

# **A SHORT HISTORY OF BOURNEMOUTH ELECTRIC CAMERA CLUB**

## **FORMERLY KNOWN AS 'BOURNEMOUTH ELECTRIC CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION'**

The Bournemouth Electric Club Photographic Section was formed originally as a 'works' Club in 1953. The Southern Electric management appealed to employees with an interest in photography and a group was formed which was affiliated to the Bournemouth Electric Sports & Social Club. Membership of the 'main' Club was paid by a small deduction from wages, and the Photographic Section gained a small subscription on top of that.

The original members were a keen bunch, and very soon a competition basis was set up, and cups awarded for those successful participants. The social side was also very evident and excursions were arranged for members to give photographic opportunities. The use of a preserved bus during the 1980s enabled the members to have weekends away to Exeter, and on the Isle of Wight, which were well supported.

Over the years, any event in the life of the Electric Company was photographically recorded, usually by a prominent member of the Photographic Section, not only connected with the running of the business, but also eminent retirees' parties, and social events.

When the company was privatised in 1971, the Sports & Social Club was protected for employees' use and gradually members were allowed to join from 'outside' the Company.

Bournemouth Electric Camera Club, as it is now known, has always been well supported, and has also been very successful over the years competing in 'outside' competitions such as the Stour & Avon Photographic Society's League and one-off events such as the All v All Competitions.

Meetings have been held at various venues over the years, from the offices at Electric House, Verulam Place, Bournemouth (where dark-room facilities were set up), to Bourne Valley, to Church Halls, and are now held at the Sports & Social Club itself. Membership is open to anyone with a keen interest in photography, and the Club is still very successful, organising competitions and workshops, and arranging talks by eminent speakers in the photographic world.

In 2014 the Bournemouth Photographic Society approached the Club with a view to merging the two clubs. This was agreed and the Bournemouth Photographic Society joined the Club for the start of the 2014/2015 season.