



Newsletter October 2025

1. October Events

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Location	Event	Leader/Judge/ Speaker
Wed, 1	London	Outing to Fitzrovia Chapel	Juliet Ormiston/ Patrick Hudgell
Thu, 2	Drake Hall	Beyond	Steve Brabner
Mon, 6	Drake Hall	PDI COMP 1 – Judge: Lloyd Moore	Lloyd Moore
Wed, 8	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Thu, 9	Committee Room	Mono Group	Roger Wotton
Mon, 13	Drake Hall	SPEAKER: PAUL MITCHELL 'Woodland Ways'	Paul Mitchell
Thu, 16	Drake Hall	PIC Group - 7:45 start	Chris Palmer/ Steve Smith
Mon, 20	Drake Hall	North West Fed. Competition	
Mon, 27	Drake Hall	Ask APS	Chrissi Ratcliffe
Wed, 29	Zoom	Colour Group	Laurie Turner

2. APS Programme

Our programme (in Google Calendars) is now downloadable as a share and as an .ics file from the Programme page on the website.

Mike Hynes

3. Chairman's Message

September was aimed at introducing our newer members to APS, explaining to everyone just what is available through our groups to encourage all of us with our photography and having some interesting talks from Angela, Alison, Steve, Maggie and Brian, as well as hearing about forthcoming competitions. In addition to the fascinating and inspiring evenings from our guest speaker Vanda Ralevska and most recently Chris Palmer.

Our programme for October is varied :

6th October Round 1 of our internal PDI Competition.

Details of how to enter can be found on our website.

I do encourage members to take part as it is a way of improving your photography when you hear another opinion of your image.

The Judge is Lloyd Moore DPAGB, BPE5, EFIAP .

Lloyd is a member of Watford Camera Club; he is an experienced judge and with his own photography he has won numerous awards both in the UK and Internationally. He loves all kinds of photography but has a special interest in creative, imaginative images although he says he must admit to having rekindled an interest in wildlife.

13th October Speaker Paul Mitchell FRPS.

Talk Entitled “ Woodland Ways”

Many you know that Paul is a former member of APS, and now lives in Dorset. He is a professional landscape photographer and specialist book designer. Paul has numerous accolades, he is the current Chair of the RPS Landscape Distinctions panel, he serves on the Visual Art and Photobook Panels and he has won numerous awards for his photography. In Steve Hunter's piece below, we shall read about the forthcoming talk when we shall see some beautiful images.

Incidentally on the same night we are competing in the 1st Round of the Rosebowl Competition .

20th October North West Federation Cup Round 1

We shall be hosting this round of the North West Fed against Field End Photographic Society and Ealing & Hampshire House Photographic Society. Currently we do not know the allocated judge.

The evening will be hosted by John Harding as I shall be away, hopefully you will attend and support APS.

27th October ASK APS

Full details of the evening are found in Chrissie Ratcliffe's piece below. It sounds a fascinating evening of Multi-exposure and ICM (Intentional Camera Movement) so do bring your camera etc.

Brian will also be having a book sale to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society, so if you have any photography books you would like to try and sell for charity do bring them along .

Enjoy October at APS

Diane

4. Programme

Our next speaker on **13th October is Paul Mitchell FRPS:**

WOODLAND WAYS

Woodland can be a notoriously difficult location to compose meaningful images. Its hardly surprising then that groups of trees in densely wooded areas can become so complicated. The phrase: "can't see the woods for the trees" often comes to mind. After years of photographing woodlands, and with his background in graphic design, he's certainly found ways to make order out of chaos.

His talk centres around some of his favourite woodland locations including Burnham Beeches, Savernake Forest and recently The New Forrest, plus various locations throughout out the UK.

His talk is fully illustrated with digitally projected images and prints images taken throughout the four seasons.

Steve Hunter

Programme Secretary





5. Competition Judges

Ahead of our internal competitions commencing in October, I thought it might be a good idea to say something about our judges .

