



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Northern Focus

The e-magazine of

NORTHERN COUNTIES

PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION



NCPF Annuals

'Disobedient' by Jo Knight, Keswick PS.

JOAN ROOKER CENTENARY TROPHY:
Overall Best Photograph in All Section and
Diamond Trophy – Best PDI



Northern Focus

Official magazine of Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

Serving the North of England.

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This magazine, previous issues and a host of important and useful material are available at www.ncpf.org.uk

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If you wish to submit an article of interest, advertise your exhibition or club event, please send details or a poster to the Editor.

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Editors Piece

Welcome to Edition No 97 of Northern Focus - Winter 2025.

You may have noted that Edition 97 is the only issue from 2025, squeezed in at the very last minute. My offering to stand down at AGM (to allow new blood), produced no takers. I advised I would continue in the role, collecting stories and photographs throughout the year until I could be relieved in due course. Unfortunately still no takers and other things in the way resulted in some false starts regards issues. However with the robust encouragement of the NCPF Executive Committee this edition 97 is distributed still within "2025" ensuring we do not have a blank calendar year.

Please keep sending potential editorials, observations, anecdotes and any photography related club or personal information for publication to me at northern.focus@ncpf.org.uk or contact to discuss.

Meanwhile we have a terrific issue, I love receiving unsolicited updates and information from clubs, and thanks go to Gateshead CC advising how their work in the community is helping their club and beyond, Ryton CC for keeping us updated regards anniversary exhibitions, while a shy Jackie Stent forwarded details of an award from Alnwick council for help building historical records through photography, Whitley Bay shared their success in "Back from the Brink". Plus many other things, plus thanks to those who responded to my "why, what, when" requests for stories amplifying photographs and events.

And of course:- Photographs:- Loads of them, lots of genres and lots and lots of terrific quality. That's where NCPF Competitions come in allowing us to showcase and celebrate members work via competition which may be Club Championship (club biased), Annuals (member biased including beginners), Club Battles with camaraderie with a little bit friendly competitiveness.

Our President Gerald Chamberlin advises, the PAGB awards for photographic merit adjudications will be held in our region, details of the event will be distributed in good time along with those of our other happenings including AGM of which clubs are strongly encouraged and requested to provide a member to help guide our Federation.

NB: Best quote of 2025 comes from Malcolm Ross after walking the coast in a pre-planned, pre-dawn photography expedition with full kit and equipment that. **"This was a very lucky shot"**



Very best wishes and a Happy New Year to all members and clubs for 2026. Alan Wilson.

Would you like to Edit
Northern Focus?

This is a terrific opportunity to use your own skills developing the e-magazine by keeping up to date with all things photographic regards Northern Counties Photographic Federation while becoming a member of NCPF Executive. Editorial content is already being collected to help with next edition.

Presidents Piece

As 2025 draws to a close I hope you all had a very merry Christmas.

Now, as we prepare to welcome in the new year we can look forward to what 2026 has in store for us in the second half of the NCPF and club season: And we do have a lot to look forward to.

In February we have the NCPF Club championship. This is followed by the NCPF AGM in March. As we reach the end of the season there is the Annuals competition in mid April, this is where club members through their club can have a chance to submit their best images and hopefully win some awards.



The season ends with a big event for us as we are the host federation for the PAGB APM (awards for photographic merit) adjudication. This is taking place on the 25th & 26th April 2026 at Caldew School, Dalston, Carlisle.

I would like to wish all 18 NCPF members who have applied for their APM award the very best of luck. This is the biggest single entry the NCPF has ever had at an adjudication. The NCPF and the PAGB have been working and planning this event for the last 18 months and I can now say everything is coming together with a team of volunteers wishing to help over the weekend.

For those that sign up to the PAGB e-news (if you haven't sign up why not?) <https://thepagb.org.uk/services/pagb-e-news/> you will know that this is the first fully subscribed APM adjudication since Covid.

And finally can I wish you all on behalf of the NCPF Executive a happy and prosperous new year.

*Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP
NCPF President and NCPF Awards Officer*

Presentations Day

Gerald Chamberlin and Richard Speirs led a small team with an early start initially setting up 2024 Masters of Prints as a stand alone exhibition for interest to all attending, and then running an “APM” Awards for Photographic Merit guidance workshop, where advice was given for photographers considering submission of work for PAGB awards in 2026 and beyond.

There was a terrific hubbub of voices coming from the side room as the team, those offering work, and a growing band of spectators joined in (and listened to) comments and guidance.

Next, the main room was setup by the band of volunteers, with silver and glass trophies, some modern some dating back to inception of NCPF and the mass of mementoes for each winner along with certificates to be taken by successful clubs.

Tea/Coffee and biscuits were laid on for arriving guests as competitions sub-committee team continued with furniture movement, presentation material and potential raffle prizes. With 60 people in attendance, the presentation commenced with projected digital images on the large screen announced by AV creator Phillip Dove showing the Annuals Competition Highly Commended's and of course winners from each category along with images from the Beamish Competition and other events.

The formal awards took place after the presentation with Gerald Chamberlin now adorned with the NCPF Presidents sash handing over awards and shaking hands congratulating winners while John Gravett took photographs.

And as we have become used too, all this happened without a hitch and as if by magic. That is the magic of many people working together, mainly but not exclusively run by the Competitions Sub-Committee Team

led by John Fare with choreography and masses of behind the scenes work by Jim and Margaret Welsh.

Well done all.

(L) Clara Vale Hall.

PDI/AV being shown with part of Masters of Print to rear.



Annuals Competition

THE NCPF ANNUAL COMPETITION is held over a weekend in April “In Camera” without an audience, though “helpers” are always welcome.

This competition though it has an element of club competition is primarily for individual members to enter via their own clubs. It is a great way to test the water at a level higher than normal club and inter-club competitions to see where your work stands. In this section we shall look at successful work from 2025. (As an experiment, I requested prize winning photographers amplify their photographs with a bit of why, where and when detail, adding the situation and circumstances to the images - I think this has worked well).

NB Annuals Competition Details: The Open Classes are judged by a panel of three experienced Judges, two from outside the Federation and one from our own Judges’ List. The Beginners Classes are judged by an NCPF Judge.

Trophies are awarded in each Section for the best club entries as well as for the best entries by individual members. There are a number of trophies for the best individual entries in various categories i.e. Portrait, Landscape, Nature and Creative, as well as Highly Commended Certificates. Finally there is a trophy, “The Joan Rooker Centenary Trophy” for the best photograph of the entire competition.

ALLIANCE SELECTION Once the main competitions have taken place a separate panel of NCPF Listed Judges takes a fresh look at the most successful entries and selects from them the Federation’s entries into the Inter-Federation Competitions organised by the PAGB, The “Alliance Competitions”.

SELECTORS CHOICE PORTFOLIO After the Alliance entry has been chosen a further panel of NCPF Judges look at the remainder and each select a portfolio of prints and images designed to reflect the work of individual Federation members, which they comment on for the Portfolios.

PORTFOLIOS AV After the Competitions have been completed the Portfolio Secretary creates and sends completed Audio Visual portfolios to each individual NCPF club these are ideally for showing shown as part of club programmes.

With 42 clubs in the NCPF the 2025 Annual Competition saw a terrific number of entries ->.

We absolutely recommend all clubs to take part, even those with small active memberships and most definitely encourage work from beginners in Prints and PDI.

Competition	Number of Clubs entering Competition	Number of entries
Open Competition for Projected Digital Images	31	764
Open Competition for Colour Prints	25	413
Open Competition for Monochrome Prints	25	368
Beginners Competition for Projected Digital Images	18	134
Beginners Competition for Prints	7	35
Total Number of entries		1714

Annuals Competition—Continued

The winners of the 2025 Club Open Competition trophies were:

Many thanks go to the judges for their hard (and enjoyable) work.

<i>Myles Audas Trophy Best Club Entry of Projected Digital Images</i>	<i>Keswick Photography Society</i>
<i>Bewick Trophy for Best Club Entry of Colour Prints</i>	<i>Keswick Photography Society</i>
<i>Corder Trophy for Best Club Entry of Monochrome Prints</i>	<i>Penrith and District Camera Club</i>

Beginners Prints and PDI: Judged by

Jane Morris Abson DPAGB, EFIAP

Open Competitions: Judged by

John McVie EFIAP, APAGB, DPAGB; Lynda Golightly LRPS; William Broadley

The Alliance Selectors:

Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP; John Reed ARPS, BPE3; John Tillitson CPAGB, EFIAP, EPSA, BPE2

Portfolio Print and PDI Selectors:

John Williams EFIAP/b, MPSA, DPAGB ; Peter Maguire LRPS, CPAGB, EFIAP ; Peter Walton ABIPP, APMA, Dip.PP

2025 Beamish Trophy: Judged by *Rob Butler*



Myles Audas, Jefcoat Tanker and Corder Trophy, presented to Julie Walker, Alan Walker and John Tillotson

John Gravett captured these terrific documentary photographs of awards for Annuals and Images that did well for NCPF at PAGB Federation Competition. Here Gerald Chamberlin hands over the awards.

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Eagle Trophy Best Sports PDI

119 makes his Move, Malcolm Boyd of Castleside and District PC



Malcolm advised of attendance at a local club meet, where a loop in the course allowed a good view of the speeding trial bikes and sidecars while being safe from collision. The mud being thrown though being very genuine and generously sprayed.



Malcolm receiving the Eagle Trophy and memento.

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Hilton Trophy for Best Creative pdi

Topsy Pubs, John Gravett ARPS, AFIAP, DPAGB, BPE5 of Workington and District CC



John Gravett

Gold Medal for “Tipsy Pubs”

and a PAGB ribbon for photograph “Evening Stroll”

John Gravett receiving the Hilton Trophy (below), Our photographer for the day, John handed camera and duties across while taking the limelight for a while.



Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Bryan Gilbert Trophy for Best Human portrait pdi

Waiting for a Train, Bill Fell of North Shields PS



The photograph was taken some years ago at a World War 2 reenactment in Pickering Yorkshire.



A friend and I had been walking around for a couple of hours taking the usual photos of the period dress, armed forces and vehicles and decided to go to the station for a coffee when I noticed this young lady in period dress standing by a steam train with a lovely backdrop of steam.

“My friend still says to this day that I elbowed him in the ribs to get there first”.

I asked her if I could take her photograph, she obliged and I managed to get a few photographs before being surrounded by other photographers which put an end to my shoot.

Camera; Olympus OM-D E-M1mark II. Settings; Focal length 40mm, ISO Auto, F stop f/2.8, Ex 1/125.

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Vickers Trophy for Best Natural History pdi

Spear Nosed Bat Feeding, Audrey Wooller of Stanhope PS



Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Thomas Bates Trophy for Best Landscape pdi

Morning Light at St. Mary's, Malcolm Ross of Ashington CC



This was a very lucky shot! It was taken on February 3rd 2024 on a planned Saturday morning trip out with my photography buddy Keith Saint as it was his day off. We normally head up the coast and shoot from Cresswell up to Holy island and everything in between .

The forecast for sunrise this morning wasn't looking good so we decided to stay local and we thought "St Mary's". So out at 6am headed along to St Mary's lighthouse and as we passed Seaton Sluice we decided to check the rocks there. High tide was not due for a couple of hours and sunrise was 7.55 am, and no wind which kept the waves down.

At about 8.10 nothing really showing and we were ready to pack, then the light just started to catch the few wispy clouds showing. So ISO 50, 22mm, 10 second with a ten stop filter and I came away with this image.

Malcolm Ross

Ed: As has been said many times, the harder you work at something the "luckier" you get.

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Diamond Trophy for Best Individual pdi and Joan Rooker Trophy for Overall Best Image print or pdi

Disobedient by Jo Knight of Keswick PS



The inspiration for this picture came from wanting to be a Nun as a teenager and taking the first steps by being confirmed into the Church of England. However, I talk a lot and hate being told what to do so it soon became apparent that I am far too disobedient for monastic life!

Because I am well known for my creative images most people assume this picture is a composite, but it's not. I used to live opposite a small village Church and was given permission to take the photo in situ. It involved making a base image of the pews, then photographing myself sitting in all the positions. The resulting images were then stacked together in Photoshop.

Camera: Olympus EM1 MKII, F/5.6, ISO 640.

Jo Knight

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Robert Chalmers Trophy for Best Beginners Print in colour or monochrome

Gazing on a sunny afternoon Gary Local of South Shields PS



Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

PAGB World Cup for Best Sports Print

Speedway Trio Miles Langthorne APAGB DPAGB of Northallerton CC



Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Galloway Rose Bowl for Best Monochrome Landscape Print

Misty Morning Mark Parvin of Washington CC



Many moons ago, we were on holiday in Slovenia, staying in the town of Bled. I woke up early on the first morning, looked out of the window and seeing a heavy fog grabbed camera bag and tripod and off I went. I left my wife, and the two kids fast asleep. On the table I left a note to say I'll be back at 8.00am, giving me two whole hours to hopefully get some photos with a foggy atmosphere, and headed by car down to the famous Lake.

As I approached Lake Bled, the fog was so dense I could not see anything, so I had a look at the map (these were the days before Satellite Navigation) and noticed another smaller lake nearby called Bohinjsko Jezero.

As I drove over there the fog was starting to lift, so I parked by the lake and walked down to the lake side. From there I had the perfect view of the bridge and Bohinj Church. I set up my tripod, aimed my shot, and the photo you see was taken. I had only converted the camera to infrared a month earlier, specifically for this holiday, me and my wife had been here about fifteen years earlier, in the years we called BC (before children).

I knew it was well suited to infrared, so I was really looking forward to using my newly converted camera on this beautiful area. Canon 5d mk1 Converted to Infrared, 720nm ISO 100 f11 1/8th Sec.

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Pinkney Trophy for Best Monochrome Human Portrait

Pas De Deux Mark Parvin of Washington CC



The two dancers in the photo are Heleana from Spain, and Lucka from Italy.

I had the chance of having a one hour session in the studio with these two talented ballet dancers. I only had one hour to set the lighting up and grab some photos.

I wanted to create badger lighting to emphasise the dancers' shapes. So I used two flash heads, one flash on each side with a Strip soft-box fitted to each flash head, to give the badger lighting effect.

This picked up all their muscles and contours to really set their shape and pose from the black background.

This was a bit of a challenge as I had to have them standing close to one another to have even lighting on both figures, but not too close for one to block the light and cast a shadow on the other.

Nikon D700 70mm f8 1/200 ISO 200



Joe Finlay of Washington CC picks up the Trophy on behalf of Mark who was right in the middle of a 6 week safari in South Africa returning as he say's "from mid summer to mid winter"

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Federation Challenge Cup for Best Monochrome Print

Evacuee Jo Knight of Keswick PS



'Evacuee'

This photograph was inspired by watching a news item on the tv, where parents were passing their children over barbed wire fences to strangers while escaping war and persecution.

It involved photographing a friend's daughter from my village in my spare bedroom at home against a cheap vinyl backdrop bought off eBay, then adding a picture of a small railway track at Alston in Cumbria over the top. Originally shot in colour, the picture was converted to monochrome in Photoshop. The colour version of this image was the first photograph of mine to be accepted into the Masters of Print exhibition.

Camera: Olympus EM1 MKII, F/8, ISO 200.

Jo Knight

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Alf Shoebottom Trophy for Best Natural History Print

Rhino Tossing Wildebeest Graeme Clarke ARPS of Gallery PG



Early in October 2024, I was in a hide with a friend, on a wildlife reserve in the Waterberg region of South Africa, watching a rhinoceros cow with a young calf as they fed. The weather had been warm and dry for some time so grazing was sparse. Another rhino tried to get to the same grass and, with some hissing and posturing, it was chased away. Very soon afterwards a small herd of Wildebeest came close to the mother rhino. I could see she was clearly agitated. I pressed the shutter. She hooked her horn under two wildebeest that came beside her then raised her head quickly. One slid off, but the point of her horn had caught into the belly of the front one and it was hurled into the air. A small warthog had been in the melee too and with other wildebeest, ran off to our left. This is the detail seen in this photograph. The tossed wildebeest somersaulted, landed on its back, quickly got onto its feet and ran off to the right.

When I asked my friend, "Wow, did you see that?" he said, "No, what, I was changing a lens!"

The two owners of the 1600 hectare reserve are veterinarians of renown, very experienced in rewilding and managing the ecosystem, this is the first they have heard of or seen this pattern of rhinoceros behaviour.

Leica SL settings: 90-280 lens at 90mm, f2.8, 1/2000s with -1/3 ev, autofocus continuous, electronic shutter at 5fps. There are 24 photographs of the event which lasted just over 4 seconds. This image is a crop into the whole scene in the sixth frame of the sequence adjusted in Lightroom and printed from Photoshop.

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries



(L) Graeme Clark receiving PAGB ribbon for Rhino Tossing Wildebeest

And (below) Alf Shoebottom Memorial Trophy for the same extraordinary image



(L) Tony Marsh picks up the Bewick Trophy for Keswick PS

(R) Richard Narcoss of Whitley Bay PS collects the Ken Henderson Trophy for Best Human Portrait Colour Print—Braided



Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Ken Henderson Trophy for Best Human Portrait Colour Print

Braided – Richard Narcross of Whitley Bay PS

The photo was taken at the Whitby goth weekend April 2019 with a Nikon D850 using a 70-200 2.8 Nikon Lens set to 102mm. ISO 200, exposure was 1/400th at f2.8.

It was taken in the main narrow street going up to the Abbey.

The background was the shops but I masked out the subject in Lightroom Classic so I could darken out the background.

Not a lot of editing had to be done just lifting the shadow detail holding back the highlights.

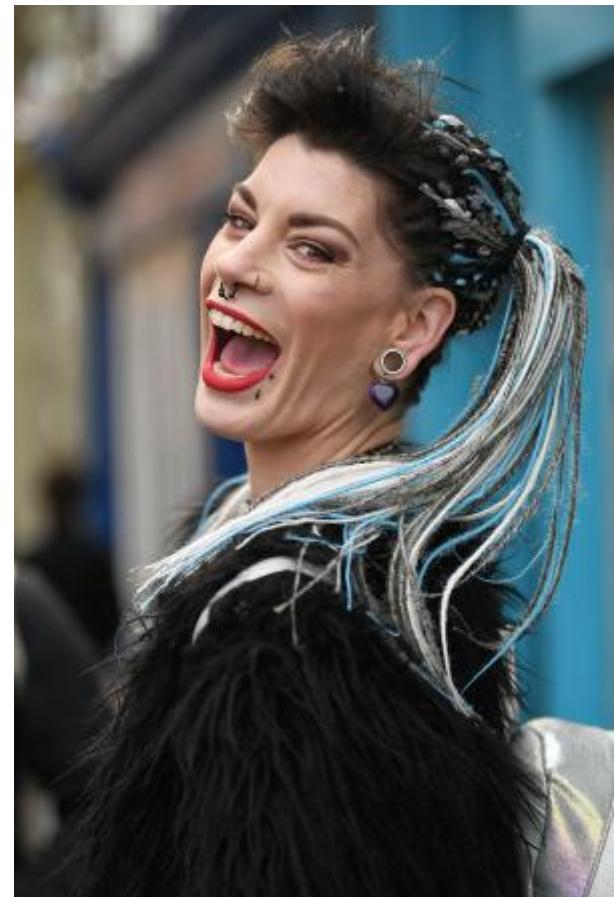
The Goth weekends are great for capturing people shots. Most if not all the people dressing up are happy to be stopped and have their photo taken and some including her will unprompted take up a pose.

