



PERMAJET THE INKJET PAPER SPECIALISTS - PROUD SPONSORS OF THE PAGB e-news

e-news

from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

e-news 399 14 Feb 2026



Happy Valentines Day



Swirls by Stan Farrow

No one offered me an image for Valentines Day, so I have used this amazing image which first appeared in e-news in 2019

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**NEED
HELP?**



Find the
PAGB on
Stand B21,
near the
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entrance.

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain Awards for Photographic Merit

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MPAGB

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- *(Depending on numbers we may not be able to provide this service on every day)*

WARNING

There has apparently been a problem with my e-news@thepagb.org.uk address. Hopefully this is now resolved, but you may prefer to use rodwheelans@gmail.com for a while and if you have written before and not had a reply, please try again.

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*Discount applies to standard adult entry only and cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotion, including concession rates. The code expires at midnight on 13 March 2026 and cannot be applied retrospectively. **Professional photographers, videographers, content creators and image-making industry representatives can apply for FREE entry to the show. All applications must be made before midnight on 13 March 2026 and will be verified against specific criteria.

Reg by Paul Hassell



Which one of these did Paul choose as his all-time favourite for e-news 400?

A Simple Life by Paul Hassell





MASTERS OF PRINT

sponsored by CEWE and Online Paper

A gloomy day did not dampen the spirits of those who attended the opening of the NINTH MASTERS OF PRINT in St Martin in the Bull Ring, on Saturday 7 February 2026. More than half of the exhibitors attended to collect their badges, medals and, for a lucky few, prizes awarded by our generous Sponsors.

The exhibition continues at St Martin until 7 March 2026 before starting on its National Tour which is currently scheduled to end back in Birmingham at The Old School House, home of Smethwick P.S. *More venues are being discussed, so watch out for further news.*

We were delighted that several of our Sponsors attended to choose their personal favourite print to award a prize. *Pictures by Richard Speirs on the next page.*

1. Adam Hinchcliffe, Sales Manager for Permajet, presented their prize first-time entrant, Quinton Vidal-Taylor of Wellington & District CC for his print "Alternative Fruit Tree".
2. Unusually, regular attender at PAGB events, Dominic Gurney, Account Manager with Epson was unable to be present on the day but chose in advance for the PAGB President to present to Frank Roscoe from Dumfries CC, another first-time entrant, for "Independent Pedaler".
3. Petra Felgen, MD of CEWE UK, presented a voucher to yet another first-time entrant, Martin Watt from Kirkcaldy PS, for "Dawn, The Beacon". We wish Petra every success with her promotion to worldwide MD of CEWE subsidiary White Wall
4. Tim Jones, Technical Manager at Fotospeed, presented their prize to "Simplicity" by Ann Shaw from Knowle CC. And yes, another first-time entrant.
5. Adam Hinchcliffe, this time representing Online Paper, chose "Music Man" by Teresa Mitchell from Dumfries CC for their prize.

We are extremely grateful to all of our Sponsors without whose support many PAGB events would not be possible.

For this event in particular we must thank CEWE and Online Paper who contribute so generously to the MASTERS OF PRINT. As an important part of this support, CEWE prints our superb photobook – too good to be called a catalogue - which they will post to every entrant over the next few weeks.

(It is a big job so please be patient).

The Rev. Jeremy Allcock and MASTERS OF PRINT Chairman, Rod Wheelans welcoming everyone to St Martin in the Bull Ring. >>



Watch out for a very special issue of e-news in Mid-March with every successful entrant who attended photographed with their print – and much more!



