

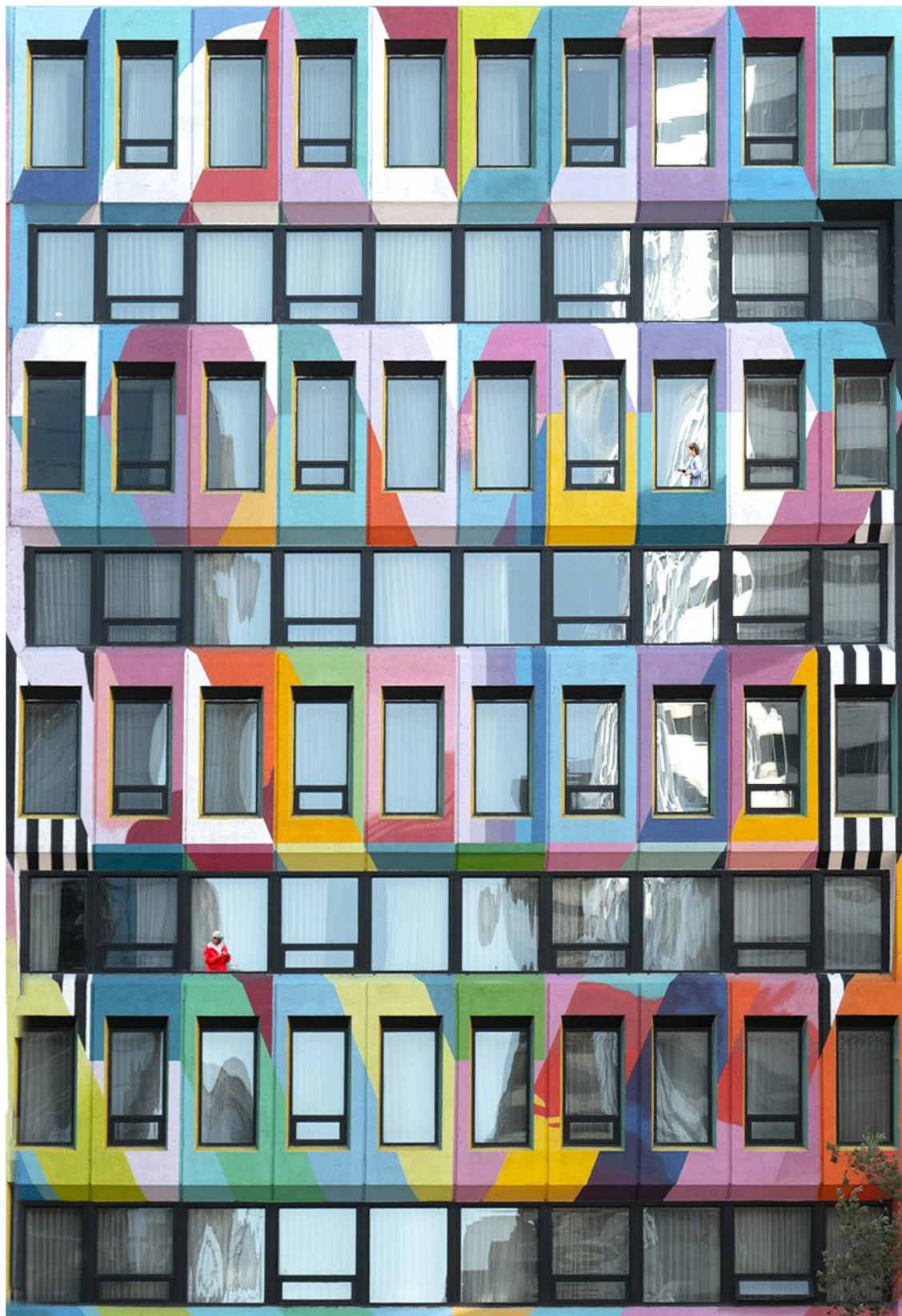


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# e-news

from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

e-news 382 extra



## EPAGB SPECIAL



BPAGB



CPAGB



DPAGB



EPAGB



MPAGB

<<<  
"Communication"  
by  
Judi Dicks EPAGB

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# FIVE NEW EPAGB



EP0023	Richard OMeara	Poulton le Fylde PS	L&CPU
EP0024	Maybeth Jamieson	Dumfries CC	SPF
EP0025	Judi Dicks	Stafford PS	MCPF
EP0026	Brian Dicks	Stafford PS	MCPF
EP0027	Wanda Mackie	Kirkcaldy PS	SPF

## Awards for Photographic Merit



**EPAGB**  
Excellence Award of the  
Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

The [EPAGB](#) Award, recently introduced, is judged at DPAGB Level but with a higher passing score required.

It is only available to current holders of the DPAGB and applicants may not use any images that were used in their DPAGB success.

On this occasion all 5 applicants were successful. Well done all!

<< [CLICK ON](#) the poster for more information.



Wanda Mackie, Brian Dicks, Judi Dicks, President Dave Gibbins, Maybeth Jamieson & Richard O'Meara

I joined Poulton Photographic Society about 15 years ago and have always enjoyed our competitions. Having become part of the team selecting our images for external competitions I started entering Salons in 2021 as a way of helping me improve my images and better understand some of the judges preferences.



Kicked Bucket, New Life by Richard O'Meara EPAGB

Initially I only photographed natural history subjects but only entering one section in Salons makes progress a slow process, so I started to do some rugby images and also produced some composite images.

After getting some good results I was persuaded to go straight for my DPAGB which I got in 2022 with mostly nature images.

I was nervous about putting 8 animal composites in for my EPAGB, as they often divide judges opinion. However most of them have done well in Salons and are often my highest scorers so I thought why not. The L&CPU run a mock PAGB system and, although my prints scored well there, I altered a couple based on some of the judges' comments and changed the lowest scorers for different pictures.

On the day I thought that the E's and D's would be mixed together and was momentarily alarmed that my prints had been misplaced as none had appeared in the first 30 or so, but they ran through all of the D's first and then went into the E's without a break or notifying the judges. The first image of mine to appear was a composite and scored 26 so I was able to relax somewhat as that implied that all Judges had passed it, so I assumed it boded well for the rest.

As it turned out all 15 of my prints were considered to be of the standard and I was particularly delighted to get the magic 30/30 for my "The Animals came in 4 x 4".

... delighted to get the magic 30/30 for my "The Animals came in 4 x 4".

