



Newsletter March 2026

1. March Events

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Location	Event	Leader/Judge/ Speaker
Mon, 2	Drake Hall	PRINT COMP 4 – Judge: Martin Patten	Martin Patten.
Mon, 9	Drake Hall	Ask APS	Chrissi Ratcliffe
Wed, 11	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Thu, 12	Committee Room	Mono Group - 7:45 start	Roger Wotton/ John Harding
Mon, 16	Drake Hall	PDI COMP 5 -Judge: Tim Morland	Tim Morland
Thu, 19	Drake Hall	PIC Group - 7:45 start	Chris Palmer/ Steve Smith
Fri, 20	Walthamstow	Outing to Walthamstow Wetlands	Juliet Ormiston/ Patrick Hudgell
Mon, 23	Drake Hall	SPEAKER: David Rutter 'The work of David Rutter'	David Rutter
Wed, 25	Zoom	Colour Group	Laurie Turner
Mon, 30	Drake Hall	Members Evening: Andy Smith '100 years of surrealism, 10,000 hours of photography. And an F Panel'	Andy Smith

2. Chairman's Message

February was an important month for APS in external competitions. In early

February we completed against Watford CC and Pinner CC in The Federation of North-West Photographic Societies Final (may be the last) and APS was again the winning club so we continue to hold a rather large glass trophy. Mid-February we completed against numerous clubs in the CACC Championship and I am delighted to say we did come first in the Print Competition and 4th in the PDI Competition. Congratulations to the Society, Hilary, Maggie and Mark for their winning images. *See Brian's piece below for all the results and the winning images.*

I have to say I am very proud of the External Comps team led by Brian, they have achieved the rewards for APS through a lot of effort and hard work, choosing images for the array of competitions we enter. You can all help in the future if you think you have an image which might be suitable to be considered please do not hesitate to offer it to the team for consideration.

Now down to earth and the programme for March.

2nd March Print Comp. 4 with judge Martin Patten DPAGB, BPE5*, EFIAP QPSA.

Martin is a member of Watford Camera Club and former Chairman of the CACC, he has won numerous photographic awards both in the UK and abroad. He is a CACC judge and is now part of the team developing new judges for the CACC.

After many years in the IT industry Martin is now a professional photographer. Martin has some interesting images on his website, although clearly, he enjoys nature.

9th March ASK APS I again have no idea what Chrissi Radcliff has planned but these evenings are always great fun. Please read Chrissi's piece below

16th March PDI Comp.5 with judge Tim Morland ARPS. Tim gained his ARPS in 1984 with a set of B&W prints, He has been a long-standing member of Kingston Camera Club, a judge with the Surrey Photographic Association and most of his photography nowadays focuses on Sport, Landscape or Architecture.

30th March Member's Evening. After admiring Andy Smith's images in the style of the painter Rene Magritte Andy has agreed to give us a talk entitled '100 years of Surrealism, 10000 hours of photography and an F Panel' all about his journey through photography. Another member's evening not to be missed.

I hope to see you on a Monday evening. I have just heard that we have

qualified for the Rosebowl Final in April so more information about that next month.

Diane

3. PROGRAMME

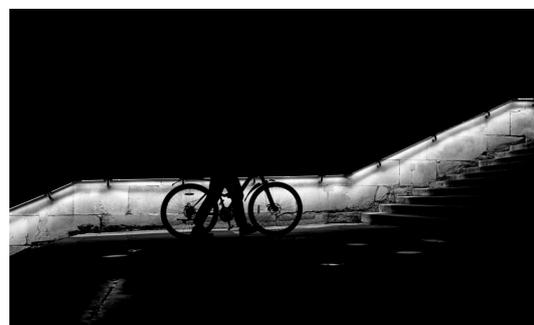
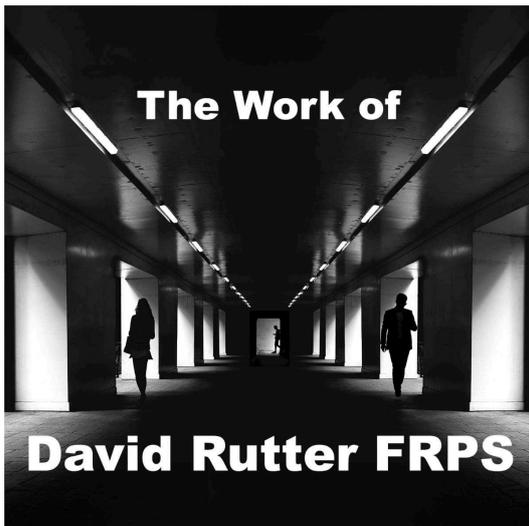
Speaker; David Rutter - 23rd March

The Work of David Rutter FRPS.

