



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Northern Focus

The e-magazine of
**NORTHERN COUNTIES
PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION**

Serving the North of England

<https://www.ncpf.org.uk>

Winter - 2022/23

EDITION No.94



NCPF Club Championship 2022

Best Print

Impressions of Toni

by George Hodgeson of Durham PS

NCPF Club Championship 2022

Best PDI

*Love is like a butterfly by Alison
Leddy of Blyth PS*

What will this years Championship bring?



Opinions expressed in Northern Focus are not necessarily the opinions of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation and neither the Editor nor the NCPF accepts any liability for any content. Any mention of products or services in Northern Focus does not constitute an endorsement or approval of these items.

Northern Focus

Official magazine of Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

Serving the North of England.

To be Published four times a year

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Email: northern.focus@ncpf.org.uk

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This magazine, previous issues and a host of important and useful material are available at www.ncpf.org.uk

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Many items in this e-magazine will point towards work conducted by the NCPF Executive, Committee and Team. NCPF Committee are a small band of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals who guide our Federation on all things photographic. Are you Interested in joining as a helper, shadow or committee member?

Please contact N.C.P.F. Hon. Secretary Margaret Welsh at secretary@ncpf.org.uk for details.

Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB

Outgoing Presidents Remarks

As my 2 year tenure as President of the N.C.P.F. came to an end at the A.G.M. April 2022, this will be my last report (or rant – depending on your interpretation of it) before the new President, Alan Wilson, takes over.

I would like to begin by saying that it has been both a challenge (through lockdown) and a pleasure to serve the N.C.P.F. alongside the current members of the Executive Committee whose dedication to their respective roles is second to none. These positions are VOLUNTARY and the majority of the Executive have taken on more than one role to ensure that the work that is carried out behind the scenes is maintained to the highest standard we can achieve. It is constant, and at times it can be frustrating. As the Committee ages and feel that their time on the Executive has come to an end, we find it very hard to get anyone to replace them. It is so easy as a club member to sit back and let things happen around you – but if posting of information for upcoming competitions or competition results aren't available on the N.C.P.F. website by the proposed date the complaints come flooding in. Let us not forget that the people doing these jobs also have lives too, and we all know that the unexpected can happen. Please think of this the next time you aren't happy with the performance of the Federation or better still, put your name forward to join the Committee!



Jim and Margaret Welsh a fantastic team. Photo Tracey Ainsley

At the beginning of my Presidency we went into lockdown and everything stopped. Maintaining contact with the Federation Clubs was hard – THEN THERE WAS ZOOM – once this was mastered communication became so much easier. This meant that we were able to continue with the day to day running of the Federation. Competitions were continued, albeit in a reduced capacity, but club members were still able to take part.

Throughout the pandemic I was fortunate enough to visit a number of clubs as a guest and as a judge using the zoom technology. Over the winter months I found it so easy to judge a club competition from the comfort of my armchair rather than having to brave the elements and travel long distances to carry out my duties to a club, not to mention the savings on fuel and car maintenance. But judging or lecturing over zoom raised another question – do clubs pay if it's over zoom or because travelling is not involved, should a judge or lecturer's time be given freely? This debate concluded with the solution that because travelling expenses could not be claimed a nominal donation of £20.00 could be offered by the clubs. Some clubs reported issues with this and some judges and lecturers took advantage of the ruling. Hopefully, this is all behind us now and calm has been restored.

On the subject of judges and lecturers – on page 26 of the N.C.P.F. Directory are a set of conditions for booking a judge or a lecturer. I feel that some clubs are not following these guidelines and judges and lecturers are not being given the courtesy that they deserve when attending clubs. It is not hard for the appointed committee member to contact a judge/lecturer by telephone or email and follow this up with a confirmation letter or email. This courtesy should also be maintained when welcoming them to the club. At the end of the evening a vote of thanks should also be given whether you agreed with their comments or found their lecture boring. Please think about this when you are preparing your programme for the new season.

Alan Wilson is our new N.C.P.F. President and our new Vice President is Gerald Chamberlin. I know that the Federation is in good hands and that the work carried out by the Executive and its Sub Committees will continue to improve and flourish under their care. This journey has been an experience and I have learned a great deal in my 2 years as President, a position I never thought I would attain, and I have also made a lot of new friends along the way.

Editorial - Combined President and Editors Piece

Alan Wilson ARPS, AFIAP

Welcome to Edition No 94 of Northern Focus - Winter 2022/23.

First of all An Apology:

Due to a mixture of events and occurrences our Summer Edition of Northern Focus was not published. Topics in this edition therefore go back quite a while.

*Processes have been put in place to prevent recurrence.
Apologies to anyone inconvenienced, please enjoy.*



We start this edition with a well done to “Northern Focus” and all the Editors and Contributors celebrating our 50th Birthday And in a timely manner, winning 2 x Awards from The Photographic Society of America

Handover 2022 AGM

Jim Welsh - Alan Wilson

Chain of Office and Honourable Past-Presidents Badge. *Photo - Tracey Ainsley*

Another well done goes to the NCPF Committee Members who have identified issues regards club member retention, spiralling costs and new (club) Committee members who perhaps are not aware of what help can be made available. It is very much hoped that the NCPF Club Support and Development Subcommittee Group (CSDG) will lead the 2 way flow of help and information between and on behalf of our clubs and the Federation.

We have a mix of Editorials including a bit of fun topic that did have a potential serious side with Barry and Vera Singh getting a unique view of St Mary’s Lighthouse. It was great talking to them as they opened up about the event acknowledging the humorous side. Tynemouth member Phyllis Benoist recounts her part in Segendum Roman Fort. Ron Henry of Gosforth CC provides his view of Remote Photography and we set off back to Africa for their 4th of 4 instalments (could their possibly be a 5th of 4?). John D Tillotson of Penrith and District CC provides insight and images regards photographic distinctions.

Unfortunately we say goodbye from Committee to the extremely knowledgeable, well liked and respected Pax Garabedian who is standing down due to ill health with Richard Speirs kindly (and temporarily) stepping in.

Another sad event is the very likely demise of NCPF’s involvement in hosting International Salons which were run for 40 years by Jane Black and re-ignited last year. For a number of reasons Salon will be formall closed down at the AGM, (unless someone can advise otherwise).

It is great to have live competitions available and one of the best has to be our Club Championship which I make no apologies for mentioning on multiple pages. Atmosphere can be great as the judges marks tot-up, even if your club is unlikely to win, you still have chance at best Print or Best PDI plus the overall enjoyment of seeing the best work our clubs produce. You are cordially invited to attend.

This edition finishes off (as ever) with major events and note of openings within the NCPF Executive Committee. It can be hard work, but opportunity to learn is enormous including Webmaster role which will soon become available and is open to anyone with the skills to maintain this essential and rewarding task.

NB: Hyperlinks are embedded throughout leading to e-mail addresses or web-sites. Ctrl+click the blue underscored links for access e.g. www.ncpf.org.uk/northern-focus Feel free to forward this e-newsletter to like minded photography readers and enthusiasts - remembering all words and photographs are copyright of their authors.

Northern Focus

Northern Focus - 50th Birthday

By Editor: It was marvelous receiving guidance from Stan Bewick AFIAP, CPAGB, APAGB NCPF, Honorary Life Vice President, advising of the Golden Anniversary milestone being reached by our Northern Focus magazine. Stan advises 50 years since the very first edition No 1 being published September 1972. Stan can be certain of the details as he was the very first editor and still has all of the early editions.

Stan writes:

I was elected to the Executive of the Federation at the A.G.M. in November 1971 and was attending the very first weekend course in May of the following year. From memory I think that the lecturer was John Podmore. Tom Fearn was the Federation President at the time and he took me to one side to tell me that the Executive was looking to start a newsletter and asked if I would like to edit it. I agreed and got wondering what I was going to put into it. I visited as many clubs as I could so that I would know what I was writing about. I counted how many characters there were to a line and how many lines to a page, not realizing that typewriters were all different. I thought that the best time to issue the newsletter would be March, the end of the club season, and September, the start of the season.

With these thoughts in mind I set about writing the first issue to be released at the September meeting of the executive, so that several copies could be delivered by the members in order to save postage. The first issue was made under the title of 'News of the North'. There was a competition included in it for members to supply a name for future editions, with a prize of a 36 exposure roll of film. "Northern Focus" was suggested by Mrs. Margaret Kitchen of Whitehaven Camera Club and she duly collected her roll of film from Haleys, or was it Healey's, photographic shop in Carlisle, where Tom Fearn was manager.

To start, the paper size was foolscap and I halved it to make a page; that was roughly A5 in modern papers. For the first edition and two or three later editions, Loraine Brogdon, Federation Secretary, typed the duplicator skins and had access to a duplicator in her brother's factory in Hexham.

I still have the manuscript version of that first edition. Skins for later editions were typed by Dorothy Wilson, still a member of Tynemouth P.S. It was issued to clubs in the ratio of one copy for every ten members, in the hope that members would pass it on to other members of the same club. Whether they were passed to other members is very much in doubt. I had my ideas of which pages were the strongest and placed the important items in those pages. The last page, as it is in any newspaper, is one of the strongest and on that I placed the Diary of Events. The first edition consisted of 8 pages, gradually increasing to 16 pages by issue 8. My final one as editor.

EDITORS


1972 - 76 Stan Bewick	1976 - 80 Brian Turton	1980 - 83 Trevor Walters
1983 - 87 Doreen Palmer	1987 - 90 Adrian Butcher	1990 - 95 Anne Swearman
1995 - 00 Alan Porrett	2000 - 12 Pat Porrett	2012 - 20 John Smith
2020 - Alan Wilson		

Stan Bewick

Northern Focus

Northern Focus - 50th Birthday

By Editor: I must admit to being humbled by the list of great names listed as previous Editors. A copy of that very first Edition is at the end of this e-magazine (P49). It is interesting that aims and objectives have changed little from today's. The Golden Anniversary was celebrated at the NCPF Awards Event in Clara Vale and what a wonderful time to also celebrate the latest awards for the Magazine following the 93rd edition being forwarded to PSA for their newsletter contest (Thank you to David Stout of Whickham PC).