Quinton Vidal-Taylor



Frank Roscoe



Martin Watt



Ann Shaw



Teresa Mitchell



FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Hetherington ARPS

<https://markhetherington.com/>

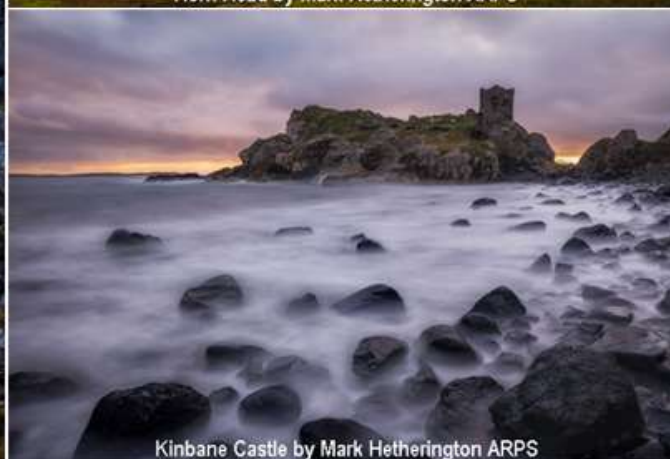
I was delighted and honoured to learn that my image Giant's Legacy has been selected for inclusion in the 2026 Masters of Print Exhibition, organised by the PAGB. I am very much enjoyed to seeing my image displayed alongside the other excellent photographs at the opening event in Birmingham.



I am primarily a Landscape and Astro photographer based in Penrith, on the edge of the Lake District, an area that remains one of my favourite places to photograph. I also enjoy travelling to explore and capture new landscapes and environments.

Giant's Legacy was taken during a short but memorable trip to the West coast of Ireland, at the iconic Giant's Causeway. The Ireland trip was particularly special to me, and I am pleased to share a selection of a few other favourite images from that journey.





Therese Asplund



The Society of Photographers is thrilled to reveal the winners of the prestigious [2025 Photographer of the Year awards](#), proudly sponsored by Loxley Colour. **Therese Asplund** has been crowned **Photographer of the Year**, an accolade that celebrates outstanding photographic talent and creativity.

The 2025 Competition attracted an impressive 5,725 submissions across 28 categories, showcasing the remarkable diversity and skill of our talented membership. Gold Award-winning images from each category were shortlisted, with the best of the best selected for this year's top honours.



FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

JAN ISON FRPS DPAGB

janisonphotography.co.uk

Thank you for giving me this amazing great news that I have received a Judges Silver Medal for my photography "No Longer of Use". These images were taken on my photography trip to Saskatchewan, Canada in February 2025. A friend and I spent 4 weeks traveling 12,000 miles around the province in temperatures which went down to -40 to -44 degrees C photographing abandoned properties. We had done some research beforehand about abandoned buildings but



inevitably there were some places we couldn't find and others that we found with the help of very friendly locals. Sadly, some places no longer exist, deteriorated to extinction by the severe weather conditions or burnt down.

The majority of the mages were taken with my Canon RF 24-105 lens, focus stacking as required, with a few images taken with the Tilt and Shift lens . For clothing, I wore five layers(!), Baffin insulated boots with foot warmers, great woollen gloves with hand warmers, and when needed some skiing goggles as the wind threatened to freeze my contact lenses!

I love landscape/seascape photography but also Street Photography which often takes me to India - such a difference in climate. temperatures and cultures!



Beautiful Ukrainian Church Abandoned by Jan Ison



Overcome by Jan Ison

Rising Talent - Winner

Sue O'Connell, UK



See next page >>

I first entered Travel Photographer of the Year (TPOTY) in 2014 when, with beginners luck, I was Runner-up in Monochrome and had the thrill of seeing my image on show at the Royal Geographical Society. Fired with enthusiasm, I have entered every TPOTY since, but apart from a few "Commended", I have never hit such heights again - until now. A truly wonderful surprise, and proof that it can pay to keep on hanging in!

With entries from 160 countries, TPOTY has grown since 2014, and for me it represents all that's best in travel photography. I especially enjoy the broad interpretation of "travel", to include street, portraits, wildlife and abstracts - a refreshing contrast to narrower definitions. The work of past winners is stunning in quality and variety and it's an absolute honour to be in such company.

Entrants in this portfolio category were invited to submit 6 images exemplifying at least three elements of travel photography. My entry included people and landscapes, beauty and dereliction, in both colour and monochrome.

1. Girls of the OvanKhumbi tribe in Angola, wearing the distinctive hair style which marks the completion of their initiation ceremony.
2. Iguazu Falls on the Brazil/Argentina border. The birds in flight are snail kites, one of the few animals to thrive in these extreme conditions.
3. An Ovahanda woman at a local market in southern Angola, with her tiny charge securely strapped to her back.

