Amersham Photographic Society Newsletter

Newsletter November 2026

1. November Events

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

Date	Location	Event	Leader/Judge/ Speaker
Mon, 2	Drake Hall	SPEAKER: DAVID TOWNSHEND 'Creating Good Impressions'	David Townshend
Thu, 5	Large Barn Hall	Beyond	Steve Brabner
Mon, 9	Drake Hall	PRINT COMP 1 – Judge: Lloyd Moore	Lloyd Moore
Tue, 10	Kew Gardens	Outing - Autumn Colours in Kew Gardens	Juliet Ormiston/ Patrick Hudgell
Wed, 11	Zoom	Committee Meeting	
Thu, 12	Committee Room	Mono Group - 7:45 start	Roger Wotton/ John Harding
Mon, 16	Drake Hall	Members Evening: TIM HODGES 'My Photography Journey'	Tim Hodges
Thu, 19	Committee Room	Colour Group	Peter Lillywhite/ Andy Smith/ Tracy Bradbury
Mon, 23	Drake Hall	PDI COMP 2 – Judge: Rojer Weightman	Rojer Weightman
Thu, 26	Zoom	On-line Group	Tony Wright
Mon, 30	Drake Hall	SPEAKER: DAVID SYKES 'Astro Photography'	David Sykes

2. Chairman's Message

November’s programme promises to be entertaining and engaging, with a mix of competitions and guest speakers.
We have Round 1 of our Print Competition, alongside Round 2 of the Projected Digital Image (PDI) Competition. Whether you are entering your own work or coming along to support and learn from the judge's critiques, I hope you enjoy seeing new work from fellow members as much as I do. If you haven’t entered an image into a club competition before, I would recommend it as a way of learning and progressing your photography, what is there to lose?
In addition to our competitions, we have a stellar lineup of three speaker nights to look forward to, covering a range of artistic style, personal history, and technical mastery.
First, we welcome David Townsend, who will be presenting a talk entitled "Creating Good Impressions", exploring creative techniques. I am also particularly excited that we have one of our very own member, Tim Hodges, who will be taking the stage to share his own personal photographic journey which promises to be entertaining. Finally, David Sykes will join us to guide us through the breathtaking world of Astrophotography.

Finally, we are looking at a slightly different format for the Christmas meeting this year and will be asking members to submit their favourite image and say a few words about it. This can be an image you’ve taken or one that you like from another author. It can be humourous, seasonal or just something that moves or inspires you and that you love. So start thinking about your image!

Richard Pitt
Chairman, Amersham Photographic Society

3. Programme

This month we have very lucky to have two inspirational speakers: David Townshend and David Sykes.

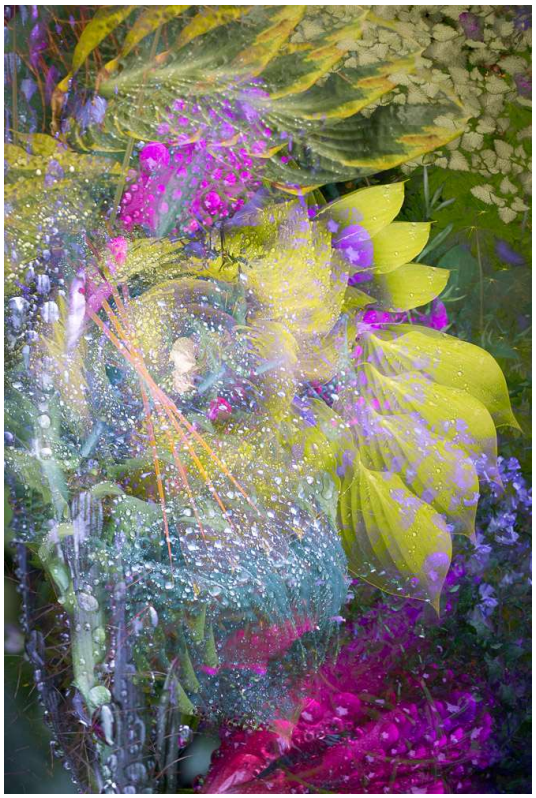
'CREATING GOOD IMPRESSIONS' : 2nd November 2026
David Townshend FRPS

This event provides an opportunity to see his striking impressionist and abstract images that interpret the world in a different way, exploring colour and shape, texture and light.

