

Whitchurch Photographic Society

Updated policy to resume face to face meetings at Pearl Yard and to manage COVID19 restrictions from March 2022

1. Government advice confirms that after the 27th January 2022 legal rules and restrictions on COVID 19 precautions will move more to a focus of personal responsibility and “the government states thatyou will not be required to wear a face mask in communal areas ...but suggests that you continue to wear a face mask in crowded and indoor spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet “ . A greater emphasis on the exercise of personal responsibility has also been promulgated . This document is an update as at March 2022

In the light of the above, we decided to relaunch meetings at Pearl Yard from 8th February 2022 onwards rather than by ZOOM and implement locally guidance and precautions to protect all members and make it safe to meet. Even though this may in some respects exceed government requirements it is felt that the proposals below make 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 important to note that should e.g. new variants arise /the incidence of infections / hospitalisation etc / increase and the government imposes more restrictions we may have to consider suspending face to face meetings and return to ZOOM based meetings..

3. Policy and Guidance for WPS members meeting on a face to face basis at Pearl Yard:

3.1) A successful risk assessment of activity at the clubhouse took place earlier this year to allow for face to face meetings.

3.2) A list of members will continue to be taken at each meeting which will also help us to trace members in case of a further COVID19 outbreak.

3.3) Sessions will be made available via ZOOM only in respect of stated sessions in the 2021/2022 programme, particularly where those who are presenting have chosen to do so.

3.4) Members are asked NOT to attend at Pearl Yard if they are experiencing any COVID 19 symptoms.

3.5) We will continue a 1 metre distancing system for seats in the room and limit the 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..

3.6) Whilst the issue of wearing masks etc is a personal choice as per para1 above, WPS has a clear responsibility and duty of care to ensure protection for all members. Thus we would ask members to wear a mask when moving about in meetings at Pearl Yard ; masks can be removed during seated presentations . 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) The preference for refreshments is that members bring their own cups etc; volunteers would help with the provision of hot drinks; supplies of tea coffee, sugar and milk will be provided by the club. If members choose to use a cup from the kitchen, please wash and dry it after use.

3.10) Members will continue to be asked to pay all meeting fees by BACS or cheque; cash will not be accepted..The Treasurer will continue to email requests for payment at regular intervals.

3.11) It is suggested that Speakers/Judges should wear a mask /covering at Pearl Yard when moving about .When delivering their address to members, they may wish to remove their mask etc but are asked to consider maintaining social distancing

3.12) Sanitizers should be used when handling prints and props for practical meetings and at all other times deemed appropriate.

4. The above policy will be kept under continuing review by the committee and members will be consulted when considering any significant changes ; we very much welcome your support for these measures to help all of us in these times

Marc Brimble - Chairman on behalf of the WPS committee March 2022 v1