

Wallingford Photo Club – Image Appreciation Circle : Flickr Group

Membership Rules and Guidelines

Rules

Membership of the circle is by invitation from a group administrator

To become a member of the circle you must;

- a) be a fully paid up member of Wallingford Photographic Club
- b) have your own Flickr account

Each member of the circle will upload one image each calendar month to the Flickr group by the 15th of the month

Each member will provide a critique of each other members image in the comments box on the Flickr page by the last day of the month

All critiques must be constructive, fair, polite and honest

Each image must have a title

Members may, if they wish, provide additional information about their images in the description box on the Flickr page, but this is entirely optional

The “spirit” of the Circle is that images submitted each month should not have previously been seen in Wallingford Photographic Club, and images which are nearly identical to previous entries, or which have been reworked as a result of a previous critique will not be acceptable as entries in subsequent months

If you cease to be a member of Wallingford Photographic Club, your membership of the circle is automatically terminated

Setting up a Flickr Account

To open a Flickr account you will first need a Yahoo ID. If you do not already have one of these, then it is easy to set up a free account at [Yahoo., go to www.yahoo.co.uk](http://www.yahoo.co.uk)

Then go to www.flickr.com and click “Sign Up” and follow the instructions – it is quick, easy and free.

Joining the IAC Flickr Group

When you have set up your Flickr account, provide the Administrator of your circle (currently either Mark Batchelor, Dave Griffiths or Mike Parrott) with your Flickr user ID and he will send you an invitation through Flickr to join the Group, which you then accept and agree to the rules of the circle.

Uploading to the Flickr Group

It is recommended images are saved as jpeg and sRGB colour space. Flickr will automatically resize

images to meet their size convention.

To upload your monthly image to the circle, sign in to your Flickr account and click upload. On the upload page select your image and click the “To Groups” option on the left hand side of the page. A box will open asking you for the name of the group – the Wallingford Photo Club group name will automatically appear and you should click this. Then click upload at the top right hand corner of the page, then click to photostream on the box which appears. This will add the image to both your own personal photostream and the group photostream.

To access the group page to view images and make your comments, sign in to your Flickr account then click “Groups” at the top of your home page, and on the drop down menu select “Your Groups”, then select Wallingford Photo Club Group. This will enable you to view the images and add your comments. When you open an image from the thumbnails, the identity of the author will appear in the top right hand corner.

Privacy on Flickr

The IAC Flickr Group Pool has been made private so that only IAC members can see the images uploaded to the pool, and not the public. However you should be aware that when you upload an image to the group pool, that image and any comments made upon it can still be seen on your personal photostream by the public.

This can be solved by you changing the privacy settings for those specific images so that they can only be seen by members of the AIC. You can either do this on the upload screen or immediately after you have uploaded the image - go to your photostream and under the image concerned you will see a green box and the words "Anyone can see this photo (edit)". Click (edit) and a box will appear "Who can see this photo", tick the box which says "Private" and then "Save". This will ensure that the image cannot be seen by the public on your personal photostream. You will see that the box under the image has changed to red.

Please note that it is entirely your personal responsibility to set the privacy settings appropriately if you do not want the images and comments made on them viewable by the public on your personal photostream

Critiquing

Everyone who joins the IAC will be sent by e-mail, in PDF format, a copy of a paper entitled “The Art of Critique”. This paper is worth reading as it contains some very helpful guidance.

We must emphasise that it is paramount that all critiques are constructive, fair, honest and above all polite. It is important to be honest – if an image doesn't work for you then say so in a constructive manner and give reasons as to why you think it doesn't work, and if possible suggest ways in which you consider it could be improved.

Providing each of us follow the maxim of being constructive and courteous, then we should all be “big enough” to accept criticism without taking offence, and learn from the feedback we receive.

If possible, try to form your own opinion about each image and decide what you are going to write before reading any comments already posted, so as not to be influenced by what someone else thinks – we want your own honest opinion about each and every photo. Don't worry if your opinion differs from others – critiquing is subjective and we won't all agree all the time, which is healthy and valuable to all of us if we are to progress.

Feel free to respond to any critiques made of your images by posting your own comment about your image, perhaps to explain your original concept if you want to.

We realise that for some people new to the IAC, the prospect of critiquing other member's images may be a bit daunting at first. Therefore, new members when first joining the IAC may have the option of observing for the first month of their membership if they wish. This means that you still upload an image to the circle but you do not need to critique the other member's images, which will give you a feel for the process. This option applies to the first month of new membership only, and we would expect full involvement from the second month on. Any new member wishing to avail of this option should advise one of the Administrators.

Summary

Remember the IAC is non competitive – there is no scoring or favourites. It is intended as a forum for members of WPC to share their work, and to provoke stimulating debate about photography.

The IAC is not an exclusive club. We want as many members of WPC as possible to become involved. So please talk about the IAC to other members at club meetings during tea breaks etc.

The Administrators will welcome feedback from members of the IAC – so if you have any comments or ideas as to how it could be improved please let us know.

Finally, and most importantly, have fun being a member of the IAC