As Judges Secretary, I am responsible for booking and managing the 12 judges that visit us each season. I source the judges from following up on recommendations, previous experience and The Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs (CACC) list of affiliated judges. To minimise costs to our club, I try to avoid getting judges from a long way off unless we are using Zoom, as in January for our PDI competition (Round 3), when we have a judge from farther afield. Most judges only receive out of pocket expenses with the exception of one or two Professional Photographers and CACC judges follow a code of Good Practice and only ever claim for travel expenses based on a mileage rate, no fee.

Zoom judges occasionally request that the club makes a charitable donation for their time which we always inform members about on the night for transparency.

So judges are not doing this for the money!

They are giving up their time to come and visit us because they are passionate about photography and have a desire and willingness to share their knowledge with us.

Not all judges are the same. I try to invite back judges that are entertaining and interesting and who we know will give fair, honest and constructive feedback to our members (authors) . I do have to give newer judges a try and they don't always get invited back. But over the last few years, many of our old favourites

have become too elderly to travel at night and therefore we do need to continue to find newer judges and the pool is not very large. Every year it is a challenge to secure 12 "good" ones !

Everyone we have booked this season has been to us before, some multiple times while others are back after just one previous season .

Not every judge will like every image. Please do not get despondent if a judge does not comment as favourably on your image as you had hoped. Try to learn from the feedback from the judging of not just your own image, but also that of others that may have scored better.

We must respect the judges opinion even if we do not agree with it.

Please do not shout out from the audience or challenge the judge's decision during or after the judging.

Please do not challenge the judge's style either.

But do feel free to let me know what you think of any judges at the end of the competition.

A judge may invite the author to enlighten them about an image after the judging is complete. It is then perfectly OK to chat about it to the judge later.

The judges should feel welcome when they visit us and enjoy returning.

They should never feel intimidated or uncomfortable.

You can learn a lot from the competitions so please do enter images. It is all anonymous (unless you win!) and we want the competition nights to be entertaining so the more images, the better. So don't be shy. Please have a try.

Good luck,

Jacqui Titcombe

6. Print Competitions

An explanation of APS Print Competitions.

COMPETITION CLASSES

- GENERAL CLASS
- INTERMEDIATE CLASS
- ADVANCED CLASS

FIVE PRINT COMPETITIONS + A PRINT FINAL

- ALL THE COMPETITIONS ARE 'OPEN COMPETITIONS'
- 10 PRINTS OVERALL, THAT IS TWO PER COMPETITION

- Entering competitions for the first time can seem daunting but Competitions are a very useful developmental tool in improving your photography. You will get constructive feedback from experienced judges. No names are mentioned unless you are in 1st, 2nd or 3rd place or commended by the judge. If that's the case then you will be happy to be identified!

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR PRINT COMPETITIONS

This is important

- All entrants are required to submit a digital copy of the image to the Print Secretary by **Midnight of the Friday preceding the Monday competition to:-**
- **printsec@amershamphotosoc.com**
- FILE NAME:
- G22 IMAGE TITLE by Authors Name.jpg
- I22 IMAGE TITLE by Authors Name.jpg
- A22 IMAGE TITLE by Authors Name.jpg
- Use only G,I or A before your corner number depending on your classification. A space between the corner number and the IMAGE TITLE.
- FILE SIZE: Width 1600 X Height 1200 Pixels Maximum or 1200 x 1200 pixels if a square image. It must be in the sRGB colour space and a jpeg. If these requirement are not met, then the system will reject the image until a correct entry is received.

SIMILAR IMAGES

- Images may not be entered into competitions more than once. The exception being the Print Final (but more of this later). Similar images may also be rejected by the Print and Pdl Secretaries.
- Similar means: - 'Alike in one or more essential aspects or marked by correspondence or resemblance of a general kind'.

PRINT FINAL

- The Print Final is held towards the end of the season when our internal competitions are completed.
- Members may submit two images to the print final BUT they must have been used in one of the seasons five print competitions.
- Some changes are permitted to these two images before entry into the print final. Changes should be based on feedback from the competition judge or any other source e.g. external competition judges, APS Members.