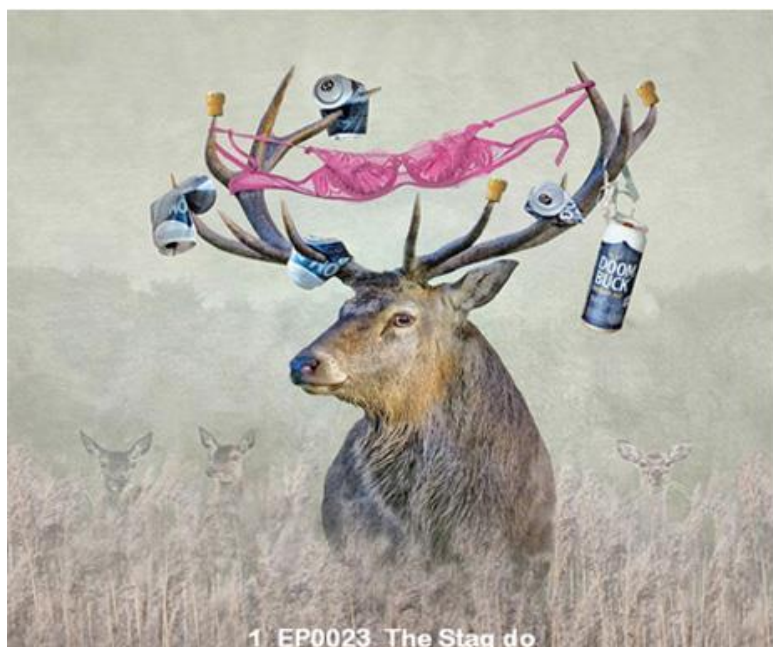


It was a thoroughly enjoyable day in the magnificent Victoria Hall in Dunblane, seeing many fantastic pictures, meeting friends and new people. It was great to see the different levels and particularly to witness such a strong entry for the MPAGB. Many thanks to all involved in the PAGB for organising the event and running it seamlessly.

.. I will give myself a little time to recover...

I think I will give myself a little time to recover and enjoy the achievement of getting an EPAGB and try and take some better pictures before putting myself through the trauma of attempting an 'M'.  
*Richard*

The next Adjudication is scheduled to be held in Kingston upon Thames, hosted by the Surrey Photographic Federation on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 November 2025. Applications are welcome and there is still capacity at all levels.



1\_EP0023\_The Stag do



4\_EP0023\_A different kettle of fish



2\_EP0023\_Juvenile Starling encounter

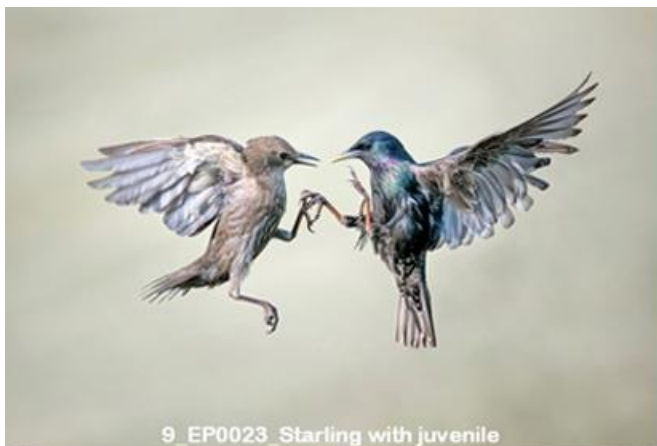


3\_EP0023\_Looking for the offload



6\_EP0023\_Woodpecker and Starling encounter\_1

The number EP0023 indicates that this is the 23<sup>rd</sup> application received since this Award was offered. Not all have been successful.



9 EP0023 Starling with juvenile



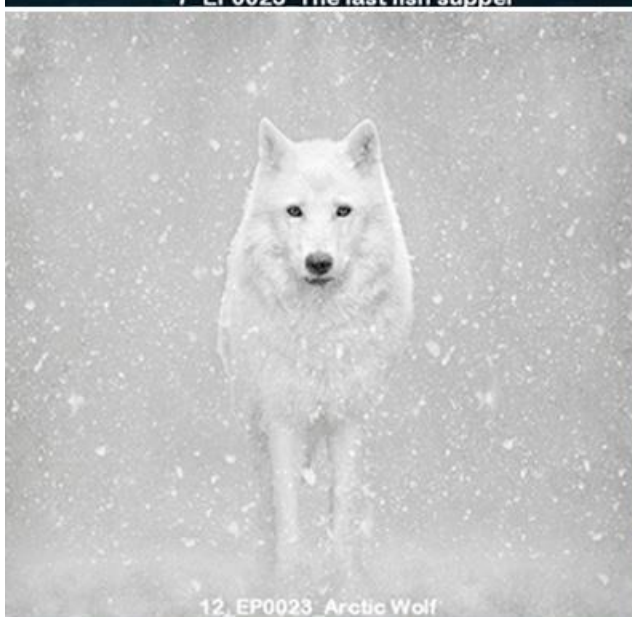
11 EP0023 Juvenile Woodpecker attacking Starling



7 EP0023 The last fish supper



8 EP0023 Eyes on the line



12 EP0023 Arctic Wolf



14 EP0023 Chaffinch and Greenfinch dispute



15 EP0023 Hen Night



13 EP0023 The King Fisher



My first foray into the Awards for Photographic Merit was the last time the event was hosted in Scotland by the SPF, in 2016. I remember the nervous wait for each of my 'C' level prints to be shown and the celebrations when all of the candidates from my club were successful. Distinction level was a bit of an anticlimax since it was held in camera following COVID.

