



e-news

from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

Issue 126 – Oct 2014

NEWS FROM THE PAGB EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 4/5 OCTOBER 2014

The Executive Committee of the PAGB meets only 3 times per year and, although a great deal of business is transacted outside of the meeting by e-mail, telephone and smaller informal meetings, this is a very busy two days indeed. At this meeting some important decisions were made including the agreement to **schedule an Adjudication for the Awards for Photographic Merit in Audio Visual, APM/AV, in May 2015.** (See page 11).

Robert Albright FRPS was confirmed as the “permanent Voting Chairman of the AV Adjudicators. We have already received encouraging expressions of interest but the Adjudication can only run if we get sufficient applicants to justify it. If you want to take part, please apply, via your Federation Awards Officer, as soon as possible. The Closing Date for Applications to be received by the PAGB APM Secretary is 30 January 2015 with the sequences to be provided by 10 March 2015

An important change was also agreed in relation to video and third party photography in the APM/AV. The current APM Information Leaflet 6 which outlines the Rules and Procedures for the APM/AV states “The use of third party images, animated graphics, video clips or other visual material, whilst not excluded, should be limited to 10% of the photographs and the duration of the sequence and should be appropriate to the production. When the leaflet was published e-news carried an article saying that there was some concern at this limit and that it would be considered at this meeting. After considerable debate, this section of the Rules and Procedures will now read as follows and the revised Leaflet 6 will be posted to the PAGB website.

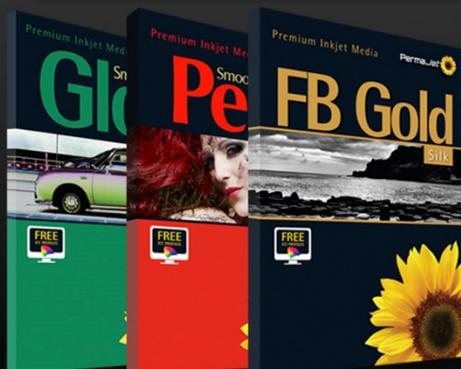
“The use of third party images, animated graphics, video clips or other visual material, whilst not excluded, should be limited and should be appropriate to the production. Applications with more than 25%, in photographs or duration, of such third party images, animated graphics and video clips are unlikely to be successful”.

FIAP maintain a list of photographers, the Red List, who have been proved to have cheated in International Exhibitions and Salons. Such people are banned from entering Exhibitions with FIAP patronage. The PAGB has agreed that photographers who are “Red Listed” by FIAP will also be banned from exhibitions and competitions organised by the PAGB or with PAGB Patronage.

The meeting also agreed a clarification to Rule 20 of the Inter-Federation Annual Print and PDI Competitions and this now reads as follow.

“Rule 20. Images by the same author which have been entered in any previous Inter-Federation Competition are not eligible. This includes images, which are as similar to previously entered images as to be virtually identical. An image entered as a Print cannot be entered as a PDI and, similarly, an image entered as a PDI cannot be entered as a Print.”

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PREVIOUS WINNER:

Mac Bouchere, Dawlish & Teignmouth Camera Club

PAGB DEFINITION OF A CAMERA CLUB or PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



Our Insurers, RSA, have been keen to agree a definition of a Club for insurance purposes and although they will not be able to apply this wording to their contracts until the policy renewal the PAGB Executive have agreed to adopt the following definition with immediate effect. Only Clubs who fall within this definition can be insured, from renewal, under the PAGB agreed policies and only such Clubs will be able to compete in PAGB Competitions from this date.

"A camera club, photographic society, photographic club or photographic group with a published constitution and a published programme of events, united by a common interest in photography, meeting in person for mutual cooperation, education, entertainment or competition and conducted solely from a physical location within Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man"

Federations are autonomous and may, if they wish, accept as members Clubs not falling within this definition and may permit them to participate in their Federation competitions. However they may not use photographs from such clubs in PAGB competitions, including the Inter-Fed competitions.