David's photographic work is driven by aesthetic aspiration and uses a style of high quality imagery in diverse contexts with the intention to create purposeful visual perception to invoke response and visual entertainment.

An enthusiastic and engaging photographic display presented in a manner to stop or at least reduce the risk of the audience falling asleep, covering at least Creative Portraiture, Still Life, Creative Street, and Political Events.

Steve Hunter



4. External Competitions

Hi all. Another busy few weeks for the team. They have worked tirelessly to make sure APS is still represented alongside the best of the best. With the hours put in if they were a Black Cab the meter would be spinning.

We kicked off February with the NWF final. I wanted the hat trick and to keep the trophy. Well we DID beating Watford by 2 points. Our images averaged 18.5. To top off the day we took Best print (Hilary Bailey with 'Highland Duo') and a highly commended (Maggie James with 'Fighting for Dominance'). Then we had best PDI (Mark Seymour 'From The Mist Of The Ganges') and highly commended (Hilary Bailey 'Emerging Elephant') I feel this is rather fantastic and huge well done to them.

Next was the home leg of the Rosebowl on 9th Feb. Sadly even though we averaged 18.5 we lost to an on fire Watford averaging 19 per image. (We did manage a starred image though and this was taken by 'Three French Hens' by Hilary Bailey) They had some simply gorgeous work so fair play and well done to them. We had already won the first 2 matches so we should still take a place in the final.

Then came the big one. **Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs**

Championship day. This starts with the Chiltern 100 competition where each club member can enter a PDI of their choice. This is an event where we have done well in the past so it was a bit of a shame that out of 100 plus members we had around 12 entries from Amersham. On a plus note our new member Paul Ward scored 11 for his image. Bearing in mind the overall low scoring this was a good mark (many images only scored 7 or 8) Well done Paul. We also took a selectors award for 'Three French Hens' by Hilary Bailey. In the main event Amersham again won the print competition by a strong margin. Hilary again scored well and took best Print with ('Flight Over Taransay') and was awarded a selectors choice for 'Three French Hens ' In the PDIs we decided to give someone else a chance and didn't do so well (still came 4th though)). So for the 4th year in a row Amersham will represent the Chilterns at the National Print Championships to be held this year at a new venue in the Midlands. This will be in October but we will need to start looking for work soon.

Ok so there you are your great club is still well GREAT. The team as I have said really do spend hours, days and weeks selecting the images, attending the events etc, etc. We try to use work from as many members as possible but we have to pick what we feel will do well in each different competition and it seems we still pick from a small group. Please everyone look at other work on the CACC and PAGB website for ideas and inspiration. Also check images for small

errors or improvements. Its often that a tiny tweak will make the difference. On this all the details from Championship day are now uploaded to see (go to CACC then EVENTS tab). Have a look... you may be surprised.