PSA Newsletter Awards



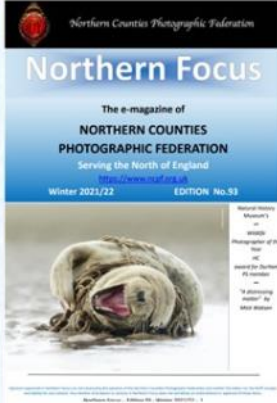
Photographic Society of America
PSA Newsletter Contest



Best Variety of Material
Has been awarded to
Northern Focus
Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Alan Wilson, Editor
Granted on this 30th day of September 2022

J. R. Schnelzer, FPSA, MPSA2, EFIAP



PSA Newsletter Contest
Best Variety of Material

Thanks go to all who
contributed



PSA Newsletter Awards



Photographic Society of America
PSA Newsletter Contest



Best Environmental Article
Has been awarded to
Northern Focus
Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Alan Wilson, Editor
Granted on this 30th day of September 2022

J. R. Schnelzer, FPSA, MPSA2, EFIAP

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2021
HC Success for Durham PS Member Mick Watson



**Article – Wildlife
Photographer of
the Year - HC
Mick Watson**

PSA Newsletter Contest
Best Environmental Article
for the terrific article by
Mick Watson of Durham
CC following his HC in
The Wildlife Photographer
of the Year Competition

Winning 93rd Edition
Available [Here](#)

National Media Fame

Stuck in the Lighthouse Vera and Barry Singh

Perhaps we dream of National Media cover for our photographic work, TV and newspaper paparazzi clamouring for our thoughts and images.

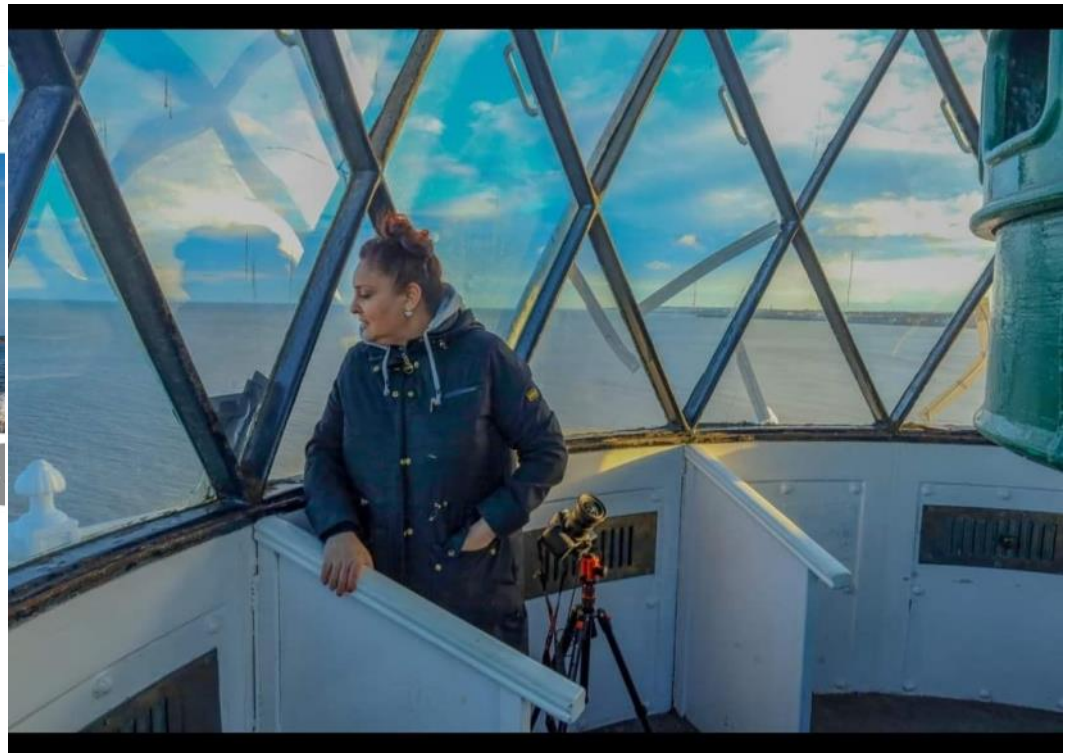
Well something a bit like that happened to Vera and Barry Singh of Winlaton CC, but not in the way they were expecting it.

A quiet late afternoon visiting St Mary's Lighthouse for photography turned into a bit of an event when on trying to exit, they found the lighthouse empty of staff and visitors and the doors secured. With the main doors locked Barry found a fire exit and running out found the sea over the causeway quite high. With presence of mind they had wedged open the exit door allowing both to return into the shelter of the staff kitchen.

After unsuccessfully phoning contact numbers found in the room they advised the police they had been left in the lighthouse- probably not the most frequent of calls for help the police receive. Police notified Coastguard and various options were discussed including helicopter rescue, but not wanting to use up a vital service the pair declined, and, after all they were now fairly comfortable having found lights, heaters, kettle and biscuits



News , UK News
LEFT IN THE DARK
We were locked inside a lighthouse for 6 hours – the tide kept coming up and we had no



National Media Fame

Stuck in the Lighthouse Vera and Barry Singh cont.

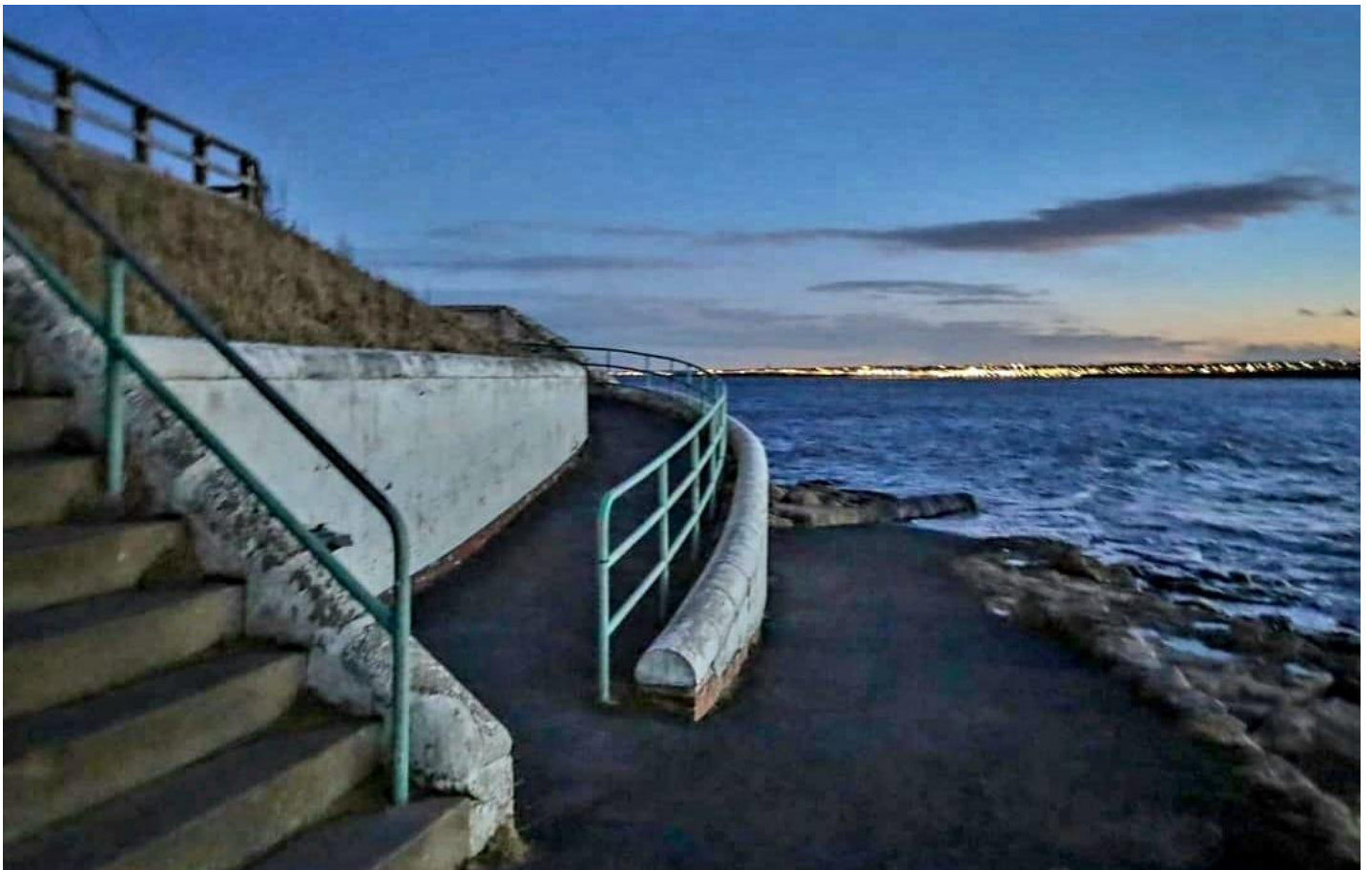


A six hour wait later, rescue came at 10:00pm when members of the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade assisted both to safely walk back across the causeway once the tide was far enough out.

Though able to see the “funny side” both advise how things could have been different had they not ensured access back into the safe place, Vera saying “when I went outside it was dark, all I could hear was the wind and the water was right up. Thanking the Police and Coastguard the couple kindly left payment for the tea and snacks they had while stuck inside.

Meanwhile North Tyneside Council confirmed it would be carrying out an investigation into the incident and said it was the first time anything like this had happened at St Mary's Lighthouse in its 35 years as a visitor attraction.

Unique Images taken from St Mary's Island by Vera/Barry.



SEGENDUM - A Roman Fort

Phyllis Benoist

My name is Phyllis Benoist, I am an amateur photographer and a member of Tynemouth Photographic Society and an artist specialising in acrylic painting. Apart from the qualifications I gained at school, I attended Newcastle University, where I gained a Masters degree in History of Ideas and a Bachelor of Arts with (Hons).

I am a committee member of the “Friends of Segadunum Roman Fort” in Wallsend. Members of the Friends are involved with the museum itself, and sponsors exhibitions and events.



View of the whole site, split by Buddle Street In 2013-2014

I was part of the WallQuest team, which sought the location of the original bath house as used by the fort occupants. After a great deal of research at the Woodhall Museum and the Lit and Phil library in Newcastle, research showed the original bath house should be located beneath “The Ship Inn” a public house in Wallsend.



Remains of the original bath house on The site as it is today

SEGENDUM - A Roman Fort

Phyllis Benoist cont.

