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# midland counties photographic federation

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Rugeley & Armitage CC

Your Federation  
Your Club

-  
Working Together

# e-newsletter

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Edition 158  
June 2022



**MCPF General secretary  
Christine Lovatt 01538 754060**

**Midland Counties  
Photographic Federation**



General Secretary:

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**You are invited to the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
to take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**at**

**The Old Schoolhouse, Churchbridge, Oldbury,  
West Midlands B69 2AS**

**The Meeting will commence at 2.00pm.**

Meeting Agenda and Minutes will be sent out to delegates prior to the event.

In order to save time at the meeting, it would be helpful if apologies and amendments to the minutes of the General Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022 could be sent to the Secretary in advance of the meeting.

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

All the accepted Prints from Photofolio will be on display to look at  
and after the meeting and a short tea break there will be an

Audio Visual Presentation of the Accepted Projected Images.



**MCPF General secretary**  
**Christine Lovatt 01538 754060**

## **Diary Dates**

### **June**

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> - Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June**      **Photofolio Exhibition**  
Contact details:                  Judith Parry. [photofolio@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:photofolio@mcpf.co.uk)  
Venue:                                  Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June**                          **MCPF Council Meeting am**  
   **MCPF AGM @ 2.00 pm**  
Contact details:                      Christine Lovatt. [sec@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:sec@mcpf.co.uk)  
Venue:                                  Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse. Oldbury

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June**                          Closing date for entries for Midlands Salon  
Contact details:                      Judith Parry. [chairman@midland-salon.com](mailto:chairman@midland-salon.com)

### **July**

**Midland Salon**                          Judging 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July  
Contact details:                      Judith Parry. [chairman@midland-salon.com](mailto:chairman@midland-salon.com)

### **August**

**Midland Salon**                          Exhibition open 13<sup>th</sup> August-21<sup>st</sup> August 2022  
Contact details:                      Judith Parry. [chairman@midland-salon.com](mailto:chairman@midland-salon.com)

### **September**

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sept**                          **MCPF Council Meeting am**  
   **MCPF General Meeting pm**  
Contact details:                      Christine Lovatt. [sec@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:sec@mcpf.co.uk)  
Venue:                                  Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury



# **MCPF PHOTOFOLIO 2022**

Organised on behalf of the MCPF by

**SMETHWICK PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
THE EXHIBITION WILL BE SHOWN AT  
THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE  
CHURCHBRIDGE OLDBURY**

**OFFICIAL OPENING & AWARD PRESENTATION BY  
THE MCPF PRESIDENT  
Graham Walton DPAGB**

**Wednesday 8th June at 8pm  
Doors Open 7pm**

**Also Open on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 8pm  
Doors Open 7pm**

**Exhibition NOT OPEN ON Friday 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**SPECIAL SHOWING – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June for MCPF AGM Delegates**

**ALL ACCEPTED PRINTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY  
PLUS, AN AUDIO -VISUAL PRESENTATION  
OF ALL OF THE ACCEPTED PROJECTED IMAGES**



# THE 73rd MIDLAND SALON

ORGANISED BY  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION  
PSA, FIAP, GPU & PAGB PATRONAGE

ON LINE ENTRY SYSTEM IS NOW OPEN

[www.midland-salon.com](http://www.midland-salon.com)

CLOSING DATE 25th JUNE 2022

PRINTS ARE BACK

Prints can be forwarded to the Welsh International  
Then onto Smethwick International and  
Southampton International

5 SECTIONS:

OPEN MONOCHROME PRINTS  
OPEN COLOUR PRINTS  
OPEN COLOUR PROJECTED IMAGES  
OPEN MONOCHROME PROJECTED IMAGES  
NATURE PROJECTED IMAGES  
SCAPES PROJECTED IMAGES

FULL RULES ON WEBSITE

LOW ENTRY FEES  
ONLY PAY FOR SECTIONS YOU ENTER  
A4 72 PAGE COLOUR CATALOGUE TO ALL ENTRANTS



MCPF Club Championships  
Alan Lovatt

MCPF 2022 Print Championships

The 2022 Print Championship was held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at The Priory Centre, Stretton, Burton on Trent where 14 clubs took part.

