



## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2025

**WELCOME** to the December issue of the N&EMPf Newsletter - my Christmas present to you all! Many thanks to everyone who has contributed and I hope you enjoy your holiday reading! **Without your news, there is no news!**

**WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS DURING 2026.**

**Lesley Grand-Scrutton, Newsletter Editor**

### **A Message from Steve Walters, N&EMPf President**

As I come to the final three months of being President of N&EMPf, I have to say it has been a great privilege and honour to have held this position. It's not been easy at times, but being part of such a great team of people that we have on the Executive is always rewarding. I would, therefore, like to say a huge thank you to fellow executive members for your support, guidance and friendship.

It's been a difficult year for the N&EMPf Exhibition with the closure of Patchings Art Centre. It has been a challenge for the Exhibition Secretary and his team to find a venue at short notice, (or even for the longer term), and we did have to consider whether or not we could go ahead with a print exhibition this year. However, they have worked tirelessly to make alternative arrangements and we now have a stop gap venue at Arnold Library, alongside our other venues in Cleethorpes and Lincoln. Many thanks to the team for their commitment and dedication for pulling this one out of the bag and I hope that I will see many of you at the opening Ceremony on 10th January.

Members of the executive are currently reviewing the federation's medium to long term financial plans. We are looking at new ways to deliver our services against a background of a reduction in club and member numbers, resulting in falling income for clubs and the federation, along with increasing costs across the spectrum. Rethinking how we do things and possibly what we do to help us try and broaden our demographic and attempt to make clubs more sustainable, whilst keeping the cost of the federation and club photography affordable, requires our urgent attention and I hope you can all support us in this as we try and provide best value for you all.

Finally, I would like to wish all our clubs and members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Maybe you could come up with a New Year's resolution to get your club entering the PDI Championships on Sunday 1st March and the Print Championships in May. These are both great events to take part in and give an opportunity to see some top-notch photography from across the region. You never know, you may even make it through to the PAGB Club Championships! Give it a try!!

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## Gary and Louise Langley, Exhibition Secretaries

### **The 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Exhibition of Photography by the North & East Midlands Photographic Federation.**

I am pleased to report that the culmination of another year's work is finally coming to a head and we are just finishing off the preparation for the hanging of the exhibition. The N&EMPF Exhibition has its trials and tribulations each and every year, and this year was no exception. The biggest and the most upsetting was being informed at very short notice that our long-standing venue - Patchings Art Centre - was being sold, and we would no longer be able to use their facilities. This is a major blow and one that was completely unexpected. Chas and his family, the owners of Patchings for many years, have decided to take and enjoy a very long and overdue retirement, which I am sure is very well deserved. On behalf of the N&EMPF executive committee we would like to wish Chas and his family all the very best for the future. Also, Louise and I wish them good health and happiness for many years to come.

We have managed to find locations to hang the exhibition and details are shown below. We do not have the space we had at Patchings, so we appreciate your support and understanding with the display of the 2026 exhibition. Please be assured that we are still endeavouring to find somewhere for future exhibitions.

I was taken ill just before the judging and thus was unable to take part and I was still unwell for over a week afterwards. Louise Langley and her team took over and did an excellent job on both judging days - well done Lou! Following the many frantic phone calls made the day before, my sincere thanks go to all those people who stepped up and helped out at the last minute - Alan Bannister, Carol Cheetham, Steve Walters, Gill Jones, Michael Jerham, Pete Ward, Eric Miller, Joyce Cresswell, Danny McCarthy, Steffan Nicholson and Chrissie Westgate who also came in on the Saturday to help us out, all very much appreciated.

The exhibition will open at **Arnold Library on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, and it will be on display there **for six weeks**. It will also go up in **Lincoln Library** from the **12<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026** and from the **2<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026** it will be displayed at **Knoll House, Cleethorpes** (home to the Armed Forces major events team). Knoll House is a very nice location with a lovely coffee shop on site. They have ample parking and the venue itself is a beautiful building.

Lincoln and Cleethorpes will be swapping the images between them so it may be a good idea to visit more than once.

The exhibition is the travelling exhibition, made up of all images accepted/awarded this year. There will be no other travelling exhibition as done last year.

Many congratulations to all our award winners and to all those of you who have managed to gain an acceptance. I am donating a new award this year, which is a surprise and the winner will be notified this month, just before the catalogue comes out.