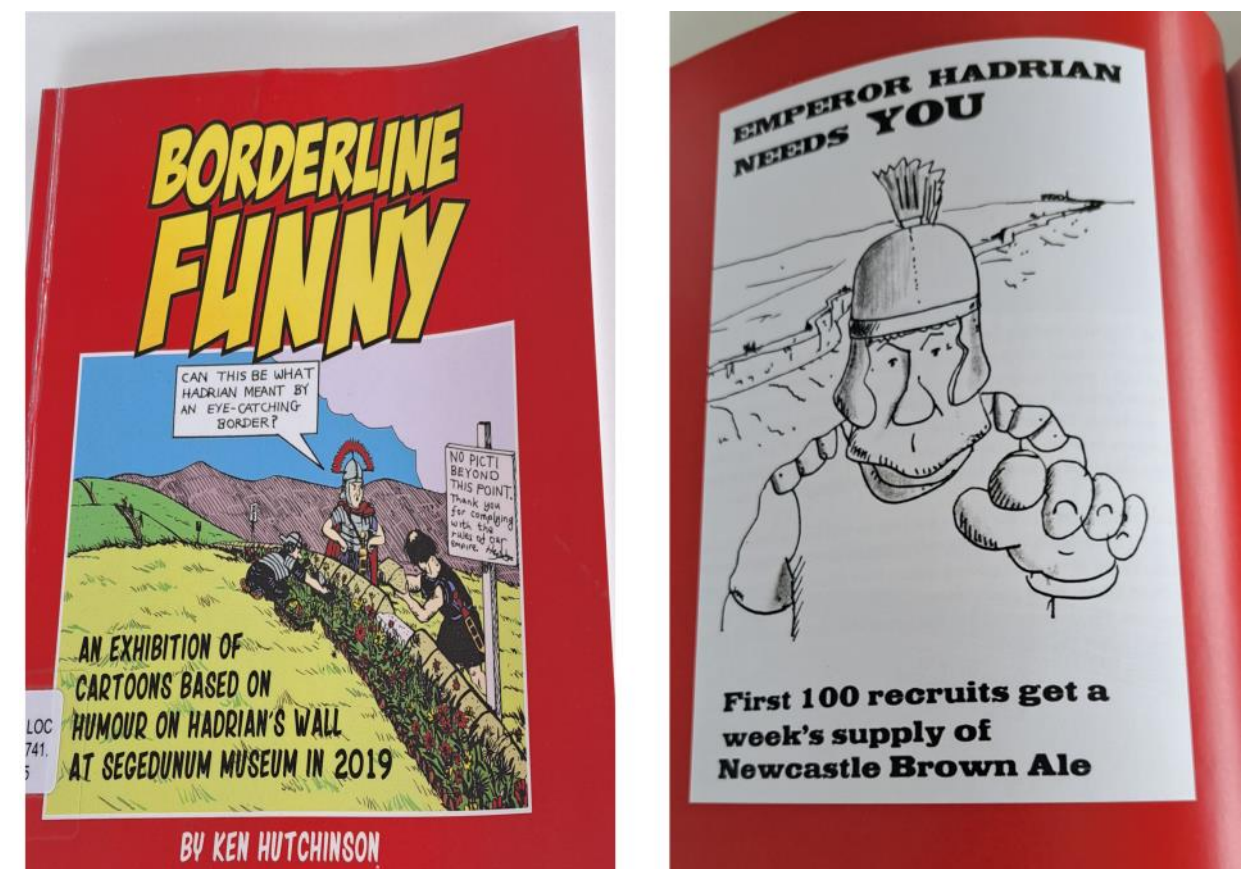
When the public house closed and was demolished, permission was granted to explore the site. A digger was hired and a deep trench was dug. To everyone's delight we had found evidence of Roman remains.

Continued excavation showed that it was indeed the lost bath house. I did not take any photographs at the time as archaeologists photographed as they progressed.

The whole bath house site has been exposed and now cleared, documented, made safe and is currently open to the public. A book "Roman Baths at Wallsend" has been written by the archaeologist, Nick Hodgson, who was lead archaeologist and in charge of the dig.

The present reconstructed bath house is in severe disrepair and is closed to the public and dangerous to enter. In 2016 a successful bid of £9,450 from the National Lottery was used to stage an exhibition in the museum. The public was invited to draw cartoons displaying the building of the Roman Wall. The response was overwhelming, a great number of cartoons were received from adults as well as children. I was part of the initial planning of the display, and, on the judging panel who decided which cartoons were good enough to be displayed.

The exhibition was a great success and it attracted a large numbers of visitors. It was covered by the media both television and newspapers. A book was published showcasing the best cartoons, however, due to the National Lottery funding the project, the book is prohibited from being sold commercially. However, it is available to view in the Wallsend Library. This year Segedunum is to celebrate 1900 years of the fort and several events and activities for children and adults are planned for this summer, i.e., make your own mosaic and learn about Roman gods and goddesses. Further information can be found on the Segedunum Roman fort website, "segedunumromanfort.org.uk" Phyllis Benoist. MA, BA (Hons).



Where do we draw the line?

Observations from Ron Henry

“Who are you (meaning the Camera Club) to tell me what to do in my photography”? A member said during a discussion about club competition rules - and he was right, photography is a hobby, you can do anything you like in the privacy of your own home, make any image for display on the walls of your own house. I think, however, that competitions are another matter. There must be rules; you need to know how far you can go before you cross the line. Even the highest-ranking officers of state know what happens when you break the rules – when you cross the line; but where do we draw the line?

Many years ago, when I first became a club photographer, the big debate was two-and-a-quarter-square verses 35mm. Purist members remonstrated with other members for having their negatives printed by professional black and white printers. The traveling studios set up lights and appropriately clad models in the Town Hall and paying ‘photographers’ pressed their shutter release when a pose appealed.

Many years later, some members considered digital not to be ‘proper photography’ and manipulating images in Photoshop as ‘cheating’. I readily took to this new technology but gave up entering competitions when I realised that very few entrants printed their own digital images.

Today we are asked to approve of images which have been made by members who have visited specially controlled locations with hides allowing kingfishers to emerge from tanks of water baited with minnows or Ospreys catching their prey from especially designed trout farms and hides built below ground level with powerful lamps lighting the waterholes of wild animals or Lancaster bombers specially illuminated and posed to replicate war-time activity. Expensive as all of this is, it has at least allowed the rest of us to see some outstanding images.

I have personally seen the benefit of hiring a local guide to make the best of a short stay in a far-off country. My latest camera facilitates the use of my smartphone connecting via Bluetooth so that I can adjust the settings and trigger the camera from many feet (feet - I told you I have been around a long time). I even consider my smartphone to be my second camera.

Just three years ago, who would have believed that we would be attending fantastic camera club meetings with all our photographic friends enjoying speakers from all over the world without leaving our homes. During my time as a club photographer, life and our hobby has changed beyond recognition. But how much further does it have to go before it becomes unrecognisable?

I have just been made aware of a phenomenon called remote shooting. In its pure form it seems like just another stage in the evolution of photography. You book time in a studio, choose an outfit for the model to wear and when your time comes, you connect over Zoom which enables you to manipulate the camera settings and direct the model. The images are recorded on the model’s camera and sent to you via WeTransfer.

That is little different from hiring a studio, tethering your camera to a laptop, and triggering your camera when the model is posed. Except the camera and model can be in another town or even another country. It is 2022 and that’s progress.

Where do we draw the line?

Observations from Ron Henry cont.

On the other hand, some Companies are offering group sessions where they set the lights, make-up, dress and pose of the model. They move the camera while you simply press the spacebar on your computer when you see a pose which suits you. An image is sent to you via Dropbox or WeTransfer. One camera manufacturer's Training School even have a professional photographer climb mountains before dawn and set up a camera; you can press the spacebar on your computer when the panning camera gets to a spot you like. You are then sent a file of a beautiful view at sunrise while you are still in your pyjamas at home.

I know that, as an audio-visual worker, I have downloaded music and sometimes images (with the right permissions) but not for competitive purposes. Sharks feeding underwater three-thousand miles away, Snow leopards caught on a camera trap; where do we draw the line? And who decides? I am all in favour of progress and amazed at the wonders of technology but if we continue at the pace of the past three years, will we simply need to select an image on our iPad, have it transferred to a digital printing house or automatically uploaded to our **camera** club website so that we can enter competitions without ever being near a camera or the subject.

Is it not time for the NCPF, the PAGB and the RPS to issue guidance, clarification, or rules about what constitutes 'the author's own work'? Then, of course, there is the tricky problem of how to 'police' the ruling.

By Editor: A well argued article and interesting read. I understand individual clubs are coming to their own agreement on where / when any remote shot images could be used, especially in competition.

Perhaps the clearest guidance regards photographic images in (FIAP) competition comes from FIAP and can be found on their website via. [The FIAP Official Book](#).

1.1) All the parts of each submitted image have to be photographed by the author who must be in possession of the original unretouched 'capture' version(s) of the image and where applicable of all component parts of the image. The author must also hold the copyright to each submitted image and of all component parts of it.

1.2) In "Nature Photography" (see paragraph IV. of FIAP document 018/2017 and the appendix relating thereto) and "Traditional Photo" (see paragraph VI. of FIAP document 018/2017 and the appendix relating thereto) no techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any element of the original image except by cropping are permitted. This means that no elements of the photograph may be cloned, added or erased.

1.3) Participants must store and preserve intact, with no alteration, the metadata, the RAW file(s) or the original unretouched JPEG file(s) of the submitted images (and those taken immediately before and after the submitted image(s)) for possible future motivated inspection, with no expiry, prescription or limitation of FIAP actions.

Ann and Steve Toon

Fourth part of a 4 part series— Present and Future Plans

Part Four: Present and future plans.

Sitting round a campfire in the Kalahari desert back in 1996 eating corned beef and drinking warm beer, we'd never have believed that in a few short years we'd be making a living as fulltime professional wildlife photographers. Ten years ago we'd never have dreamed that we'd be running a successful safari business, leading small group tours to some of our favourite African destinations.



Cheetah with cub

The business of wildlife photography has evolved rapidly in recent times, and our own business has had to change and adapt just as fast. The days when a photographer could make a living simply selling wildlife images are long gone. These days we're selling our hard-won expertise and experiences as much as we are our pictures.

We've had to acquire a lot of new business skills including building up and 'selling' the 'Toon' brand, whatever that is. The selling side is not what comes naturally to us, but when your job's almost as much about marketing your work as creating it you have to become a master at it. At the same time we've had to keep pace with rapid technological changes in photographic equipment and image processing. We've spent a ton of money on equipment, and a lot more on travel, we've dabbled in new techniques such as camera trapping, and invested countless hours finding our way on social media.

