



Monthly Newsletter: October 2026

Editor's Note

Can you believe it is October already? Honestly, this year seems to be standing on its head, and before we know it, we'll be saying goodbye to 2026!

For some of us, thoughts have already turned to holidays. Suitcases are being dusted off, travel plans are being made and we're dreaming of a little time away. Others are still knee-deep in work, finishing client projects, editing photographs and trying to get everything done before the year runs away with us. Holidays? What holidays? Perhaps we'll think about that later!

Once again, our October club evening was a huge success. What a wonderful collection of photographs in both our Open and Set Subject categories! There was plenty to admire, discuss and learn from, and it is always a pleasure to see the creativity and talent within our club.

Our Set Subject, **Night Photography**, certainly gave the theme a whole new meaning! From creative interpretations to beautiful captures, it was wonderful to see how differently everyone approached the challenge. It just goes to show that there is always another way of looking at a subject, even when the sun goes down.

As we move towards the final months of the year, let's keep those cameras busy. Whether you're travelling, photographing your garden, exploring somewhere new or simply capturing everyday moments, there are always opportunities to create something special.

Thank you to everyone who continues to participate, share, encourage and support one another. That is what makes our club more than just a place to show photographs, it's a community of people who share a love for photography.

Enjoy the warmer days, make time for your camera, and if you're lucky enough to be heading off on holiday, don't forget to pack it!

Happy shooting, everyone!

The editor

October Club Evening Results

Another month has flown by, and once again our club evening reminded us why we love getting together, great photography, fresh ideas, a little friendly competition and plenty of inspiration!

Black & White is certainly becoming one of our club favourites, and October was no exception. This category just keeps growing, with members embracing the magic of light, shadows, textures and contrast.

Who needs colour when you can create so much drama with just shades of grey? From striking compositions to beautiful, moody images, monochrome once again proved that it is anything but boring!

Open Category – A Little Bit of Everything!

Our Open category was, as always, a photographic lucky packet! Wildlife, landscapes, portraits, creative ideas and unexpected moments all made an appearance.

It's always such fun to see the variety of subjects and styles our members bring to the table. One thing is certain – we certainly don't all look at the world through the same lens, and that's exactly what makes Open so interesting!

Set Subject – Night Photography: After Dark Adventures!

This month we switched off the daylight and turned on the creativity!

Our Night Photography theme took us on quite a journey, from the stars sparkling above the Karoo to the hustle, bustle and bright lights of city nightlife.

Long exposures, glowing skies, illuminated streets and atmospheric scenes showed us just how much happens once the sun clocks out for the day.

Who knew darkness could offer so many photographic opportunities? It seems our members weren't afraid to venture into the night.

New Faces, Fresh Perspectives

One of the lovely highlights of the evening was seeing some of our newer members showcasing their work. It's always exciting to welcome fresh perspectives and discover the talent and creativity within our growing photography family.

Remember, our club is about more than marks and certificates. It's about sharing, learning, experimenting, encouraging one another and, of course, having a good time along the way.

A big thank you to everyone who entered and contributed to another fantastic evening.

And to those who are still thinking about entering next month, come on, give it a go! Dust off that favourite image, try something different or challenge yourself with the next set subject.

You never know, your photograph might just be the one that gets everyone talking!

Until next month, keep those shutters clicking, your creativity flowing and remember: the best light isn't always daylight!

Overall, Winner

Title: Baker Street
Photographer: Steve Trimby
Mark: 14/15

Top Entries – Open Category

Baker Street - Steve Trimby 14/15
Post Bank Client - Peter Dewar 13/15
Camouflage in Stillness – Issi Potgieter 13/15

