



North & East Midlands Photographic Federation

3rd Audio Visual and Photo Harmony Championship

The 3rd Audio Visual and Photo Harmony Competition, organised by the North & East Midlands Photographic Federation, was a strange affair this year. 72 hours before the physical event the Coronavirus lockdown kicked in and all Club meetings were cancelled. However, I had sent the sequences to our judge (**Alastair Taylor** LRPS CPAGB/AV) for pre-judging. Alastair kindly revisited all sequences and provided written feedback on each sequence. The list of all entries and the results are outlined at the end of the report.

It has not been possible to find a suitable mechanism for showing all the sequences so a number of the award winners have kindly submitted a few words and some pictures about their sequences.

Narrative Section

For the third year in succession **Alan Tyrer** (Cleethorpes Camera Club) won the Best Narrative with an absolutely outstanding sequence **A Fishing Trip**. I worked for White Fish Authority on Hull Fish Docks for a while in the early seventies so could even more relate to this sequence.



“This AV is based on a personal account of a childhood memory of a fellow camera club member, George Lill about the Grimsby fishing industry.

This AV idea came from a talk which he had given at the camera club. I arranged for him to come to my house where I recorded his voice. I recorded him for over an hour. Clearly this was too much so I had to spend a lot of time cutting and editing until I had a manageable amount. I had to pare down the story to its bare bones in order to limit it to the 8 minute maximum for the N&EMPF AV competition.

I spent some time photographing at the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre and on the Ross Tiger. George was also able to supply some personal archive material. I was particularly pleased to be able to include photos from his childhood.

Music is often overused in AVs but in this sequence I only used music for the start and end. I did use some subtle sound effects for atmosphere but otherwise relied on the voice alone.

For me, the strength of the sequence comes from the relaxed and engaging style in which the story is told.”
Alan Tyrer



Alan also gained a Highly Commended for another very good sequence **Bomber**.



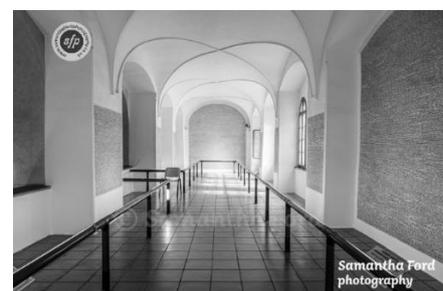
Alastair Taylor stated "This is a superb AV. Its strength comes from the way in which it builds up over time and portrays the drama of the control tower and the World War Two airfield."

Samantha Ford (RB Lincoln CC) gained a Highly Commended for a very powerful and poignant sequence **In Their Memory**.



"My visit last year to the Old Jewish Cemetery and Pinkas Synagogue in Prague left me intensely moved by its exhibition about the Czech Jewish victims of the Holocaust and so I left compelled to tell the story for others, particularly as 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz."

The Old Jewish Cemetery is one of the largest of its kind in Europe and one of the most important Jewish historical monuments in Prague. The cemetery was in use from 1439 until 1787 and is among the oldest surviving Jewish burial grounds in the world. During the 3 and a half centuries in which it was in active use, the cemetery continually struggled with the lack of space. Bodies were buried on top of each other with graves layered up to 12 deep. Next to the cemetery is Pinkas Synagogue. Today, the cemetery and synagogue are administered by the Jewish Museum in Prague, paying homage to the Czech Jews of Prague who were victims of the Holocaust (Shoah). Most of these Jews were deported from Prague to the nearby walled ghetto of Terezín. It was used as a transit camp en route to Auschwitz. Some deportees set up clandestine education classes for the children of Terezín, such as Austrian-born artist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis. Friedl encouraged the children to express their feelings in artwork as therapy; experiences in the ghetto, memories of home, and dreams for the future. Most of the 15,000 children, as well as Friedl herself, died in Auschwitz. 4,500 drawings survived. Pinkas Synagogue houses a permanent exhibition of some of these pictures. When Nazi troops invaded Prague in 1939, nearly 120,000 Jews lived there. Within 5 years, 77,297 of them were dead. The interior walls of the synagogue are handwritten with the name, and dates of birth and death, of each one of those victims. Looking closely, the birthdates are scattered but the dates of death are compacted into just a few years. "Beckerova, Gita, 1.II.1935-26.X.1942. Beer, Adolph, 4.I.1850-22.X.1942." Born 85 years apart. Died 4 days apart. Most of the victims were denied the dignity of a grave."



