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e-news

from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

e-news 39400 01 March 2026



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It has been wonderful editing and publishing e-news since that one page effort in August 2008. I certainly never anticipated doing the job for so many years and reaching 400 issues.

The PAGB used to produce an occasional printed newsletter, with reports of events that had been completed in the previous months. More a “historical” document than a newsletter. When its long term Editor retired, I took it on as a simple A4 which Clubs could printout and display on their noticeboard.

Over time I have made many friends in every corner of the UK, developing contacts and content providers everywhere. My thanks to everyone who has supported me with their images and their articles and to all the Federation newsletter secretaries who help keep me well informed about their events and workshops.



We have gone through many formats but the biggest change came with the generosity of our Sponsors, inkjet paper specialists Permajet, who financed and continue to support our website at www.pagbnews.co.uk.

This provides a complete archive and the ability for readers to look back and search for interesting articles and reports. Not only that, but it allows images in the newsletter to be linked to a gallery where they can be viewed larger and more comfortably. It also permits a much more sophisticated heavily illustrated production, far more than could be distributed as an e-mail attachment. All representing a huge improvement and permitting a much more attractive newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who sent their favourite image to celebrate this milestone which you can view in the associated [e-news 400 extra](#).

You have given us many wonderful images to look at, some familiar and some less known, and It was interesting to read your remarks and the reasons for choosing your favourite image.

Thank you also for your many flattering & appreciative comments.

In time we may move to a more modern format – maybe a flip book or something more technologically sophisticated - but our current PDF format seems well received and will continue for a while. Your comments are invited.

I estimate that e-news 500 will be published, perhaps appropriately, on 1st April 2030.

I'm unlikely to be producing it but, trust me, I will keep doing it for as long as I can.

Rod Wheelans Hon. Ed.

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain Awards for Photographic Merit

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We will have qualified advisors available, on our stand, to look at your Prints or PDI in relation to the standard required to achieve one of our awards.

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- **Which day you would prefer.**
- *(Depending on numbers we may not be able to provide this service on every day)*



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Stand B21, near
the main entrance.

e-news 400 extra2

The Photography & Video Show

**CLICK HERE for information
and great offers!**



Zara in White by Hugh Spence



Submitted as a possible favorite for e-news 400 extra. Another image was later substituted.

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.

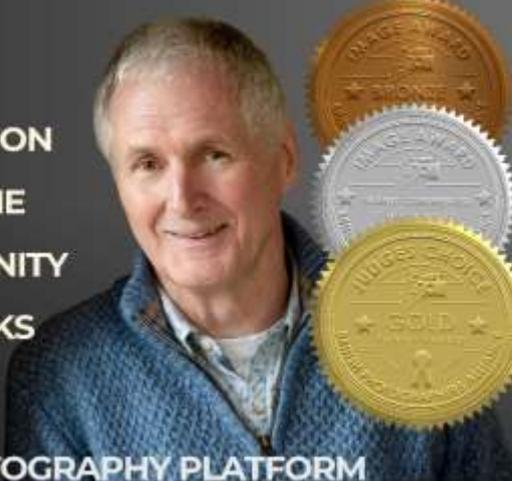
SHOOTING IN SMALL SPACES - PART TWO
In this session, Mike walks us through the lighting setup for model Chris, a member of the bike club that Lisa...

SHOOTING IN SMALL SPACES SERIES
For our November monthly live, we travelled to Shropshire to work with member Lisa Rascoe in her 12x9...

OCTOBER JUDGES ASSESSMENT 2025
This month marks a significant evolution in how we support your growth as photographers.

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Lone Yacht by Howard Tate

I first thought of submitting this to e-news 400 as a favourite image because I was asked what I had done to the sky.

When I looked at the RAW file, it turns out the sky was actually like that, which I had not remembered.

Announcements

- **PAGB GB Trophy & Cup**

The timetables for the GB Trophy (Prints), the GB Cup (Projected) are published on their respective event pages.

- **FIAP Distinctions Applications**

The updated criteria for Distinctions and the timetable for 2026 are on the [FIAP Distinctions page](#).