The narrow street results in the overcast sky acting as a giant overhead soft box almost looking like it was set up in a studio. I enclose the unedited version for interest



Ironically I won the NCPF Annuals best human portrait PDI during lockdown with a photo called Hagged. Taken on the same day 3 hours later.

Richard Narcross



Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Norman Jeffcoat Trophy for Best Colour Landscape Print

Rustic Monument - Alan Walker of Keswick PS



The image was taken in the Dolomites in October 2022 whilst on a photography trip with my wife Julie.

We were firstly attracted by the clouds and storm light . It had snowed briefly, but sadly not settled, but the snow laden sky provided a great backdrop. The monument in the foreground was a perfect focal point and it was just a case of climbing up to find a good position for the composition.

It was more or less a quick grabbed shot without setting up a tripod as it was very cold and windy and I wasn't dressed for a prolonged time on a mountain side having just jumped out of the car.

The camera was a Canon R5 with a 15-35 RF 2.8 lens. The settings were 19mm at F11, 160th sec and ISO 100.

Alan Walker

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

On the Shelf Jo Knight of Keswick PS

Winner of Grier Trophy for Best Creative Colour print - *and* - Weir Trophy for Best Colour Print



This photograph came into existence following several conversations whereby I was asked why I was in my 50s and still single. I was often looked at with pity like I had terminal cancer, or asked “what’s wrong wid yer?” The implication was that I was most definitely On The Shelf!

This is a composite image made from a shelf which hung in my hall at home, 3 texture photograph for the background and me photographed in the spare bedroom wearing a wedding dress I bought off eBay for £40. It was the second of my images to be accepted in the Masters of Print.

Camera: Olympus EM1 MKII, F/5.6, ISO 200.

Jo Knight

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Jane Black Trophy for Best Beginners PDI

Scott Sheep - Carol Crook of Stokesley PS



I live on a farm in the North Yorkshire Moors where we keep Scottish Blackface Sheep. This is a composite image combining the tup, ewe and lamb. They were all taken individually with my Canon R7 camera and then combined in photoshop.



I added layers made with brushes, sampling the colours from the original photos to make the background compliment the sheep.

Carol Crook

Annuals Competition—Winning Entries

Didn't she do well.

Outstanding work from Jo Knight (Keswick PS) was evident with her collection of awards presented for her fantastic work in both print and projected digital images.



A candid image showing Jo with her pile of memento's and certificates threatening to topple - very well done Jo.

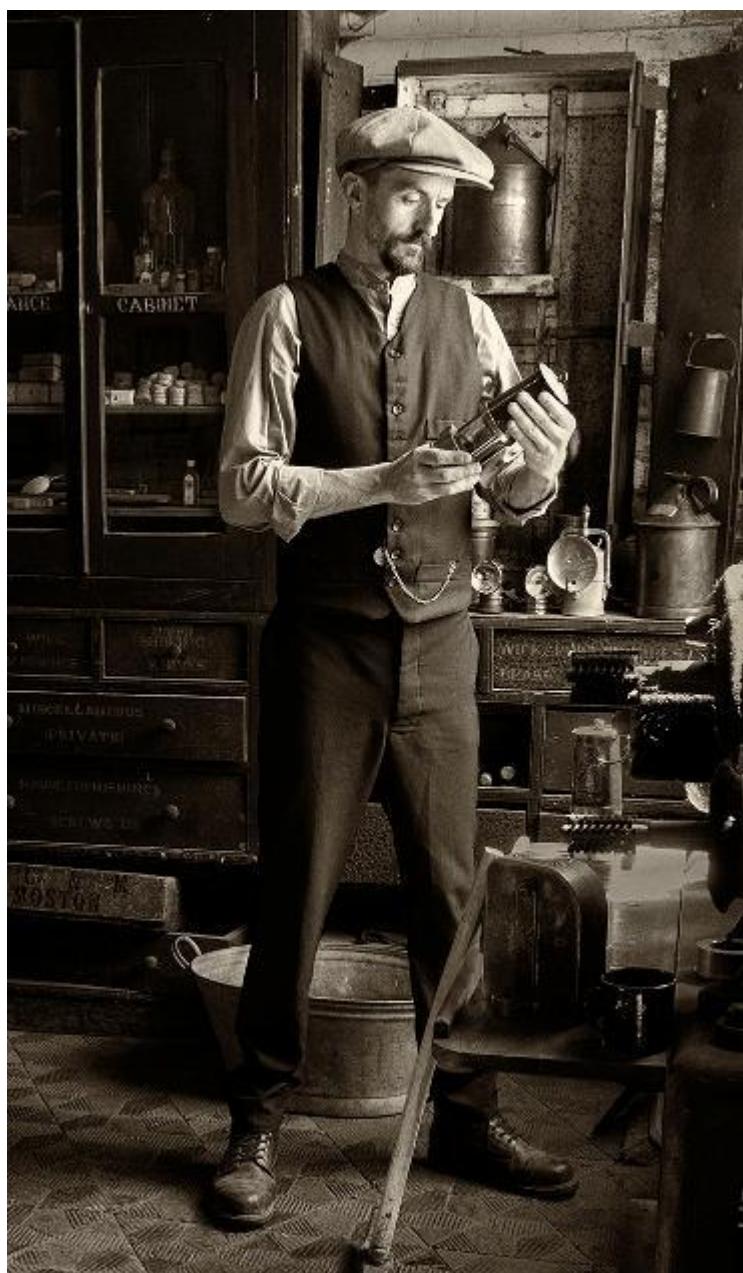
Beamish Trophy

NCPF via the Competitions sub-committee took over running of the Beamish Competition which Joseph Duffy had successfully run for a dozen years.

The competition is run on an annual rolling basis, this next years dates being any photograph taken at Beamish between 31 August 2025 and 30 August 2026. Open to any NCPF club member work is e-mailed by entrants to Competitions Chairman and forwarded to an NCPF judge for decisions regards 3,2,1 places and Highly Commended's.

- **This years Highly Commended's**

Designated smoking area by John Smith of Gateshead CC
Beamish Three Stooges by John Dinsdale of Hartlepool CC
Beamish Cog by Owen Tudor of Hartlepool CC
The Miner by Steve Smith of Stockton CC



Rob Butler of Whickham PC was this seasons judge, I asked him to kindly make comment regards his 3,2,1 as to why each appealed.

3rd Placed: **Lamp Inspection** by Susan Dawson of Morpeth CC

Rob advises:

Presented as a black and white image helps transport us back in time adding to the story being presented.

I liked the tight crop of the room and the good control of the depth of field which kept everything in focus allowing the viewer to explore the scene.

I particularly liked the way the window light lit up the subjects torso as well as the face. The costume was spot on period and I even enjoyed the subjects dusty shoes.

This image came across as a candid shot rather than posed judging by the concentration on his face.

All in all this image summed up Beamish exceptionally well.

Beamish Trophy

2nd Place: **Inspecting the Lamps** by Nicola Robley of Penrith DCC

Comment from Rob Butler

Presented in colour, this image makes good use of that glorious window flooding the room with a beautiful light that shows off the muted colour palette of yesteryear.

This is a wide shot that gives us the opportunity to appreciate the textures on the surfaces particularly the bricks. There is lots to explore within the wider image and the vignette surrounding the main subject helps the viewer stay focussed on our main man inspecting the lamp.

He is wearing clothes that were a little ill fitting for him possibly true to the era that add to the story and that endearing smile helps further to set the scene while he goes about his tasks.



Beamish Trophy

1st Place: **Spit and Polish** by Gary Jenkins of Whitley Bay PS



Rob Comments

For me this image absolutely epitomises Beamish, you can almost smell the grease and smoke as the engine is attended to.



There are fantastic textures throughout and the colours of the wood really pop from this picture. I particularly liked the rusty doors with years of patina built up on them framed by bricks in a style no longer used.

The detail in this image is incredible, take time to see all those rivets that construct the metal work and note that the colours are realistic and not over saturated.

I liked the opportunity to just be able to see within the engine shed, helping to further build the story of this winning image.

(L) Gary Jenkins receives the Beamish Trophy at Clara Vale Presentation Day

Members Awards and Distinctions



PSA DISTINCTIONS

Nil Noted

FIAP DISTINCTIONS and AWARDS

Nil Noted

PAGB DISTINCTIONS and AWARD

John Tillotson Penrith and District CC - CPAGB/AV
Les Ayres Penrith and District CC - CPAGB/AV
Margaret Welsh Blyth PS awarded - APAGB
Peter Yearnshire Blyth PS awarded - APAGB



NCPF DISTINCTIONS and AWARDS

Richard Speirs awarded Honorary Life Vice President of the NCPF
Jim Welsh awarded Honorary Life Vice President of the NCPF



RPS DISTINCTIONS and AWARDS

Linda McGregor of Tynemouth PS - LRPS

Should you or a club member be given a photographic award, distinction or qualification please (which I am sure are many more than listed).

- 1/ Shout it from the rooftops.
- 2/ Let us know, so we can join the celebrations and advertise to all.

Members Awards and Distinctions cont.

Honorary Life Vice President

It is incredibly rare that 3 highly competent, highly thought of and high achieving NCPF Members can be brought to a sudden stop totally lost for words.

This has occurred recently though following issue and presentation of the Highest Award the Federation can bestow **Honorary Life Vice President**. When, at the right time, and the right place in total secrecy from each individual, over the past 3 years, the awards were presented separately to:

Dave Coates, Richard Spiers and Jim Welsh, each equally shocked, stunned and speechless with the enormity of the award while visibly proud and totally humble.