Ann and Steve Toon

Fourth part of a 4 part series— Present and Future Plans

But in all this the most important lesson we've learned is to be true to ourselves in our image-making. There's a huge temptation to 'shoot what sells', the classic images of iconic subjects, and of course we still do that. But increasingly we try to find a fresh approach with novel subjects, and our own unique voice. We aim these days to shoot images that represent our own take on the natural world, sometimes impressionistic, sometimes totally abstract, but always with some vision of what we want to portray about the beauty, fragility or relevance of wildlife and nature on our strained planet.



To help raise our profile as part of our safari marketing campaign, we've started entering some of the top competitions – something we never seriously bothered with when our focus was more on the magazine and book work.

Competitions are something of a lottery, of course, but we've had some success, notably Ann getting runners-up spot in the mammals category of the prestigious GDT European Nature Photographer of the Year competition with one of those more creative images, Kalahari meerkats on the move.

Meerkats (L) and Impala on the move



Ann and Steve Toon

Fourth part of a 4 part series— Present and Future Plans

An earlier competition win, for a portfolio of reportage conservation images of wild elephant vasectomy operations in the African bush, was rewarded with a commission from the IUCN to visit Thailand's remote southern-eastern forests, to photograph and research an article on the poaching of Siam redwood.



That certainly took us out of our comfort zone, not least as we had to be escorted everywhere by armed guards due to the real threat of heavily armed poaching gangs.

With our own translator and a driver also in tow, we felt more like a TV production unit, and indeed we were also tasked with producing videos for the IUCN; another first and an extremely interesting challenge, as all our interviewees spoke only Thai.

Wild Elephant Vasectomy

Siam Rosewood Tree, ordained by Buddhist Monk— Siam Rosewood poachers caught by anti-poaching patrol

The dense rainforest was beautiful, but damp and humid. Photography was tough in such thick vegetation with lenses fogging at every turn. The terrain was potentially deadly, not just because of the poachers, but the swarm of killer bees we encountered, the persistent leeches and the swollen, raging rivers we had to negotiate Indiana Jones-style by crawling across fallen trees while unbalanced by heavy photo backpacks. The diverse wildlife (elephant, bear, gibbon, birds etc) was impossible to see, but its sounds rang in our ears constantly. Coming across the massive tracks of tigers and then seeing them caught by the researcher's camera traps just hours before we came through their territory is a memory that will live with us forever.



Ann and Steve Toon

Fourth part of a 4 part series— Present and Future Plans



In the last few years we've been fortunate to be part of the Wildlife Photographers United initiative to raise money for conservation through a series of 'Remembering Wildlife' high-end coffee table books about endangered species. Our images have been featured in four of the books in this collection; rhinos, elephants, cheetah and the recently released African wild dog volume. Our conservation photojournalism has taken something of a back seat in the past four years, as building and running the photo safari arm of our business has taken up so much time.

Looking to the future we're keen to put more energy and emphasis into covering the human-wildlife conflict at the root of most conservation issues. As wildlife photographers we're privileged to enjoy some amazing wilderness and wildlife at first hand, but with that privilege comes some responsibility to put something back. That's the thinking behind our decision to help support, through our safaris, Wild Shots Outreach, an imaginative project to engage young South Africans from disadvantaged communities with wildlife and wilderness through the medium of photography.



Aardvark drinking

White Rhino bull with dust.

Elephant running in Chobe river



Ann and Steve Toon

Fourth part of a 4 part series— Present and Future Plans



Going forward, we're putting together a small collection of fine art prints, and rediscovering the wildlife on our own doorstep. There are new technological challenges ahead, including the inevitable switch to mirrorless cameras and shooting more video for stock and to augment our marketing. And there'll certainly be financial challenges. The stock photography market gets ever less lucrative for the professional photographer, while magazines and newspapers face existential threats from competing digital media and lost advertising. But the success of our safaris gives us lots of optimism for the future.

People think being a wildlife photographer is an exciting profession, but they don't see all the office hours spent in front of a computer, processing images, chasing payments, organising safari logistics, reconciling accounts, selling work and the million and one other jobs that are part of that 'glamorous' life. But then when we think back to the six weeks we spent photographing in the Kalahari before the Coronavirus lockdown: our close encounter with a confident female leopard one sunrise, the habituated meerkats that had made a rest camp their home, the newly-born wildebeest calves struggling to get to their feet, the lioness snarling impatiently at her hungry cubs pestering to suckle; then we reckon they might be right. We do have the best job in the world!



People In Focus - John D Tillotson CPAGB, AFIAP, EPSA, BPE1*

With some personal thoughts on photographic distinctions

By Editor: Following success with FIAP qualifications attained by Penrith and District CC I asked club secretary John Tillotson to share any tips on the clubs success, Is the club running any team mentoring and his personal thoughts regards his photographic journey. John advised:

Mentoring has always been available, but 'on request'. We try and inform members about once a season about distinctions, and about the help available. But successful communication depends on members receiving and understanding the information. Recent successes would probably be regarded as solo efforts.

Some of Johns personal thoughts on photographic distinctions.

My photographic journey has been plodding along since I first got a 35mm camera in my teenage years, but has become more important to me since I moved to Cumbria on retirement about 17 years ago and joined Penrith & District Camera Club.

I noticed fairly quickly that some members (and visiting judges and lecturers) had letters after their names which had a photographic connection, but initially they were completely baffling to me. Over time, and with a lot of questions from me, they became clearer.

These photographic 'letters after your name' are referred to as 'Distinctions' The 'lower levels' of these distinctions are easier to understand than the higher-level ones, so in this article I'll just talk about the lower levels.

The five main bodies which award distinctions are the Royal Photographic Society ([RPS](#)), the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain ([PAGB](#)), the Photographic Society of America ([PSA](#)), the International Federation of Photographic Art (which uses the French initials [FIAP](#)) and The British Photographic Exhibitions ([BPE](#)).

For two of these bodies (RPS and PAGB), their distinctions qualifications are more like exams – you enter a set number of images and they are considered on a set day – when your application is approved (or not).

For the RPS, the Licentiate distinction (LRPS) requires applicants to submit 10 images and a Presentation Layout. The Associate distinction (ARPS) requires applicants to submit 15 images, a written Statement of Intent and a Presentation Layout. In these, not only do the images have to be of a high standard, but they have to fit together in a certain layout – a 'Panel'. For a particular assessment, you can enter digital images or prints.

I have not attempted either of these, because I am from Yorkshire. Having paid to enter for approval for the distinction, if you are successful you need to pay the RPS subscription every year in order to keep your distinction.

For the PAGB, you need to pay to enter the assessment process, but if you are successful then you keep your distinction for life. For the distinction assessment, you need to enter a set number of individual (unconnected) images. For the Credit (CPAGB) – at the level of 'Good Club Photography' – you enter 10 images, and for the Distinction (DPAGB) – at the level of 'Open Exhibition Photography' – you enter 15 images. For a particular assessment, you can enter either all digital images or all prints.

People In Focus - John D Tillotson

Some personal thoughts on photographic distinctions cont.

If you decide to have a go for the RPS or PAGB distinctions, I would VERY STRONGLY urge you to seek as much guidance as you can beforehand. There may be someone in your club who can assist – but if not, your club will know of people nearby who can help. The problem I'm finding at the moment is that the standard of 'Open Exhibition Photography' is improving faster than my personal skill-level. My preferred medium for entering is to use prints so I can be certain that the assessors are looking at what I intend to enter – and it does not depend on the calibration of an electronic device.

For the other distinction bodies (PSA, FIAP and BPE), their distinctions are more like course-work. Once you have these distinctions, you keep them for life. You plod along at your own pace, entering your images in National (for BPE) or International (for PSA and FIAP) Exhibitions and gathering 'acceptances' if they match or exceed the 'acceptance score'. These exhibitions are listed by each 'approving body' on their website but are locally-organised. For the BPE these exhibitions are all in the UK, but for the PSA and FIAP they can be held anywhere in the world. You need to pay to enter each exhibition. The exhibitions usually have 'sections' (such as Mono, Colour, Nature, Photo-Journalism, Creative or Landscapes amongst others) and you can usually enter 4 images in each section.

For FIAP, the initial distinctions are Artist (AFIAP) and Excellence (EFIAP). For the PSA, the initial distinctions are Qualified (QPSA), Proficiency (PPSA) and Excellence (EPSA). For BPE, the initial distinctions are BPE1 and (believe it or not) BPE2.

If you decide to follow this route, I would VERY STRONGLY advise you to keep accurate and up-to-date records of your entries and successes. Seek advice from someone in your club who has successfully achieved one of these distinctions.

I would like to acknowledge the help, support and encouragement from Tony Potter, Les Ayres, Rod Whelans, Richard Speirs, Gerald Chamberlin, John Williams and Jo Knight (amongst others) in my 'PAGB' journey.

For those of you with Distinctions and photographic experience, please share your knowledge with newer club members – I have found this to be a most rewarding activity. I've learned far more than I've taught people. Sometimes those who you have nurtured and encouraged become people you later approach for photographic advice.

People In Focus - John D Tillotson

Some personal thoughts on photographic distinctions cont.

By Editor: I also asked John if any of his images have a special significance regards his photographic distinctions?



'Bog Bean' (above) was in my CPAGB set - and was my first PSA medal (a gold one)



'Salisbury Font', 'Three Samples' and 'The Cellarium' have done well in International Salons (and therefore helped EFIAP and EPSA).

People In Focus - John D Tillotson

Some personal thoughts on photographic distinctions cont.



'Crossing',

'Watching',

'Nautilus at Greenwich' and

'The Choir'



are currently helping me creep slowly from BPE1 towards BPE2.



NCPF Members Distinctions and Awards



PSA DISTINCTIONS

Nil noted



FIAP DISTINCTIONS

Nil noted



PAGB DISTINCTIONS and AWARDS

Phillip Dove LRPS, CPAGB of Saltburn PS.



NCPF DISTINCTIONS and AWARDS

Nil Noted

Are you interested in gaining a Photographic Distinction?

NCPF PAGB Merit Awards Officer Gerald Chamberlin is seeking to improve learning and assist “take up” in our Region for all photographic award types.

