

Newsletter

InFocus at DVCC



October 2025

The coming year!

We have quite a few, and quite a varied selection of practical events, all at Wath clubhouse, unless otherwise stated

Poetry in Motion	08/10/2025	Practical	Some portraits and then some live action theatrics for your to capture
Low key images	15/10/2025	Practical	Take dark moody, monochrome images where the interplay between light and dark is key to telling the story
Sport Action Movement	22/10/2025	Practical	capture movement
Light trials	29/10/2025	Practical	read up about light painting
Before and After (Editing)	05/11/2025	Show and Tell	A before and after edit with help and critique from fellow members
Setting up a studio	12/11/2025	Practical	Learn how to set up the clubs studio lights, backdrops and softboxes
External Speaker (ZOOM)	19/11/2025	External Speaker	Mathew Browne is giving a talk via zoom - The Art of Travel Photography - I had a lovely chat with Mathew - it should be good talk - check out his website: https://www.mathewbrowne.co.uk/workshops/talks/
Creativity	26/11/2025		
Sport Action and Movement	03/12/2025	Show and Tell	Submit three images on topic of sport action and movement, Get some feedback and consider the requirements of the YPU
Christmas Portraits	10/12/2025	Practical	
Social	17/12/2025	Social	£5.00 deposit required please.
	24/12/2025	Special Night!	Have you been good girls and boys or are you on Santa's naughty list? Is there a photography present waiting in your stocking?

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](#)



Accessories and things

Quite often when folks have got used to their camera they start to look little wider and start to look at things which might enhance their photography experiences, so after investing in a spare battery and a spare memory card what else could you look at? What about a tripod?

A Tripod

In its simplest form, of course a tripod has three legs. But them like everything else in photography it starts to get a little "confusing".

Tripods are made of different materials, (Carbon Fibre being the lightest but conversely the more expensive), some tripods are taller than others, some let you go really low, some have an arm that swings out across the horizontal, some have proprietary quick release plates (the bit between your tripod and the camera) - most notably Manfrotto, but there is a universal quick release system known as Arca Swiss. Personally I'd opt for a universal fitting that is Arca Swiss Compatible

Tripods have different heads, some are tilt and turn with little handles to move up-down, left right etc and some are ball heads where you use the camera itself to move to desired position and then lock it off

Not enough confusion? What about the tripod feet, some come with spikes as an optional extra for soft ground; what about the locking mechanism, some use a clamp, some use a twist lock; some come with a carry bag and some don't!

Why buy a tripod?

1. Stability = Sharper Images

- **No camera shake:** Especially in low light or when using long exposures.
- **Longer shutter speeds:** For capturing things like night scenes, stars, or light trails—without blur.

2. Creative Possibilities

- **Long exposure photography:** Waterfalls, traffic trails, star trails, etc.
- **Time-lapse or astrophotography:** Impossible to do properly without a tripod.
- **Self-portraits or group shots:** Set the timer or use a remote trigger.

3. Consistent Framing

- Crucial for:



Typical tripod showing the horizontal arm - but be careful the camera doesn't fall over when the arm is extended.

- Video shooting
- Panoramas
- Focus stacking or HDR images

4. Better Composition

- Slowing down forces you to think more about your framing and composition.
- Ideal for landscape, architecture, and still life photography.

5. Macro Photography

- Tiny depth of field = critical focus needed. Tripods keep the camera locked in position.

6. Use Lower ISO Settings

- A stable camera means you can keep ISO low (for cleaner, noise-free images) even in dim conditions.

Often people will tell you that a tripod slows you down, this may be seen as a bad thing, but on the other hand it makes you pause and think about things like composition, what's in the frame and what's not in the frame, and what is the exposure like.

How much?

well like everything else in photography, it depends on how much you want to spend, what your perception of good value is ... a quick search of Amazon shows some in the £1400 price (yes one thousand and four hundred) while others are in the 10's of pounds. But I'd suggest you look for one in the £100 to £150 price range.