To delve more into the award I have requested Dave, Richard and Jim create an autobiographical write up detailing highlights of their lives and photographic endeavours. It will likely feel strange to them, documenting and celebrating achievements having probably viewed their own photography input along the lines of just doing what was necessary. However, each input and influence in our photographic world had grown so much that Life Vice President awards were a natural progression. These autobiographies we shall see in Northern Focus over the next 3 x editions and promise to be fantastically good reads.



1 / Dave Coates 2 / Richard Spiers

3/ Jim Welsh

This is the highest award that the Federation can bestow and should be awarded for exceptional service to the NCPF. The award will rarely be made. The candidates exceptional service must include 40 years club membership with a minimum of 20 years service to the Federation in at least 3 Officer roles. Holders of the office will be limited to 3 at any one time. For full description regards this and other awards see web: <https://ncpf.org.uk>

Masters of Print

NB: Precis of Introduction taken from 8th Master of Prints Catalogue

“The Masters of Print exhibition, now in its eighth year, was built from scratch to show just how good amateur photography can be and it is a joy to be able, once again, to hang the exhibition in St Martin in the Bull Ring in Birmingham, and later in several UK venues.

The emphasis is on new, largely unseen work, created with skill and passion and club members have responded enthusiastically, sending their very best photographs for consideration. Only one print can be accepted from each entrant and there is an emphasis on variety of subject, genre and technique.

Many great photographs and many excellent photographers have been unfortunate not to make the cut. Just 60 prints by 60 different amateur photographers are displayed and I am certain that everyone will find one that they cannot forget!”

NCPF had 4 x members work accepted with “The Hand” by Peter Stevens of Tynemouth Photographic Society being awarded PAGB Silver Medal presented here by Rod Whelans. Images overleaf show prints as hung at The Bullring in Birmingham at start of their UK tour.



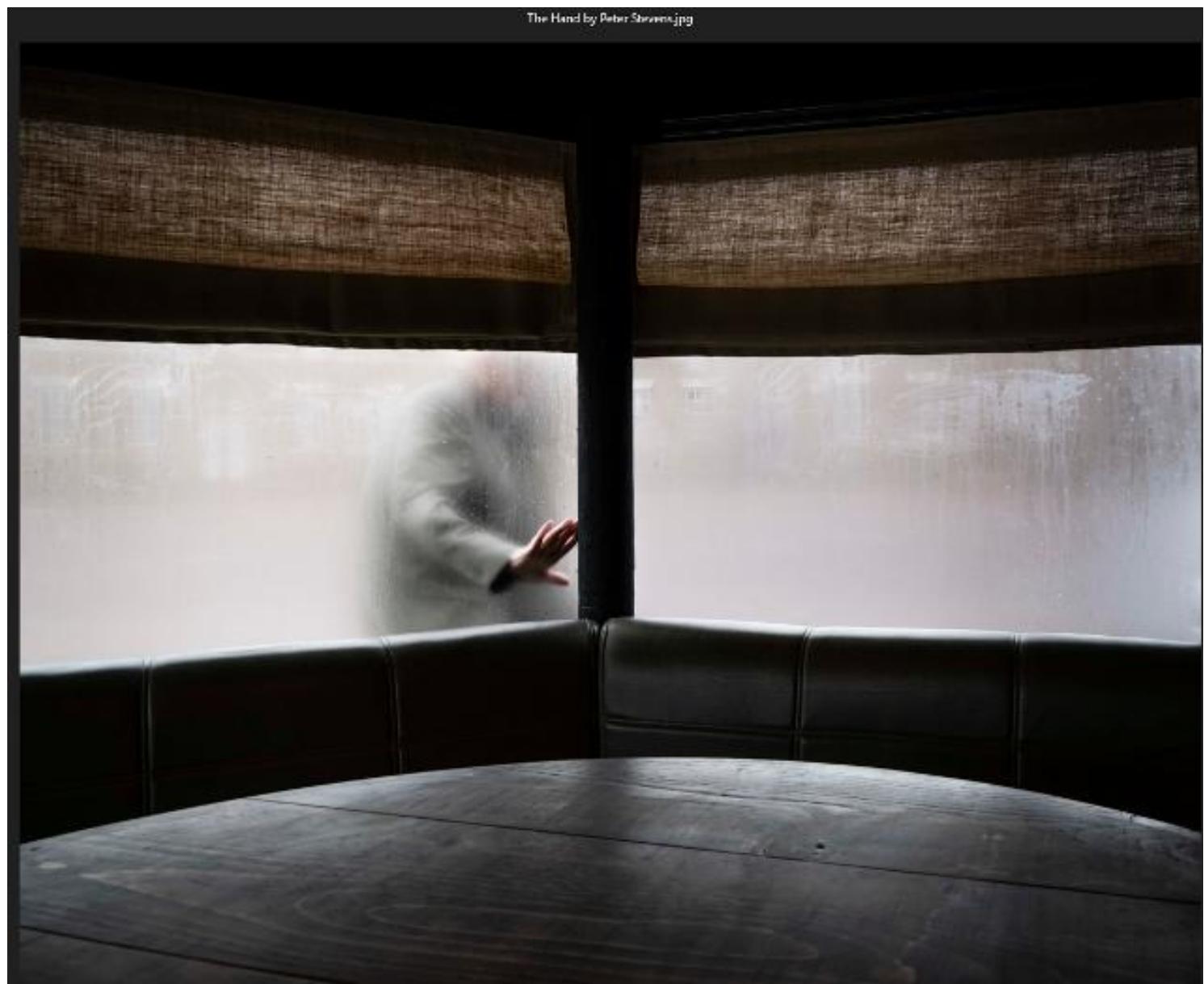
Masters of Print



Peter Stevens

The Hand by Peter Stevens was awarded Photographic Alliance of Great Britain Silver Medal.

More details on next page.



Masters of Print



"The Hand" by Peter Stevens who advises

I was very pleased to get an acceptance into the MoP, and the medal was a welcome and unexpected bonus.

"This image was taken on a wet and squally morning in Tyne-mouth. It was not really the conditions for photography except that I needed some images for a club set subject 'In the Wet'.

Peter Stevens

There is a cafe situated on a street corner, with large windows set at an angle to each other. I was initially attracted by the condensation on the windows. I bought myself a coffee, positioned myself in the window and knew I was in a good position.

I composed the elements of the image, the table, windows, curtains, and then just waited. I could do no more. I had imagined a blurry figure or figures, preferably with umbrella, shielding themselves from the rain. I took a number of shots which were all ok, some better than others, but when I saw the old man come into view and when he put his hand on the window it felt special.

Technically it was a straight forward image. The lighting was soft with no extreme high lights or dark shadows, there was a little bit of cloning on the windows and the usual tonal adjustments.

Nikon Z7ii, Nikkor 24-200 @24mm. 1/60sec, f6.7 ISO 400."



"American Red Fox with Mouse"

by Julie Walker of Keswick PS.

" My image of the American Red Fox was taken in Montana in February 2024.

I was in the US at the time to photograph a selection of native American wildlife, as I am a keen wildlife photographer.

The image was taken on my Canon R5 Mark I mirrorless camera with a Canon RF 100-500 mm lens. This is a combination that I have been using for several years. I have been very impressed with the quality of this equipment and when I am travelling the lighter weight relative to larger cameras and lenses is a particular advantage.

The main technical difficulty, both in taking this image and then processing it, was to ensure that I accurately recorded the snow both in terms of colour and detail. I used Lightroom, Photoshop and Nik Colour Efex Pro to process the image. I also used a fast shutter speed of 1/2000th second to ensure any movement of the fox was frozen and thus to produce a sharp image. The main practical difficulty was getting low enough to achieve an intimate portrait of the fox, or more accurately me getting back up again!

Masters of Print

Masters of Print competition - NCPF Success



“American Red Fox with Mouse”

by Julie Walker of Keswick PS

This was the second time I had entered the Masters of Print, the first time without success, so I was delighted that this was accepted.

(Continues from previous page)



Masters of Print

Masters of Print competition - NCPF Success



The Weave print by Gerald Chamberlin of Dalston Photographic Society.

Gerald advised:

My MoP image is a composite image all the element taken on a visit to the Queens Mill, Burnley.

For those how will get to see the print it is printed on Fotospeed Art Fibre 300 paper.