- **Changes are limited to:**
- **Cropping or removal of over cropping**
- **Adjustment to colour or tonal balance**
- **Lightness or darkness**
- **Conversion to Colour or Mono**
- **Removal of distractions**
- **Sharpening or blurring.**

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - More information is on the club website.

- Artificial Intelligence has been around for many years in the photographic context. 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 offered by the PAGB.
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.

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYBODY

John Harding
Print Secretary

7. PDI Competitions

Projected Image competitions will restart on **6th 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

8. 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 7:45pm, with members showing and discussing their images, receiving comments and encouragement from group members.

We are a friendly group with members bringing prints (that don't need to be mounted) to our 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.

Our next meeting is on **9th October at 7:45 in the Committee Room**.

We look forward to seeing you.

Roger Wotton,

Mono Group Leader.

9. The Colour Group

We are 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

"Its a 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 (no pressure to show).

"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 Alternating, each month, between Live and virtual Zoom meetings (see programme).

Look forward to seeing you.

Laurie Turner

10. Photographers in Camera (PIC) Group

The PIC Group resumed with our September meeting, new and current members in attendance. Chris & Steve welcomed all and provided an introduction, mentioning the current review of RPS distinctions that is underway.

We were pleased to have four offers to present, the first being Mike Randall. He showed 4 prints from a 2017 trip to Myanmar, - a river trip along the Irrawaddy river. Mike's prints showed workers toiling beside the river, and in boats. Hard work, no doubt for meagre pay, an insight into another way of life.

Next Roger Wotton retained his preference for monochrome with 5 prints taken recently in Brompton cemetery. Careful compositions very suited to black and

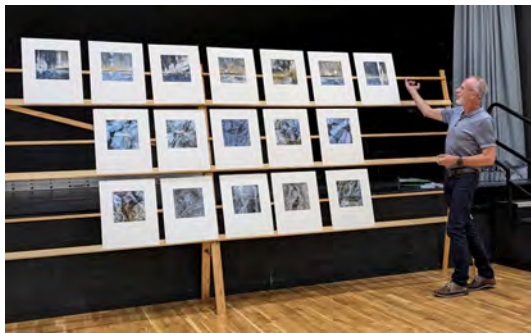
white, maybe a project worth expanding?

The ever productive and creative David Manning then presented on 2 themes, 10 prints of 'double imaged' ice, and 7 beautiful sculpture abstractions captured in Milton Keynes. This was very stylish work with a harmonious and restrained colour palette, much appreciated by everyone.

After a very welcome refreshment break we enjoyed a joint presentation by Jan and David Harris. This proved to be a truly impressive 21 double exposure print panel, with origins in parts of a Fishguard sculpture, then supplemented by an additional ICM or multiple exposure image. The resultant prints, nicely panelled, impressed us all.

Our next meeting will be on **16th October**. If you have work to show us in October please let Steve or myself know.

Chris Palmer



11. Amersham Beyond Group

The first meeting of the Beyond Group for this season will be on **Thursday 2nd October at 8pm in the Drake Hall**. We are a sub-group of APS focussed on creative photography and photo art. The meetings are free to all – existing members and guests. No prior notification is required and no equipment – just come along and try us out. Knowledge of an image editor for our Challenges will be an advantage, but most can be done in-camera. There are no rules and no judges!

At the meeting we enjoy submissions on the three current Challenges. These are;

#51 Inspired by Paul Kenny (see [Paul Kenny-PhotographicWorks: welcome](#))

#52 One to Three (three different versions from one original exposure) and the latest;

#53 Print Works (something creative and tangible created from print – actually getting our hands dirty).

