

Newsletter September 2023

1. September Events

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Location	Event	Leader/ judge/ Speaker
Mon, 4	Drake Hall	Opening Night	
Mon, 11	Drake Hall	Members' Evening	
Wed, 13	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Sun, 17	Kop Hill	Outing	Juliet Ormiston/ Patrick Hudgell
Mon, 18	Drake Hall	Phone Fun	Bob Marshall
Thu, 21	Drake Hall	PIC Group - 7:45 start	Chris Palmer/ Steve Smith
Mon, 25	Drake Hall	Informal Meeting showing our PAGB Championship Images	
Mon, 25	St Michael Ch urch	Exhibition set-up	
26- 30	St Michael Ch urch	Exhibition	
Wed, 27	Committee Room	Colour Group	Laurie Turner
Thu, 28	St Michael Ch urch	Members' Evening Exhibition	

2. Chairman's Message

Welcome everyone to the start of our 23/24 season.

I hope that you all enjoyed your summer break and have been enjoying your photography whether it be with a camera or a phone. There are no club

competitions in September, the committee's aim being to have a social September, getting to know members and encouraging everyone with their photography. Therefore, our speakers and competitions will be commencing in our October meetings onwards. Our full programme can be seen on our website. As an explanation we chose to have three zoom meetings in January, two speakers and one PDI competition, so that we could have speakers who live in other parts of the country and to avoid possible weather problems. We have other meetings on zoom, when Drake Hall is being used for other purposes on a Monday Evening. This year we have also chosen to include 'ASK APS ' on three of our Monday evening throughout the Year. I do hope you enjoy the programme.

4th September – Opening Night

After a few words from me we shall hear from members who run our special interest groups :-

John Harrison (Mono)

(standing in for Roger Wotton who is away)

Laurie Turner (Colour)

(Laurie will also mention his role on the Committee as Members Representative)

Chrissie Ratcliffe (Ask APS)

Chris Palmer /Steve Smith (Photographers in Camera (PIC))

Juliet Ormiston (Outings)

Steve Brabner (Beyond)

Hopefully, their brief talks will inspire you to attend some of the extra activities provided by the Society. Our aim is always for everyone to enjoy their photography.

Our special treat for the evening will be a talk by **Yin Wong** entitled '**My journey EFIAP/Diamond 1**'

For those who do not know Yin, he is one of the Society's long-standing members, who has over the last few years entered numerous international

competitions and gradually he has achieved international recognition for his work. This year he became one of the few photographers in the UK to be awarded EFIAP Diamond level 1. Yin will talk about his journey, show us some images and I think also hint at how some of our groups have given him encouragement with his photography.

During the course of the evening we shall have a refreshment break and have the opportunity of looking at the CPAGB prints of John and Gill Allport, which we will be displayed during the evening.

11th September- Members' Evening

For the first part of the evening **Nigel Longman** will be giving us a talk entitled **'Done in a Flash'**.

So, an intriguing title does this mean we shall learn about Nigel's use of flash photography or does the phrase have another interpretation, come and join us for the evening and all will be revealed.

Nigel has been a member since 2020 and his work covers various genre, from the unusual angled shot of a mansion library, girls flying high on a rollercoaster to the beautiful old master like image of the lady making lace.

We shall have a refreshment break during which time we shall be able to view the CPAGB prints of John Harding and Geoff Walker, which we shall be displaying during the evening.

For the second part of the evening we shall hear from John Harding, Steve Holden and Brian Ridgley. John and Steve will brief us about our internal competitions (Print and PDI).

Brian will explain about the external competitions we are entering this year, including the forthcoming PAGB Print Championship being held in Blackburn in October where we are one of the two clubs representing the Chiltern Association of Camera Clubs in the countrywide competition.

18th September - 'Phone Cameras Come of Age'

You will have gathered from the emails which I sent out recently that we have changed the emphasis of the evening from 'Phone Fun' to 'Phone Cameras Come of Age'. We recognised that Phone Camera's now take brilliant images, either straight out of camera or adapted with the various apps which can be obtained. Indeed, I am aware some of our members now use their phone more than their camera. This evening will be dedicated just to viewing members phone images and will be led by Bob Marshall, who now produces some amazing images using his phone.