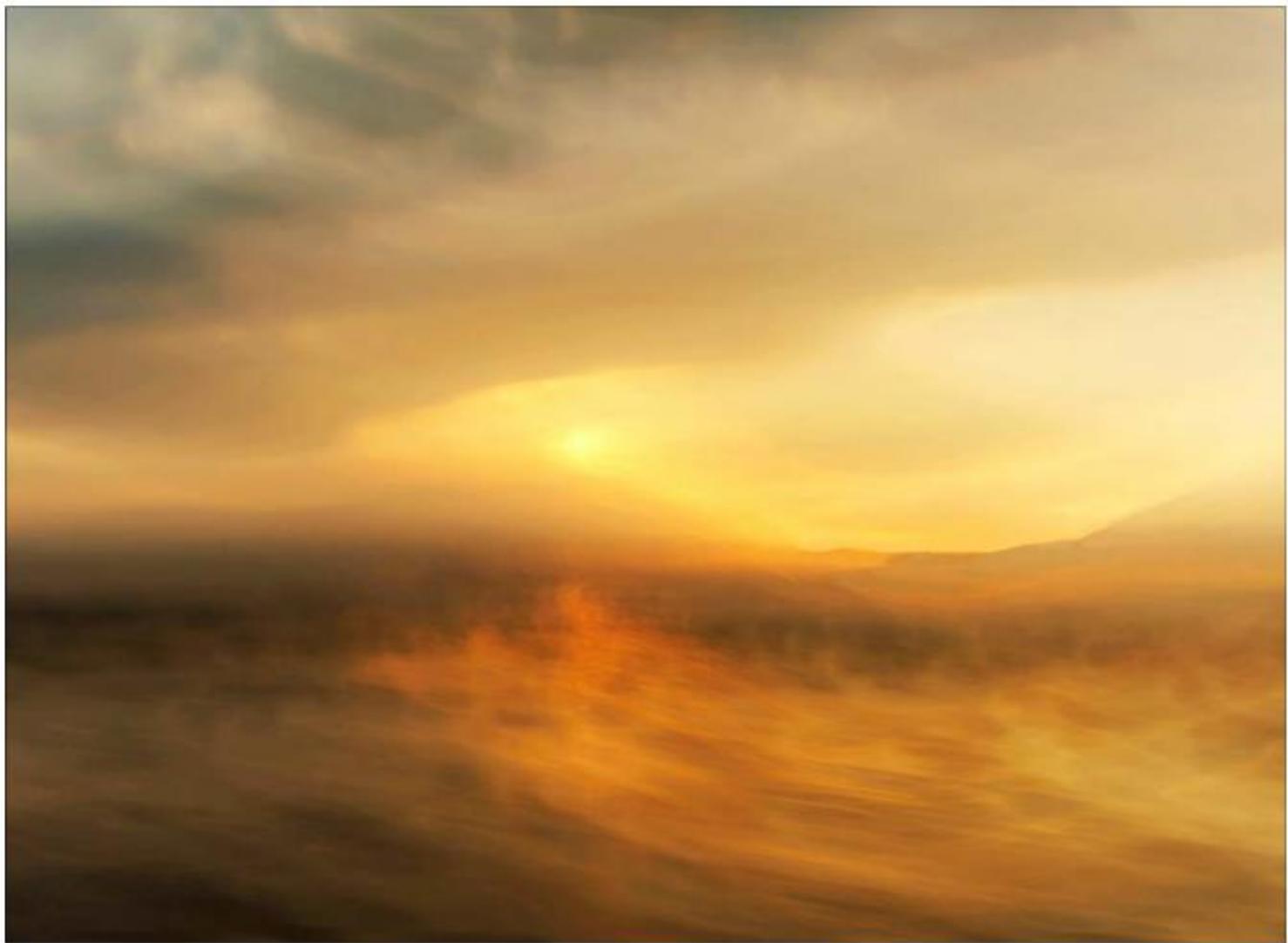


Masters of Print

Masters of Print competition - NCPF success



Keith Snell of Keswick Photographic Society with his print "Turneresque"



Masters of Print



Keith Snell EFIAP, MPSA, LRPS, BPE1 of Keswick Photographic Society with his print "Turneresque"

It was a thrill to find that my print of 'Turneresque Sunset' was accepted into the 2024 Masters of Print Exhibition, the second success I have had in this particular print competition. I attended the opening of the Exhibition in St Martin's Church in the Birmingham Bullring and the icing on the cake was that PermaJet, one of the commercial sponsors, chose my print for their award. I was happy to share the very generous voucher for PermaJet paper with other members of Keswick Photographic Society.

But what about the print itself, how did the photograph come about?

There are two aspects that I find particularly gratifying. One is that the photograph was taken very locally to my home, just a 15 minute drive to Dubmill Point on the Solway Coast. Facing due west the Solway Coast is justifiably renowned for gorgeous sunsets – when it is not raining of course! My second delight was that it was recognition for ICM (Intentional Camera Movement) photography, an approach which is only slowly gathering acceptance in competitions.

So, on a balmy August evening last year – I lie of course, it was just as cold as any summer evening in the Lake District – I arrived at the coast shortly before 7 pm. I was intent on experimentation with creative techniques, both multiple exposures and ICM. My lens was the Canon EF 24-105mm medium zoom fitted to my mirrorless Canon R3 with an adapter. The scene was over the Solway Coast towards Criffel on the Scottish side, which is where the sun sets at that time of the year. In the print Criffel is just visible on the extreme right of the image.

I had some success with multiple exposure shots, combining two or three exposures, often with changing the white balance colour temperature of the separate exposures. The resulting expressionist colours were somewhat extreme but still carried the flavour of a sunset. I was less happy with my ICM attempts; I was losing too much detail in the waves on the sea, although the sunset colours were stunning.

It was now 7.40 pm and the light was fading dramatically as the sun crept closer to the horizon. However, that turned out to be a godsend. I was now getting two seconds or more exposure time with the camera set to ISO 50 and an aperture of f/9. I decided to exploit the longer shutter speed by holding the camera steady for part of the exposure time and then moving the camera for the remainder of the time, all hand-held.

The static phase ensured that some realistic detail of the scene was retained. For the ICM phase, a simple horizontal movement did not cut it, the movement had to be one of following the direction of the breaking waves in order to retain more detail in the sea. I experimented by varying the times of the static phase and the ICM phase. The print was the photograph taken with my last attempt when the static phase was one second and the ICM phase was 1.5 seconds with the zoom lens set to 24mm focal length. Thereafter the sun rapidly disappeared. To make the print I used Pinnacle lightly-textured Fine Art 275 paper.

I did not reveal this to the PermaJet representative who awarded my prize at the Masters of Print Exhibition!



Clubs in Focus

Gateshead Camera Club

at Bowes Railway Museum

Gateshead Camera Club certainly keep themselves busy, here advising of their new relationship with Bowes Railway Museum and later updating us with their work displaying at and helping brighten up Gateshead's Queen Elizabeth Hospital and charity shop benefiting St Oswalds Hospice

Gateshead Camera Club at Bowes Railway Museum

During our summer break Gateshead Camera Club (GCC) members were invited to take part in a project at Bowes Railway Museum. The aim of the project was to produce images that GCC could display at the museum in order to attract new members and raise the profile of both organisations.

Following a great day of photography on 5 June, 10 GCC members each submitted 3 images. From those images, 1 from each member was put forward for Bowes volunteers to choose a winner.

Bowes volunteer Martin Blyth created a stunning trophy for the competition winner.

We celebrated on 19 August with tea and cake at a ceremony hosted by Bowes to launch our gallery and announce the competition winner.

Huge congratulations to GCC member Bob Stokell for winning the inaugural Bowes Trophy presented by Barry Hall. A massive well done to everyone who took part in this project.

As a thank you, we presented the trophy creator Martin with a framed image of himself in the workshop.

Thank you so much to all the members of Bowes Railway Museum for working on this project with us by, providing guided tours and being incredibly

hospitable. It's been a huge success, resulting in a partnership benefiting both organisations. We're really looking forward to next year's Bowes Trophy competition.

You can find more information about Bowes Railway Museum, opening hours, history, tours etc. at; <https://bowesrailway.uk/>



Gateshead Camera Club at Bowes cont.



(Top) Winning Bowes Image



(L) Gallery of members images



Clubs in Focus

Gateshead Camera Club at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead

Gateshead Camera Club Forms a Fantastic Partnership with The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Gateshead

Gateshead Camera Club is delighted to be working in collaboration with The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Gateshead, brightening up wards and areas of the hospital, much to the enjoyment of staff, patients and visitors.

Last year, hospital staff selected the theme of flowers for images to be displayed in the entrance to a new 'Garden of Hope' to be used predominantly by patients suffering from Dementia, those who may have suffered a Stroke, and also to be enjoyed by their families. Gateshead Camera Club images now adorn the walls, and are enjoyed by all. Gateshead Camera Club Members Margaret Annable and Victoria Najafi attended the formal opening on 12.09.24, opened by the Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, Lucy Winskell OBE.

Hospital staff then selected the theme of The North-umberland Coast for the Ambulatory Heart Unit, and once again Gateshead Camera Club members ensured that images were provided, and again enjoyed by all.

Images based on a subject of choice also feature on the wings of two Angel of the North exhibition stands in the hospital refreshment foyer.

Gateshead Camera Club Vice-President Victoria Najafi and President Ashlee Kennedy, have been hard at work to ensure further areas of the hospital are also brightened up, working in collaboration with lead hospital ward staff. Hospital staff have selected the themes of Gateshead and North East Landmarks for waiting rooms on Wards 12, 14 and Critical Care, and these are in the process of being exhibited.

A new Colposcopy Ward has been built at the hospital, and Gateshead Camera Club members are delighted to be exhibiting images in such a large and

new space, based on the theme of Local Landmarks and in particular of the North East Coast. Victoria and Ashlee are looking forward to the formal opening in January 2026.