VANGUARD ALTA FLY 55T G2 ROLLER CASE



The [Alta Fly 55T G2](#) is an IATA airline carry-on* compatible four wheel trolley, but converts to a backpack in seconds to cover more rugged terrain, and is designed to face the challenges any photographer faces when travelling the world. This is an upgrade on the original and now includes [ReGlide removable wheels](#), allowing you to make the bag a little smaller to fit into a tighter spaces, or to change worn wheels to maximise the life of your bag. Simply remove and replace.

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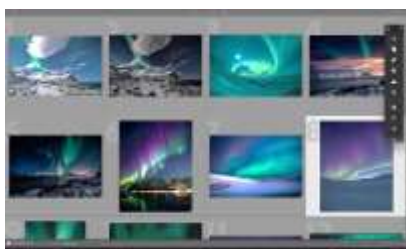


Finding a specific photo in Lightroom Classic can feel like looking for a needle in a haystack!

[Excire Search 2026](#) solves that problem by turning even the largest, messiest Lightroom catalogue into a well-organised, instantly searchable archive.

How? The latest version of Excire's LrC plugin is packed with time-saving search and organization tools. And an all-new Excire Search Panel integrates directly into Lightroom's interface, making the plugin amazingly intuitive. With Excire at your disposal, you can locate images at breathtaking speeds (and with zero reliance on manual keywords).

(Not a Lightroom Classic user? No problem! Excire is also available as a standalone program [Excire Foto 2025](#).)



1. Describe the Photo Using Text-Based (Prompt) Search

If you remember how an image *looks*, Excire's prompt search is often the fastest way to find it. Trying to locate a specific photo that features the northern lights? Simply open the Excire Search Panel, select **Search by Text Prompt**, and type a description, such as "aurora over snowy mountains." A moment later, you'll see the photos corresponding to your search.

Excire's prompt search analyses visual content rather than relying on manual keywords, so it can surface relevant photos regardless of how (or whether) they were tagged in the past.

2. Find People Using Facial Recognition

Want to find a photo of your grandkids on a family trip? No problem! Just select an initial photo that includes their faces, then choose **Search for People**.

You can limit the search to a specific folder or Collection - such as your travel images - and Excire will immediately return all the matching photos.

You can also search by facial characteristics, such as age, gender & expression, using **Search for Faces**.