This may seem a little hard to believe but we will be starting our preparations for the 2027 exhibition before you receive this catalogue, so wish us luck and we wish you all the best for 2026 on behalf of the Executive Committee of N&EMPF.

**Gary and Louise Langley**  
**Exhibition Secretary**

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Stats and Financial info to date:



**Exhibition Statistics**

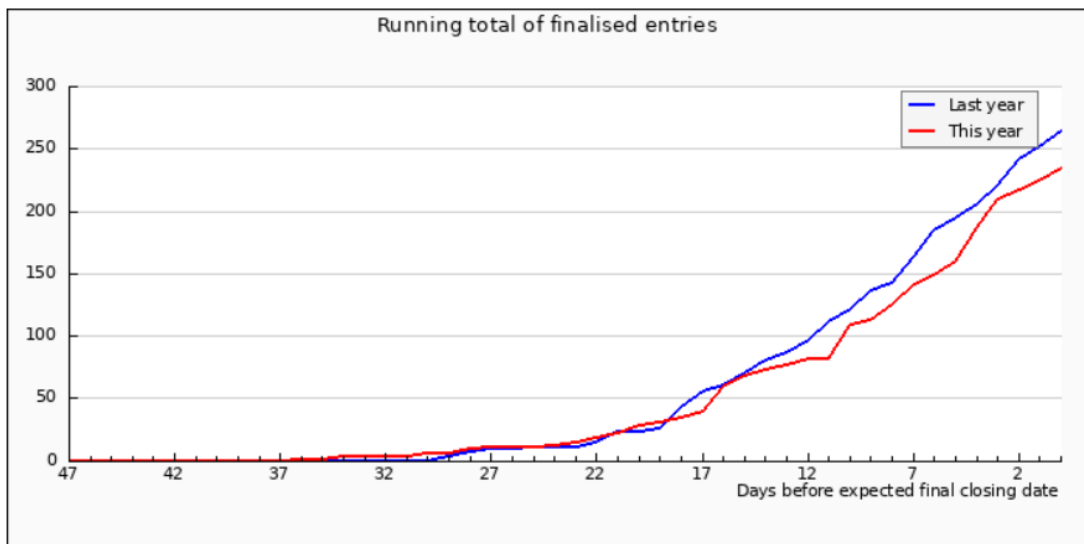
**Overall Figures**

|  |      |         |
|--|------|---------|
| Images entered:                        | 2424 |         |
| Acceptances:                           | 603  | 24.88%  |
| Entrants:                              | 234  |         |
| Members of clubs/societies:            | 234  | 100.00% |
| Number of clubs/societies represented: | 34   |         |
| Entrants with at least one acceptance: | 164  | 70.09%  |

**Figures by Class**

|                                  | <u>Number of entrants</u> | <u>Number of images</u> | <u>Number of acceptances</u> | <u>Acceptance rate %</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Digital, Monochrome              | 145                       | 456                     | 126                          | 27.63%                   |
| Digital, Colour                  | 180                       | 592                     | 148                          | 25.00%                   |
| Digital, Mobile Phone Monochrome | 34                        | 73                      | 13                           | 17.81%                   |
| Digital, Mobile Phone Colour     | 50                        | 133                     | 36                           | 27.07%                   |
| Digital, Nature                  | 122                       | 402                     | 100                          | 24.88%                   |
| Print, Monochrome                | 71                        | 197                     | 55                           | 27.92%                   |
| Print, Colour                    | 84                        | 277                     | 56                           | 20.22%                   |
| Print, Mobile Phone Monochrome   | 14                        | 30                      | 7                            | 23.33%                   |
| Print, Mobile Phone Colour       | 15                        | 44                      | 11                           | 25.00%                   |
| Print, Nature                    | 55                        | 180                     | 51                           | 28.33%                   |

**Finalised entries progress compared with last year**



As you can see entries and entrants down slightly from last year (2025), which equates to 30 less Entrants and 2 less clubs and 206 less images, across the board.

## Gary Langley, Events Secretary

November 28<sup>th</sup> was the evening of the N&EMPF Memorial Lecture and this year we were lucky enough to have as our special guest speaker Mr. Laurie Campbell.

The memorial lecture is funded mostly by a bequest from the late Dennis Shipman of Long Eaton Camera Club. His bequest has been mostly funding this lecture for the past few years, and I am currently the lucky person who gets to organise the speakers.

