



Newsletter May 2026

APS Website issues.

I would like to apologise to you all for the problems which we have had on the website.

We are increasingly being targeted by what we believe are AI scraper bots. They are making huge demands on our capacity to host visitors and causing the site either to run very slowly or even not at all. About 70% of visits are from Vietnamese servers which obviously have no interest in the art of photography but just want information from us.

I would ask you to please bear with us while we try to eliminate this issue. Other work may be delayed as a result.

Mike Hynes

1. May Events

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Location	Event	Leader/Judge/ Speaker
Mon, 4	No meeting		
Thu, 7	Large Barn Hall	Beyond	Steve Brabner
Mon, 11	Drake Hall	SPEAKER: Lesley MacGregor 'Corners of the Mind'	Lesley MacGregor
Wed, 13	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Thu, 14	Committee Room	Mono Group - 7:45 start	Roger Wotton/ John Harding
Mon, 18	Drake Hall	PRINT FINALS COMP - Judge: Philip Joyce	Philip Joyce
Wed, 20	Chelsea	Chelsea in Bloom	Juliet Ormiston/ Patrick Hudgell

Thu, 21	Drake Hall	PIC Group - 7:45 start	Chris Palmer/ Steve Smith
Mon, 25	No meeting		
Wed, 27	Zoom	Colour Group	Laurie Turner

2. Chairman's Message

We finished April with a flurry, we came second in the CACC Rosebowl competition just behind the winner Oxford Camera Club, with Hilary Bailey achieving an award for her image of 'Three French Hens' and both Peter Jones and Richard Pitt getting highly commended awards in the Phone Photography Competition.



DISENCHANTMENT BAY by Richard Pitt



NO 18 BUS VIEW by Peter Jones

Our last evening in April saw our PDI Finals with professional photographer Panikos Hajistilly as the judge.

Congratulations to our winners:

Angela Rogers, Steve Simpson and John Caton, with John's image 'Jelly Roll'

being assessed as PDI of the year (photographs of the winners' images are shown in Steve Holden piece below)

May will be a fairly quiet month with just two Monday evening events:

May 4th - No meeting Bank Holiday

May 11th - Speaker Lesley MacGregor with her talk 'Corners of the Mind'

Lesley is a Canadian art photographer whose work explores memory, perception, and time.

Lesley was brought up in a family where art was an essential of life, her father was both an artist and a Professor of Art Education. She came interested in photography later in life when she had more time for a creative pursuit.

May 18th - Print Finals with Judge Philip Joyce FRPS.

Philip has been a member of the RPS

Assessment Panel and a Thames Valley Region Co-ordinator for the Documentary Group. He has an award from the London Salon and one of his images was shortlisted for a Sony World Photography Award.

His style of photography is mainly centred around people, 'a social documentary of the things we do, the places we live and the way we look.'

Philip also commented 'To me, photography is an art of observation.

It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place'

Please remember two images, previously entered in any of this seasons print competitions can be entered, with minor amendments as per the Internal Competition Rules found on the website.

May 25th - No meeting Bank Holiday

Diane

3. PROGRAMME

Speaker; Lesley MacGregor 11th May - Corners of the Mind

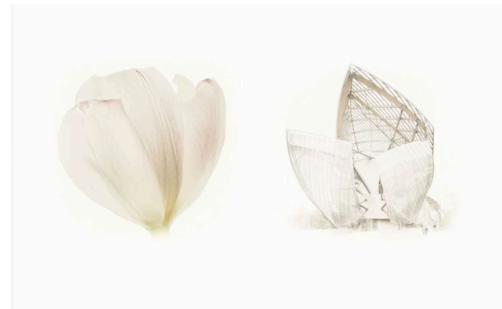
Lesley MacGregor is a Canadian art photographer whose work explores memory, perception and time. Working at the intersection of landscape, architecture and abstraction, she creates images that feel remembered rather than seen. Her photography stems from a love of modern art and architecture. Their minimalism, geometry, and luminance drive her interpretation of the world and the subjects she chooses to photograph, the distortions of time, and the

idiosyncrasies of our mind.

