



NMCPF News

June 2026

Edition 207



C O N T E N T S

If you haven't made the INPUT, can you claim the OUTPUT?

Unsure about AI what you can and shouldn't do?

Then read these articles in the latest edition of the PAGB enews

AI - A CHALLENGE TO PHOTOGRAPHIC TRUTH?
and

ONLY YOU CAN KNOW.

Click on the link below:

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en406%201%20June.pdf>

2 If you haven't made the INPUT, can you claim the OUTPUT?

4 MCPF Annual General Meeting

4 Club Closures Within the MCPF

5 Photofolio 2026

7 MidPhot Panel Exhibition

8 Get Back to Printing

9 Important update to Mileage Expenses

9 PAGB Recorded Lecture Service

10 International Exhibitions now open for entries

11 PAGB PDi Club Championships 2026

11 PAGB Inter-club Print Championships

11 Adjudication for Audio Visual

13 Capturing Ethiopia

14 Membership History of PAGB

15 New Judge and Lecturer to MCPF

Useful MCPF Contacts:

President: president@mcpf.co.uk

General Sec: sec@mcpf.co.uk

Webmaster: webmaster@mcpf.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: newsletter@mcpf.co.uk

Treasurer: treasurer@mcpf.co.uk

MidPhot Chair: midphot@mcpf.co.uk

Photofolio Chair: photofolio@mcpf.co.uk

PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit:

apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk

Seminar Secretary: seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk

Print and Pdi Championships:

mcpfchampionship@mcpf.co.uk

Calling All Club Secretaries

Please forward any information that is emailed to you from the MCPF about: exhibitions; entry forms; and events, including the Newsletter cover letter to all your club members.





One of Mike Sharples
Ethiopian Panel

MCPF Diary 2026/2027

More details about each of the events can be found at www.mcpf.co.uk

Date	Event	Contact Details/Venue
2026		
Apr 18 th	Print and PDI Championships	Peter Owen, mcpfchampionship@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Braunstone Civic Centre, Braunstone
May 14 th	Closing date Photofolio 2026	Bob Goode photofolio@mcpf.co.uk
Jun Wed 10 th ~ Sat 13 th	Photofolio Exhibition	Bob Goode photofolio@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS Days and times to be announced
Jun 13 th	MCPF Annual General Meeting	Christine Lovatt sec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Jul 12 th	APM Workshop	Mike Sharples seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Jun 22 nd	Midland Salon	Midland Salon Closing date
Aug 8 th - 15 th	Midland Salon Exhibition	Judith Parry: chairman@midland-salon.com Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS Days and times to be announced
Sep 19 th	General Meeting	Christine Lovatt, sec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Sep 19 th	Closing date Panel Exhibition 2026	Nasar Hussain
Oct 17 th	Panel Exhibition	Nasar Hussain Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
TBA	General Seminar	Mike Sharples seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Dec 5 th	Print Seminar	Mike Sharples seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
2027		
Jan 30 th	AV Competitions	Alastair Taylor avchamp@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton Burton on Trent, DE13 0HE
Feb 13 th	MCPF General Meeting	Christine Lovatt, sec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Feb 13 th	MidPhot 2027 Closing Date	Ralph & Lu Duckett midphot@mcpf.co.uk
Mar 17 th –21 st	MidPhot 2027 Exhibition	Ralph & Lu Duckett. midphot@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse Oldbury, B69 2AS

Contact

Newsletter Editor
newsletter@mcpf.co.uk

Subscribe

To subscribe to the MCPF Newsletter for FREE please go to the MCPF website homepage where you will find a link to the subscribe page or click on this link <https://mcpf.co.uk/newsletter>

Editorial Notes

As you can see I am trying to use as many images as possible in the newsletter. I hope I am not upsetting anyone by not contacting them directly for permission, but I would like to point out that they are of low resolution and as part of our Exhibition rules, we can use your images to promote the MCPF and its member clubs. Any opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of Midland Counties Photographic Federation and neither the Editor nor the MCPF accepts any liability for any content. Any mention of products or services in e-news does not constitute an endorsement or approval of those items.

Articles and Club Adverts

Send your club event, exhibition or news to: newsletter@mcpf.co.uk

Please send it in text format along with an image and a poster. All this information will be forwarded to the Webmaster for inclusion on the MCPF website.

Closing date for submissions is 28th of each month. The editor reserves the right to withhold any submitted article if it is deemed inappropriate for this publication and to postpone publication if required.

Website News

All the clubs who have websites should have the www icon next to their names in the "Find a Club" on the MCPF website. If, for whatever reason, you change the address, please ensure that you update your details on our database. Whilst going through and checking, I did notice a couple of clubs have changed their venue address but have not updated this on our database. Help us to help you by keeping your details up to date with us.