The Memorial Lecture is an annually occurring N&EMPF event, which is free for all camera club members in our Federation. We normally get around 60-70 people turn up and its one of my favourite events on the Federation calendar. This year we were lucky enough to have both the Federation President, Steve Walters and the President of the PAGB, David Gibbins, in attendance, both of whom are members of a club in our Federation.

Laurie began by explaining his field craft and hide building skills and informed us that a lot of the images were scanned from transparencies. The quality was that good you would not in most cases be able to tell the difference between his later images and his current mirrorless camera images.

We are in talks with our speaker for 2026 and I am pleased to say those talks are going well. As soon as that is finalised, I will let you know more about our 2026 speaker. Please encourage members of your club to attend because in my opinion it's one of the highlights of our season. If you've never been before then you are definitely missing out, and if you have been, then tell your club members who haven't been how good it was.

Gary Langley

## Peter Jones, Judges Secretary

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Judges Seminar to be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 at South Muskham Village Hall.

Anyone interested at this early stage please email to: [judges.secretary@nempf.org](mailto:judges.secretary@nempf.org)



The poster features a man with a beard shouting into a megaphone. The text is as follows:

**N&EMPF**  
**8th Audio-Visual & Photo Harmony Championship**

**CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Closing date:  
**11th March**

Championship: Sunday 22nd March 2026 - 10am start  
Venue: South Muskham Village Hall, Main St, South Muskham  
NG23 6EE Judge: Howard Bagshaw  
Contact: David Gibbins david.gibbins@ntlworld.com

**N&EMPF AV 2026 AUDIO-VISUAL COMPETITION**

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## N&EMPF CALENDER OF EVENTS 2026

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| January 1        | Subscription due and should be paid by 1 January  |
| January 10       | Exhibition Opening – <i>Arnold Library</i>  |
| January 10 – TBC | Exhibition Prints on display for 6 weeks – <i>Arnold Library</i>  |
| February 1       | PAGB Executive Meeting  |
| February 7       | PAGB Masters of Print Opening – <i>Birmingham Library</i>   |
| February 14      | N&EMPF Executive Meeting  |
| March 1          | AGM/Federation Inter-Club PDI Championship – <i>Arnold Leisure Centre</i><br><b>11:00 – N&amp;EMPF Annual General Meeting</b><br>13.45 – N&EMPF Inter-Club PDI Championship |
| March 22         | N&EMPF Audio-Visual Competition –<br><i>South Muskham and Little Carlton Village Hall</i>   |
| April 9          | PAGB AGM  |
| April 11         | PAGB Executive Meeting  |
| April 18         | N&EMPF Executive Meeting  |
| April 25/26      | PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit – <i>hosted by NCPF</i>  |
| May              | PAGB Inter-Federation Print Exhibition – <i>Mansfield Museum &amp; Art Gallery</i>  |
| May              | N&EMPF Inter-Club Print Championship – TBC  |
| May 10           | N&EMPF Judges Seminar –<br><i>South Muskham and Little Carlton Village Hall</i>   |
| July 6           | PAGB Inter-Club PDI Championship – <i>Warwick</i>   |
| October 3        | PAGB Executive Meeting  |
| October 10       | N&EMPF Executive Meeting  |
| October 16       | N&EMPF Memorial Lecture – <i>Chatsworth Centre</i><br>Exhibition Prints can be handed in at the above event   |
| October 17       | PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship – <i>Blackburn</i>   |
| November 28/29   | PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit – <i>hosted by EAF</i>   |
| December 5       | N&EMPF Executive Meeting  |

**\*\* AWARDS \*\***

**Shirley Davis CPAGB, MPSA**

Initially I was the family photographer who took the photographs of the kids as they grew up. When they had flown the nest, I was fed up of carrying the camera bag for Brian, my husband, and I offered to buy him a new digital camera that he was wanting, providing I could have his old one. Since then, he has complained that when he changes cameras, he has had to buy two.

We are both in the local photographic society and have entered the club's competitions and also those of the Federation. Brian started entering the odd international and I joined him, again "his penny bun costs him two pence" but we have both enjoyed the experience.

It was a complete surprise when I was presented with the **MPSA** at the Federation executive meeting. Brian had made the submission for my 5\* in monochrome prints, without my knowledge, and that gave me sufficient points for the M, which he then applied for. He would like to thank both directors of the PSA for their kindness in keeping it from me.