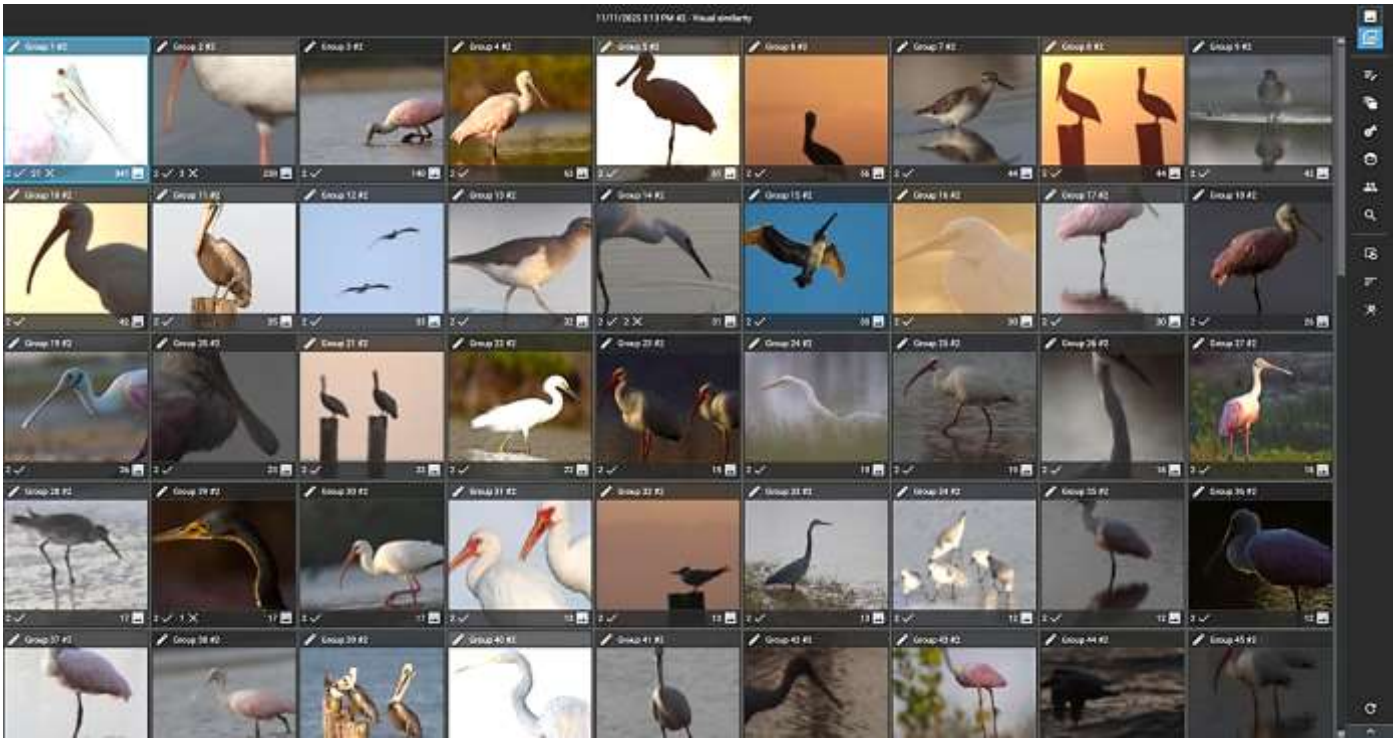


3. Search for Visually Similar Images

Sometimes, you have *one* photo of a subject, but you want to see other photos in your catalogue that look similar. With Excire's **Search by Example Photo** feature, you can select a reference image and find photos with similar content or colour characteristics across your entire catalogue.

If you start with a photo of Tower Bridge, you'll find other images of the same landmark—along with shots of similar architecture in your Lightroom library.

A Smarter Way to Manage Your Lightroom Catalogue



Excire Search 2026 doesn't stop there. The plugin includes automatic keywording and duplicate detection and a new AI-assisted culling feature can group and select your best images based on factors such as sharpness and aesthetic quality, helping streamline the photo-selection workflow.

Excire Search 2026 is sold as a lifetime license, so you don't have to worry about recurring subscription fees. You can download a free trial or purchase the plugin directly from [HERE](#).

A Special Offer for e-news Readers

Excire is available for a one-time fee, *not* a subscription, and the company is offering a **15% discount** on your lifetime license to **e-news** readers using the code **UKCLUBS** during checkout in the [Excire Shop](#).

Excire Search 2026 is well worth exploring, especially if you'd rather spend your time taking photos instead of managing them.

An advertisement for Excire. On the left, the text reads: 'Excire AI-Powered Photo Management', 'Can't find that one photo?', 'Excire can.', and 'www.excire.com'. On the right, a man with a mustache is shown in profile, looking at a computer monitor. The monitor displays a grid of many small photo thumbnails, similar to the one in the first image. Below the man, the text says: 'Instantly find, organize, and cull your images. No cloud, no subscription, no wasted time!'.

NEW EVENTS 2026

YOUR COMPLETE PHOTOGRAPHY PLATFORM

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PORTFOLIO BUILDERS | TRAINING DAYS | PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

STUDIO MASTERS | SALLI GAINSFORD | PORTFOLIO BUILDING DAY
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BPA Part Builder

DEVELOP AREA | POST PROCESSING | LIGHTING | ASSESSMENTS & MORE

JUST ADDED



SHOOTING IN SMALL SPACES - PART THREE

In this session, we're working with Anastasia to create our take on a classic Vogue cover shot.



SHOOTING IN SMALL SPACES - PART TWO

In this session, Mike walks us through the lighting setup for model Chris, a member of the bike club that Usa...



SHOOTING IN SMALL SPACES SERIES

For our November monthly live, we travelled to Shropshire to work with member Usa Roscoe in her 12x9...

