Newsletter April 2026

1. April 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	**Committee Room**	**Mono Group - 7:45 start**	**Roger Wotton/ John Harding**
Mon, 13	**Drake Hall**	**PRINT COMP 5 – Judge: Roger Reynolds**	
Thu, 16	**Drake Hall**	**PIC Group - 7:45 start**	**Chris Palmer/ Steve Smith**
Mon, 20	**Drake Hall**	**SPEAKER: Barry Webb 'Slime Mould'**	Barry Webb
Tue, 21	**Windsor**	**Outing to Windsor**	**Juliet Ormiston/ Patrick Hudgell**
Thu, 23	**Zoom**	**APS On-Line Group**	**Tony Wright**
Mon, 27	**Drake Hall**	**PDI FINALS COMP - Judge Panikos Hajistilly**	Panikos Hajistilly
Wed, 29	**Committee Room**	**Colour Group**	**Laurie Turner**

2. Chairman's Message

Gosh, how quickly this year seems to be going, April already, and included this month one of our internal competition finals as well as the CACC Rosebowl Final on the 26th April, more in Brian’s piece below.

As for the April programme;

6th April no meeting as it is Easter Monday

13th April Print Competition 5 with judge Roger Reynolds Hon FRPS, FBPPA, APAGB, FEBE
Roger has been a prolific photographer, exhibitor (including award winner),

speaker, and judge for over 45 years, his main passions being the natural world, its landscape, people and the fauna and flora although more recently his interests have also extended to sports and architecture.
He has served the RPS in numerous capacities from 1998 to 2017 including being Chairman from 2003 to 2005. Roger was also involved with the London Salon including being Chairman.
During his working life Roger served as an officer of the Metropolitan Police and due to his interest in photography he headed the operational team for the speed enforcement cameras. He also operationally tested a number of prototype laser camera systems that are today used as part of the nationwide mobile Camera Safety speed enforcement policy.

20th April Speaker Barry Webb FRPS 'Slime mould'
For those of you who have not seen Barry's work (even recently shown on the BBC London news) just be prepared to be amazed.
Barry is a local photographer who has photographed the macro world, and fungi in particular, for many years. He now specialises in photographing the usually unseen world of slime mould. His portfolio won the International Garden Photographer of the year, portfolio category and a gold medal from the RPS. Another series won an RHS gold medal. Barry was awarded a Fellowship of the RPS in 2023 for a panel of 21 slime mould prints. Barry's records of fungi and slime moulds are now contributing to projects recording diversity at Conservation Areas.

27th April PDI Final Judge Panikos Hajistilly
Panikos has Fellowships with MPA, BIPP, SWPP and is a Master Craftsman with The Guild of Photographers and he is one of the capital's leading professional portrait photographers. He has won numerous professional photography awards and returns to APS to judge one of our finals.
Good luck to all who take part.
Happy Easter break to everyone
Diane

3. PROGRAMME

Speaker; Barry Webb FRPS - 20th April
Barry started his photographic journey in his late teens, using a Zenith E. He has enjoyed many kinds of photography, ranging from landscapes and seascapes to street. However, he is most well known for his macro and ultra macro photography.

Barry has photographed the macro world, plants, insects and fungi in particular, for many years. He now specialises in photographing the usually unseen world of slime mould. Most of the slime moulds he photographs are only between 1-4mm tall. His images are all focus bracketed, using from 20 – 120+ individual images.

Barry won the Fungi and Slime Mould category of Close-Up Photographer of the Year for four years running. His portfolio won the International Garden Photographer of the Year, portfolio category and a gold medal from the Royal Photographic Society. It was also voted as the ‘People’s Choice Award’ at the Saatchi Gallery, London. Another series of Barry’s slime mould images won an RHS gold medal. Barry was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society in 2023.

In March 2026 Barry won the Botanic Britain category of the British Wildlife Awards.