The Wall by Tim Pile (published for no other reason than I like it)

The
Photography
Show
21-24 MARCH 2015
THE NEC, BIRMINGHAM



Gordon Jenkins, PAGB Sponsorship Co-ordinator, and your e-news editor, Rod Wheelans, took the opportunity whilst in London to meet with Future Publishing who organise The Photography Show. They were given a presentation of the many exciting events planned and

the much better reception arrangement and event layout for 2015. We have now been promised extra space so that we will be able to offer Advisory sessions for our Awards for Photographic Merit. If you have not been able to get to a workshop, or even if you have, you will be able to bring your Prints or PDI for advice from APM experts on how your work might match up to the standard required and what you might need to do to improve to have a better chance of success. Watch e-news for details.



The Photography Show 2015 is *the* event for aspiring photographers of all levels. Taking place from 21-24 March at the NEC, Birmingham, there will be an incredible line-up of leading brands. Nikon, Fujifilm, Sony, Panasonic, Leica, Olympus and many more will give you the chance to get hands-on with their latest kit. Plus, you'll be able to take advantage of some exclusive show bargains from the London Camera Exchange, Calumet and CameraWorld. What's more, when you're not busy snapping up bargains, there will be a whole host of live demos,

interactive sessions and inspirational speakers, covering a range of genres, skills and techniques. Tickets will be available from November but in the meantime why not register your interest? This will ensure you're the first to know when you can get your ticket.

http://www.photographyshow.com/Content/Register-your-interest-for-2015/3_10



Well, we are delighted by the response to “Ask Famous Dave”

Nine questions by eleven people is a very good start although one was quite unfit to print and three have been answered several times already – and one we simply didn't understand.

So that left four questions to reply to and it was hardly necessary to call upon our Super Brain Dave to answer them.

Questions may be shortened or edited to retain the intent.

Question One. This came from an e-mail to Famous Dave and also from another correspondent via the PAGB website. *The pictures published in e-news are too small to look at properly. Can they be printed bigger or can we have a link to the photographer's website?*

Not everyone has good download speed so the Editor has to keep the total **e-news** file to about 2MB. We do feature individual photographers quite often, with their website details, but searching out web addresses for photos from exhibitions and competitions would be just too time consuming. The PAGB is however looking at the possibility of an enhanced website with a more accessible library of back numbers with a searchable database. This might include galleries to be accessed via **e-news** to larger versions of the published pictures.

Question Two. This actually came from two people to the Awards for Photo Merit Chairman who provides the answer. *I passed my CPAGB about 7 years ago and I have encouraged members of my Club to try but they are finding that the standard is much higher. Is the PAGB pulling up the drawbridge?*

The CPAGB is assessed at the level that our Adjudicators consider to be “Good Club Photography”. It is true that you would be unlikely to achieve a pass today with work from 7 years ago but this is because the standard of photography in Clubs has improved dramatically in recent times, mainly due to the accessibility of digital technology and techniques. The CPAGB is like a cork floating on the rising Club standard and the PAGB are confident that it still “Good Club Photography”.

Question Three. The correspondent did mention his location but we have “redacted” it to protect the innocent/guilty. *OK Dave, Make yourself famous – can you stop the RPS scheduling great events on the same day as our Federation events?*

There has been a great improvement in this area in recent years and both organisations are keen that there should be even more co-operation. There are several members of the PAGB EC who are RPS Regional Organisers, members of the RPS Advisory Board and even members of the RPS Council and this will hopefully lead to much better communication in future. It isn't simple because there are a great many events to co-ordinate and it is easy, if annoying, to trip over each other.

Question Four. Dave has actually answered this one by himself. *Hi Dave. My Club likes the GB Cup but we are better at prints. Can you persuade the PAGB to have a GB Cup for Prints please?*

I love making prints and I will demand that the PAGB do something about a competition. I'm sure I can get them to run a GB Cup for Prints next year! Just watch this space.

INSURANCE MATTERS

At the recent PAGB Executive meeting it was agreed to accept a recommendation from Darwin Clayton, in discussion with Royal Sun Alliance, that we should **only** offer £5,000,000 Public Liability insurance as this is the level of cover we believe is now required. The rates negotiated mean that 240 Clubs will pay just £4 more for the extra cover, 275 Clubs will pay the same and 430 Clubs will actually pay less than they would have paid for only £2,000,000 cover.

