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## Newsletter February 2026

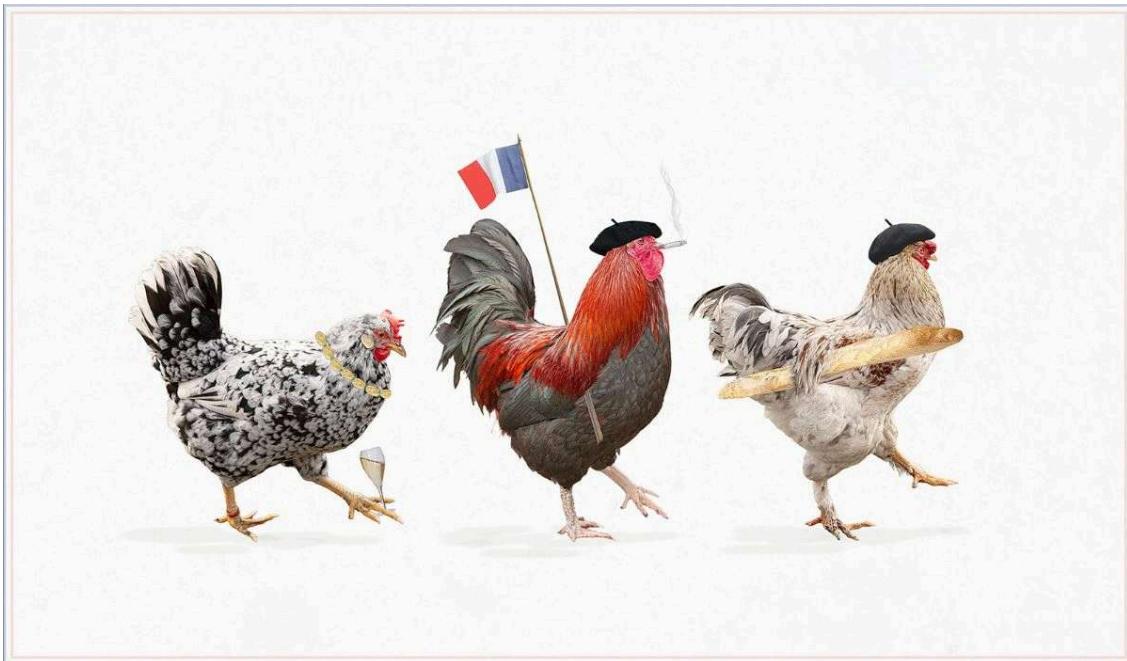
### 1. February Events

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Location	Event	Leader/Judge/ Speaker
Mon, 2	Drake Hall	PRINT COMP 3 – Judge: Rosemary Wilman	<a href="#">Rosemary Wilman.</a>
Thu, 5	Drake Hall	Beyond	Steve Brabner
Mon, 9	Drake Hall	Rosebowl	
Wed, 11	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Thu, 12	Committee Room	Mono Group - 7:45 start	Roger Wotton
Mon, 16	Drake Hall	PDI COMP 4 - Judge: Amanda Wright	Amanda Wright
Thu, 19	Drake Hall	PIC Group - 7:45 start	Chris Palmer/ Steve Smith
Mon, 23	Zoom	SPEAKER: Julian Elliott 'Around the World'	<a href="#">Julian Elliott</a>
Wed, 25	Committee Room	Colour Group	Laurie Turner
Thu, 26	Zoom	APS On-Line Group	Tony Wright

### 2. Chairman's Message

We ended January with an entertaining practical ASK APS, so many thanks to Chrissi Ratcliffe and we also were successful in Round 2 of the Rosebowl held zoom by St Albans CC, with Hilary Bailey gaining a starred image with her 'Three French Hens' image.



*THREE FRENCH HENS* by Hilary Bailey

February is going to be a month for competitions, both internal and external. We have again reached the North West Federation Final this is being held on the 7th at Watford Camera Club's venue. On the 9th in Drake Hall we hold our round in the Rosebowl and, earlier in the calendar this year, on the 15th, the CACC has brought forward the CACC Championship Day (including the Chiltern Hundreds Comp.) also being held at Drake Hall. Do come and support APS, as Brian and his team work hard to ensure we are represented with our best images for each occasion.

For our Monday evening programme this month: -

**2nd Feb.** Print Competition 3 with Judge Rosemary Wilman Hon FRPS ABPE AFIAP APAGB.

Rosemary is a member of both Epsom and Richmond & Twickenham Camera Clubs, a former President of the RPS, and she had been an elected Council Member and a Trustee of the Society for many years. She was Chairman of the Licentiate panel from 2005-2019 as well as having other positions in the RPS. Rosemary also is a PAGB and SPA judge and has judged internationally as well as in the UK.