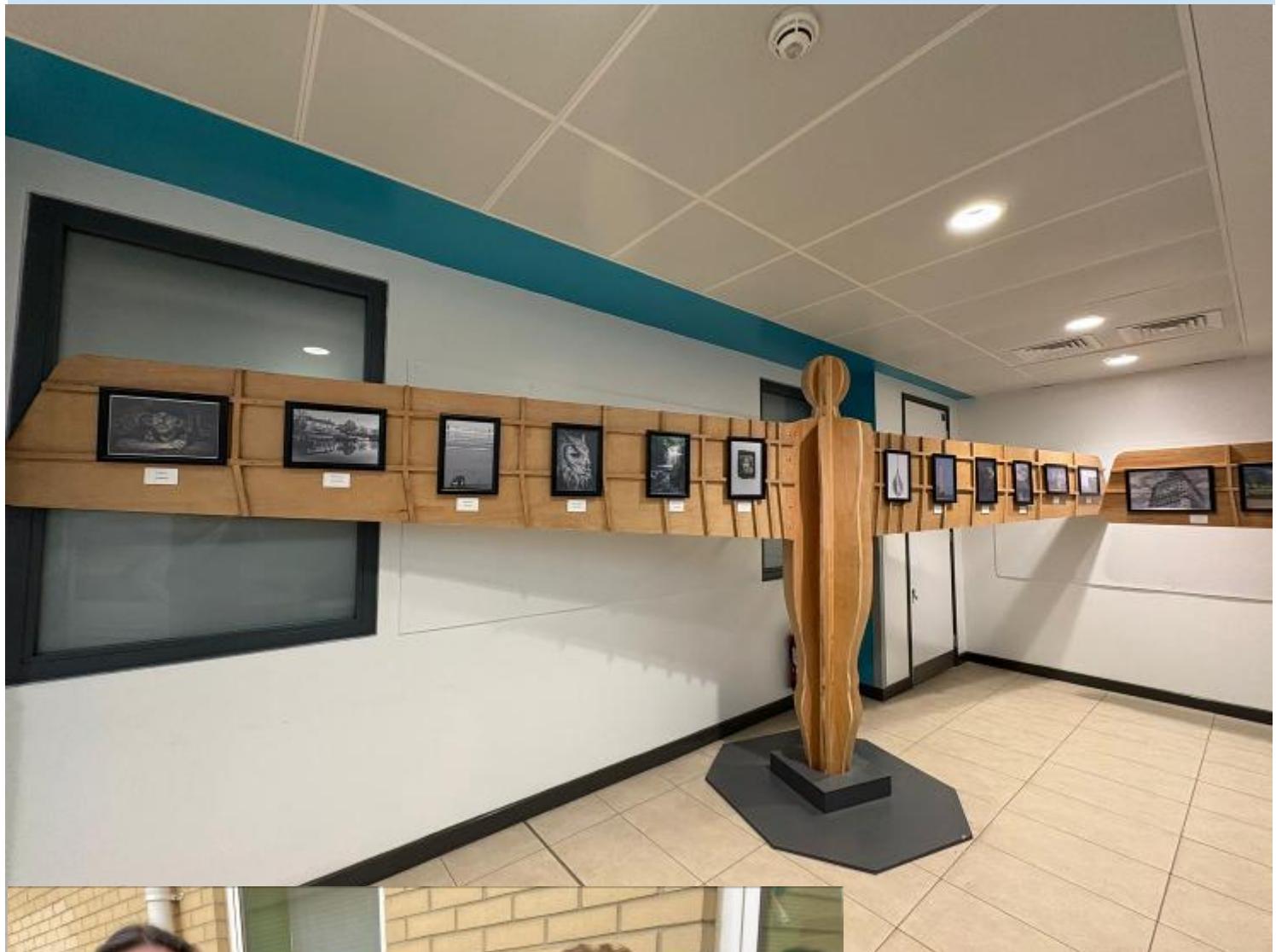
Watch this space as our fantastic collaboration continues! Victoria Najafi

Vice-President Gateshead Camera Club



Lucy Winskell OBE cuts ribbon to "Garden of Hope"

Gateshead Camera Club at QE Continued



(Top) One of the two “Angel of the North” exhibition stands in the hospital refreshment foyer. Members images of choice are change regularly changed out.

(L) Victoria and Margaret with Lucy Winskell.



Clubs in Focus

Gateshead Camera Club Supports St Oswald's Hospice

Victoria Najafi and Brian Denham from Gateshead Camera Club

A big thank you goes to photographers Victoria Najafi and Brian Denham from [Gateshead Camera Club](#), who helped capture the excitement of opening day.

Victoria has won our calendar competition two years in a row, with her images featured in both our 2025 and 2026 calendars – it was a pleasure to have her and Brian in the new shop.

You can view their brilliant images below.



Gateshead Camera Club Members Victoria Najafi (Vice-President) and Brian Denham (Technical Officer), were delighted to be invited to photograph the opening of the new St Oswald's Hospice shop in Gateshead on 21st November 2020.

Victoria won a place in St Oswald's Calendar last year, and this year was delighted to receive two places with winning images, as well as members Margaret Annable (Secretary) and Ashlee Kennedy (President).

The shop was formally opened by MP for Central Gateshead and Whickham Mark Ferguson, and the ribbon was cut by 26 year old Nick Cornwell, who lives with Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy. Nick has been having regular short breaks at the Children and Young Adults Service since 2019.

The shop raised an incredible £3516.20 on its opening day, a record for St Oswald's charity shops.

To find out more about the day and a thank you from St Oswald's Hospice to Gateshead Camera Club, read more at:

<https://www.stoswaldsuk.org/our-new-concept-charity-shop-in-gateshead-is-open/>

Many thanks to St Oswald's Hospice Communications and Marketing officer Eilish Malliagh for the fantastic opportunity, Gateshead Camera Club look forward to supporting future events.

Victoria Najafi



Victoria and MP Mark Ferguson with winning image and St Oswald's shop staff.





Clubs in Focus

Ryton and District Camera Club

75th Anniversary Exhibition by Mick Warwicker

Edition 96 of Northern Focus provided an article of interest regards Ryton and District Camera Clubs forthcoming 75th Anniversary written by member Mick Warwicker.

Continuing their celebrations Ryton held a Birthday Exhibition, Mick advises the happy event.

Camera' Club's anniversary exhibition

Ryton and District Camera Club celebrated its 75th anniversary on Tuesday, 16 September, with an exhibition of members' work showing how photography has changed over the years.

Past and present members of the club attended Ryton Community Centre, with invited guests including the Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Freda Geddes and the President of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation (NCPF), Gerald Chamberlin.

The exhibition charted the development of photography over several decades from film to digital and mobile phone, and black and white to colour. Some of the most recent images on display were taken

with mirrorless cameras and manipulated with powerful computer software

Club Chairman Martin Sedgwick welcomed the special guests, who viewed the photographs, chatted to club members and enjoyed a slice of the club's birthday cake, prepared especially for the occasion.

Councillor Geddes presented the club's annual awards to members Fiona Haughton (Photographer of the Season and best digital image), Reg Ord (best printed Image) and Linda Snaith (club members' favourite photographer).

Councillor Geddes said: 'Taking a good photograph is like telling a story in a moment caught in time and the viewer having an emotional response. This takes focus, knowledge, dedication artistry and skills. This club has an abundance of all of these.'

Gerald Chamberlain praised club members for doing 'a tremendous amount of work' developing new ways of recruiting new members and encouraging them in photography.

'I enjoy coming here, there's just a feeling about this club, it's very pro-active, always moving forward, always looking for new ideas,' he said.

Ryton and District Camera Club was formed in September 1950 when long-running photography evening classes at a local school came to an end and participants decided to continue meeting at Ryton Community Centre.

The club has met ever since at the same venue, providing members with opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills through competitions, presentations, group outings and other activities.



Ryton and District 75th CC Exhibition cont.

The club became affiliated to the Northern Counties Photographic Federation in 1952 and grew in stature.

By the end of the decade, its honorary president was the local industrialist and former High Sheriff of Durham, Sir Basil Simpson Bt OBE.

For more than 70 years, the club has participated in regional photography competitions with other members of the NCPF and sometimes national competitions run by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

From the early days, outings have been part of the club's itinerary, with trips to beauty spots such as the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District always popular. For the more adventurous, club members have organised visits to Thailand, India, Iceland, Venice and on safari in Kenya.

Club chairman Martin Sedgwick said: 'The club has a long and proud history and it was great to see some of the best photographs from the 1950s onwards brought together for the exhibition. I'm very pleased that our special guests were able to share the occasion with us.'



Pictured at the camera club's anniversary exhibition are President of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation, Gerald Chamberlain; Club Chairman Martin Sedgwick; award winner Fiona Haughton; Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Freda Geddes and award winners Reg Ord and Linda Snaith.

Clubs in Focus

Alnwick and District Camera Club

Alnwick Mayor's "Civic Awards" were presented to Richard and Jackie Stent who spearheaded Alnwick Camera Club's involvement in 'Alnwick Through The Lens', a major project with Alnwick Civic Society which provided a snapshot of the town as it was in 2024 and will be kept by Northumberland Archives as a permanent record for future generations to access.

Over 600 images were the basis for exhibitions at Alnwick Playhouse and Bailiffgate Museum.

Jackie Stent



Well done to Richard and Jackie Stent, here being presented with Alnwick Mayor's "Civic Awards" by Mayor Geoff Watson

The Awards recognize individuals, teams, or groups who have made significant contributions to the community through charity work, community service or voluntary activities.



Clubs in Focus

Whitley Bay Photographic Society

“Back from the Brink”

Gary Jenkins of Whitley Bay Photographic Society kindly shared his thoughts and methodology on how club members brought the club “Back from the Brink” advising:

My club, Whitley Bay Photographic Society, suffered a very steep decline in members following Covid.

For the past 2 years, a great deal of hard work has gone into reversing this decline.

Much of this has involved using social media and digital advertising. I am happy to report that this has paid off.

We have now managed to more than double our membership and the club is thriving.

I am aware that some other clubs in the area are struggling to recruit members.

This article (*First issued Jan 2025*) explains how we turned things around, and I hope it may be of interest to other clubs.

Back from the Brink

Whitley Bay Photographic Society was established in 1951. For many years our club enjoyed a healthy membership.

Like most photographic societies, our membership steeply declined following Covid. By the end of the pandemic, we were down to around 20 members. At times, our levels of attendance were poor. Sadly, during one of our meetings only 6 members turned up.

At a time when everyone was using mobiles to take images, photography should have been a popular pastime, but it wasn't. Our club should have been thriving, but it wasn't.

It was clear we needed drastic action to stop this decline and prevent our club from going under. To add to our problems, the landlord of our club rooms decided that they wanted to redevelop the site.

Things, at the time, were not looking good. We were struggling with numbers and now were potentially homeless.

The move from our home of 70 years, turned out to be one of the best things that could have happened to us.

Our club rooms in Monkseaton were small, dark and dingy. They were not very inviting or comfortable. It was easy to see how this could put off potential new members.