0 to 25 members £5m cover for the price of £2m

26 to 100 members £5m cover for the price of £3m

Over 100 members £5m cover for the price of £5m



WHO IS COVERED FOR PUBLIC LIABILITY? All members of participating Clubs are covered by the Club policy at any Club event and when visiting another club. All the officers of the PAGB and the lecturers and judges listed in the PAGB handbook are covered by the PAGB policy at any PAGB event or Club. All the officers of the Federation and the lecturers and judges listed in their handbook are similarly covered by the Fed. policy

All Federations will in future only receive, electronic copies of their public liability certificates and it will be their responsibility to distribute these to their clubs.

Policy details at <http://www.darwinclayton.co.uk/insurance-products/photographers>

MCPF SEMINAR 2014

Sunday 19th October 2014 10.45am – 4.45pm
Hosted by Smethwick Photographic Society
at The Old Schoolhouse, Churchbridge, Oldbury, B69 2AS

Come and enjoy a memorable day with two award-winning photographers

Leigh Preston FRPS EFIAP MPAGB

Chris Palmer FRPS AFIAP DPAGB APAGB

Tickets: £10.00 only. For more information, visit
<http://www.mcpf.co.uk>



Leigh Preston FRPS EFIAP MPAGB
Chris Palmer FRPS AFIAP DPAGB APAGB
present

PHOTO
KNOWLEDGE

Seeing Pictures & Locations

Photographic rapport with subject

Design & use of picture elements, tone,
meaning & use of space, perspective &
line

Direction - what to do with your
images once they are taken & made -
club comps, exhibitions, PAGB & RPS
distinctions, publication & building a
portfolio

Both award winning photographers will share us,
their wealth of experience and expertise, as we
follow them through their workflow and personal
take on photography.

THE YORKSHIRE INTERNATIONAL SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The YPU invites entries to the Yorkshire International Salon of Photography

The Salon is recognised by the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and benefits from Patronage of the Federation International de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) – **Patronage No 2014/260**. The Salon will award PSA and FIAP Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals for each section along with a multitude of ribbons from each organisation. Acceptances and Awards will count towards PSA and FIAP ratings and awards.

CALENDAR

Closing Date – 6th December 2014

Despatch of Report Cards – 29th December 2014

Despatch of Catalogues – 2nd March 2015

Further details at www.yorkshiresalon.co.uk



The Dancer
by Andrea Hargreaves

World No 1 plays No 4
by Stephanie Cooke

The 20th Great Northern Festival

with PAGB Patronage - 28/2014

Will be held on Friday to Sunday, 5th to 7th December 2014 at
The Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road West, Manchester M21 7SX

Just off the M60 Motorway and near the end of the M56
Closing Date for Entries & Booking - 1st November 2014

Friday Evening - Entertainment

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Romance! Laughter!

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Val Ellis FACI and David Andrew

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- New Venue
- New Format
- New Website
- New Horizons

Saturday/Sunday Competition & Learning

The New Horizons
Competition - Restricted Entry
with feedback from the Judges

The Great Northern
Competition - Open Entry

Attendee Sequences
With constructive critique

We are keen to encourage newcomers into our hobby and have set up The New Horizons Competition open only to those who have NOT won an award in a National or International AV Competition.

All New Horizon entrants will receive feedback from the Judges

Richard Brown FRPS APAGB, Linda Gibbs MPAGB AV-AFIAP & Tony Collinson LRPS DPAGB

The Great Northern Festival is a weekend of Entertainment, Competition and Learning for anyone interested in Audio Visual - telling stories by combining images (still and moving) with sound.

Why not come for part or for the whole weekend to see what it is like
More details Brochure & Booking Form available on our website

www.gnfestival.org.uk



500 FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM 500 PHOTOGRAPHERS

This great DVD, compiled as part of the e-news 100 celebration, is still available from the Recorded Lecture Service at <http://www.thepagb.org.uk/lectures.htm>

These are pictures chosen by the photographers themselves, with no external selection. Some are medal winners, some are puzzling but all are interesting. This is a snapshot of the amateur photographic world in 2013 and makes a great show to fill an evening at your Club. If you haven't seen it yet, don't miss it.