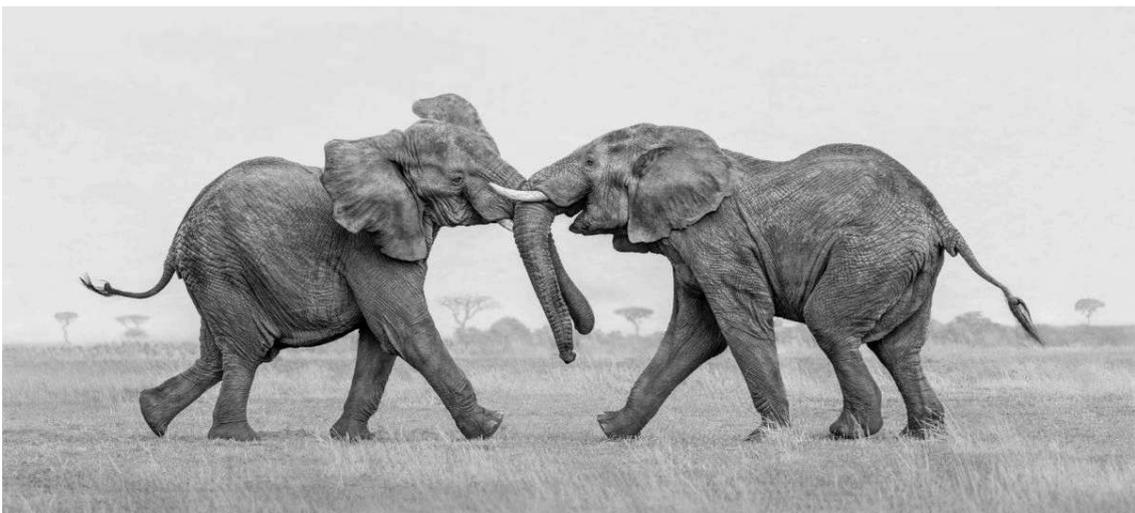
*****STOP PRESS***** Its just been announced that Amersham came third in the group stages of the Rosebowl Competition and are now through to the final on 26th April in Drake Hall.

Best wishes.

Brian



Best print in NWF 'Highland Duo' by Hilary Bailey



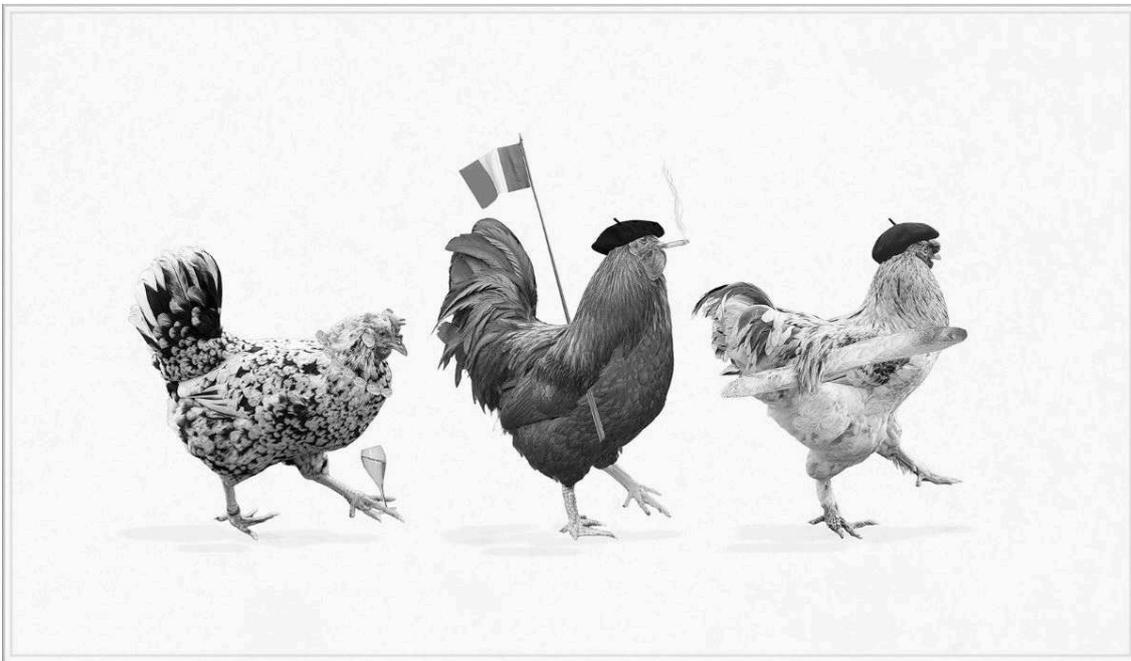
Highly Commended in NWF 'Fighting for Dominance' by Maggie James



Best PDI in NWF 'From the Mist of the Ganges' by Mark Seymour



Best print in CACC Championship 'Flight over Taransay' by Hilary Bailey



Judges Choice in CACC Championship 'Three French Hens by Hilary Bailey



Judges Ribbon Award in the Chiltern Hundreds 'Emerging Elephant' by Hilary Bailey

5. Print Competitions

The third print competition of the season was held on Monday 2nd February 2026. It attracted 74 entries, which an improvement, so thank you. The 4th Print Competition is to be held on Monday 2nd March. Entries by Friday 27th February please.