We must thank our three judges Dave Coates MPAGB, EFIAP/p, ESFIAP, HonPAGB, Richard Spurdens EFIAP/p, DPAGB, BPE4 and Erica Oram CPAGB, AFIAP, BPE3 who did an excellent job on the day.

The results are as follows :-

| Club                            | Round 1 | Round 2 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Arden Photo Group               | 183     | 132     |
| Smethwick Photographic Society  | 184     | 127     |
| Chapter 6                       | 184     | 126     |
| Wrekin Arts Photographic Club   | 182     | 119     |
| Cannock Photographic Society    | 176     | 117     |
| Stafford Photographic Society   | 175     | 113     |
| Leamington Spa Photographic Soc | 164     | 112     |
| Lichfield Camera Club           | 164     | 110     |
| Stourport Camera Club           | 158     |         |
| Dunchurch Photo Society         | 153     |         |
| Wolverhampton Photo Society     | 158     |         |
| Duston Camera Club              | 162     |         |
| Burton Photographic Society     | 163     |         |
| Gloucester Camera Club          | 158     |         |

Best Monochrome Print: Night Flight

Roger Evans Wrekin Arts PC

Best Colour Print: Silver Studded Blues Paired

John Phillips Stafford PS



## MCPF Club Championships Alan Lovatt

### Judges Medals: Mono

|                   |                          |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| David Coates:     | Balance                  | Paul Hassell Arden PG    |
| Erica Oram:       | Cropped and half Cropped | Peter Champion Chapter 6 |
| Richard Spurdens: | Arctic Fox Hunting Voles | Michael Windle Chapter 6 |

### Judges Medals: Colour

|                   |                |                          |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| David Coates:     | Angels Bonnets | David Myles Smethwick PS |
| Erica Oram:       | Fish Supper    | Tony Stamp Cannock PS    |
| Richard Spurdens: | My first Gig   | Paul Jay Chapter 6       |

Clubs to represent MCPF at 2022 PAGB Inter-Club Print Championships :-  
Arden PG and Smethwick PS qualify from 2021 PAGB Print Championships.  
Chapter 6 and Wrekin Arts PC qualify from 2022 MCPF Print Championships

The 2023 PDI and Print Championships will revert back to its usual one day format and will be held at the Braunstone Civic Centre on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023.

I would like to thank the members of Burton on Trent Photographic Society for hosting the event and providing tea, coffee and cake throughout the event and also the members of the MCPF Council for their assistance throughout the Championships.

Alan Lovatt  
MCPF Club Competition Secretary.



PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit  
Alan Lovatt

PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit

The President, Officers and Members of the Federation Council  
sent their congratulations to

Steve Reeves LRPS who successfully gained the CPAGB/av award  
at the recent on-line Adjudication for Audio-Visual entrants.

Anyone wishing to apply for a PAGB Award for Photographic Merit

can find full details on the MCPF website

or by contacting Alan Lovatt at [apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk)





## Stafford Camera Club

Stafford Camera Club we're delighted to the success of its members in this years MCPF Midphot exhibition.

This includes a special mention to one of our members Matt Hoar.

Matt has been doing photography on and off for the last couple of years and entered Midphot for the first time this year, out of the 16 photos entered, he received 10 acceptances, 1 highly commended and a Silver Medal for his photo Into the Night.



We asked Matt about this and he said;

“I was extremely proud to have received this result, I would like to thank Stafford Camera Club for their help and support, they have been an extremely friendly club since I joined and really care about helping and supporting all members to grow, improve and thrive.”



## MCPF Archivist & Historian Dr David Moore EFIAP MPAGB BPE5

### Peter Bell 'My Camera and Me'

From an early age, Peter had always been interested in old photographs, first from the results his parents had taken of his sisters and him with a Box Brownie camera. However, the first camera he owned was in 1955, an early Kodak 35mm camera for a tour of Europe with three pals. In the 1970's and 1980's he went on many cricket tours as an umpire, taking hundreds of photographs of the players social entertainment and action pictures, when not officiating, using a Pentax ME Super camera. In the spring of 1984, he was approached by a feature writer who had a weekly column about midland club cricket in a national newspaper "The Club Cricket" to join him by being the photographer for games he would write about. Peter would be paid £10 for every portrait photograph the paper used and £20 for a team picture. Unfortunately, by the end of that cricket season with some 25 photographs published in the newspaper, the paper folded going into liquidation and his £300 windfall never materialised.