Currently Bob is away and whilst he has received numerous images to show on the night there is still time to send a few more images particularly from our new members. His email is

bobmarshall001@gmail.com

25th September – Members' Evening

We did have a speaker planned until we realised that this is the evening our Exhibition is being set up by some members. Clearly not everyone will be involved in the Set Up, so for those coming to the Hall we shall show the images we chose to use at the PAGB PDI Competition in July and anyone can have the opportunity to comment. We shall also provide refreshments and hopefully some of the team setting up the Exhibition will join us later in the evening for the refreshments.

This evening will be an ideal opportunity if you want to show or get some comments or advise on an image from other members, do bring it along either as a print or on a phone or an iPad or laptop.

Obviously, Martin will be mentioning about the exhibition, however, can I remind you that on **Thursday 28th September** we shall have a **Members Social Evening at the exhibition between 7pm and 9 pm**. You are all invited.

Refreshments will be served and indeed can I have a couple of volunteers to help me with serving the drinks etc. If you are willing to help please email me at diane.sorsopmis@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you at our Monday Evenings and at the Exhibition Evening.

Diane

3. Print Competitions

As the beginning of our club year draws closer, I hope all members are thinking about our Annual Exhibition and the coming competition season. We are continuing with 5 print competitions with all classes judged on the same evening. The only slight change is that at the first print competition members will be permitted to enter two prints rather than one, as in recent years. Some other issues have been under discussion during the summer including our approach to the use of Artificial Intelligence in competitions and External Competition image selection. Below are our reflections on Artificial Intelligence:-

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence has been around for many years in the photographic world. We have it in our Cameras, Mobile Phones and image editing software. The use of this AI is generally accepted without question. The problems are now arising from developments in Image Generators that are trained to produce images using libraries of images created by multiple authors. Amersham Photographic Society operates under the auspices of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) and images created by Image Generators are already prohibited by the General Conditions of the PAGB on the grounds of plagiarism.

The PAGB view is that images must be entirely the work of the photographer. In composite images, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks and clipart are not permitted. The Royal Photographic

Society (RPS) offers very similar advice to members of that Society.

There is a separate question as to how clubs detect the use of generated images or plagiarism in general. Detection is difficult so reliance must be placed on individual members not to enter images for club competitions or any external competition or assessment that they know contains generated images that are not their creation.

Honesty and Respect is expected when competing on common ground. If you haven't created the input, how can you claim credit for the output. **ONLY YOU CAN KNOW.**

Our other concern is the difficulty of identifying prints for entry into external competitions. To assist the image selection team, we have decided that when a member submits the necessary print details to the Print Secretary prior to a competition a digital copy of the image, in the same format as for entry into a pdi competition, is also submitted. These will then be made available to the selection team. (This request does not apply to the General Class). When a digital copy is submitted with the print details there will be an assumption that the image is available for use in external competitions.

John Harding

Print Secretary

4. PDI Competitions

Welcome back to the new season (and to any new members welcome to APS). Projected competitions will restart on 9th October. For those that haven't entered before the rules and instructions are on the competitions pages of the website

<https://www.amershamphotosoc.com/competitions-internal/>.

Any submissions should be emailed to the competition address at

pdientry@amershamphotosoc.com by midnight on the Friday night before the competition on the Monday.

If you have any questions they can be asked to me (Steve Holden) on most Monday nights either at the break or after the meeting, or via the pdisec@amershamphotosoc.com address.

Steve Holden

5. The Mono Group

The Mono Group is an APS Special Interest Group, that supports and encourages members interested in monochrome photography.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 07:45pm, with members showing and discussing their images, receiving comments and encouragement from group member's.

We are a friendly group with members bringing prints (that don't need to be mounted) to our live meetings and send digital images in advance for our zoom meetings.

However, you don't have to show prints or images, you can just come to the meetings and contribute to the discussion, if you wish.

This coming year our meetings will alternate between 'virtual on zoom' and 'live in person' throughout the season, details are emailed to members monthly and are also in the APS Programme.

Our first meeting is on 12th October at 7:45 in the Committee Room.

