



NMCPF News

Aug 2026 Edition 209



C O N T E N T S

If you haven't made the INPUT, can you claim the OUTPUT?

Unsure about AI what you can and shouldn't do?

Then read these articles in the latest edition of the PAGB enews

AI - A CHALLENGE TO PHOTOGRAPHIC TRUTH?
and
ONLY YOU CAN KNOW.

Click on the link below:

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/sites/default/files/newsletters/en406%201%20June.pdf>

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PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit:

apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk

Seminar Secretary: seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk

Print and Pdi Championships:

mcpfchampionship@mcpf.co.uk

Calling All Club Secretaries

Please forward any information that is emailed to you from the MCPF about: exhibitions; entry forms; and events, including the Newsletter cover letter to all your club members.





Eye to Eye with Newborn
Giraffe Calf
Ann Surch

MCPF Diary 2026/2027

More details about each of the events can be found at
www.mcpf.co.uk

Date	Event	Contact Details/Venue
2026		
Apr 18 th	Print and PDI Championships	Peter Owen, mcpfchampionship@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Braunstone Civic Centre, Braunstone
May 14 th	Closing date Photofolio 2026	Bob Goode photofolio@mcpf.co.uk
Jun Wed 10 th ~ Sat 13 th	Photofolio Exhibition	Bob Goode photofolio@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS Days and times to be announced
Jun 13 th	MCPF Annual General Meeting	Christine Lovatt sec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Jul 12 th	APM Workshop	Mike Sharples seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Jun 22 nd	Midland Salon	Midland Salon Closing date
Aug 8 th - 15 th	Midland Salon Exhibition	Judith Parry: chairman@midland-salon.com Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS Days and times to be announced
Sep 19 th	General Meeting	Christine Lovatt, sec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Sep 19 th	Closing date Panel Exhibition 2026	Nasar Hussain
Oct 17 th	Panel Exhibition	Nasar Hussain Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
TBA	General Seminar	Mike Sharples seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Dec 5 th	Print Seminar	Mike Sharples seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
2027		
Jan 30 th	AV Competitions	Alastair Taylor avchamp@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton Burton on Trent, DE13 0HE
Feb 13 th	MCPF General Meeting	Christine Lovatt, sec@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Feb 13 th	MidPhot 2027 Closing Date	Ralph & Lu Duckett midphot@mcpf.co.uk
Mar 17 th –21 st	MidPhot 2027 Exhibition	Ralph & Lu Duckett. midphot@mcpf.co.uk Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse Oldbury, B69 2AS

Contact

Newsletter Editor
newsletter@mcpf.co.uk

Subscribe

To subscribe to the MCPF Newsletter for FREE please go to the MCPF website homepage where you will find a link to the subscribe page or click on this link <https://mcpf.co.uk/newsletter>

Editorial Notes

As you can see I am trying to use as many images as possible in the newsletter. I hope I am not upsetting anyone by not contacting them directly for permission, but I would like to point out that they are of low resolution and as part of our Exhibition rules, we can use your images to promote the MCPF and its member clubs. Any opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of Midland Counties Photographic Federation and neither the Editor nor the MCPF accepts any liability for any content. Any mention of products or services in e-news does not constitute an endorsement or approval of those items.

Articles and Club Adverts

Send your club event, exhibition or news to:
newsletter@mcpf.co.uk

Please send it in text format along with an image and a poster. All this information will be forwarded to the Webmaster for inclusion on the MCPF website.

Closing date for submissions is 28th of each month. The editor reserves the right to withhold any submitted article if it is deemed inappropriate for this publication and to postpone publication if required.

Website News

All the clubs who have websites should have the www icon next to their names in the "Find a Club" on the MCPF website. If, for whatever reason, you change the address, please ensure that you update your details on our database. Whilst going through and checking, I did notice a couple of clubs have changed their venue address but have not updated this on our database. Help us to help you by keeping your details up to date with us.



Sep
19

Societies are entitled to be represented at the General Meeting in accordance with rule 6.

All club members are welcome to attend and would be most welcome, but only delegates have the power to vote.