- **Ongoing News**

For ongoing news about PAGB activities please see the frequent issues of PAGB **e-news**. Sign up to receive your personal notice as each new edition of PAGB **e-news** is published.

- **The PAGB Compendium**

All information from the website, including all administrative and archive information previously in the Handbook, is explained and referenced in the **PAGB Compendium**.

- **PAGB On-Line Services**

Please read this [PAGE](#) to answer your queries about access to and using on-line services..

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filmmaker & content
creator

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](#) in **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, Holiday Inn and a Ramada Hotel. There will be free parking and WiFi and we will be using the [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.

e-news IS SPONSORED BY **PermaJet**



Remember - Click on most of the photographs to browse them on the e-news website



The Shifting Landscape of Innovation - AI as the judge.

Looking back at the pace of technological change has always been fascinating, inviting speculation about how early pioneers might view today's advances. When Fox Talbot remarked that photography's limits could not yet be defined, he was acknowledging a medium still in its infancy.

The emergence of artificial intelligence in photography suggests that his observation remains remarkably relevant. Photography has never stood still. Each

generation of photographers has encountered new tools—often met first with scepticism, then curiosity, and finally acceptance. The arrival of AI in creative practice sparked fears that photography itself might become obsolete, yet history shows that innovation rarely ends a craft. Instead, it reshapes it.

Introducing AI to Stroud Camera Club

Founded in May 1939, [Stroud Camera Club](#) has long tradition of experimentation. Inspired by this ethos, we began exploring ways to integrate AI into club activities in late 2024, not as a novelty, but as a meaningful tool. One regular feature of club life was a three-way team challenge, where members were randomly assigned to teams and images were judged collectively using paper score sheets. While popular, the process was administratively complex. This presented an opportunity to rethink the format using new technology.

Letting AI Judge the Competition

To introduce AI in a transparent and legitimate way, we proposed using **ChatGP**, quickly nicknamed “Chatty”, as the judge for the 2024 challenge. The experiment proved highly successful, with members responding positively to the impartiality and consistency of the critiques. Sharing the experience online attracted interest from other clubs, including [Cardiff Camera Club](#), who proposed an inter-club “AI Battle”.

Stroud enthusiastically accepted, but staging a full competition judged by AI posed several logistical challenges. The event needed to preserve the social atmosphere of an in-person club night while ensuring both clubs could view images simultaneously, hear critiques, and receive results together.

Building the Technical Framework

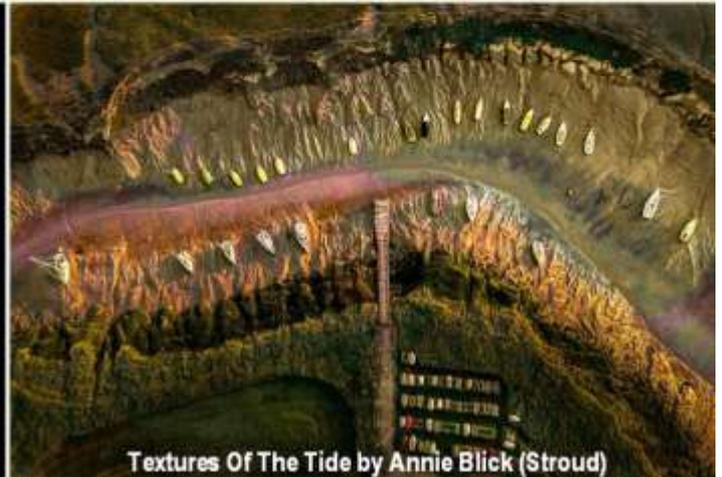
The foundation for the event was [Pixoroo](#), an online competition system already in use at Stroud and coincidentally at Cardiff. Developed by photographer and IT professional **Aleks Gjika**, Pixoroo had recently added an AI judge feature and text-to-speech functionality, making it an ideal platform. While various AI models exist, ChatGPT was chosen for its apparent familiarity with camera club conventions and its ability to produce critiques that felt authentic rather than just generic. The most critical element, however, was the prompt. Using ChatGPT's “Projects” feature, considerable time was spent refining instructions to ensure fairness, consistency, and an appropriate scoring range for UK camera club standards. The final prompt instructed the AI to act as a UK camera club judge, provide conversational critiques of around 90 seconds per image, and award whole-number scores between 10 and 20, with multiple top scores allowed.

