (for people who want to

put a sequence of images or video to music or dialogue). 'Not a cat in hell's chance' is an evening where members show photos that they feel would not do well in competitions but like them anyhow. Social evenings include Play Your Prints Right, where members submit images and they are voted on by the other members. Meetings are always friendly and light-hearted. We break for 20 minutes for members to socialise.

Do you invite guest speakers?

Yes, we have a wide range of speakers from street photography to a lady specialising in photographing polar bears in the Arctic. She gave practical advice on keeping your batteries warm and what to do if confronting a polar bear. Counter-intuitively, you need to stay calm and ask, 'How are you today, Mr Bear?' The bear will then not get alarmed and see you as a threat. Additionally, who knew they have a polar bear prison in Churchill, Canada. This is for any bears that wander into town. They are given water but no food so they don't associate the town with food. After a few days they are flown or driven some distance away in the hope they do not return.

One speaker talked about commercial food and glamour photography. It was fascinating how food and images are manipulated for advertising. He showed a beautiful black & white image of a model's torso in the rain. We then saw the panned-out shot with the model standing in a bowl with the assistant using a watering can from above.

One gentleman spoke about taking images underwater. Speakers will often give tips on equipment, camera settings and the need for patience. The advice from these professionals can really help improve your images.

Some can be really inspiring. There was a wildlife photographer who took close-ups of wild African elephants without a zoom! He stayed with the elephants until they trusted him. That enabled him to get close enough to capture some beautiful imagery. It also gave insight into magazine photos as he had to consider space for text and titles to go over the image.

Our members who specialise in a given area also give talks. One gave an excellent talk on how he saved up for a camera and film and the excitement of taking his first shot. Unfortunately, he could not afford the developing costs so never saw how it turned out.

Another member spoke about how to take shots of the night sky. He brought his tripod in, which was fitted with a device that turned your camera at the same speed as the Earth. This stopped stars from blurring.

Do members compete in regional or national competitions?

Some of us do enter external contests.

How many members do you have?

We have 52 members.

Are any trips or outings planned?

We have regular outings to churches, museums and historic buildings. Recent visits included the V&A Museum and Brompton Oratory, then Holland Park to photograph peacocks. A popular trip was to Leighton House, the former home and studio of Victorian artist Frederic Leighton.

We also visit parks for wildlife photography, such as Knole Park to photograph deer during rutting season. Informal member-led trips have included shooting the Underground, light trails, and walking the Thames Path from Woolwich Ferry to London Bridge – producing striking urban landscapes (and a few sore feet).

A WhatsApp group allows members to organise spur-of-the-moment trips.

Do you have any funny stories?

A guest speaker told us about the time when as a young photographer he was doing a shoot for Fortnum & Mason. When he'd finished photographing the cream cakes he was told to throw them in the bin. They looked too delicious to throw away so he took a big bite. It was then he realised they were filled with shaving foam.

What are your goals for the future?

We hope to increase our membership and we have a publicity officer trying to expand our profile. We hold two exhibitions a year to showcase our work. The club is hoping to continue to bring in interesting speakers, try new competitions and plan more outings, possibly incorporating visits to photo exhibitions. Some members have taken pictures for other community groups' publicity. This is something we hope to continue and grow. The Tonbridge annual triathlon also asks us to help photograph the event.

We want to attract new members, as belonging to a club can give you focus and a good reason to carry on snapping.



Club essentials

Tonbridge Camera Club

Tonbridge Wells Football Club, the Ridgemont Pavilion, The Ridgewaye, Southborough, Kent, TN4 0BD

Meets: Thursdays (Sept to May) 7-10pm. (Actual meeting starts at 7.45 but socialising starts from 7pm)

Membership: £72

Contact: 07969854894/ membership@tonbridgecameraclub.org.uk

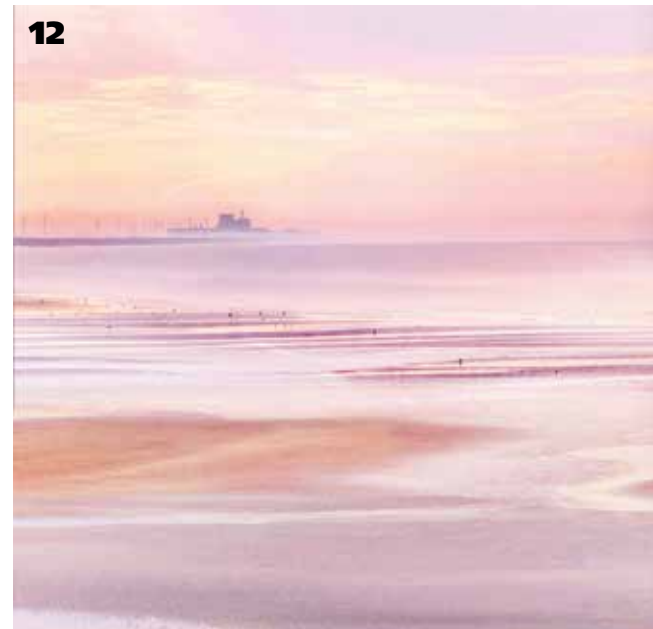
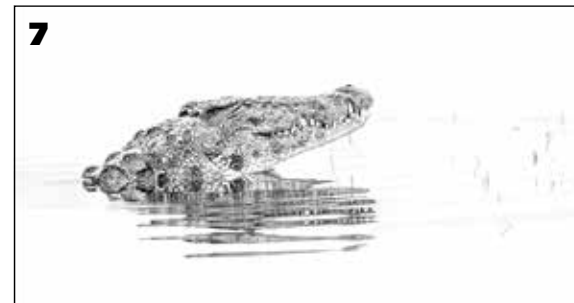
Website: www.tonbridgecameraclub.org.uk

4 Fritillaries on Jacob's Ladder by Alan Cork

11 Farm Girl by David Lucy



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5 Colours of North Uist by Sue Lane

6 Lethal Weapons by Kenneth MacIver

7 Crocodile by Simon Lane

8 Running for a Train by Philip Smithies

9 Moonlit Meander by Nicola King

10 Preparing to Jump by Lesley Burnand

12 Sunset over Dungeness Power Station by Julie Salwey

13 Feeding Hoopoe Young by David Godfrey