Gerald advises: The last merit awards assessment day was held November 2022 in Northern Ireland. Five members from NCPF clubs were entered for their awards, 4 for CPAGB, 3 in PDI's and one in prints and 1 for DPAGB in prints. Unfortunately only one person gained there CPAGB award this was in prints.

- **Congratulations go to Phillip Dove LRPS, CPAGB of Saltburn PS.**

The next merit awards assessment weekend is in April and is been held in Kent. 2 members of the NCPF are booked in for their CPAGB award. We wish them well.

NCPF International Salon

Likely Demise

Jane Black (Hon Life Vice President) ran our Northern Counties International Salon for 40 years, adding to the kudos of NCPF, adding funds to the coffers and opening up opportunities for multiple photographers to enter our home grown Salon meeting judges from UK and abroad and having them speak to local clubs during their time with us.

Following Janes retirement the team were left in a bit of a conundrum, so much essential information was not readily available having evolved with Jane over the years. Decision was to let the Salon rest for a year, while team re-wrote documentation conducted reviews of available software, viewed the benefits of judges qualifications each type showing quality credentials to the potential sponsoring organisations of FIAP, PSA and PAGB.

Dates were arranged, accommodation sought and confirmation for room and equipment hire made with the ever helpful Tynemouth Photographic Society. The small and inexperienced team met and agreed to go ahead. Dave Coates provided useful guidance and it looked like we were starting to roll towards a 41st Salon.

Then disaster: Our Chairman (and only experienced person on software database), became very ill requiring surgery. What to do next: Promises had been made, judges booked, monies had been spent. Stick or Twist?

Twist

NCPF President Jim Welsh was approached with request to act as Chairman, his good name and reputation adding that essential ingredient of trust. Meanwhile the team progressed, but by now time was ticking. Alan Wilson (as secretary to the Salon) became focal point and with a lot of study I.T. software Guru. Alan was incredibly well supported by a small team who made up lack of experience with absolute enthusiasm and effort.

Joseph Duffy had some experience and linked up with Lynda Golightly regards judges and all things domestic. Joe Finlay had some experience and became overall advisor and with permission and help from Treasurer Peter Yearnshire dealt with local funds. David Brown had some experience with Salon and Medals and with Joe helped overview proceedings.

A new Website was required: Drafted by AW with I.T. creation by Gerben van Dijk of Whickham PC.

A new PayPal was required Done. Advertising was required and with no previous lists to fall back on the art of cold calling worldwide photographers commenced. Great help was provided through adverts in the PAGB Directory as well as through the Scottish, Welsh and Irish Federations.

To obtain FIAP, PSA and PAGB approval a great number of forms must be completed with no margins for error plus a significant amount of fee's paid. Guidance from FIAP/UK Liaison Officer Howard Tate led the way for FIAP PSA and PAGB for those all important contest approval numbers, without which entries would be minimal.



2022/309



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2022-303

NCPF International Salon

Likely Demise

Meanwhile the clock ticked, leaving us little time for that essential advertising. Once live, entries came flooding in followed by another Disaster.

The new PayPal account had laid dormant for a month then was inundated by people wanting to pay their fee's. A curt message from PayPal arrived advising I was suspected of money laundering with instant shut down of the account - all this on a Friday at 17:00. "For any queries Contact the Office -The Office is closed till 10:00 Monday"

We lost a good few entrants who could not gain access, but happily retained the majority after communicating with myself.

Then came the days of the Salon. Howard Wilson was great allowing access into Tynemouth rooms to set-up and test. All A-OK. Judges Des Clinton, Richard Speirs, Gordon Rae, Andrea Hargreaves and Peter Yeo all turned up at the expected times on the expected days. None showed frustration at the couple of IT glitches due to my (still learning) I.T. skills and the four judging days flew by. The team got on incredibly well with the judges with stories told and friendships made. Timing kept to plan and on completion the judges all wrote back giving extremely positive reviews of their time with us, reports being cc'd to PAGB/FIAP.

Next:

- Photocomp software was used to advise each individual entrant (successful or not) of their scores including personal dialogue.
- Share data with David Brown for slick distribution of medals and ribbons.
- Complete FIAP, PSA and GPU reports. No errors accepted as details fill database entrants claim against when citing Awards and Acceptances for their ongoing photo qualifications. All done very well and without issue in a prompt and efficient manner.

Another Minor Disaster: None (photo) connected issues took me away from completion of Digital Exhibition and Digital Catalogue. (completed and distributed January).

- Totting-Up and where we are now: Salon lost money, caused by the tight schedule and short entry window.
- Many of the NCPF Executive are ambivalent regards running further Salons. A few are vociferously opposed to running further Salons.
- Team advise remorse at not being able to progress with lessons learnt.
- Jim Welsh and Margaret are unable to support another Salon due to work commitments

Big Problem: Photocomp software will no longer be supported from end of December 2023. Other software is available and Photocomp owner has been communicating with Adrian Lines who has been making terrific e-tools for PAGB.

So: This leaves us with Likely Demise of our Salon, this will be ratified at AGM.

Unless - someone re-invigorates and sells idea of restarting Salon to the Executive Committee, acknowledging the planning process required and year round commitment. Were that person to become available they would have my backing along with support and written guidance of lessons learnt along with the small and now experienced team.

NCPF International Salon

Likely Demise—a good result for Sue White

Sending out Salon results would occasionally lead to e-mail correspondence.

One lady I really enjoyed my communication with was Sue White from Richmond Camera Club who advised *Just a very quick email to pass on my grateful thanks to the Judges and all involved in the competition. Completely thrilled with my results – first time entering a salon!*



First Time Entering a Salon!

what a fantastic achievement with the following doing well

“Carrot Stretch” was awarded a Richards Speirs Judges Medal scoring 14—Accepted



Light from the Window scored 14—Accepted



We Three Kings was awarded a PSA HC Ribbon—scoring 14 Accepted



Black Swan scored 14—Accepted

My advice to Sue—Shout it from the Rooftops at Richmond CC—well done

NCPF Club Championship

Judged Live at Clara Vale Sunday 12th February

NCPF Club Championship Competition 2023

Will be held in front of a live audience at Clara Vale Village Hall, South View, Clara Vale, Ryton NE40 3TD Sunday 12th February 2023. Doors open at 11am for Print Boxes (drop-off before 12).

Proceedings commence 12.30 with Competition beginning 12:45.

Honourable Judges:- Alan Porrett, George Ledger, John Williams

You are invited to attend.

Entry is Free inc Tea/Coffee

Participating Clubs 2023

14 Clubs have entered with Prints

Ashington CC, Consett PS, Gallery PG, Gateshead CC, Gosforth CC, Guisborough PG, Hexham PS, Morton PS, Northallerton CC, Richmond CC, Saltburn PS, South Shields PS, Tynemouth PS, Whitley Bay PS

22 Clubs have entered with PDI's

Alnwick CC, Ashington CC, Blyth PS, Castleside PS, Consett PS, Durham PS, Gallery PG, Gateshead CC, Gosforth CC, Guisborough PG, Hexham PS, Morton PS, Northallerton CC, Ponteland PS, Richmond CC, Saltburn PS, South Shields PS, Stanhope PS, Tynemouth PS, Wear Valley PC, Whickham PG, Whitley Bay PS

These clubs are vying to take over from last years clean sweep winners Northallerton Camera Club.

2022 results

Print: 1st Northallerton CC 249 points. 2nd Gosforth CC 247 3rd Durham PS 236

PDI: 1st Northallerton cc 244 points, 2nd Saltburn PS 242 3rd Gosforth CC 238

NB: Two Clubs discovered an error with their submissions. Both clubs advising the NCPF Competitions Sub-Committee Officers as soon as the issues were discovered. One Club entered both a Print and a PDI on behalf of a club member. The second club entered a PDI on behalf of a club member. Unfortunately those members had already provided work for alternative clubs. Even Federations have been caught out in the past.

Who are these Clubs?

Come along on Sunday and find out

Rules are clearly laid out within the Competitions Entry Pack with ultimate risk of dismissal from the competition. There is no doubt work was submitted in error and both clubs were thanked for their timely reports, it was agreed that the duplicate images will be removed from clubs entry but the club entry will remain the errant work replaced by 'inadmissible image' being shown. Both clubs have been advised.

NCPF Club Championship

Judged Live at Clara Vale Sunday 12th February

You are invited to attend. Entry is Free inc Tea/Coffee

We hope to see you Sunday 12th for an exciting and enjoyable Club Championship Competition.



Best Print 2022
"Impressions of Toni" by
George Hodgeson of
Durham PS



Best PDI 2022
"Love is like a butterfly"
by Alison Leddy Blyth PS

Full 2022 results on
website [here](#)

NCPF Club Championship

Will be Judged Live at Clara Vale Sunday 12th February

Below are some of Northallerton CC's 2022 Winning Entry - Prints



Autumn West Burton Falls *Dave Coates*

Victorian Man with Pipe *Eddie Bishop*

Leaps and Lines *Pauline Pentony*

Bee-Eater Take-Off *John Webster*

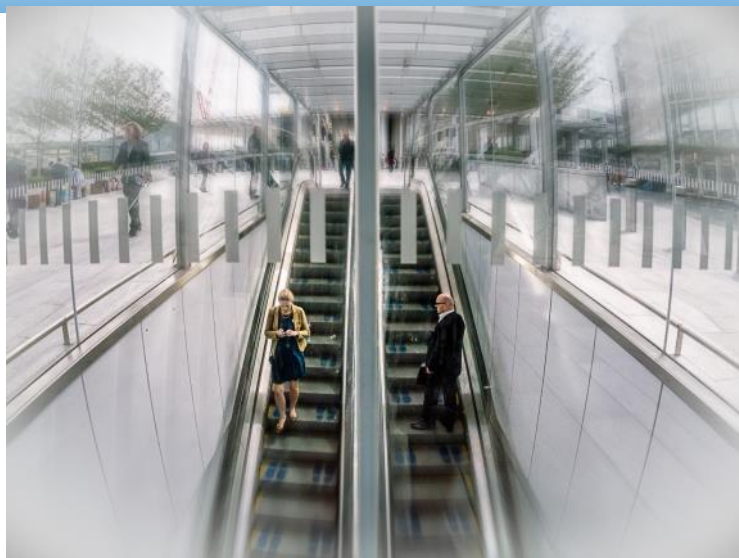
Dust Rider *Miles Langthorne*

Evening Light Malham *Sheila Coates*



NCPF Club Championship

Judged Live at Clara Vale Sunday 12th February
Some of Northallerton CC's 2022 Winning Entry - PDI's



