

Northern Focus



**THE MAGAZINE OF
NORTHERN COUNTIES
PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION**
(www.ncpf.org.uk)

Spring 2017

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NORTHERN FOCUS

Official magazine of Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

Serving the North of England.

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Editor: John Smith APAGB, EFIAP, PPSA

Editorial Assistant: Ian Britton AFIAP PPSA

Email: northern.focus@ncpf.org.uk

Cover image: Tanfield Railway — “Out of the Shed”
by Barrie Forbes

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official view of the Federation.

The magazine is available at www.ncpf.org.uk

N.C.P.F. Hon. Secretary
Margaret Welsh

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President's Piece

Well that's the first half of my presidency "Done and Dusted" and, as far as I am aware, I remain unscathed.

The two Rogues Gallery snaps record a couple of the highlights in my first year in office—the presentation of Meritorious Service Awards to Jane Black and Ken Henderson for their unflinching service over many years to the Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

Leaving Dunston Camera Club in the late 1960's Ken set up Washington Camera Club in 1968 since when both Ken and Washington CC have been staunch supporters of the NCPF and its activities. Nowhere in the Federation are visitors made more welcome and Ken Henderson fully deserves his place on the Northern Counties Photographic Federation's Roll of Honour.



Jane H Black's unstinting contribution to the Northern Counties Photographic Federation spanning over 50 years is legendary and her new title of Honorary Life Vice President suits her admirably. A former President of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain Jane's name is synonymous with the

Northern Counties International Salon of Photography and its success over 38 years

Congratulations to them both.

Alan McCormick ARPS

Greetings and welcome once again to this winter/spring edition of the Northern Focus. I first apologise for the delay but find myself admitting that this has been a bit of a frustrating time since the last issue. Getting clubs, societies and individuals to contribute to this edition has been difficult. I am glad to say however, that contributions have come in and I wish to thank those who participated. Time flies when it comes to putting the Northern Focus together.



I do hope that all is well with clubs and societies and would ask if, from this time forward, you would send me articles concerning yourselves so that members can enjoy reading about you, what is happening and what you get up to in Photography. This helps to stimulate others, and hopefully, write in with their experiences and achievements. It is good to hear from you, and the Northern Focus is a good platform to let others in the Federation read about what is actually happening.

As the magazine of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation it is up to you to promote it as much as possible and get people interested. Photography is our hobby and we have so much to give to one another, as well as to new members. We need stimulation and by putting "pen to paper", and adding some wonderful images that you have, we can send out the right messages to others and enthuse them.

It has been a privilege to receive your articles as well as the feedback about the Northern Focus, which in turn helps me to try and improve things. Again, thanks to all those who have helped and I am looking forward to hearing from you. Keep pressing the button and hope to see some stunning images.

John Smith, Editor.

What Every Camera Club Wants

Members..... Members who are so enthusiastic, they'll expound and expand, excite and extricate!

At Gosforth Camera Club we can't believe our luck in the range of talent and abilities of members.

Our younger members who are more than able to climb and clamber, brave the elements, grovel on the ground (because they can get back up!!) to our older members who have a wealth of knowledge which they are more than happy to impart and advise. Members who have found some time, whose children have trodden their own path, and now it's time to take up a hobby. Members who see the world and want to capture the moment, members now retired, who in the past were photographers and have the drive to pick up a camera once again. It's a wonderful mix.

A 'Birder' who spent 6 hours waiting patiently for that little bird to pop out of the nest and be in just the right place to get a flight shot with an uncluttered background, a member who decided to teach herself her camera and spent 6 1/2 hours changing every button and dial on the camera to get hundreds of pictures from every angle possible of a statue in South Shields!! A member who through ill health cannot get out and about as much but still has that need to photograph and produce the most beautiful still life and flowers in their home. Those members who find taking a camping chair and waiting for squirrels to come to them, a great boon. A member who makes all the headwear, enhances charity shop ball gowns, makes huge props in the front room, does reccy's round stately homes, directs the shoot (calling on other willing camera club members to rearrange fallen leaves, start the fog machine, push extra water down a small waterfall):-

Camera... lights... action.... take 137!!

Members who explore the creative side of Photoshop, generating composite images from several other photos. This is what makes a club so interesting, with a philosophy of 'have fun' when out and about with our cameras, then even more fun creating/ developing the images produced.

Committee members who never hold back when a job needs doing, what a team! I suppose that's what all this is, it's not just members, we're a team of players, working towards a goal, that of inspiring, of competing yet congratulating, of constantly looking forward - looking forward to the expedition with the camera - looking forward to the visions on the computer - looking forward to the meetings of like-minded people and sharing, always sharing:- ideas, kit, opinions, encouragement, support, images – wonderful!

