

SPA News

March 2019

An Apology

I first attempted to put this edition of the newsletter together in September, but had only the item about Judges and Judging.

I thought I would try again after the AGM and Individual Competitions in October - but the only Club information I could bring you was easily available on the website.

I gave up!

Re-invigorated by the recent SPACOM and the issues raised there, I decided I MUST get one edition done during the year before we are inundated with exhibitions and the need to publicise them towards the end of the season.

My original intention had been to feature individual clubs and photographers in each edition and that's easy if I always focus on Clubs I know, but it would be good to use Clubs from other parts of the Association, so please let me know if your Club can be featured in a future issue.

I am sure there are good ideas and examples of good practice in Clubs about which others would love to hear: please think what you can contribute and let's make this a publication worth having.

Email all contributions and ideas to newsletter@surreypa.org.uk.

One of the issues raised at a recent was the decline in the number of prints being entered into club competitions. Is this something you have experienced? Any thoughts about why? That could make a theme for a future edition if clubs can describe good practice that others might copy.

Also please let me know about your Club's exhibition dates and send the poster as a jpg if you would like a mention in the next edition of the newsletter which will be in late May.

Welcome, Mr. President



At the 2018 AGM, David Smith of Woking PS was installed as President of the SPA, taking over from Kathy McLenaghan of Epsom.

In addition to expressing the Association's thanks to Kathy, one of David's first tasks was to present trophies to the winning Clubs in the Inter-Club competitions. Seen here with Graham Johnston of Goldaming.

As well as having been President of Woking PS, David is well known to us as a judge, is also, and will continue to be, the Association's key contact in Awards for Photographic Merit from the Photographic Association of Great Britain (PAGB) about which he writes more in this newsletter.



Graeme Wales, LRPS, CPAGB of Cheam Camera Club

One of the introductions at the SPA AGM in October was the Association's new secretary. I asked him to tell us a bit about himself and his photography:

As a young teenager Graeme experienced a defining moment that would shape his life-long interest in photography. Michelangelo Antonioni's 1966 film 'Blow up'.

Here, for the first time he saw the magic of working in a darkroom and the glamour of 1960s photography. Graeme saved up his pocket money and having read many copies of the Amateur Photographer, bought his first 35mm SLR, a Praktika Nova 1b, which he still owns to this day.

His father helped him to build a darkroom in the loft – which was a bit difficult, as there was no running water there, and keeping the temperature right in the developing trays was a considerable challenge. But nevertheless, he experimented with film processing and monochrome printing as well as a small spell of dipping into Cibachrome. He joined the Bath Photographic Society when he was in the sixth form, where he surprised one of his teachers by his membership! There he started to learn about composition, the Royal Photographic Society (who had just moved to the Octagon, in Bath), and he could only marvel at the high standard of darkroom printing by club members. Back then removing dust spots was the usual comment of the judge. Although Graeme does vividly recall a slide competition when the judge criticised an image that had a bird flying to the left and said it would be better if the bird was flying to the right. Immediately the projectionist lifted the slide out and promptly turned it round, to much laughter from the membership!



Leaving Bath to go to the University of Surrey, Graeme read a degree in Physics, where he found that experiments never seemed to quite work for him, and so he gravitated (excuse the pun) towards the theory side and therefore graduated in Mathematical Physics. Graeme stayed on for another three years and gained what he considers a conversation stopper, a PhD in Theoretical Nuclear Physics. All the time Graeme's trusty Praktika would be with him but surviving off grants and living the student life did not provide him much opportunity to devote time to photography.

Graeme became disillusioned with the monastic life of an academic and briefly entered the City working in the financial sector. However, he felt out of place in this arena and finally trained to be a Secondary Teacher of Mathematics with the Inner London Education Authority. For Graeme this is where his career finally made progress. With his first pay packet as a qualified teacher, he bought an Olympus OM2n and a couple of years later his pride and joy, a Mamiya C330F.



