

Newsletter

InFocus at DVCC

31st August 2025



Learn, Develop, Share, Support

The coming year!

The forthcoming camera club year takes us into 2026 and that year marks 75 years since the birth of what is now the Dearne Valley Camera Club, (November was the first meeting of the then called Wath Camera Club) For our 75th anniversary please let members of the committee know about any "grand ideas" you might have them and we can put them in the melting pot to see what comes to fruition.

Leading unto that anniversary we will want to ensure that we have another successful year so we will have a packed activity schedule for this year as well as some special events.

This years schedule is being formulated but it looks like we will be having some wonderful photography opportunities for you and these will be posted as soon as possible

But in the meantime what's in store in the next few weeks can be seen in the table at the foot of this page.

Critical to photography through the ages are a number of factors: composition, lighting, exposure and focusing are but a few. Bearing this in mind in our second week back our we will explore composition, lighting, exposure focusing and setting the scene by taking photographs of flowers and about creating abstract images with intentional camera movements.

Subscriptions and Membership fees.

Your subscription and membership fees are now due (deadline 12:00 noon on the 14th September 2025)

Its only £60 per annum and that gets you 48 weeks of photography fun, learning and photography access to support community ventures.

New members will pay a full year's membership upon joining the club

Doncaster Racecourse

We hope to have some exciting news following our recent visit to Doncaster racecourse and the efforts of the committee - more news to follow as soon as possible

Wednesday 3rd September	Show and Tell at Wath	Submit via the website three of your favourite things / favourite photographs taken over the summer - fear not if they are from some time long ago, just add them via the website so we can share and perhaps inspire others
Wednesday 10th September	Practical night at Wath	Flowers three ways - although it might be fourways. Bring your camera, bring a tripod, bring some flowers, bring some props to dress the table.

Flowers Three ways.

Perhaps a slightly intriguing heading, however by using flowers (and chocolates*) as the subject we can develop our skills in **composition, lighting** and **directing**. Sort of directing because it will be up to you to move the subject and arrange the subject to where you want it (them) to be and that will help you in studying the subject and moving them to the best location for your photograph - pose for the light or light for the pose needs to be your mantra. Hopefully you will be able to take these skills into other forms of photography like portraits.



Series of different exposures of wildflowers taken on a LED light panel and then blended and merged in photoshop

So we will be using flowers as an aid for learning photography skills. One set will be using natural light, (or perhaps continuous light) one will be using off camera flash to illuminate the flowers and lighting the background - or not as we adjust camera settings to get a black backdrop where one doesn't exist and one set will be using a LED light panel to let light shine through and around the subject.

Chocolates ? Well following some chat in the clubs What's App group it seems folks are keen on a bit on chocolate, which we could substitute as the subject rather than flowers. If you can bring some flowers and chocolates anything that's left over after the meeting I can take home to try and get in Mrs G's good-boooks!!!!

Toblerone make for interesting photographs, so do Terry's Chocolate Oranges and also I'm sure Hotel Chocolat do a nice range :)

What do I need to bring?

- camera,
- if you've got one a tripod (tripods slow you down, and conversely make you think more about your photograph, and helps with longer exposures)
- an off camera flash unit and trigger. (We will bring one along for folks to share but bring your own)
- Some flowers
 - Bunch of flowers,
 - some single stem flowers, and
 - some translucent flowers like sweet pea, wood anemone, or if you've got them some honesty seed heads -see photo)
- Some chocolates (this bit is very optional)

- Some items to build a set - what would look well, a vase, some gardening gloves, some flower snips, a suitable backdrop like a slate place mat - that will perhaps intimate a story, some pegs or clamps to hold the flower stems.
- A friend who might like to join us

We hope, with your support to establish three "studios" for developing and testing our photography skills and because its relatively simple you'll be able to practice and experiment this type of photography at home.

Some camera and lighting guidelines

Set 1, Old masters with natural or continuous light

Once you've got your set built using the flowers and the props the time will come to position the light, restrict the spread of the light or increase or decrease the amount of light.

Restricting the spread of light can be done by blocking light entering your set - some tick card or some foam board will do the trick. Studio photographers and "youtubers" call these blockers "flags" and will talk about "flagging the light"

Turn up the volume! the brightness of your light can be done in a number of ways: increase or decrease your aperture, turn the light power up or down; increase your ISO, direct the light to or away from the subject; diffuse the light with a softbox (or tracing film, shower curtain, net curtain ...), have a shorter or longer shutter speed. These are all things in your control and are used by you to determine the look. But remember increase the ISO leads to 'grainy' looking pictures, changing the aperture impacts on the depth of field (back to front) focus area.