In 1982-83, Peter had attended a twelve-month night school course on photography, with classroom lectures very Tuesday, on such topics on how cameras work, speed time and focal length and so on. The course also covered practical sessions, both indoors and out in the town. So, in 1984, he was persuaded to join the Sutton Coldfield Photographic Society by a likeminded cricketing colleague to see what other photographers were doing with their cameras. The Society met on a Tuesday evening at the Friends' Meeting House, his interests then covered every type of photography but it gradually moved into Natural History where the Society had a number of Nature Photographers, in particular Barry Taylor FRPS, who held a Friday nature evenings at his home. This gave a number of like-minded Society members, the opportunity to view and criticise with appropriate advice their nature photographic work.

In 1984 the Society's representative, Murry Williams on the MCPF resigned and Peter agreed to go to their quarterly and annual meetings and be the collator of the Society's print and slide entries to any societies open competition and exhibition. Some 18 months later, Diane Atkins resigned from the MCPF Council and Peter put his name forward at their AGM and was elected, on to the Council in 1986. At the same time, he had become very involved with the Sutton Coldfield Society, with his new dark room that contained a considerable amount of equipment, for printing in colour including Cibachrome and Monochrome.

During his early years with the Sutton Coldfield Society, Peter became a very active member in the Natural History section with his first acceptance in MidPhot 84 with a colour print of a Barn Owl, although he was now producing a considerable number of colour prints in his dark room but with very little success within the Society's merit competitions that was until he switched to Cibachrome in 1984 and was highly commended with a set of five 20 x 16 colour prints of the Lichfield, firework display in MidPhot 84, which he had reproduced as drink table mats for Christmas gifts for his family and friends.

His Mother had died in September 1979 and left him a considerable sum of money so he purchased a Bronica camera with a variety of lenses, including a 400 mm lens which required its own tripod due to its length and weight. In 1985, he visited his family in Vancouver and travelled through the Rockies photographing everything he saw, and in 1986 he was awarded an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society, with a set of transparencies slides in nature taken in his travels through British Columbia, Canada, of Birds, Mammals and Wild Flowers. He was always very grateful to Tony Wharton FRPS, AFIAP for the help and advice he gave him in Competitions and won the top Society award in 1990, the John Frost solid Silver Candelabra which was based on a points system. He had won a total of 7 Silver spoons, starting in 1987 through to 1990.



MCPF Archivist & Historian  
Dr David Moore EFIAP MPAGB BPE5



A pair of Shag at their nest on Craigeith, North Berwick, Scotland.

There was a funny side to one of his many visits to British Columbia which was the sighting of a Barn Owl perched on a stump some 150 yards away, so out came the Bronica, tripod and 400 mm lens only to find it was a wood carving of the owl standing on a post.



## MCPF Archivist & Historian Dr David Moore EFIAP MPAGB BPE5

Peter had an opportunity, in his profession, as an industrial chemist to visit, on behalf of the CEGB one of the NCB's coal mines due to discrepancies in their analysis of coal supplied to Hams Hall Power Station. This resulted in him having an opportunity to go underground with a small none flash camera and take a few transparencies, but the quality was poor, so he printed them in black and white so they were negative prints looking more like an x-ray. Around that time Jessops had introduced "Colorvir", a process that allowed the black silver salt to be replaced with a colour salt and the clear and grey areas become toned with a selected colour toner and the none silver areas to be coloured. The final effect depends on the timing and density of the grey to white areas picking up a little of both chemical reactions. The process was ideal for his negative prints, which resulted in him producing a panel of five 20 x 16 inches prints which won the MidPhot Whinnerah Plaque as the "Working Miner". The centre photograph was selected by the MCPF and entered into the PAGB competition as "Davy and his Lamp" and became part of the PAGB's travelling portfolio around the country over a 12-month period. Peter then put together a demonstration lecture that highlighted "Colorvir" and following a meeting with a Mr Cartwright of Jessops the company sponsored him and he became a lecturer within the MCPF in 1986.