In order to save time at the meeting, it would be most helpful if apologies and amendments to the minutes of the last meeting could be sent to the General Secretary in advance of the meeting. sec@mcpf.co.uk THANK YOU

Venue details: www.smethwickps.co.uk

Doors Open at 1.30pm

Meeting will commence at 2.30pm

General Meeting Enquiries: Please contact:

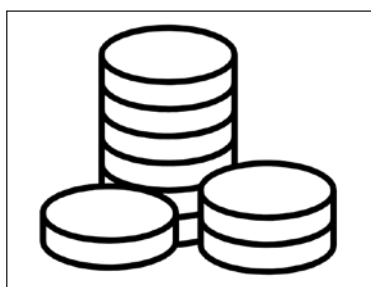
Christine Lovatt. 26 Dane Grove, Cheadle, Stoke on Trent, Staffs. ST10 1QS sec@mcpf.co.uk

The Old
Schoolhouse
Churchbridge
Oldbury
BS69 2AS

Hand in date for MidPhot Panel Exhibition

MCPF September General Meeting

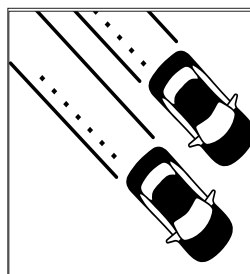
Important Notice to All Treasurers.



MCPF Annual Subs

The subscription fee per club remains at £52.00 (consisting of £41.00 for the PAGB portion and £11.00 for the MCPF portion), with the PAGB keeping their rate steady.

The subscription fee per member is set to rise from 75p to 85p, reflecting economic challenges and increased travel costs.



Important update to Mileage Expenses for PAGB Judges and Lecturers

The government has announced an increase in the car mileage rate to 55p/mile backdated to April

2026. The rate had been 45p/mile since 2011. The PAGB has therefore increased its maximum mileage rate to 55p/mile. See more details on the Speakers page on PAGB website <https://thepagb.org.uk/services/speakers/>

55p/mile is not the cost of running any particular car: it is a compromise rate which HMRC will accept as expenses regardless of the actual car used. PAGB uses this maximum rate as a protection for listed speakers and also to provide some certainty to Clubs when planning their programmes.

For Clubs, the increase is just over 20%. For comparison, the CPI and RPI increases since 2011 are about 50% and 75% respectively

Best practice to check expenses at time of booking, plus remember to check if lecturer charges any additional fees.



MIDPHOT PANEL EXHIBITION 2026

Entries Open

Entries Close

Final Date for Print hand-in

Selection

Exhibition

3 August

13 September

19 September

20 September

17 October

Prints can be dropped off at the Old Schoolhouse on afternoon of the MCPF General Meeting Sept 19th

Please use the entry system:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/MCPF1/MCPFPanelExhibition>

Download a copy of the Rules and Conditions
from the MCPF website www.mcpf.co.uk/

Selection by Heather Woodhams

Exhibition will be held
17th October

The Schoolhouse, Churchbridge, Oldbury B69 2AS



Be Part of the Midlands Photographic Community

Join the MCPF Newsletter to the latest exhibitions, event updates,
Competition news, and inspiration from photographers across the region.

Subscribe Here



Photo Inspiration on the Move: The Federation's Travelling Portfolio

The Federation's Travelling Portfolio lets local photography clubs hire a curated collection of top-tier shots from the annual Photofolio Exhibition. It is an easy, affordable way to inspire your members and celebrate great local talent.

The Federation's Travelling Portfolio provides clubs with the opportunity to enjoy a representative selection of the outstanding work exhibited in the annual Photofolio Exhibition.

Photofolio is the Federation's annual exhibition of images submitted by member clubs and consists of two sections: mounted photographic prints, displayed during June at the AGM, and also Digital Projected Images (DPIs), presented as an audiovisual production with a carefully chosen musical soundtrack.

Following the exhibition, approximately 60 prints are selected to form the Travelling Portfolio. The selection is made to ensure that all participating clubs are represented while showcasing a diverse range of photographic subjects, styles and techniques.

To enhance the experience, an audiovisual presentation accompanies both the print and DPI sections. The print presentation features commentary from two highly respected photographers, offering their insight into the qualities they believe led to each image being selected for the exhibition. A separate audiovisual presentation is also available for the DPI section with a musical accompaniment.

The Travelling Portfolio is available to all Federation clubs for a modest hire fee and can be booked in one of two formats:

Print Portfolio

The portfolio of selected prints circulates between clubs throughout the season according to a pre-arranged itinerary. Clubs are responsible for liaising with one another to ensure the portfolio is passed on by the agreed dates. Included with the prints are both audio visual files

Digital Presentation

Clubs may alternatively book the audiovisual presentations without the print portfolio. These digital files are distributed at the start of the club season in September, providing a convenient and flexible option for club programmes.