After much searching, in September 2023, we relocated to Earsdon & Wellfield Community Centre. A much more suitable and welcoming environment for members and visitors.

One advantage of our new home was that we were allowed to display members' prints on the walls of the room we use. The centre is used by several local community groups. This was a great free advertising opportunity.

To attract new members, we decided to raise our profile in the local area. Up to this point, we had a website and a private Facebook group, otherwise we were not very visible at all.

We arranged an exhibition of members' prints at our local library, Whitley Bay. This exhibition takes place every summer and lasts for a month.

Cont. next page

Whitley Bay PS

Back from the brink cont.

The Whitley Bay Fiesta, a popular local community event, also provided a platform to exhibit members' work. It also gave us the opportunity to chat about photography, whether it be using cameras or mobile phones. Whilst these ventures did reach the public, we still needed to cast our net wider.

Today, digital media is a hugely important medium in advertising. We realised that we needed to tap into it. An Instagram account was created along with a public Facebook page. These were used to advertise our club and our activities.

A public Facebook group, in addition to the Facebook page, was also created. This was used to advertise the club, but members of the public were encouraged to post their own images. This has proved to be very popular and created an online community of almost 500 members. Each day we still attract numerous posts from group members both locally and around the world.

Our aim was to encourage people to join us with a range of abilities, from the very experienced to the total novice. To attract those new to photography, we decided we should reach out into our local community.

Each summer our club would normally meet once a month. To attract new members, we decided to meet twice a month. The second meeting would be a practical session, open to all and was free! These sessions were aimed at people who were new to photography and would teach them some of the basic skills.

The sessions were advertised on our social media channels and proved very popular. Many members of the public came along and several subsequently joined as members.

Getting people to join our society is one thing, but we needed them to stay and, perhaps more importantly, to actively participate.

Our club programme was carefully compiled to be as appealing as it could be to all members. Not always an easy job!

We created a Membership Secretary to look after the needs of all members, but particularly members new to our club.

As part of this role, the Membership Secretary began to produce a monthly newsletter. This is used to give information about club activities and to encourage members to participate in them. Members are also encouraged to contribute articles, recommendations and images. The introduction of the newsletter has had a huge impact on the increased level of member participation in events, trips and competitions.

A WhatsApp group was created. This was initially intended to assist in coordinating members meeting up on club outings. This has now developed into a forum for members to share information, tips, recommendations and even have informal discussions.

Because of the active participation of our members in the WhatsApp group and newsletter, our newer members have a real sense of belonging to a club that is certainly on the up.

Cont. next page

Whitley Bay PS

Back from the brink cont.

We created a public YouTube channel to encourage participation in competitions. A video of all placed or highly commended entries for every club competition is uploaded onto this site. As well being a vehicle to advertise the club, YouTube allows members, their families and friends, to enjoy seeing their winning entries “on the big screen.”

Our YouTube channel also contains some basic tutorial videos and information about our club to assist new members.

This is certainly paying dividends. Our last PDI competition saw the highest ever entry into the club (entry level) section and was even commented on by the judge. We have also introduced a mentor scheme where experienced members help less experienced photographers. As a result of these initiatives our membership has increased to almost 50 members.

We know that there are other potential members out there, it is just a matter of reaching out and showing them the benefits of being part of a thriving photographic society. Utilising digital media has been essential, but we also need to be creative in our approach and think outside the box.

We value all our members, regardless of experience and know that making them feel part of the club is helping to drive our club forward. Our philosophy is geared towards participation for all.

In the last 2 years we have seen our membership more than double, however we know we cannot rest on our laurels.

We continue to strive to improve our club, increase and retain membership with innovative ideas. We know that is a continuing challenge.

Is club photography dead? - Far from it!

Gary Jenkins

Whitley Bay Photographic Society



Headquarters & Club Room:
Earsdon and Wellfield Community Centre,
3 Church Way, Earsdon, NE25 9JY

Snippets of Information.

NCPF Club - Pen and Camera Club of Methodism - Closure

Unfortunately the Postal Only Club, Pen & Camera Club of Methodism, has informed our Honorary Secretary Margaret Welsh they have disbanded as of the end of August 2025 due to dwindling numbers and aging members.

They have been sent our best wishes for the future.



Gateshead Camera Clubs Victoria Najafi, is delighted to win a place in this year's Tyne Rivers Trust Competition, with her image featuring the Newcastle Gateshead Laser Light Show chosen for the Tyne Rivers Trust calendar.

October — **Catherine Ball** resigned from the **NCPF/PAGB Judges List** with immediate effect.

Catherine is thanked for her previous input and we wish her well.

Along with his winning image (P8) Malcolm Boyd of Castleside PC has had further sports photography success with his image "Squat Clean" winning first place in November 2025 Digital Camera Magazine. The magazine wrote: "In Digital Camera (Sept 2025), we challenged you to an image that best encompassed the theme of "Sports". There were some cracking entries making it near impossible to at top three, but congratulations go to Malcolm Boyd for "Squat Clean" which was taken at the British Championships.



Malcolm says "The lifter showed great strength and gymnastic ability in performing the clean part of a clean and jerk".

The timing, spray and expression were perfect and ideal for a mono conversion.

Obituary

THOMAS COOK BA (HONS) HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT WHICKHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Tom Passed away peacefully in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead on 10th January 2025 aged 95, he was Whickham Photographic Club's longest standing active member, holding a number of positions within the club's 51+ years since inauguration.

In 2018 he was awarded Honorary Vice-President for life for services to the club.

Known for his humour and terrific story telling, along with excellent photography, he would happily recount his photographic journey with memories of post war industrial work in Anzio (where the brother of the young lady of the house stood by with shotgun while Tom took her picture), images of Diana Doors and a meeting with Liz Taylor.

Tom was very kind to the club over the years, gifting donations and purchasing kit from auction nights and donated equipment. Always happy to mentor and support others, his photography including Nature, Landscape and People was to the highest standard, often with a unique twist with a nod to his engineering background.

An enormously popular and amusing gentleman and a highly talented photographer, sadly missed by all who knew him.



Obituary

ROY ELWOOD FRPS, MPAGB, APAGB, EFIAP
LIFE PRESIDENT WHICKHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB
1ST APRIL 1925 – 6TH JUNE 2025, AGED 100

We were saddened to say goodbye to a giant of a man both in the world of North East Photography and in life. At 6ft 4" in his socks Roy was a major figure while remaining an absolute gentleman. Roy passed away in Queen Elizabeth hospital Gateshead shortly after being admitted with a chest infection.

Born in Manchester he was introduced to printing as a child by his father, a photographer to his group recording Sunday School and Band of Hope outings. Purchased from Woolworths (for about 4p) Roy's first camera was a V.P. Twin, although he advised "I do not remember the snaps being much good, and none have survived".



During World War 2 he joined the Royal Navy at age 18 training as a Radar Operator and was drafted to HMS *Zambesi* a newly commissioned destroyer on the River Mersey. After a period of working up with ships of the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow, *Zambesi* joined the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla, Home Fleet for screening duty and patrol on the North Western Approaches, including operations against the Tirpitz. *Zambesi* escorted a number of Arctic Convoys and other operations in the North Sea and off the coast of Scandinavia. As the war reached its end she was deployed with the Home Fleet to support operations to re-occupy countries previously under German occupation, including guardship duties. Two actions that lived forever with Roy was recovery of survivors from the Norwegian Island of Soroya and SS Henry Bacon sunk by Luftwaffe planes after surviving force 12 storms while returning from a Murmansk run.

Roy has been recorded for posterity by numerous historical societies about his time on the *Zambesi* and the ships exploits. Medals awarded by UK, Norwegian and Russian authorities were worn with pride while leading the Whickham remembrance Day Celebrations marching at the head of the parade and laying a wreath on behalf of the Whickham Historical Society and latterly Whickham Photographic Club.

Roy's serious photography dates from the late 1940s when he used a folding Zeiss Ikon roll film camera acquired by trading cigarettes (the hard currency of the time) with a German family in Wilhelmshaven, shortly after the war ended while *Zambesi* was guard ship.

ROY ELWOOD FRPS, MPAGB, APAGB, EFIAP
LIFE PRESIDENT WHICKHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB
1ST APRIL 1925 – 6TH JUNE 2025, AGED 100

Touring Europe on a motorcycle and raising children onboard the sailing barge 'Windhaver' all seemed to be matter of fact to Roy, who could turn his hand to manufacturing especially with wood, creating much of WPC's print display equipment.



He had no experience of clubs when he came to Newcastle in 1972, but in the mid-seventies joined Tynemouth P.S. and after moving to Gibside he joined Whickham C.C. (now Whickham P.C.) in 1985. He has worked on both committees, held many posts and been President of both Clubs. Whickham honoured him with a Life Presidency. Roy was a committed monochrome photographer and much of his work is people based. He has had work published in books and magazines and for some years was a feature writer for Mono Magazine. His mono prints have been accepted in over forty countries around the world, many gaining awards. He has held seven solo exhibitions and more than twice as many shared ones, the latter mainly as a member of the Imprint Group. His work was exhibited recently at St Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle and as part of a 100th birthday celebration by his club at Whickham Community Centre where he was a Trustee. He was also a regular contributor to Northern Focus.

A panel of twenty nude studies, each showing a part of a man and part of a woman gained him Fellowship of the RPS (Royal Photographic Society), and gave expression to three enduring loves, natural light, human form and monochrome.

He particularly enjoyed showing his work to groups at club meetings, days of photography and photographic weekends offering social interaction and long-term friendships. Active to the last he was guest of honour onboard historic Norwegian vessel SS Hestmanden berthed in Newcastle for Victory in



Europe celebrations where he was interviewed by local TV and newspaper reporters as a Royal Navy veteran and well-known photographer only 2 days prior to passing.



