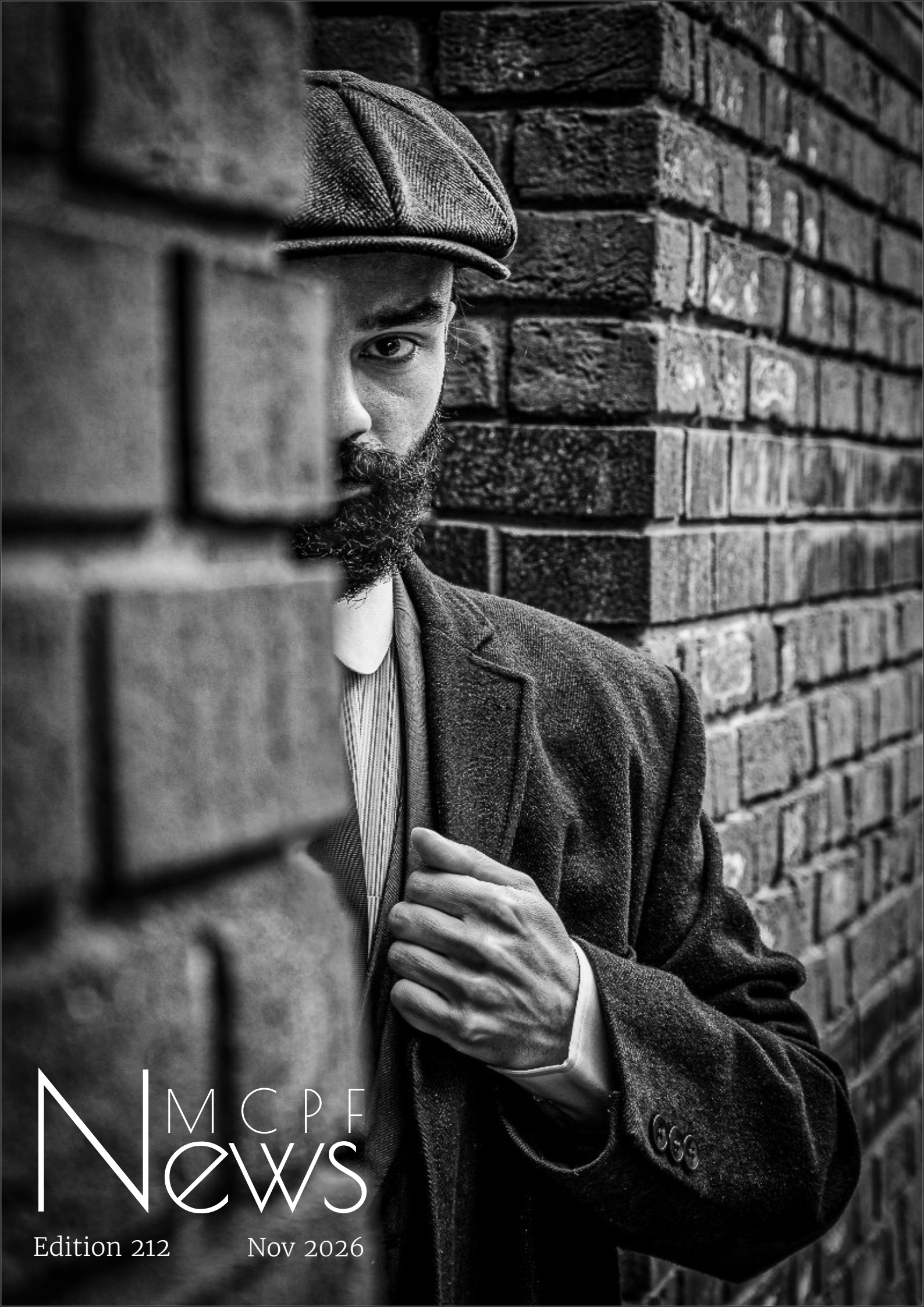


MCPF News

Edition 212 Nov 2026

CONTENTS



Heart Attack on Three Plates
Christopher Redman~Triptych

4 Welcome

4 MCPF Competition Rules: AI and Nature Guidance

7 West Haddon Photo Show

8 MCPF Clubs Shine at the PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship

9 Arden PG Crowned Champion Club 2026

10 MidPhot Panel Exhibition 2027

12 An Evening with Iolo Williams: Welsh Wildlife Live on Stage

14 Solihull Photographic Society celebrates 90 years of photography

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.



