

Witney Photo Group - a Brief History

By Brian lee

The club was originally called 'Witney Cine and Photographic Society'. It's inaugural meeting took place on the 3rd of February 1955 at the Fleece Hotel. Sixteen people attended.

Early meetings were held in the Garden Room at the Fleece Hotel, a room that has since been destroyed by fire. The first AGM was held in September 1955 and subs were set at 21shillings (£1.05p).

The first annual dinner was held in the Masonic Hall at Witney in October 1955: 65 members and friends attended. The first competition was for black & white prints and it was called the 'Print of the Year' competition. This was judged by the Members and friends attending the evening.

In September 1956 the title of the club was changed to 'Witney Camera Club'. The membership had now grown to 30.

In early 1964 the club moved from the Fleece to the Lecture Theatre in the Technical College. Then moved again around 1966 to the Congregational Hall (with some meetings held in the Lecture Theatre and other classrooms in the College and Batt House).

In 2006 the club title was changed again, this time to 'Witney Photo Group'.

For quite some time the meetings were held in the Gallery Room of the Corn Exchange, with the last meeting being the AGM on Monday 23rd May 2011.

Meetings are now held at Madley Park Hall, the first taking place on Tuesday the 18th September 2011.

Witney Photo Group has competed in the inter-club 'Rosebowl' Trophy competition for many years with little success. However, on 23rd April 2017 the club won the competition.

In 2019 Club membership hit an all-time high of 80 Members with prospective new members having to be placed on a waiting list.