

Newsletter January 2026

1. January Events

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Location	Event	Leader/Judge/ Speaker
Mon, 5	Zoom	SPEAKER: GUY EDWARDES 'Creative Nature'	Guy Edwardes
Thu, 8	Committee Room	Mono Group - 7:45 start	Roger Wotton
Mon, 12	Zoom	PDI COMP 3 – Judge: Richard Speirs	Richard Speirs
Wed, 14	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Thu, 15	Drake Hall	PIC Group - 7:45 start	Chris Palmer/ Steve Smith
Mon, 19	Drake Hall	Members Evening: Jeremy Schrire 'Travels and Strangers'	Jeremy Schrire
Mon, 26	Drake Hall	Ask APS	Chrissi Ratcliffe
Wed, 28	Zoom	Colour Group	Laurie Turner

2. Chairman's Message

I hope that you all enjoyed Christmas with family and friends and I now wish you a Happy and Healthy 2026.

APS continues to have an inspirational programme for the rest of the season but before discussing the January programme I have some other news.

As most of you are aware Martin Crook has been our exhibition secretary for some years and he has now felt it was time for a change. Martin has retired as exhibition Secretary and we have co-opted Heather Sparks onto the Extended Committee to take over the position. I hope you will all support Heather in her task. Incidentally the exhibition will run from setting up on the evening of the

24th August until the evening of the 29th August.

I would like to thank Martin for all the energy and enthusiasm he has had for APS over the last years, both on his own, and with his late wife Sandra, who was print secretary for some years. I hope we shall continue to see Martin at APS on a few occasions, although I know our Monday evenings now clash with his commitments to High Wycombe Rotary.

Hopefully you will all support me in thanking Martin.

Please read Mike Hynes piece below. Mike has been our webmaster for some years and is retiring at the AGM in June. Please can we have a volunteer to take over the role. I am sure several members have the capability.

The Chiltern Association of Camera Clubs has brought forward the Championship Day to the 15th February and Brian Rigley mentions this in his piece below. I raise this because one of the competitions on the day is the Chiltern Hundreds which allows individual club members to take part. So, look through your images and decide if one might be suitable to enter so that you can send it to Brian at the appropriate time. Some of you may recall a couple of years back Jacqui Titcombe won that event with her 'Llama at Machu Picchu' image.

Turning now to our January programme which is part Zoom and part live, and when Zoom we shall send out the joining link a few days in advance each week.

5th January - Speaker: Guy Edwardes 'Creative Nature' ZOOM

Guy has been a professional photographer for over 25 years following graduating, with a degree in Photography, from Salisbury College (now Wiltshire College). His interest is in landscape, nature and travel photography and although his main interest is photographing the wildlife and wild places of the British Isles Guy does run numerous workshops abroad.

Guy's work has been published worldwide and to state just a few, Amateur Photographer, Canon, Outdoor Photography, The Telegraph, the Guardian, The Ordnance Survey. He has also written a couple of books aimed at helping readers take better photographs. Guy has always been a Canon equipment enthusiast. I am sure that this will be an interesting talk encouraging us to take an interest in local wildlife and landscape, before Guy jets off to take more images of the pelicans of Lake Kerkini in Greece.

12th January – PDI Competition 3 - Judge Richard Speirs - ZOOM

Having a zoom competition enables Jacqui to book a northern judge and again we shall be welcoming Richard Speirs DPAGB HON PAGB HON NCPF.

Richard is a member of Morton Photographic Society near Carlisle and has been interested in Photography for he says:

'too many decades than I care to remember'.

Whilst his first interest was nature this subsequently grew to include habitats

and landscapes, although now he enjoys all forms of photographic subjects. He lectures and judges in both UK and International Competitions. Please remember to submit your images for the competition not later than midnight on the **9th January**

19th January – Members Evening - LIVE

Jeremy Schrire talks about **‘Travels and Strangers’**

Jeremy joined APS in 2024, although I believe he has been a keen photographer for some years. Only those members who attend Beech House on a Wednesday Morning have seen any of Jeremy’s images, so I believe we shall have a fascinating evening.

We shall have a refreshment break as it is our first live members evening of 2026.

26th January - ‘ASK APS’ - LIVE

At the time of writing I have no idea what Chrissi Ratcliffe has planned for the evening, but I know whatever it is it will be enjoyable and a success. See later in the newsletter for details.

Congratulations to Maggie James and Julie Mullings for both having a print accepted for the PAGB Masters of Print Exhibition.