We look forward to seeing you.

Roger Wotton, Mono Group Leader.

6. The Colour Group

Is a small, friendly, informal group where we enjoy, seeing, discussing and celebrating our colour pictures.

- Each member submits up to three pictures (any genre) which are shown and the author talks about them.
- We then chat about the picture expressing both appreciation and often questions on where and how.
- Some authors will ask for feedback to help understand strengths and weaknesses and potential improvements.

It is a fun enjoyable evening. To quote members;

“Its spending the evening with a group of interesting, enjoyable friends and seeing wonderful images”

“Great way to understand and improve my work”

“We always have a great evening”

Less experienced members have said it is a friendly place to get feedback and take the first steps to be ready for competition

Experienced members have improved work for external international exhibitions.

Some members come just to watch and enjoy.

“So something for all and its fun - please join us”

When and were:

Last Wednesday of the month starting at 8.00 and finishing at 10.00

Alternate, each month, between live and virtual Zoom meetings (see programme).

If you are not a member of our group and would like to join please contact me laurie899@hotmail.co.uk and you will be put on the distribution list.

Please do join us you don't have to submit pictures initially. You can show old in addition to your latest images or just watch.

Look forward to seeing you.

Laurie Turner

7. Photographers in Camera (PIC) Group

PIC Group meetings will resume again on Thursday September 21st, at 8pm, in the Drake Hall.

For those that are uncertain about the aims and objectives of the Group, we are there to support photographers who make prints, and wish to work on projects or in themes, on exhibitions or books, rather than in single competitive images. There is a strong belief that an image isn't finished until it's printed, and the opportunity to share work with other Group members can be very rewarding. Membership of the PIC Group is open to everyone. We are grateful to operate under the umbrella of Amersham PS, but aim to cover our own costs with a nominal £10 per season subscription, (which includes free tea and coffee.) When the PIC Group was formed some years ago very few APS members possessed distinctions of any kind. If you produce prints for the APS competitions, what are you going to do with them afterwards? The RPS distinctions are a wonderful way of working towards a worthy qualification at one of 3 levels - Licentiate, Associate or Fellow. Alternatively, there are PAGB qualifications at five levels.

Chris Palmer

8. Amersham Beyond Group

The Amersham Beyond Group exists to explore creative photography and the first meeting of the season will be on October 5th. In the meantime, there will be a short taster of our recent work at the first APS meeting of the season next Monday 4th September and there will be eight panels of our prints at the exhibition later in the month.

If you would like to go on the distribution list, drop me a line to

beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com

Steve Brabner

9. Outings

The first outing of the season will be to **Kop Hill Climb on Sunday 17th September**

<https://kophillclimb.org>.

This is a great event to visit as there is something for everyone, even if you are not especially into cars. Please take a look at the website. It is advisable to buy tickets in advance as they are cheaper.

Friday 10th November, we plan to visit **Burnham Beeches** for the beautiful autumn colours.

Wednesday 6th December we will go to **Old Amersham** in the evening to take some low light shots

If you would like to join us or have any queries about the outings, please email us and we will send you details: outings@amershamphotosoc.com or speak to either Juliet or Patrick at the meetings. We are also often at The Beech House Amersham on a Wednesday morning.

Ashridge House has got a sculpture exhibition scattered amongst their wonderful extensive gardens which are open for the first time daily to the public. If you haven't already, been it really is worth a visit. They have worked hard on the gardens and they are looking lovely.

<https://www.ashridgehouse.org.uk/whats-on/sculpture-gardens/>

Patrick and I are planning to go on **Tuesday 12th September @ 10.00** meeting in the Bake house courtyard. It would be great to see anyone who can join us. We very much look forward to seeing you on our trips.

Juliet Ormiston

10. Social Media - Facebook

A very warm welcome to all new members of APS. If you are a Facebook user we have a public page that you may like to 'Like and Follow' Amersham Photographic Society - APS.

We also have a private members only group, Amersham Photographic Society Members Only, which you can request to join. This is a friendly, fun, and secure group page where we all share photographs, give and receive help and advice, and let everyone know about get-togethers and outings.