Autumn Morning Buttermere *Sheila Coates*

Looking *Alan Graham*

Washed Up *John Webster*

Balance *Pauline Pentony*

Fence on the Beach *Eric Hall*

White Pocket Rock Waves *Dave Coates*



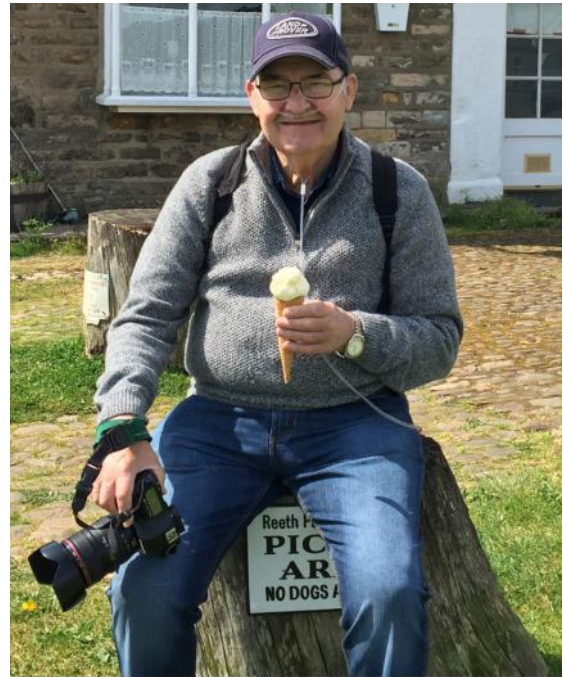
Obituary

William "Billy" Stephenson

William Stephenson

Billy, was married to his wife Maureen, and had two daughters, Sarah and Wendy. He was a Mechanical Engineering Supervisor in the Construction Industry. He had first shown interest in Photography in 1988, when he joined the Hartlepool Photographic Society. Years later, he became their President.

Billy's family loved to go walking in the Lake District and he decided to buy a camera to capture all the wonderful views that he was experiencing. He very quickly embraced entering competitions in which he excelled. He loved the opportunity to try and beat some of the other club members, who had now become his close friends. He initially captured the Landscapes in the Lakes, Scotland, and in the USA, often taken with his loving family by his side.



As time passed, he also branched out into Portrait photography attending History in Action, Wartime events and for over 20 years, until very recently, went to all of the twice-yearly Whitby Goth Weekends. Billy not only possessed the ability to capture stunning Images on his Camera, he also, through his caring character, was on first name terms with the majority of the weird & wonderful participants who descended onto the streets of Whitby.

Billy always put his heart and Soul into his Photography and always sent copies of his Images on to all the characters that graced his cameras. He was very keen on showing his Photography to others and for years, he used the photography site EPHOTOZINE to promote his Photography.

Even though in the latter months, as he's health was failing, he still managed to pursue his hobby, he uploaded his last Image to EPHOTOZINE one week before he sadly passed away. Billy was always cherished and loved by his Wife and Daughters, this was plain to see to anybody who saw the family out and about. His close circle of friends admired and respected him, not only as a Photographer, but as a great friend or acquaintance.

Obituary

William "Billy" Stephenson

William Stephenson (continued)

As well as being a member of Hartlepool P.S., Billy joined Stockton Camera Club in 2018 and although he was not a committee member he became an active club member who was happy to pass on his experience and advise to both club members and to those running the club-this was much appreciated.

where he did much more than just take the picture, he took time to get to know the people and this took his work to the next level . As well as being a very successful portrait photographer he produced some stunning landscape images. He was a great inspiration to club members .

Billy will be sadly missed by all of the people whose life he touched, by those he helped, and those who received his advice (whether they asked for it or not!).

R.I.P Billy.

You certainly made a lasting impression on those you met, including those outside of Photography. Everybody has their own story connected to you, some funny, some heart-warming, but all will admit the world will be a poorer place without your presence.

Steve Smith
Stockton Camera Club

Obituary

Ian Sharkey

Ian Sharkey

Ian very sadly passed away on the 22 July 2022 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Ian had been a member of Gateshead Camera Club on three separate occasions the first when he was a young lad and the most recent time curtailed due to COVID 19 and illness.

It was in the 1960s that Ian first joined Gateshead, at that time being very keen on monochrome photography and darkroom printing. He remained a member until leaving the area to attend University.

After Ian had graduated, courted, and married Joan he re-joined Gateshead in the late 1970s. I am extremely grateful to Ian for introducing me to photography and with his encouragement I joined the club in 1984.

Due to work commitments Ian decided very reluctantly to leave the club to concentrate on a research project involving medication for child cancer treatment (Ian was head pharmacist at the RVI Children's Cancer Unit). On completion of this project and after taking early retirement topped by my nagging him Ian re-joined Gateshead.

Ian did enter club competitions but was not a born competitor. His main love being the lectures and presentations from which he gained much enjoyment. Ian was a definitive club member especially with two fig rolls and a cup of tea at interval time.

A very interesting, educated, and true gentleman. It was always a pleasure to be in Ian's company and to listen to his views on photography in general and a specific review of the evening's proceedings.

David Hall ARPS EFIAP DPAGB BPE3*

Gateshead Camera Club



Obituary

Edwin Stanger - Eileen Heighley - Bob Winter

Edwin Stanger - Eileen Heighley - Bob Winter

It is with great sadness that Esh Winning Camera Club announces the deaths of three of its members.

30th July 2021

Edwin Stanger was a stalwart of the NALGO camera club.

As Chairman and Secretary, he was instrumental with Ken Henderson of Washington Camera Club in founding the Wear Area Battle which continues to this day.

When the NALGO club disbanded, he joined Esh Winning where he was an active participant and Competitions Secretary. He was a strong supporter of the Northern AV group.

He was ever willing to share his knowledge and skills in black and white printing, and putting together AVs, with other club members.

16th January 2022

Eileen Heighley who recently passed away was a long-time member and supporter of the club.

Together with husband Walter, who died in a tragic road accident in 2015, their combined membership of Esh Winning totalled almost 100 years. They were both enthusiastic photographers. Eileen loved to compete against Walter in club competitions, in which beating Walter was always more important than winning. A talented painter, Eileen loved to photograph gardens and flowers. This gave purpose to their travels around the UK.

03rd November 2021

No obituary that we write can express the enormous debt that Esh Winning Camera Club owes Bob Winter.

He was introduced to the club nearly 70 years ago by his friend and founding member John Hughes.

Bob, together with wife Marjorie, joined soon after its foundation and were very active members for as long as health and strength allowed. They recruited many members from their wide range of friends and acquaintances and for many years the club flourished. Bob and Marjorie Winter organised the programme and social events during that time.

For over half a century he was secretary until ill health forced his retirement in 2017. His concern for the club lasted into his last illness.

He was active in the PAGB and an ardent supporter of the NCPF where he had many friends. He was also active in other camera clubs, the Northern AV group, gramophone society and the Western Front Society. Esh Winning Camera Club and Bob Winter were synonymous.

Bob's drive and enthusiasm will be missed by his many friends.



Clubs in Focus

Northern Area Knockout Competition

NORTHERN AREA KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

The Northern Area Knockout Competition was held on Sunday 20th November 2022.

This event was hosted by Morpeth Camera Club and the three judges were Alan Porrett ARPS, DPAGB, APAGB, EFIAP, David Ord and Peter Maguire LRPS, CPAGB, EFIAP.

Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Blyth, Morpeth and Wooler took part in the competition. Cambois were unable to enter this year's event. After the first round Alnwick, Ashington, Blyth and Morpeth competed for the Trophy. The two clubs who made it to the final were Alnwick and Morpeth with Alnwick winning with 192 points to Morpeth's 188.

Amble and Wooler, who were the two lowest scoring clubs from Round 1, competed for the Plate and this was won by Amble with 173 points to Wooler's 152. One image gained the highest score of 15 points and this was entitled 'Smoke gets in your Eyes' by Karen Broom of Alnwick CC.

The competition was well attended by all of the clubs who took part and a very nice pooled tea and refreshments were supplied by the host club. Thanks to the members of Morpeth Camera Club and the three judges for an enjoyable afternoon.



'Smoke gets in your Eyes' by
Karen Broom of Alnwick CC

NORTHERN AREA PRINT COMPETITION

The Northern Area Interclub Colour & Monochrome Print Competition is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 18th January 2023. The host club will be Cambois CC.

Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
Northern Area Representative



Clubs in Focus

Western Area Battle



NCPF Western Area Report January 2023

This year's competition was hosted by Keswick PS at the end of November 2022. It was held as a face to face event for the first time after the pandemic with an excellent representation from all 8 clubs in the western area. The competition was made up of 6 prints and 6 PDI's from all 8 clubs. The judge was Dave Gibbins ARPS, APAGB, EFIAP/b, BPE5*, CPAGB/AV from Keyworth Camera Club who did an excellent job in judging the competition.

The top two images scoring 20 points both went to Anne Greiner of Dumfries CC with a print called The Girl At No 17 and a PDI called Mr Speaker.



Clubs in Focus

Western Area Battle



Mr Speaker.

The winning club was: - Dumfries CC with 214points with Keswick PS 213, Workington CC 196, Morton PS 194, Penrith PS 194, West Cumbria PG 190, Carlisle CC 181, Copeland PS 181

A big thank you goes to Keswick PS for hosting the competition. It is hoped in the very near future to hold a Western Area club meeting to plan future events and competitions.

Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP
NCPF Western Area Rep



Clubs in Focus

South Tyne Print Competition

South Tyne Area Clubs:

Gateshead CC, Hexham and Dist PS, Ryton and Dist CC, South Shields PS, Whickham PC, Winlaton CC

SOUTH TYNE INTERCLUB PRINT COMPETITION November 2022

This year South Tyne area print competition was hosted by South Shields PS at St Bedes RC church hall
The judge for this competition was Ivor Robinson of Hartlepool.

All six clubs entered the competition which ended in a nail biting end with the last prints "Crowdless" by Geoff Bell of Ryton CC scoring top mark of 30

1st Ryton CC - 254 points 2nd Whickham PC - 253 points 3rd Hexham PS - 249 points

4th South Shields PS - 239points Joint 5th with 229 points Gateshead and Winlaton

A BIG THANKS must go to South Shields PS for all the hard work putting this year's competition together and the excellent buffet .