David Cudworth (Rolls-Royce (Derby) Photographic Society) gained a commended for a very interesting documentary called **The Boxer**.



“I approached the boxer with a mind-set of creating a documentary. After a social media search, I found Danny and after our first meeting he was fully on board with the idea. From start to finish the project took around 10 months to complete. The script was read by Jonathan Millard ‘The Voice of the Vale’ and was recorded in a studio in South Wales. For me this was one amazing journey and I met some interesting people along the way. It was a relief when it all came together and we had all the shots in the bag. Ending with

a win for Danny was a bonus. The AV was obviously created for a photographic club competition but what has given me the greatest pleasure is the reaction from the amateur boxing community. At this difficult time it has been a timely reminder of how our photography can reach out and give pleasure to a wider community.”

Di and Mike Burns (Peterborough Photographic Society) also gained a commended for **Living Colours**.



“A sequence that compares the geothermal activity in Yellowstone, USA with the North Island of New Zealand. The narrators are an American, Adrienne Stone and husband Adrian who was brought up in New Zealand.”

The final commended certificate awarded in the Narrative section went to **Ron Abbott** (Pinchbeck Photo Group) for his sequence **Salamanca**.

“The images for 'Salamanca' were all taken on one day. The images follow the day from bright sunlight to darkness; locations were rearranged to follow an historical progression from the Roman Bridge to the Cathedrals, the University, and the Plaza Mayor. The musical track moves from reproduction Roman music via Cathedral organ to classic Spanish guitar, held together by a contemporary composition Salamanca desde el cielo. A diversion from buildings was provided by the storks who nest in the city. Spain's colonial past was featured both in the Cathedral and Christopher Columbus's visit to the University. The carving of an astronaut on the Cathedral's exterior was shown briefly before the ending revealed it was carved in 1992.”



Photo Harmony Section

The winner of the Photo Harmony Section this year was **David Gibbins** (Beeston (Notts) Camera Club) with **In Memory of Trees**.

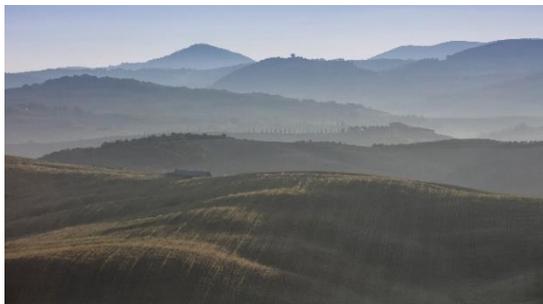
“I have always loved the beauty of trees, the way they change through the seasons and the patterns the branches make during the winter months. Some of the tree pictures were taken on recent visits to Canada but most were taken near where I live.” The music is Memory of Trees by Enya.

Alastair stated “This sequence consisted of some dramatic images of a single theme. The quality of the photography is very good. The slow fads and dissolves and some of the visual effects were very well matched to the music”



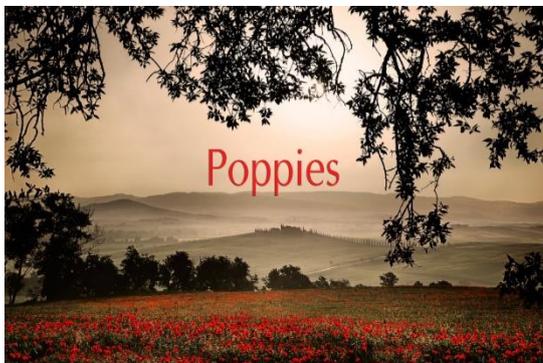
Two of the three Highly Commended certificates went to sequences taken in Tuscany.

Autumn in Val d'Orcia is by **David Cudworth** (Rolls-Royce (Derby) Photographic Society).