Peaky Hider
Jay Hallsworth

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

MCPF News

Welcome

The Midland Counties welcomes a new club to the family: the Stonnall and Shenstone Camera Club. This small group meets every two weeks on Mondays at Trinity Methodist Church, New Road, Shenstone, WS14 0NQ. For more information, visit their official website at www.sscc.org.uk.



MCPF Competition Rules: AI and Nature Guidance

At the September General Meeting, members were informed that the MCPF Council had reviewed all competition and exhibition rules and guidelines to ensure consistency and provide clear guidance on what entrants may and may not do.

As the discussion had taken place only about an hour before the announcement, the Council felt that more time was needed to finalise the wording. Further information and clarification will be sent to all Club Secretaries and are available on the MCPF website. Members should refer to this guidance alongside the rules and conditions of entry for each competition or exhibition.

The use of AI was discussed at length. The following statement sets out the Council's position:

"All images must originate from the photographer's own capture. Generative AI that adds, replaces or creates pictorial content—including generative fill, AI sky replacement, AI object creation or imported external elements—is not permitted. Every component of a composite must be entirely the photographer's own work."

This wording is intended to address all relevant points and will be included in all MCPF competition rules and guidelines.

The Council also agreed that the Nature guidelines needed clarification. This was not straightforward because the MCPF follows the PAGB definition, ensuring that qualifying entries remain eligible for PAGB competitions, rather than the Natural History guidance issued by FIAP or PSA. However, a useful rule of thumb is that an image meeting FIAP requirements will also meet MCPF and PAGB requirements. One important point: if an exhibition includes a Nature section and you describe your image as nature, please enter it in that section rather than the Open section.

No matter whose competition or exhibition you are entering, always check the rules and conditions of entry.

Before using any generative AI tool, check that it uses only photographs you have taken yourself and does not introduce images or pictorial elements sourced from the internet or elsewhere. Do not assume that selecting your own photographs guarantees this: check how the tool works and which sources it uses. If you cannot confirm that all pictorial content comes solely from your own photographs, do not use the tool

CALL FOR ENTRIES

MidPhot 2027

64th Annual Exhibition of Midland Photography

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES
13th FEBRUARY 2027



SELECTORS

- Jane Lines MPAGB BPE5 AWPF Hon LCPU
- Adrian Lines MPAGB FBPE EFIAP APAGB
- Jay Hallsworth LRPS DPAGB EPSA EFIAP BPE4
- Ray Brammall FRPS EFIAP/p DPAGB APAGB BPE5
- Steve Myall EFIAP/g PFIAP BPE5
- Steve Walters BPE4 EFIAP

ENTRY CATEGORIES (Max 8 entries per class):

- Monochrome Prints
- Colour Prints
- Nature Prints
- Open Projected Images
- Nature Projected Images

ENTRY FEES:

- **1 to 4 Images: £4 Flat rate (includes Exhibition Catalogue)**
- **5 or more images: £1 per item (print or PDI)**

- Open to members of clubs affiliated with the MCPF
- Work previously accepted or exhibited at MidPhot is not eligible
- Please check the current guidelines for all MCPF Exhibitions and Competitions on the MCPF website.
- Full rules and specs can be found at www.mcpf.co.uk/midphot-2027

SUBMIT VIA ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM
opens for entries Dec 1st 2026

www.mcpf.co.uk

image: The Pianist Richard Plant

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.



Botanical on Blue Shelagh Allen Kempsey CC

WEST HADDON PHOTO CLUB

12th Annual Photo Show 2026

The twelfth annual Photo Show organised by West Haddon Photo Club took place over the weekend of 10th & 11th October; it was our most successful to date, recording almost 300 visitors across the two day event.