SPA's new Secretary

Fortunately for him, he made friends with a parent at the school he was teaching in, who also was interested in Photography and more importantly had a darkroom, which Graeme could use! During the 1980s they worked together to prepare their panels for the LRPS, but although Graeme still has his panel, he never ever plucked up the courage to submit it.

Head Teacher, but before he retired, he was able to renew his interest in photography and embraced the digital revolution.

Once it was known at work that Graeme had an interest in photography, he was regularly asked and challenged to take photographs of School Plays, Fashion Shows, Social Events, Sports Day, and other formal and informal events. This proved to be a valuable learning ground for Graeme.



Eventually the pressures of work, marriage, mortgage, a child and a general lack of surplus money meant that Graeme put his photography on the back burner, although he would try to visit a photographic exhibition whenever he could. By this time Graeme had taught in a variety of schools and his career had developed whereby he joined the Mathematics Advisory Team of Surrey Education Authority, visiting schools in the 5 to 19 age range to share with them good practice on the teaching of mathematics.

At this time Graeme also became a Principal Examiner for GCSE Mathematics (Associated Examining Board) based again at the University of Surrey. This in turn led to a spell of working for the Government ensuring that standards in GCSE Mathematics were the same across all public examination boards. Eventually the nature of Education Authorities and Government quangos changed, and Graeme jumped ship to find more secure work teaching back in a school. Graeme ended his career as a Deputy

He belongs to the Visual Art Group, Travel and Digital Imaging Groups of the Royal Photographic Society (RPS), and Cheam Camera Club. He likes all genres of photography and finally did gain his LRPS several years ago. Graeme is actively pursuing different projects to achieve the next step an ARPS, but in the meantime he gained the CPAGB from the Photographic Association of Great Britain.

Away from Camera Club photography Graeme has had commission work in Fashion and is currently working in the challenging area of Dental Photography!

He is a Camera Club Judge, accredited by the Surrey Photographic Association (SPA) and recently was elected Secretary to the SPA.

Thanks , Graeme - and thanks for taking on the role of Secretary.

Judging and Judges

It was after the SPACOM meeting last year that I first spoke with Rosemary Wilman who chairs the SPA Judges and Lecturers Committee about starting a regular item in the Newsletter focusing on Judges and Judging. I did this because I felt we in Clubs needed a greater understanding of the training process and that the judges needed an opportunity to tell us about the frustrations they feel as well as reinforcing the satisfaction that comes from a job well done and all the learning along the way.

This is the first article, hopefully of a regular column based on Judging in e-News. So who are we and what do we do? Martin Faiers (Photocraft), Steve Kingswell ARPS, AFIAP (Bookham), David Eastley LRPS (Mid Sussex and Brighton & Hove) with Rosemary Wilman HonFRPS AFAIP BPE5* APAGB as chair. Within the Judges remit our main responsibilities are training, support (especially for new judges), continuing development for all and monitoring standards. To assist this we hold an annual Judges Forum. We also ask you to assist with feedback which we want as constructive feedback, most frequently for encouragement and to consider promotion (details and form are on the website). We also have a monitoring role and where feedback is consistent it has provided a topic for the Forum or very occasionally the need to speak individually with a judge. What we must all remember is that judging can be quite a challenge and our volunteers deserve a big thank you for giving their time and expertise to your clubs.

New Training Programme and 4 new judges appointed

In July we organised a Judges Training course so this first article is based on training. Our congratulations and welcome to David Carine LRPS, Eddie Lord, Gordon Rae LRPS CPAGB and Simon van Orden.

Previously the SPA Judges Training Programme comprised an introductory evening followed by one day. The recent course was extended to add another day and provide more support and we were assisted by Marcus Scott-Taggart and Marie-Ange Bouchard on Day 2.

The first session is an informal evening to allow anyone interested to find out more about judging and help people decide if they wish to proceed, and also for the SPA to agree that they have sufficient experience to do so. Ideas on pre-training activities are provided together with the opportunity to go out with experienced judges. Attending the training is of course no guarantee of an invitation to join the New Judges List.

