

Newsletter

InFocus at DVCC

December 2025



The coming year!

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

Creativity	26/11/2025		
Christmas Portraits	03/12/2025	Practical	Bev Kirby is joining us as we embark up capturing some seasonal portrait
TBC	10/12/2025	Practical	Possibly macro photography night
Social	17/12/2025	Social	"Sold out"
	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?

We've started making plans and crafting the schedule for 2026, and, as always, if there are any topics you'd like to cover, or a keen to share your special interest with others then let us know. The first evening of the new year will be a show and tell of your seasonal photographs.



People Portraits

When we engage people to model for us part of the agreement is that we will provide them with photographs for their own use.

To enable this it is very important that we upload our photos via the web site so we can share them with the models.

Please remember to upload yours when we do the portrait events - we wouldn't want to let them down

Getting ready for the week ahead.

This coming week we welcome back Bev Kisby to our camera club - although I think it's her first visit to the clubhouse in Wath.

Bev is a very accomplished model with an exciting portfolio - the theme for our session is "Christmas" so you might want to consider how best to portray this theme and your story in your photographs - do you need to bring a prop or two to create your story?

Will your story be more Christmas Carol than the Snowman, or will it be Polar Express, or Miracle on 34th Street.





To get your thought processes started, here are a few images of Bev from 2023

We might be able to set up 2 studios and perhaps have a second model - time will tell and we will set up a "studio" for those who are unsure of what to do before they engage with the models.

Things for sale

The club has a few items for sale: a couple of projectors, some mains powered studio lights with studs, triggers and roller case, a Canon 2000D camera. If your interested in purchasing any of these then let Chrissy or Nigel know. All items would be purchased on basis of "as seen" and without any warranty.

If you've got any camera / photography things to sell them bring them along to a club night pop them on a table along with a bit of an explanatory note about what it is and price.

Club holds no responsibility for anything you buy from these 'table top' sales

The School of Photography

As part of our 75th Anniversary we may be able to secure a discount for DVCC members to the School of Photography.

Let me know if this is of interest to you, it may be the more we sign up the bigger the discount.

[LINK HERE](#)

Printing

Someone, once said "if its not printed its not a photograph" - now the sentiment behind that statement is a printed photograph is more evocative and more intimate than a digital and to this end in the new year we will be doing a session of "printing" and we will be looking to have a show and tell of your printed work -

we will be looking to get you to submit maybe 1 photograph to be printed and the club will arrange for them to be printed and these will form the basis of the show and tell. There wont be a theme and more information will be coming in the new year.

Here are some of the benefits of the printed image

Tangibility and Physical Presence

- **Printed:** You can hold, touch, and feel your photo. A print on fine paper gives a sense of permanence and substance that a screen can't replicate.
- **Digital:** Exists only on a screen or device; easy to ignore or lose in a sea of files.

Emotional Impact

- **Printed:** Seeing a photo in physical form often evokes stronger emotions. Framing a special shot or putting it in an album makes memories feel more "real."
- **Digital:** Can be viewed anywhere, but often glanced at quickly and forgotten.

Attention to Detail

- **Printed:** Prints encourage careful editing and composition. You notice colour balance, contrast, and sharpness more critically because flaws stand out in physical form.
- **Digital:** It's easy to scroll past or overlook details on a screen.

Longevity and Preservation

- **Printed:** High-quality prints can last decades or even centuries if cared for properly. They're immune to hardware failures, accidental deletion, or file corruption.
- **Digital:** Files can be lost, corrupted, or obsolete as technology changes.

Aesthetic and Artistic Appreciation

- **Printed:** Paper texture, matte vs. glossy finish, or large-format prints can enhance the artistic impact of an image. Prints become art objects.
- **Digital:** A screen limits the visual experience; size and material are restricted.

Sharing and Display

- **Printed:** Prints can be gifted, framed, displayed on walls, or arranged in albums, creating shared experiences and physical memories.
- **Digital:** Easy to share online, but lacks the intimacy of holding or seeing a physical image in person.

Mindful Photography

- **Printed:** Knowing you'll print a photo often makes you more thoughtful in shooting and editing—it encourages you to slow down and create something meaningful.
- **Digital:** Screens encourage rapid shooting, endless scrolling, and "collecting" rather than curating.

In short: Printing photos transforms them from transient digital files into lasting, tangible art and memory objects. It deepens emotional connection, encourages mindfulness, and adds a sensory richness that screens just can't match.

So let's get into printing, developing (no pun intended) our printing skills and embrace the world of prints.