Next South Tyne Area Competition: Hexham and District PS host the South Tyne Area PDI Competition on February 21st, 2023.

Joseph Duffy, LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB South Tyne Area Representative

Best print Crowdless by Geoff Bell of Ryton CC





Clubs in Focus

South Tyne Print Competition—more prints from Ryton



Waiting Room - Reg Ord



Still Life With Violin And Glass Ball - Fiona Houghton



Clubs in Focus

South Tyne Print Competition—more prints from Ryton



No Game Volleyball - Paul Watson

Leaving Platform One - Geoff Bell





Beamish Trophy



1st Place
Lavender Bag Teamwork
By
Phillip Dove of Saltburn PS



2nd Place
Going to be Late Again
By
Lesley Smith of Whitley Bay PS



Beamish Trophy



3rd Place

Rich Rat by Glyn Trueman of Morpeth CC

HC Beamish Exhibition by Jim Welsh of Blyth PS





Beamish Trophy



HC Waiting for my Prince
By Leslie Smith of Whitley Bay PS

HC Down the Lane
By
George Hodgson of Durham PS



Snippets

NCPF: Executive Committee, update

Publications Officer and PAGB Representative

Pax Garabedian has stood down from his long held positions of Publications Officer and PAGB Representative due to ill health. Richards Spiers is looking after the roles on a stand-in basis.

We wish Pax all the very best.

Hon Treasurer

Peter Yearnshire advised a good while ago, this will be his final season as Hon Treasurer for NCPF.

Jill Chamberlin will be proposed to take over the Hon Treasurers role at next AGM.

Webmaster

Gerry Adcock shall stand-down at AGM after a significant period in the role of Webmaster and Competitions Officer. Web host has just been updated, Gerry will chat with anyone interested in role.

<http://www.ncpf.org.uk/>

Portfolio Secretary

Alan Wilson is standing down from this role to allow more time for President NCPF and Northern Focus Editor role. Phillip Dove will be proposed to take over the Portfolio Secretaries Role at next AGM.

Creation of an NCPF Club Support and Development Subcommittee Group (CSDG)

Acknowledging the difficulties some clubs are having post-Covid an NCPF Club Support and Development Subcommittee has been set-up Chaired by John Smith with Debra Taylor as Secretary.

The aim is to help clubs through the current financial and economically challenging times, many clubs struggling post COVID to get back to their pre-pandemic numbers with added concern about being sustainable organisations in the future. This being further affected by current inflation, with many clubs facing increased costs in hiring meeting rooms etc.

Also: As club committee members change, many new club officials are not fully aware of what the Northern Counties Photographic Federation (NCPF) can do to help members.

An initial PDF Newsletter has been sent to all NCPF Clubs Committees as initial contact including some introductions, and explanations with aims and suggestions with opportunity for feedback.

Main Headings were :

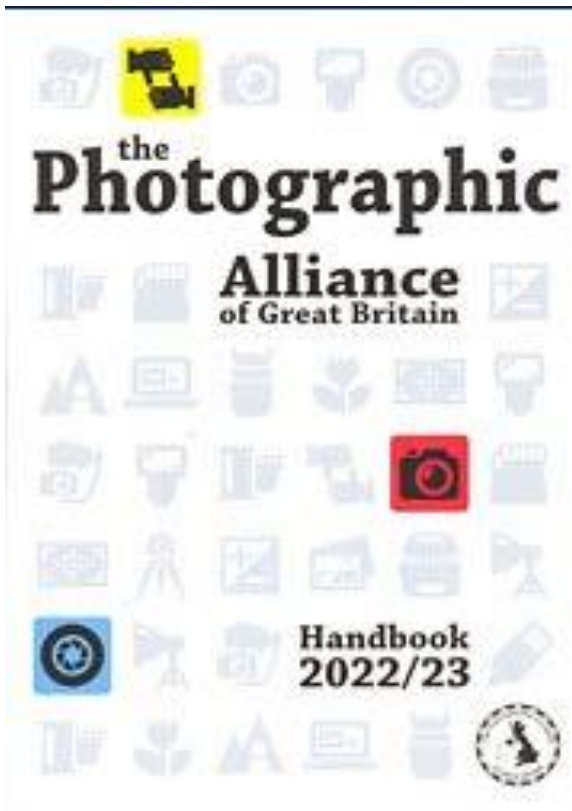
- What the NCPF can do for you!
- The Club Syllabus
- New member recruitment
- Focus on...the PAGB

CSDG Team

Gerry Adcock, Ged Chamberlin, Alan Forster, John Smith (Chair), Richard Speirs, Debra Taylor

We really hope Club Committees will join in and use this initiative to learn from others best practices, share successful methods and discover shared resources.

Snippets



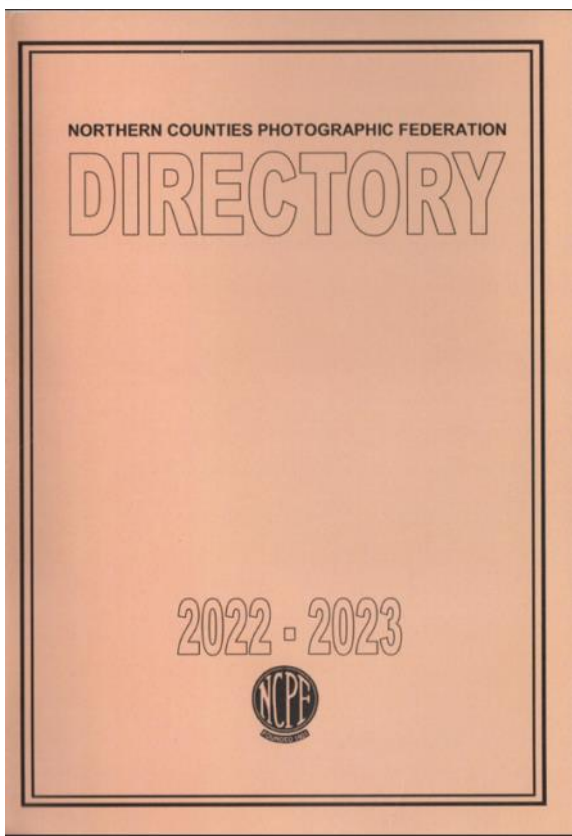
Central Entries System

PAGB CES Admin (replacing the PAGB Handbook) is now live [here](#) and is replacing the printed PAGB Handbook.

The [Compendium Resources for Clubs and Federations](#) has a host of information including guidance on the new PAGB CES System

Information about judges and lectures is now in the [CES Speakers Register](#)

for access you will require a personal CES Account details [HERE](#),



What will happen with our own Northern Counties Photographic Federation Directory?

If CES succeeds (which it is expected too), NCPF Directory will not likely be required in its current format. Committee are monitoring.

Snippets

A place where short interesting facts, anecdotes, comments and opinions can be published.

Upcoming NCPF Events:

All events at Clara Vale Village Hall, South View, Clara Vale, Ryton NE40 3TD. Tea / Coffee will be served.

Club Championship Competition - You are invited to attend

Sunday 12th February 2023 Commencing 12.30 pm

NCPF AGM—You are invited to attend via completion of club proforma, available nearer the time

Sunday 26th March 2023.

NCPF Annuals Competition:-

Saturday/Sunday 22nd /23rd. April 2023:- Closed door event but volunteers to assist always welcome. More details nearer the time.

The following NCPF Created Presentations (some with Audio voice-over*) have been sent to all NCPF Clubs. Each would make an excellent evenings entertainment as AV, or used in evaluation and critique evenings^.

- 2022 Annuals Presentation Day - 284 slides featuring images from Annuals Competition^.
- 2022 Annuals AV presentation including Selectors Choice with voice-over. Prints*
- 2022 Annuals AV presentation including Selectors Choice with voice-over. PDI
- 2022 41st Northern Counties International Salon - Exhibition with voice over*
- 2022 41st Northern Counties International Salon - Catalogue as presentation^

If you are missing your copy, please advise to alanwilson445@msn.com for replacement.

The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) Has a new Northern Regional Organiser: Mark Haworth.

Mark has recently been appointed and has been reaching out to RPS members requesting their views and any offer of help in running events for the region. Contact has been made between NCPF and RPS of which I am sure we share many members, with offer of help advertising each others events.

Mark's RPS email: northern@rps.org

NCPF Judges

Recruitment and Refresher Day

JUDGES RECRUITMENT AND REFRESHER DAY

SUNDAY 2ND APRIL 2023

**TO BE HELD AT CLARA VALE VILLAGE HALL
(WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE)**

OBJECTIVE: To give those people currently involved with NCPF club judging the opportunity to refresh their skills and to invite members not currently judges to understand and assess if this could be for them.

AUDIENCE: Any member of an NCPF Club who is currently on the Judges list or is a club Competition Secretary and any member interested in becoming a judge.

TIME: Start at 10:00 and aim to finish at 15:30
Refreshments and midday buffet will be provided

COST: Free of charge

NEXT STEP: **Please contact Stephen Fowler straight away at stephen.fowler@hotmail.com to express your interest in participating.** Please state your name, Club, any current role (Judge/Competition Secretary) and any special dietary requirements.



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Beamish

Photography Weekend May 2023



Photography Weekend 2023

The NCPF in partnership with Beamish Museum and following on from the success of our previous Beamish Photography Weekend are proud to announce our 11th joint venture which is to take place over the weekend of

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st May 2023

This event will coincide with the proposed opening of the new part of the 1950s town affording us some excellent photographic opportunities.

Once again there will be the opportunity for **ALL NCPF Club Members** to enter prints into the selling exhibition.

(PRINTS MAY BE OF ANY SUBJECT)

(25% commission will be payable to Beamish on all work sold)

DON'T FORGET you will also have the opportunity to enter the **Beamish Trophy Competition in November 2023** with any images taken between **31st August 2022 and 31st August 2023** as well as images taken over the **Beamish Weekend**

Plan your club visit now

Entry to the museum is only £19.50 (seniors £14.50) and gives access as many times as you wish for a period of one year concessions are available see beamish.org.uk

Northern Focus

Winter 2022/23

Reminder: What's On: All meetings held at Clara Vale Village Hall, South View, Clara Vale, Ryton NE40 3S

Club Championship Competition

Sunday 12th February 2023 Commencing 12.30 pm

We hope to see you Sunday 12th for an exciting and enjoyable Club Championship Competition.