He will share the progression from a one-day Kew workshop to winning two major prizes in the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition, gaining his fellowship and holding three solo exhibitions and reveal how his style has developed since he discovered impressionist photography, with examples of his landscape, plant & garden and architectural projects.

He will also demonstrate how impressionist photography enables you to create fascinating images from ordinary subjects, and how you don't need to travel far to be creative. Through his mages he will encourage you to work in panels and projects, and highlight how he seeks to create a sense of place in his images.

He will explain how to composes images in the field using in-camera multiple exposures combining layers from that place on that day; later using Lightroom to complete the creative process and show ways that natural and man-made elements in a landscape, combine and re-present them in unique ways.



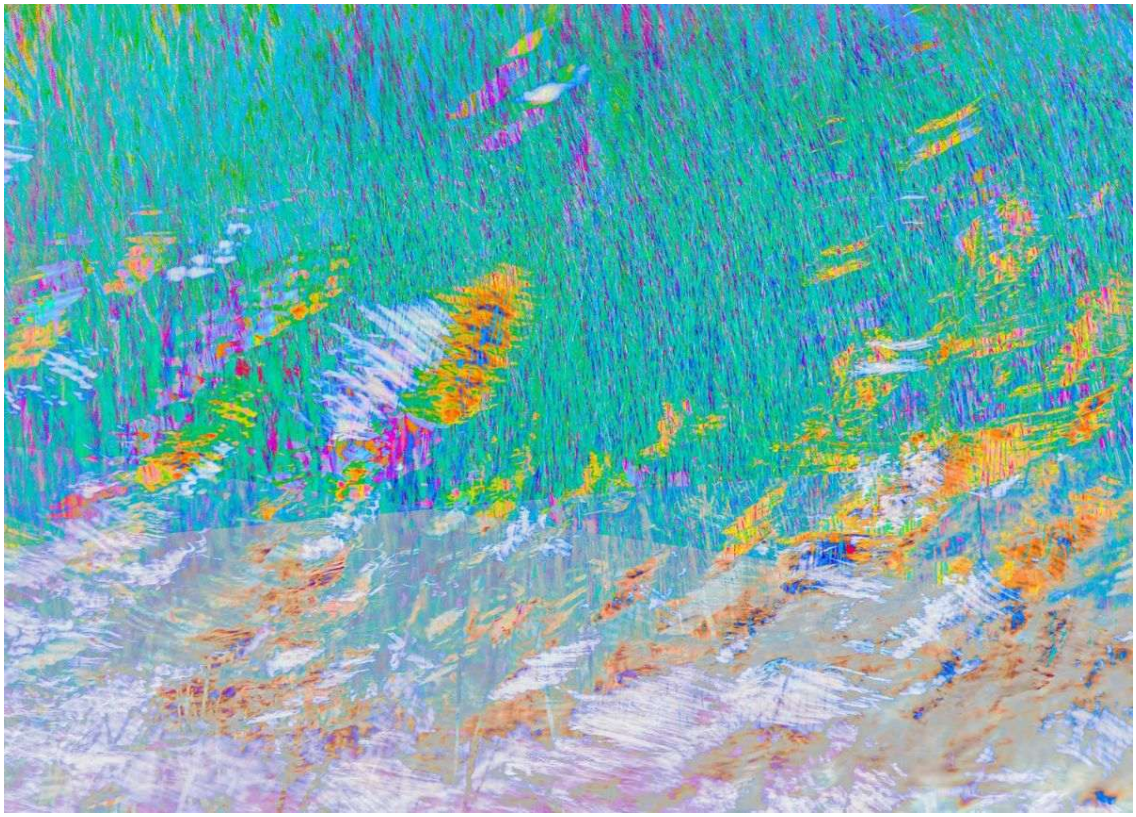
TRANSFORMATION



THE GREAT TOWER



QUAY SHAPES



FLOWERS IN THE BREEZE

DAVID SYKES - ASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY - 30TH NOVEMBER 2026