Managing Entries and Critiques

Each club submitted 20 images via Pixoroo, which handled uploads, notifications, and deadlines smoothly. Once entries closed, all images were downloaded at the required resolution and uploaded into ChatGPT. The AI-generated critiques were then copied back into Pixoroo, which converted them into spoken commentary during the event. For clubs not using Pixoroo, ChatGPT's built-in text-to-speech feature offers a workable alternative, allowing AI critiques to be played directly to an audience. Once all images had been critiqued, ChatGPT was prompted to allocate final scores across the full set. The AI produced a simple score list, allowing Pixoroo to calculate totals automatically.

Running the Battle Night

The competition was hosted via Microsoft Teams, with both clubs joining from their usual meeting venues, allowing the usual half-time break and socialisation. A single host laptop shared the Pixoroo judging window, while each club projected images and audio locally via their normal club laptops. This setup preserved the social feel of a traditional club night while ensuring technical stability. The evening ran smoothly. Pixoroo played AI-generated voice critiques over each image, with consistent timing across entries. While opinions naturally varied—as they do with any judge—feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Members appreciated the constructive tone and impartiality of the AI judge. Four images received the maximum score of 20, evenly split between the two clubs, reinforcing confidence in the fairness of the process.



some of the images from this competition.

Reflections on AI in Camera Clubs

An AI judge will never replace the emotional intelligence or lived experience of a human judge. However, this event demonstrated that AI could enhance engagement, introduce consistency, and provide a fresh perspective, particularly at a time when many clubs struggle to attract younger members, and judges are getting fewer. The success of the AI Battle highlights the importance of embracing innovation while respecting tradition. Photography clubs thrive when they remain open, curious, and willing to evolve. Just as photography itself has continually adapted since the 19th century, so too must the communities built around it.

By balancing heritage with experimentation, clubs can surely remain vibrant, educational, and enjoyable spaces for generations to come Stroud



Dozens of wonderful images to look at in [e-news 400 extra](#)

20th FIAP World Cup for Clubs 2025

Congratulations! Success for UK and Ireland.

RANK	CLUB		POINTS	ACCEPTED
1	Rolls Royce Derby Photographic Society	UK	619	17
2	Catchlight Camera Club	UK	608	14
3	Drogheda	IE	606	16
4	G.F. Il Cupolone EFI -CAFIAP	IT	604	14
5	Youth Photographic Society	IN	602	13
6	Chhayapath Calcutta	IN	595	12
7	Otofokus	TR	594	15
8	New world	RU	593	14
9	Attalos Photography Cclub	TR	592	12
10	Dundalk Photographic Society	IE	591	14