Over the years we have enjoyed landscape and travel photography and at the same time taking people whenever we could. Whilst I use Photoshop, I do not do a large amount of fiddling as I try to record my final picture at the time of taking, just like Brian had to do when he was using transparency film.

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting Yellowstone in January, and Scotland, especially the Outer Hebrides and they will be the trips that I will remember for the rest of my life.

**Shirley Davis**



## David Butler APAGB

PAGB President, David Gibbins, presents the APAGB to David Butler, Bolsover Camera Club, 10th October, 2025

David Butler has been a member of Bolsover Camera Club (N&EMPF) since 1978 and has spent over 35 years on the committee.

Always a hardworking member of the club, he has served in practically all areas of the committee including President and Vice President on 4 separate occasions, 6 years as Treasurer, 8 years as Competition Secretary and over 12 years as General Secretary.

He is well thought of by all his peers and has been awarded the Club's, **Philip Elliott FRPS award** for outstanding service on three occasions.

The club members are delighted that David has been honoured with the APAGB award.

Regards

Phil Newman. Bolsover Camera Club.



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## **\*\* CLUB NEWS \*\***

### **Ashbourne and District Camera Club**

#### **New equipment.**

Ashbourne and District Camera Club finally decided to upgrade its projection equipment. Being a small club of around 20 members or so has always had limited financial resources unlike some of the larger clubs. Make do and mend was always the order of the day. That was until a club member showed us a new projector he was using. It was then that we realised how poor the reproduction had become and was unfair to members who work hard with their images and have them presented at perhaps not the best resolution. It turned out to be a “cloud parting moment” as we saw just how much better our images and those of guest speakers could be. After some research we found a reasonably priced projector and then realised a new screen would help as well. It did. So, a new club laptop was added to the collection and the investment has proved to be a great addition to our club resources. Comments since have been positive. All in all, a wise investment!

#### **Grain Projects**

This is a Midlands based photographic hub supported by Historic England which collaborates with artists and communities, using photography to encourage conversation and share experiences.

We were approached by them and Nicola Shipley from the group came to talk about the work they do in the community and that a local photographer, Kelly O’Brien was embarking on a project in Ashbourne based around Shrovetide and titled Shrovetide; Past, Present & Place exploring the heritage of rural communities in Ashbourne, Derbyshire and Atherstone, Warwickshire, which also has a Shrovetide football match. We are helping as a base and link for the project as it progresses.

#### **Anniversary**

We wondered how old the club was. It was understood to have been started in 1961. However, a member found an article in the archives of the Ashbourne News from October 1905 with a headline indicating the start of a new Photographic Society in the town, 120 years ago! The club met to celebrate its formation and a presentation was produced by the Club Secretary. It turned out there were 5 or more photographers with studios in the town at the time and 493 in Derbyshire showing in the 1891 Census. Also, some images were shown of how the town looked in the late Victorian and early Edwardian times. The presentation also showed how the new photographic discoveries at the time had brought about a Victorian craze based around cheaper images on small cards called Cartes de Visite. The local photographers benefitted from this growth of the ‘craze’ and at last you could have a picture of the grandchildren on the mantelpiece which was a good likeness!

#### **Glyn Bass Secretary Ashbourne and District Camera Club**

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## Beauvale Photography Group

It's been yet another exciting start to the season, with 5 new members joining us, all of whom have been showing their photographs at the club during our individual and themed evenings. We have created a relaxed atmosphere for discussion, passing around prints or viewing DPs, and supporting each other constructively with our projects. No criticism means everyone feels free to express themselves in a positive way and pass on their enthusiasm for the subjects we each enjoy photographing. Gary and Louise Langley joined us recently for a similar very entertaining evening, passing around their prints and chatting about them.

Unfortunately, we lost two of our long-time members earlier this year, Reg Lowe and Darryl Barker, so we had a celebration evening with members of their families. They brought along some of Reg's and Darryl's photographs to show us, whilst having a buffet and chat about happy memories. It was a very emotional evening for us all.

As a non-competitive club we like to finish off the year with our only two competitions - the Worst Photograph of the Year - judged by heckling and won again for the second time in a row by Lesley Grand-Scrutton and the Christmas Quiz.

**Andrew Lings**

## Deepings Camera Club

Happy to report that Deepings Camera Club ended last season with a bang by celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (details in the previous newsletter but Charlie Waite certainly didn't disappoint) and then opened this current season in style by announcing a brand new – and free – 6-week photography course for beginners.