I suppose the old adage 'Photography is a journey not a destination' holds good for us.

Best of all:- Life is like a camera. You focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negative and if things don't work out, take another shot.

Lesley Hughes
Gosforth CC



This picture is entitled "Story on the Stairs" by N. C. Lindsay of the Newcastle Photographic Society.

If anyone knows anything about Norman Lindsay would they kindly contact us.



This picture is entitled 'Ladies First' and is by Doug R. Morris of South Shields Photographic Society and was a Past Secretary of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

We do have quite a lot of detail on Doug Morris.

NCPF Members Distinctions

DISTINCTIONS GAINED

PSA DISTINCTIONS



<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?home>

- PPSA - Keith Snell - Keswick Photographic Society
- PPSA - John Smith - Gateshead Camera Club
- EPSA - Pax Garabedian - Carlisle Camera Club

FIAP DISTINCTIONS



<https://www.fiap.net/>

- EFIAP - John Smith - Gateshead Camera Club

PAGB DISTINCTIONS



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

- APAGB - Jim Welsh - Blyth Photographic Society
- APAGB - Alan Spoor - Ryton & District Camera Club
- APAGB - David Bolam - Morpeth Camera Club
- CPAGB - Tim Booth - Carlisle Camera Club
- DPAGB PDI - Pauline Pentony - Northallerton Camera Club
- MPAGB - Neil Maughan - Durham Photographic Society

NCPF DISTINCTIONS



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

- HON. LIFE VICE PRESIDENT Jane H Black – Sunderland PA & Tynemouth PS
- ROLL OF HONOUR - Ken Henderson – Washington CC

Congratulations to all

Well deserved PAGB Distinction for Jim Welsh



Jim Welsh LRPS CPAGB APAGB was presented with his APAGB Certificate and Badge at the Northern Counties' Annual Presentation day held on Sunday 27th November 2016 at Clara Vale Community Centre, near Ryton.

The presentation was made by Alan McCormick ARPS, President of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation. Jim has served on the Federation Executive Committee since 2000 and has been an active member of the Blyth Camera Club for over thirty years serving as President and Competition Secretary. There is much more to Jim than meets the eye and has a great enthusiasm for judging and any activity he partakes in. As quoted, the length and enthusiasm of the applause which followed his citation and presentation made this a popular announcement and one that is much deserved.

PSA NEWSLETTER CONTEST 2016



The last issue of the Northern Focus was entered into the PSA Newsletter Contest. When I checked up on this I found that we were up against some strong competition from the PSA, but you never get anywhere unless you try. All told it was worth it and from the feedback received we did pretty well and received some favourable and helpful comments from the judges.

Overall the issue received two special awards within the contest and they were for **the "Most Motivational"** issue, which by the way was a tie with another newsletter, and for the **"Best Opinion Article"**, which again was a three way tie. The article receiving this award was **"Camera Club's 'What's the Future'"** written by Gerry Adcock ARPS. Gerry received a certificate of merit for his contribution. Congratulations to Gerry. Looking through the comments from the judges we did well in many aspects and for those areas we fell down slightly the comments made give an insight on what was looked for in a newsletter. Hopefully we can put these into practice. Overall the appearance and presentation of the newsletter, the mechanics of it, the content, an overall rating of the edition scored well gaining 92 out of a possible 103 points which you can see leaves a little room for improvement.

The comments made were as follows: -

The cove image was quite attractive and made me want to look further.

There were several items which were especially well done.

Notably the News section seemed to represent a number of groups. Some of the reports would benefit from an image or two to break up the text.

The Celebrity Profile and Techniques were well written and interesting as with the Club Spotlight.

The Feature article "Camera Club's 'What's the Future'" was very good.

I did not see a listing of the clubs represented or Federation Officers nor did I see a meeting schedule.

As you can see from the comments made, it was an overall good outcome with some pleasing comments and constructive assistance to tackle for the next issue.

Thanks to the Photographic Society of America for their time and effort in this contest and a tremendous thank you to all who contributed from the Northern Counties Photographic Federation.



EXHIBITION SUCCESS

Durham photographers triumph with Inspiring North East personalities exhibition

Life has never been busier or more interesting at Durham Photographic Society.

With a membership of around 100 (we ended last year with 113 and 92 have already paid subs so far this year) and an active programme not just on the regular Thursday evenings but on many other dates as well.

And we recently staged two successful print exhibitions - running at the same time in Co. Durham.

The first was an exhibition of 62 A3-size prints at Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon, celebrating the North East's unique role in the development of steam power on the railways. It ran for six weeks throughout January until February 14. During this period more than 9,500 people visited the museum. National Railway Museum events officer Pam Porter told us later the show received many positive comments.