The first day has teaching elements and critiquing practice with supportive feedback. The course is quite challenging but throughout we provide constructive critique, just as club members expect from judges. Between the 2 days each candidate is contacted to review how the day had been for them and provide guidance on areas that had been individually more challenging. This allowed us to slightly adapt day 2. The morning of the second day continued in the same mode covering different aspects of judging followed by an assessment session in the afternoon. At the end of the course the team were pleased to be able to recommend 4 new judges. We have asked 2 of them for their brief comments on the course and the road ahead.

Eddie Lord

Should you be contemplating becoming a judge, the first question you should ask yourself is: why be a judge? Indeed, this is the first question you will be asked on the introductory evening and on day one of the training course.

The answers given were varied; from wanting to support members of one's own club, to see other peoples work and ideas, and to progress one's own photography as an art form. However, the overriding reason for everyone was to

give something back to the community.

Training days were held on two consecutive Sundays and were extremely intensive, although enjoyable and done in a positive atmosphere. A terrific learning experience.

Interspersed with lectures were practise sessions on critiquing. We were each asked to critique just one image, followed by a short series of images, initially with no marks given. By the second day marking was required with yet more images to critique. After each session, feedback was given, with all of us falling into various traps for the unwary.

One lecture, which I found particularly useful, regarded 'Judging Different Genres'. All of us were encouraged to pick an unfamiliar genre, then research five relevant photographers and compare their styles.

The story doesn't end here, further practise and shadowing sessions are still required over the coming months.

A huge vote of thanks to all the instructors who gave up their valuable time and efforts to tutor and mentor us all. Thanks should also be given to all the club photographers that volunteered their images for us to practice on.

Simon van Orden

For me, volunteering to become a Judge I saw as a natural progression as I sought to develop my skills as a photographer, whilst at the same time being able to give something back to help others.

Regularly participating in competitions within my home club, I was curious as to the process that Judges went through whilst they were passing comment and assessing images. I would find myself critiquing the images presented in my head. Most of the time my thoughts and the feedback the Judge gave was the same, but that is not to say that on occasions we differed. As a result, I gave serious thought to taking that step to undertake the training to become a Judge.

Yes, the course was a little daunting to start with; as it is normal to not enjoy being tested and assessed, but at each stage constructive and positive feedback is given. This helps you to develop your confidence and knowledge. It is only natural that we are comfortable within

the Genres that we like and part of the assessment is to present us with those Genres we may be less familiar with. It is intensive and a lot of elements are covered, but having undertaken it, I enjoyed the course and found it very rewarding.

Rightly so, there is a standard that has to be achieved, but being successful after the initial course is only the first step. Once appointed as a new Judge, there is a programme of mentoring from Senior SPA Judges and as we start to undertake Judging at Clubs a key element is for the Clubs to provide feedback to the SPA Judges Committee on our performance.

As I find my feet, there will be challenges ahead, I am sure, but I am looking forward to seeing some great images and welcome the opportunity to visit the various Clubs within the SPA region.

Could this be for you?

If you are interested, check out the information on the SPA website where there is also an application form. Alternatively please call Rosemary 07940 231318 or Steve Kingswell 07507 800116. We already have interest but we need more candidates before we can hold another course.

Clubs Can Help, too!

Becoming an SPA New Judge is the start of a continuous learning and development process which we have in place. Initially support is provided via phone calls and at clubs until transfer to the B List is achieved (details of this will be in the next edition of the SPA Handbook). Do consider inviting a new judge to your club when booking your next programme and in the meantime if your club has a cancellation they are more likely to be available (their contact details were circulated to clubs in August).

SPA J&L Committee:

*Rosemary Wilman HonFRPS AFIAP BPE5**

APAGB (chair)

Martin Faiers,

Steve Kingswell ARPS AFIAP,

Dave Eastley LRPS.