The course ran independently of our club meetings until mid-October and covered the basics in 6 two-hour sessions taken by our Chair, Steve Coomes. He was assisted with a rota of other experienced members who helped with advising groups of two or three for the practical sessions. The beginners were able to join our regular club nights as guests and were invited to become members at the end of the course (no pressure!). About 16 enrolled initially, although 4 dropped out along the way, and 6 of those that finished went onto join us. We were able to offer the free course after receiving a generous donation from a charity keen to improve opportunities such as this in the community. Hopefully we will run a second course next year some time (Steve said it was enjoyable but hard work).

One of our members, Ken Bunch, had his own success in June when he was awarded a DPAGB PDI. This was covered in the PGAB's e-news magazine and has been mentioned here already but we're very proud of Ken so I'm mentioning it again!

The first half of this season has seen several more top quality speakers including Tracey Lund (invited back after her great talk last year), Phil Savoie who was very refreshing and entertaining (voted best presenter so far!) and Jonathan Vaines who we know well as both a judge and a great speaker.

We held our Annual Exhibition over the weekend of Sat 1st and Sun 2nd November and, for only the second time, had a slideshow of DPs running on a big TV screen as well as the display of just over 100 prints. We sold tea, coffee and home-made cakes for visitors to enjoy whilst watching the slideshow and found this little enterprise paid around half the cost of hiring the hall (every little helps!). Our exhibitions have always been free admission with visitors getting involved by voting for their top 5 but it's nice to be able to offer refreshments and the chance to chat and relax.

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### Deepings Camera Club continued...

Some of the most popular images are attached starting with Vice-Chair Graham Clegg's "A Successful Dive" which received more than double the points of the runner-up "Great Grey" by Steve Coomes.

**Miriam Knight, DCC Publicity Secretary**



### Killamarsh Amateur Photographic Society

Just a bit of news from Killamarsh club – once again, we have negotiated with our local shopping mall - Crystal Peaks – and have agreed another exhibition of our printed work in the main Atrium (centre) during the month of February, so encourage anyone interested to pop along.

Members will have a presence there at weekends for a short while.

**Andy Cotton**

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## Nottingham Outlaws Photography Society

### Outlaws - Outings 2025

Every year in September the Outlaws enjoy a photographic holiday together, a break for members, affectionally known as KitKat (have a break, have a.....) in recent years we have visited, Scotland, the south east of England, Torbay, Northumberland to name but a few.

This year's KitKat trip was an eagerly anticipated four-day excursion to South Wales and again it proved to be an overwhelming success, offering members a spectacular range of photographic subjects from rugged coastlines, towering castles and sweeping beaches to historic maritime museums and dockland. The main focus was the breath-taking Gower Peninsula, the UK's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and it certainly delivered on its promise of dramatic light and varied landscapes.

We opted to stay in Swansea, a busy city that provided good road access to all key locations, it also gave us with the opportunity to photograph a city at night and some street photography during the day. Sun rises and sunsets were the order of the day for many but every evening the Outlaws gathered together to socialise, review images, share tips on locations and perhaps enjoy a beer or two.

Over the weekend we certainly had a mix of weather conditions, on the Saturday we had a storm come through the region bringing dramatic & moody skies, however the days that followed brought crisp clear mornings & warm colourful sunsets, ideal conditions for varied photographic outcomes.



Each year we take a group photo and this is the Outlaws on tour in south Wales 2025

The Gower Peninsula formed the heart of our trip, providing four days of unparalleled photographic opportunities. Our first Gower sunset was spent at Rhossili beach where surfers were still enjoying the incoming tide & crashing waves, making for a great photographic opportunity.

Some members made the long hike to Whiteford Point lighthouse to see the dramatic structure out at sea, which was very effective for long exposure imagery. On the way to the lighthouse, we passed through an area of salt flats that had wild ponies and curvaceous ravines that made for stunning landscape images.

Our final morning was spent exploring the Mumbles, offering a different kind of coastal photography. The Victorian pier, the lighthouse, the lifeboat station and the fishing boats moored in the harbour provided excellent subject matter & of course being a busy town there were plenty of tea shops which always proves popular with members. Enough to say that the Outlaws had a fabulous time in south Wales, experiencing some memorable locations and hopefully capturing some fantastic images.