The Travelling Portfolio is an excellent way for clubs to share and celebrate the high standard of photography produced across the Federation, while gaining inspiration and insight from the work of fellow photographers.

The Quick Lowdown

* **The Collection:** Around 60 awesome prints and digital images picked from the June exhibition, covering all kinds of styles.

* **The Extras:** You get commentary explaining what makes the prints stand out, plus musical backdrops for the digital tracks.

* **Option 1 (Print Portfolio):** Real, physical prints get passed from club to club on a set schedule, complete with matching audio-visual files.

* **Option 2 (Digital Only):** Skip the physical prints and get the digital pdi shows sent straight to you in September to fit your own schedule.

* **Why Do It?:** It is a cheap, fun way to spark new ideas, see what other clubs are up to, and learn from the pros.

MCPF Travelling Portfolio

Now open for 2026-2027 bookings

The Travelling portfolio is available to all MCPF affiliated clubs to show from September 2026

To make your booking please complete the booking form available on the web site <https://mcpf.co.uk/travelling-portfolio> and email to: portfoliosec@mcpf.co.uk. A booking fee of £12 is payable when making the booking

The 2025 Travelling Portfolio is also available as a PDi presentation (MP4 format) with recorded commentary of the print section. A great standby programme for short notice booking. It can be booked at anytime from the Portfolio Secretary.





MCPF Seminar 5th December 2026

Resume your Passion, Get Motivated

Get Back to Printing

The MCPF council are seeking to encourage the use of the print medium as a means to boost print exhibition entry numbers.

This year's seminar has at its core a workshop designed to help you:

Understand The Basics of Colour Management

To be able to produce prints of exhibition standard

The Workshop, designed and delivered by PermaJet, will, it is hoped, set you all on the road to successful printing and, hopefully, get those awards flooding in.

The Morning Session.

The Basics of Colour Management (Print with Confidence)

Why do we need colour management?

Monitor calibration, why and how

Choosing the right paper

Paper profiling, why and how

The Afternoon Session

From Print to Perfection

Delegates can bring an image on a USB Pen Drive.

These will be discussed and suggestions will be given of paper types that may suit and enhance the image.

The PermaJet range of papers will be discussed so the delegates can appreciate the importance of choosing the right paper for the right image, and how it can make a huge difference to the final print.

This session is designed to be interactive, delegates can ask questions and study the papers prior to their prints being produced.

A Canon Pro 310 printer will then print off the delegates images on different paper types so the difference can be seen.

Tickets

Cost: £15.00 per person

Last booking date 14th November 2026

Times

Session one commences 10.00 hrs to 13.00hrs

Lunch Break

Session two commences 14.00 hrs to 16.30 hrs

Catering

Tea and Coffee available (bring your own packed lunch)

Event Location

Smethwick Photographic Society

Churchbridge

Oldbury

West Midlands

B69 2AS

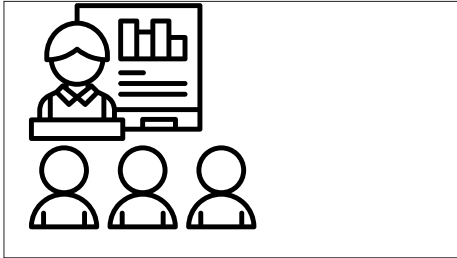
Contact details

Mike Sharples MFIAP MPAGB FBPE EFIAP ARPS

seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk

Mobile 07774 321411

Places are limited to 30



Three New Names on the MCPF Judges List

Ele Watts
Heather Woodhams
Trevor Gloyne

elerea@aol.com
heatherwoodhams@gmail.com
trevor.gloyne1979@gmail.com

07788418331	Dudley	
07946384550	DY9 7BZ	Dudley
7585026710.00	NN15 5NP	Kettering

PAGB Inter-Club Projected Image Championships

Congratulations to Chorley PS on winning this year's competition.
Smethwick PS came third and receive automatic entry into next years Championships

Other MCPF Clubs: 38 clubs competed in the Plate Competition.