The MPAGB seemed unattainable but the introduction of the EPAGB, coinciding with another adjudication in Scotland, sparked my interest and I attended two of the advisory days organised by the PAGB in Scotland. These were invaluable, both in terms of gauging image suitability and suggested improvements. I was slightly anxious that all but one of my images contained either horses or tennis players, but the advice was that it shouldn't matter as each image is judged on its own merit.

**The MPAGB  
seemed  
unattainable**

I was involved in running the Dunblane event, mainly in the 'back room' as part of the print handing team. That did have the advantage of being able to see a few of the prints close up but missing the buzz of the judging. Three of the back-room team were assessed on the second day and we were released for our adjudications. Probably a relief for those left holding the fort since nerves were building. Because there were only five of us in the 'E' section, our prints came through in rapid succession with my frazzled brain struggling

**It was very satisfying when  
all of us met the standard**

to keep up with the mental arithmetic. It was very satisfying when all of us met the standard and received our purple badges together. The atmosphere at the event was excellent with a feeling of mutual support - and only the occasional groan of 'oh no!'



Overall, I've found the APM system very useful - particularly the one-to-one advice at workshops and on advisory days. The detailed analyses and advice were useful beyond the distinctions process - and there's still one more level to aim for. *Maybeth*







8 EP0024 Against the Elements



7 EP0024 Final Touches



13 EP0024 In Full Flight



1 EP0024 Ready



9 EP0024 Running Forehand



11 EP0024 Kapow



12 EP0024 All Downhill from Here

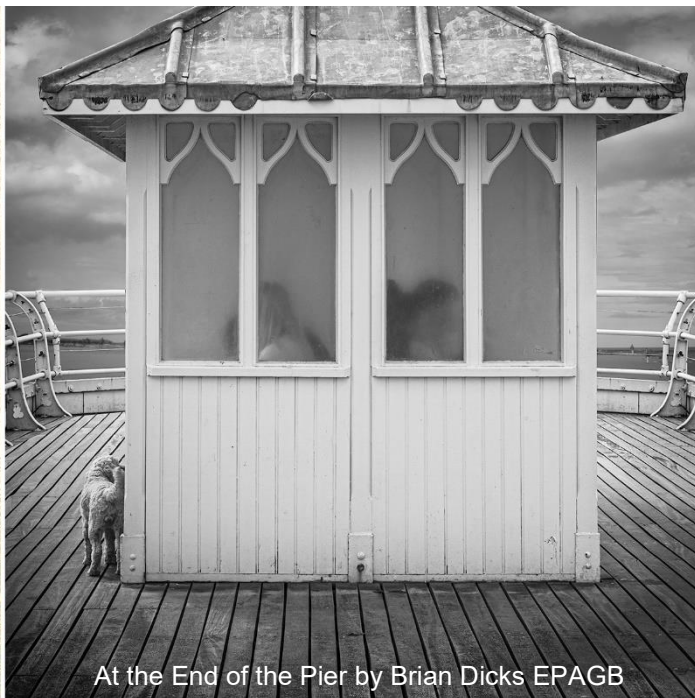
# Judi Dicks EPAGB & Brian Dicks EPAGB

## EP0025 & EP0026

It was 10 years ago, almost to the day, that Judi and I put in for our DPAGB. I attended the Adjudication in Southampton, while Judi was at the MCPF Print and PDI Championships in Leicester. We kept busy, texting each other, and I was over the moon to let Judi know that we had both been successful, even though Judi picked up more points than me!