Her goal is not to portray the world that is, but to create an alternate view that resonates with the viewer emotionally. This is the freedom of fine art photography: to leave the literal behind, to explore what is in the mind and the heart.

Her presentation, Corners of the Mind, focuses on how craft, meaning and creative voice can be used to deepen a photographic practice. The focus will be on architectural photography while also exploring landscape and abstraction.

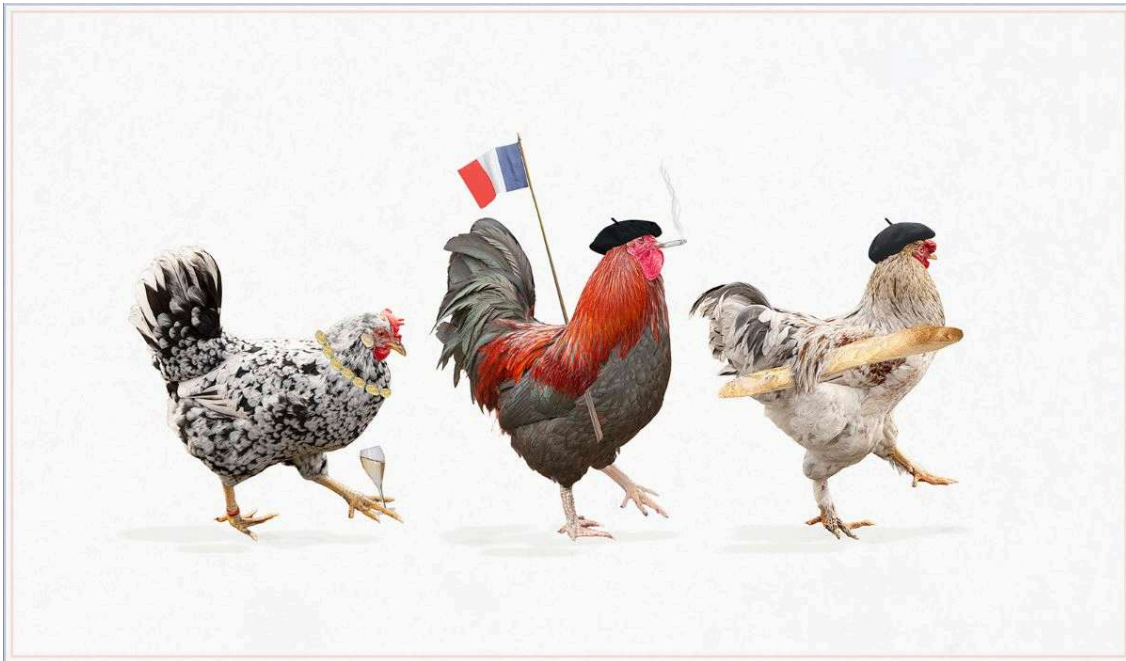
Steve Hunter



4. External Competitions

Well here we are nearly at the end of another busy season. Yesterday was the final of the CAC Rosebowl and phone image competitions held as always at the Drake Hall. The final always brings something different from the group stages. In the round Robin matches each club enters 15 images but the 12 finalists can only select 8 from those already used. This makes for a much

closer match as everyone can pick 8 great pictures. In the morning we had a talk on phone photography followed by commentary on the judge's favourite phone comp images with the awards for highly commended and the winner. Our entry was low but we still managed two Highly Commended images. Congratulations to Richard Pitt for " Disenchantment Bay " and Peter Jones with " No 18 Bus View ". The afternoon session was a heavy weight competition to match Ronnie O'Sullivan against John Higgins at the Snooker. Lots of high quality work with nature being very well represented. We got out of the blocks well with " Colours of Luskentyre " by Hilary Bailey scoring a fast 19. This was followed with 2 more 19s and two 18s before we dropped the baton on the middle hand over on a tricky bend. But come the hour come the ladies and those pesky "Three French Hens " crossed the line with a Highly Commended 20. Huge congratulations to Hilary for a stunning image that makes everyone smile.