Wrekin Arts PC = 4th

Stafford PS = 9th

Earl Shilton = 26th

The individual image awards were:

- Gold Medal: Mid Stage Comatricha nigra Slime Mould by David Myles, Smethwick
- Silver Medal: Culture Vultures by Richard OMeara, Poulton le Fylde
- Silver Medal: Ice Horseshoe Stokksnes by Christine Wood, Southport
- Silver Medal: Nomad Bee Sleep Suspension by Stephen Moon, Chorley
- Silver Medal: Stop The Music by Mike Sharples, Smethwick



Full results and more images can be found on the PAGB Website <https://thepagb.org.uk/>

Midland Salon 2026 Exhibition



8th ~ 15th August 2026
The Old Schoolhouse
Churchbridge, Oldbury
Birmingham B69 2AS
Opening Times

Saturday 8th August	Doors open 1pm - to 4.30pm Presentation of Awards 2pm Followed by Accepted Pdi Shows
Sunday 9th Auguste	Doors open 1pm - to 4.30pm 2pm Accepted Pdi Shows
Thursday 13th August	Doors open 7pm - to 4.30pm 8pm Accepted Pdi Shows
Saturday 15th August	Doors open 1pm - to 4.30pm 2pm Accepted Pdi Shows

Earl Shilton Camera Club Annual Exhibition

Atkins Gallery, Hinckley
24th August 2026 to
4th September 2026



Earl Shilton Camera Club are holding their annual exhibition at the Atkins Gallery in Hinckley from the 24th August 2026 until 4th September 2026. The exhibition is open during the day, Monday to Friday within the normal opening times of the Atkins Building.

The exhibition is a chance to view some fantastic images created by our members and is free to attend. Everyone is welcome to come along.

The club will also be holding an open evening at the gallery on Wednesday 2nd September, 7.30 – 9.30 pm.

This is a chance to meet some of our members and to have a chat about the club and what we do.



The 2026 PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship will be held on **Saturday 24 October 2026** and it will be held at Harper Adams University in Newport, Shropshire.



Awards for Photographic Merit Adjudication for Audio Visual

The PAGB will be holding an online Awards for Photographic Merit Adjudication for Audio Visual entrants on Sunday 20th September 2026.

The cost of entry is £80.00 - CPAGB, £120.00 - DPAGB and £160.00 - MPAGB.

Application Forms are available from Alan Lovatt at apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

MASTERS OF PRINT

Sponsored by CEWE and Online Paper

Wilkinson Cameras, 14-16 English St, Carlisle CA3 8HX
OPENING Saturday 16 May. Closing 6 June 2026

Bedwelty House, Morgan St, Tredegar NP22 3XN
OPENING 1 August 2026. Closing 30 August

The Old School House, Churchbridge, Oldbury B69 2AS
OPENING Saturday 5 September. Closing 30 September

Edinburgh Photographic Society, 68 Great King Street
OPENING Saturday 10 October. Closing 31 October



APM Workshop

On Sunday 13th July 2026, members of the Midlands Counties Photographic Federation, (MCPF), and a range of Midland Camera Clubs, attended an Award of Photographic Merit, (APM), workshop. The workshop was held, close to Junction 2 of the M5, in The Old Schoolhouse, Churchbridge, Oldbury, B69 2AS. The Old Schoolhouse is in a quiet cul-de-sac, in a mixed industrial and residential area, but it is also close to a major motorway junction.

The workshop was designed to give guidance to photographers who were considering applying for any of the PAGB's APM's. The APM's are awarded to recognise the standard of work that has been produced by a photographer. Be that working at the expected level for a good camera club photographer, or recognised as capable of producing work that may achieve much higher standards.

The workshop speakers included committee members of the MCPF, who have been involved in the APM process, as judges and/or as organisers.

The delegates were all camera club members. Who were seeking advice on preparing to apply for an APM Adjudication. There were some informative handouts, which described the application process, as well as the forms and steps that needed to be completed in detail. But, there were also presentations from the persons who manage the various stages of the adjudications. This was especially useful, because these persons proved to be willing to answer questions and to clarify miss understandings. Also, there were unexpected insights, such as why it is important for you to present only your strongest works. But to then make sure that you also present your slightly weaker works, before your strongest works. Apparently, you can control the order in which your works are seen by the Adjudicators.

Examples of successful print entries were produced. The author of the works then explained how the works had been framed, labelled, and presented. As well as the importance of presentation to success. The standard that must be achieved, was worryingly high.