Top Entries – Set Subject: Night Photography

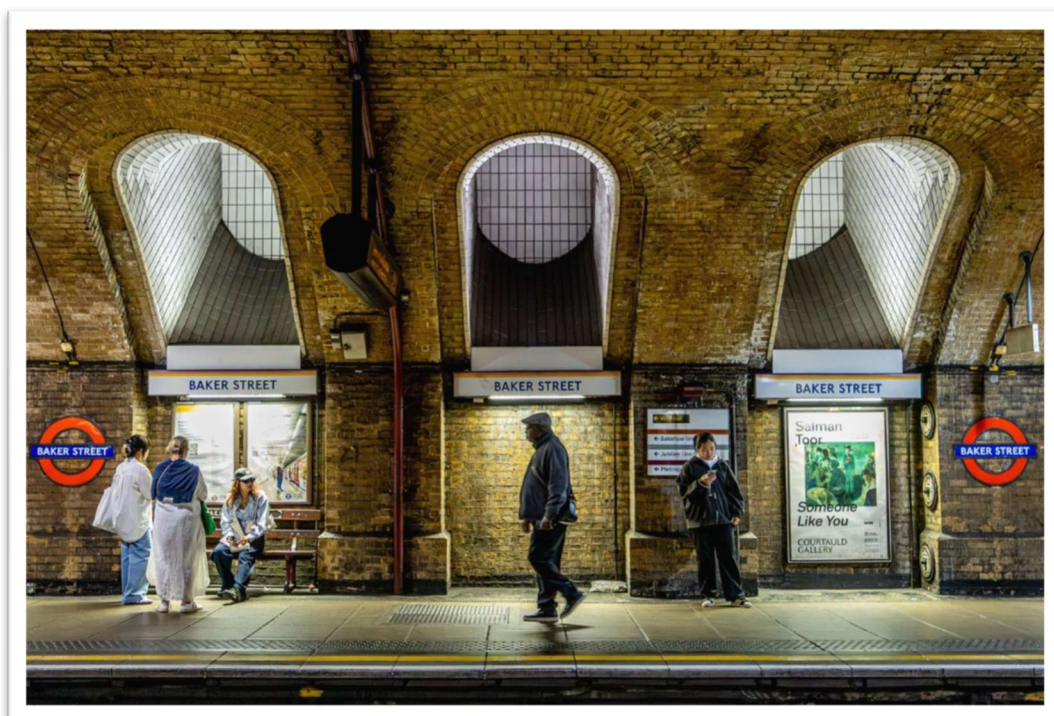
Nightlife in London – Steve Trimby – 14/15
Canal by Night – Peter Dewar – 13/15
Singapore by night – Sandra Snyman 13/15

October Winner: Baker Street by Steve Trimby

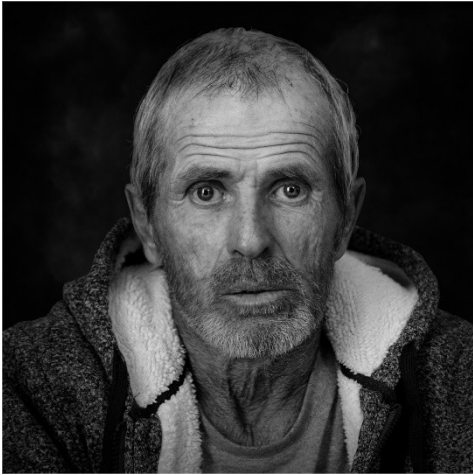
Somewhere between the rush and the waiting, life happens. Step into Baker Street, where the old brick arches hold stories of a thousand journeys. The warm glow of the station lights brings out the character of its historic walls, while commuters go about their everyday routines. Some wait, some wander, some are lost in their own little worlds, and others are simply passing through.