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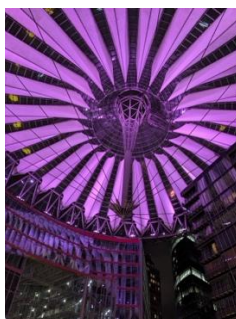
## Nottingham Outlaws Photography Society contd...

### A European KitKat - Berlin

No sooner had we all arrived back in Nottingham from our KitKat South Wales trip that the idea of a European tour of Berlin was realised with members of the Outlaws enjoying a hugely successful five-day photographic expedition to Berlin, a city where the history of the 20th century meets the radical innovation of the 21st. The trip provided a phenomenal canvas for our primary focus the challenges of modern architectural photography and the fleeting narratives of street life.

Our journey began at Nottingham's East Midlands Airport where we boarded a mid-day flight to Berlin. Upon arrival we caught the overground train service into the heart of the city, the adventure had begun.

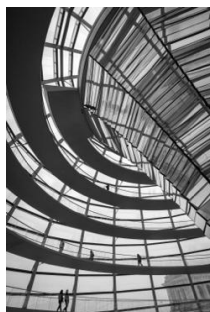
Our first evening was in the city's modern core at Potsdamer Platz and the adjacent Sony Centre which offered a masterclass in modern architectural geometry. These structures demanded thoughtful compositions if we were to visually do them justice. The coloured lights, water fountains and grandeur of the buildings was quite breath-taking and a memorable experience for all members of the group. Following our first photoshoot and a hectic day spent travelling it was time for a social gathering and time to rest before the challenges of a new day.



The Interior of The Sony Centre

Berlin's architectural landscape is defined by its dramatic contrasts, challenging us to capture both immense scale and intricate detail. Some members used wide angle lenses, one or two had tilt and shift helping to keep the buildings perspective true. It was indeed challenging to capture the grandeur of the buildings such as the Reichstag Dome, Brandenburg Gate and the sweeping curves of the railway station canopy but as well as challenging it was incredibly rewarding.

Over the coming days the Outlaws transited across Berlin, photographing many of the famous locations such as the Brandenburg Gate, the Jewish Memorial (the stark, block geometry of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe) the Berlin wall, Check Point Charlie to name but a few.



The Interior of The Reichstag Dome

## Nottingham Outlaws Photography Society contd...

A European Kit Kat - Berlin contd.

Early on the Tuesday morning we had tickets booked for an 8am entry in to the Reichstag Dome, where silhouette figures could be seen and where we explored the interplay of light and shadow, as well as size and scale. After the early start and the prospect of taking some fabulous photos, the group were ready for a hearty breakfast and the social side of our trip was again enjoyed.

Many of the Outlaws favoured Street Photography as a genres and Berlin certainly had a lot to offer, the shift from architectural imagery to that of street photography required a fundamental change in mindset and gear. Berlin's diverse neighbourhoods —from bustling markets to public transport hubs we were offered endless possibilities. Many of us spent time at the HBF mainline railway station watching and photographing the hustle & bustle of commuters as they went about their daily transit routines, trying out long exposures and many other techniques.

The East Side Gallery alongside the river Spree offered a chance to capture people interacting with art, using the murals as a vibrant backdrop to everyday conversations and reactions. The key here was patience, waiting for the perfect moment when a subject's posture complemented the surrounding graffiti.



Onlookers at the Berlin Wall

The Berlin trip was more than just a tour; it was a photographic workshop and social gathering of like-minded people who enjoy travelling and photography.

It is now down to the travelling Outlaws to start editing and processing their shots so that we can visually share our experience with all members of the club when we hold a "Berlin Presentation Evening" sometime in the future.

For all of the Outlaws it was a fantastic experience and one that hopefully we can repeat in 2026 to another new European city destination.

**Author Nigel Stewart**

**November 2025.**

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## Prism Group

Very many congratulations to Edward for gaining the ARPS in the Travel genre. Very well earned and really pleasing set of images from Hong Kong.

In 2026 we have a new meeting place at Keyworth Methodist Church Hall, which has excellent facilities that suit our needs. We meet there quarterly to view our images, comment and give each other encouragement in our project work.

We are currently discussing our 2026 exhibition with a venue and hope to have it firmed up by the New Year.

We have some vacancies for new members, so if interested in a non-competitive environment to view and discuss work please contact either Howard Fisher or Malcolm Sales.

