EASTWOOD
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

GLASGOW
SCOTLAND

Club History
1943 to 2017
Welcome to the latest update of the history of Eastwood Photographic Society. The first record of the club’s past was put together in 2009. Since then there was an update in 2013 with more material and photos produced for the club’s 70th anniversary. Now we have arrived in 2017, seventy four years since the club was formed.

Since 2009 we have been delighted to receive donations of original photos from the 1940s and the 1960s which have been incorporated into this update. As you will see from the following pages Eastwood Photographic Society started from small beginnings in 1943 and has now developed into one of the top clubs in Scotland in the twenty first century.

Enjoy your photography,
Jim McCreery, Newsletter Editor and Club Historian.
1943 to 1970: The early years

Photography in the Eastwood area began in an organised way with a small group of enthusiasts in the village of Eaglesham in 1940. The group met in rooms in Polnoon Street, then in Polnoon Lodge. Meanwhile, another group spearheaded by Ian Craig Ken Melvin and Jim Tweedie, began to meet in the former YMCA building in Stamperland. A few Eaglesham group members joined the Stamperland group and, in 1943, Eastwood Photographic Society was born.

From the early days Eastwood Photographic Society took part in both Glasgow and District Photographic Union (GDPU) and Scottish Photographic Federation (SPF) competitions as well as having their own activities. The club had its own darkroom while some members also had their own darkroom at home.

The first club Annual Print Exhibition in 1944 was won by W.M.Riddell with “Bonawe, Loch Etive”, which won the Premier Award. In these days the photography, of course, was in monochrome. Eaglesham group founder member, Jim Downing, was keen on the history of his village of Eaglesham and he began to collect and also take old photos of the village. He mounted regular exhibitions over the years in the village school as part of the regular Eaglesham Fair Day.

The club continued to be active throughout the fifties and sixties. Photos (right) kindly donated over the past few years show some of the work produced. All have been digitalised for use in this publication, either by scanning the original prints, or by re-photographing them.
In the seventies and eighties the club had competitions for monochrome slides as well as prints and many of these competitions were set topics not open as at present.

For four years from 1984 the then Eastwood District Council invited the club to organise print exhibitions which were held in the prestigious Eastwood House, in Eastwood Park. The exhibitions included entries from both club members and other local photographers.

In the GDPU Annual Print and Slide Exhibitions the club produced the top print panel in both 1984 and 1989. The top slide panel came in both 1994 and 1995.

1988 was a significant year. This was when the Scottish Photographic Federation invited Eastwood Photographic Society and Queens Park Camera Club to jointly host the 71st Scottish Salon of Photography. The Scottish Salon was founded in 1904 and has received international recognition for many years drawing entries from far and wide. The 71st Salon was held in Eastwood House courtesy of Eastwood District Council and was well supported.

Fifty years were celebrated in style in 1993 with a Golden Jubilee Dinner in the Busby Hotel with present and past members and their families. Special sweatshirts were also produced to mark the occasion.

Two significant competition successes were recorded in the nineties. In 1995, for the first time, the club won the Scottish Photographic Federation Club Slide Championship Plate Trophy, meaning we were the ninth top club in Scotland. Then the following year, 1996, the club shared top spot with Bon Accord Camera Club in the Scottish Federation Print Portfolio.

Of course, the club was not all about competitions then. Old syllabuses were, as now, a mixture of guest speakers, workshops, talks from members and internal competitions. The club also continued to take part in both GDPU and SPF events.

In 1997 the club mounted the first of many print exhibitions at the Busby and Clarkston Horticultural Society’s Annual Flower and Vegetable Show.

The first club website, courtesy of club member John Carroll, went online.
“Flight of the Bumble Bee” by Joe Lawrence

“Glen Coe Winter” by John Carroll

“They are racing” by Hazel Gordon

“Colour Harmony” by Eddie McMurdo
“Age Concern” by Richard Francis

“Floating into the Abyss” by Fiona McKemmie

“Mardi Gras” by Alex Dorrens

“Blue Tit” by Chris Everett

“Deserted” by Sandra McCreery

“Morning mist Inverary” by Mel Leiper

“Rum Ponies” by Chris Everett
2000 to 2009: A new millennium

As the twenty first century began the club remained extremely active both within its weekly syllabus and in the wider photographic field. Members images continued to score well in inter club and international events with medals and awards deservedly gained.

Club members regularly had prints on display at the annual GDPU Exhibition which, during this period, was held in the Princes Square Shopping Mall in Glasgow. Participation in our local community continued with Open Evenings and displays as part of Mearns Community Week from 2005, displays and judging at local Flower Shows and exhibitions of prints in local libraries. Photos of gravestones in the old graveyard at Mearns Parish Kirk were also recorded for Mearns Local History Group.

In 2007, by invitation of East Renfrewshire Council, the club mounted a framed print exhibition in the refurbished Eastwood Park Theatre display space. This was repeated again in 2009. Over sixty prints were exhibited on each occasion.

Club summer outings over this period included Mount Stuart House, Rothesay, via PS 'Waverley', Doune Motocross, Blair Drummond Safari Park, World of Wings, Ayr Races, the Titan Crane and the new Glasgow Riverside Transport Museum.