<u>The Unseen World of Slime Mould</u>

The presentation shows the photographic techniques Barry uses as well as introducing the viewer to other-worldly slime moulds. Barry will be bringing his 21 image FRPS panel and explaining the process involved in putting the panel together.

Steve Hunter

4. External Competitions

Hi all. As we approach the business end of another busy season I hope everyone has enjoyed some sunshine and you are looking forward to some Easter Eggs. As a club we look forward to the CACC Rosebowl final on Sunday 26th April. I very much hope some of you can come along and watch us win. I, as seems the norm these days, will be in charge of the catering and some help would be quite nice. You get in free and also join in with a nice lunch (Tesco do a great sandwich these days). After that our last external comp of the season is the lovely and often interesting 'Les Spitz Trophy' at Pinner Camera Club on the 11th May This is a pure nature competition in memory of Les Spitz. Most CACC clubs enter with each club being represented by 6 images in PDI format. This season we are using work from one of our new members Paul Ward. You may have seen his delightful image of a 'Golden Eagle' at the last PDI comp. Its good to use work from the wider membership, so well done Paul. As with all external competitions it would be lovely to have some support. You will see some fabulous work. The address is Fairfield Church, Windsor Close, Northwood Hills. HA6 1PP.

Well that's a wrap for this season... The team are already working towards next season so I hope everyone can produce some work for us to peep at.

Best wishes.

Brian

5. Print Competitions

The 5th Print Competition is to be held on Monday 13th April. Digital copies of images are required before Midnight on Friday 10th April. It has been noted that one or two members are having difficulty deciding when the cut of time for submissions is and in the words of that great Englishman W. S. Churchill ‘Up with this we will not put’. **Submission must be received by Midnight on the Friday preceding the Monday competition.** It does not extend into Saturday afternoon! Good Luck to everybody entering.

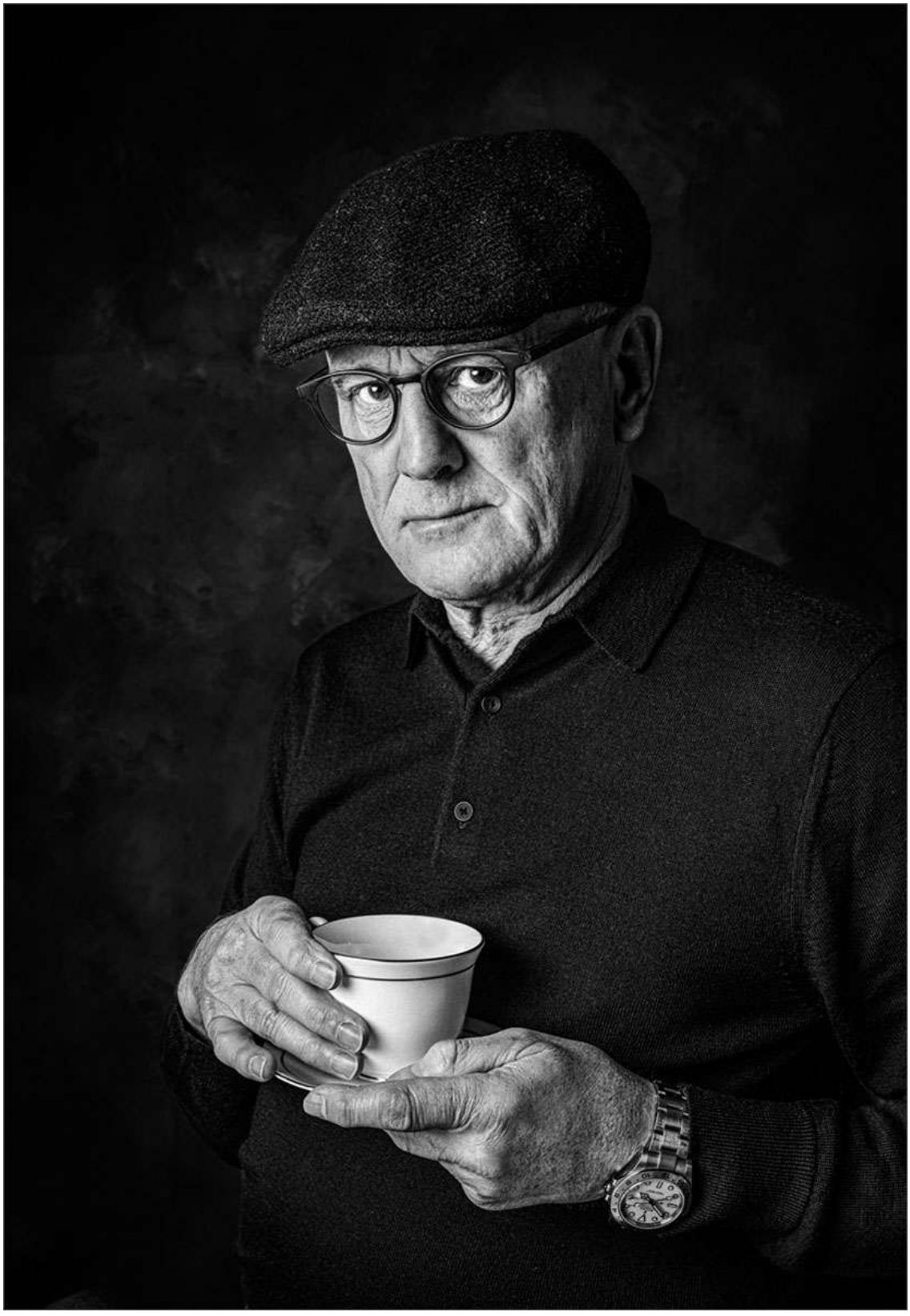
Here are the winning entries from the fourth print competition: -