The exhibition, which is open to all, attracted just under 350 printed and digital images from 87 local photographers.

Visitors voted their favourite digital image to be "Going to get wet" by Adrian Howes, whilst their favourite print was "Ballerina" by David Kallmeier; each of the two winning photographers will receive a prize voucher kindly donated by First Light Photographic, the Daventry Framing Centre.

West Haddon Photo Club wish to thank the many photographers who submitted their excellent images, our several sponsors, and the Vicar & Churchwarden of All Saints Church which hosted the exhibition.

In 2027, our 13th Annual Photo Show will be held over the weekend of 9th & 10th October; for further information and an entry form in due course please contact events@whphoto.club.



SJP Ballerina by David Kallmeier







SJP Going to Get Wet by Adrian Howes

MCPF Clubs Shine at the PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship

Once a year the clubs from MCPF have the opportunity to take part in a regional event, held in Leicester, to select the best clubs from the Midland Counties Photographic Federation. These clubs then go on to compete in two national events. One is for projected digital images and the other for prints. As previous finalists Smethwick PS and Arden were automatically through to the finals and this year, at the Leicester event, Burton PS, Lichfield CC and Earl Shilton CC were selected as the three other Midlands clubs to go on to the PAGB Interclub Print Championship, to be held at Harper Adams University in Newport, Shropshire, in October. It should be noted that we are very lucky here in MCPF, as we are based in a central part of the country that often hosts regional and national competitions and exhibitions, giving access to many inspiring displays of photographic work, both digital and in print.

All five clubs were undoubtedly pleased to reach the national finals. For Burton PS, Lichfield CC and Earl Shilton CC the achievement was perhaps especially exciting because they are less accustomed to this honour than the regularly successful clubs. Competing against the best 44 clubs from across the country can nevertheless be daunting. Each club brought a bank of up to 50 pictures and selected 12 of them for the first round, in which every club competed. Strict rules governed the number of colour, monochrome and nature prints, as well as the minimum number of authors, ensuring that no club could rely on only one or two strong photographers.

On the day there is a panel of 3 experienced judges who each give a score of 2, 3, 4 or 5 for each print. Whilst they look at the actual print, the audience enjoys seeing the images projected on a large screen at the same time and hears the total score awarded. All this is made possible due to a dedicated team of volunteers – the print sorters and handlers and the technical support personnel who operated the projection and scoring software. Considerable work was required in advance to collate entries and upload them to the system. Their expertise and unflappability were clear as they kept the event running smoothly despite odd glitches when barcodes would not scan correctly. The willingness of individuals to give their time for events like this is very much appreciated by all clubs taking part.

After the first round, Smethwick PS were joint second and Arden Photo Group joint seventh, with both making the cut to compete in the Final in round two. At this stage, Lichfield CC were placed 31st, Earl Shilton CC 21st, and Burton PS joint 19th out of 44—only six marks short of the cut-off point separating the top nine clubs competing for the Cup from the remaining clubs competing for the Plate. At this stage, all clubs had to decide which prints to enter in round two. Again, there were rules governing how many new prints had to be included, the number of monochrome, colour and nature prints required, and the need to broaden the range of authors. The start of the lunch break was therefore fairly frantic. This was especially true for Smethwick PS and Arden, who had to choose 15 images for the Final. Burton PS, Lichfield CC and Earl Shilton CC had to select only eight, but deciding which to use was still difficult because it depended on what seemed to be performing well with this group of judges. After the decisions were made, there was time to chat with members of other clubs and browse the various stalls. Fortunately, all the MCPF clubs largely got their selections right and performed well in the two afternoon sections. Lichfield CC finished 21st, only eight points behind the top mark. Earl Shilton CC were eighth, while Burton PS were delighted to finish joint sixth, only two points behind the winners of the Plate competition.

The Final, for the top 9 clubs, was closely fought with only 12 points separating the 9 clubs. Smethwick finished 4th with 205 and Arden Photo Group stormed through from 7th to 1st position to be crowned overall winners with 210 marks out of a possible 225 – an amazing achievement.