Studio Masters DEVELOP

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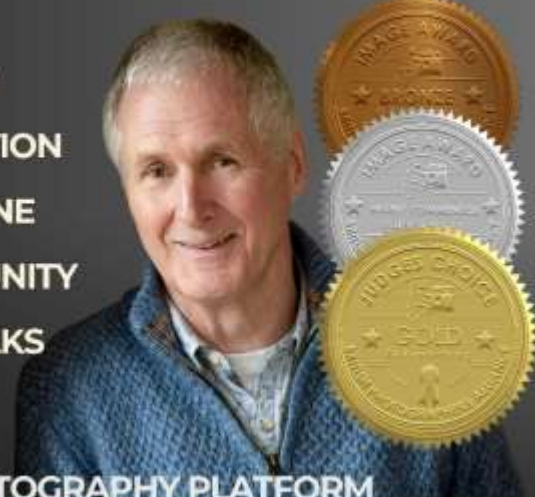


OCTOBER JUDGES ASSESSMENT 2025

This month marks a significant evolution in how we support your growth as photographers.



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EXPLORE OUR DIVERSE PHOTOGRAPHY PLATFORM
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e-news 400

The next e-news in March will be my 400th production and it is going to be really special.

If you want to be a part of it, send me your very best image, the best you have ever taken or the one which has brought you must success. Or maybe your favourite photo, the one you like even if nobody else does.

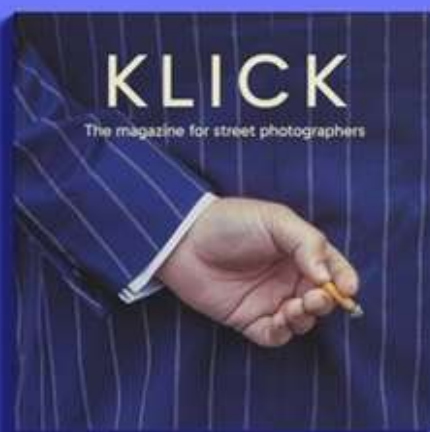
It would be nice also if you were to include 50-75 words about yourself or the image and I will be happy for you to include a web address to more of your images if you wish.

I must have it not later than 19 February 2026. A little earlier than previously published. Normal PDI size, 1600px X 1200px, or something near is good. Save it as a jpeg Q10 and filename it *Your Title by Your Name* as this is what will be embedded on the image when it is saved to our e-news gallery.

e-mail it to e-news@thepagb.org.uk but, if you are sending from a Mac to my PC, please be aware that I will receive the image in the body of the e-mail, rather than as an attachment and there will be no filename so that you must include this in the message.

If you want to use WeTransfer or Dropbox please let me know in a separate e-mail. I will acknowledge every one that I receive so, if you haven't seen my reply, please try again.

LAST CHANCE! DO IT NOW PLEASE. *Red*



Have you seen this excellent magazine?

Amateur Photographer of the Year

Here are some of the best camera club entries to round nine of APOY 2025 - Urban Life



Wendy Davies, Alton Camera Club Where did you get that hat?

Fujifilm X-T5, 18-50mm at 18mm, 1/500sec at f/11, ISO 6400

Wendy's excellent shot has instant appeal and was placed first overall in this round. The story is immediately clear, and her timing and compositional skills are spot on. This is the kind of image that unfolds only to someone who has their camera and settings at the ready at all times, and Wendy has made the most of the three rows of hats, placing the male figure, whose hat completes the scene, to fill what would otherwise be an empty space. A few inches to the right or left and all balance would be lost. The image has a definite Doisneau-esque feel about it, and even the tiny detail of the label on the man's T-shirt poking out adds to the overall charm.



Leszek Chrzastowski, Coalville and District Camera Club The Redundant Dalek

Technical information not supplied

Witty, well seen, and a touch surreal – this image raises a multitude of questions that will probably never be answered, and that's what makes it so good.



Mike Woodman, Richmond and Twickenham Photographic Society Just About Hanging On

Nikon D800E, 85mm, 1/200sec at f/7.1, ISO 100

An original take on urban life. The climber's slip dress and the tattoos add to the overall effect.