Advanced Class

1st – ‘Reflections of Gimsoy Chirch' by Maggie James

2nd - 'Ducks at Dusk' by Hilary Bailey

3rd - 'Mugshot' by Richard Pitt



Commended (advanced)

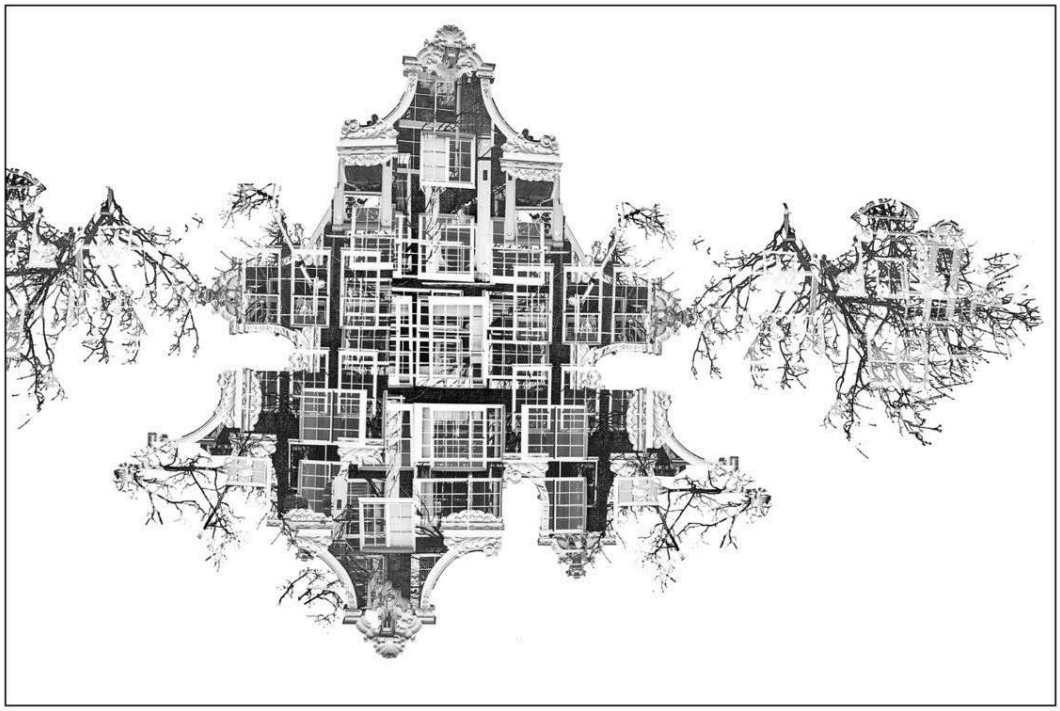
'Changing London Skyline' by Gillian Morgan
'The One That Got Away' by Tim Hodges
'Compost Kew Gardens' by Roger Wotton
'Fighting for Dominance' by Maggie James

