

Bollington Photographic Group Minutes 12th June 2025



Present: Pam Lob, Terry Heathcote, Simon Nottage, Andrew Huggett, Janet Beech, David Hirst, Pat Hirst, Nickie Stanley.

Apologies: Alan Hodgson, Andrew Gregory, Kevin Welton.

Finances

Summary of Accounts – Jan 1st to June 12th 2025

As we are approaching mid-year, I thought it would be an opportunity to review our accounts for the remainder of the year. Our income is primarily generated from members subscription. In total we currently have 22 paying members and to date have collected £335.50. By year end it is forecast that the total subscriptions will be approximately £600 after deductions of any transactional fees.

An additional income derives from the Photo Wall exhibitions where John is currently providing the inks used for free. Many thanks! This additional income is calculated at approximately £267. Therefore, total income to year end will be approximately £867.

Our spend is primarily to support the website. The costs include the relevant software required to support the various requirements e.g. photo galleries. In addition, we pay a hosting subscription for the actual website. The 2025 forecasted costs for the website are expected to be £494. However, this includes the hosting subscription of £287 which is only paid once every two years. A single payment is made since it's a reduced fee compared to a monthly subscription fee. After adjusting the bank balance for outstanding website costs there is a balance of £1923 for agreed projects, visits etc.

- Consideration of a grant application to Bollington Town Council. Terry was asking for ideas to support this. Our Town Hall involvement has been Christmas Cards, Mayor's Photo. Also Terry has sent them photos for their use.
- Should we ask for support for us co-operating with the Bollington Festival next year in some way?
Janet emailed one of the Festival committee members to ask what their plans are. This is the reply I got:-
"Hi there Janet, lovely to hear from you. There isn't a theme for the 2026 Festival as such. It will be similar to 2024, with a large covered open air stage on the Rec hosting ticketed evening concerts, the proceeds of which will then help fund a completely free day of community activities on the Rec on the Monday. The traditional tea tent will be back and the Festival as a whole will run slightly longer than 2024 with events in the

Bollington Arts Centre from 15-20th May and then the action shifts to the Rec on Thursday 21 - Monday 25 May. There will be lots of surprises and we would be delighted if the Bollington Photo Group would like to take pictures again. Hope this helps! "

We have time to plan if we want to get involved. Suggestions are

- Photos of the differing events.
- A BPG stand.
- An exhibition of our photos.
- A photo challenge.

And the grant application needs to go in in October.

Janet wondered if we should have a Partnership Agreement with the Town Hall similar to the one that the Well Dressers have. This might not be necessary.

Membership

Current Members June 2025			
Terry Heathcote	David Hirst	Ian Walker	Richard Barrow
Simon Nottage	John O'Dell	Don Dymer	Tony Hopwood
Janet Beech	Alan Hodgson	Pat Hirst	Neil O'Hara
Andrew Huggett	Andrew Gregory	Kevin Welton	Kevin Pritchard
John Howarth	Denise Skiffington	Steven Gilligan	22 members
Robert Warhurst	Pam Lob	Jackie Timms	

Members who have cancelled	Date Cancelled.
Caroline Marshall	December 11 2024
David Baume	December 23 2024
Geoff White	Dec-24
Gillian Redin	Feb 7 2025
Lisa Cox	Feb 7 2025
Bruce Kendrick	March 11 2025. But has paid membership until March 2026

Turners Wall

- The new images on the Ginnels, Back Alleys and Byways is now on The Photo Wall.

How many of our members submitted images?

Eight members entered a total of 30 images.

There were 9 clear winners and 6 tied for the last 3 places.

How many members voted?

6 members initially. After the tie break 3 more members voted and 2 members voted for a second time,

How many non members voted?

When we opened it up on Facebook and friends/family, 14 non-members voted.

There was a total of 98 votes.

John suggests that if a tie break situation happens again we should open it up to the regulars and staff at the Turners to help to decide.

- John brought the previous winners prints so they can be retrieved.
- There was a discussion about the prints that have not been claimed by their owners. John is willing to store them. They could be used for an exhibition in the future.
- John has offered to donate the ink he uses for the printing free of charge to the group.
- We wondered if we should change from a two month to a three month exhibition. We decided that we will leave it at two.
- Nickie suggests that the images should be moved round periodically to help to refresh things..
- We should include information of our web address and a QR code with the images. This might encourage non member participation, including the Turners customers as well.
- It was agreed that the contest voting should also be opened up to the Turners regulars via a QR code put on the wall advertising the contest and inviting voting.

Themes for this year:

Sky Submissions open on 1st July

Birds Submissions open on 1st September

Night Lights Submissions open on 1st November

Themes for next year's exhibitions were decided as follows:

Zig Zags, Glass, Opposites, Birds, Architecture, Night Lights

Website

Simon is very worried about the lack of involvement with the website and specifically the Turners Wall voting. He told us that it involves a huge amount of work over several days and there is a lack of engagement from our members, either the entries, or, more worryingly the lack of any response from nearly 2/3 of our members. He asks " Is it worth it if the membership aren't interested?"

The question is why are we not connecting with our members, "I'm worried that if there is such apathy, then we won't have any renewals and without 'new blood 'our group will not be viable."

- Janet mentioned that the Walkers are Welcome have a new website which seems to separate the members section from the non members. And is actively promoting the non member participation.
- A suggestion was made that the rolling programme of the 4 images behind the "Love Where You Live" could be refreshed
- And the 10 "Iconic images of Bollington" could also be reviewed.

New Meetings Planned

June

- 19th June - Raptor Centre. This has been cancelled. It is rather expensive.
- 26th Portrait of Well Dressing Petallars at t.he Cricket Pavillion

July

- 3rd - Kerridge Fields 2pm
- 10th - 6 in 10 5pm
- 17th - Members meeting with a theme to be decided Perhaps ask Ian Walker to do his presentation.
- 24th - Long exposures. Start at the waterfall by Church Street

August

Nothing planned

Ideas for the future

- Alderney Edge in the Autumn?
- Light painting - Autumn?
- Fun Fair in Macclesfield?
- Heaton Park Light Festival.

A.O.B.

- There was a discussion about the timings of our meetings. We decided that our Winter meetings should be at 7pm and our Summer meetings might be at 5pm.
- Do we need insurance for the Group? After a discussion we thought that it might be worth finding out about 3rd Party Insurance to protect us if there is damage to property caused while on a photo walk. Terry would do this. Walkers would do it at their own risk.
- The next edition of Bollington Live does not have anything about us this time. We really need to sort this out on a permanent basis. A QR code about us would sort this out