After which, the photographers own works were subjected to honest criticism. This was where we found out whether or not our works were at, or close to, or maybe nowhere close to the required standard. Constructive criticism and helpful advice on how we could improve our images was offered.

The consensus afterwards seemed to be, that whilst we might not have liked all of what we had heard. We did at least now have clear ideas as to how our best images could be made even better. We also had a clear understanding of the hoops that we would have to jump through. As well as grounds for optimism

David Price Tettenhall Wood CC

"Once again thank you and the rest of the team for a very good day on Sunday. The sessions worked very well and the balance of information and looking at the images and prints worked very well. It always helps having other Photographers giving their advice on the images and prints. Excellent day and thank you all again."
Alan Rich Lutterworth PS

The MCPF is planning another workshop soon, so keep an eye out for updates

Tettenhall Wood Photographic Club Display of Printed Images



The Fist: Paul McKenzie

31st August to 26th September 2026

Wolverhampton Central Library
Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, WV1 3AX
First Floor Landing Display Cases

Opening Times: Mon-Thu: 10am – 7pm, Fri: 10am – 5pm

Sat: 10am – 2pm, Sun: Closed

Free Entry, lots of public parking nearby

Photographic Exhibition

Work in Progress 2026

from the Style Group



All Saints' Parish Church

Victoria Terrace

Leamington Spa

CV31 1GF

Thursday, 30th July
12.00 noon to 5.30pm

Friday, 31st July
10.30am to 5.30pm

Saturday, 1st August
10.30am to 5.30pm

Sunday, 2nd August
12.00 noon to 5.00pm

FREE ADMISSION



Leamington Spa Photographic Society



16 July 2026

TAKE TWELVE - AND MORE

If you like putting a round peg into a square hole, take a look at how a dozen photographers each interpret those and a number of other subjects.

That was the challenge set for the Take Twelve display which forms the intriguing central display at 'Work in Progress' – the annual exhibition by members of Leamington Spa Photographic Society's Style Group.

Each of the 12 participating members had to come up with a subject for themselves and the others to interpret with a single photograph.

And the resulting images will form a patchwork grid of 144 pictures at the free-to-enter 'Work in Progress' exhibition at All Saints' Parish Church in Leamington from Thursday July 30 until Sunday August 2.

In addition to that eye-catching display, which also features interpretations of Tea, Time, Holes in Nature, Forgotten, Music, Water, Rubbish, Community, Inverted and Morning, the exhibition will include panels of work by members of the Style Group.

Style Group co-ordinator Stefan Shillington observed: "What began as the Take Ten challenge has now become Take Twelve, thanks to its popularity among both group members and exhibition visitors.

"But although that is a central part of our annual exhibition, the individual panels give members their own space to mount cohesive collections of work in the way they want it displayed, without outside curation.

"And that results in varying display styles and an eclectic range of subjects, from close-ups of rock formations on a Northumberland beach to sweeping night skies, and from home-studio flower portraits to international travel.

Other displays feature 'Hims Hers and Theys', Local Sport, Floral Inspirations, Gender, Wildlife, The Garden and 'Our Society'.

The exhibition is open from 12.30 until 5.30pm on Thursday July 30, 10.30am to 5.30pm on the Friday and Saturday, and 12.30 to 5pm on Sunday August 2. It will also be available to view on the LSPS website: lsp.org.uk

SMETHWICK PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY 6th MIDLAND MONOCHROME 2026

THE EXHIBITION OF PRINTS WILL BE
HELD AT
UK FIAP EXHIBITION CENTRE

The Old School House, Churchbridge,
Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 2AS

4th - 10th OCTOBER 2026

Peter Gennard MFIAP EFIAP/d3 APAGB
Gary Langley DPAGB
Graham Walton DPAGB

Closing date for entries: 30th August

Rules and conditions of Entry can be found at
<https://midland-mono.com/>

Submit your entry online at:
[https://www.photocompentries.net/
Default.aspx?org=Smethwick](https://www.photocompentries.net/Default.aspx?org=Smethwick)