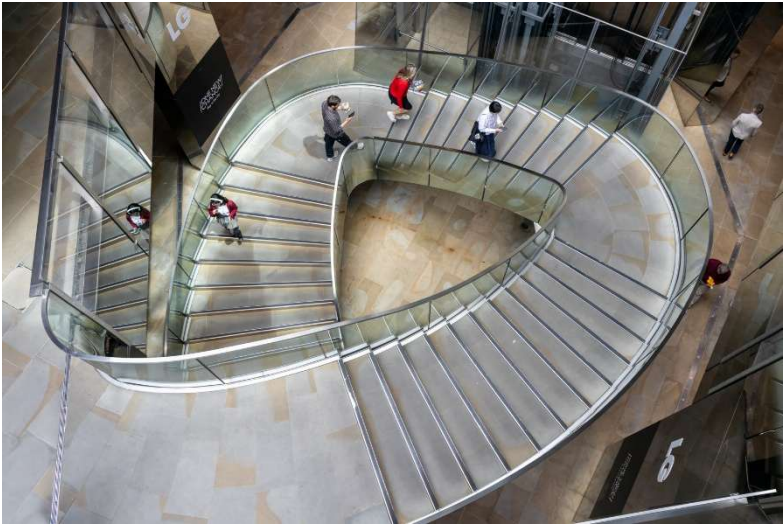
There is something wonderfully timeless about this scene. Amid the familiar signs and busy underground platform, each person seems to have a story of their own. Steve has captured more than just a London Underground station; he has frozen a little moment of city life, where history, architecture and everyday human moments meet. Sometimes the most interesting stories are found in the places where nobody stops to look.

Congratulations to Steve Trimby on a well-deserved Overall Winner!



Open Category: Members Photos



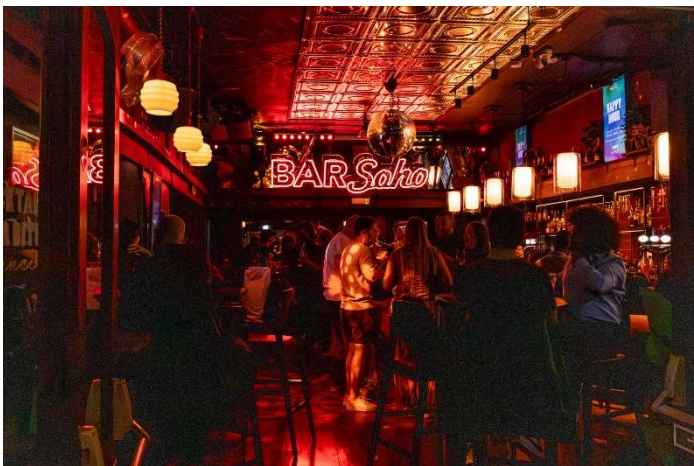




Set Subject: Night Photography







Club Meeting Information:

Our next meetings will be on the following dates in May remember the closing dates of Photo Vault (PV)

Meeting	PV Closing Date	Meeting Date	Set Subject
Club Normal	6 November	10 November	Candle Book Bell

Join us for our Photography Year-End Party!

 **Date:** Tuesday, 8 December 2026

 **Time:** 18h30

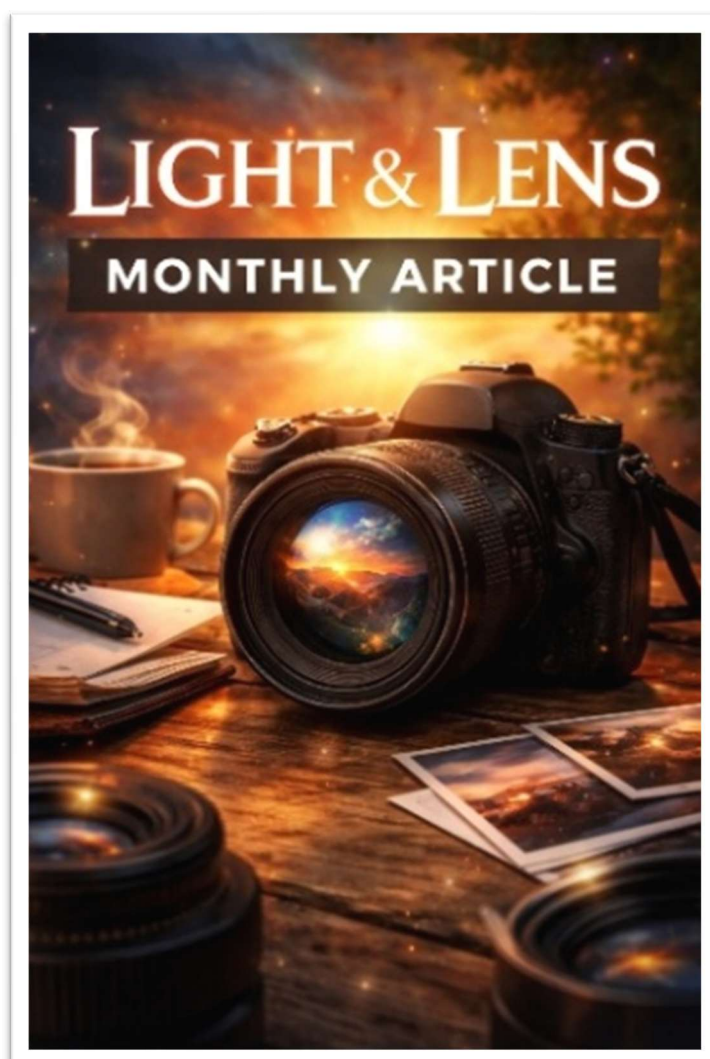
 **What to bring:** Just your favourite wine!