Treading Carefully by Judi Dicks EPAGB



At the End of the Pier by Brian Dicks EPAGB

We were pleased that we had achieved this level and had not really considered applying for the Master level. Then, when the Excellence level was introduced we “ummed” and “ahhed” about applying for it. A friend was considering an application so we all went along to an Adjudication last November, at Winsford in Cheshire. It was there that we decided that, perhaps we could perhaps achieve the EPAGB.

So we filled in the application form, sent it off, and then started to panic. What photos do we use? What improvement could we make? Judi sought the advice of a mentor, and I just listened to Judi. We both whittled down our possibles to about 30, then spent an age looking at them before we both got it down to our last 15.

**Judi sought the advice of a mentor, and I just listened to Judi.**

So 10 years after our DPAGB we are both at the two day event in Dunblane - staying at a campsite just a few miles out of town. We have decided to view both days so we can relax on the Saturday and enjoy watching other people's photographs, knowing that our time will come tomorrow.

Tension mounts as the DPAGB and EPAGB adjudication starts, but what! Our photographs are not being shown and it is only during the break that I find out that the “Es” will be shown separately. Whew!

Judi's entry is number 25 and mine is 26 so when Judi's first photograph comes up and gets a good score we both breathe a sigh of relief. My first photograph comes next and also get a good score. We look at each other and grin. The grinning does not stop as each of our photographs come up and as we tot up our scores we realise that we are going to get the award, just so long as we do not crash out towards the end. We don't. So the Cheshire Cat face gets stuck for the rest of the day.

**We look at each other and grin.**



As we both walk up to receive our badges from the President, David Gibbins, Rod kindly pointed out that, as scores don't really count and are not announced, he cannot say which of us scored more but that Judi probably would! I averaged 24.2 and Judi 24.6

With the excitement over we head back to our campsite and plan where we are heading next. Many thanks to everyone involved in making it such great event.

*Brian and Judi.*

## Judi Dicks

CLICK ON any image to view it more comfortably on our website.