Rosemary says she focuses on the 'way I see it'..... with landscape she may be drawn to simplicity or the intimate landscape. With other subjects it's a case of whatever takes my eye'.

**9th Feb.** Round 3 Rosebowl against Stoke Poges PS, Banbury CC, Watford CC live in Drake Hall. I believe this may be an extremely competitive evening. Judge details to follow nearer the event.

**16th Feb.** PDI Competition 4 with judge Amanda Wright.

Amanda is a CACC Committee Member, a member of Ealing and Hampshire House PS

and a PAGB/CACC judge.

**23rd Feb.** Speaker Julian Elliott 'Around the World' ZOOM

Next year we shall have the pleasure of a live talk from Julian but this year he will be speaking to us from somewhere in the world. Please see Steve Hunter's piece for full details of the talk.

Julian is a professional travel and landscape photographer who claims he is 'basically a nomad traveller'. He spends a lot of time in South East Asia and Central Asia.

All I can say is do look on his website to view some of his wonderful images and to see the list of the numerous awards he has won. This will be a talk not to be missed. The zoom details will be sent out nearer the date.

Enjoy February with APS

**Diane**

### **3. PROGRAMME**

**Speaker; Julian Elliott - 23rd February on Zoom**

Julian has been a professional landscape and travel photographer for over 10 years.

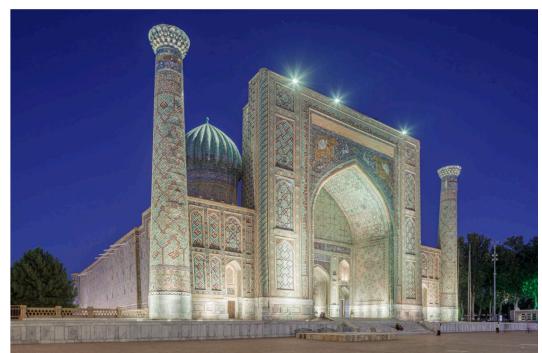
Having started writing for a number of British photography magazines, he started selling his work through the world-renowned Getty Images. To date he has arranged tours and sold his photographs in over 40 countries. My approach to photography is simple, 'get it right in camera first'.

His talk:

**A YEAR ON THE ROAD AS A NOMADIC TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER**

Julian's talk will be his story of his extensive travel all around the world, from UK to Japan, Mongolia, Norway and beyond and will talk about the experience, meeting the different people and seeing dramatically different landscapes and architecture. He will be showing his wonderful photographs and sharing his knowledge on how he captured the images, as well as the techniques behind them.

**Steve Hunter**





## 4. External Competitions

Hi all. This week we played our re-arranged second round match in the Rosebowl group stages. (first time the judge didn't turn up). We did well and yes we won but only by ONE point. This was after we had at least 5 images held back that all scored 20/20\*. Did we have a stand out centre forward with an eye for goal? Course we did. Hilary Bailey had 3 images scoring 20 and one of those took a star as well so huge well done to her. Maggie James also scored 20 with her delightful image 'Oxpecker Feeding On Ticks' so well done to her too. The other star went to our good friend David Manning from Leighton Buzzard. David is a regular contributor at the PIC Group so he can have that on us.

As I scribble this we are working hard for Round three which is live in The Drake Hall on Monday 9th Feb. Hope to see you all there. We have a foot and four toes in the final already but we are against Watford who I feel have some strong images so it would be great to beat them and get a clean sweep again.

Also we have selected all the prints and PDIs for the CACC Championship Day. The team have been working very hard to keep APS where it should be so well done to one and all.

Finally a reminder that we are in the final of the North West Fed next Saturday 9th Feb 1.30 kick off. This is held at the Friends Meeting House Church Road Watford. Perhaps the last ever final and I want to keep the cup (ok ugly chunk of glass). Would be wonderful to be the last ever winners and also this would be three on the spin. I hope to see lots of you there on the day. GAME ON !!!

Best wishes.

**Brian**

## 5. Print Competitions

The third Print Competition of the season will be held on Monday the **2nd of February** and the judge will be Rosemary Wilman.

**John Harding**  
**Print Secretary**

## 6. PDI Competitions

The third PDI competition was held on 12th January.

