



Newsletter May 2024

1. May Events

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise indicated

Date	Location	Event	Leader/Judge/ Speaker
Thu, 2	Drake Hall	Beyond	Steve Brabner
Mon, 6		No meeting	
Wed, 8	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Thu, 9	Zoom	Mono Group	Roger Wotton
Mon, 13	Drake Hall	SPEAKER: DAMIEN DEMOLDER 'Light and Life on the Streets'	Damien Demolder
Tue, 14	London	'Vertigo Tour'	Juliet Ormiston/ Patrick Hudgell
Thu, 16	Drake Hall	PIC Group - 7:45 start	Chris Palmer/ Steve Smith
Mon, 20	Drake Hall	PRINT FINAL - Judge : Philip Joyce	Philip Joyce
Mon, 27		No meeting	
Wed, 29	Zoom	Colour Group	Laurie Turner

2. Chairman's Message

Despite being away, I heard those attending had a brilliant night at Ask APS and indeed I received some images from Bernard showing members taking their photographs, which I am now showing below. I think we have to thank Chrissi and Brian for an inspirational evening.



Also, what brilliant news to hear we came first in the CACC Rosebowl Competition, with the judge mentioning as a superb image that of Brian Gough's 'Contemplation' and giving it a score of 20



CONTEMPLATION by Brian Gough

We also had 3 scores of 19, Alison Trimbee's 'Milky Way over Tyneham, Alan Sturges's 'Spike' and Brian Ridgley's 'Short Eared Owl Hunting in Winter'.





I understand that was not our only success, in the Phone Competition both Gill Allport and Juliet Ormiston were awarded commendations for their images 'Ryde Pier in the Rain' and 'Battersea New Builds' respectively.

Congratulations to everyone and especially to Brian Ridgley and his team who have had some fabulous successes this year.

Now turning to May and what is happening, as there are two Monday Bank Holidays this month we only have two Monday evening events.

On the **13th May** - Damien Demolder will be giving his talk 'Light and Life on the Streets'

Some members will remember Damien gave an inspirational talk a few years ago so I imagine we shall have another fascinating talk.

Damien has worked in the photographic industry since 1997 , including 15 years as editor of Amateur Photographer (which he still writes technical reviews for). Previously he has also written for DP Review and British Journal of Photography magazine. He has judged numerous photographic competitions including Sony World Photo Awards and Landscape Photographer of the Year.

On the **20th May** Print Finals - Judge: Philip Joyce FRPS

Please remember to email John Harding with your two prints titles by midnight on Friday 17th May. The images should not have been altered since you entered the earlier competitions.

Philip Joyce is a member of Oxford Photographic Society, and as a Fellow of the RPS he is a member of the Awards Assessment Panel for the Documentary Group. He holds a London Salon Medal. Philip states that 'his photography is mainly centred around people, a social documentary of things we do, the places we live and the way we look'.

A reminder also. I am still looking for someone to offer to take on the role of Vice Chairman and Chairman next year. Come on, please volunteer.

Diane

3. Programme

May 13th Speaker – DAMIEN DEMOLDER

Having previously presented to us in November 2022, when his talk was so well received, Damien Demolder will be returning to us to present 'Light and Life on the Streets'

Damien is a Photographer, Journalist, Educator, Brand, Marketing and Technology Advisory for camera manufacturers, and for 15 years was Editor of

Amateur Photographer. He has had several books published, judges extensively and runs workshops.

Damien's personal work focuses mainly on street photography, but he also shoots portraits, architecture, landscapes, macro and occasionally even wildlife and weddings.

Hilary Bailey for Steve Hunter

4. Print Competitions

The fifth print competition of the season was held on Monday 8th April. The winning prints were as follows:

General Class

- 1st Llandudno Pier by Richard Pitt
- 2nd Barn Find by Richard Pitt
- 3rd Polar Bear on Sea Ice by Steve Poole

Commendations given to Steve Poole and Janette Quainton.

Intermediate Class

- 1st Flamingos in Flight by Sylvia Morris
- 2nd A Peaceful Morning at the Lake by Gill Allport
- 3rd And they sailed away by the Light of the Moon by Derek Green

Commended Images were by Nigel Longman, John Allport and Hilary Pickersgill.

Advanced Class

- 1st Hitching a Ride by Maggie James
- 2nd Marlie Packer, Player of the Year 2023 by Julie Mullings
- 3rd Ruppel's Griffon Vulture by Alan Sturges

Commended images were from Alan Sturges, Ken Law, Tim Hodges and Hilary

Bailey.



General - LLANDUDNO PIER by Richard Pitt



Intermediate - FLAMINGOS IN FLIGHT by Sylvia Morris



Advanced - HITCHING A RIDE by Maggie James

Important Information re next season's Print Competitions.