Camera to manual. Why not start on ISO 100, aperture f8, shutter speed 125th second and adjust the power of the light to get your desired impact. Try for a darker background that is blurred but your flowers are perfectly focused with a hint of light falling on them

Set 2, Off camera flash to illuminate the flower and create a black background

So build your set - a single stemmed flower in a tall vase

Set your camera to Manual, ISO 100, shutter speed

1/160th Second, aperture f8

with the **flash trigger turned off** take a photograph of your flower. You need a photograph that is totally black. Now position the flash so its pointing across (left to right or right to left) the flower and, turn the flash on and take your photograph. If the backdrop isn't black its because some light from your flash has fallen on the backdrop - flag the light to stop this, or use a "snoot" on the flash. A



Fascinating website at

<https://liljebergs.nu/en/>

go check it out



snoot is a modification to the flash that stop light spilling out and at same time concentrates the light into one tight area - often used in low key, glamour and film noir type photography.

Want to make your own snoot - try a Pringles tube. Or cut a piece of card from the cornflakes box that is big enough to wrap around your flash and would protrude about 150mm from the front of the flash. Step 2 would be to take some kitchen foil that is same size as your card, crumple the foil, then lay it out straight and glue it or tape it to the card. Fold the card around your flash and hold it in place with a rubber band. Then experiment to see what happens and what effects you can get.

Set 3, LED light panel

Arrange your translucent petals and flowers in a nice composition on the LED panel

mount your camera on tripod so the camera is looking down on to the flowers. Make sure the tripod doesn't tip over because the camera is outside the centre of gravity of the tripod, put a heavy weight on the arm at other end to camera to stop it falling over
Set your aperture to f4.5, ISO 100, shutter speed adjust to suit the exposure you want.

If you want real impact look at the lay flat backlit flowers video because what you require is several exposures of the same photograph (don't move anything and don't change ISO or aperture) but change shutter speed to get a series of photographs from very over exposed images to underexposed images, Then stack them in photoshop and use masks to blend your images. What the video, it quite long and can be a bit "just get on with it" but it's well worth persevering with and following to create images like the one at beginning of this newsletter.



Intentional Camera Movement and abstract photography

One of the things you might wish to try out is something called Intentional Camera Movement (ICM).

Whilst the lay flat / back lit LED doesn't lend itself to this the other two sets, or you could set up your own set, can be used to explore some 'artistic' effects by experimenting with ICM and perhaps create some abstract images.

What is ICM?

Simply put it's where you have intentionally moved the camera from left to right, or up or down, or if you have a zoom lens by intentionally zooming the lens in and out whilst the shutter is open.

To get some inspiration have a look at the stunning images by [Angi Wallace Create Images](#), the link behind the Inspiration for ICM Flowers box to take you there website - notice how she has used the flash to freeze the image and use ICM as well. The blurry images need to make use of ambient light and the flash freezes the image. Put your flash settings to "Rear curtain synch" which means the flash fires just before the shutter closes, this way the blurred trail of the subject is at the start of your movement - be that at the top, the left, the right or the bottom.

To capture the ICM you need to eliminate as much ambient light as possible and set your camera to manual, iso to 100, aperture to something like f8 and a shutter speed of say 1/4 of a second. Experiment with the setting the 1/4 second gives you time to move the camera - perhaps you need longer, perhaps less time - but be careful you don't over expose. If its too bright use a smaller (larger f number) aperture, ideally you want a dark background to show off the light trials so perhaps have a black piece of card as your background and position your flowers a good distance away from it. If you've got access to a continuous light all the better, diffuse it with a soft box or some tracing film to make the light softer but try and make your shooting area as dark as possible as you will want to minimise all the other light falling onto your flowers.

So there you have it, what looked like a simple session photographing flowers has now introduced you to, and let you explore, composition, exposure and focusing skills, use and manipulate light for your benefit, and explore your creative options.

[Fine art flower photography](#)

[Make it dark, off camera flash and flowers](#)

[Flower Photography Tips](#)

[Layflat backlit flowers](#)

[Inspiration for ICM Flowers](#)

[ICM Flowers video](#)

[Creative Flower photography and light painting](#)

[Photo flowers like a pro](#)

For Sale
Excellent starter camera
Canon 2000D

With kit lens, spare battery, camera strap, memory card, battery charger and polarising filter. See Chrissy or Nigel

[Link to Canon 2000D](#)