THREE FRENCH HENS by Hilary Bailey

Out of the 11 finalists (one club didn't enter) Amersham were runners up to Oxford missing out by 3 points.

So, there you are, a season where we AGAIN qualified for the National Print Championships, WON the Northwest Fed for a THIRD year running, individual awards too many to mention and Rosebowl runners up (oh and we beat Watford again). Thank you to all the team who help with external comps and a special mention to yesterdays catering team of Hilary Bailey and John Harding. We are now starting to look at work for next season so please send anything you feel may be of use to me at external comps etc.

Best wishes.

Brian

5. Print Competitions

Print Competition 5, the last competition of this season, was held on Monday 13th April 2026. Our Judge was Roger Reynolds. The results are as follows and the full results and league placings are in the club website.

Advanced Class

1st – ‘A Captured Moment’ by Hilary Bailey



2nd - ‘Curiosity’ by Steve Brabner



Intermediate Class

1st – *'Anacamptis Sancta'* by Hilary Pickersgill



2nd - *'Into the Unknown'* by Viv Blewett



3rd - "The Gannet" by Don Lewis



General Class

1st – *'Morning Songster'* by Paul Ward



2nd - *'Standing in Line'* by Janette Quainton



3rd - *'Serenissima Steps'* by Charles Biggie



A reminder that the Print Final competition will be held on **Monday 18th May 2026**, so plenty of time to get organised. You are permitted to enter two images into the Final Competition providing that those images have previously been entered into one of the five preceding print competitions of this season. You are permitted to make some minor adjustments to the image that reflect Judge's comments or advice from one of the SIGs or other club members. Full details of what is acceptable can be found on the Internal Competitions section of the club website.

Entry conditions remain as per regular Print Competitions. Pdl's to be received before midnight on the Friday preceding the Monday of the competition. **For the Print Final Friday 15th May 2026.**

John Harding
Print Secretary

6. PDI Competitions

The PDI Final competition was held on 27th April.

The results are as follows:

General Class

- 1st – 'WAITING FOR A CATCH' by Angela Rogers
- 2nd – 'LIZARD' by Angela Rogers
- 3rd – 'SUNRISE AT MORAINÉ LAKE' by Paul Ward

Intermediate Class

- 1st – 'GULL ALIGHTING' by Steve Simpson
- 2nd – 'PUFFIN WING FLAPPING' by Steve Simpson
- 3rd – 'EMPTY CHAIRS' by Viv Blewet'

Advanced Class

- 1st – 'JELLY ROLL' by John Caton
- 2nd – 'QUIET MAJESTY' by John Allport
- 3rd – 'FROSTED SEED HEAD' by Alan Sturgis

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



Intermediate-first-'GULL ALIGHTING' by Steve Simpson



Advanced-first-'JELLY ROLL' by John Caton



It was a good evening of some excellent images and a very close competition in the end. The judge on the night was Panikos Hajistilly who gave fair critiques of all the images and finally chose '**JELLY ROLL**' by **John Caton** to be the PDI of the year.

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 **14th May at 7:45 in the Committee Room.**

We look forward to seeing you.

John Harding & 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

The April, (and penultimate) meeting of the PIC Group provided an entertaining and inspirational photographic feast for our members. Prior to the start of the meeting 17 members handed in entries for this year's London Salon of Photography exhibition.

Firstly **Mark Seymour** talked us through a collection of his iconic monochrome street images in varied locations, revealing the layering considerations he uses when composing and structuring his images. Using solely a fixed 35mm lens allows him to instinctively know where he needs to be to frame the shot. He emphasised the time he will take to work a situation until he bags the good one. Members also had the chance to buy his Images Of India zine featuring his colour work from India.

Newcomer **Heather Woodhams** next presented her gentle house interior studies, - personal images taken while photographing properties for estate agents. The theme and style of the work showed a direction that might allow her to pursue and further develop the project. Significant praise from the members was communicated to Heather for her lovely prints.