CPAGB PRESENTATIONS IN THE EAF

Three of the successful applicants who achieved their 'Credit' awards in April this year were Lynn Rix CPAGB and Steve Birch CPAGB, both from Ongar P.C. with Vic Anthony CPAGB, from South Woodham Ferrers
Behind these, L-R are the EAF President, Bob Norris, Vic Hainsworth, the EAF Awards Officer, with PAGB President and Awards Secretary, Leo Rich,



The Yorkshire Photo Union and the Scottish Photo Federation set up stands at PhotoLive in Leeds and in Edinburgh and it seems to have been worthwhile.

Stephen Dean from the YPU said ***“The Leeds Day went well. We used the YPU Print Folio for our display changing the 10-12 prints on display every hour so people kept wandering back to the stand. We kept a record of how many potential new members we were able to direct to Camera Clubs which was finally just over 30, mostly to the YPU area but also L&CPU and other regions. We were glad we set the stand up on Friday afternoon as there was little time on the Saturday morning with people arriving very early. There were many familiar faces from YPU clubs there, the President of Leeds PS told me they would be keen on having their own individual stand next year if it takes place again.”***



Libby Smith from the SPF said ***“We received a high level of interest from attendees, with a number of people interested in hearing more about Club photography and why they might think of joining a Club, with several being referred to a Club appropriate to their requirements. A number were members of our Clubs already but spent time on our stand or taking the opportunity to ask questions about SPF or PAGB events or services. It was heartening to know that some had travelled for over 3 hours to come to the event, going home the same day. The trade exhibitors also took the opportunity to find out more about us and were interested in how we could work together in the future.”*** On display were both PAGB and SPF banners, and over 200 Prints. Free hand outs about the SPF and it’s member clubs along with the PAGB e-news ‘Scottish Special’ and copies of the 91st Scottish Salon Catalogue all proved extremely popular.

[The Home of Practical Photographic Workshops & Seminars](#)

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The Pixel Painter

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Saturday 25/Oct/2014 venue Aldermaston
morning & afternoon workshops One & Two
Saturday 22/Nov/2014 venue Lewes afternoon workshop three
Short tuition intro session followed by facilitator group leader assistance for the four Photo sessions throughout the duration of the half day workshop

Please email:- thepixelpainter@btinternet.com

For full workshop itinerary & costs please go to website
www.thepixelpainter.co.uk

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NATURE PRINTS * OPEN COLOUR PROJECTED IMAGE (PDI)
OPEN MONOCHROME PROJECTED IMAGE (PDI) * NATURE PROJECTED IMAGE

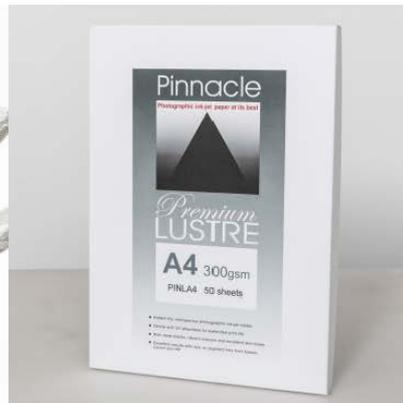
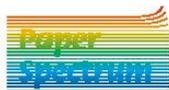
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<http://www.tactiletraining.co.uk/>

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT - WORKSHOPS

On Sunday, 31st August, the EAF held its second PAGB APM Advisory Day at Foxton, south-west of Cambridge. We had 36 applicants seeking advice on their work, with a further 25 observing the proceedings. Following this, I have had 4 more applications for the Credit level (a little more work for the Awards Secretary). Our hard-working assessors for the day were Leo Rich ARPS, EFIAP/g, DPAGB, APAGB, (PAGB President), Barbie Lindsay MPAGB, EFIAP/s, FBPE, Russell Lindsay MPAGB, EFIAP, FBPE, Ann Miles FRPS, MPAGB, EFIAP, FBPE, Andy Hanson MPAGB, ARPS, APAGB, FIPF and David Gibbins ARPS, AFIAP, BPE 3* to whom we are very grateful.