Intermediate Class

1st – 'The Thrill of the Chase' by Steve Simpson

2nd - 'Chocolate Paradise' by Bernard Wallace

3rd - 'Begunhof Amsterdam' by Viv Blewett



General Class

1st – 'A Segmented View' by Janette Quainton

2nd - 'Snipe Reflection' by Paul Ward

3rd - 'Walk on By' by Nigel Gent

John Harding
Print Secretary

6. PDI Competitions

The fifth PDI competition was held on 16th March.

The results are as follows:

General Class

1st – 'WATCHING AND WAITING' by Paul Ward

2nd – 'THE CHANCES OF ANYTHING COMING FROM MARS ARE A MILLION TO ONE' by Nigel Gent

3rd – 'YOU LOOKING AT ME' by Paul Ward

Intermediate Class

1st – 'THE SECRET GRAFFITI ARTIST' by Charlie Blewett

2nd – 'EMPTY CHAIRS' by Viv Blewet

3rd – 'EAGLE HUNTING' by Sylvia Morris

Advanced Class

1st – 'CLASH OF THE TITANS' by Steven Galvin

2nd – 'CELESTIAL BEAUTY' by Alison Trimbee

3rd – 'REMAINS OF FAITH' by Steve Brabner

General-first-"WATCHING AND WAITING' by Paul Ward

Intermediate-first-'THE SECRET GRAFFITI ARTIST' by Charlie Blewett

Advanced-first-'CLASH OF THE TITANS' by Steven Galvin

The PDI final will be held on **27th April**. All entries in by midnight on 24th.

An entry to either the Print or PDI Finals must have been in that year's league competition, however changes to the original image may be made by the author to improve it.

Changes can be based on feedback already provided by the competition Judge or feedback from any other source e.g. external competition Judges, APS members, etc.

Changes to the image must be such that it is still recognisable as the original. New content must not be added.

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

7. The On-Line Group

This month's On-Line Group meeting will be held via Zoom at **8.00pm on Thursday 23rd April.**
Amersham's "Secret" Photographic Society is convening again for an informative and amusing evening of photographic delights. Apply now for the password!
We will be having our usual real-time editing session where you can see what differences the Group's suggestions might make to your images.
This month, we are introducing the ability to share your desktop and demonstrate your edits using your preferred software. So all you Photoshop and Affinity users can show us: "Editing, done properly".
Information about the Group is available on our website, and you can join us by emailing Tony Wright at: ARW1303APS@btinternet.com
Tony

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 Thursday **9th April 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 March meeting of the PIC Group was another splendid showing of prints. First to present was intrepid traveller **Tim Hodges** who has recently been on 2 Norweigan cruises for the Northern lights. Colourful skies above snowy vistas, reindeer too. Also some pictures of wildlife in a wintry setting. A great start.
Next into the fray was **Steven Galvin** who is going to attempt his CPAGB award soon. This requires 10 prints "of good club standard", so we appraised 14 and gave Steven feedback on what we thought might be the better contenders for his entry. A difficult one to predict.
After welcome refreshments c/o Maggie & Gill we were then treated to a very different presentation by **David Manning**. Essentially a documentary set of 21 prints capturing the training of TA soldiers in 3 different scenarios, David had privileged access and opportunity and produced a very worthy panel for us to appreciate. However in his introduction we learnt that they were all taken on film, either Ektar 1000 colour neg, or on monochrome. David had then instructed AI to colourise his images, and the result was very convincing indeed!
Finally we enjoyed a colourful set of 21 prints by Geoff Walker, the result of a visit to Portmerion in North Wales. Colourful architectural abstracts all tastefully panelled and printed, a very pleasant conclusion to our meeting.