Snacks and some light refreshments will be provided, so come ready to nibble, sip, relax and enjoy an evening of good company and photography fun.

Outings, Workshops and Courses

Outings

If there are any ideas, please let us know, also keep your eye on the WhatsApp group.



Light & Lens Monthly Article: Beyond the Camera

by Carima van den Berg

Lessons I Wish I'd Known as a Beginner Photographer

Photography is about so much more than cameras, lenses and settings. It is about learning to see, understanding light, finding your creative voice and enjoying the journey along the way.

If I could sit down with my younger self at the beginning of my photography journey, I would probably spend less time talking about camera settings and equipment, and more time sharing the lessons that really make a difference.

Of course, understanding your camera is important. But technical knowledge alone doesn't take a great photograph. Some of my biggest lessons have come from experience, mistakes, frustration and countless hours behind the camera.

Here are eight things I wish I had known when I started.

1. Understand Why You Photograph

Before asking yourself *how* to take a photograph, ask *why* you want to take it.

Perhaps you love capturing family memories, wildlife, landscapes, portraits or the beauty of everyday life. Whatever your passion, discover what inspires you.

For me, photography started with documenting my mountain hikes and bringing home beautiful images of the places I visited. I never imagined how much it would change the way I look at the world.

Your interests may change as you grow, and that's part of the fun. Let your photography tell your story.

2. Practice, Practice, Practice!

You can watch hundreds of tutorials and read every photography book available, but nothing replaces picking up your camera.

Experiment with light, different angles and compositions. Photograph familiar places in new ways and, most importantly, review your images afterwards.

Not every outing will produce a masterpiece. Sometimes the light is terrible, the subject disappears or nothing seems to work. That's okay! Every unsuccessful photograph is an opportunity to learn something.

Don't compare your beginning with someone else's years of experience. Enjoy your own progress.

3. Don't Fall into the Equipment Trap

Ah, the never-ending temptation of new cameras and lenses! There will always be something newer, sharper, faster or more expensive.

Better equipment can certainly help, especially when your current gear limits what you want to achieve. But ask yourself whether you really need that new lens or whether you simply want it because everyone else has one!

A good photograph is not determined by the brand name on your camera or the price of your lens.

Invest in equipment when it solves a genuine problem. Sometimes a photography workshop, a new location or simply spending more time practising will do far more for your photography than another expensive purchase.

Remember: Buy equipment to solve a problem, not to compensate for a lack of experience.

4. Learn to See Beyond the Technical Details

A photograph can be perfectly sharp, correctly exposed and beautifully edited, yet still lack that special something.

What makes an image memorable is often the story, emotion, atmosphere or feeling it creates.

Start looking beyond your camera settings. Pay attention to the light, the background, the composition and what you want your viewer to notice.

Sometimes less is more. A simple photograph with beautiful light and a strong composition can be far more powerful than an image filled with detail.