"Comments from the attendees were that they felt it had been a very useful and constructive day, helping them towards applying for their chosen level. For some who are already booked in for an adjudication, it was a chance to finalise their entry, for others, it gave them the opportunity to assess their level of competence before applying. For the observers, it stirred up a lot of interest, which we hope will lead to more applications in the future."

Vic Hainsworth ARPS APAGB EAF Awards Officer



Saturday 11th October 2014, hosted by the SPF

<http://www.scottish-photographic-federation.org/>

Saturday 18th October 2014, hosted by the NCPF

[Northern Counties Photographic Federation - NCPF](http://www.northern-photographic-federation.org/)

Sunday 11th October 2015 hosted by the EAF in Fulbourn, Cambs.

<http://www.eaf.org.uk/>

These Workshops are open to interested prospective Applicants from other Federations. In 2015 we hope to see a Workshop in Surrey.

Further APM Workshops are organised by Federations, normally restricted to their own Club members, and these workshops are supported, on request, by members of the PAGB Awards Team.

Saturday 8 November 2014 in the Yorkshire Photographic Union.

www.ypu.org.uk

Saturday 10 January 2015 in North & East Midlands Photographic Federation.

www.nempf.org



Scenes from the APM Workshop in the EAF on 31 Aug (top) and from the WPF on 21 Sep (bottom)

"I enjoyed the PAGB workshop at Talbot Green. The presentation was very informative and it was really interesting to learn about the Awards and the scoring system at the different levels.

I went to all three advisory tables with my prints and didn't just take what the first table of judges said. I realise that there will be 6 judges on the judging day, so to hear the views of all six advisors was great. Where there were faults all of the judges picked them up although their views on many of the images differed slightly.

I take away from the workshop the knowledge that I need to rectify the errors which I had missed and a better understanding of what I need to do to go for my CPAGB. The day was invaluable as it has given me the perspective of many judges and the opportunity to re-evaluate my images."

Linda Wellington

The PAGB currently have Six Adjudications in various stages of progress.

November 2014 – Kegworth. Entry packs were issued in August, 2014. Entries are trickling in to the Reception Secretary, Ian Taylor and the current failure rate of entrants completing their forms and CD's correctly is 50% - par for the course.

December 2014 – Dumfries. Entry packs issued in September. This is the Adjudication not hosted by a Federation and we rely on a disparate group of club members from Dumfries, Carluke & Morton to make this a success. We are indebted to Libby and Neil Smith for acting as Reception Secs for PDI especially in view of their heavy involvement elsewhere with SPF and the GB Cup. Sincere thanks also to Gerald Chamberlin of NCPF club. Morton CC (Carlisle), who has kindly stepped in to act as Reception Secretary for Prints – we sincerely hope he enjoys the experience

April 2015 – Southampton. Every section has been full for ages, except Distinction which is now fully booked. As this is being hosted by my own Federation, Southern Counties, I may be biased, but this is one not to be missed. We have no less than seven Master Print entrants and nine Master PDI to be judged proving, yet again, that the MPAGB is a much coveted Award.

August 2015 – Edge Hill near Ormskirk. Entries are coming in at a steady rate for this additional Adjudication which is very encouraging, especially as this is being held at the height of the holiday season. Yet again the greatest interest is at Credit level though we also have two Master Print applicants already. As we need five entrants to run an MPAGB section it might be moved to November.

November 2015 – South Wales. Entries are already arriving for this event, mainly from entrants local to the venue. Fed. Awards Officers are being encouraged to ask applicants if they would prefer August or November and I will do my best to accommodate their wishes.

Awards in AV – 10 May 2015 - deepest Oxfordshire. As you will have seen from **e-news 125** we have provisionally fixed a date and place in the hope it might encourage more people to enter. An item is also to appear soon in the RPS AV News. *Leo Rich DPAGB. EFIAP/g ARPS APAGB*

Entrants who wish to participate in a specific Adjudication are advised to apply, via their Federation Awards Officer, at least 6 months in advance but please do not apply before you are ready as there financial penalties if you later withdraw.

Cork Camera Group 2nd International Salon of Photography



Cork Camera Group are delighted to announce that the 2nd Cork International Salon of Photography is now open for entries!