Congratulations also to Hilary Bailey, who has an image of a Scottish island cow with some holly in its mouth, as the PAGB Happy New Year Image, in its January 1st Newsletter letter on page 10 .

Enjoy the rest of the season

Diane



'HOLLY COW NEW YEAR' by Hilary Bailey

3. WEBMASTER VACANCY

APS will soon need a new webmaster as Mike Hynes, the current webmaster, will be retiring from the post on 1st June 2026 at the AGM.

The website is well-used and viewed by many visitors with whom it seems to have a good reputation.

Anybody who is interested in the role and would like more details can contact Mike Hynes, Diane Smith or Chris Read for more information.

Mike Hynes

4. PROGRAMME

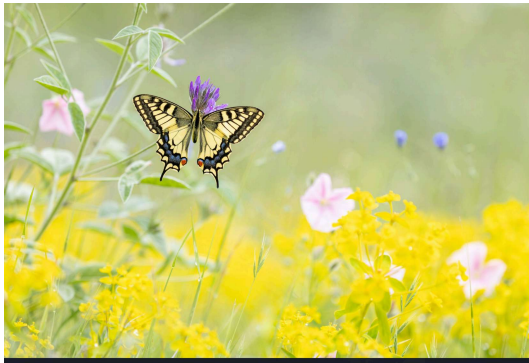
Creative Nature Talk - Guy Edwardes - 5th January on Zoom

I have been a professional landscape, nature and travel photographer for over twenty five years. My career began straight after graduating with a Degree in Photography from Salisbury College (Now Wiltshire College) in England, following various courses studying nature conservation.

I will show around 140 inspirational images with continuous commentary explaining the techniques used to capture them, both in the field and in post-processing. These might include topics such as hyper-focal focussing in landscape photography, camera settings for capturing birds in flight or the focus-stacking I often utilise in my macro work, and reflect my ever changing

techniques as I constantly refresh what and how I shoot new material. My presentations is all about tips and advice so you can be sure to learn something new and will hopefully be inspired to get out there with your camera to experiment for yourself.

Steve Hunter



5. External Competitions

In December we played perhaps our last ever group match of NW Fed. After the first two matches we held a 13 point lead so things looked good. I was quite confident with our selected images for the final round and indeed we won by 4 points. In the print section images by Hilary B, Richard and Maggie (2) were all held back. Maggie gained another 20* for 'Oxpecker Feeding On Ticks' (although she didn't stop there). All the others scored 19. Then in the pdi section we had 3 images held all scoring 20 and Maggie was awarded another star for her lovely image 'Wings Over Water'. Also 'Skipper on Lavender' by some bloke called Ridgley was awarded 20*. Its about time he pulled his weight !! Over the 3 rounds we amassed a fantastic 8 stars. Those images all go into their own final. An event we have won a few times.

So there we are, another final to be held in Watford in February. I so want to win this a) for the hat trick and b) perhaps to be the last club to win this lovely event. The only issue is what images to pick from such a great selection.

Best wishes and Happy New year.

Brian



'OXPECKER FEEDING ON TICKS' by Maggie James



'WINGS OVER WATER' by Maggie James



'ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR' by Steve Simpson



'LARGE SKIPPER ON LAVENDER' by Brian Ridgley

Stop press..... It's early this year Hi all. As many of you know we have the CACC Championship day in March every year ... BUT to be awkward this year its on Sunday 15th February. This is the event where all clubs enter a selection of prints and pdis. The top two clubs in each event go forward to represent the group in the national finals later in the year. Also this is where each member can enter ONE pdi of your choice for the Chiltern Hundreds competition. Normal club sizes so 1600 x1200. So that's easy. If you wish to enter, and please do, send your ONE image to me at external comps. Sorry but the last day for entry to me is 25th Jan 2026 as we need time to put everything together and send images to the CACC. Also if anyone has new work they would like considered for the club competitions please email me.

Brian

6. Christmas Raffle

Hi all well what can I say. Far toooo much I hear you reply. So just two words. HUGE THANK YOU (ok that's three) to everyone who supported out Christmas

raffle. On the night we raised a whopping £380 to add to the £340ish we had already raised at the book sale at ask APS and from donations of mount cutters at the mounting session (please can we find another word for mounting). Alan will give me the final figure in January as we have a few IOUs to claim. Its safe to say that Alzeimers Association and the club will each get around £360.00. I know I just announced the charity after Marks fantastic talk without any discussion so thank you to the members and committee for supporting this worthy cause. Ronnie we did it for you !!!!!