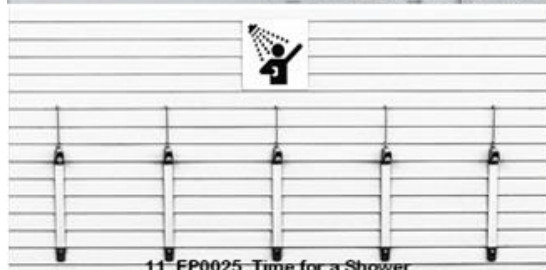
8 EP0025 Rainy Day in Galicia



7 EP0025 Back to Back



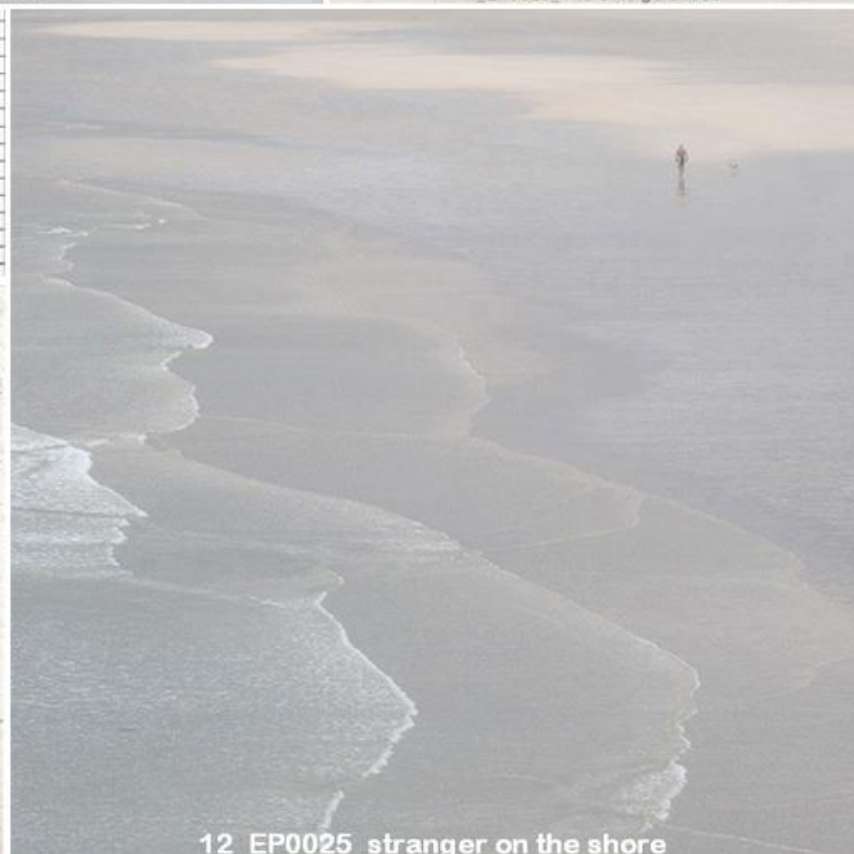
1 EP0025 The Orange Shoes



11 EP0025 Time for a Shower



13 EP0025 Love Whirling



12 EP0025 stranger on the shore



9\_EP0025\_Wintery Day at Greenwich



14\_EP0025\_Rainy day at Kew



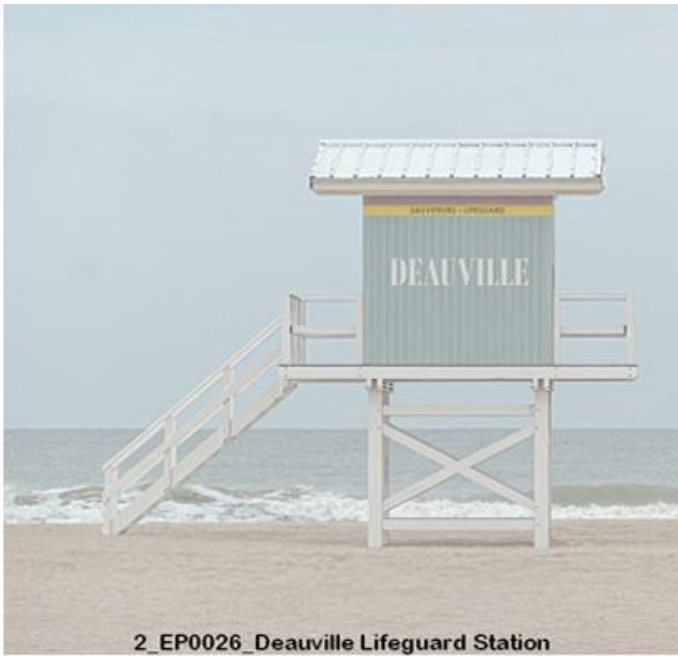
15\_EP0025\_Meeting Place



## Brian Dicks



CLICK ON any image to view it more comfortably on our website.