<http://www.corkcameragroup.net/services/cork-international-salon/>

A CLOUDING INFLUENCE

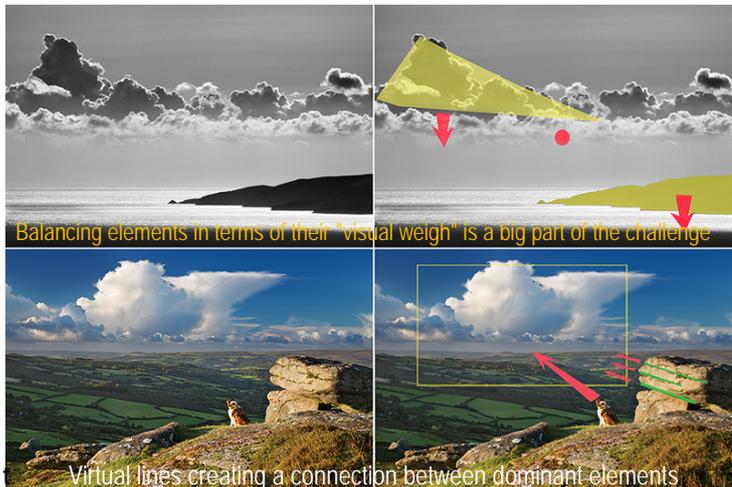
by Richard Garvey-Williams

Generally when we stand before a magnificent vista setting up our tripods ready to capture the scene, the feeling engendered in us is one of awe and pleasure. Therefore in composing our image we are usually looking for a balanced, harmonious composition that will also instil feelings of pleasure and peace in the minds of those who will view the photograph.



Here the enormous mass of granite known as Haytor is balanced by the towering mass of the cumulus cloud to its left.

So often, however, when we are looking at landscape images something doesn't quite sit right with us leading to a little turmoil – something seems out of place. In my experience, that little something is often above the horizon. Below, everything appears to have been carefully thought out and arranged with the various elements balancing and complementing one another. In the sky, however, the clouds appear to be a law unto themselves, bearing no relationship to the rest of the scene. They are a powerful force and it only takes one small cloud to upset the whole balance of the scene.



Balancing elements in terms of their "visual weigh" is a big part of the challenge

Virtual lines creating a connection between dominant elements

Furthermore, this doesn't just apply to landscape imagery. Architectural work often involves inclusion of the sky, so needs to accommodate the potentially disrupting effect of errant clouds. Indeed few genres are exempt from the mischievous invasion of clumps of condensed, moist air.

The answer is to embrace their presence and actively use them as the strong compositional elements that they are.

They come in all shapes and sizes and can be used in a variety of ways to support our intended messages or feelings. It isn't just a case of ensuring that the clouds balance other clouds across the scene, or that they balance other solid elements according to the principles of "visual weight". They can be used to actively direct the eye by forming "leading lines".

To gain a more genuine sense of what it was like to be there, it is often helpful if the image gives us a feeling of connection between land and sky rather than the impression that the sky has been pasted in from another image. As photographers we can look for relationships between elements either side of the horizon to support this. The sky and cloud formations often set the whole mood, and patterns and drama here can be a dominant part of the subject matter. So we may also choose to look for elements on the ground that will help draw our attention skywards.

Embracing the influence of these celestial bodies may result in us taking far fewer photographs, but hopefully those that we do will be that little bit more impactful.

Richard Garvey-Williams is author of 'Mastering Composition – the definitive guide for photographers' (Ammonite Press), which explores in great depth this topic that is such an important foundation for our art. www.richardgarveywilliams.com

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT IN AUDIO VISUAL

You are now invited to apply for an Adjudication to be held on Sunday 10 May 2015

Steventon Hall, Oxfordshire OX13 6RR, 1 mile from the A34 about 10 miles south of Oxford. [Steventon Oxfordshire Village Web](http://www.steventon-oxfordshire-village.co.uk)



The event is designed to attract applicants from two main groups

SPECIALISTS IN AUDIO VISUAL PRODUCTION. At advanced levels this incorporates narrative and may include elements of video, animated graphics or third party images within the limits that are spelt out on the main PAGB website

GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND SPECIALISTS, such as natural history, architectural or travel. Some photographers will submit Photo Harmony work which is very welcome. Here the emphasis is on the visual element. No script or commentary is required but the images must flow in a pleasing progression. The emphasis is on harmony in colour, tone or graphic design. The aim is not to display a collection of single photographs which may be excellent when considered individually but rather a sequence of pictures which blend well with each other and with the sound chosen.