Happy New Year.

Brian

7. Print Competitions

The second Print Competition of the season was held on Monday the 8th of December. The entry numbers were good particularly in the General Class. Print Competition 3 will be held on the **2nd February**. Please remember that the closing time for entries is Midnight on the **Friday** immediately preceding the Monday print competition.

WINNING IMAGES

General Class

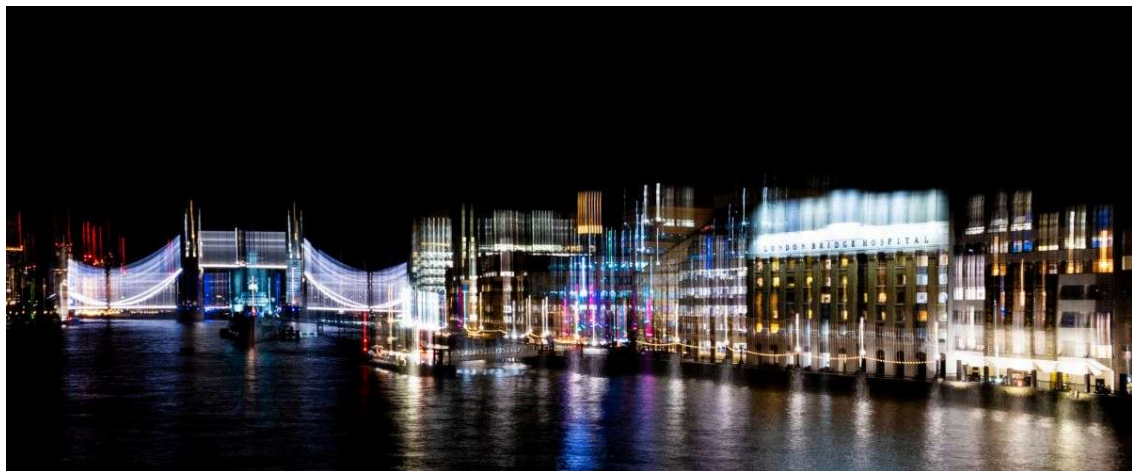
1st Place – A Lad's Woven View of Manhattan by Janette Quinton



2nd Place - Into the Light by Nigel Gent



3rd Place - South Bank Ribbons of Light by Charles Biggie



1st Place – Old Friends by Don Lewis



2nd Place – Half Dead Flowers by Charlie Blewett



3rd Place – A Downward Perspective by Bernard Wallace



Commended Images-

The Crossing by Don Lewis

Over the Hill by Viv Blewett

Through the Window by Hilary Pickersgill

Advanced Class

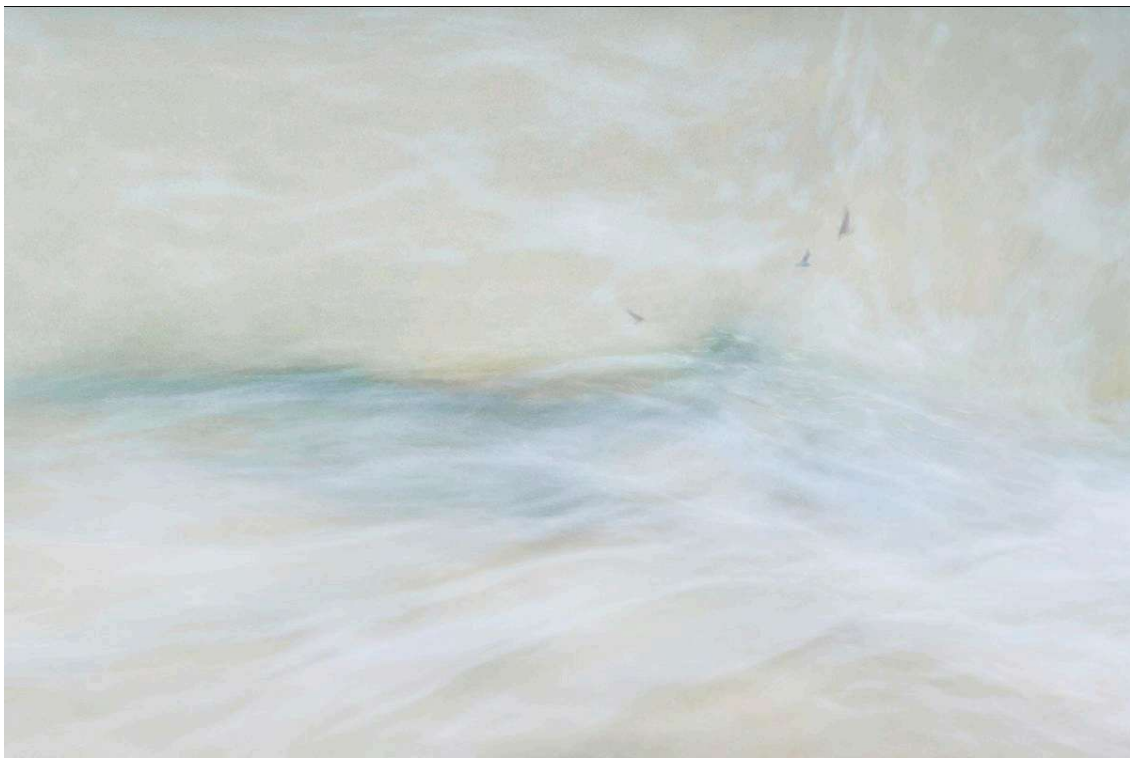
1st Place – Alone in Armenia by Alan Colegrave