NCPF AGM

Sunday 26th March 2023: Booking details nearer the time

NCPF Annuals Competition:-

Saturday/Sunday 22nd /23rd. April 2023 - No audience admission, but "helpers" always welcome. Submission details nearer the time.

And that's all for this issue - except to say -

Thank you everyone who has contributed.
Next Northern Focus issue is planned for April 2023.
Feel free to send Adverts for club events.

Wanted, Wanted, Wanted

Information, anecdotes, club updates, personal success stories, tributes, club events, photographs, learnings any and everything in-between to share across our region. Please send to Alan Wilson at northern.focus@ncpf.org.uk or Mobile 07814333844

Reminder—webmaster, publications officer, representative to PAGB and other vacancies exist or will soon become vacant—would you like an opportunity to learn and influence?

NCPF

The Northern Counties Photographic Federation serves Cleveland, the greater part of Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, part of North Yorkshire and part of Scotland.

We hope you have enjoyed this, the 94th edition of Northern Focus
Thank you for reading and feel free to pass on to like minded photographers

NEWS OF THE NORTH

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

EDITOR - STAN BEWICK

FIRST EDITION

September, 1972.

I am delighted to have the opportunity of addressing you, in the inaugural issue of your news-sheet. I would like to repeat your news-sheet. It is not meant to be a vehicle for the dissemination of Executive deliberations. Your editor will explain ways and means of getting items of news to him. It is hoped that he will be snowed under with all your happenings. We will all be interested to hear that your secretary has married the treasurer, or has been presented with twins. We all want to know that Sum Wan has left his seat in the corner of the room, and is now living in another place. These people are known and remembered far beyond the confines of your own society. In the same way we want to know what is happening in your club, because we may wish to use your ideas in our own.

I would therefore appeal to you to let Stan Bewick know about everything that happens. Let him decide which items to publish, that is the job we pay him such an enormous salary to do. Joking aside, Stan is very enthusiastic about this venture, please help him to make it the success his enthusiasm deserves.

With my very best wishes, and greetings to you all.

Tom Fearn

(1)

EDITORIAL.

The Northern Counties was one of the few Federations without a Newsletter and the Executive have decided to rectify this position. For the Editor they have chosen one with very limited experience in this field - "reporter and delivery boy" for a local club newsletter - rapid promotion!

The aim of any newsletter is to inform and this cannot be achieved unless information is supplied. I would therefore appeal to all club secretaries to advise me, either directly or thro' the Federation secretary, of any event which may be of interest to members of other societies. Many clubs hold public events such as Exhibitions at the beginning or end of their winter programmes, and for this reason we hope to publish a Newsletter each March and September. Copies will be sent to clubs on the basis of one copy for every ten members, and it is hoped that secretaries will distribute them as widely as possible.

CONVENTION 1972.

Clubs have recently received a bumper bundle of information on this subject and there is not much more to add. Joe Woodruff and Tom Fearn have put a lot of work into the arrangements and have visited the hotel several times. Alterations have been carried out at the hotel since last years Convention, improving both public rooms and bedrooms. There is also an enlarged car park. A few places are still available and anyone who wishes to attend and has not yet booked should contact Joe Woodruff as soon as possible, at 3, Arthur Street, Carlisle.

This is always an enjoyable event in the Federations calender and for many, it makes a welcome break prior to winter. For the benefit of any member who does not know the details, the Convention will be held at the Hydro, Bowness on Windermere on October, 27th to 29th. The cost is £8.25 for the full week-end and £5.75 for those arriving after lunch on the Saturday.

(2)

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT.

Last November Tom Fearn was elected to the highest office of the Federation. He was perhaps, not quite so well known as some of his predecessors - a situation he is being quick to remedy. Despite living 50 miles or more from most of the Federated Societies, he regularly attends their functions. It is believed that Tom is the youngest President in the history of the Federation and also the first from the Carlisle Area. Like all good Presidents he shows a keen personal interest in all the activities of the Federation.

COURSE OF ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY.

The first course was held at Beamish Hall in May. It proved so successful that the Executive have decided to hold another course next year. It will again be held at Beamish Hall on the week-end June 1st to 3rd 1973.

The same team, with Harry Holder as captain, has been re-elected to make the arrangements. No further details are yet available except that the theme will again be "Creative Photography".

Some members who did not attend may wish to know more about this years course. The Hall stands in lovely grounds and had the weather been better, plenty of film would have been used. The accommodation and meals were very good - probably up to the standard of a two or three star hotel. The atmosphere was such that even on the very first evening everyone felt to be part of the course and contributed to it to the full. It was interesting and informative and was quite an experience. No one who is in an Advanced Section of club photography would feel out of place on such a course.

(3)

AREA MATTERS.

NORTHERN AREA.

Morpeth Y.M.C.A. C.C.

Sunday, October 1st 7.30 p.m. Annual visit of Stockton 3D Society.

February 23rd & 25th. Club's Annual Colour Show.

Blyth P.S.

October 2nd-7th. Annual Exhibition with projections at 7.30 p.m. Cine on Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Slides on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

NORTH TYNE AREA.

Whitley Bay P.S.

Tuesday, October 3rd "A Visual Concert" by Sir George Pollock Bt. MA FRPS FRSA supported by Allen G. Potts. At Priory Theatre, Whitley Bay at 7.45 p.m. - Admission 25p tickets available at doocr.

Tynemouth P.S.

September 23rd-30th - "Colour Week" - A different slide lecture each evening at 8.0 p.m.

January 15th/16th. I.A.C. International Award Winning Cine Films.

Newcastle P.S.

February 12th/13th/14th - Newcastle P.S. Entertains - A series of public lectures in Durant Minor Hall.

(4)

SOUTH TYNE AREA.

Hexham & District P.S.

March 6th. Club's Annual Public Slide Show.

South Shields P.S.

International Exhibition each July. In England this is the only International Exhibition which is north of Manchester. It was disappointing to see only two acceptances from within this Federation at this years show.

SOUTHERN AREA.

Teesside P.S.

September 23rd - October 14th. Annual Exhibition in Middlesbrough Art Gallery.

WEAR AREA.

Area Exhibition of 120 prints and 80 slides with taped commentary. Eleven Societies in the area are represented.

September 30th - October 29th to be held at Sunderland Art Gallery (to be opened by David Dougan of Northern Arts). Slides to be shown October 5th.

November 6th -26th to be held at D.L.I. Museum, Durham (to be opened by Tom Fearn). Slides to be shown November 6th.

WESTERN AREA.

Penrith & District P.S.

October 6th Friday. Japan, Cambodia and Thailand, by Miss Suzanne Hill (who gave a wonderful lecture at the Convention 2 years ago) and Alfred Gregory (of Everest fame) at Ullswater Centre at 8.0 p.m. Admission 30p.

(5)

ALLIANCE COLOUR SLIDE COMPETITION.

This competition has been held for two years now. On the first occasion we fared badly but last year did better and came third. This year we have the honour to organise the event. The judging will take place on Saturday November 18th 1972 and the winning slides will be shown at the Shipley Art Gallery that evening at 7.30 p.m. The judges are Tom Bates ARPS APSA AFIAP FRSA, W. McCance AFIAP of Paisley and Don Morrison ARPS. On the two previous occasions the Competition has been won by the host Federation - lets see if we can keep up that record. Clubs will shortly be receiving entry forms from Kathleen Brown and it is hoped that they will send a good entry to the Selection Committee. In particular, it is hoped that members will submit slides that have been accepted for the Federation Portfolio. Members need not fear long retention of selected slides - they are circulated around the Federations and returned to owners very quickly.

SOCIAL EVENING.

This new event in the Federations calender was enjoyed so much on the two previous occasions that it is being held again on Friday March 23rd 1973. As before it will be held in the Refectory at Newcastle University. In the past an excellent meal has been served in the Norwegian "Cold Table" style which is ideal for slimmers and non slimmers alike! To make it a photographic occasion, collections of prints and slides are on show. Further details will be available later, but this is excellent value at the provisional cost of £1.20.

To Club Secretaries. The Photographic Alliance issues a series of helpful leaflets on the running of Photographic Societies. If you have recently taken office you may be interested in this service. Please see page 104 of the Alliance Handbook and apply to the Federation Secretary who has a supply of the leaflets. If any secretaries have not yet sent two copies of their Club Syllabus to the Federation Secretary, it would be appreciated if they would do so. This is one of the methods by which the Federation Officers keep up to date with Club information.

To Programme Secretaries. We are pleased to welcome onto the lecture list this year, the several members of Stockton Photo Colour Society and Saltburn Photographic Society.

Changes since the publication of the 1972 Handbook are as follows:-

1. Mr. R. P. Rennie - additional lecture "Of Many Things"
2. Mr. J. S. Pepperell - new address - HOWE GARTH, KELD HEAD, STAINTON, PENRITH. CA11 0EJ.
3. Judges List - Most members will probably know that Mr. J. Oliver passed away in May.

HALF PLATE POSTAL CLUB...are looking for new members. If any one is interested, they should contact the Secretary - Denis Wright, 18, Long Meadows, Mellor Brook, Blackburn, Lancs. BB2 7NX.

RADIO SERIES. The BBC are to run a series of six programmes on photography starting in December. This will be on BBC 3 (Steam Radio).

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY, CALCUTTA are holding an International Salon of Students Photography, and invite entries from Student members. The Federation Secretary has the entry forms if required.

SOMETHING FOR YOU.

THE EXECUTIVE WANT SUGGESTIONS FOR A NAME FOR THIS NEWSLETTER. THEY HAVE DECIDED TO HOLD A COMPETITION, AND A FILM HAS BEEN PROMISED AS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST SUGGESTION. THE WINNING NAME AND THE RUNNERS UP WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH NEWSLETTER. Please send your entries to Stan Bewick, 10, Hartington Road, North Shields.....closing date 31.12.72.

Changes in Club Officials.

BURNOPFIELD C.C.

Secretary, D. Wade, 12, Willow View, Burnopfield,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 6QB.

SUNDERLAND P.A.

Place of meeting. Post Graduate Medical Centre,
Sunderland General Hospital.
Secretary. B. Rimmington, 24, Talbot Road, Roker,
Sunderland. SR6 9PT. Tel. 77449.

We now come to the end of this first newsletter. If anyone has any criticisms or suggestions for improvement please let us know. It is, after all your Federation and your Newsletter and we wish to include the items you want to know about. May we wish all clubs a successful Winter session and finally, with the Competition season approaching crib a recent quote from a calender "To the beginner belongs the merit even though the successor surpass him".

(8)