## Rushcliffe Photographic Society

It's been a busy and successful few months for our members. Alan Hurst and Edward Goodwin were both awarded their ARPS distinctions. Howard Fisher had an image accepted in the Autumn 2025 issue of the online London Independent Photography Magazine Inscape on the theme of "Engagement with the Scene". Nine members had acceptances to the N&EMPF 2026 Exhibition with 1 commended, 1 Highly Commended and 2 Selectors Awards. Chris Keenan has produced the following report on our Group Projects initiative.

### Wendy Stanton (Secretary)

#### Group Projects

As we reported in the July 2025 NEMPF newsletter, RPS launched an exciting new venture for the Society inviting members to take part in one or more group projects. In the 2024 Autumn session, the society offered member led discussions featuring use of social media, photobooks, AV(Video), zines, and panels/grids which were very well attended and encouraged a great deal of discussion on our Facebook pages. During a January committee (2025), Chris Keenan (committee member) brought forward an idea to bring the 'theory' and concepts discussed during the autumn term sessions to practical and tangible outcomes through group projects. We agreed to present the idea to the members and encourage members to join one or more of the group projects being offered. There were several tangible benefits in offering members this activity. Firstly, to provide valuable and practical small group skills development opportunities, secondly it could potentially reach across existing friendship groups within the society and particularly provide a sociable way for newer members to get to know others in a productive and sociable way. As this was a new initiative, the committee decided on the groups which would reflect the content of the autumn sessions, i.e., a Video (AV) group, a photobook group, a group to create a panel and a zine group. These groups would be coordinated (not expert led) by committee members particularly for this first venture so that we could monitor progress and create a manageable feedback system.

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## Rushcliffe Photographic Society contd...

Group coordinators were responsible for setting expectations and brought forward ideas for the projects but importantly, group members were encouraged to discuss thematic and conceptual ideas. Groups were self-selecting based on members' own interests. Coordinators were provided with terms of reference for the overall project. A timeline was also identified. The timeline would commence in the spring of 2025 with an end date of 23.6.25 to coincide with a show and tell session at the annual AGM following regular progress feedback to committee meetings. Plus, we had already booked space for a four-week exhibition in a local library soon after the AGM which would provide the opportunity to publicise the four group projects. All the groups communicated by setting up FB pages and where required, Dropbox folders. Groups also met in ways that suited their purpose, e.g., on zoom, in a local pub, in each other's homes. The committee were also keen to ensure that no member would feel excluded on grounds of cost, for example, where printing and other such expenses such as photobook/zine printing, purchase of software, would be incurred and set up a budget of £75 for each of the projects to draw on as required. Because this was the first time, we had undertaken a longer-term group activity, we also ensured that a committee member would take on the role of mediator should any conflict or difficulty occur - thankfully, this wasn't required.

As mentioned, the outputs would be presented in group presentations at the summer AGM. We emphasised that if a project had not reached completion a progress review would be fine. All groups did meet the deadlines and presented their work to members at the AGM where we had an exceptionally high turnout, with one long standing member stating, "That was the best AGM I've ever been to at this club".

Soon after the AGM we began the four-week exhibition in one of our local libraries.

First to exhibit was the Photobook, the theme of which was 'Getting around Rushcliffe'. We exhibited examples from the photobook and also the book itself.

Next to exhibit was the zine project. Three zines entitled Heart of the City, Vibrant Nottingham, and Characters of Nottingham had been produced and offered for sale to members of the club.

The third week saw the setting up of the AV/Video exhibition. Again, a sample of the many images used was shown accompanied by a QR code for visitors to access the videos. Sample images were printed using a film strip effect to denote the film/video style. A particular feature was that the accompanying music was composed especially for the projects by a Society member. The themes were: Tranquil Nature Moments and Leisure Time.

The fourth and final week of the exhibition showed the Church windows panel. Showing the church window panel at the AGM. The Panel includes a colourful selection of windows from churches in Nottingham, Rushcliffe and the Vale of Belvoir.

The exhibitions were very well received by our visitors.

The opportunity to learn new skills etc. was found to be a key factor in the enjoyment experienced by all participants and the AGM was exceptionally well attended, Members valued the opportunity to learn new skills and work collaboratively in the smaller groups. During the time of the project one of the coordinators became unwell and a group member stepped into ensure that the project continued and met the deadline - a great example of the social and supportive ethos of our club. Thanks to the great success of this innovative idea, we plan to offer a similar opportunity to develop more group projects in the new year and will be working with members to develop ideas and topics.