ROY ELWOOD FRPS, MPAGB, APAGB, EFIAP
LIFE PRESIDENT WHICKHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB
1ST APRIL 1925 – 6TH JUNE 2025, AGED 100

'The Photographer poem by David Stuart', Roy's brother in law and read out at the funeral

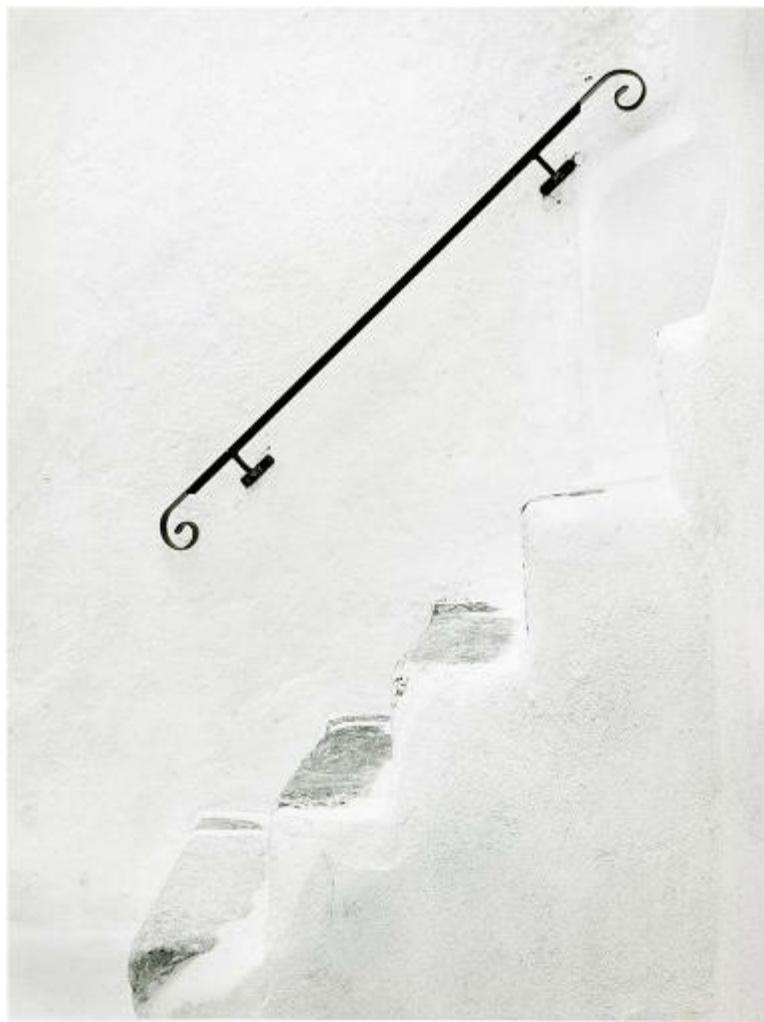
"He's always had a sailors eye for the way the waves curl, the heavy profile of the clouds, the lift of the Dutch bother's prow, anticipating what weather is to come.

Yet when his finger commands the shutter to fall, it is never a frozen action, time before and time after are incorporated into a dynamic narrative.

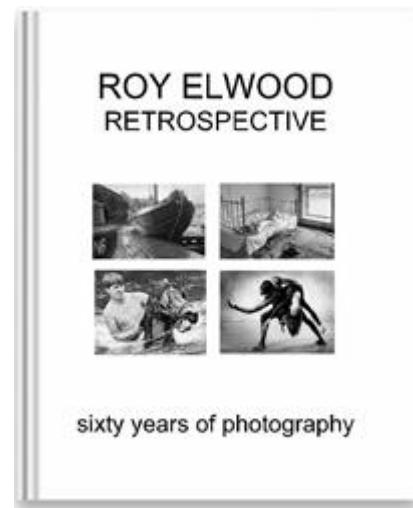
We watch as dancers weave a spell or the white water of an Icelandic Foss sparkles incandescent, a dripping horse emerges like a dragon from a stream, Lindisfarne today and as it was

one hundred and fifty years ago. A column of Hebridean sheep follow the same old groove in the snow, and a single lock of hair nestles like a whisper into a girls neck.

So he invites us to contemplate stories that we thought no single exposure could encompass. Past, present, future are all revealed, connected and embraced".



The Handrail



Obituary

CLIFF BANKS, APAGB, LRPS, AFIAP, PSA 2*, BPE3

1938 - 2025

Cliff joined Sunderland Photographic Society in the 1990s following the demise of his previous club Seaham Camera Club.

Seaham was well known for what was then called unconventional photography and Cliff's photography reflected this. He often used infra-red and was an early convert to digital.

He was quick to share his new found knowledge and give a number of talks on digital editing. As can be seen from his distinctions he was successful in international competitions mainly with work which was quite different to what he used in local competitions.

Although well known for his talks on his own photography he also give talks on his collection of photos of Victorian/Edwardian Sunderland and was very knowledgeable on the city's local history.

Cliff's son lived in America with his family and Cliff regularly visited them. As a result he had a fine collection of photos of Yellowstone park and such like places long before they became flavour of the month.

For many years Cliff served as a committee member at Sunderland and at various times was president, syllabus secretary and treasurer. He was responsible for the Associations entries into the PSA Club Competition. He was also on the NCPF committee and served as its president 2014 -2016.

In addition, he was on the Northern Counties International Salon sub-committee and his strength of character contributed to the Salon's success. He had to give up this role when he could no longer cope with the stairs at its venue.

Cliff received a well-deserved APAGB in 2019 at a club meeting. By then his arthritis was limiting his mobility and when the Association re-opened after the Covid lock downs he was unable to return. He will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.

Joe Finlay



NCPF-Club Championship



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Invitation for Your Club to enter the NCPF Club Championship 2026

Sunday 22ndth February 2026

Spectators Welcome

Venue: - [Clara Vale Village Hall](#), South View, Clara Vale, Ryton, NE40 3SY

Doors Open 11.00am Tea & Biscuits Provided

Print Entries to be Received by 12.00 noon.

President Opens Proceedings 12.30pm

Competitions Commence 12.45pm

Closing Date for Entries: Midnight Sunday 08th February 2026

The Annual Club Championship is one of the major competitions organised by the Northern Counties Photographic Federation for its member clubs.

Entry is **FREE to this CLUB Competition** which takes place “live” in front of an audience providing a great opportunity to see the best work available in our Federation in a friendly (but competitive) setting, while socialising with fellow Federation club photographers.

There are two separate competitions within these NCPF Club Championships: Prints and PDIs. Each club can enter twenty photographs to each/either competition, which are assessed by three judges with totals scored. The **1st and 2nd** placed clubs in both sections of the competition may be invited to participate in the **PAGB Inter-Club Competitions** representing the **NCPF**. A certificate and memento are also awarded to the authors of the **BEST PRINT** and **BEST PDI** selected by the Judges on the day.

We look forward to seeing your club entries for PRINT and/or ELECTRONIC (PDI)

Honourable Judges

William Broadley; Lynda Golightly LRPS; Keith Snell LRPS EFIAP MPSA.

Competition Officer & Chairman: John Fare: johnfare41@gmail.com 0780 3042505

Print & PDI Officer: Phillip Dove: ncpfentries@gmail.com 07976 63425

A competition not to be missed - please speak to your Club Competition Secretary for details

<https://www.ncpf.org.uk>

NCPF-Club Championship



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Invitation to Tynemouth Photographic Society Roy Elwood Exhibition of Prints

Howard Wilson advises

Good Day Everyone.

It would be great if you would put Saturday 17th January 2026 in you diary please.

With the help of, and in conjunction with, Whickham Photographic Club we are holding an event in memory of the late Roy Elwood FRPS, MPAGB, APAGB, EFIAP, Life President Whickham Photographic Club, and a former member and President of Tynemouth PS. You may recall that Roy died earlier this year, not long after his 100th Birthday. We expect Carolyn, Roy's daughter, to be present.

Roy was mainly a monochrome printer and did really tremendous prints. We hope to have up to 100 of his prints on display as well as his FRPS panel. There will also be a display of the many medals he won for his work, as well as (hopefully) his Russian medal from his involvement in the wartime Arctic Convoys - now that is special! Regarding his prints, some of which were very cleverly constructed, he was renowned for his tasteful nudes as well as other subjects.

I promise that you will not be disappointed, whether you once knew Roy or not.

I expect that the day will start at 11.00, when a few words of introduction will be made. Visitors will also be welcome, as will members of all local clubs/societies.

I reckon doors will open maybe 10.30am until 3.00pm.

Best regards

Howard Wilson, Tynemouth PS

NCPF – that's all for now

And that's all for this issue - except to say

Thank you everyone who has contributed.

Next Northern Focus issue is planned for Spring/Summer 2026.

Feel free to send Adverts for club events and anything photographic related.

Many items in this e-magazine will point towards work conducted by the NCPF Executive, Committee and Team. NCPF Committee are a small band of dedicated and enthusiastic unpaid volunteers who guide our Federation on all things photographic.

[Want to get involved?](#)

Please think about how you can help NCPF while taking the opportunity to learn and influence

Contact any Committee Member or Hon secretary Margaret Welsh secretary@ncpf.org.uk

Opportunity for next Northern Focus Editor Exists

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Wanted, Wanted, Wanted

Information, anecdotes, club updates, personal success stories, tributes, club events, photographs, learnings any and everything in-between to share across our region. Please send to Alan Wilson at northern.focus@ncpf.org.uk or Mobile 07814333844

Copyright of all images remain with the photographer, document copyright with the author.

[We hope you have enjoyed this, the 97th edition of Northern Focus](#)

Thank you for reading and feel free to pass on to like minded photographers worldwide.



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

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