After a welcome refreshment break celebrating Chris and Gill's forthcoming birthdays, **Steve Smith** presented a retrospective set of prints showing many of his significant images, captured since 2008. A mix of film and digitally caught scenes, the unifying theme was Steve's distinctive style, great print quality, and ability to 'nail' the shot. A great conclusion to another interesting evening.



The final meeting will be on Thursday 21st May when Chris has agreed to show his work to the Group, and Steve Hunter too. If other members have work to show then please let Chris know.

Chris Palmer

10. Amersham Beyond Group

Our last meeting of the season is on Thursday 7th May at 8pm in the **LARGE BARN HALL** (across the opposite side of the car park from our usual venue).

The current Challenges are;

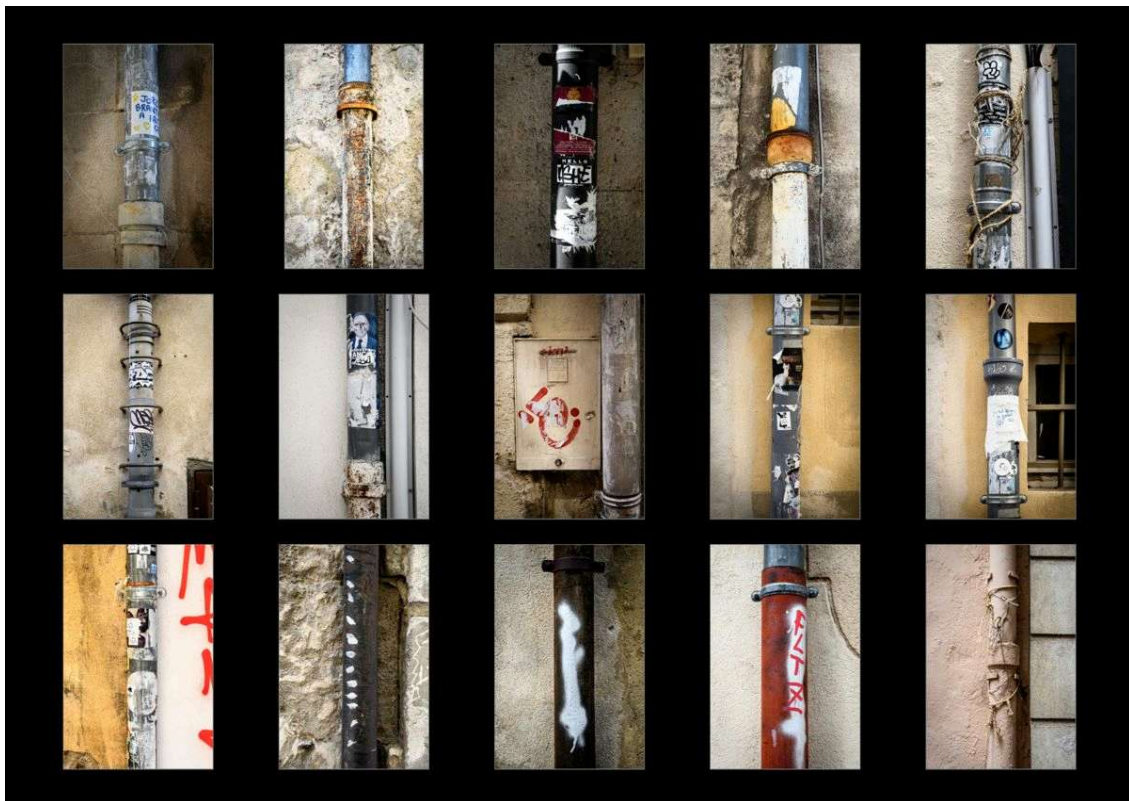
#56 Re-create Famous Art

#57 Panels (in the style of Martin Addison)