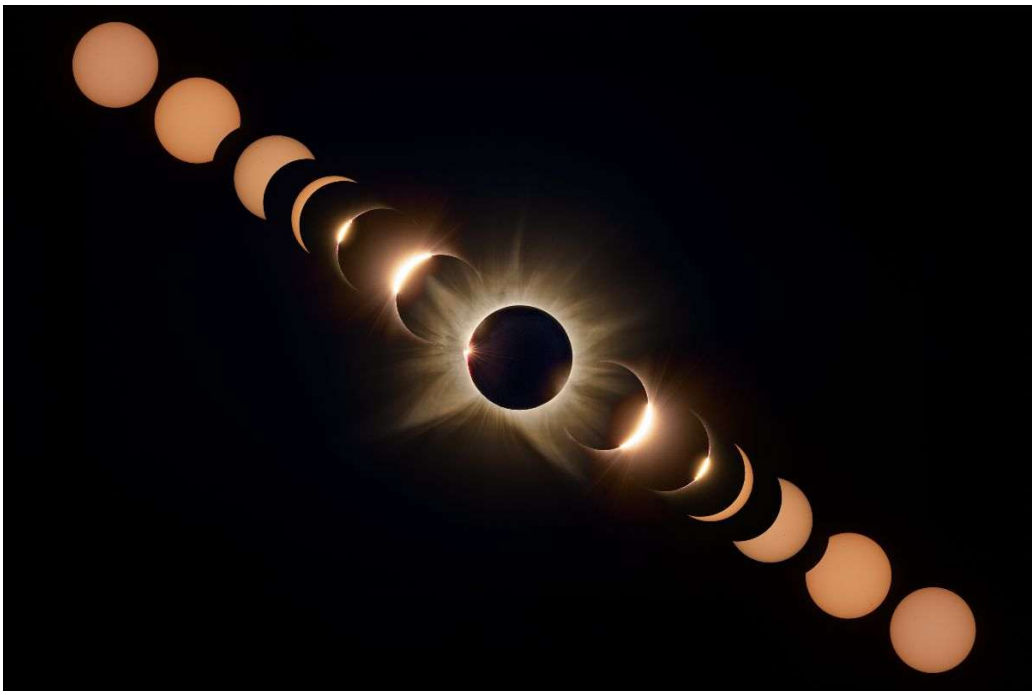
I am one of a vast army of photography enthusiasts having carried a camera around for a large part of my life. But somehow I found myself getting interested in astrophotography, accelerated further by retirement and more time 4 years ago. And a fair measure of time is needed for this genre together with a very large helping of irrational madness - my wife rolls her eyes and calls me obsessed!

My interest focuses around astro nightscapes, so a night subject with an interesting foreground. The Milky Way, star trails, meteor showers, the Aurora, the moon and sun, and eclipses. Deep sky will come one day, but not now. But any form of Astrophotography starts with huge amounts of planning. Where will the Milky Way be at this time of year, when will the core be visible, what is the phase of the moon, where can I drive to find an interesting foreground and time to scout it, am I able to stay up all night? I typically plan months in advance but all this is then predicated on uncertain weather.

So my talk will cover the planning stage, and then the shot taking itself. The settings for low/no light, long exposures, capturing minimal light but keeping noise at bay. The equipment, the cameras (astro modified), star trackers to enable multi-minute exposures. Finally the editing, of course Photoshop and Lightroom but also using specialist software for star image stacking, star elimination and star track blending of hundreds of images.

Often the result of months of planning, days away, long nights on a cliff edge

and dozens of hours of editing is one single image. An image whose light may have been created 26,000 light years ago as it travels from the Milky Way core. Definitely an obsession, but equally definitely exhilarating.