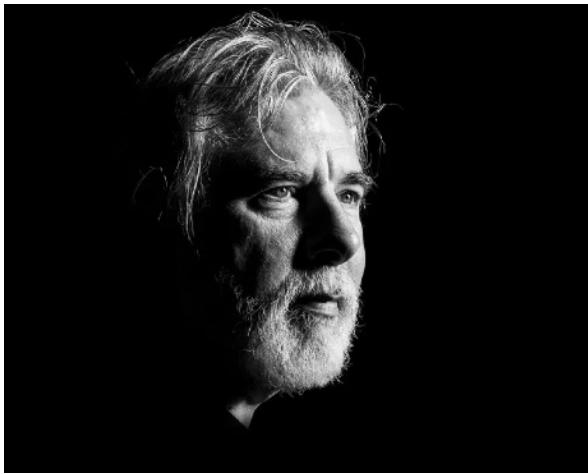


A ball head mount to sit on tripod, this one shows a area Swiss style quick release plate which is fastened to the camera

Low Key Photography

One of the upcoming topics is Low Key Photography, but what is it?

Low-key photography is a high-contrast visual style that emphasises a dark, predominantly shadowed image with specific areas intentionally lit to create a dramatic, mysterious, and focused effect, directing the viewer's attention to details within the deep shadows. This technique uses minimal, controlled light sources to achieve a strong contrast between deep blacks and bright highlights, making it ideal for genres like portraiture, nudes, still life, and architecture to create mood and emphasise form.



What it isn't is underexposed photographs, its correctly exposed images with the emphasis on the contrast between dark and light.

It can be used for portraits, it can be used for landscape, it can be used for street and it can be used for product photography.

To set up for low-key photography, use a dark background, place a single focused light source to one side or above the subject to create strong shadows, and use dark subject attire to

enhance the dramatic effect. Camera settings should include manual mode, the lowest possible ISO, a fast enough shutter speed, and an aperture (f-number) adjusted to achieve deep shadows. Position the light source close to the subject to darken the background and consider using light-shaping modifiers like grids or strip boxes for greater control.

Setting up for Low Key Photography

1. Create a Dark Environment

- Dark Subject & Background: Have your subject wear dark clothing and use a black or dark background to provide a strong contrast and isolate the lit areas of the image.
- Control Ambient Light: Close curtains and turn off room lights to minimize stray light and ensure you have full control over your lighting.

2. Control Your Light Source

- Single, Focused Light: Use one main light source, such as a speedlight or studio light, positioned to illuminate only the key parts of your subject.
- Light Placement: Place the light to the side or above the subject to create dramatic shadows.
- Light Modifiers: Use modifiers like grids or strip boxes to shape the light and prevent it from spilling onto the background, keeping the background dark.
- Distance: Position the light source closer to your subject to ensure the background remains dark.

3. Adjust Camera Settings

- Manual Mode: Switch your camera to manual mode to have full control over the exposure.
- ISO: Set your ISO to the lowest possible value to minimise noise and maximise image quality.
- Aperture (f-number): Adjust the aperture to a lower f-number to achieve a fast enough shutter



speed, though your primary goal is to let in enough light to properly expose the highlights, allowing the shadows to go dark.

- Shutter Speed: Use a shutter speed fast enough to avoid camera shake or motion blur.
- Metering: Use spot metering to expose specifically for the lit areas of the subject, letting the shadow areas fall to pure black.

4. Refine the Shot

- Take Test Shots: Perform test shots to check your exposure and identify any unwanted light on the background.
- Shoot in RAW: Shoot in RAW format to give you more flexibility and detail in post-processing.

Post-Processing: Edit your RAW file to enhance the contrast and deepen the shadows, but be careful not to underexpose the important highlighted areas.

A word of warning - low key does not mean monochrome photography



<https://photzy.com/how-to-plan-and-execute-a-low-key-photograph/>

Some internet learning activities for low key photography

[https://youtu.be/qsqKfUCHVQU?
si=uuCLhnGJd2KbrqUE](https://youtu.be/qsqKfUCHVQU?si=uuCLhnGJd2KbrqUE)

<https://skylum.com/blog/low-key-lighting-photography-tips>

<https://shotkit.com/low-key-photography/>

<https://twolovesstudio.com/blog/flash-for-product-photography-improved-my-creativity/>

<https://expertphotography.com/low-key-photography-dramatic-lighting/>

<https://shotkit.com/low-key-photography/>