2nd Place – Enigma by Steve Brabner



3rd Place – Tranquillity in Motion by Maggie James



Commended Images –

Neil by Brian Gough

Three French Hens by Hilary Bailey

Upon a Misty Morning by Hilary Bailey

Fractal Time by Maggie James

John Harding

Print Secretary

8. PDI Competitions

The third PDI competition will be held on **12th January**.

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 pdentry@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 pdise@amershamphotosoc.com address.

Steve Holden

9. 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 Thursday **8th January at 7:45 in the Committee Room.**

We look forward to seeing you.

**Roger Wotton,
Mono Group Leader.**

10. 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

11. Ask APS

Happy New Year to Everyone!

On Monday 26th January AskAPS will be providing an INTRODUCTION TO STUDIO LIGHTING evening.

This will be a fully interactive member participation evening so please bring your cameras.

We hope to have several ‘one light’ set-ups which will include portraiture and still life/rim lighting.

The lights used will be strobes and flash, and we will have triggers that will work with most camera brands.

There will also be a continuous light if anyone would like to use it.

As usual, this will be a very informal and relaxed evening with lots of opportunity to socialise.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available throughout the evening but PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN MUG! Thank you.

Chrissi

12. Photographers in Camera (PIC) Group

The December meeting of the Pic Group provided a full and varied evening of

presentations to a well attended meeting, despite the onset of Christmas and diabolical weather!

Laurie Turner showed an impressive number of artistic prints, many prompted and stimulated by his significant knowledge of art, and artists. Laurie explained that he wished to produce images for himself, and thereby not be constrained by the opinions of others. This new found freedom he described as being Acutely Obtuse. I enjoyed his reference to Daido Moriyama's quote which encourages us to "Take photographs - of anything and everything, whatever catches your eye. Don't pause to think." A thought provoking start!

Hilary Bailey next showed two themed sets of prints, the first of broadly unprocessed shots of old artefacts and items, chains, and bits of rusty metal, overlaid with the impression of water. The second, her wonderfully successful ICM landscapes. The Group was encouraged to provide feedback, and decide which of the two themes might offer a greater chance of expansion and subsequent success to RPS Associate level. Much to enjoy, discuss, and encourage!

Festive treats accompanied a timely refreshment break after which **Patrick Hudgell** showed us a set of new iPhone captured details taken at home, of the way light and shade provided creative opportunities at dawn. Duo-toned resultant prints displayed a cohesive and varied set of enjoyable images, we look forward to seeing how this new project might evolve.

Finally the ever productive **Steve Hunter** returned us to his minimalist 'dunescapes' captured in the north of Brazil, which revealed wonderful delicacy and tasteful design when you looked at each print closely. A fitting finale to a good evening!



The next meeting will be on Thursday 15th January. If you have work to share with the Group please let Chris know in advance.

Chris Palmer

13. Amersham Beyond Group

Because of the way New Year falls in the calendar this year there will be no Beyond Group meeting in January.

The next meeting will be on February 5th in the Drake Hall (our usual Monday venue).