Blood Warriors by David Cudworth



Bending the Bar by Brian Stephenson



Busy Goldfinch by David Travis



By the Riverside by Jon Mee



The Resting Place by Katrina Mee



Strength and Beauty by Carol McNiven Young



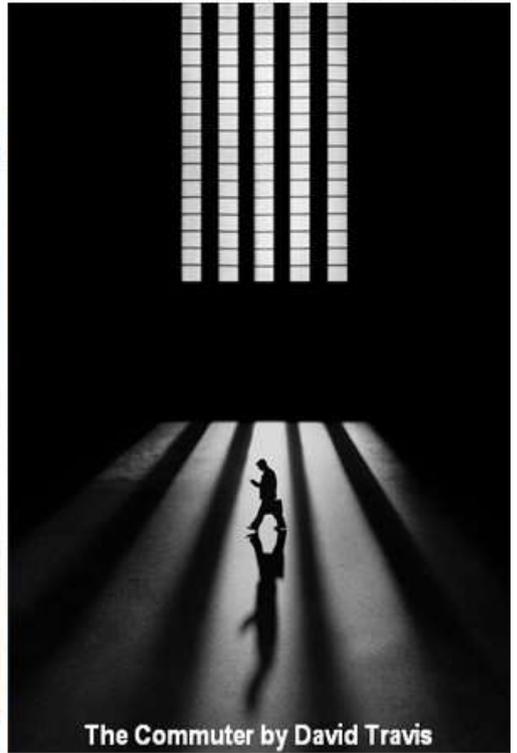
Josh Bruce Serves by Brian Stephenson



Houdet Stretches Off Court by Alan Young



Childlike Curiosity by Jon Mee



The Commuter by David Travis



Female Common Fingfisher by Jaime MacArthur



Egrets at Dawn by Katrina Mee



Caught it! by Bill Hall



Houdet High Forehand Return by Alan Young



Flat Out by Rob Cuss



Early Morning Goldfinch by Gianpiero Ferrari



Ponytails and Punches by David Cudworth



Long-tailed Tit by Gianpiero Ferrari



Sharing Secrets by Carol McNiven Young



Vacant Thoughts by Martin Duffy

Visit The Photography Show 2026



See Epson on Stand F21



See Epson on Stand F21

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Birmingham





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Photography Seminar 2026



20th - 22nd March 2026
Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road Alum
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for
Issue 10a. MASTERS OF PRINT HALL OF FAME to the NINTH EXHIBITION. 2026
which has been amended to recognise those who have judged the exhibition and who are therefore entitled to wear the appropriate badge for that year.

and, for everything else you need to know about the NINTH MASTERS OF PRINT ->

CLICK HERE for e-news 398 extra

with ALL the results of the Ninth Masters of Print, including the Individual Awards, the Club Gold and Diamond Trophies, the Salon des Refuses and the Hall of Fame

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

MASTERS OF PRINT

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RAY BRIGHTMAN DPAGB FRPS AFIAP BPE3 HonPAGB

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Ray Brightman at the age of 91 on Christmas Eve 2025.

Ray was the longest serving member of Sheffield Photographic Society and we regarded him as the “father” of our club. He first joined SPS in the 1950s and was in continuous membership and able to attend meetings until last year. He has been President of the Society four times, 1968-69, 1975-76, 1988-89, and 2000-01 and was also a Past President of the Yorkshire Photographic Union (YPU) and was appointed as a Life Vice President of the YPU. He was on the YPU Lecturers List for over 25 Years and was a much sought after and well-travelled exhibition and competition judge - covering Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Ray Brightman is one of a very small group of people to hold the J S Lancaster Medal, with the designation of HonPAGB, presented in 1998 by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain for exceptional service to the PAGB, the YPU and to clubs all over the UK.

Ray was one of the early adopters of the audio-visual medium in this country and was quickly recognised for the high quality of his work in that field. In the days of manual projection, he was a great exponent of the Purlock DuoFade dissolver, which was capable of snap changes and other effects impossible to achieve with the later bulb-dimming systems. Ray gained his FRPS in slide-sound sequences in 1973 and was soon appointed to the assessment panel for that distinction, a role which he held for many years.

He was a committee member of the RPS Audio Visual Group, becoming its chairman in the early 1980s. Ray gained his FRPS in 1973 and has also been awarded the Fenton Medal by the Royal Photographic Society for major contributions to photography. Many readers will not know that Sheffield PS organised a National Slide Exhibition from 1989 to 1998 and that Ray chaired the Organising Group for those Exhibitions, devoting a huge amount of time to the task of organising very successful events.

In Sheffield PS itself Ray won nearly all of the Cups and Trophies in the various classes over the years including the Society Trophy for Best Print on 3 occasions and in former times the Trophy for the Best Slide an amazing 9 times. In 2018 Sheffield PS awarded Ray a Certificate of Appreciation to recognise his achievements and his contribution to SPS over so many years.

In latter years Ray’s photographs of “Old Sheffield” had become a much loved feature of our Annual Exhibition. His collection of historical photos of Sheffield are now archived in the [Ray Brightman Exhibition Collection](#) on the *Picture Sheffield* web site.