Your camera captures the scene, but your creative eye makes the photograph.

5. A Beautiful Subject Doesn't Guarantee a Beautiful Photograph

Standing in front of a spectacular mountain, spotting a rare bird or visiting an exotic destination doesn't automatically guarantee a stunning image.

The magic often lies in how you photograph it.

Look at the direction of the light, check your background and consider different angles. Don't simply take the obvious shot and move on.

One of my favourite ways to practise is to revisit familiar places. The same beach, forest or nature reserve can look completely different depending on the time of day, season and weather.

You don't always need to travel somewhere extraordinary to create an extraordinary photograph.

Sometimes you just need to look a little closer.

6. Patience, Preparation and Comfort Matter

Photography often involves waiting. Waiting for the perfect light, a bird to turn its head, an animal to emerge or that special moment to happen.

But here's something beginners sometimes forget look after yourself too!

Being cold, hungry, wet or uncomfortable makes it difficult to concentrate. Dress appropriately, wear comfortable shoes, take water and snacks, and pack for the conditions.

If you're spending hours in a wildlife hide, a comfortable chair and a warm drink can make all the difference! Do a little research before heading out. Check the weather, sunrise and sunset times, and learn about your subject.

Good preparation often creates more photographic opportunities than the latest camera upgrade.

7. Develop a Good Photography Workflow

The job isn't finished when you press the shutter!

Take time to review your images and be honest when selecting your favourites. If you have ten photographs of almost the same moment, choose the strongest one.

Editing should enhance your original photograph, not turn it into something completely different. Learn your editing software and understand how exposure, colour, contrast and tonal adjustments can bring your vision to life.

A few other things are worth remembering:

- **Choose your software:** Find an editing programme that suits your needs and budget. Learn it properly before jumping between different applications.
- **Calibrate your screen:** What looks perfect on your computer may look completely different when printed. A calibrated monitor helps you make more accurate editing decisions.
- **Print your photographs:** Seeing your work on paper can reveal details, colours and imperfections you might not notice on a screen.
- **Back up your images:** Never rely on one hard drive! Keep multiple copies, ideally on different storage devices, with one stored separately or in the cloud. Your photographs are memories and creative work worth protecting.

A good workflow saves time and protects the images you've worked so hard to create.

8. Learn from Other Photographers

Photography may sometimes feel like a solitary hobby, but there is so much to gain from sharing it with others.

Join a photography club, attend workshops, visit exhibitions and look at the work of photographers you admire.

Most importantly, welcome constructive criticism. It isn't always easy to hear that something could be improved, especially when you've worked hard on an image. But remember, criticism of a photograph is not criticism of you!

Other photographers may notice things you've missed or introduce you to a completely different way of seeing a subject.

Don't photograph simply for likes, points or praise. Photograph to learn, experiment and develop your own style.

And never stop being curious. There is always something new to discover, regardless of how long you've been behind the camera.

A Final Thought: Enjoy the Journey!

If there is one thing I would tell every beginner photographer, it is this: **Don't rush the journey.**

You don't need the most expensive equipment, and you certainly don't need to produce a masterpiece every time you go out.

Learn your camera, practise regularly, experiment with light and composition, make mistakes and learn from them.

Most importantly, enjoy the experience. Take time to observe the world around you and appreciate the little things you may otherwise have missed.

Photography isn't just about making better pictures. It teaches us to become more observant, patient and appreciative of the world we live in.

Your camera is simply a tool. Your creativity, curiosity and willingness to learn are what make the difference.

Keep practising, keep exploring and, above all, keep looking. Your next great photograph might be waiting in a place you've visited a hundred times before!

Happy shooting! 📷



Black

White

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Finding the Story in Black and White

I absolutely adore black and white photography. As Walt Whitman once said, *“What I like about black and white photographs is that they’re more like reading the book than seeing the movie.”* I couldn’t agree more. There is something incredibly special about removing colour from a photograph. Suddenly, the distractions disappear, and we notice the things we might otherwise overlook – the play of light, the depth of shadows, interesting textures, expressions and tiny details. A black and white image invites us to slow down and really look.

