

N&EMPF NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2022. Hopefully we can now look forward to more settled times ahead for ourselves, our families and our clubs and societies.

It is very evident that many clubs are still having to rely on Zoom to bring events to members and while it is certainly a lifeline that has enabled us to enjoy our photography, it is no substitute for meeting together in our various venues around the region.

In this edition you will find some key dates for your diary, a short thought provoking article from Diane Seddon, an insight into success at Nottingham and Notts and a report on the latest result from the recent Awards for Photographic Merit event.

Once again I invite you to submit articles about your club that can be shared with other clubs in the federation. Maybe its a success for one of your members or a new and innovative idea that you are developing.

David Kissman

Newsletter Editor



Some of the accepted prints from the N&EMPF 2022 Exhibition now on display at Patchings Farm. See last page for more details.

The Mona Lisa Smile

It is a truth universally acknowledged that of the millions of images uploaded to the internet every day, an awful lot of them are rubbish. We are drowning in a sea of photographs with no beacons to tell us where the safe havens are, and, to quote another photographer, there are no maps either to warn us of where dragons abide.

Over the last week or two, I ran an experiment. I put the same image into a number of different places and waited to see what would happen. The result was mixed. One group gave it hundreds of 'likes', but there was not a single positive or negative comment about it. Another location generated a bit more discussion, but not about the image, it was about how I'd achieved a technique, and then busily compared it with other photographers doing the same sort of thing. Partly useful yes, but not terrifically helpful if I'd been looking for genuine critique.

The point I'm making here is that oftentimes, you don't get real image feedback from social media, because mostly you don't know who the people are who are 'helping' you. So the good folks who ask questions such as "which is best, the colour or the black and white?", frequently don't get a satisfactory answer at all. There's no harm asking for opinion, provided you ask the right people. Who are you going to ask - who is going to tell you the truth about your pictures? Who is going to be brave enough to tell you, to your face, that what you have made is truly terrible?

I think that as image makers, what we really need to know is this.....what is it about this image that really works, or alternatively doesn't work, and what can be done to make it better?

What should our response be when someone tells us our work is bad? This is a delicate thing and massively depends on who is telling us, because the work may truly be bad, at which point you should listen to what they have to say. On the other hand, the image may really be good, but it just doesn't *appeal* to that individual or their aesthetic. Another issue is that you might be told what they would do to make it better, which in turn, could turn it into their work, and not yours. Discovering what others might do though, can help you to expand your own creativity.

All of this, of course, has to be tempered with an understanding of who is giving the feedback. You, listening to it, have to decide if you trust and respect the person offering it to you.

So to the people asking whether the colour or black and white is the better one, think of this..... did Leonardo ask which smile he should put on the Mona Lisa? Did he ask hundreds of total strangers what they thought of his painting? Probably not - he relied on his own self worth, and it is more likely that it was his students who asked him how he created that smile.

Diane Seddon ARPS AFIAP CPAGB BPE3



Wind Turbine by Diane Seddon

Boom time for Nottingham and Notts Photographic Society

The question being asked is “what is the secret of the success of the Nottingham and Notts Photographic society achieving such high membership numbers, from 59 to 100 currently, and success in N&EMPF finishing in 2nd place ?” The straight answer is that there is no “secret” and actually no simple answer to that question!

So, what has happened? Since the start of my presidency I have been blessed with a stable and excellent committee. That has been coupled with an engaging and supporting membership and maybe that's at the heart of it. Many members have made suggestions and offered their skills to share. We aim to present an excellent programme of talks which members appreciate.

Covid struck but thanks to member Chris Newham we embraced Zoom. Not only that, we extended our normal season in the light of members being stuck at home. We had fun too, adding the odd extra competition.

Committee member Steve Sulley was active on social media about the club and through that, new members joined. Other members explained what we were doing and they too attracted new members.

Like many clubs we have tried to help our members with knowledge sessions and that I believe has been well received. One member, Basil, donated two sums of money which we started to use for presentations on a different night of the week.