Ray was a long-time member of the [Yorkshire Monochrome Group](#) and regularly attended their monthly meetings in Shipleigh until Covid intervened. He contributed to their exhibitions and to their 25-year anniversary book. His monochrome images of old Sheffield were greatly appreciated there as well.

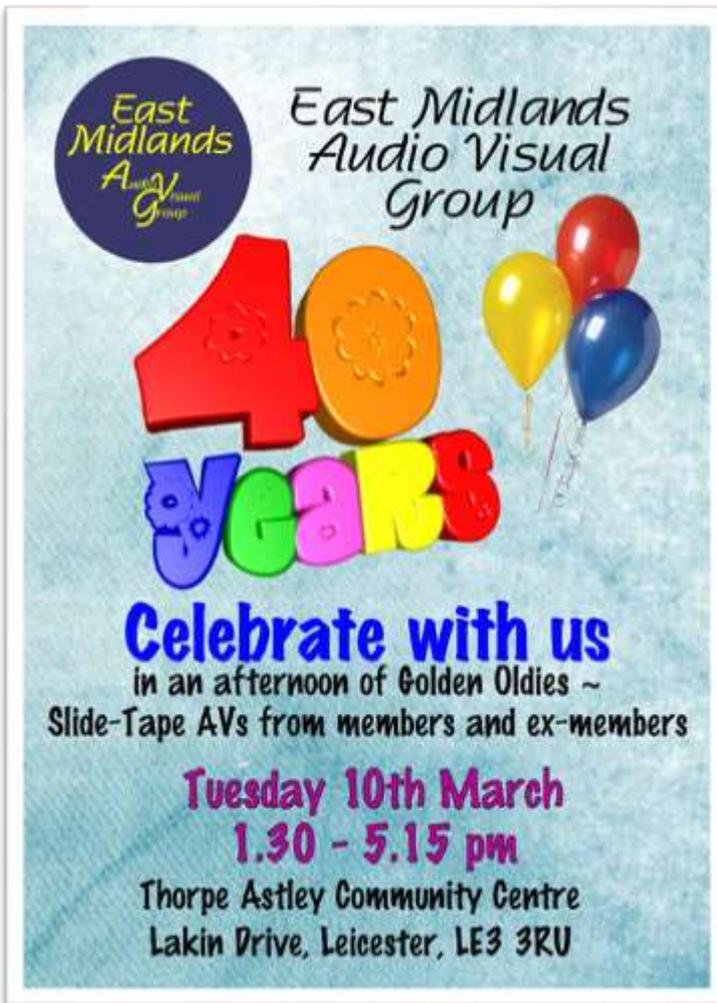
Ray was friendly and helpful to all at SPS and always ready to offer his experience and knowledge to other members. He will be sorely missed.

Mike Newman, President, Sheffield Photographic Society.



An advertisement for PermaJet inkjet paper. The background is a gradient of yellow and orange. At the top left is the PermaJet logo with a sunflower icon. Below it, the text reads "Award Winning Inkjet Paper" in large, bold letters, followed by "Print your images at their very best on PermaJet". There are several award logos, including "2022 AWARDS" and "The Best of the Best". On the right side, there are images of PermaJet inkjet paper boxes and a printed photograph of a sunflower. At the bottom left, there is contact information: "T: 01789 739200 | W: www.permajet.com | E: sales@permajet.com". At the bottom right, there are social media icons for Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube.