Some concerns have been voiced concerning the quality of images projected onto the big screen during Print Competitions. As a result, we have been looking at options to improve the projected image quality. The obvious option is to use a pdi of the image and project it onto the screen as is done during the regular pdi competitions. This solution involves members submitting the digital copy of the print image prior to the competition evening, the Print Secretary collating the pdis and the pdi secretary loading the images prior to the

competition. Print handlers would have to ensure, on the competition evening, that the projected image and the image being judged are identical. So, quite a lot more to do prior to the competition evening. However, we are assured that the technology is tried and tested and believe that this arrangement would improve members enjoyment of print competitions. It is also a system used by many other camera clubs. It does, however, require some changes to the current arrangements for the submission of prints for competition evenings. The changes are as follows: -

Regulations for Internal Competitions

Annual Print Competition Rules.

Para 2, 2nd sentence will read_ “ *Print Titles, Authors Name and unique corner identification , together with a digital copy of the print image (As per pdi competitions) must be sent by email to printsec@amershamphotosoc.com by Midnight on the Wednesday preceding the Monday competition evening. Entries not accompanied by the correct digital copy or arriving after the Wednesday deadline will be disregarded and not included in the print competition.”*

Any comments regarding the proposed changes should be sent to the Print Secretary within 14 days of the publication of this APS Newsletter.

These changes, if approved, will commence at the start of the 2024/25 season.

The Print Final will be held on Monday 20th May 2024. Each member may submit two prints previously submitted during the current season. Prints should be unaltered from the original submission. The usual details are required to be with the Print Secretary by Friday 17th May 2024.

John Harding

Print Secretary.

5. PDI Competitions

The PDI finals competition was held on 29th April.
Congratulations to the winners.



General - GLISTENING INKCAPS by Mark Farrand



Intermediate and overall PDI of the Year- PURPLE HERON LANDING IN THE MORNING LIGHT by Deepan Vyas



Advanced - ABI by Yin Wong

Congratulations to Deepan Vyas for winning overall PDI of the year.

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

6. The Mono Group

The next meeting will be a zoom meeting on 9th May starting at 7:45.

Should you wish to join our group please email me at the address below to receive details of all meetings.

Roger Wotton, Mono Group Leader.

monogroup@amershamphotosoc.com

7. 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 where:

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.

Look forward to seeing you.

Laurie Turner

8. Ask APS

It was wonderful to see so many members come along to the last AskAPS session, where we were given the opportunity to photograph the very talented musician Jamie Felton.

It was also great to see so many stunning images appearing on the members only Facebook page during the following days.

Brian has had an idea of compiling a photo book for Jamie, with images from as many different photographers as possible.

If you would like to submit some images that you took during the evening we would be delighted to include them in the book.

Please send your images to me via

WeTransfer or Dropbox (please do not email them to me directly as this will seriously compromise the quality of the images).

Images should be print quality/standard.

High resolution JPEG (300 dpi)

Please send via WeTransfer or Dropbox to

chrissi_bell@hotmail.com

Otherwise put your images on a USB stick and hand to me or Brian at the club.

ALL IMAGES NEED TO BE IN BY MONDAY 13th MAY

Thank you.

Chrissi.

9. Amersham Beyond Group

This group is for creative photography and photo art.

We are a sub-group of APS but everyone is welcome including visitors not yet signed up as members. There are no rules or judges, no equipment required and no prior notice necessary

We meet monthly and the next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd May in the Drake Hall from 8 to 10pm.

The current Challenges are;

#43 Oil and Water

#44 Blending Modes

and the latest;

#45 A Pink Floyd Album Cover



#43 RED WHITE AND BLUE by Chris Smith



#44 POLYCHROME PHARAOH by Steve Brabner



#44BLEND MODES B by Tracy Bradbury

See the notes of the last meeting for more about these Challenges;
<https://amershamphotosoc.com/message/viewtopic.php?f=42&t=860>

See the FAQ for more about the group and how to submit images;
<https://amershamphotosoc.com/message/viewtopic.php?f=42&t=814>

If you have any digital photography questions or would like to be added to the distribution list for calling notices and meeting notes, email me;
beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com

Every image produced by group members since 2019 is here;
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/71981796@N00/albums>

Cheers,

Steve Brabner

10. PIC Group

Once again it was a pleasure for Steve and I to welcome PIC members to our recent April meeting.

We commenced with a presentation by Peter Branch of pictures taken of the residents in his road. Monochrome documentary prints depicting activity, and portraits, a development from his recent book project on a similar theme. He has thoughts of a Fellowship submission, so the Group discussion centred upon the project, and how it might be expanded and refined into a viable panel.

Next we saw the initial images of a potential RPS Visual Art Associate panel by Sally Kitchingman who recently gained her Licentiate distinction. Photographs of incense-generated smoke which, when inverted, produced a fascinating series of abstract studies that had then been coloured. Encouragement and appreciation were much in evidence in the subsequent discussion, we look forward to seeing more from this project in the future.