Peter was elected President of the Sutton Coldfield Photographic Society at their May 1987 AGM and immediately started the "Presidents Day" with a visit to the Crich Tramway Museum on a very sunny day. During the afternoon they visited Cromford Mills so the members had plenty of opportunities to take some interesting pictures at the museum and the mills working wheel. He also organised four Sunday morning walks during the summer months although on one occasion the members were forced to shelter under the railway bridge in Sutton Park, due to a very heavy storm. This is where Peter first got to know a lady called Sue, who later became his wife. Another of these walks was lead by Barry Taylor FRPS, to a meadow surrounded by a wood in the Kidderminster, area where there was plenty of opportunity to take photographs.

At the annual MidPhot exhibition in 1988, Peter was host to the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, which was followed by a lavish party that he provided in the Town Hall for all those involved in the exhibition. This was one of the traditional requirements of every President because it was a way of rewarding the members for the amount of work involved in turning the Town Hall into an exhibition area. Members had to remove everything out of the premises and transfer equipment from the Friends Meeting House and various members homes.

By 1988 Peter was a well-established council member on the Midland Federation Council and as Jan Taylor was stepping down as Seminar Secretary, something he had considerable experience with AMOCO, his employer, so he volunteered and was duly elected. The seminars had been experiencing great difficulties and needed a change in style and presentation. He approached the Pilkington Glass Company in St Helens, whom he had supplied on behalf of AMOCO with Fuels by rail and met their Corporative Manager, Mr Stevens and he agreed to give the Federation a little sponsorship. He was provided with a 100 clipboards, pens and pencils and two tickets for the Pilkington Rugby Cup Final for a raffle, tickets to be sold only at the event which was held at Burton PS in their club house. With help from Terry Chapman, ARPS DPAGB APAGB ESFIAP, a Past President of the Alliance, he wrote to a number of highly respected international photographers, whose work was considered outstanding. Without doubt it was a slick event with Peter using a lectern to introduce, thank speakers and running the event in the same manner that he had used for his previous employer. The raffle of the Cup Final tickets was very well supported, so the Federation ended the day with a slight profit taking into account the speakers expenses on what turned out to be a well organised event.



MCPF Archivist & Historian  
Dr David Moore EFIAP MPAGB BPE5



The Lord Mayor of Birmingham with Peter opening MidPhot 88

In 1991, Peter was appointed by the Federation as a judge in both Nature and Pictorial sections for both prints and slides.  
He also joined the Smethwick Photographic Society as an interested member but in competitions, he always competed for the Sutton Coldfield Society.



## **MCPF Archivist & Historian Dr David Moore EFIAP MPAGB BPE5**

One of the things Peter enjoyed most on Council was the camaraderie, especially when preparing and sorting entries for judging and the hanging of prints at MidPhot, the Midland Salon and Photofolio exhibitions, in particular working with Ron Hughes LRPS CPAGB and John Leadbeater ARPS MPAGB APAGB AFIAP. Incidentally, during the sorting of slides at John's home Peter became aware that they had both served in the Royal Air Force at RAF Hemswell, for a short period of time together.

The Roll of Honour was inaugurated in 1996 to mark outstanding service to the Midland Federation and Peter was added to the role in 1998 for his work in running the Seminars and other activities on behalf of the Federation since joining the Council some twelve years earlier.



Peter R. G. Bell, ARPS, President of MCPF 2000 to 2002



## MCPF Archivist & Historian Dr David Moore EFIAP MPAGB BPE5

At the Ninety-Third Annual General Meeting hosted by Smethwick Photographic Society at their new clubrooms at the Old Schoolhouse on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2000 Peter was elected as the Midland Federation President to serve for a two year period. It is never a great prospect for any President to have the General Secretary resigning during their term in office. However, this was the case since at the same meeting Wendy Outram, LRPS APAGB resigned as the General Secretary after a period of many years distinguish service. Although Mary Jenkins who had been Minutes Secretary since 1997, volunteered and was duly elected as General Secretary. In 2001 he invited the PAGB President, Jane Black to officially open MidPhot 2001 and the following year opened MidPhot 2002, which was now held at the Smethwick PS headquarters.