Bryan Sutton, Wallingford Photographic Club Autumn Bristol

Fujifilm X-T5, 16mm, 1/125sec at f/5.6, ISO 4000

The variety and range of colours in this frame are very engaging and instantly catch the eye – from the purple wall, to the golden leaves and the young man's red hair. The unconventional wooden gates and railings are a strange but interesting element, too. What is their purpose and why are they there? The square crop keeps everything tight and contained.



Kevin Leah, Truro Camera Club Behind the Curve

Canon EOS 5D Mark III, 24-70mm at 70mm, 1/10sec at f/2.8, ISO 2000

An excellent composition that makes the most of the foreground curve. The blue tone adds atmosphere.



Steve Banner, Stafford Photographic Society Lonely at Central Station

Technical information not supplied

What an intriguing shot. So many separate lives in one place, and what is the solitary bride doing there?

CAMERA CLUBS LEADERS

1	Plymouth Camera Club	400
2	Launceston Camera Club	250
3	London: Hampstead Photographic Society	240
4	Mid-Somerset Camera Club	210
5	Kempsey Camera Club	200

To enter APOY and win prizes for yourself and your club, visit www.amateurphotographer.com/APOY

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Inter-Club Print Championship – New Venue

The 2026 PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship will be held on **Saturday 24 October 2026** and it will be held at [Harper Adams University](#) at **Newport, Shropshire**. Westholme School in Blackburn has become increasingly expensive and has other issues with changes to the hiring conditions. Clubs from the southern part of England have also asked if a midlands venue was possible because Blackburn required an overnight stay when the PDI Championship in Warwick did not.

Please note that this is Newport, Shropshire, not Newport Gwent, in Wales

Harper Adames University in Newport is 15 miles from junction 15 of the M6 and a 20 minute drive from Stafford station on the West Coast mainline and a taxi to the venue, depending on traffic conditions, around £25-£30. There's also an hourly bus which takes 35 mins (£2). Telford Station is nearer but doesn't have as many fast trains but has links Birmingham Airport. Birmingham airport is 47 miles away from Newport with Manchester airport 58 miles away. Newport has a Premier Inn 4 miles from the university and there is lots of accommodation in Telford, including a Premier Inn, a Holiday Inn and a Ramada Hotel.

There will be free parking and WiFi and we will be using the modern [Weston Lecture Theatre](#). Teas, coffees and sandwiches are available in a coffee bar about 5 minutes' walk from the lecture theatre and lunch boxes can also be provided if ordered in advance. Watch for more information in e-news nearer the time, including ticket arrangements.

The PAGB Executive has recently agreed that federations may nominate up to three clubs per federation for this championship, which will be the same number as for the PDI Championship.



At a recent event I was handed a thin document wallet which had come with a bunch of what were otherwise empty folders and wallets purchased from a charity shop. The buyer recognized that it might be of interest and passed it to a friend who passed it to me. I found the contents to be really interesting and perhaps a few old codgers like me may also be intrigued.

On the outside of the rather battered wallet were the letters PAGB, scrawled in felt tip pen. Inside I found a document outlining the first rules to achieve one of our Awards for Photographic Merit, based on a draft that I had offered some months earlier. I note that we originally referred to these as CAPA, DAPA and MAPA, the Credit, Distinction and Master Award of the Photographic Alliance which is how we referred to ourselves in those ancient times. By the time of the first Adjudication in April 1994 and the invitation was printed – no e-mail or websites then - these had changed to our current designations, CPAGB, DPAGB and MPAGB. A maximum of 50 Applicants were invited to submit Prints or Colour Transparencies at a cost of £50, whichever level you applied for. MPAGB was not available as the Applicant had to achieve DPAGB first.

That Adjudication was in Darwen (L&CPU) under the Chairmanship of Ian Platt but the results aren't in the wallet for that Adjudication or the next in Bristol (WCPF) but it does contain a list of the 17 who achieved CPAGB and 22 who achieved DPAGB in Bottisham (EAF) in April 1995 and the 27 CPAGB, 28 DPAGB and, for the first time 9 MPAGB successful in Gateshead (NCPF) in November that year.

We don't get that level of passes at MPAGB now but don't think it was any easier. Remember that most of the applicants were well-established, long-serving, highly experienced photographers. I have to say that since I was one of them! Unfortunately very few of the 9 are still with us.