Beyond the clubs' impressive results, the championship offered a full day of outstanding and inspiring photography. The prints spanned the breadth of camera-club work—including landscape, architecture, portraiture, street, creative, artistic, nature and macro photography—and reminded us why events like this are so valuable to the photographic community.

With to thanks to Jen Sample

PAGB Inter-Club Print Championships 2026

Arden PG Crowned Champion Club 2026



2026 PAGB Inter Club Print Championships
held at Newport (Shropshire) 24th Oct - full results on the PAGB website

Club	Points
Arden PG	210
Chorley PS (L&CPU)	208
Southport PS (L&CPU)	208
Edinburgh PS (SPF)	205
Smethwick PS	205
Rolls Royce (Derby) (NEMPF)	200
Oldham PS (L&CPU)	200
Dumfries CC (SPF)	198
Beyond Group (EAF)	198

Plate Competition
Burton on Trent PS 6th, Earl Shilton CC 8th, Lichfield CC 10th
Paul Hassell won a judges award for the Colour Print "Ballerina in Red"

Wow... what a amazing day

On the 24th October, our club (Earl Shilton Camera Club) attended and competed in the PAGB Inter Club Print Championship for the first time. After a perilous journey from Leicestershire, through stormy autumn weather, we arrived at Harper Adams University, Shropshire.

We walked through the doors into a clean and modern environment where there were already a large number of participants mingling and catching up with one another. As a club participating in the championship for the first time, we were excited and nervous to discover how the day would proceed. To our surprise, as we entered the lecture theatre where the event was to take place, we discovered that no fewer than 44 camera clubs and societies were taking part in the championship.

The atmosphere was electric and exciting! We took our seats high up in the theatre and readied ourselves for the event. After some short introductions, the competition began and the nerves took hold, with the list of our images in front of us we waited for our 1st image to be shown. It scored 14 out of a possible 15, not a bad start.

There were three expert judges; whose job it was to assess each printed image. Of which there were over 500!. Not an easy task, hats off to the judges. The efficiency and professionalism of the organisers and support staff, plus the technology they deployed, was outstanding.

This ensured that the judges were continuously reviewing images, with only an average time of each viewing around 4 -5 seconds! To make things more interesting for the audience, each image was projected onto a huge screen along with the images score.

All in all, we really enjoyed the day, it was a success on all accounts. As a club we achieved more than we thought was possible. The event gave us more of an incite into how differing images are scored and what we need to do to up our game.

We were delighted to come out in 8th position in the Plate Competition. So onwards and upwards from here. Look out Arden!