June

13

Societies are entitled to be represented at the General Meeting in accordance with rule 6.

All club members are welcome to attend and would be most welcome, but only delegates have the power to vote.

In order to save time at the meeting, it would be most helpful if apologies and amendments to the minutes of the last meeting could be sent to the General Secretary in advance of the meeting.
sec@mcpf.co.uk THANK YOU

Venue details: www.smethwickps.co.uk

Doors Open at 1.30pm

Meeting will commence at 2.30pm

General Meeting Enquiries: Please contact:

Christine Lovatt. 26 Dane Grove, Cheadle, Stoke on Trent, Staffs. ST10 1QS Or email: sec@mcpf.co.uk

The Old
Schoolhouse
Churchbridge
Oldbury
BS69 2AS

This day is the last opportunity to visit the Photofolio exhibition, which has been on display since Wednesday 10th June, allowing you plenty of time to enjoy it. After the meeting, there will be a brief refreshment break with tea, coffee, and biscuits, then a showing of the accepted Pdi's from the Photofolio exhibition. Prints from the exhibition will then be ready for collection, except for those kept for the travelling portfolio.

MCPF Annual General Meeting

Club Closures Within the MCPF



It is with real sadness that we announce the closure of two long-standing MCPF member clubs: Redditch PS and Spratton PG. Both clubs have shared that declining membership—and, in particular, the shortage of volunteers willing to support the organisation and day-to-day running of the club—has made it impossible for them to continue.

This is, unfortunately, a challenge we are hearing about more frequently across the federation and the PAGB.

Can Your Club Share a Success Story?

If your club has found effective ways to grow membership, encourage volunteering, or revitalise engagement, we would love to hear from you. Your experience could provide valuable insight and practical ideas that may help other clubs facing similar difficulties.

Please get in touch and share your approach so we can pass it on to the wider community.



Photofolio 2026

June 10th to 13th

Doors open

Weds 7 ~ 10pm Presentation of awards 8pm followed by Pdi Show

Thurs 7 ~ 10pm 8pm presentation of Pdi show

Sat 1.30 pm ~ 5pm

MCPF Club Delegates, special viewing of projected images, following MCPF Annual General Meeting.

Prints will be available for collection following the Pdi show.

(Times dependent on duration of the meeting that precedes the show).

MCPF Travelling Portfolio

Now open for 2026-
2027 bookings

The Travelling portfolio is available
to all MCPF affiliated clubs to show
from September 2026

To make your booking please complete
the booking form available on the web site
<https://mcpf.co.uk/travelling-portfolio> and
email to: portfoliosec@mcpf.co.uk.
A booking fee of £12 is payable when
making the booking

The 2025 Travelling Portfolio is also available as
a PDi presentation (MP4 format) with recorded
commentary of the print section. A great
standby programme for short notice booking.
It can be booked at anytime from the Portfolio
Secretary.





MIDPHOT PANEL EXHIBITION 2026

Entries Open

3 August

Entries Close

13 September

Final Date for Print hand-in

19 September

Selection

20 September

Exhibition

17 October

Prints can be dropped off at the Old Schoolhouse on afternoon of the MCPF General Meeting Sept 19th

Exhibition will be held
17th October

The Schoolhouse, Churchbridge, Oldbury B69 2AS



Be Part of the Midlands Photographic Community

Join the MCPF Newsletter to the latest exhibitions, event updates,
Competition news, and inspiration from photographers across the region.





MCPF Seminar 5th December 2026

Resume your Passion, Get Motivated Get Back to Printing

The MCPF council are seeking to encourage the use of the print medium as a means to boost print exhibition entry numbers.

This year's seminar has at its core a workshop designed to help you:
Understand The Basics of Colour Management
To be able to produce prints of exhibition standard

The Workshop, designed and delivered by PermaJet, will, it is hoped, set you all on the road to successful printing and, hopefully, get those awards flooding in.

The Morning Session.

The Basics of Colour Management (Print with Confidence)

Why do we need colour management?
Monitor calibration, why and how
Choosing the right paper
Paper profiling, why and how

The Afternoon Session

From Print to Perfection

Delegates can bring an image on a USB Pen Drive. These will be discussed and suggestions will be given of paper types that may suit and enhance the image. The PermaJet range of papers will be discussed so the delegates can appreciate the importance of choosing the right paper for the right image, and how it can make a huge difference to the final print. This session is designed to be interactive, delegates can ask questions and study the papers prior to their prints being produced. A Canon Pro 310 printer will then print off the delegates images on different paper types so the difference can be seen.