Our April meeting will be on Thursday 16th when we can look forward to a presentation by APS member and Light & Land's Mark Seymour. Consequently we will have space for at least 2 additional presenters, so names to Chris or Steve please in advance of the meeting.

Chris Palmer

11. Amersham Beyond Group

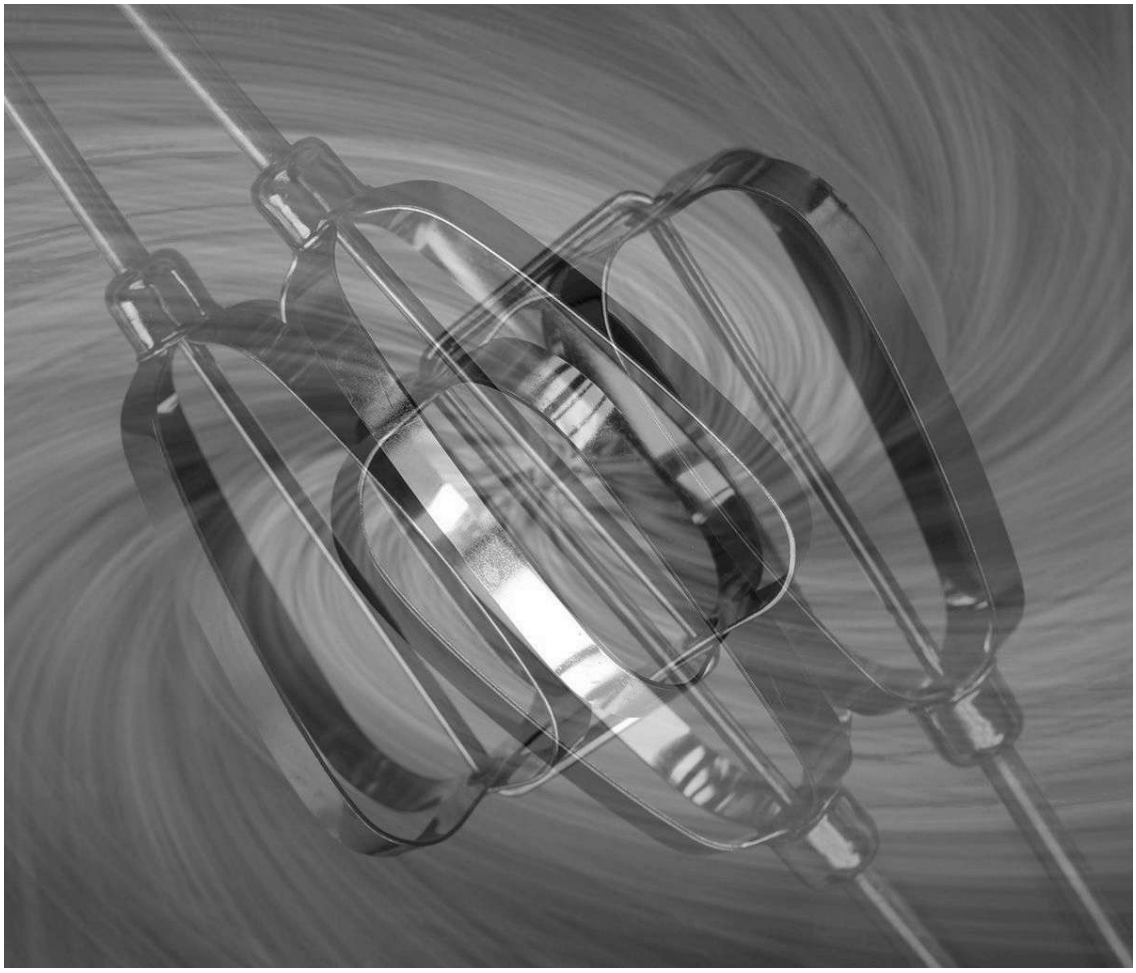
Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd April at 8pm in the **Drake Hall** (our usual Monday venue).