Following the sudden death of Terry Chapman, ARPS DPAGB ESFIAP HonAPAGB on February 27<sup>th</sup> 2001 Peter was asked by Council if he could put forward an idea of a trophy in memory of Terry. With the aid of a local silversmith, Hamilton Gabb and the advice of Council, Hamilton and Peter designed a solid silver trophy, based on a photograph Peter had taken of a group of trees up on the hill close to the jamboree site in Sutton Coldfield Park. Council approved the conception and the trophy was produced with Geoff Lowe APAGB, a past President producing the special box to store the trophy. The trophy was for the best print in the MCPF Championship and was first awarded 2004.

The photograph taken by John Ruffell APAGB shows the past Presidents and serving President who had attended the dinner to celebrate the 100 year history of the Federation



From left to right:

Geoff Lowe (1990-92), Neville Jackson (1972-73), Wendy Outram (2004-2006), Roger Parry (1996-1998), Centenary President, Judith Parry (2002-2004), Peter Brown (1988-1990), and Peter Bell (2000-2002).



## MCPF Archivist & Historian Dr David Moore EFIAP MPAGB BPE5

In 2005, Peter was asked by Council to write the history of MidPhot and in 2007 it was published as a Midland Federation document and placed in the Archives, Heritage at the Library of Birmingham. In fact, MidPhot as a name did not commence until MidPhot 77, that was in 1977. However, prior to that date, Sutton Coldfield PS had been running an exhibition in the Sutton Coldfield Town Hall since 1940, originally under the title “Annual Exhibition Old and New” but in 1946 the name was changed to an “Exhibition of Pictorial Photography”. This name was to last until the Sutton Society celebrated its twenty first annual exhibitions when the exhibition’s name was changed to an “Exhibition of Midland Photography”. In March 1963 the exhibition was organised and run by the Sutton Society on behalf of the Midland Counties Photographic Federation that was until 1996 when it was run by the MCPF initially in Solihull before it moved to Smethwick PS. Peter had found the historical research very interesting and time consuming as he had placed a considerable amount of his research into the final document, including photographs of the individual trophies.

Peter resigned from both the Midland Federation Council and the Royal Photographic Society around 2014, having been both a judge and lecturer sponsored by Jessops for over 15 years and a member on Council for about 28 years. He later resigned from the Sutton Coldfield Photographic Society in 2016, due to his heavy commitments in hockey and also that he was no longer taking his camera out with competition photography in mind; it was now only for family photography.

In 2016, he was asked by the Midland Federation if he would write up the distinguished history of the Sutton Coldfield Photographic Society 1939 to 2016 after the Society disbanded due to a lack of members and was officially wound up on March 22nd 2016 after 77 years. Peter recalled the days when over 100 members would crowd into The Friends Meeting House, in Kenelm Road, and anyone who were not in a seat 10 minutes before the evening programme commenced would find themselves standing at the back or even in the doorway, so popular was the weekly meetings.

Peter’s wife, Sue of some 33 years, who was his junior by 20 years, suddenly passed away in July 2019, leaving a void in his life. So, as he approached his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, he joined the Sutton Coldfield Photographic Club, formed from the Fentham PS, not as an active photographer but as someone who just likes to look at good photographic pictures. Peter still enjoys receiving Roger Barker LRPS, excellent Midland Federation Newsletter keeping him up to date with the latest photographic news and simply viewing all the photographs displayed.

As a man his sensitivity to nature and its surroundings and his quiet but catching enthusiasm for ecology has always been demonstrated in his photography. His unselfish giving of himself to anyone interested has always set an example and standard to which many have developed an interest in photography. Without doubt Peter is one of life’s true gentlemen with a nothing is too much trouble attitude which I’m quite sure he will continue with in the many years ahead.

historian@mcpf.co.uk





**PHOTOGRAPHY  
EXHIBITION  
2022**

**Sunday  
12th June**  
11am to 4pm

**Davy Suite  
Lea Hall Miners  
Welfare & Social Club  
Sandy Lane, Rugeley. WS15 2LB**

**The Hart School - Photography Competition**

The Hart School, Rugeley, have been invited to enter a competition organised by the Camera Club.

Judging and prizes will be presented on the day by Paddy Ruske.

**Free Admission**

Refreshments on sale during the day.

[www.rugeleyandarmitagecameraclub.com](http://www.rugeleyandarmitagecameraclub.com)



MCPF Newsletter Editor  
Roger Barker LRPS

***Get your Club Events, Exhibitions and Information  
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email your Information to: [newsletter@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@mcpf.co.uk)***

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