Julie Holbeche-Maud



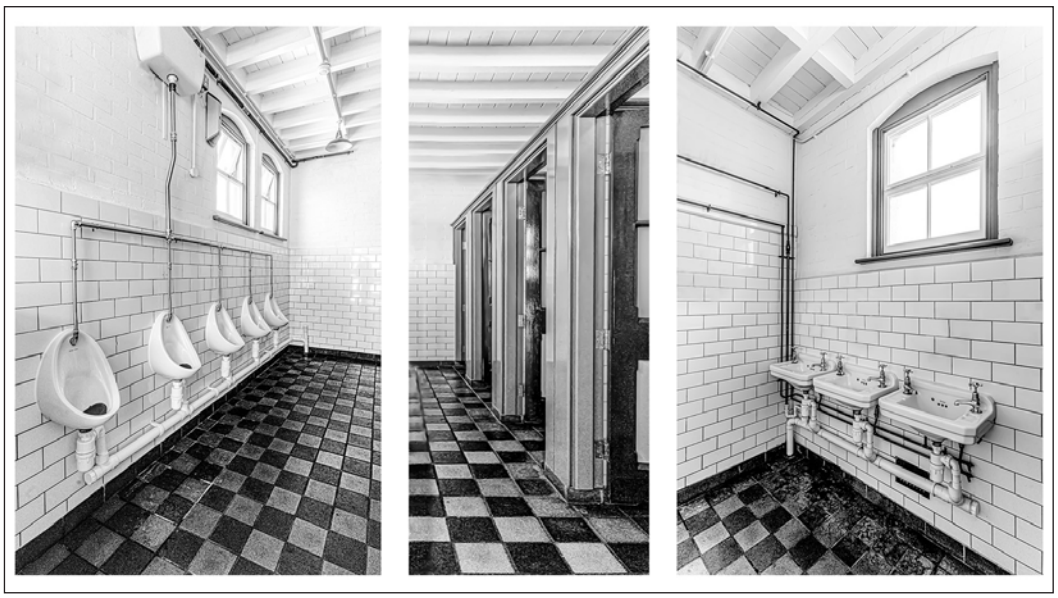
Gannets of Bass Rock~Chris Bowman~Panel



MidPhot Panel Exhibition 2027

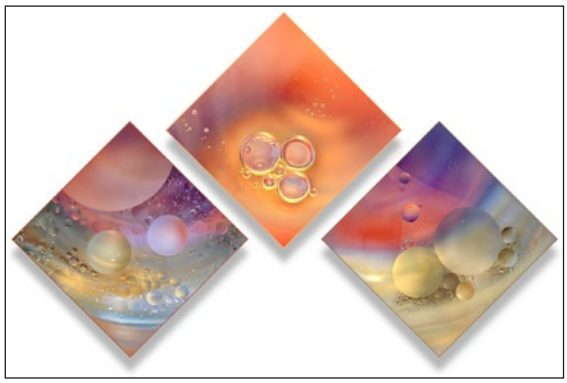


Leaf Abstract~1~Pete Atkins~Panel



Gentleman's Convenience~Bob Goode~Triptych





Bubbles~Jo Monro~Triptych



Memories of Spring~Susan Taylor~Triptych







Morning Patrol ~Jayne Hutchings~Panel



NPC · NEWPORT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB · ANNUAL KEYNOTE

An Evening with

Iolo Williams

Welsh Wildlife — Live on Stage

BBC Springwatch presenter

Tuesday 17 November 2026

7:00 – 9:30pm · £25 · Open to the public

The Weston Building, Harper Adams University,

Newport TF10 8NB

npc newport photographic club

Book online now

newportphotoclub.com

An Evening with Iolo Williams: Welsh Wildlife Live on Stage

A warm, insightful celebration of Wales's remarkable wildlife with BBC Springwatch presenter Iolo Williams.

We are delighted to welcome BBC Springwatch presenter and acclaimed Welsh ornithologist Iolo Williams to our stage on Tuesday 17th November 2026 for an inspiring live presentation, Welsh Wildlife.
Iolo's trademark blend of humour, insight, and deep field experience promises an uplifting celebration of Wales's natural world — from the iconic red kite to rare plants, fungi, and insects. It's an exceptional evening for photographers, nature enthusiasts, and families, offering both entertainment and fresh perspectives on the wildlife of Wales.

Iolo's Welsh Wildlife
Join Iolo Williams for a vivid and engaging journey through the wildlife of Wales. From birds of prey and elusive insects to native flora and fungi, Iolo shares stories, science, and conservation insight with warmth and wit.

Event Details

Date & Time: Tuesday 17th November 2026, 7:00pm–9:30pm

Venue: The Weston Building, Harper Adams University, Edgmond, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB

260-seat lecture theatre with excellent acoustics and full level access

Tickets: £25 (includes tea and coffee)

Booking: Visit newportphotoclub.com

Logistics: Free on-site parking (vehicle registration required).

Directions and What3Words information are available on our website.

BURTON ON TRENT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



ANNUAL MEMBERS' EXHIBITION
AND OPEN COMPETITION

SATURDAY 14TH - SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
10 AM - 4 PM DAILY
THE PRIORY CENTRE, STRETTON, BURTON ON TRENT, DE13 0HE



WHAT TO EXPECT

- **STUNNING MEMBERS' GALLERY:** A Showcase of diverse local talent.
- **OPEN COMPETITION AWARDS:** See the winning entries.
- **MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Talk to the people behind the lens.