The winners of the third Competition were as follows:-

Advanced Class

1st – 'Whispers of Dawn' by Hilary Bailey



2nd - 'Surfer in the Barrell' by Patrick Hudgell



3rd - 'Chalk Hill Blue Aberration' by Brian Ridgley



Intermediate Class

1st – *'Leading Parallel Lives'* by Steve Simpson



2nd - *'Fifteen'* by Viv Blewett



3rd - *'Common Tern Diving at Happisburgh'* by Steve Simpson



General Class

1st – 'The eyes have it' by Paul Ward



2nd - 'Honfleur Reflected' by Nigel Gent



3rd - 'Slot Assumberg' by Charles Biggie



John Harding
Print Secretary

6. PDI Competitions

The fourth PDI competition was held on 16th February.

The results are as follows:

General Class

1st – 'WAITING FOR A CATCH' by Angela Rogers

2nd – 'JUVENILE GANNET' by Paul Ward

3rd – 'AT THE GURDWARA' by Nigel Gent

Intermediate Class

1st – 'THE CAMPUS SENTINEL' by Viv Blewett

2nd – 'FLIGHT OF FANTASY' by Viv Blewett

3rd – 'WHERE TIME POURS SLOWLY' by Don Lewis

Advanced Class

1st – 'QUIET MAJESTY' by John Allport

2nd – 'CURTAIN OF RAIN' by Alison Trimbee

3rd – 'THE ROAD NO ONE WALKED' by Maggie James

General-first-'WAITING FOR A CATCH' by Angela Rogers



Intermediate-first-'THE CAMPUS SENTINEL' by Viv Blewett



Advanced-first-'QUIET MAJESTY' by John Allport



The next PDI competition will be held on **16th March**. All entries in by midnight on 13th.

If you get a message saying that your images are rejected as spam when you try to enter to pdi, print or beyond please email pdisec to be added to a pre-approved list.

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 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 March 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

8. Ask APS

On **Monday 9th March** AskAPS is going Retro!

We have a visit from Matt who is a member of Wycombe Camera Club, you may have met him at the Lighting workshop in January as he came along to that.

Matt will be bringing along a 5x4 medium format film camera.

We are going to set up a fine art background and have some constant lighting for members to have their portraits taken.

Once the film has finished, Matt will demonstrate how to process the film into negatives, which will then be hung up to dry and everyone can take a peek at them.

If anyone has a film camera (and some film) that they would like to bring along and use with our set up you're very welcome to do so.

For anyone fascinated with the film format and process, and would like to try it, I have a couple of film cameras that I'm happy to lend out.

As usual, there will be ample opportunity to socialise and chat so please come along to our film revival evening!

Chrissi Ratcliffe

9. Photographers in Camera (PIC) Group

The February PIC meeting was another fine event, with four members sharing their work.

Richard Ellis, (always keen on landscape), showed his lovely prints of Harris, Lewis, and Torridon, all images captured in great light. Additionally though, he had six prints from his trip to Antarctica in January, where he took pictures of penguins. A lovely start to our meeting.

Next it was the turn of **Roger Longdin** who showed us his successful Associate panel of landscapes. All images captured with a 5x4 camera on Fuji Velvia film, he printed them on high gloss Cibachrome. This print medium did justice to the quality possible from a large format capture, and exhibited a luminosity that digital printing can never hope to evoke.

After drinks we enjoyed **Gill Morgan's** 22 Venetian prints. None were the normal views of Venice, but details, impressions, multiple exposures, ICM, - all very creative and beautifully printed too. Within this set of prints there were good opportunities to expand the theme, and produce a cohesive resultant

panel. Fab!

Finally a year or so ago **Tricia Meers** showed us a set of street images taken in London. Despite travel issues recently, Tricia's determination took her back to London and allowed her to show us a set of 6 prints of essentially the same scene, but each featuring a different person passing by. The Group all agreed that their favourite was that of a person and their dog running by.