If you would like any information about the projects, please contact [cmkeenan20142@gmail.com](mailto:cmkeenan20142@gmail.com)

**Chris Keenan**

**November 2025**

**Happy Christmas everyone!**

..... contd.

## Sibley Photographic Society

Before reporting on our current season, it should be mentioned that our 2024/25 season ended in April with a presentation by Lesley Grand-Scrutton entitled 'Same but Different'.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly competition was judged by Louise Langley. Winners of this (scoring 20) were:

Colour print: Gianpiero Ferrari – Stag Beetle on Alert

Monochrome: Pete Smith – Cape Fox

Digital: Gianpiero Ferrari – Sally Lightfoot Crab on Lava Rocks

Brendan Glover – Honda No.5

Towards the end of the season, we also had the good news that in 2024 one of our members, Patrick Crowhurst, had received the BPAGB – Badge award from the PAGB for prints. Congratulations Patrick! He was duly presented with the certificate by our then president Bob Andrews. Patrick's panel of work covered topics such as equestrian, white-water kayaking, wheel-chair tennis and rugby and can be found in the 2024 Badge group on the PAGB website

<https://pagbhost.co.uk/apmpanels/> .

Our new season started on 1st September with a 'Bring and Tell Social Evening giving members a chance to get back into the swing of things after the summer break. We each showed a selection of our photographs to the group and invited constructive comments on their merits.

During the remainder of September and October we had interesting and varied presentations from Paul Burrows 'Camera Clubs – My Takeaway', from Bob Andrews 'A Norwegian Coastal Voyage', from Malcolm Coulton 'Sicily' and from John and Di Tilsley 'The Danube Delta'.

In mid-October we held our 3rd Quarterly competition judged by Steffan Nicholson who provided his usual helpful and informative comments as he reviewed each entry. The winners this time were:

Colour print: Gianpiero Ferrari – Weaver Beetle on Dead Wood

Monochrome: Colin Machin – Coming Out of the Mist

Mandy Sherrington – Tasman Glacier

Digital: Mandy Sherrington – Still Working

Mandy Sherrington – Painted Stork with Fish

Another very popular competition in our society is the annual Graham Johnson 12-shot Challenge which was judged as usual by Malcolm Sales on 27th October. The rules of this competition require submission of panels of 12 digital images which must be taken on a mobile phone and must not be post-processed in any way except for cropping. Malcolm has previously given us many good tips on how to get the best out of a phone camera and, hopefully, he is able to see our work improving as a result! Winners this year were:

1st Place: Bob Andrews – Half Timbers of Lavenham

2nd Place: Malcolm Coulton – The Old Scythe Works

3rd Place: Pete Smith – The Great Central Railway, an Alternative View

Our season continued on 10th November when two members, Colin Machin and Mandy Sherrington, held a session entitled 'How Do I ... ?' where they invited questions from other members on any photographic topic with which they would like assistance and/or advice. Colin and Mandy put in a lot of work and provided excellent verbal and written guidance on such issues as:

- Cartridge vs ink tank printers
- Depth of field
- Embracing high ISO
- Is CMYK sufficient?
- Keeping pictures safe – digital storage
- Vintage lenses

..... contd.

### Sileby Photographic Society contd...

As well as our internal competitions a number of members enter external competitions. Although they are disappointed with their recent results, there have nevertheless been a number of successes with 3 members obtaining a total of 9 acceptance with 1 award in the 2026 NEMPF Exhibition – Gianpiero Ferrari had 5 acceptances with 1 commended, Pete Smith had 3 acceptance and Mandy Sherrington had 1 acceptance.

On the 24th November Gianpiero Ferrari gave us his presentation 'Galapagos: Enchanted Islands'. This was full of beautiful images and we saw wildlife captured in pictures in Gianpiero's inimitable style. Without spoiling things for people who have yet to see the presentation, Gianpiero met with some surprises on his trip – not all of them pleasant!

The year 2025 draws to a close for us with a presentation at the beginning of December from Robert Falconer 'The Magic of the Settle to Carlisle Railway' followed by our 4th Quarterly competition judged by Ian Pinn and then a Pictures and Pies evening where we toast the festive season while showing pictures of our own.

**Sileby Photographic Society:** <https://silebyps.org.uk/>