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**See us at the
Photography
Show
on
Stand B35**



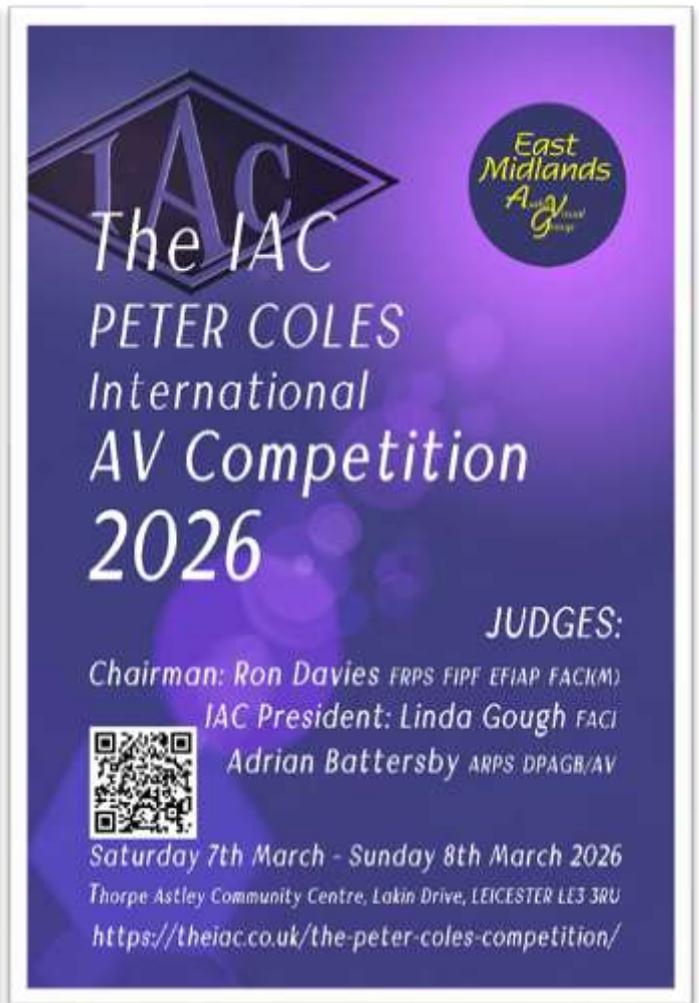
East Midlands Audio Visual Group

40 YEARS

Celebrate with us
in an afternoon of Golden Oldies ~
Slide-Tape AVs from members and ex-members

Tuesday 10th March
1.30 - 5.15 pm

Thorpe Astley Community Centre
Lakin Drive, Leicester, LE3 3RU



The IAC

PETER COLES
International
AV Competition
2026

JUDGES:
Chairman: Ron Davies FRPS FIPF EFIAP FACI(M)
IAC President: Linda Gough FACI
Adrian Battersby ARPS DPAGB/AV



Saturday 7th March - Sunday 8th March 2026
Thorpe Astley Community Centre, Lakin Drive, LEICESTER LE3 3RU
<https://theiac.co.uk/the-peter-coles-competition/>

LEIGH PRESTON MPAGB EFIAP FRPS



The Power Station was taken as part of my 50 year long and still on-going project about the decline of Industry in the UK. It illustrates the scale and atmosphere at a large industrial location at night, there's very little of this infrastructure left now.

The Wet Street in Nelson was really illustrative of Terraced Britain, a cotton town , again to show that sense of nostalgia, of a 1950's world that's since departed, a world my grandmother lived in and I briefly inhabited growing up in during that era. Taken on a wet Sunday morning after moving wheelie bins!.

TWO GREAT EXHIBITIONS – NOW OPEN FOR ENTRY

MIDLAND SALON 2026

INTERNATIONAL PRINT AND PDI EXHIBITION



2026-177



L260048



2026-020

20
26

162nd Edinburgh International Photography Exhibition 2026

Edinburgh Photographic Society



One of the oldest and most prestigious print salons in the world

This is a Print-only Salon. Entry open from
28th February to 29th May 2026
Prints must be received by 3rd June 2026

Only 2 sections.
Enter up to 4 prints per section:

Open Mono

Open Colour



Yellow and Black 7866 by
Mohammad Ali Salim



Impressionist Sunset by Keith Snell

Enter here!

<https://pixaroo.com/eipe2026>



Help by Dianne Owen

All accepted prints will be exhibited 8th to 31st
August 2026 as part of Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Images accepted in the 161st Salon 2025

Entry fees: £12 for one section, £16 for two sections
Payment is via PayPal

