



Newsletter October 2026

1. October Events

All events start at 8pm unless otherwise indicated. Please come early to help set up.

Date	Location	Event	Leader/Judge/ Speaker
Thu, 1	Drake Hall	Beyond	Steve Brabner
Mon, 5	Drake Hall	PDI COMP 1 – Judge: Michael Lurie	Michael Lurie
Thu, 8	Committee Room	Mono Group	Roger Wotton / John Harding
Sat, 10	Chiltern Open Air Museum	Outing - Wild About Wool	Juliet Ormiston/ Patrick Hudgell
Mon, 12	Drake Hall	SPEAKER:TALVINDER CHOLAN 'Wildlife from Home to Tadoba'	Tavinder Cholan
Wed, 14	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Thu, 15	Zoom	Colour Group	Peter Lillywhite/ Andy Smith/ Tracy Bradbury
Mon, 19	Drake Hall	Ask APS	Chrissi Ratcliffe
Mon, 26	Zoom	Rosebowl	

2. Chairman's Message

Welcome to October! Our new season is now well underway, and this month brings a full schedule of meetings.

First up, we kick off our internal competition calendar with round 1 of the PDI Competition. This is a great opportunity to get some additional critique and

feedback on your images – so please don't be shy, get your images to Steve Holden ready for the competition on **October 5th**, when our judge will be Michael Lurie.

We are also privileged to welcome our guest speaker this month, Talvinder Cholan. Talvinder is a talented photographer, and we are looking forward to his presentation "Wildlife from Home to Tadoba".

Next up we have Chrissi Ratcliffe hosting the season's first ASK APS meeting, details to follow.

In addition to our internal competitions, October sees us flying the flag for Amersham on the broader stage. We are delighted to be hosting round 1 of the Rosebowl on Monday 26th October – this will almost certainly be a remote zoom meeting. More about this in Brian's section below.

Thank you all for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings.

Good luck in the competitions.

Richard Pitt

Chairman, Amersham Photographic Society

3. Programme

TALVINDER CHOLAN - 12th OCTOBER 2026

From Home to Tadoba covers local British Wildlife (with a surprise twist!) in the first half and Tiger's of India in the second half. Local wildlife includes images of some iconic species such as Kingfisher, Kestrel, Owls and Foxes. With regards to tigers I have travelled extensively to several key Project Tiger reserves in India and encountered species through watching cubs play in the jungle as well as witnessing first hand some of the problems they face, such as habitat encroachment. I will produce a rounded story whilst covering documentary, landscape, portraiture and action photography through my varying experiences and encounters. It is important for me that ethical photography, responsible tourism and conservation are also covered, and these will serve as an introduction. All images will be discussed in terms of light, composition, technical qualities and real-life situations.

Steve Hunter

Programme Secretary







4. Competition Judges

Ahead Of our internal competitions commencing in October, I thought it might be a good idea to say something about our judges.

As Judges Secretary, I am responsible for booking and managing the 12 judges that visit us each season. I source the judges from following up on recommendations, previous experience and The Chilterns Association Of Camera Clubs (CACC) list of affiliated judges. To minimise costs to our club, I try to avoid getting judges from a long way away unless we are using Zoom, as in January for our PDI competition (Round 3), when we have a judge from farther afield. Most judges only receive out of pocket expenses with the exception of one or two Professional Photographers and CACC judges and follow a Code Of Good Practice and only ever claim for travel expenses based