For me, it’s all about creating **mood, drama and emotion**. Light is one of the most powerful tools we have. Soft light can create a peaceful, almost dreamy atmosphere, while harsh light and deep shadows can add drama, mystery and intensity. Strong textures, from weathered buildings and dramatic clouds to wrinkles, feathers and tree bark, become even more striking without colour competing for attention.

Then comes the storytelling. A good black and white photograph doesn’t necessarily need to explain everything. Sometimes a silhouette, a thoughtful expression, an empty street or a fleeting moment can leave us wondering about the story behind the image. I love that little bit of mystery!

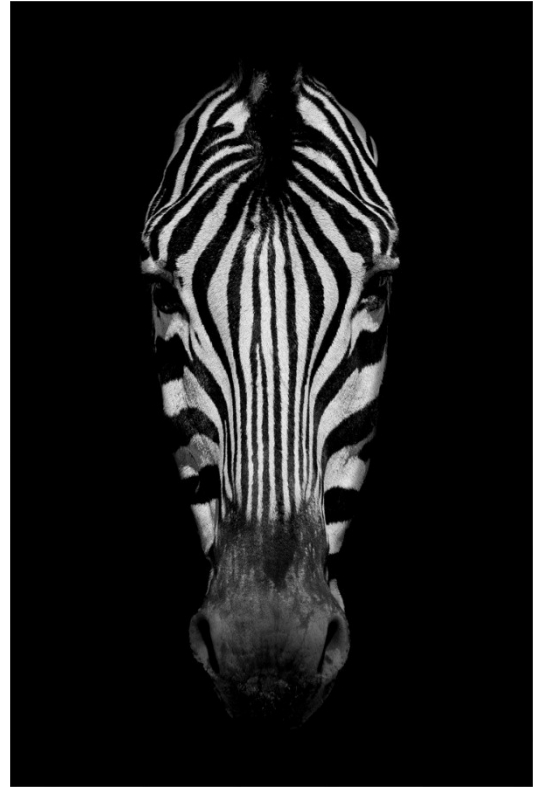
Post-processing also plays an important role. Adjusting contrast, highlights and shadows, bringing out textures and carefully balancing light and dark can give an image its final character. It’s not about making everything black or white but finding that beautiful balance of tones in between.

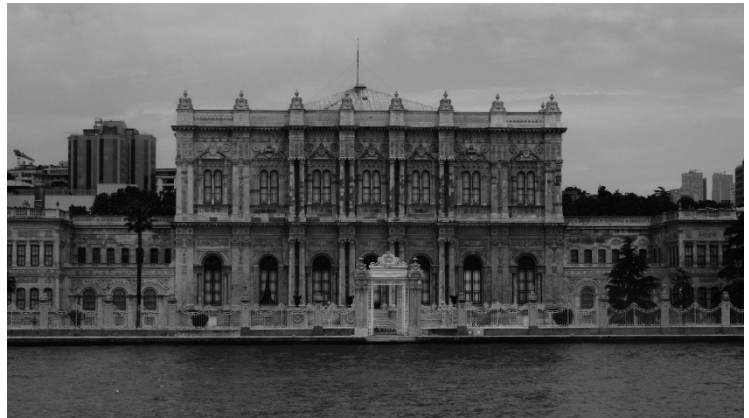
Whether it’s a dramatic landscape, a candid portrait, street photography or an interesting detail, black and white allows us to explore our creativity in a completely different way.

Perhaps that’s why I love it so much. **Sometimes, taking away colour gives a photograph so much more to say. It’s not just about what we see, but what we feel.**

Black and white photography reminds us that colour does not always tell the whole story. Sometimes, removing colour allows us to see more clearly and to discover a completely new way of seeing.

This month I’m only sharing a few photos; we had over 60 entries in our Black and White evening. For all the photos please visit our Facebook page.







Webpage: <https://helderbergphoto.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/helderbergphoto/>