

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do photographic societies do?

Photographic Societies and Camera Clubs provide an environment in which people with an interest in photography can meet to learn techniques, discuss photography in general and compete in competitions with other photographers.

Specifically IDPS's objectives are to:

- provide a centre of artistic and technical excellence for photographers in Ipswich and the surrounding area;
- encourage members to develop their photographic and artistic skills and abilities; and
- provide a forum for the exchange of information, knowledge, ideas and expertise on photography and photographic art.

What does the IDPS programme consist of?

A mix of lectures, talks, practical demonstrations and competitions. Both prints and projected images are included in lectures and competitions. There are specific meetings for New Members and we have occasional "days out"

Does IDPS accept complete beginners?

We accept members of ALL standards from complete beginners to professionals. A camera club is an excellent place to learn and develop your photography for all levels of experience. We were all beginners once and we are all still learning!

How will IDPS help my photography?

A great deal can be learnt from the judge's comments on competition evenings, and many lectures include inspirational images and speakers usually give information of how and why photographs were taken. Advice on camera controls, image taking and digital techniques is given at our New Member/Practical Evenings. We also have 4 all-day meetings a year specifically for digital imaging. Viewing other people's images will help you to develop your photography and your own style.

Can I try before I join?

Yes, prospective members can come along to up a couple of meetings as a guest visitor (£3 per visit) after which you are expected to join. Only fully paid up members can enter the competitions.

Do I need a good camera to join?

No, any camera will do to start with, although as your expertise grows you may find a simple camera will limit your creativity. IDPS puts the emphasis on the finished image not the equipment used to produce it. Many of our members use DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) cameras with interchangeable lenses, but "bridge" cameras are becoming popular especially for travel. Members also use compact camera and shots taken on phone cameras are starting to appear.

What about computer equipment and software?

We would recommend that a reasonable desktop or laptop be available to you and that you get some entry level image processing software such as Adobe Elements. Prints can be got from on-line suppliers or from various High Street outlets so a printer isn't essential to get started.

If I need help with photography, can IDPS help me?

Within IDPS you will find many people who have experience in almost every field of photography and you will find that they are only too willing to help or give advice.

Do I have to be a certain standard to enter competitions?

We have 'beginners', 'intermediate' and 'advanced' levels in monthly competitions. In the monthly competitions the main objective is to appreciate other peoples work, learn from the comments from the judges and other members and to have fun. After all, the judging is only one person's opinion and after a while you get to know that the judge is ALWAYS wrong unless of course your picture has won!

How do competitions work?

We have 6 monthly competitions for digitally projected images and 6 for prints. For each monthly competition there is a "Set Subject" for which members may enter 1 image and an "Open" section where 2 images may be entered. Of course you do not have to enter the competitions and you are welcome to just enjoy the images on show.

We also have print panel and dpi set competitions. Plus we stage a large annual exhibition for which all members can submit work.

Do you have many women members?

Yes and we would welcome more! Some of the best photographers in the club are women and you can see some of their work in the galleries.

What about disabled members?

Our premises are DDA compliant and accessible by wheel chair. We have one member who is also a member of the Disabled Photographers' Society who is very happy to provide specialist advice.

Have you any other questions?

If you need further information, please use our web site or contact the Membership Secretary.