



IMAGE OPPOSITE: Dr Zuikham gives a child portraiture demonstration to the Club's members at Manchester Square. **LEFT:** Walter Nurnberg and other members in the entrance hall at Manchester Square. The photograph on the wall is an image of Captain Scott's ship Terra Nova by HC Ponting (1911) which is in the club's permanent collection. **ABOVE:** Former prime minister John Major MP from 'One - Man' Exhibition at the club by Roland Boyes MP is featured on the club's March 1992 journal cover.

THE CAMERA CLUB

When a photographic association doesn't list its location in its name, it's got to be something special – Marek Neumann and Joanna Wedman from the London-based group known as The Camera Club explain the organisation's history and many relocations

WORDS: MAREK NEUMANN & JOANNA WEDMAN **PICTURES:** THE CAMERA CLUB'S PERMANENT COLLECTION

The Camera Club's saga began in 1885 when J Harris Stone, the editor of a photographic magazine, decided to call together a meeting of the most prominent personalities of the day. The result was the formation of The Camera Club and the club's first premises was located at 21 Bedford Street, Strand.

In 1891 the club moved on to more spacious premises at 28 Charing Cross Road, which included a studio and 11 darkrooms. At the time photography was in a state of rapid evolution and the club's membership included most of the influential figures of the time: Marcus Adams, the Royal photographer, Bertram Park and Yvonne Gregory to name a few, and other well-known figures such as Cecil Beaton had their exhibitions in The Camera Club's gallery.

In 1908 the club formally amalgamated with the Blenheim Club but preferring

independence, FJ Mortimer (president 1938-44) led a move to the neo-classical Adelphi buildings on John Adam Street, where The Camera Club had excellent facilities, a billiard room, library and dining room. Despite slight bomb damage in the First World War, the club stayed there until further bombing in the Second World War in April 1941. It then reopened the following year at 11 Grosvenor Street and despite wartime conditions, the club continued to thrive. Darkroom hire was 2 ½p per hour.

In 1946 the club moved again to Manchester Square where it remained until the lease expired in 1969, when it moved above the Photographers Gallery in Great Newport Street. These premises proved to be very popular, with regular demonstrations on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

In January 1991 the club made its most

recent move to 16 Bowden Street, an ex-pickle factory where Charlie Chaplin's father had worked.

The club now offers two studios, a gallery, four darkrooms and a newly refurbished digital suite, which is sponsored by Epson and equipped with two Epson printers – a Stylus R1900 and a Stylus 3880 Pro – and an Epson Perfection V750 flatbed and negative scanner.

Epson has long been known as one of the leaders in digital printing and we are proud to use only Epson inks and papers in our new digital suite. This equipment has allowed the club's members access to professional equipment, which many might otherwise find unaffordable, and encourages them to develop their printing and scanning skills. The club organises workshops for members to help them to use the Epson equipment in



ABOVE: The Club Officers & Committee (1948-1949) **RIGHT:** The four sons of King George V (Prince George, Duke of Kent; Edward, Duke of Windsor; King George VI; Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester) by Bertram Park.



the most effective way, and lots of members use these facilities professionally, either to print photographs for their clients and exhibitions or archive their negatives using the Epson scanner.

Although always adapting to changing times and demands, the club's 'mission' has

remained the same for 125 years – to provide a forum where members can meet others who share their interest and enthusiasm. The Camera Club promotes interest in all aspects of photography and welcomes members of all experience levels – young and old, amateur and professional. O

GET INVOLVED

If your club or society has a collective portfolio or history that you think is suitable to be profiled in this section of the magazine, get in touch with a selection of low-res JPEGs and the story behind your club and the pictures. planetphoto@advancedphotographer.co.uk