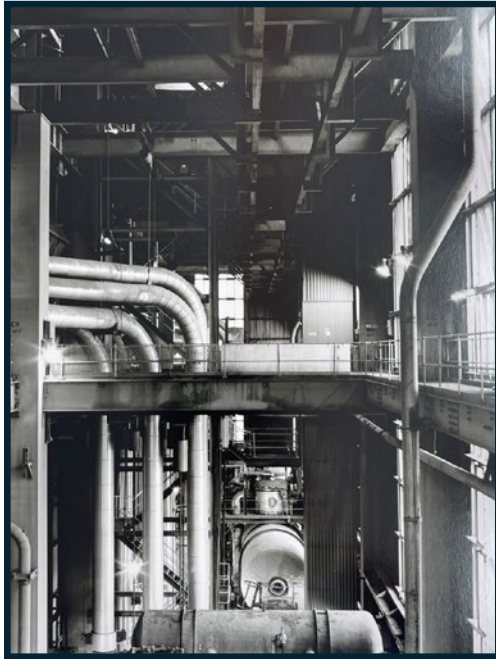


Rugeley Power Station

by

HABARI MONOCHROME

An exhibition of Large Format Black & White Silver Gelatin Prints



Antlers Coffee House

Market Place, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BS
01283 904881

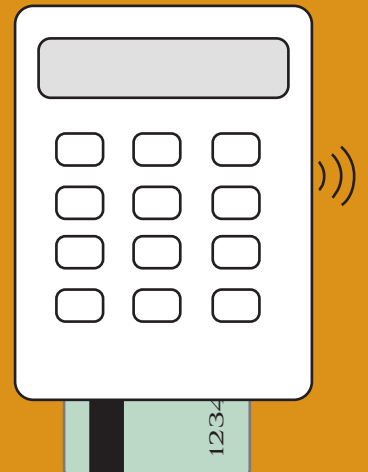
Monday 3rd August to Friday 11th September 2026
8am – 4pm Monday – Friday
8.30am – 4pm Saturday
9am – 3pm Sunday

GOING CASHLESS?

Is your Camera Club thinking of going cashless?

More and more members asking to pay their evening subs by card or phone?

SumUp are offering a discount and transaction fees and terminals to all Camera Clubs.



For details contact Mia at SumUp at

Mia Amor

Account Executive, POS TribeSumUp Point of Sale. Own your business.

16-20 Shorts Gardens | Seven Dials | London WC2H 9US

+44 7401 106230 | mia.amor@sumup.com
sumup.com.



This month's edition highlights exhibitions across the country, including Female Members of Parliament, the World Press Photo Exhibition, Edinburgh, and more. Click the link below to visit the PAGB e-news website, where you can view the latest newsletter and browse past editions. Better still, subscribe directly to get every new issue delivered straight to your inbox!

<https://www.pagbnews.co.uk/>

Where are our future members?

In these difficult times the majority of Clubs Nationwide are finding it difficult to attract and retain new members. This applies not only to Photography clubs but other interest groups generally. Unfortunately, there's no easy answer, and any solutions involve some work from current members and committees. Despite this, the benefits and rewards are there for those prepared to put in the effort to attract new members.

The overall area to look at initially is 'Publicity'. How well known is your club in the local community? and how do you interact? I have put together a list of suggestions following a discussion at the last MCPF General meeting for you to investigate, some of which have worked for other clubs and may work for you.

Advertising

Newsletter – Does your club have a regular Newsletter to communicate to existing and potential members. These can be distributed externally.

Leaflets – Organise a club flyer to either advertise a specific event of generic to promote the club, I would suggest collating a list, so work isn't doubled up. These can be left at various public places for example.

Local Shops & Supermarkets

Library – They are always happy to promote local groups.

Doctors Surgery, Dentists & other Medical Centres – We all end up reading various leaflets whilst waiting for the Doctor or Dentist!

Café's & Pubs – Notice boards or in windows.

Leisure Centres and Sports Facilities – Notice boards

Workplaces – members place of work to distribute.

**Churches & places of Worship
Community Centres**

Museums & Art Centres

Schools & Nurseries – it's the Parents you're targeting!

Garden Centres

Consider a door-to-door leaflet drop in your local area.

Events

Do you have An annual Exhibition? If so, do you advertise and invite the local Public. You could consider displaying members work at various local events, in-fact anywhere where the public may gather. Examples include:

Local Fetes – These would include local summer Carnivals, village & School fetes. All you need is a Gazebo, and couple of Stands and some prints. a Few members to discuss Photography with passing public along with a few flyers and to take their details with permission so you can contact them later to invite them personally to the club.

Local Arts Venues

Museums

Library – If they have space, they would normally Welcome local art.