Steve Hunter
Programme Secretary

4. Print Competitions

The season's first Print Competition will take place on **Monday, 9 November.** Please submit PDI copies of your print entries by midnight on **Friday, 6 November**. The standard PDI competition specifications apply, but your filename must also include the corner number issued to you at the start of the season. Email your PDI to: printsec@amershamphotosoc.com. Full entry instructions are available on the club website. Lloyd Moore will judge the competition.
Good Luck to all.
John Harding
Print Secretary

5. PDI Competitions

The first PDI competition was held on 5th October.

The results are as follows:
General Class
1st – 'THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON BOTH THEIR SHOULDERS' by Andrew Crawford

2nd – 'SHADES AND SHAPES OF A CHURCH' by Janette Quainton
3rd – 'CINNAMON CHESTED BEE-EATER WITH SNACK' by Angela Rogers

Intermediate Class
1st – 'FINN' by Don Lewis
2nd – 'STONECHAT WITH LUNCH' by Paul Ward
3rd – 'WIND SPEED' by Don Lewis

Advanced Class
1st – 'MAGRITTES LOST ZEBRA' by Andy Smith
2nd – 'WINTER FOG AT SPADE OAK' by Alfred Garcia
3rd – 'GILDED WINGS' by Andrew Bungard

Commended images
CHRIST THE REDEEMER, RIO DE JANEIRO by Jacqui Titcombe
DREAMING OF THE MOUNTAINS by Richard Pitt
HANGING by Viv Blewett
LES ARTS OPERA HOUSE VALENCIA by Julie Mullings
SEEDLINGS NOT SNAILS by Hilary Bailey
TO THE FINISH by Yin Wong
VALAIS BLACK NOSE SHEEP by Hilary Bailey



General Class 1st – 'THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON BOTH THEIR SHOULDERS' by Andrew Crawford



Intermediate Class 1st – 'FINN' by Don Lewis



Advanced Class 1st – 'MAGRITTES LOST ZEBRA' by Andy Smith

The next PDI competition is on **23th November.** 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 20th November**.

