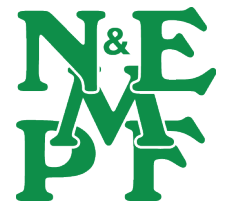


# N&EMPF NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



*Get off my Tail* by Mary Fish of Axholme Camera Club was winner of a Gold Medal in the recent PAGB Inter Federation Competition.

More details about this and other competition successes later in this newsletter.

Welcome to the second edition of the new look N&EMPF Newsletter.

I was pleased to receive so many positive comments about our first edition and also some great ideas for new content that I will certainly be following up on.

In this edition there are some of the stories and images from members of the federation who have been successful in the recent PAGB APM days that have taken place recently. There is an interesting article about the “100 Strangers Challenge” plus some general news, including all the key dates for the 2022 N&EMPF Exhibition.

We have results from a number of recent competitions including our tremendous successes in the PAGB Inter-Federation and Inter-Club events. I will admit that the content this time is a bit heavy on competition items and I plan to redress the balance in the next issue. For example, I am looking to include a feature in every issue about one of the clubs in the federation. So, if you think that your club has a story to tell then get in touch and I can talk it through with you.

Finally, the next edition of the newsletter will be issued in November, once the results of the 2022 Exhibition have been announced.

David Kissman, CPAGB BPE2\*

Newsletter Editor.

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 <b>North &amp; East Midlands Photographic Federation</b>	
<b>2021 Memorial Lecture</b>	
	
<b>An Evening with Ross McKelvey MPAGB MFIAP EFIAP/p FBPE From Northern Ireland</b>	
The Memorial Lecture is sponsored by The Dennis Shipman Bequest	<b>On 15th October 2021 at 7.30pm</b>
	<b>The lecture is via Zoom</b> <b>FREE to members of N&amp;EMPf Clubs</b>
<b>Please visit <a href="http://www.nempf.org">www. nempf.org</a> for further information</b>	

In the last few years we have held a Memorial Lecture at the Chatsworth Arts Centre and Duchess Theatre in Long Eaton. These events are organised in memory of past members of the N&EMPf team and sponsored by bequests of past members. As you can see from the flyer above, this year's presentation is sponsored by the Dennis Shipman Fund. Ross McKelvey – working under the pseudonym Catchlight Studio - is a photographer from Northern Ireland. Since 1999, exhibition photography has become a real passion for him. His most successful genre is portraiture and fine art, but he enjoys all photographic styles, from landscape to sport, to digital composites. He has been awarded over 300 Medals in National & International Exhibitions since 2010: in 2013 he obtained the Master Award from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain and in 2019 he was awarded Master of the Federation Internationale De L'Art Photographique for a panel of fine art nude monochrome prints. He has been seen quite widely on the Zoom circuit in recent times and received rave reviews. This will be a great opportunity to see some of his work and hear him speak.

Shirley Davis CPAGB EPSA, President and Events Secretary.

	
<b>Exhibition of Photography</b>	<b>2022</b>

David Gibbins has started the organisation of the 2022 Exhibition and here he provides some information about the timelines and rules. It is very pleasing to note the return of the ever popular print competition that was so sorely missed last year.

I am delighted to say that we will be holding the N&EMPf Exhibition again this year. The PDIs will be judged online, this provides the opportunity to use selectors from much further away. The prints will be judged as normal at Sawley.

Online entry system opens	1st September 2021
Closing Date for online entries	10th October 2021
Closing date for physical handing in of prints	16th October 2021
Date of Judging	30/31st October 2021
Results by	4th November 2021
Exhibition Opening at Patchings Art Centre	8th January 2022
Print Showing at Patchings Art Centre	8th January to 5th February 2022

### Summary of Key Rule Changes

There are two key rule changes this year:-

- The size of PDIs to be submitted should be a maximum of 1600x1200 pixels and not the existing 1400x1050. Please do **not** pad out smaller images with a black canvas (or any other coloured canvas) as the system automatically does this.
- The cost of entry is increasing from £1 per image to £1.25 per image.

**Full rules were placed on our Federation website on 1<sup>st</sup> August.**

As with previous exhibitions, entries will be through a nominated Club Contact. Club Contacts remember you can submit entries anytime rather than wait until you have received all your club entries in.