AV Activities in the Association

The Keith Hunt Trophy

Woking Photographic Society held its annual Digital AV competition – for the Keith Hunt Trophy on Tuesday 23rd October, 2018. There were 15 entries, from 5 clubs and so, with a total running time of about 75 minutes, there was a lot to get through during the evening.

Fortunately the judge, Graham Sergeant FRPS, from Chichester Camera Club, was up to the task and he made the following awards:

The River God	Kathleen Bird LRPS CPAGB	Ludshott PS
Red Arrows	Niall Ferguson LRPS CPAGB	W&CCC
Winter	Norman Horsham	MidThames AV
Hunter	Harold Russell	Ludshott PS
On the Brighton		
Seafront	David Smith LRPS CPAGB	Woking PS
Svezhina	Clive Chater	Alton CC

The evening was a great success, with a real cross-section of sequences - each of the 5 clubs produced a certificate winner of one form or another, so everyone went away happy!

Justin Cliffe
Woking PS



Graham Sergeant FRPS, and Keith Hunt presenting the trophy to Kathleen Bird of Ludshott PS

The Jim Henson Trophy

Ludshott Photographic Society held the fourth Jim Henson Trophy competition for AV on 4th March 2019. The judge was David Smith LRPS, who previewed the 16 entries. David commented on each AV, and made helpful remarks on photography, sound and composition after each entry had been screened.

Daan Olivier FRPS and Mike Reed ARPS CPAGB(av) won the trophy with an AV entitled "**Dreams and Nightmares**" a moving piece about prisoners on Robben Island.



Mike Reed of W&CCC receives the trophy from David Smith

Other results were –

SECOND: **Sea Moods** by Norman Horsham CPAGB(av)

THIRD **The Natural History of Selbourne** by John Wichall ARPS, DPAGB, who also won the Audience Vote

HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Impressionist by Graeme Parker
COMMENDED

The Land of Kings by John Baker

Oradour – the Village that died by Ray Higgenbottom and Viv Blewett

Kathleen Bird
Ludshott PS

From the President

It's a pleasure that my first task as President is to thank Kathy for all that she has done for the SPA in her two years as President. She has not only had to undertake the role of President but also continue to carry out some of the duties of Secretary as we haven't had a Secretary for most of her time of office. She has undertaken all of her duties with great good humour, seeing the best in people, and always in a spirit of collaboration and teamwork. We are grateful for her contribution to the SPA.

One of the advantages of being a judge is that I visit many clubs during the season which gives me an opportunity to see how they are doing and discuss any SPA-related matters. I also go to clubs in other federations and it's useful to learn what they are doing as well. We're fortunate to be members of a growing community: over the course of the last five years the number of clubs affiliated to the PAGB has risen from 999 to 1025 with club membership also rising. It's also a welcome development that most clubs have more women members and more younger members than they did a few years ago. This is only possible through the vast amount of time which is devoted to the running of the clubs by the many volunteers involved. The SPA is there to support the clubs and their officers so if there's anything we can do to support club activities let us know.

One job I will continue to do as President will be the SPA Awards for Photographic Merit Officer. We had **three successful candidates at the September CPAGB adjudication** - Peter Chamberlain of Molesey, Lawrence Homewood of East Grinstead and Diana Uzun of Woking. Congratulations to them. Overall in print there were 26 candidates and 18 were successful. In PDI there were 26 candidates and 17 were successful. At the adjudication held in **November in Pontefract we had one successful candidate in CPAGB** - Ian Brash of Selsdon and so congratulations to him as well. The overall figures were:

CPAGB Print	63 candidates, 43 successful
CPAGB PDI	16 candidates, 11 successful
DPAGB Print	35 candidates, 15 successful
DPAGB PDI	13 candidates, 10 successful
MPAGB	5 candidates, 0 successful

For the 2019 April adjudication to be held on North Wales CPAGB is full and there are a handful of places for DPAGB which will go quickly. The November 2019 adjudication is to be hosted by the Chilterns Federation at Watford Grammar School. Applications have already been opened for Watford and as it's in an adjacent federation to the SPA if you're thinking of applying it's worth getting your application in soon if you would like to attend. You don't have to decide which images you're going to put forward until much nearer the time.