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

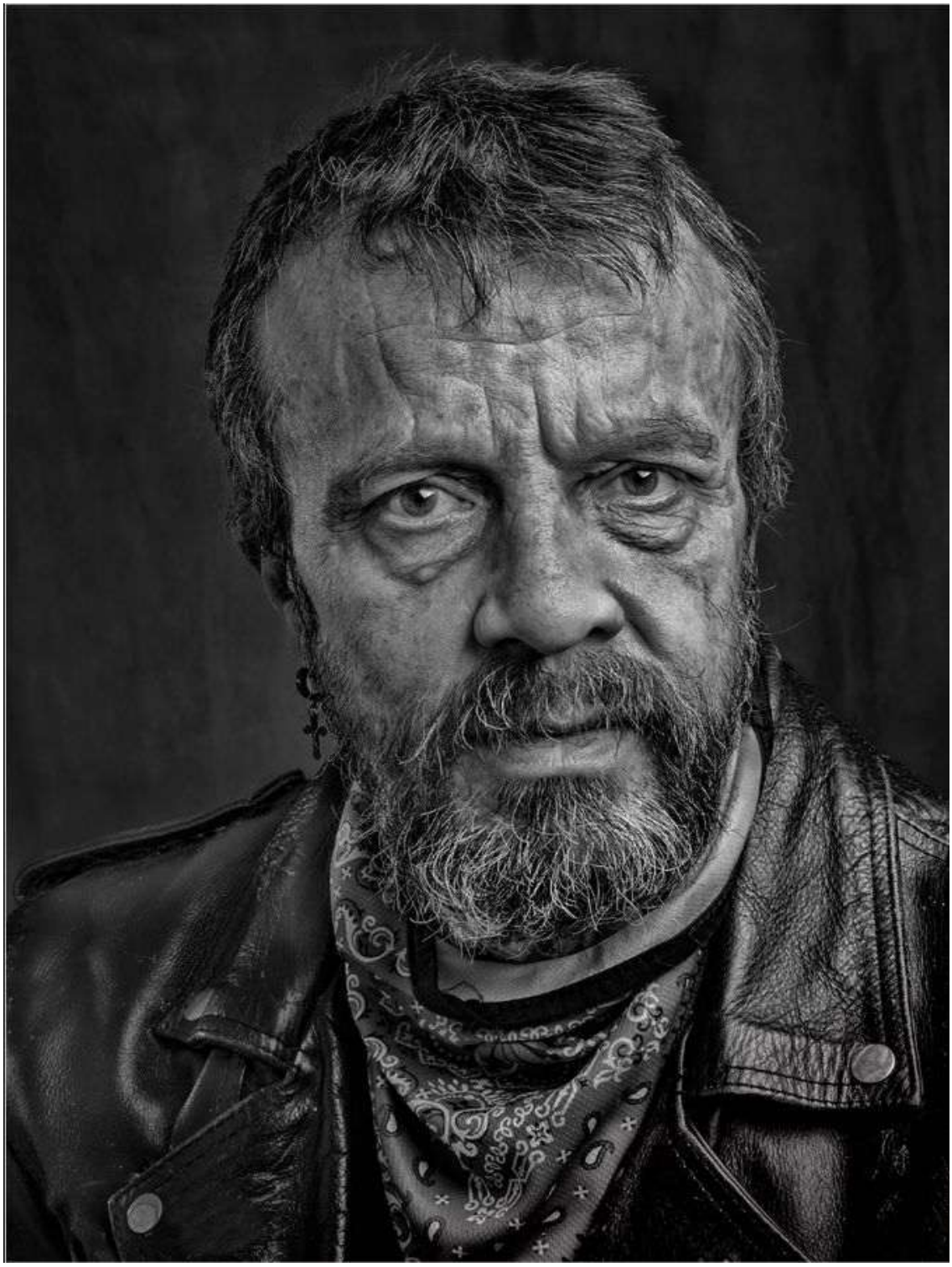
6. External Competitions

Quick update on how we did in the **PAGB Print championships** last weekend. This year 44 clubs were invited up from 36. In the qualifying round we came joint 21st. It is no surprise that all the northern clubs were again at the top. Highlights from the round were two top scores for Hilary Bailey and one for Maggie James. Moving onto the plate our 15s became 14s and two very strong images that have scored well before stalled at 12 and 13 points. Hey ho, we did the best we could and came joint 16th out of 35 clubs. Looking forward it is felt our Mono work (we have to submit 4 images) is an area where we could gain a few points. Simple good Black and White portraits seem out of favour at the moment. Judges preferring strong, gritty sport especially Athletics and Gymnastics. I feel we could have a go at this although most of what we witnessed was at professional events. Huge thank you to all the team and other members who made the journey up in simply horrid conditions.

So that was the PAGB Print Championships and within a blink of the eye its on to the **Rosebowl**. This is where we have 3 first round matches against different clubs with each club showing 15 images all PDIs. Our home match was on Monday 26th October and shown via zoom. After some ups and downs (no sorry downs and more downs) we came good at the end with 2 x 20 for 'The Biker' (also a starred image) and 'Time Stood Still'. Sadly even with these great scores we came second. Not the end of the world though we have 2 more matches to play and that star will come in handy further down the track. Full scores were Amersham 263, Wantage 259 and the winners St Albans with 267 points.
We have work to do selecting some different images for the next match hosted by Banbury. Details to follow.

Please send me any new images that you would like considered for selection.

Best wishes.
Brian



THE BIKER by Brian Gough



TIME STOOD STILL by Hilary Bailey

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 **12th November at 7:45 in the Committee Room**.
We look forward to seeing you.
Roger Wotton & John Harding

8. The Colour Group

Committee Room 7.45pm Thursday 19th November

We have had a great start to the year with images covering a range of genres that has stimulated interesting conversations. Come along and join in the fun. You can bring your own images (up to four) to show and tell or just watch and give feedback if you feel so inclined.

Be assured of a warm welcome.