Any questions; beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com

Cheers,

Steve Brabner

14. Outings

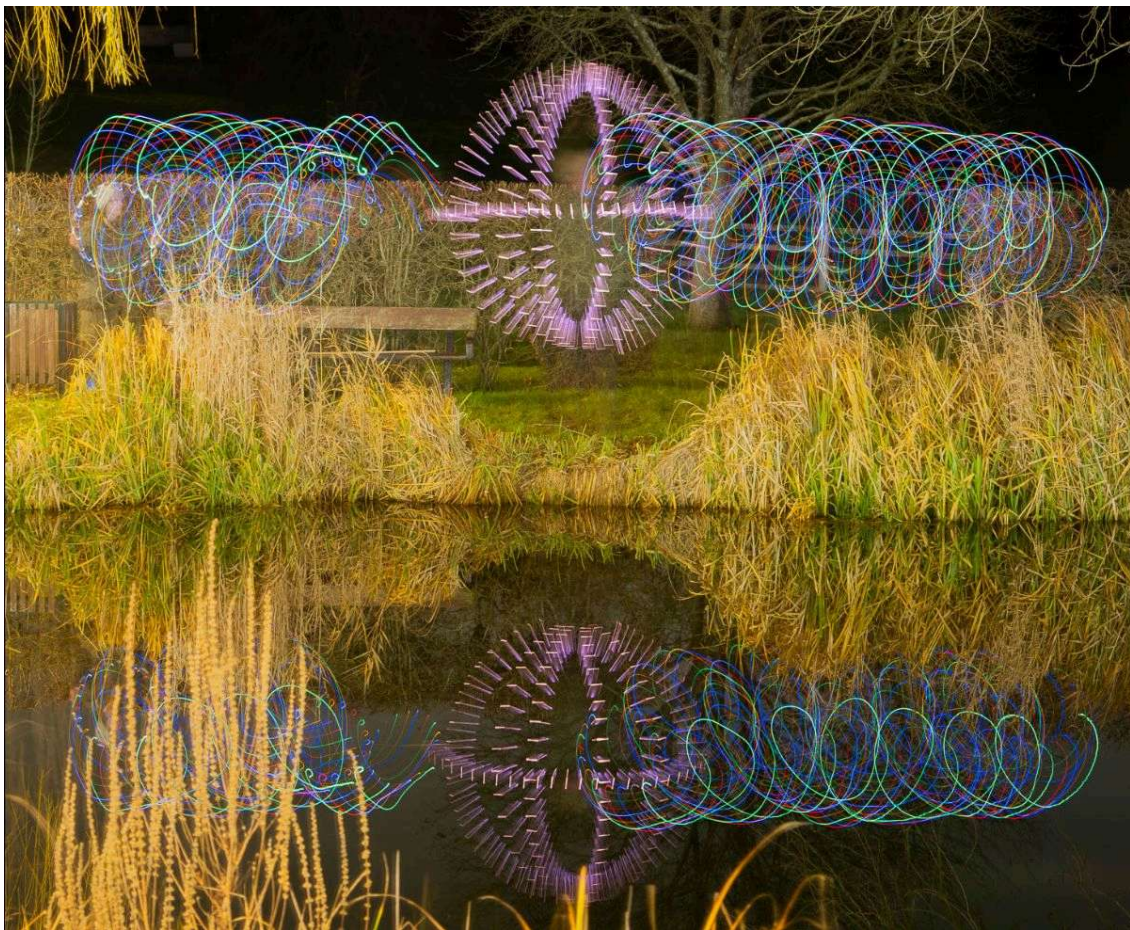
Our club outing in December was a "low light" photoshoot in Chalfont St Giles from sunset to 7pm. We started with views of the village and church as the sun went down and then used the area around the pond to do some light painting reflected in the water. Several of us then enjoyed a lovely sociable meal in The Merlin's Cave pub. It was a great opportunity for members to socialise, remind themselves how to do long exposure photography and how to set up their cameras and adjust their tripods in the dark.

Photos from this and many previous outings are on the club outings Flickr page:-

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



'A KNITTED CHRISTMAS' by Geoff Walker



'LIGHT PAINTING 2' By Mike Hynes

Our next outing will be on Thursday 26th February when we will be exploring Greenwich, arriving by river boat. Outings for March, April and May are also now on the club website programme page. Our outings are a great way to socialise with other members, see new locations and hone your camera skills at the same time. New members are always welcome and there are always experienced members on hand. If less experienced photographers need help. If you would like to join any of our outings, please email: outings@amershamphotosoc.com

Happy new year!

Juliet & Patrick