Tickets

Cost: £15.00 per person
Last booking date 14th November 2026

PermaJet

Session one commences 10.00 hrs to 13.00hrs
Lunch Break
Session two commences 14.00 hrs to 16.30 hrs

Event Location

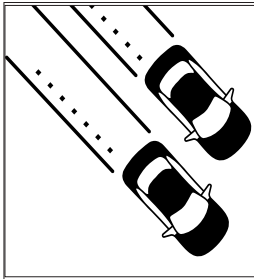
Smethwick Photographic Society
Churchbridge
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2AS

Catering

Tea and Coffee available (bring your own packed lunch)

Contact details

Mike Sharples MFIAP MPAGB FBPE EFIAP ARPS
seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk
Mobile 07774 321411
Places are limited to 30



Important update to Mileage Expenses for PAGB Judges and Lecturers

The government has announced an increase in the car mileage rate to 55p/mile backdated to April

2026. The rate had been 45p/mile since 2011. The PAGB has therefore increased its maximum mileage rate to 55p/mile. See more details on the Speakers page on PAGB website <https://thepagb.org.uk/services/speakers/>

55p/mile is not the cost of running any particular car: it is a compromise rate which HMRC will accept as expenses regardless of the actual car used. PAGB uses this maximum rate as a protection for listed speakers and also to provide some certainty to Clubs when planning their programmes.

For Clubs, the increase is just over 20%. For comparison, the CPI and RPI increases since 2011 are about 50% and 75% respectively

Best practice to check expenses at time of booking, plus remember to check if lecturer charges any additional fees.

Switzerland

by

HABARI MONOCHROME

An exhibition of Large Format Black & White Silver Gelatin Prints

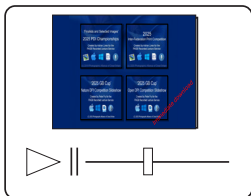


Antlers Coffee House

Market Place, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BS
01283 904881

Monday 1st June – Friday 3rd July 2026
8am – 4pm Monday – Friday
8.30am – 4pm Saturday
9am – 3pm Sunday

PAGB Recorded Lecture Service



The PAGB RLS provides lectures from a wide range of PAGB events as well as contributions from photographers across the UK. Lectures are priced at £15 or £20 and are available for immediate download following payment, so they can be used straight away. Each club or federation purchases a perpetual licence, allowing the lecture to be used as often as they wish. Please note that lectures must not be distributed to individual club or federation members.

For your interest, the top 10 most requested lectures in 2025 were:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2025 GB Cup Open DPI | 2025 Inter-Federation Competition Slideshow |
| 2024 Print Championship | 2024 PDI Championship Final |
| Awards for Photographic Merit Volume 8 (2024) | Light Sensitive – A Visual Essay — Kathy Harcom, produced by Leigh Preston |
| Photographic Opportunity — Leigh Preston | 2025 Inter-Federation Competition Slideshow |
| 2025 PDI Championship Final and Selected Images | |
| 2024 GB Cup for Nature | |

We also offer two travelling print exhibitions, each containing approximately 60 unmounted prints: the Master of Print Salon des Refusés and The GB Trophy. These are free of charge to borrow, with only the one-way postage cost of £17.95 to be covered.

International Exhibitions now open for entries

MIDLAND SALON 2026

INTERNATIONAL PRINT AND PDI EXHIBITION



2026-177



L260048



2026-020

Closing Date - 22nd June

Midland Salon
2026 Exhibition

8th ~ 15th August 2026

The Old Schoolhouse
Churchbridge, Oldbury
Birmingham B69 2AS

Opening Times

Details and times to be announced



Inter Club Projected Digital Image Championship

19 July 2026 - mark your diary now.




Houdet Stretches Off Court by Alan Young, RR Derby

Inter Club Print Championship

Weston Building

The 2026 PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship will be held on **Saturday 24 October 2026** and it will be held at Harper Adams University in Newport, Shropshire.



Awards for Photographic Merit Adjudication for Audio Visual

The PAGB will be holding an online Awards for Photographic Merit Adjudication for Audio Visual entrants on Sunday 20th September 2026.

The cost of entry is £80.00 - CPAGB, £120.00 - DPAGB and £160.00 - MPAGB.