The results are as follows:

### **General Class**

1st – 'THE HARBINGER OF SPRING' by Paul Ward  
2nd – 'SUNRISE AT MORAINE' LAKE by Paul Ward  
3rd – 'A DISTANT LONGING' by Nigel Gent

*Commended Images-*

'A LAMENTATION OF SWANS' by Andy Coote  
'LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOW' by Angela Rogers

### **Intermediate Class**

1st – 'GULL ALIGHTING' by Steve Simpson  
2nd – 'AFTER THE RACE' by Don Lewis  
3rd – 'HANGING OUT AT THE OPERA' by Charlie Blewett

*Commended Images-*

'STONE AND SKY' by Don Lewis  
'HUNTING' by Sylvia Morris  
'ARCHITECTURAL ECHOES' by Viv Blewett

### **Advanced Class**

1st – 'INTO THE BLUE' by Andy Smith  
2nd – THE STRIKE' by Maggie James  
3rd – 'STRIPES' by Andy Smith

*Commended Images-*

'FROSTED BRAMBLE' by Alan Sturges  
'SILENTLY WATCHING' by Hilary Bailey  
'SQUARE WINDOWS' by John Caton  
'WELL GROOMED' by Michael King

*General-first-'THE HARBINGER OF SPRING' by Paul Ward*



*Intermediate-first-'GULL ALIGHTING'* by Steve Simpson



*Advanced-first-'INTO THE BLUE'* by Andy Smith



The next PDI competition will be held on **16th February**. All entries in by midnight on 13th. 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](mailto: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](mailto:pdisec@amershamphotosoc.com) address.

**Steve Holden**

## 7. 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 **12th February at 7:45 in the Committee Room**.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Roger Wotton,  
Mono Group Leader.**

## **8. 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**

## **9. Photographers in Camera (PIC) Group**

January 2026 and the start of a new year for the PIC Group, and another splendid meeting

of entertainment and prints.

Firstly the ever productive Brian Ridgley showed us a wealth of varied prints on three themes. His first inspired by the flower photography by other members of APS, home grown subjects tastefully arranged and presented, some with textured overlays. Next were woodland images taken locally, and finally a set of 3 related street details taken in France last year. Great stuff!

Interestingly Viv Blewitt's contribution also featured street details, that of drainpipes predominantly, but also in France. A brief visit to Menton on the Cote D'Azur allowed Viv to produce a cohesive set of wonderful prints, all taken along a narrow street, and captured on her iPhone.

Finally, after a welcome refreshment break, David Manning showed 21 prints also taken on his phone, but of abstract details on a footbridge in North Wales. From a distance the panel predominantly showed the bland grey paint of the structure, but when the Group got closer to the individual prints, the 3 dimensional quality and detail was revealed. A lovely finale for our evening.

The next meeting is on **Thursday 19th February** when Richard Ellis has agreed to show work.

There will be room for 2 or 3 more who wish to present work to the Group. Names to myself or Steve Smith please.

**Chris Palmer**

## **10. Amersham Beyond Group**

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 5th February** at 8pm in the **Drake Hall** (our usual Monday venue).

The current Challenges are;

**#54 Picture in Picture**

**#55 Cutlery**

**#56 Re-create Famous Art**

Inspired by an international COVID lock-down challenge, the re-creations need not necessarily be accurate and could be a humorous pastiche of the original.

For more information see [Amersham Beyond Group - Amersham Photographic Society](#) notes.



#54 PICTURE IN PICTURE by Mike Brankin



#54 LAUGHING CAVAIER by Peter Kelen



#55 SPICES by Viv Blewett

Visitors welcome - just come along and see what we get up to.

Any questions; [beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com](mailto:beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com)

Cheers,

**Steve Brabner**

## 11. On-Line Group

This month's On-Line Group meeting will be held via Zoom at 8.00pm on **Thursday 26th February**.

After our Christmas break, Amersham's "Secret" Photographic Society is convening again. Rather than having to make do with rather desperate "air frames" to visualise a constructive comment, why not join us for a real-time editing session and see what difference the suggestions might make to your images?

Information about the Group is available on our website, and you can join us by emailing **Tony Wright** at: [ARW1303APS@btinternet.com](mailto:ARW1303APS@btinternet.com)

## 12. Outings

There was no outing in January but the photos from our December "Low Light" outing are now on the club Flickr page here:-

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/10884468@N06/albums/72177720331000855/>

Our next outing is on Thursday 26th February when we will be travelling by Thames river boat to Greenwich. The boat is extremely comfortable and well-appointed and gives us time to socialise over a cuppa with lots of photographic and sightseeing opportunities as we travel along the Thames. Once we arrive in Greenwich there are loads of things to explore. You can even walk under the Thames to the Isle of Dogs via the Greenwich foot tunnel.

Here are a few snaps from our recce last week.



*The Tulip Stairs*



*Canary Wharf*



*Greenwich Foot Tunnel*



*Queens House*

If you would like to come on this or any of our other outings, please email [outings@amershamphotosoc.com](mailto:outings@amershamphotosoc.com) and make sure you include your mobile number in case we need to contact you.

We hope you can join us soon.

**Juliet & Patrick**