The current Challenges are;

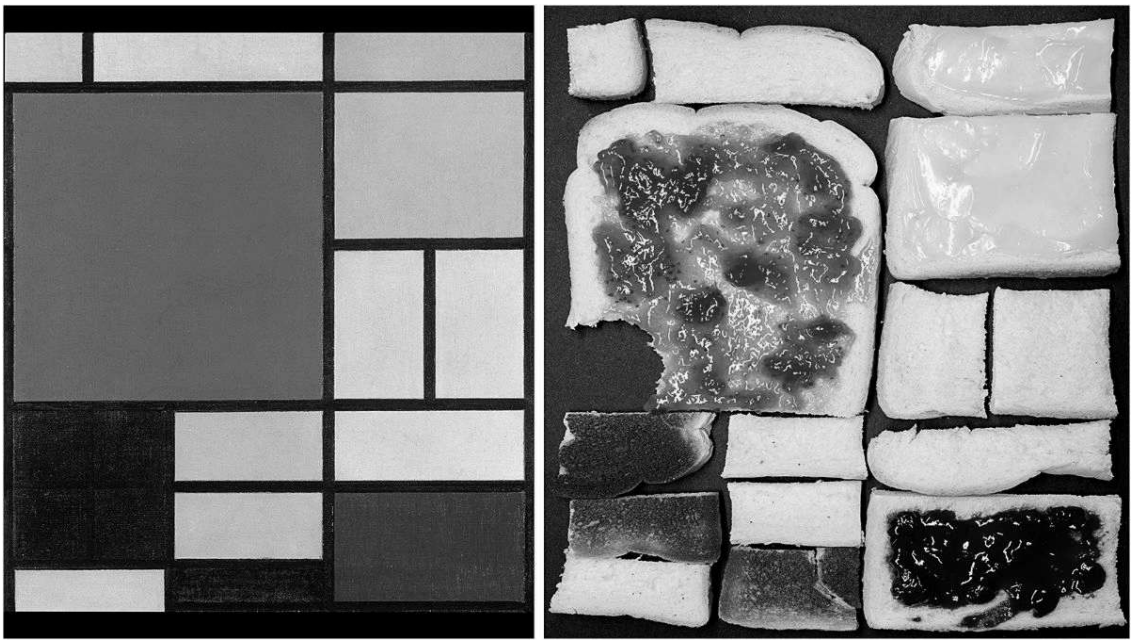
#55 Cutlery

#56 Re-create Famous Art

#57 Panels (in the style of Martin Addison)



#55 SEEING DOUBLE by Janette Quainton



#55 MONDRIAN IN JAM by Steve Brabner

#56 BANKSY SURVEILLANCE by Martin Warner

For more information see Amersham Beyond Group - Amersham Photographic Society notes.
Visitors welcome - just come along and see what we get up to.
Cheers,
Steve Brabner

12. Outings

Our outing in March was to Walthamstow Wetlands, a wildlife preserve in North London. It was a lovely sunny day and a group of us found loads of opportunities to test our skills with telephoto lenses. A selection of images are below and more will be on our Flickr page soon.

RESTING by Alan Sturges

TOWER REFLECTED by John Harding

LOOKOUT by Angela Rogers

HERON IN A SWARM OF FLIES by Richard Pitt

The next club outing will be to Windsor on **Tuesday 21st April** where we intend to concentrate on street photography. Our visit is timed to coincide with the changing of the guard at Windsor Castle so we should have plenty of opportunities.

If you would like to come on this, or any other of our outings please email us at outings@amershamphotosoc.com

We hope you can join us soon.

Juliet & Patrick