David Gibbins ARPS APAGB EFIAP/B BPE5 CPAGB A/V



## SUCCESSFUL AWARDS IN OUR FEDERATION

6 Members of clubs in our federation were successful in recent adjudications and I am pleased to share some of their successful images together with a few words about their respective journeys. Congratulations to all of them

### David Keep MPAGB ARPS FBPE EFIAP Rolls Royce (Derby) PS

I applied for my MPAGB way back in February 2020 and then Covid struck meaning the print assessment was cancelled. This happened numerous times and no matter how hard the PAGB tried to make it happen they were thwarted by Covid restrictions at every turn. Given the length of time between submission & assessment I was given the chance to change images, but I decided I couldn't really improve on my initial choice.

I chose the 20 images based on their success in National & International competitions. I didn't throw in any wild cards just because I liked them... it was all done methodically using scores & awards gained. So you could say I didn't actually choose them - they chose themselves.

Interestingly the split was 8 underwater images and 12 sports images and I must admit I was slightly surprised that no other genre made the cut. I think this is a reflection of the type of images that do well in competitions.

I used 3 different mentors (all from different Federations), to give me pre-assessment advice and that was invaluable. I believe honest critique is a massively important part of any workflow - it's painful at times but necessary in my opinion. I also want to thank the people who have helped me at Rolls Royce (you know who you are) because joining RR definitely honed my competition work. There are many, many other people who have helped me along the way and I'm immensely grateful - that's the great thing about our hobby, people are so willing to offer help & guidance.

I'm taking a break from competition photography for a while because I've done so little photography in the last 18 months that I'd just be recycling old work and I really don't want to do that. But I must admit the MPAGB award has given me renewed motivation, so maybe I'll get back on the bike again soon :-)

### Sue Hartley DPAGB Rolls Royce (Derby) PS

I applied for my DPAGB around 18 months ago, so the process has been something of a marathon. Just as the entries had gone in Covid restrictions were put in place and the judging of prints was impossible as it needed a physical presence, and so the planned adjudications were cancelled. Candidates were given the option of switching to PDI but cautioned that, if print was your favoured medium, it may be best to stay with it.

As I have a real love of prints (and a healthy scepticism about the colour reproduction of projectors) I took the decision to wait until a print adjudication was possible. Unlike for my CPAGB, we weren't allowed to attend and watch the voting so missed out on seeing the other entries and on the nail biting process of tracking your average as your prints were scored, and just had to endure the tense wait for the result after the adjudication had taken place.

Thankfully it was worth the wait and I was delighted to be informed that my application had been successful.



*Saltwater Crocodile, Mangroves of Cuba by David Keep*



*Awaiting Inspiration by Sue Hartley*



**Steve Beynon CPAGB** Chesterfield PS

Who knew when we entered into the process in February 2020 what we were about to face. I felt I was 2 or 3 images short of my 10 and had things planned over the spring. Well lockdown came and all plans to get out with the camera came and went. My mentor, Laurie Campbell was great and helped me see things in my images I had missed. Losing the print shop I have used for the last 7 years to the pandemic was a worry and leaving things to the last minute (which is a bad habit of mine) left me quite stressed. So when it came to parcelling up the prints I really didn't know what to expect. Word eventually came that the adjudication could take place in June 2021. The rumour over the adjudication weekend was that the pass rate for CPAGB was less than 50% and I really didn't hold out much hope that I was one of the 30 out of 85 to make the C grade. So I was over the moon to get the email that I had passed with a score of 222. Here is *Newton Selfie*



**Rob Cuss CPAGB** Rolls Royce (Derby) PS

A few of us started taking pictures of birds underwater about 10 years ago. In the early days we struggled massively, but with patience and learning from countless mistakes we worked out how to get the birds to come to us. Guillemots are inquisitive little birds that like to check out divers. Whilst most of our early efforts were at St Abbs in Scotland, this photo was taken at the Farne Islands. The bird is less than a metre from the lens. I selected a picture that had enough to still say "underwater", but not too much to be distracting. This image is entitled *Diving Guillemot*