Birthdays come along with increasing (and depressing!) regularity, but nevertheless it was much appreciated to receive congratulations from the Group as the meeting coincided with a significant birthday for me, and the cake was delicious too. Thanks Brian!

During the break Peter Branch also provided a small panel of shots showing the demise of the Sun Printing works in Watford immediately prior to its demolition. To record the historical significance of this event was important.

Finally Chrissi Bell provided an enjoyable presentation for the remainder of our meeting, showing a superb set of canine portraits of black dogs. Because they are black this apparently makes them unpopular when put up for adoption in rehousing kennels, (particularly in the USA), and this fact provided the catalyst for a project that Chrissi intends to expand when suitable dogs become available.

Chrissi also showed a tasteful set of white flower studies, photographed against a white background. Technical excellence was again much in evidence, showing Chrissi's mastery of studio lighting to great effect.





The final meeting of the 2023/4 season concludes on **May 16th** when we welcome presentations from the members. Offers please to Steve or Chris. Thanks to Jaffer Bhimji for the photos from the meeting.

Chris Palmer

11. Outings

A small select group of us went to Waddesdon last Friday. Despite the weather we had a very good sociable time. We explored the grounds and looked at 5 Guercino paintings that are being displayed together for the first time in 350 years. Also on display is a recently discovered painting of Moses which had never been seen in public before. We then visited a very modern sculpture 'The wedding cake' by Joana Vasconcelos. It is an enormous three-story immersive sculpture, combining pinks yellow greens and blues. It is a bit like marmite!



The next outing is on Tuesday 14th May to City of London 'Vertigo Tour' when we will be going up several high rise buildings including the new Horizon 22 building. This trip is now full so we have created a reserve list.

If you would like to go on the reserve list, please email outings@amershamphotosoc.com and we will add you to the list. Please note that we need to limit the group size on some outings so it's "first come first served".

We have not arranged any more outings this season but hope to do one during the summer.

If you have any queries about the outings, please email or speak to either Juliet or Patrick at club meetings or at The Beech House, Amersham on a Wednesday morning.

Juliet & Patrick

11. External Competitions Review of our Season

I think we can say without doubt that APS has enjoyed a good season competing in external competitions. As members of APS you, as individuals, are able to enter such events as the Chiltern Hundreds on Championship day and the phone competition held on the morning of the Rosebowl final. Both

days held in the Drake Hall. It was good to see a very good entry for Chiltern Hundreds, although the phone entry could have been better. Even so our members walked away with medals and certificates of merit in both competitions. Also Gill Allport's phone image has been selected to represent the CACC in the Interfederation Cup. (more on that to come)

I have already mentioned our success in the North West Federation and the print section of Championship day where we compete as a club and now I can add that we won the Rosebowl final to firmly put the cherry on the cake!!!!.

Ummm no not quite. At least 14 of our top scoring images have been reviewed and selected to represent the CACC in the Interfederation Cup. This is an event run by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain where the best work in the country will be seen and judged by a panel of 3 judges each marking out of 5. To have work selected for this is a huge honour so those with work selected take a bow. Now we can add the cherry. WELL DONE.

So that's our season. My huge thanks to the team who have spent many hours and driven lots of miles to carefully consider lots of images. Within the team Richard Pitt has worked tirelessly making something called a spread sheet. (I have no clue) where he adds all the images and details where each has been used. Richard also then sends all our entries by a postbox you transfer fingly. Thank you Richard. Some images work better as a print while others are more suited to the big screen. Many were nearly great but needed a small tweak. Thank you to those authors who took time to address these small points. Maybe just small points but its details that can gain an extra point here and there. Most of our victory's in the finals were by under 5 points. Huge thanks also to everyone who has taken some fabulous images and made them available to us. Moving forward please may I ask EVERYONE to feel free to send images to myself via external comp sec etc etc. Lots of you do not enter internal competitions but still produce lovely work. We start again all too soon.

I appreciate there are new members who may not understand all the CACC /PAGB stuff so please grab me at club or send a mail or ask on facebook and

all can be explained.

Wishing everyone a great Summer.

Brian

12. Exhibition 2024

The Committee has decided to hold the annual exhibition once more this year. It will take place from **Wednesday 27th August to Saturday 31st August** again at St. Michael and All Angels Church on Sycamore Road, Amersham. The exhibition will be set up on Tuesday evening (26th) as in previous years). The purpose of this note is to give you plenty of notice to prepare images for display.

As usual, there will be a display of prints, images from the specialist groups (mono, beyond, colour), and a rolling PDI presentation.

The exhibition is open to **all members** who may submit up to 4 prints for selection.

Should you choose to display images I guarantee that at least 2 will be displayed, more will be at the discretion of the hanging committee, (the prints not you).

Details of the print requirements can be found on the website.

Any specific questions to me please.

Martin Crook

Exhibition Secretary

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