

PhotoClub Focus – 13th November 2025



Classes

Nigel Wilson's autumn classes part two has been fully subscribed and the beginners' class has been well supported and enjoyed by those attending. There is interest to arrange a follow up set of classes in the New Year.

Save the date for next year's classes with Nigel:

Thursday 15th January to 12th February. Two morning classes starting at 10am and afternoon classes starting at 1pm.

Thursday 26th February to 26th March, morning and afternoon classes.

Easter break

Summer term 26th April to 21st May, morning and afternoon classes.

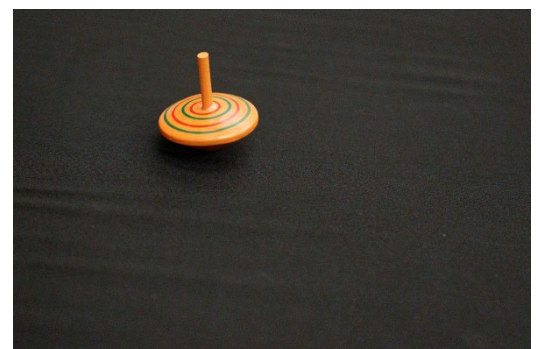
There will be two workshops led by Nigel during June. The subjects and dates will be advised shortly.

A note from a competent photographer who joined the beginners class:

'It is the last class of a five-week course for beginners. I have owned a digital camera for 25 years, a film camera for a lot longer. A year ago I decided to change the make of camera from Canon to Sony and DSLR to Mirrorless. Easy, I thought, as so many of my fellow PhotoClub members have managed but a year on I was only using the very basic menu and really using only 20% of the camera's potential.

So, when the beginners' class was announced it seemed an ideal opportunity to learn a bit more about the camera and reduce just making do! Our tutor Lillie Spibey has made the classes interesting and engaging. The students range from those who have a new camera almost unused to those of us who have used cameras for a long time but have moved to digital from film.

She is able to encourage and make teaching the basic technique of the triangle of exposure interesting, using all the settings of the camera – fast and slow shutter speeds. There have always been elements of practical work in the class each evening from photographing a spinning top, to Lillie waving ribbons and capturing a player on the squash court.'



There is to be a follow-on course in the New Year and I would highly recommend that anyone interested in brushing up on their technique would find the classes very beneficial.

Lectures

Annie Leibovitz

The Annie Leibovitz lecture at the Barbican is being live streamed in the Garden Room on Monday 24th November at 7.50pm. Sadly, we were not able to persuade the great Annie Leibovitz to join us in person and

share secrets of her photographic life and iconic portraiture techniques, so please join us in the Garden Room for the livestream of the event which will start at 8pm.

From her portrait of Yoko with a naked John Lennon, to the Queen in her robes, her lenses have captured many celebrities in frank, character-revealing and often controversial poses. From her start as a staff photographer for Rolling Stone Magazine in 1970 to commissions for Vanity Fair magazine during the 2010s her work is wide-ranging. This year she celebrates the re-publication of her book *Women*.



Cecil Beaton: Malice in Wonderland

Hugo Vickers will be lecturing on Cecil Beaton on 29th January at 7.30pm. The exhibition Cecil Beaton 'King of Vogue' is on at the National Portrait Gallery until 11th January 2026.

Cecil Beaton's work pervaded 20th Century culture. A total self-creation and wicked diarist, through photography he rose to become one of the great observers of the age. His portraits of the Royal Family and of stars of stage and screen are legendary. As an artist and a designer of costumes and sets for stage, screen, opera and ballet he was an arbiter of taste who moved easily in many varied worlds.

He described himself as 'the man who ensured that photographers never had to go through the tradesman's entrance again'. His work can currently be seen (to January 11th 2026) at the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition 'Cecil Beaton's Bright Fashionable World'.

Hugo Vickers is a renowned biographer, commentator and lecturer. As Beaton's chosen biographer and literary executor, his insights into how Cecil turned himself into this extraordinary figure are unique. We meet the world of the Bright Young Things, Hollywood, the Royal Family, the war, Gigi, My Fair Lady and the Peacock Revolution of the 1960s.



Photojournalism in Modern Times

Rick Findler will be coming to speak to us on 'Photojournalism in Modern Times' on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.30pm.

PhotoClub Christmas Lunch

The annual PhotoClub Christmas Lunch is to be held on Thursday 4th December at 1pm. Details of this will be circulated shortly to all Members who attend classes or other events organised by the PhotoClub.

Sarah Smith, PhotoClub Chair