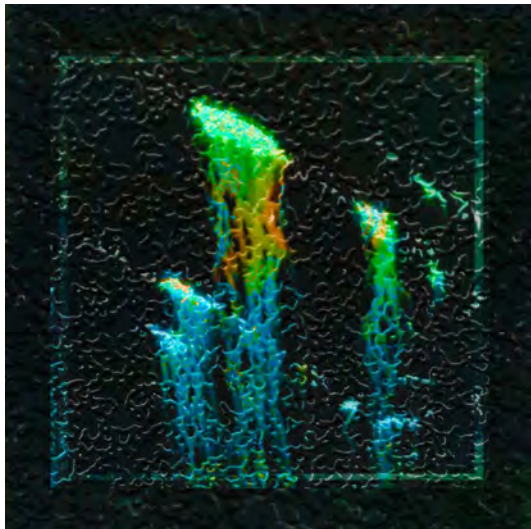
Everyone is welcome.

You can see everything we've created since 2019 at [Amersham Photographic Society's albums](#) | [Flickr](#)

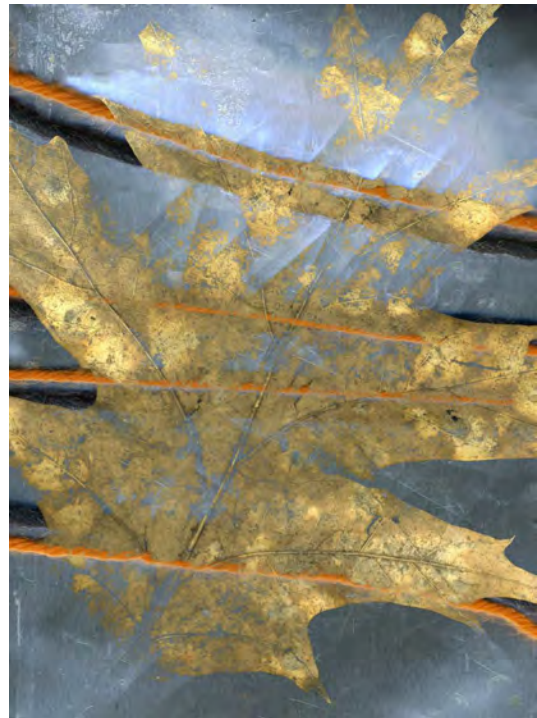
Cheers,

Steve Brabner

beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com



#51 RUSTY WALL 1 by Maggie James



#51 LEAF AND WOOL ON TIN TRAY by Juliet Ormiston



#51 CATAclysm by Laurie Turner

12. Ask APS

May I firstly extend a very warm welcome to all our new members.

On Monday the **27th of October**, AskAPS will be hosting an evening on:

MULTIPLE EXPOSURE AND INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM)

This will be a practical evening, so please bring along your cameras. If you wish to bring your tripod to use for multiple exposures please bring that too.

We will be putting the theory into practice for these two genres of photography, and it will be a relaxed and fun evening with ample time and opportunity to socialise too.

There will be several set-ups for you to practice with... all you'll need is your camera and perhaps a notebook to jot down any tips.

I am also appealing to any members who already do this type of photography to volunteer to help other members who are trying this for the first time. Please contact me beforehand if you can help.

It would also be nice to have a few prints that show the effects of multiple exposure and ICM for everyone to see, so if anyone has one or two of their favourites that would be wonderful. I will have a print stand available.

There will be refreshments available during the evening, - please bring a cup or a mug if you can to save washing up!

We look forward to seeing you!

13. Outings

Our first club outing of the season is on Wednesday 1st October to Fitzrovia.

Images from this trip will appear on the APS Flickr website later on in the month. Please take a look at our images from previous outings.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/10884468@N06/albums/>

We have also scheduled the following outings: -

Tuesday 11th November: Autumn Colours at Kew Gardens

Wednesday 10th December: An evening of low light photography

The outing in December is from late afternoon into the evening so we have to limit the number of people for safety reasons. This outing is almost full so please let us know ASAP if you would like to come. We will have a reserve list in case of any cancellations.

New members and less experienced photographers are always welcome as these outings are a great way to meet other members and there are always experienced photographers on hand if anyone needs any help.

Please speak to Juliet or Patrick at one of our meetings or email outings@amershamphotosoc.com if you would like further details or wish to join any of these outings.

We very much look forward to seeing you on our trips.

Juliet / Patrick