2\_EP0026\_Deauville Lifeguard Station



1\_EP0026\_Friends at the Fair



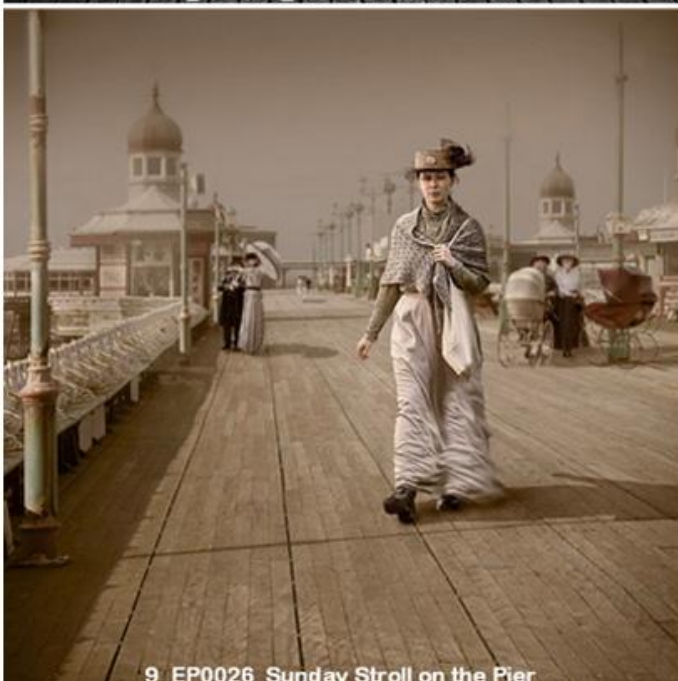
3\_EP0026\_In the Gallery



12\_EP0026\_At the End of the Pier



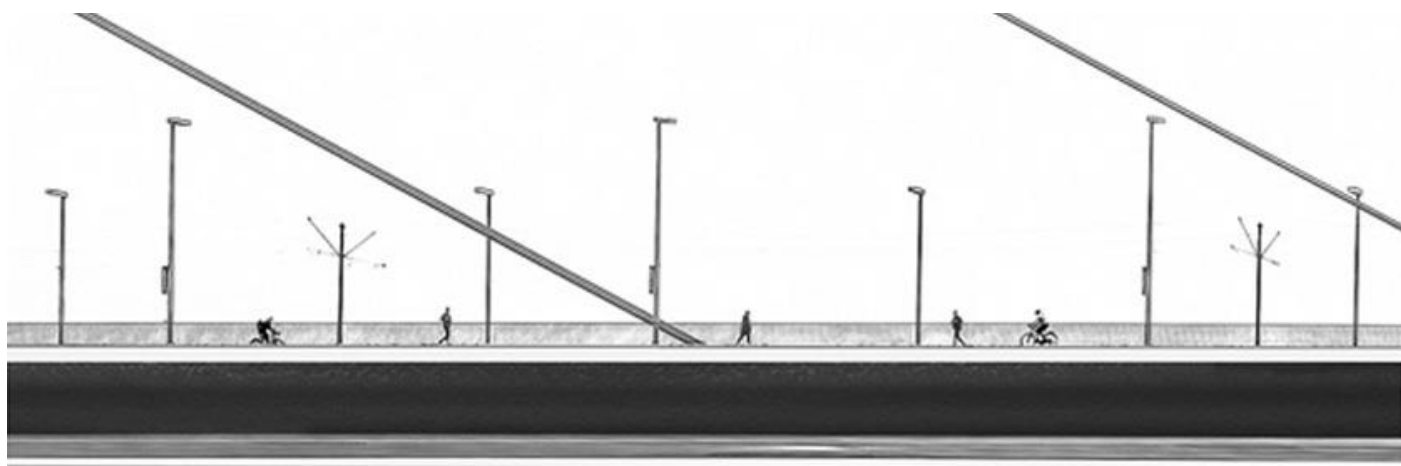
4\_EP0026\_Waiting for the Sun



9\_EP0026\_Sunday Stroll on the Pier



11\_EP0026\_Case Dismissed 1



**6\_EP0026\_Crossing the Rhine**



**5\_EP0026\_Number 32**



**8\_EP0026\_Collecting Daisies**



10\_EP0026\_Robbie Sullivan\_1



13\_EP0026\_Out for a Ride



14\_EP0026\_No Hope

In 2014, when I joined Kirkcaldy Photographic Society, I decided from the outset that I would never enter a club competition because the thought of it was just too terrifying. I already had high blood pressure and I feared my heart would not stand the stress if any of my images were up for critique. Even as an observer I could feel my heart race with anxiety on behalf of my fellow photographers, awaiting the deliberations of the judge. I enjoyed my photography and I enjoyed the camera club but I resolved to be an observer only. At that point in my photographic journey the idea of applying for an Award for Photographic Merit would probably have made me pass out with the shock!