**Mike James CPAGB** Melton Mowbray CC

I submitted prints for CPAGB and while the on-line entry process and guidance was excellent, the hardest and longest part of the whole entry process was preparing the physical prints. I printed each image on 2 or 3 different papers and then selected the best finish for each one; then chose a suitable colour for the mount. What was absolutely invaluable was the advice and image critique I had from my PAGB mentor in selecting the final set of images to submit. My advice? Get a PAGB mentor! There's a lot of debate about how well (or poorly) landscape images do at CPAGB, but I love being out in the country with my camera, so six of my ten images were landscapes. This image is entitled *Fairy Glen*



**Paul Screen CPAGB** BPE3\* Beeston CC

When I joined Beeston Camera Club about 5 years ago, I was encouraged by the members to enter competitions. I was not very confident at first but with their continued support I progressed to BPE3\*. Then with the help of Vin Scothern and Dave Gibbins I subsequently assembled some images for my CPAGB. I was then mentored by Marilyn Roberts and, because of delays due to Covid I was tempted to move to DPis but glad in the end to stick with prints. I was relieved and happy to get the result and I am now contemplating my application for DPAGB but will need to collect some new material first. This is *Male and Female Stonechats*.





## The 100 Strangers Challenge by Steve Myall EFIAP BPE5\*



Approaching people that you've never met before and asking if you can take their portrait right there and then is a daunting prospect for the majority of us. For me, overcoming this unnerving task was one of the concepts that drew me to the project. Could I walk up to strangers and get them to say yes in an attempt to photograph 100 of them?

Another reason for taking up this challenge was that it would get me away from the heavily competitive world of camera club photography. This was something I would do for myself, not to please judges.

Initial nerves were soon overcome, although not altogether, and I educated myself about body language – both mine and the person I hoped to photograph. I also learnt not to be bothered when someone blanked me, or said no. Soon my success rate far outnumbered my rejections and my enjoyment of undertaking the project became a major part of my life and I get frustrated if a week goes by without me having photographed a stranger.

I consider colours – do I want harmony or clashes? Backgrounds are as important as the subject and I'll often wait by a wall or door for ages until someone comes along that I think will look good against it. The aperture I use is significant to how I want my images to look, as is my lens choice – usually a 50mm lens set at f/2.2 on a full-frame camera.

Over time I've become confident at photographing strangers and it's proved to me how approachable everyone is, no matter their age, creed, sex or race. I have photographed people from all over the world that work in all walks of life such as illustrators, social workers, air hostesses, interpreters, engineers, students, tattooists, a TV news presenter, and a wanna be porn star!

Achieving my goal of photographing 100 strangers took two years. I enjoyed it that much that I carried on, and after a further one and a half years I'd photographed 200 strangers. At the time of writing this I have reached 250, and I have no intention of stopping. My dream is to photograph 500 strangers. After that, who knows....is 1,000 an achievable target? Only time will tell.

**Editor's Note:** Steve tells me that he would be happy to give a talk on this topic to any club in our federation

## COMPETITION NEWS

### The PAGB Inter-Federation Championship. 2021

In the Open Digital 2021 we came 2nd with Bill Hall, Rolls Royce Derby PS receiving a PAGB Ribbon for his image *Keep off my Beach*

In the Nature Digital 2021 section we came 3rd

Some great awards were made to club members. These all achieved a top mark of 15.

Mary Fish, Axholme CC Received the Gold Medal with her image *Let Go Of My Tail*.

Jamie MacArthur, Rolls Royce Derby received a PAGB Ribbon for his image *Common Cuckoos Mating*

Neil Humphries, Rolls Royce Derby Received a Silver Medal for *Orange Tip Early Morning*

David Keep, Rolls Royce Derby Received a Silver Medal for *Diving Gannets 2 Shetland* and also a PAGB Ribbon for *Saltwater Crocodile, Mangroves Of Cuba*

### The PAGB Inter-Club Projected Digital Image Championship 2021

This championship is held each July and federations can nominate 2 clubs to take part alongside the winners from the previous year. This year Rolls Royce, Derby (last year's winners) along with Newark & District PS and Deepings CC were our representatives. They all performed extremely well. Rolls Royce once again swept the field so well done to them. Special mention should be made of an image by David Keep called *Reverse Pike* that won the overall Gold Medal. But the good news continues in that Newark and District PS achieved a remarkable 10th place and Deepings CC a very commendable 17th place. While we always hope to see Rolls Royce up there, it is so refreshing to also find that other clubs in our federation are now up there with the best in the country. So congratulations to all three clubs for flying the flag so well for N&EMPF.