As a personal challenge to the readers of **e-news** – how many with awards in still photography have the ability to sustain the standard required across the greater number of pictures needed for an Audio Visual award? I'd be delighted to be proved wrong in my assumption! **Robert Albright FRPS**

Applications should be submitted via your Federation PAGB Awards Officer who should be listed in your Federation Directory or Website.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS, VIA YOUR AWARDS OFFICER, TO BE WITH THE APM SECRETARY - 30 JANUARY 2015

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL ENTRY FORM AND SEQUENCES – 10 MARCH 2015

You can download the Notes for Guidance for an application from <http://www.thepagb.org.uk/merit.htm>

PAGB INTER-CLUB PRINT CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

Sponsored by Darwin Clayton (UK) Ltd & PermaJet Ltd.

Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, ORMSKIRK, L39 4QP

<http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/location>

Saturday 25 October 2014 starting at 9.30a.m.

On the weekend of the EC meeting, Gordon Jenkins also took a small party to visit Canon to talk about several sponsorship opportunities and they strongly suggested that the prize they will donate to the Edge Hill raffle will be really spectacular – maybe something very new to the market!

U P P - THE CLUB THAT COMES TO YOUR DOOR!

..... or your computer



You are probably a member of a Camera Club, but have you ever experienced a Club that the postman brings to you? That is what the UPP (United Photographic Portfolios) is all about. UPP is divided into groups, called Circles, usually with between 12 & 15 members.

If you are in a Print Circle, every month a packet of pictures is delivered to your door, for you to peruse and enjoy at your leisure. When you have had a good look at the pictures, you write a brief appraisal about each one - in effect, you are acting as the 'club judge'! In turn, your own picture receives comments from the other members of your Circle. There are also several 'on-line' Circles in UPP, which operate slightly differently, but which provide similar benefits, plus the advantage of having no postal charges.



'Brighton Pavilion' by Adrian Bowd
'Inside the Glacier' by Monty Trent

'Dawn on Rannoch Moor' by Linda Sharp
'Evening Passage' by Chris Aldred

'Bison, Yellowstone' by Leon Kreef
'Pioneer off Mersea Island' by Colin Westgate

It is a wonderful way of sharing pictures and, unlike a normal competition, where the judge's opinion is the only one, in a UPP Circle, you will get up to 15 considered appraisals and, equally importantly, you will learn to analyse and critique pictures yourself. Most Circles use a marking system with everyone voting on the pictures, so there is an element of, not too serious, competition. Members are of every standards, so you will not feel out of place.

There is an Annual Convention, held in Birmingham, where members converge for a very enjoyable social weekend. This includes an exhibition and/or projection of each Circles 'Gold' pictures and so you can guarantee seeing some superb photography! There are lectures by leading photographers.

UPP has its own magazine 'The Little Man', which is published twice a year.

Postal Clubs are not new. I joined the UPP in 1961 and have been a member ever since. The arrival of the monthly packet of photographs never ceases to excite me, and I cannot wait to see the pictures everyone has entered and to read what everyone has said about mine.

You could think that joining UPP might clash with the membership of your usual Camera Club but the opposite is the case. It is completely different and entering pictures in your postal Circle enables you to 'try out' pictures before submitting them to the club judge!

You might also think that in these days of Flickr and the like, that a postal club like UPP is outmoded. Not so! Comments on the pictures are in much greater depth and you will learn much more. This, coupled with a real sense of belonging, can't be beaten!

More details can be found on the UPP website <http://www.uppofgb.com/favicon.ico> or by email to the Membership Secretary bettyboud01@mypostoffice.co.uk Why not give it a try? Colin Westgate

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