Chrissi Ratcliffe

11. Amersham Photographic Society

Annual Exhibition 2023

This is to remind members that the Annual Exhibition will take place in the St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sycamore Road, Amersham from **26th - 30th September**.

The Exhibition will be open from 10am to 6pm daily.

The full guidance for the event can be found on the website.

However, some key points for your consideration:

- Each member is entitled to submit up to 4 prints

- Each member will be **guaranteed** that at least two will be exhibited, more will depend on the number of prints submitted overall and available exhibition space.
- I will collect prints for display on the following dates and locations:
- 4th September at the APS Meeting
- 11th September at the APS Meeting
- CJ's Locksmiths, Amersham until noon on Saturday 9th September

In extremis prints may be delivered to me at home by prior arrangement.

- Each submission **MUST** be accompanied by a completed Print Entry Form available on the website. Details of submission criteria are on the website,
- Stewards – the exhibition must have members of the Club in attendance during opening hours – the sessions available are on the Print Entry Form. Please remember the more people who volunteer the lighter the load on everyone. If we cannot cover each session the exhibition will have to close.
- As in previous years there will be a separate Monochrome exhibition (please contact Roger Wootton).
- As in previous years there will be a separate Beyond exhibition (please contact Steve Brabner)
- As in previous years there will be a PDI display of images selected from those submitted for consideration.
- On the Thursday evening there will be a Members private showing from 7pm – 9:30pm where light refreshments will be served

The Exhibition will be erected on **Monday 25th September** from 6:30pm. Assistance will be required for both moving boards, lighting and erecting the selected prints. If you are able to help please let me know – an email will suffice.

The Exhibition will be dismantled on Saturday 30th September, when you can collect your prints and also, hopefully, assist with breaking down the equipment and moving back to storage.

The Exhibition is for **all** members to display their work, so do give it a try.

Martin Crook

12. Epson Printer Spares

I now have the following working parts (salvaged from scrapped printers by John Lynch of Repro Repairs) for the Epson P600 which are available free to APS members:

2 off Paper Feed Assemblies

4 off Front Display/switch assemblies

Miscellaneous other parts including various drive motors (probably best I hang onto these for the time being).

If any members are interested in any of the above items it is probably best to contact me by email in the first instance. geoffwalker49@gmail.com

John Lynch also has the following items which are free to APS members, but need collecting from his Piddington premises before 30 September latest: (Please contact John Lynch direct on 07774 491524 for more information on these and to arrange collection).

Bulk Refillable Ink Flow Systems for the P600, P800 and R3000

Full set of ink cartridges for a P900

Many thanks

Geoff Walker

Please note you will find the following :

Julie Mullings and Peter Lilywhite took up the offer of some training from the Epsom Repair Man in Piddington before he retired, on the APS members Facebook page on the 13th August a video by Julie Mullings on repairs to Epsom Stylus Pro 3880 and similar printers

- a) Removal of outer casing
- b) Repair of common problem - the dropping of Photo Black ink onto paper as it is printing - replacement of Photo Black Damper

On the website under ' Useful Links ' you will find from Peter Lillywhite

'Epsom Printer Repairs ' a short video covering some repairs to an Epsom P600 and applicable to other models.

Many thanks to Geoff , Julie and Peter

Diane

APPENDIX

APS Covid Guidance

The following APS guidance is reviewed monthly by the committee. Please contact a committee member if you have any comments or suggestions relating to this guidance.

Wearing a face mask during APS meetings will remain optional. However when infection levels are high, to maximise personal protection, it is recommended that FFP2 or FFP3 grade face masks are worn by those that feel vulnerable.

Nobody should feel embarrassed about wishing to protect themselves by wearing a face covering. Gov.uk guidance updated June 2023 states:

"Face coverings and face masks can help reduce the chance of you spreading infection to others, especially in crowded and enclosed spaces, and may protect you from becoming infected by some respiratory viruses."

Please do not attend a meeting if you feel unwell, have Covid or any other respiratory symptoms or have tested positive for Covid in the past week. We will not seek evidence of vaccination or negative tests. We rely on our members to act sensibly for the protection of others and themselves.

APS Committee