We had a successful evening. The accompanying photo shows Roger Longdin, Gill Morgan, Tricia Meers and Richard Ellis in front of Roger Longdin's prints.



The next meeting of the Pic Group will be on Thursday 19th March when, provisionally, we will see work from Tim Hodges, Geoff Walker and Steve Galvin. There should be time for one more presenter if you'd like to show us your work?

Chris Palmer

10. Amersham Beyond Group

There will be no meeting in March as I am away collecting potential images for #57 Panels in South America.

Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

The next meeting will be on **2nd April**.

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

Any questions; beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com

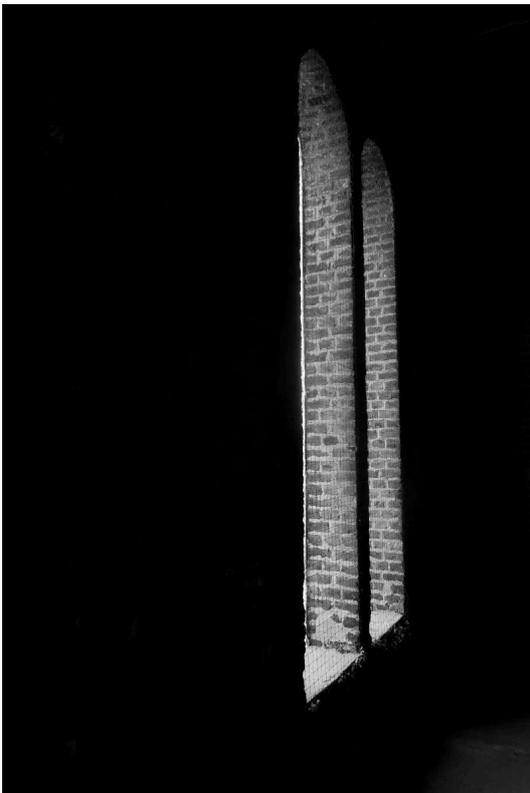
Cheers,
Steve Brabner

12. Outings

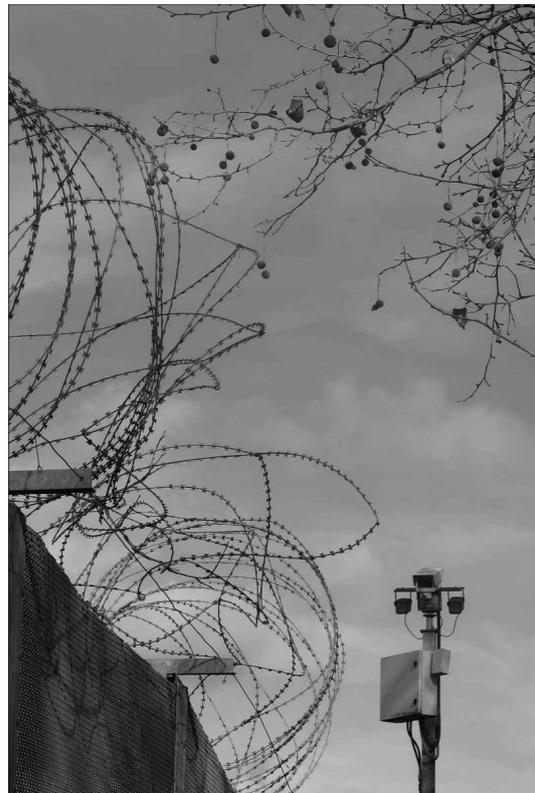
We are writing this before our outing to Greenwich on 26th February so will include some photos from that in the April newsletter.

Our next outing is to Walthamstow Wetlands on **Friday 20th March**. This 160 hectare Thames Water reservoir site is not only the main source of water supply for 3.5 million Londoners but also an internationally important nature reserve. The site has had a variety of uses over many centuries making it a fascinating location where industry meets nature. The site gives opportunities for photographing a wide range of water fowl and birds of prey and also some interesting industrial buildings and equipment from the past and present along with views of the new developments in the area.

Here are a few snaps from our recce last week.



Coppermill Windows



No Entry



Greylags and Daisies



The Engine House

If you would like to come on this or any of our other outings, please email 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