In 2006 a new international friendly digital competition began with Victoria Camera Club on Vancouver Island, Canada. At the time of this update it is still going strong with selections from both advanced and not so advanced members. Regular monthly club newsletters, edited by Jim McCreery, began in 2004 and the club website was re-designed and kept up to date by Alex Dorrens. Club membership began to increase towards the end of this period due to the advent of digital photography and also increased publicity.
“School Boat” by Mary Robertson

“Heilan Coo” by Brian McCormick

“Spotted” by Bernadette Claydon

“Bridge and Armadillo” by Andy Shearer

“A Winter walk” by Gill Williamson

“Twilight voyage” by Nick Wober

“South Craigton Farm” by Omer Ahmed

“Sunrise Rannoch Moor” by Jim McCreery

“Vietnamese Boatman” by Sheena Rainey

“Red Ribbons” by Len Claydon
2010 to 2014: Membership Growth

As the club moved into the twenty first century’s second decade the membership continued to grow and, at one point, reached eighty. The quality of members work also improved and, coupled with the club attracting a few excellent photographers as new members, our standing as one of the top clubs in Scotland began to emerge. Also, more individual members gained recognition outwith the club at GDPU, SPF and PAGB level.

![Club trophy winners during this period](image)

In this period the website became the main source of recruitment with recommendations also playing a part. Alex Dorrens also managed to get a weekly photo spot in the local paper which ran for three years. Internally Jim McCreery still edited the monthly newsletter which gradually developed with contributions from many club members. The club still carried out a varied programme of activities, and improvement in the quality of photography by members began to reap its rewards at a higher level.

Individual excellence at GDPU, SPF level and beyond are too numerous to mention however club successes came in various external competitions. The club was the winner of the GDPU Image League Final in 2014 – this was the group who attended the event.

In the Renfrewshire Inter Club Competition the club gained the trophy in 2012 and 2013. In the GDPU Annual Print Exhibitions many individual acceptances were gained, likewise in the SPF competitions.

“Luskentyre Light” by Ken Lindsay

“The Race” by Stuart McCann

“Runway to heaven” by Kenny Gordon

“Bison dust storm” by Alex Dorrens

“Don’s Shutdown” by Peter De Marco and SPF Portfolio authors with trophy 2014

In 2012 Len Claydon and Peter De Marco had images selected to represent Scotland in a UK Inter Federation event, only the second time this has happened. The club gained top three finishes in the SPF Digital Championship in 2012 and 2014. The international friendly with Victoria Camera Club continued and a new exchange of images with our namesakes in Nottingham began in 2013.
2015 to the present: One of the top clubs in Scotland!

From 2015 up to the time of this update the club has gone from strength to strength with perhaps the biggest achievement externally being a second place in the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain organised GB Cup, a competition for clubs throughout the UK, in 2016. A great second place, just one single point behind Dumfries CC, was also gained in the Scottish Photographic Federation Club Digital competition, also in 2016.

On Jokulsarlon Beach
by Ken Lindsay

A varied programme of guest speakers, photo workshops, club competitions and inter club events has continued to be offered to a membership of between sixty and seventy. Our top photographers have continued helping other members improve their photography skills through workshops, demonstrations and one to one tuition.

Eastwood photographers have been spotted in all corners of the world in search of the ‘perfect photo’. Events closer to home have also proved popular, none more so than the Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow in 2014 which provided a great variety of images during 2015 and 2016.

The club competition structure was changed in session 2015-2016 to two ‘Divisions’ with a top division of no more than eighteen. The top two images from each competition count towards the overall championship in each division with a ‘two up two down’ scenario at the end of each session. This has worked well with added competitiveness in both divisions.

PAGB Digital Championship – seventh in 2015. PAGB Print Championship – fifth equal in 2016. In the GB Cup, as well as the second place mentioned above the club gained seventeenth place out of 110 clubs in the nature section, the club’s highest yet. Closer to home the Renfrewshire Inter Club trophy was gained in 2015 and 2016 and the GDPU Digital League trophy was won in 2015 and 2016. Individual achievements have been too numerous to mention.

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“Blue Ice” by Janet Jamieson

“Ripe old age” by Gary Winston

“Spinning the lotus thread by Ken Lindsay

“Eyes on the ball” by Ross Eaglesham

“Puffins in the rain” by Ken Wilkie

“Cows on the beach” by Omer Ahmed

“Taking it on the chin” by Colin McLatchie

“Shrimp farmer” by Peter De Marco

“Alice” by Stuart McCann

“The Kiss” by James Finnigan
**Individual members achievements**

1970s – Dr. F.J.Symon ARPS.
1980s – Ian W. Craig ARPS.
1990s – Jeff Jaffri LRPS, DPAGB.
1990s – Maisie Chassels LRPS.
1990s – Deirdre Bernard LRPS.
1990s – Stan Bernard LRPS.
1990s – John Carroll LRPS, DPAGB.
1990s – Joe Lawrence ARPS
2009 – Jim McCreery CPAGB.
2013-2014 – Len Claydon LRPS, CPAGB, BPE1
2013-2016 – Ken Lindsay DPAGB, AFIAP, EFIAP.
2013-2016 – Colin McLatchie – LRPS, ARPS.
2016 – Keith Beard – CPAGB
2016-2017 – Ken Wilkie CPAGB, AFIAP.

**Acknowledgements**

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W. Riddell for “Bonawe, Glen Etive” by W.M.Riddell; Joe Porter for “Playtime” by Ian W. Craig; Anne Fraser for “Anne” by Iain Kirkwood; Sam White for “Table Top Photography” by F.J.Symon; Freda Telfor for “Newquay, Cornwall” by F.J.Symon and Mike Brunton for the 50th Anniversary group photograph.