



Jane (Hope) Bown 1925 -2014  
... Photo journalist for  
The Observer for over 60 years

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- Brought up by 'aunts' and discovered that one of them was her mother when she was 12
  - Started work as a 'chart corrector' for WRNS
  - Studied Photography at Guildford School of Art – the only establishment offering a course in Photography
  - Wedding Photographer until 1951. Then worked for 'The Observer' for over 60 years.
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- Minimal equipment, no flash. Black and White. Concentrate on the eyes, informal style.
- Until the early 1960s, Rolleiflex camera. Then a 35mm Pentax SLR, before settling on the Olympus OM-1 camera, often using an 85mm lens.
- Typically ten minutes or so with the subject.

She photographed hundreds of subjects, including Orson Welles, Samuel Beckett, Sir John Betjeman, Woody Allen, Cilla Black, Quentin Crisp, John Lennon, Björk, Jayne Mansfield, Diana Dors, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Evelyn Waugh, and Margaret Thatcher. She took Queen Elizabeth II's eightieth birthday portrait.

- Published about a dozen books
  - Three on loan from David Pearson on display here today ...
  - Radio interview on 'Woman's Hour' (8 mins) ... 2005
  - Channel 4 TV news programme on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday...  
<https://youtu.be/5oK4zEyr6BU>  
(6 mins) (2009)
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