Coming soon



Tea and scones at Gainsborough Old Hall.
From a photoshoot for English Heritage

On the 10th December its practical night so bring your camera, tripod, off camera lights and some props. The theme is a little bit loose but incorporates macro / close up , using the concepts of food and product photography.

In terms of creativity think about how you will stage your photograph to entice someone to eat the meal / product or for product photography, would this photograph entice someone to buy the product.

You can of course use your primary subject matter - a Toblerone for example, as the stage around which your position Christmas ornaments perhaps a dusting of chocolate or chocolate buttons.

- ★ Think about the surface on which the Toblerone sits - does it gel with / enhance the story you are telling. Think about where the light falls and how much light do you want on subject, are you lighting the main subject at the expense of the supporting cast.
- ★ Think about composition and things like rule of thirds, odd number of objects, and golden spirals - all of which are psychological concepts that make things more appealing to us.
- ★ Think about depth of field, do you want the background sharp, do you want decorative ornaments sharp - so adjust your aperture to suit your creative ideas - remember bigger aperture more light so might need to increase shutter speed to compensate

Do you want to supplement your photograph by some close up shots of the Toblerone or of your supporting cast? Then follow this link for some ideas [Macro Food](#)

The School of Photography

Were exploring getting a discount code to the School of Photography.
Would you be interested - Let us know.

Here are some snippets from their website. **[Click here to get more info](#)**

- ✱ 1000's of videos, worksheets, lighting set-ups, and much more.
- ✱ Hours of recorded webinars , but Learn in your own time at your own pace.
- ✱ They don't sell courses that use 5 assistants, big studios and £1000s worth of equipment. Its about solid photography learning, based on years of research, proven to help you retain and put into practice photography knowledge with ease.
- ✱ Lessons get straight to the point with accurate and thorough knowledge saving you precious time and ensuring you get factual information.



Here are some of the things we were thinking of doing in the new year, you may have noticed that this doesn't fill all the dates between 1st meeting in January all the way through to end of May: so get your thinking caps on - what else could we be doing?

Theme	Type of evening
Seasonal Photography	Show and Tell
Preparation of your YPU submissions	Presentation and Q&As
Guess what it is	Show and Tell
Printing with Ali and Barry	Presentation and Q&As
Valentine practical / make a card	Practical with tutorial
Street Photography	Presentation and Guide
Urban landscapes / street	Show and Tell
Couples portraits	Practical with tutorial
Macro	Practical
Abstracts	Presentation
Toys and Miniatures	Practical
St George's Day	Practical
World Cup Football	Practical
Outdoor model fill in flash	Practical with tutorial
My best photos of the season so far	Show and Tell
YP What awards	Presentation

Can AI tell a Joke?

OK, so I asked AI (Chat GPT) to come up with some Christmas Cracker jokes for you - to say the least, this is the very best of a very bad bunch

Why was the photographer so calm at Christmas? Because they had *excellent composure*.

Why did the camera go to the Christmas party? It wanted to *focus* on having fun.

Why did the photo get arrested on Christmas Eve? It was *framed*!

What's a snowman's favourite camera mode? *Freeze frame*.

What did the lens say to the Christmas tree? "I've *zoomed* in, but you still look *fir-miliar*."

What do photographers call Christmas dinner? A beautifully lit *still life*.

What do you call a Christmas tree photographed at ISO 12,800? A noisy evergreen.

What do street photographers call Christmas market stalls? Foreground interest

And ..

Why did Robert Capa refuse to photograph the Christmas turkey?

He said, "If your photos aren't good enough, you're not *close enough* – but that thing is roasting!"

Why did Helmut Newton get cold on Christmas shoots?

He was a master of keeping things *well-exposed*.


So we can conclude that Chat GPT is crapGPT at Christmas Cracker Jokes, but I will leave you with its final offering


Knock, knock.


Who's there? Iso. ... Iso who?


Iso you're not ready yet – hold still so I can get this shot!


Meanwhile back in the elves workshop ... Here are a few fun, photography-themed gift ideas from Chat GPT for you to consider.

 **A Magical "North Star" Lens** – A special prime lens that makes every twinkling light sparkle like the Northern Lights.

 **A Candy-Cane Tripod** – Lightweight, festive, and sturdy enough for long winter-night exposures, and if your get peckish ...

 **A Sleigh-Fast Memory Card** – So fast it keeps up with reindeer-speed burst mode.

 **An Enchanted Snow-Globe Filter** – Pops onto your lens to add perfect, gentle, swirling snow to any photo—no cold fingers required.

 **A Workshop Lightroom Preset Pack** – "Elven Glow," "Frosted Whites," and "Warm Cocoa Bokeh."