I'm sometimes asked by people in the clubs what they need to do to impress judges. My answer is always that they should be taking photos for themselves, not for judges. For me what's good about being a member of a camera club is enjoyment of photography and learning how to do it better. Friendly competitions between club members is a way of seeing what others are doing and taking any useful lessons from the judge's critique of their own and others images. It's sad when people argue about whether an image should be an 8 or an 8 ½, because a fixation on such details can mean they miss the pleasure of learning how to take better photographs. If I have one objective for the SPA it's that the enjoyment of photography becomes the motivation for us all. As the photographer Galen Rowell said "You only get one sunrise and one sunset a day, and you only get so many days on the planet. A good photographer does the math and doesn't waste either." But then again, as Gregory Heisler wrote "Photography's 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent moving furniture."

David Smith

RPS Digital Imaging Group Meetings in the South East

We are fortunate to live in an area which enjoys a number of informative special interest groups. The two highlighted here are both affiliated to the RPS. Are there some you would like us to advertise? Please let me know if there are.



THAMES VALLEY CENTRE

Janey Devine FRPS

**CELEBRATING
BRITISH LIFE
TODAY**

Sunday 24 March 2019 ~ Wokingham, Berkshire

DIG Thames Valley: Janey Devine FRPS - Celebrating British Life Today

24 March 2019
10:00 - 15:30

Wokingham, Berkshire
Woosehill Community Hall
Emmview Close
Woosehill
Wokingham
United Kingdom
RG41 3DA

[View map →](#)

RPS Member £12.00
Non RPS Member £15.00
Group Member £8.00 ⓘ

[Book by post \(PDF, 103.1 KB\) →](#)
[Information pack \(PDF, 205.4 KB\) →](#)



SOUTH EAST CENTRE

Joe Cornish Hon FRPS
**EVOLUTION AND
REVOLUTION:**
A life in landscape photography

Sunday 7th April 2019 ~ Maidstone, Kent

DIG South East: Joe Cornish HonFRPS Evolution and Revolution: a life in landscape photography

07 April 2019
10:00 - 15:30

Cornwallis Academy
Hubbards Lane
Linton
Maidstone
United Kingdom
ME17 4HZ

[View map →](#)

Group Member £12.00 ⓘ
RPS Member £16.00 ⓘ
Non RPS Member £20.00 ⓘ

[Information pack \(PDF, 542.7 KB\) →](#)



THAMES VALLEY CENTRE

Andy Small
FINE ART
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY
& Len Deeley
Memorial Trophy
PDI competition

Sunday 28 April 2019 ~ Wokingham, Berkshire

DIG Thames Valley: Andy Small - Fine Art Nature Photography

28 April 2019
10:00 - 15:30

Wokingham, Berkshire
Woosehill Community Hall
Emmview Close
Woosehill
Wokingham
United Kingdom
RG41 3DA

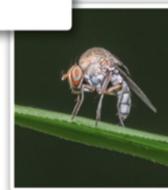
Group Member £10.00 ⓘ
Non RPS Member £17.00
RPS Member £14.00

[Book by post \(PDF, 103.1 KB\) →](#)
[Information pack \(PDF, 205.4 KB\) →](#)



SOUTH EAST CENTRE

Rachael Talibart
& Ann Healey ARPS
DIGITAL CAPTURE
OF THE
NATURAL WORLD



Sunday 9 June 2019 ~ Maidstone, Kent

DIG South East: Rachael Talibart and Ann Healey bring us Digital Capture of the Natural World

09 June 2019
10:00 - 15:30

Cornwallis Academy
Hubbards Lane
Maidstone
United Kingdom
ME17 4HX

[View map →](#)

Group Member £8.00 ⓘ
RPS Member £11.00 ⓘ
Non RPS Member £15.00 ⓘ

[Information pack \(PDF, 542.6 KB\) →](#)

Surrey Advertiser Rosebowl Competition 2019

Tuesday 11th March saw the annual Surrey Rosebowl competition, hosted by Woking PS, celebrate its 60th year with 18 clubs in contention for the trophy.

