

Whitchurch Photographic Society
Policy to resume face to face meetings at Pearl Yard and to manage COVID 19
restrictions from September 2021 onwards.

1. Government advice confirms that after the 19th July legal rules and restrictions on COVID 19 precautions will move to a focus of personal; responsibility to manage the COVID19 pandemic .. However, there is still strong advice suggesting that people should be cautious and continue e.g with the mantra of Hands, Face and Space / use of masks/ distancing etc as appropriate to the situation
It is therefore proposed that we should relaunch meetings at Pearl Yard from September 2021 onwards cautiously and implement locally the following guidance and precautions to protect all members and make it safe to meet. Even though this may in some respects be beyond government requirements it is felt that the following makes good sense given the size/ shape of the room and the numbers that may attend. We should also be mindful of the needs of those who may be vulnerable and help to ensure security for all of us from COVID 19..
2. It is also important to confirm that should e.g. new variants arise /the incidence of infections / hospitalisation increase / the government impose more lockdown measures or restrictions we may have to suspend face to face meetings and return to ZOOM based meetings during the 2021 / 2022 programme..
3. **Policy and Guidance for WPS members meeting on a face to face basis at Pearl Yard:**
 - 3.1) A risk assessment of activity at the clubhouse will take place before returning to face to face meetings.
 - 3.2) As previously,, a list of members will be taken at each meeting which will also allow us to trace members in case of a further COVID 19 outbreak.
 - 3.3) Sessions will be made available via ZOOM (practical sessions will not be available via zoom) for those members who are not able to attend in person.
 - 3.4) Members are asked NOT to attend if they are experiencing any COVID 19 symptoms.
 - 3.5) We will introduce a 1 metre distancing system in the room and having measured the room, limit numbers to a maximum of 34, which is the number of people that the room will appropriately accommodate.. Not all members may be vaccinated and we have a duty of care towards all of us .
 - 3.6) Whilst the issue of wearing masks etc is a personal choice; WPS has a clear responsibility and duty of care to all members. It is helpful to consider this in the light of protection for all members as well as oneself. Thus we would ask all members to wear a mask whilst at Pearl Yard. Anyone who cannot wear a mask or face covering e.g. for clinical reasons is asked to inform the Membership Secretary /Treasurer at or before the meeting or wear an appropriate lanyard.
 - 3.7) The room will be ventilated (windows/doors) as best as is practical
 - 3.8) Hand sanitizers should be used when entering the building and wipes/sanitizer will be provided in the toilets.
 - 3.9) Refreshments will not be provided on the night. Members may bring their own refreshments if necessary and should be responsible for disposing of any waste accordingly.
 - 3.10) Members will also be asked to pay all meeting fees by BACS or cheque as cash will not be accepted..The Treasurer will email requests for payment at regular intervals.
 - 3.11) Speakers/Judges will be asked to wear a visor/mask/covering whilst at Pearl Yard and to practice at least 1 metre social distancing from members. Some speakers who choose to present remotely may use ZOOM for their talk to members at the club or at their home.
 - 3.12) Sanitizers should be used when handling prints and props for practical meetings and at all other times deemed appropriate.
4. All the above requirements will be kept under continuing review by the committee and members will be consulted when considering any changes to this policy ; we very much welcome your support for these measures to help all of us in these uncertain times

Marc Brimble - Chairman on behalf of the WPS committee
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