Peter Lillywhite, Andy Smith & Tracy Bradbury

9. Amersham Beyond Group

This group is dedicated to creative photography and photo art.
Our next meeting of the season is on **Thursday 5th November at 8pm in the Large Barn Hall (across the car park from our usual venue)**

The current Challenges are;
#58 Solarisation
#59 Architectural Abstract
#60 Hands

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

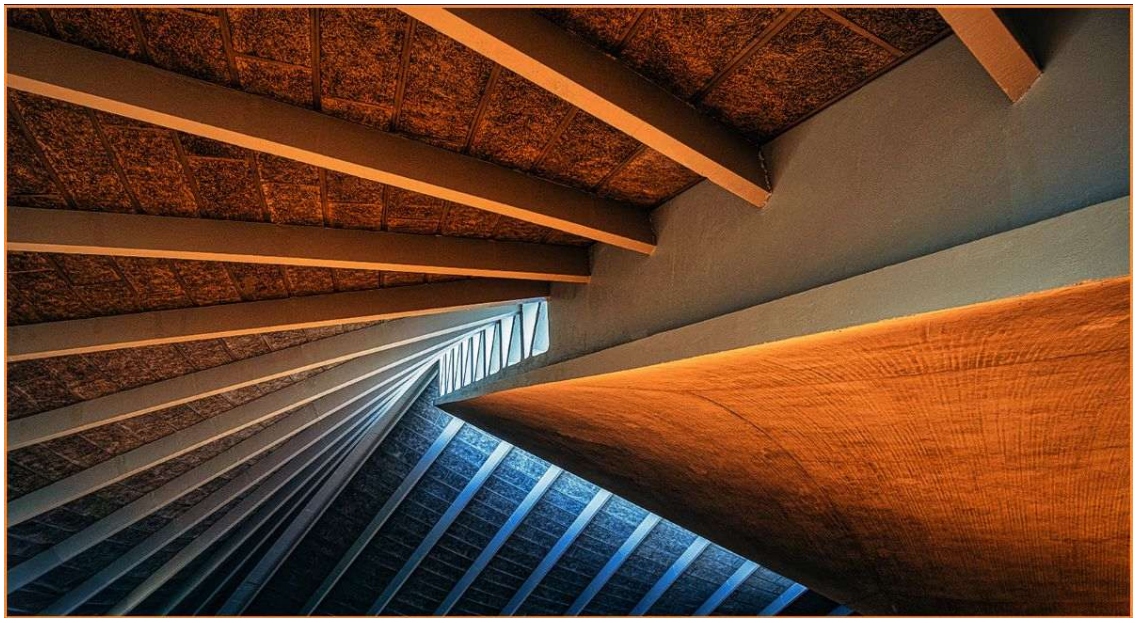
Visitors welcome - just come along and see what we get up to.
Cheers,
Steve Brabner
beyondsec@amershamphotosoc.com



 # 56 DEFFERRARI by Steve Brabner



 # 58 EGG WHISK AT MOORGATE by Juliet Ormiston



 # 59 FAN by Ken Batchelor

10. On-line Group

The next meeting of the On-Line Editing Group will be on **Thursday 26th November at 8.00 via Zoom**.

Join us for an evening of interactive discussion and real time editing of your photographs.
Submit a couple of images in advance. Join in as the Group suggest edits and see the effect them being applied in real time. You can use your own software or let us use Lightroom and Photoshop to make the changes. Full details of how to submit your images will be sent out in advance.

Contact Tony Wright at online@amershamphotosoc.com to join the Group. All existing members will be receiving the reminder e-mail.

11. Outings

We had a very enjoyable, but chilly outing to Chiltern Open Air Museum in October to their “Wild About Wool” weekend. Please do take a look at a selection of our images taken on the day which are now on the APS Outings Flickr page:-
https://www.flickr.com/photos/10884468@N06/albums/

Our next outing will be on **Tuesday 10th November** to Kew gardens. This should be a great venue for Autumn colours and there is also a **Henry Moore**

exhibition with sculptures dotted around the gardens and smaller items in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery.



Tickets are normally £25 but are only £10 on Tuesdays at the moment and that includes the Henry Moore exhibition so quite a bargain. If you haven't already, please let us know if you would like to come. Most people will probably travel by car and we will send out an email in a week or so to organise car sharing.

Tuesday 8th December: 'Sunset and Beyond'. Venue TBC (probably central London)
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.

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