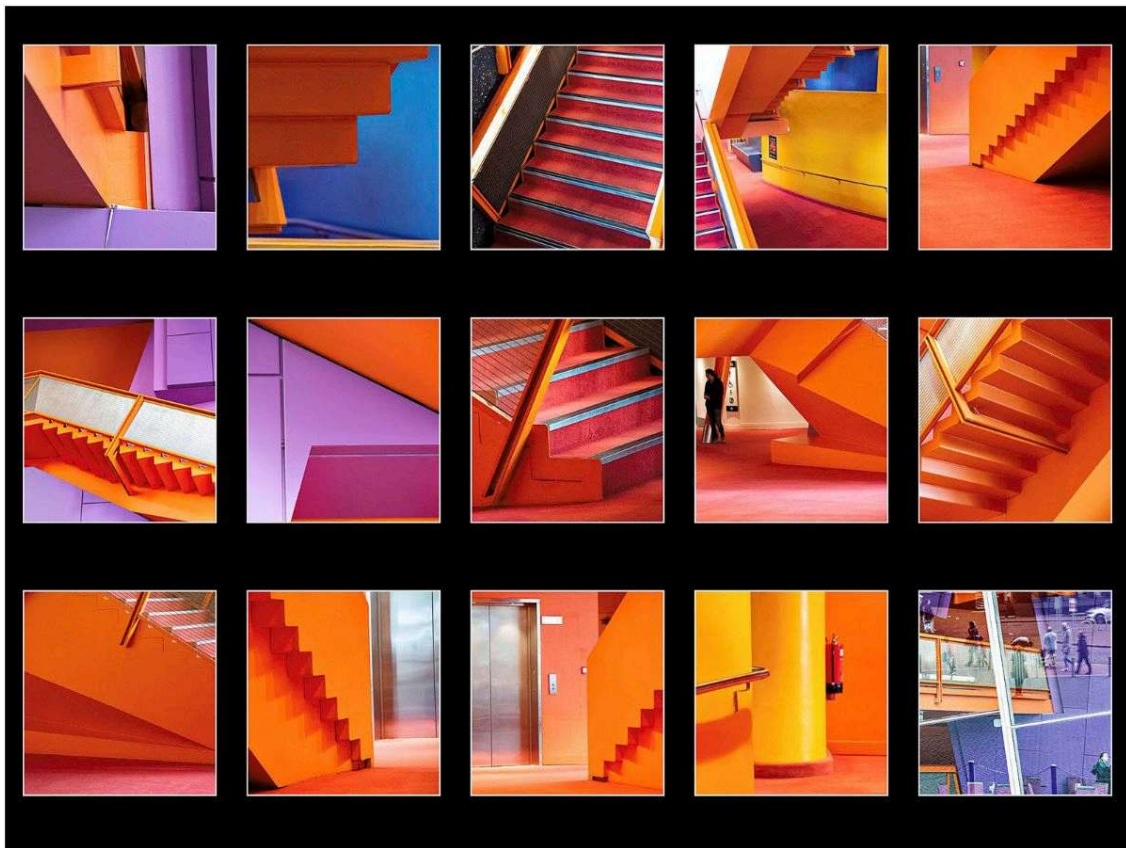
#58 Solarisation



#56 ROGER DEAN'S 'Awaken' by Steve Simpson



#57 PROVENCE DRAINPIPES by Viv Blewett



#57 LOWRY GALLERY by Heather Sparks

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

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

Any questions; beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com

Cheers,

Steve Brabner

11. Outings

Our outing in April was to Windsor to do a bit of street photography and explore the area around Windsor and Eton. Unfortunately neither of us could make it that day but the outing went ahead without us and judging by the photos we have received it looks like a good time was had by all. The full set will be on our Flickr page as soon as possible:-

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



CASTLE VIEW by Alan Sturges



IRISH GUARDS' PIPER by Tim Hodges

We had planned to have an outing to visit "Chelsea in Bloom" in May but unfortunately a tube strike has been planned for the same week so we have had to cancel that. We hope to hold one or two outings over the summer break and will be publicising details as soon as possible.

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