OFFICIAL OPENING:
Saturday 14th Nov, 2 PM.
by Mayor of East Staffordshire



FREE ADMISSION & PARKING - ALL WELCOME

FIND OUT MORE: burtonps.co.uk

THE RPS
ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The TWENTY-FOURTH NATIONAL AUDIO VISUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

2026 NAVC
RPS AUDIO VISUAL GROUP

Judges:
Keith Leedham FRPS EFIAP FIPF
Cathy Fordham CPAGB/AV
Mark Allen MPAGB/AV

https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/navc/

14th - 15th November, 2026

SMETHWICK Old School House

Solihull Photographic Society celebrates 90 years of photography

In July 1936, two local photographers Donald Allen and David Jewsbury, realised that unlike many other towns, there was no photographic society in Solihull at that time. Donald was a professional photographer and David was a keen amateur photographer. They put an advert in the local Solihull Newspaper inviting anyone who was interested in photography to a meeting where it was subsequently agreed to set up the Solihull Photographic Society.

Only a few years later war broke out but, although temporarily closing for a short period, the Society managed to keep going despite the challenges. Then remarkably in 1946 it managed to organise an international print competition as reported in the Warwick County News.

SOLIHULL STAGES INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Solihull's first International Exhibition of Pictorial Photography is an astonishing achievement; the more so when one remembers that a world war of incomparable magnitude concluded but a very few months ago. The 200 prints – selected by four of the most eminent judges of photography in this country from over 600 entries from the United Kingdom, USA, India, Canada, South Africa, Spain, Denmark and Sweden – are beautifully displayed in 'salon' style; behind glass and with specially installed lighting.

Since that time the Society has continued to thrive and supported many well known photographers in the area, many of whom have gone on to achieve national photographic distinctions.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the society and to celebrate the occasion they organised a special anniversary lecture by the renowned photographer Tony Worobiec FRPS, who talked on " Abandoned America - Fragments of an American Dream". Along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull Council and his wife, Society members were joined by other invited guests including Ralph and Lu Duckett from MCPF, as well as other well-known figures from the Midlands photographic community. In opening the evening the mayor congratulated the Society for its long contribution to creative life of the town and wished it every success for the future.

Simon Hague the current chair added " Photographic equipment may have changed since 1936, but 90 years later the Society is still thriving and continues to support all those interested in photography in Solihull and the surrounding area.











Is your club marking an important anniversary? If so, why not submit a report and share your celebration with all the MCPF clubs.

MIDPHOT '27

Audio Visual Competition

SATURDAY 30th JANUARY, 2027

MIDLAND · COUNTIES · PHOTOGRAPHIC · FEDERATION · FOUNDED 1907 ·

JUDGES:

Pat Mansell

JEFF MANSELL CPAGB/AV

Priory Centre, Church Road, Burton upon Trent, DE13 0HE

DOORS OPEN 09:30. £9.00 on the door for Attendees

Bring Your Own Lunch • Free Tea & Coffee

CONTACT: ALASTAIR TAYLOR 07989 737760

midphotavcomp@gmail.com *https://mcpf.co.ukav-competitions* for details



Twisted~Chris Shaw~Triptych



Friend or Foe~Jennifer Ladbrooke~Panel



Worcester Market Characters~Graham Proffitt~Panel



KITCHENALIA~Stephen Frost~Triptych

MIDLAND COUNTIES
PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
TOGETHER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

YOUR CLUB HAS A STORY TO TELL

Every club has successes, exhibitions, speaker evenings, competitions and inspiring members.

Help us showcase the creativity, achievements and activities taking place across MCPF clubs.

Whether you've hosted an exhibition, welcomed a speaker, launched a new initiative or have a story worth sharing, we'd love to hear from you.

Why Contribute?

- Raise your club's profile
- Promote exhibitions and events
- Share successful ideas and activities
- Celebrate members' achievements
- Inspire photographers across the Midlands

Send your news, articles and photographs to

newsletter@mcpf.co.uk



Different Clubs. Shared Passion. One Federation.