on a mileage rate, no fee. Zoom judges occasionally request that the club makes a charitable donation for their time which we always inform members about on the night for transparency so judges are not doing this for the money! They are giving up their time to come and visit us because they are passionate about photography and have a desire and willingness to share their knowledge with us. Not all judges are the same. I try to invite back judges that are entertaining and interesting and who we know will give fair, honest and constructive feedback to our members (authors). I do have to give newer judges a try and they don't always get invited back. But over the last few years, many of our old favourites have become too elderly to travel at night and therefore we do need to continue to find newer judges and the pool is not very large. Every year it is a challenge to secure 12 "good" ones ! Everyone we have booked this season has been to us before, some multiple times while others are back after just one previous season. Not every judge will like every image. Please do not get despondent if a judge does not comment as favourably on your image as you had hoped. Try to learn from the feedback from the judging of not just your own image, but also that of others that may have scored better. We must respect the judges opinion even if we do not agree with it. Please do not shout out from the audience or challenge the judge's decision during or after the judging. Please do not challenge the judge's style either. But do feel free to let me know what you think of any judges at the end of the competition. A judge may invite the author to enlighten them about an image after the judging is complete. It is then perfectly OK to chat about it to the judge later The judges should feel welcome when they visit us and enjoy returning. They should never feel intimidated or uncomfortable. You can learn a lot from the competitions so please do enter images. It is all anonymous (unless you win!) and we want the competition nights to be entertaining so the more images, the better. so don't be shy. Please have a try.

Good luck,

Jacqui Titcombe

5. Print Competitions

The first print competition is not until the 9th November so ample time to prepare your entries. Remember, that to enter you must be a paid-up member of the Society and have been issued with this year's corner numbers. Last years numbers will not be valid. If you heard the introduction to Print Competitions at the Members meeting on the 21st September you are already up to speed with the entry requirements. If you missed this meeting, then the website has all the information you need. If you still have questions, or need

corner numbers, then speak to me at one of the regular Monday meetings.

John Harding

Print Secretary

6. External Competitions

The External comps team has been very active in the last few months trying to select the best prints for this years PAGB National Championships. This year we travel to Newport in Shropshire (a bit nearer than Blackburn). The date for this year is **Saturday 24th October** kick off 10am. Full detail are Harper Adams University, Edgmond, Newport TF10 8NB just off the B5062. It would be great to have some extra support and you will see some stunning and interesting work..

For those of you who were at the members evening the other week I hope you enjoyed and learnt a few things from Hilary's presentation. Some of the images may not have been your choice but at least you had a chance to see what we are against.

Moving on we now turn to the Rosebowl group stages. Three rounds of 15 pdis although we can use the same image in each match if we like. Our first match is at home on **Monday 26th October** against St Albans and Wantage. This will be a zoom meeting at 8pm.

Moving on a bit further these are the dates for the 2 CACC events held in the Drake Hall next year.

CACC Championship day is **Sunday 14th March 2027**. This is where each member club submits 15 prints and 15 pdis. Top 2 clubs are then invited to represent the CACC at the nationals later in the year. Also on this day we have the Chiltern Hundred competition where every club member can enter **ONE** pdi. (normal size any subject) only rule is it must not have been in Chiltern 100s before. In past years we have done well with this.

CACC Rosebowl and starred image final is **Sunday 25th April 2027**. The top 12 clubs battle it out for the non trophy. (Its never been found). This day also hosts the phone image competition. Must not have been entered before and must be taken on a phone. Image can be edited in any way though.

So there you are. Please try to send me any images you feel may be suitable.

Best wishes.

Brian

7. PDI Competitions

Projected competitions will restart on **5th October**. 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 2nd October**.

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

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 07:45pm, 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 **8th October at 7:45 in the Committee Room**.

We look forward to seeing you.

Roger Wotton & John Harding

9. The Colour Group

Thursday 15th October on ZOOM.

The Colour Groups meets alternately on zoom and Face2Face. October's meeting is zoom.

September's meeting was a huge success with new members and a wide range of creative images to stir the imagination and generate conversations across the group.

This is an opportunity for you to not only “show and tell” but also ask for advice or talk about how you want to develop your photography. Work varies from members preparing images for competition to those creating conceptual photographic images.

Tracy is this months host. You can join in the discussions or just listen and be inspired.

Peter Lillywhite, Andy Smith & Tracy Bradbury

10. Amersham Beyond Group

This group is dedicated to creative photography and photo art.

Our first meeting of the season is on **Thursday 1st October at 8pm in the Drake Hall** (our usual Monday venue).