Application Forms are available from Alan Lovatt at apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

MASTERS OF PRINT

Sponsored by CEWE and Online Paper

Wilkinson Cameras, 14-16 English St, Carlisle CA3 8HX
OPENING Saturday 16 May. Closing 6 June 2026

Bedwelty House, Morgan St, Tredegar NP22 3XN
OPENING 1 August 2026. Closing 30 August

The Old School House, Churchbridge, Oldbury B69 2AS
OPENING Saturday 5 September. Closing 30 September

Edinburgh Photographic Society, 68 Great King Street
OPENING Saturday 10 October. Closing 31 October



Capturing Ethiopia

How Mike Sharples Achieved the Highest IPF Distinction



Irish Photographic Federation

Fellowship (FIPF): The highest and most advanced distinction level. It requires a professional-grade portfolio of 20 printed images, a conceptual statement of intent, and must demonstrate distinguished ability and mastery in a specific genre of photography

Irish Photographic Federation
Mike Sharples
Ethiopia Village People
FIPF Statement of Intent

Having visited many traditional tribal villages in Ethiopia I have stylistically portrayed the villagers in the environment in which they live, both young and old members alike.

Their portraits showing their individual and tribal connections and distinctive characters, by their dress, body art, choice of headdress, face and body painting, tattoos/scarification, which have been fashioned throughout their lives.

I have chosen the colour print medium to emphasize the charming characteristics of the Ethiopian people and their colourful unique and traditional clothing.



MCPF Photofolio 2026: Passion, captured.
Visit the Exhibition and see for yourself

HISTORY AND ORGANISATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN

Much of this information is from an article written by the late Terry Chapman LRPS APAGB in 1985, revised 1987 -

http://www.thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/pagb_history_1987.pdf

Material is also included from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photographic_Alliance_of_Great_Britain

Although the Photographic Alliance (PAGB) as we know it was founded in 1930 it can be traced back as far as 1882, predating the founding of any of the Federations which now make up the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

In 1892 the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) founded the Affiliation of Photographic Societies with very similar aims and objectives to the current PAGB. By the late 1890s the organisation was becoming unwieldy for the RPS to manage and there was a move to decentralise, beginning with the founding of the first Regional Federation, the Yorkshire Photographic Union (YPU), in 1899, and shortly thereafter the Northern Counties (1901) and the Scottish Federation (1903).

The Photographic Alliance was established by Articles of Association of the Royal Photographic Society and comprised the RPS, the Northern Counties, the Midland Counties, the East Anglian Federation, the Yorkshire Union and the Lancashire and Cheshire Unions with the Central Association of Photographic Societies. A meeting of the provisional executive committee was held on 8 March 1930, when the Council of the RPS agreed that the Chairman of the Alliance need not be a member of the RPS, so reinforcing its status as a body semi-independent of the RPS. The constitution of the Alliance noted "The business of the Alliance shall be conducted consistently with the Articles of Association of The Royal Photographic Society and shall not interfere with the complete self-government of the constituent associations".

Although the Scottish Photographic Federation had been very active in establishing the PAGB, the membership at its AGM declined to join at that time. The Alliance was formally launched on 24 May 1930.



The details of these regional federations were not fixed. At first, all clubs that were not members of a regional grouping became members of the Central Association of Photographic Societies (CAPS), affiliated to PAGB. Eventually CAPS was replaced by other regional federations. Boundary changes have continued since then, but the overall structure, with the PAGB as the national body, has been stable for decades.

Over time the PAGB gradually moved away from the RPS and is now a wholly independent body. The PAGB has constantly evolving "advisory" representation on an RPS committee and an RPS member attends PAGB Executive Committee meetings but does not normally vote.

MEMBERSHIP HISTORY

THE YORKSHIRE PHOTOGRAPHIC UNION, founded 1899 – PAGB Founder Member
THE NORTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION, founded 1901 - PAGB Founder Member
THE LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE PHOTOGRAPHIC UNION, founded 1905 - PAGB Founder Member
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION, founded 1907 - PAGB Founder Member
THE EAST ANGLIAN FEDERATION of PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETIES, founded 1910 - PAGB Founder Member
THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION of PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETIES, founded 1930 - PAGB Founder Member Now defunct.

THE WESTERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION, founded 1932 - Joined PAGB 1933

THE SCOTTISH PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION, founded 1903, reformed 1944 - Joined PAGB 1946

THE WELSH PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION, founded 1951 - Joined PAGB 1951

THE NORTH & EAST MIDLANDS PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION, founded 1950 - Joined PAGB 1955

THE NORTHERN IRELAND PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION, founded 1967 - Joined PAGB 1967

THE NORTH WALES PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION, founded 1980 - Joined PAGB 1982

THE SOUTHERN PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

Now THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION, founded 1963 - Joined PAGB 1985

THE CHILTERN ASSOCIATION of CAMERA CLUBS, founded 1965 - Joined PAGB 1986

THE SURREY PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION, *Previously the Surrey Photographic Federation,* founded 1960 - Joined PAGB 1999

This Article was extracted from the PAGB e-news 405 Edition dated 16 May 2026
If you would like to receive copies of e-news to your own in-box then subscribe via
<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/> or scan in the QR code.