### N&EMPF Inter Club Print Championship 2021

Firstly many thanks to those clubs that did enter this competition especially in these difficult times when not many clubs are meeting or producing prints. The clubs that did enter provided some lovely work for the three judges to look at and mark. They all commented on how nice it was to meet in person once again and enjoyed looking at the prints.

The two clubs that will be joining Rolls Royce at Smethwick this year are Bolsover and Newark & District. Congratulations to all three clubs. Details of this event will be put on the website nearer the date.

David Gibbins is producing a presentation of all the entries which will be available to all clubs. For the ones that entered it will be free of charge but to the other clubs a small charge of £5 will be made. More information will be available once we know when David has finished putting it all together.

As you can see from the results sheet which you can find on our website, this year not only did we have the Winning Trophy and Best Print of the competition but we also asked the three Judges to award a certificate to their favourite image. Again well done to all Rolls Royce club members.

Hopefully next year normal service will be resumed so please keep producing some lovely work for another great competition.

Sue Wilson, DPAGB, BPE3\* Alliance Exhibition Secretary



## NEWS ROUND-UP

### Communication Research Working Party

The N&EMPF Committee recently established a Communications Working Party to examine the quality of the federation's relationship with clubs and a great deal of progress has been made. An initial survey helped shape the content of a more in depth series of one to one discussions between working party members and members nominated by clubs in the federation. These interviews are almost complete and now the working party are collating and analysing the results prior to a detailed examination by the full committee. It is hoped that any changes arising from this work will be implemented by the date of next year's AGM although you might notice some changes before then. The working party wish to express their thanks to all those individual club members who have contributed to this research.

### PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit

Many congratulations to all who have had successes in the above over the years. You will have seen a write up and images from those who were recently successful. So, why don't you have a go? You can apply with prints or PDIs whichever suits you.

N&EMPF runs a mentoring system, as do the PAGB. If you want further information please contact me or you can find details on the N&EMPF website ([www.nempf.org](http://www.nempf.org)) under PAGB or the PAGB website ([www.thepagb.org.uk](http://www.thepagb.org.uk)) and read the relevant leaflets. There are 3 categories Credit (CPAGB), Distinction (DPAGB) Master (MPAGB). It is always recommended to start with the CPAGB and you can work to the other levels.

I look forward to receiving applications from you.

Carol J Cheetham CPAGB APAGB  
N&EMPF Awards Officer

### Masters of Print

In the 2021 Exhibition 2 members of clubs in the federation had prints accepted. So congratulations to Carol McNiven Young of Newark and District PS for *Gentleman Jack* (shown in our last Newsletter) also to David Keep of Rolls Royce PS who won a Gold Medal in the Nature section for *Cormorant Hunting in Sardine Shoal*.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **N&EMPF Audio Visual Exhibition 2022**

The tentative date for the next N&EMPF A/V Competition is 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022. More details will be included in the next Newsletter.

#### **N&EMPF Photoday 2022**

Due to the Covid restrictions we were unable to run a Photoday in 2021. However we are now planning an event for 2022 and the date we have selected is Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please make a note in your diary and we will send more details of the sessions that will be taking place later in the year.

## PICTURE GALLERY

Here are a few images that are connected with news items earlier in this Newsletter. You can find lots more on our web site.



*Under Pressure* by Ken Wade, Newark and District PS



*Female Stonechat on a Scottish Moor* by Angela Plumb, Newark and District PS



*Orange Tip Early Morning* by Neil Humphries, Rolls Royce PS



*Keep off my Beach* by Bill Hall, Rolls Royce PS



*Diving Gannets 2, Shetlands* by David Keep, Rolls Royce PS



*Fighting to the Finish* Brian Stephenson, Rolls Royce PS