The reason for the N&EMPF competition success? We have tried to widen the involvement of more members to enter N&EMPF. We have been blessed with some top photographers within our membership and that has helped in our success. If anything, we haven't planned these external competitions enough. They happen very early on at the start of the season and we have found it difficult. A rethink there is perhaps needed?

Lastly the club atmosphere has been tremendous. The enthusiasm to help others is top notch. We are a happy bunch and just enjoy our wonderful hobby.

So, I think there is no secret. I am sure many clubs act as we do.

It could be as simple as the positive involvement of many individuals and how others respond to them.

Tom Glancz, President, Nottingham and Notts Photographic Society

*Sand Patterns on
Laig Beach
towards Rum by
Derek Doar*



Derek Doar

*Over the Last 2 by
Alan Young*



Alan Young



Dave Jones

*The Boilerman by
Dave Jones*



Andrea Hargreaves

*Queen Morghanna by
Andrea Hargreaves*

Saturday
19th March 2022

The Sheldon Suite
Newark Showground
Coddington
Newark
NG24 2NY



N&EMPf
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4th ANNUAL
AUDIO VISUAL
AND
PHOTO HARMONY
COMPETITION



Contact * **David Gibbins**
david.gibbins@ntlworld.com

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Closing Date
26th February
2022
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N&EMPF AGM

Sunday 13th March 2022 commencing at 10.30am

This year's AGM will again be conducted via Zoom on Sunday 13th March 2022 commencing at 10.30am. It will be followed by the Inter-Club PDI Championship (see below).

We would be very happy to receive nominations for new members of the N&EMPF committee. Committee members play a key part in supporting the officers and ensuring that the federation provides an ever improving service to the clubs in the region. New ideas, new thinking and a willingness to make a positive contribution to our work will always be welcome.

As well as the election process being conducted at the AGM, attendees will also have the opportunity to receive short reports from all the officers and to seek answers to any relevant questions. At the end of the day N&EMPF is your federation and as such you should feel able to participate at the AGM in a positive and engaging way.

The Zoom code details will be sent to clubs a little nearer the date of the event, but in the meantime please make a note in your diary.

N&EMPF PDI Championship

Sunday 13th March 2022 commencing at 1.45pm

Last year the usual long established Championship format was changed because of Covid into a simplified Zoom format. It proved to be extremely popular producing the biggest entry we have ever had in the 30+ year history of the event.

Because of this popularity and the positive comments which I received, coupled with the unfortunately remaining uncertainty regarding Covid, the 2022 event will also be on Zoom.

The format is simple to enter: 20 images, highest scoring 16 to count and **this will be a qualifying event for the PAGB Championship.**

The judges will be - Barbara Jenkin. ARPS EFIAP/P GMPSA/B BPE3*
- Roy Lambeth. DPAGB AFIAP BPE2*
- Clive Tanner. FRPS MPAGB APAGB

The relevant dates are -

4th February 2022 - Notify intention to compete.
13th February 2022 - Submit 20 images.
13th March 2022 - Images shown on Zoom and scores announced as if "live"

All the details and the paperwork that you need is on the N&EMPF website - I look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Farnworth LRPS

Event Co-ordinator

prf.jaf(at)talktalk.net

ANOTHER APM SUCCESS FOR THE FEDERATION

We are pleased to report that at the recent Awards for Photographic Merit assessment weekend held on 27th and 28th November 2021 in Newton Abbot, **Marlies Chell** was successful in gaining her CPAGB at the first attempt.

Marlies has been involved in a wide range of photographic activities for a number of years. Not only is she an active member of Arnold and District Camera Club, H15 and Rolls Royce (Derby) Photographic Society but she also runs her highly regarded touring workshop for macro photography of insects. Furthermore she is a member of the N&EMPF Committee where she has recently been getting to grips with updating the federation website as well as making a major contribution to the work of the Communications Working Party.

We offer sincere congratulations to Marlies and we hope that her success will help spur other photographers in the region to go for this award. Here are four of her images.



Ducking the Jab



Girl Power



Orchid Mantis



Preening

WANT A FIRST HAND OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PAGB AWARDS SYSTEM?