... the idea of applying for an Award for Photographic Merit would have made me pass out with the shock!



Fresh Fruit and Veg by Wanda Mackie EPAGB

So what changed? My brother, who was a member of the same club, surreptitiously acquired a few of my images which he printed and put into the club competition without my consent. To say I was livid with him is a gross understatement, but I survived the judging night unscathed, receiving positive and constructive feedback from the judge.

Developing a thick skin helps

My first foray into competition may have been involuntary but it taught me that, to improve in photography, it pays to share your images in competitions and listen to the critique of others so as to develop and improve your skills accordingly. Developing a thick skin helps too, but I've not managed that yet!

The Awards for Photographic Merit provides a fantastic opportunity for photographers to develop their images to meet a challenging standard, with lots of chances for help and advice along the way. So, when the adjudication came to my home nation, Scotland, in November 2016 I decided I was up for the CPAGB challenge and tentatively filled in my application form. I was thrilled when I was awarded my C but it was such a nerve-wracking experience I decided CPAGB was good enough for me and I was content to stop there.



2 EP0027 Twa Hieland Coos



4 EP0027 Thoroughly Miserable



3 EP0027 Out for a Walk

Somewhere along the line my memory failed me and, ignoring my own advice, I started working towards my DPAGB which I achieved in Pontefract in Nov 2018.

This time I really was finished with APM, as I couldn't even contemplate the MPAGB. It was a stage too far for me and I could hear Rod's voice saying, MPAGB, subtitled "not quite impossible". I've never been one to set myself up for failure on purpose so that was that!

Until... the introduction of the EPAGB which, even better, Scotland was going to host again. So I was up for yet another challenge.

I have to thank all those who helped me on my APM journey, who gave me advice and helpful critique on my images. The advisory days run by the SPF are fantastic! They really helped nervous photographers like me prepare their imagers for the appropriate level.

The people who selflessly give up their time at the advisory days to help apprehensive photographers are to be commended for their valuable advice and expertise. The judges on the day of the APM have a difficult job and they do so admirably. The audience is treated to a display of fabulous and inspiring images, from the EPAGB through to the MPAGB. It's a very worthwhile event.

**The Awards for Photographic Merit provides a fantastic opportunity for photographers to develop their images**

So, that was a long story to say, if anyone thinks they might like to try for an APM, but don't feel they have the confidence to try it, I wholeheartedly recommend that you give it a go. I was once terrified to show anyone any of my images yet, somehow, I have managed to stumble my way to an EPAGB and I've learned a lot along the way. I'm even daring to think I'll try for MPAGB one day!

Just in case anyone wondered... my brother and I are still on speaking terms!

*Wanda*

Wanda has not mentioned that, along with Maybeth and Cathie who were also entered for a possible Award, she was mostly working with the print handling team in the backroom, away from the excitement of the Adjudicators voting. All three were able to join the audience for their own assessments, some with more pleasure than others, but it is delightful to report that all three were successful!

We are extremely grateful to them and all the other volunteers who helped ensure the smooth running of the event.

*Rod*



5\_EP0027\_Well-Timed Duck



6\_EP0027\_Kitchen Maid Homage to the Old Masters



8\_EP0027\_Never Forget



10\_EP0027\_Dappled Grey Andalusian colour



7\_EP0027\_Wet Kings



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Watch out for a NEW Recorded Lecture about our Awards for Photographic Merit, fully illustrated with dozens of successful images. A great evening for your Club!

# **CLICK HERE** for **e-news 381**

with the full results from the recent Adjudication  
for our Awards for Photographic Merit  
... and much more!



*"Kapow" by Maybeth Jamieson*

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**an MPAGB Special  
with 100 images to  
look at.**

*Steve Proctor*

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