THE LONDON SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY 112th EXHIBITION OPENING

You are invited to the official opening of the 112th London Salon of Photography annual exhibition.



The opening and awards presentation will take place on Sunday 14th June at 2pm, at The SPS Exhibition Centre, Churchbridge, Oldbury, B69 2AS. (Telephone 0121 427 4224 for opening times ONLY)



The exhibition will run from June 14th-28th and then continue to further venues, schedule available at londonsalon.org

"The aim of the London Salon is to exhibit only that class of photographic work in which there is distinct evidence of artistic feeling and execution"

All images (c) their respective authors



thelondonsalon.org

Cuba

by

HABARI MONOCHROME

An exhibition of Large Format Black & White Silver Gelatin Prints



Antlers Coffee House

Market Place, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BS
01283 904881

Monday 6th July – Friday 31st July 2026
8am – 4pm Monday – Friday
8.30am – 4pm Saturday
9am – 3pm Sunday



New Judge and Lecturer to MCPF



Micki Aston CPAGB MCIOJ
Email: mickiaston@hotmail.com
Location: GL56 0EU - Tewkesbury

Will Judge in Person. Will Judge via Video Conference. List of lectures can be found by logging into the PAGB's CMS system.

Speaker Biography.

I've been a photographic speaker and judge for many years, with my talks reflecting mainly my past profession as a travel photographer. I am now retired, and have been since 2019, but enjoy sharing with people the amazing countries it has been my privilege to visit and document.

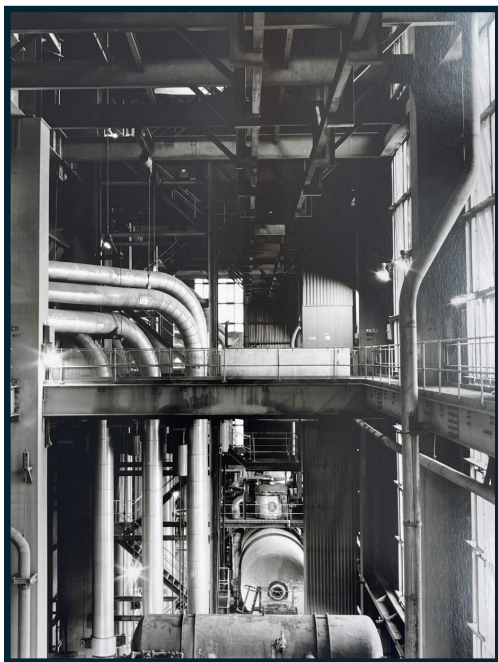
My website is Astonimages.com where you can check out more details about what I do.

Rugeley Power Station

by

HABARI MONOCHROME

An exhibition of Large Format Black & White Silver Gelatin Prints



Antlers Coffee House

Market Place, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BS
01283 904881

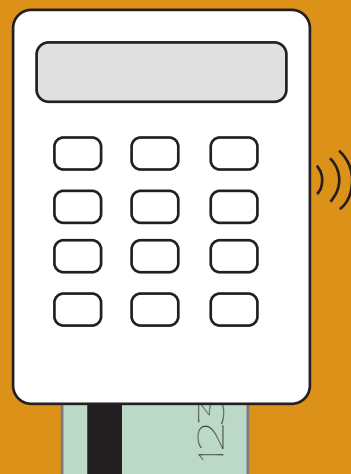
Monday 3rd August to Friday 11th September 2026
8am – 4pm Monday – Friday
8.30am – 4pm Saturday
9am – 3pm Sunday

GOING CASHLESS?

Is your Camera Club thinking of going cashless?

More and more members asking to pay their evening subs by card or phone?

SumUp are offering a discount and transaction fees and terminals to all Camera Clubs.



For details contact Mia at SumUp at **Mia Amor**
Account Executive, POS TribeSumUp Point of Sale. Own your business.
16-20 Shorts Gardens | Seven Dials | London WC2H 9US
+44 7401 106230 | mia.amor@sumup.com
sumup.com.

Send us your News

Tell us what your club has been up to in recent months, how you have attracted more members, events you are hosting, and photographic tips.

Use the MCPF Newsletter and website to advertise your event.

News

Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter. It does not matter if they are things you have seen in other parts of the country. If it is about photography, we want to hear about it.