This is a competition for a set of 5 projected digital images (pdis). Each image is projected and commented on individually and then the whole set is displayed as a panel and commented on as such.

There was a very wide range of entries showing just how talented our photographers are. All had been previewed and decisions reached by the judge Don Morley in advance of the night. And that meant that Don's always valuable comments were even more constructive with each photographer given real tips for improvement where there was any to be achieved.

Similarly, Don commented perceptively on the way in which the sets were being displayed as a group, so that anyone coming fresh to panel compilation could glean some good tips.

On this occasion the winners were Godalming with a beautiful display of deer images entitled 'Autumn in the Park'.

Second place went to Yateley with their 'Calm before the storm'

Third to Bookham with a series of monochrome nature portraits.

Cheam, Windlesham and Camberley and Epsom were all Highly Commended.

The award for the best individual image went to Francis Bryan of Yateley and the runner up was Mike Wilson of Horley with third place going to Andi Hargreaves of Dorking.

Highly commended certificates were awarded to Mike Bromley (Old Coulsdon), Daan Olivier (W&CCC) and Simon van Orden (Epsom)

The Albany Cup, Guildford Photographic Society

Like the Rosebowl this is a competition where individual images are judged and then the same images are judged as a panel.

On this occasion part of the fun of attending is that the first half of the evening is spent guessing which images will be together in panels: this year it was clear from the outset, some years it is less obvious!

There are differences between this and the Rosebowl: the Albany Cup is for prints, requires only four images and scores are given out of 10 for the images individually and then the panels are marked out of 40. This competition also includes some non-SPA Clubs as do a number of the inter-club competitions to the west of the county.

Again the competition was strong and the panel score was the deciding factor in the award of the trophy.

On this occasion Windlesham and Camberley took the trophy for their 'Tranquil Waters', a group of black and white images.

Guildford, with 'Raptors' took second place and Bracknell came third with 'A Penny for your Thoughts'

Thanks to both Woking and Guildford for their part in establishing, continuing and running these competitions every year. They take quite a toll on the Club's competition teams and are appreciated

Congratulations...

...to Justin Cliffe of Woking PS on winning the People Section of the National Geographic Traveller UK Photographic competition 2018



*Dyeing wool in a Marakech souk,
Morocco*

Justin says: "One of the owners of a fabric boutique in Marrakech showed us this almost apocalyptic scene of a worker dyeing wool — it was dirty, hot and a pungent smell filled the air."

What the judges said

"Life among the heat and grime, an everyday workplace for someone. The glow around the lone figure, a beacon of light amid the dirt," said judge Ben Rowe of Justin's winning photograph of a worker dyeing wool in Marrakech.



Diary

Saturday, May 11 2019
SPA Inter-Club PDI competition

Saturday, June 1st
Woking PS Exhibition
Mercia Walk, Woking Town Centre

June 2019
Inter-Federation Print and PDI

Saturday, July 13th Warwick
PAGB Inter-Club PDI
(SPA represented by Godalming PS and Kinston CC)

August 4-31
Woking PS Exhibition at Dapdune Wharf,
Guildford

Saturday, 19th October 2019

SPA AGM
SPA Individual Print and PDI

Saturday, October 27th
PAGB Inter-Club Print Competition
SPA represented by Godalming PS and Richmond and Twickenham PS

October
PAGB Cup (Print)
Individual Clubs

Saturday, November 23rd
SPA Inter-Club Print

Other events and individual Club events are often posted on the SPA Facebook page and sometimes on the website.

January - 2 June 2019 at
the Lightbox, Woking
Women in Photography: A History of British
Trailblazers for details visit thelightbox.org.uk