Local Sports Events

Garden Centres & Supermarkets – They may allow a small, manned display.

Empty Shops or spaces in town

Centres – Speak to the local Council. They may be interested in displaying local art instead of having An empty space.

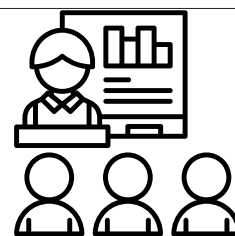
School events in addition to

Fetes – You would be looking to attract Parents primarily, but in the case of High Schools and colleges the Pupils may also be a target Audience.

Link with Colleges – especially those that offer Art classes to discuss Photography.

Interest groups – Ask if you could present to their members and by return, they could give a talk to your Club. These groups could include,

Local History Groups



Wildlife Groups

Women's Institute

Drama Groups – You could also offer to take Photographs for them!

Sports Clubs – again you could offer Photography services plus it's a Photo event for members to attend.

Music Clubs

Craft Clubs

Publicity

All the above encompasses Publicity, its all about getting the clubs name out into the community to promote your activities and ultimately Attract new members.

Club Website – is your website up to date and welcoming. it should have plenty of current news and images to inspire. This is the ideal vehicle to promote your club.

continued overleaf..

Social media – Are you up to date with your social media. Do you have Facebook / Twitter / Flickr / Tik-Tok even? These should be kept up to date with members encouraged to put up images and comments. This will attract the General Public as its seen to be 'vibrant' These are also platforms for promoting events & club evenings.

Local Newspapers – It's worth contacting the local newspaper to promote events and also Exhibition successes, even sending them monthly competition images for them to show. They're always looking to fill column inches and images attract people's attention. If its regular people will get used to seeing it and it will generate interest in the club.

Local Magazines / Speciality magazines—for example Shropshire life or Staffordshire Life – Put together an article on the club along with images for them to publish. Take out an advert in local magazine—for example in the Cannock area there's a free trader magazine that's sent to every household in the area.

Local Radio – If you have a local community Radio Station in your Area, speak to them they may invite you along to talk. An ideal opportunity to promote the club.

Arts Council – Do you have a local Arts Council? If so, join it. Not only is it an ideal opportunity to network with other local groups and they can also give out small Grants.

Other Photography Clubs – Advertise your events and talks with other local clubs to increase revenue on the door.

Summary

Other things to consider are offering incentives to join your club including:

An introductory offer on membership

Free attendance vouchers to be handed out at an event or once you have their e-mail address (with their consent) to invite them along.

Offering brief training on Camera use and photographic techniques

Consider Mobile phone photography as an avenue to attract a younger demographic!

Change your programme to suit more members for example more practical evenings, and virtual meetings.

Re-structuring your payment system so members pay monthly!

Remember if you're taking People's details you must have their permission and most importantly, you must follow up. One of the biggest mistakes made in Sales & Marketing is not following up on hot leads!!!

I hope the above has sparked an idea within your club but remember not all the above will work for everyone, but if one works for you, then it's a success.

Also, very few of the Few may have immediate effect, you may have to keep re-visiting the ideas. Persistence is the key.

As we know getting people through the door is only half the work, the hard work starts in making prospective new members welcome and keeping them. I'm afraid that's then down to each individual club!

If you have any other ideas or any of the above has worked for you, then please share, let's get a discussion going and help each other through these difficult times.

Thank you.

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PAGB Inter-Federation Print Exhibition 2026

The PAGB Inter-Federation Exhibition 2026 was officially opened on 25 July at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, by David Gibbins, President of the PAGB. The opening was well attended with visitors from as far afield as Colchester, Blaenau-Gwent and Jersey in the Channel Islands. A few of the Individual Award Winners were present to accept their medals and ribbons.

Chris Lapsley
Earl Shilton CC



Mike Sharples
Smethwick PS



Roger Parry
Chairman of the Inter-Fed



David Gibbins, President of the PAGB, presents the Inter-Federation Mono Print Competition trophy to Ralph Duckett, President of the Midland Counties Photographic Federation (MCPF).

Send us your News

Tell us what your club has been up to in recent months, how you have attracted more members, events you are hosting, and photographic tips.

Use the MCPF Newsletter and website to advertise your event.

News

Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter. It does not matter if they are things you have seen in other parts of the country. If it is about photography, we want to hear about it.