

LYMINGTON CAMERA CLUB

PHOTOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE 2026/27

INNS OF THE NEW FOREST

September 2026 – March 2027

The Challenge

The New Forest is home to a remarkable collection of historic inns and public houses. Many are much more than places to eat and drink — they are part of the character, history and social life of the Forest.

This year-long challenge invites members to explore these places through photography and **interpret the theme in their own way**.

There is no prescribed photographic style and no requirement to visit a particular pub. The aim is to encourage members to look beyond simply photographing the building and discover the **character and story of the New Forest inn**.

What could you photograph?

Your interpretation is entirely up to you. Ideas might include:

The Inn

- Architecture and exterior details
- Pub signs and distinctive features
- Interiors and traditional furnishings
- Fireplaces, beams and historic features
- Old photographs, memorabilia and artefacts

The People

- Landlords and staff at work
- Regulars and customers
- Social interaction
- Quiet or spontaneous moments
- The relationship between people and their local

The Atmosphere

- Light and shadow
- Reflections
- Details and still life
- Food and drink
- Empty bars and quiet moments
- The atmosphere after dark

The Place

- The inn within its village
- Its relationship with the New Forest
- Surrounding landscape
- Seasonal changes
- The journey to and from the inn

How to Take Part

There are **no organised group visits and no allocated pubs**.

Members are encouraged to explore the challenge independently during the season. A suggested list of New Forest inns will be provided as inspiration, but you are welcome to discover your own.

You might choose to photograph one particular inn in depth, or visit several and build a wider collection.

You may also find that returning to the same inn at different times, seasons or lighting conditions produces a very different set of photographs.

Be Curious

Don't feel that you have to photograph the obvious.

Look for the details and moments that tell a story:

The hand pulling a pint. A reflection in a mirror. A forgotten chair by the fire. A dog beneath a table. An old photograph on the wall. Someone reading the newspaper. The pub sign in the rain. The last light through the window.

The challenge is to **show us something about the inn that we might otherwise overlook**.

Photography & Courtesy

Members should use their own judgement when photographing inside pubs.

Please respect the wishes of landlords, staff and customers. Where identifiable people are being photographed, seek permission where appropriate, particularly for portraits or posed photographs.

The objective is to be **discreet, respectful and unobtrusive** rather than to turn the pub into a photographic set.

The Final Challenge

Towards the end of the season, members will be invited to submit a selection of their strongest images from the project.

These will form a collective presentation:

INNS OF THE NEW FOREST - An exploration by the members of Lymington Camera Club

Most importantly...

There are no rules about how you photograph the challenge.

Choose an inn that interests you.

Take your camera.

Explore.

Look closely.

And tell its story.