The current Challenges are;

#56 Re-create Famous Art

#57 Panels (in the style of Martin Addison)

#58 Solarisation

#59 Architectural Abstract

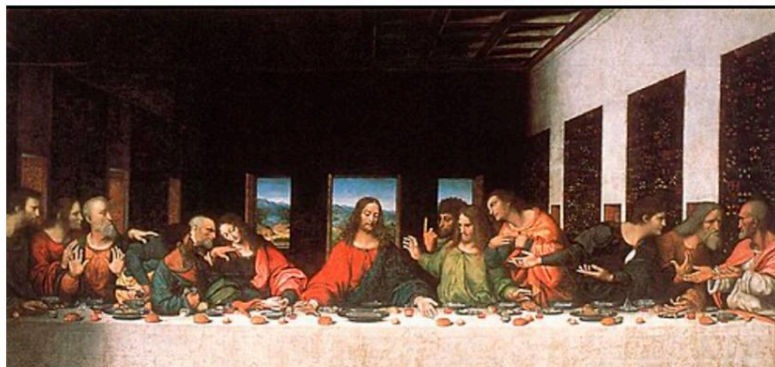
For more information see past meeting notes. These are linked on the Amersham Photographic Society website: See > Forum > Amersham Beyond Group.

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

Cheers,

Steve Brabner

beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com



56 DA VINCI - LAST SUPPER by Janette Quainton



11. Ask APS

The first AskAPS session of the season will be held on **Monday 19th October**, and we extend a warm welcome to any new members.

For the first meeting I was inspired by a comment on the tick list and suggestions welcome pages that I passed around last week... "DE-GUNKING PRINTERS" was boldly written!

So! In order to encourage the making of beautiful prints, be it by printing at home, or using commercial printers, I am aiming to set up the hall with a number of workstations, with experienced helpers on hand, with lots of information, both technical and helpful, with lots of examples to handle and look at.

These will include....

Calibration (useful for both home and commercial printing) Canon printers, Epson printers, Commercial printers (where you send your images to a professional printing lab), Paper choices, Storage of prints, Mounting prints, Printer care, maintenance and trouble shooting (and recommended places for repair).

As usual, I will be looking for a small army of helpers!

So, if you can help with any of these, have experience or knowledge of any particular element, or feel that you have anything extra to offer on the subject of preparing and creating beautiful prints, then please DO contact me, I would be extremely grateful and appreciative of all help offered.

Thank you!

Chrissi Ratcliffe

12. Outings

Our first club outing of the season is on **Saturday 10th October** to **Chiltern Open Air Museum** when we will be visiting one of their events days 'Wild about Wool.' We will see live demonstrations of knitting/spinning/felting and rugmaking and sheepdogs at work. If you would like to join us, please email us and let us know and also buy your ticket in advance online.

<https://www.coam.org.uk/wild-about-wool>

On **Tuesday 10th November** we have decided to go back to **Kew Gardens** for a number of reasons. Firstly, Autumn will be a bit of a mystery this year after the drought so we thought Kew would have more scope with glass houses and cafes. There is also a **Henry Moore** exhibition, **and** a ticket price reduction to only £10 on Tuesdays until the end of December.

Tuesday 8th December: 'Sunset and Beyond'. Venue TBC

Please note change of date from that which was originally on the APS website
For this outing we will have to limit the number of people for safety reasons.

Please take a look at a selection of images from our previous outings.

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

New members and less experienced photographers are always welcome as these outings are a great way to meet other members and there are always experienced photographers on hand if anyone needs any help. Some of the outings we have to limit numbers so the lists fill up quickly. We always have a reserve list so do sign up.

Please speak to Juliet or Patrick at one of our meetings or email outings@amershamphotosoc.com if you would like further details or wish to join any of these outings.

Juliet & Patrick

13. Social Media - Facebook

A very warm welcome to all new members of APS. If you are a Facebook user we have a private members only group, Amersham Photographic Society Members Only, which you can request to join. This is a friendly, fun, and secure group page where we all share photographs, give and receive help and advice, and let everyone know about get-togethers and outings.

Chrissi Ratcliffe