“The Val d'Orcia is one of my favourite locations to visit and that's why I decided to be there to celebrate my 50th Birthday in October 2019. I had never visited in autumn and the contrast of the bare ploughed fields to the 'typical' Tuscan landscape images was a pleasant surprise. We were blessed with amazing weather. Some of the shots in the AV were taken from the garden of the villa we stayed in and I will let you into a secret; more than one was taken while I was still in my pyjamas!”

Ashely Franklin of Derby City Photographic Club gained a Highly Commended with **Poppies**.



Ashley has been the voice of the N&EMPF Exhibitions for many years. He has also organised annual tours to Tuscany where his poppy sequence was photographed.

The third Highly Commended sequence went to **Roy Moran** (Cleethorpes Camera Club) with a sequence called **This is Our Town**.



Judge Alastair Taylor stated.... “This is a strong storyline and captures the issue of urban decay very well. I liked the use of Black and White images throughout”.

Three sequences were awarded Commended certificates.

Mike Burns (Peterborough Photographic Society) with **Radio Africa**.



The song “Radio Africa” provides the title and story of good times and then bad for people living in such an interesting Continent.

Bryan Hurt (Lincoln Camera Club) gained a Commended at the first time of entering an A/V in a competition, with his sequence **Heroes and Villains**.



“Heroes and Villains” was my first serious attempt at creating an AV. Finding a subject was easy as I have photographed a lot of cosplayers over the last 3 years. Everyone featured are good friends and the photos selected are a mix of iconic poses with a few of my own ideas based on the pin-up style. Finding a good title helped narrow down the types of characters I needed. The music was a chance find - I’m a big fan of Nightwish, a symphonic metal band from Finland, who release instrumental versions of some of their music. “Alpenglow” is divided into clear sections

that fitted my idea of showing several photos of each costume.

Brian Gromett (Cleethorpes Camera Club) gained a commended with **Natural Beauty**.



Alastair stated ... “The music used for this sequence was very appropriate to the theme and the photographs used were well chosen and beautifully composed.”



2020 N&EMPF A/V and PHOTO HARMONY COMPETITION

Narrative Entries

Name	Club	Sequence Title	Award
Di and Mike Burns	Peterborough PS	Living Colours	Commended
Ron Abbott	Pinchbeck Photo Group	Salamanca	Commended
Alan Tyrer	Cleethorpes CC	Bomber	Highly Commended
David Thompson	Cleethorpes CC	Chasing	
Samantha Ford	RB CC	In Their Memory	Highly Commended
David Cudworth	Rolls-Royce (Derby) PS	The Boxer	Commended
Ron Abbott	Pinchbeck Photo Group	Leeds Castle	
Alan Tyrer	Cleethorpes CC	A Fishing Trip	Best Narrative
David Thompson	Cleethorpes CC	Dustbin	
Brian Gromett	Cleethorpes CC	A Visit to Castleton House	

Photo Harmony Entries

Name	Club	Sequence Title	Award
David Cudworth	Rolls-Royce (Derby) PS	Autumn in Val d'Orcia	Highly Commended
Roy Moran	Cleethorpes CC	Holker Hall Gardens	
Nigel Slater	Arnold & District CC	Japan (Tradition v Modern)	
David Gibbins	Beeston (Notts) CC	The Luminarium	
Bryan Hurt	Lincoln CC	Heroes and Villains	Commended
Ashley Franklin	Derby City PC	Poppies	Highly Commended
Mike Burns	Peterborough PS	Radio Africa	Commended
Brian Gromett	Cleethorpes CC	Natural Beauty	Commended
David Barwick	Nottingham & Notts PS	The Kepler Mission	
David Hollingsworth	Arnold & District CC	End of an Era	
Bryan Hurt	Lincoln CC	Curious World	
Nigel Slater	Arnold & District CC	Wonderful World	
David Gibbins	Beeston (Notts) CC	In Memory of Trees	Best Photo Harmony
Samantha Ford	RB CC	Vincent	
Roy Moran	Cleethorpes CC	This is Our Town	Highly Commended