Saturday 15th October 2022 between 10am and 4.30pm

N&EMPF are delighted to have been asked to host an APM advisory day and workshop later this year where you can learn more about the structure of the awards and also have some of your images assessed. This is a fantastic opportunity for federation members.

The workshop will be led by Rod Wheelans with other members of the PAGB Team.

In the morning they will clearly explain the various PAGB Photographic Awards and the standard of work necessary to achieve the CPAGB, DPAGB and MPAGB Awards.

In the afternoon delegates will get the opportunity to have an initial panel of work assessed to give an overview of their current standard, plus guidance about which level they might aim for and what they will need to do to achieve this

Full details will be circulated to all clubs shortly along with application forms, but if you are interested your name can be registered now for information to be sent direct to you. You can attend either as someone requiring assessment or as an observer. Costs to be advised.

The location of the workshop is The Kegworth Hotel, Packington Hill, Kegworth, DE74 2DF

Contact: Carol J Cheetham CPAGB APAGB, N&EMPF Awards Officer -

email: carol.j.cheetham@btinternet.com

WE HAVE SOME NEW JUDGES IN THE FEDERATION!

N&EMPF, like many federations, is always on the look out for new judges and we recently held a judges seminar aimed at those that had shown an interest in becoming a judge. Although only a small number of people came along we held the event at the Copper Beech at Bilsthorpe. It started with a good morning session with presentations from invited guest Marilyn Roberts, from YPU, and from our committee members Steve Walters, David Gibbins, Sue Wilson & Peter Jones. After lunch the attendees then had the opportunity to participate in practical sessions on judging prints, which supported a digital exercise they had undertaken prior to attendance. From the event five of the attendees have accepted the invitation to join our Supplementary Judges list and their details have been circulated to club secretaries but can we take this opportunity to welcome on board, Anne Haile LRPS, Phil Peat BPE2, LSISLP, LSINWP, Martyn Wrigg, Steffan Nicholson and Brian Garner.

N&EMPF INTER-CLUB PRINT CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

The above event will take place Sunday May 15th 2022.

This is an advance notice so your club can start to ear mark prints that might be suitable

If Your Club/Society is interested in entering this event the rules are as below

- 1) Mounted prints – 500mm x 400mm - will be delivered/posted to a collecting venue along with a PDI of the print, resolution 1400 x 1050.
- 2) The number of prints required will be 16-20 depending on how many clubs enter
- 3) Judging will be live at the event, with no audience participation, but will be shown via Zoom at the time.
- 4) The purpose of the competition is twofold- to find the Champion N&EMPF Club, also the two clubs to represent N&EMPF in the PAGB Inter-Club Championships in October 2022 if willing to do so. Note -Rolls-Royce [Derby] PS have automatically qualified for the event.

Further information will follow. This is just to let all clubs know that this Competition will take place this year.

Sue Wilson

Alliance Exhibition Secretary

N&EMPF EXHIBITION 2022 IS NOW OPEN

We are pleased to announce that this year's federation exhibition is now open for viewing. It was very unfortunate that we were unable to have an official opening ceremony due to ongoing Covid concerns. However, we are now able to show to visitors many of the prints that were accepted in the judging day held in November 2021. There is unquestionably a wide range of images on show in both colour and monochrome and a visit will undoubtedly provide the viewers with lots of ideas and inspiration. Thanks are due to the many members of the committee who have put in a huge amount of work to get the exhibition up and running.

The exhibition can be found in the Barn Gallery (above the cafe) and the Crew Yard Gallery just along the courtyard at:

PATCHINGS ART CENTRE
OXTON ROAD, CALVERTON,
NOTTINGHAM NG14 6NU

Please note that the centre is open from 10am to 4pm every Wednesday to Sunday and the exhibition will finally close on Saturday 12th Feb



Some of the galleries in the Exhibition



Finally, while we are talking dates, the **Robin Hood 2022 BPE** (run by Nottingham and Notts PS) will be open for entries from Saturday 15th January 2022. Judging will take place in May 2022. This is a very well run BPE, and its always great to see local entrants getting plenty of acceptances.