The second was a smaller exhibition documenting the skills of traditional North East craftsmen and women at the delightful Witham Gallery in Barnard Castle. This ran for two weeks during January.

This was the third part of a project we named ***Portraits from the North East*** which began in 2014

It all began with an idea from the fertile mind of Durham Photographic Society member John Cogan ARPS to photograph 100 of the North East's influential people. John and fellow DPS

members spent around a year photographing and interviewing the chosen selection of people from the worlds of politics, regional administration, arts, sport, business and science to build up the portfolio of prints.

The subjects included international athletics star and TV sports presenter Steve Cram, Sunderland born broadcast journalist Kate Adie, local and national political figures, and police and fire chiefs in Co. Durham, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland.

Multiple gold medal winning paraplegic games super star Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, a member of the House of Lords, represented both sport and politics in the exhibition.



**Sunderland lass, BBC
Journalist and presenter Kate
Adie
By
Tony Griffiths**



**Duchess of Northumberland, Bishop
Martin Wharton and Northumberland
Fire Chief Alan Bennett
by
Tony Griffiths**

The arts scene was richly represented by world-renowned opera singer and chancellor of Durham University Seaham-born, Sir Thomas Allen, Northumberland folk singer and composer Katherine Tickell and Co Durham based children's author and former Children's Laureate Anne Fine who wrote Madame Doubtfire, the book which inspired the hit movie Mrs Doubtfire.

John tagged his subjects the region's 'movers and shakers' and the resulting exhibition went on to critical acclaim as it showed first at Alnwick Castle in May 2015 after winning support from one of its subjects, the Duchess of Northumberland. It then toured to Newcastle's St Nicholas Cathedral, Sunderland's Art Museum and Winter Gardens, Blyth Arts and Leisure centre and Co. Durham's Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle.



**Spanish born British war hero
Cristobel Campos, of Boldon,
aged 96
By
Davis Trout LRPS**

The team then moved to stage two of PftNE, portraits featuring veterans from World War 11 and then, in 2016 launched a third exhibition project, people involved in traditional North Country crafts. All three enterprises have produced superb sets of prints by a large number of DPS members which have been displayed

at a variety of North East venues in the past couple of years.



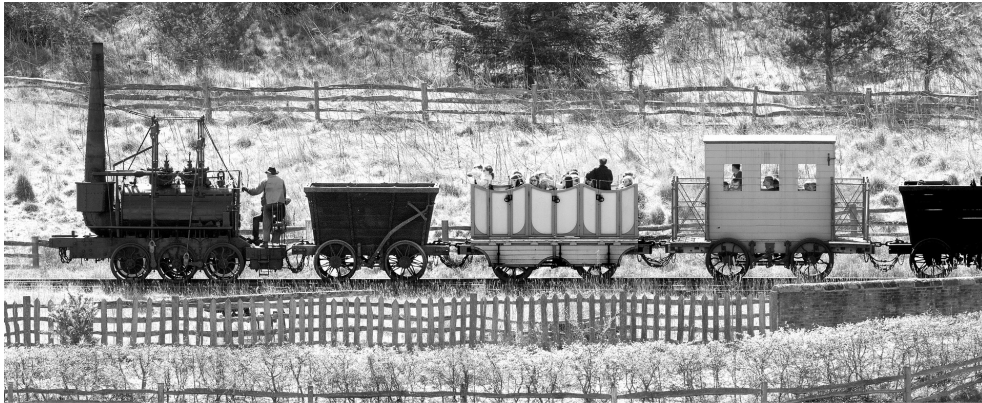
**Double Heading at Bowes
Railway
by
Michael Watson**

More venues for further print shows are in the pipeline in the coming months. Durham Photographic Society was formed just after World War 11 but had its roots in the Durham City Camera Club which was launched in the 1890s The camera club faded during the two world wars until its revival as Durham Photographic Society.

**Tanfield Railway -
Out of the Shed
by
Barrie Forbes**



Its thriving membership can now enjoy Thursday night meetings throughout the year, except over Christmas and New Year. Many other camera clubs suspend business during the summer months.



Beamish Georgian Railway
by
David Trout LRPS

There are monthly Saturday photo assignments to locations throughout the North East followed by a Tuesday night review of the prints.

We have monthly digital tuition groups, a lively website with almost daily updates and a wide range of members' photo galleries which are now updated annually.

David Trout LRPS

Northern Audio Visual Group (Affiliated to the NCPF) Snods Edge

As photography enthusiasts we follow different routes to the enjoyment of our hobby. Some are keen wildlife photographers, some enjoy portraiture and others landscape, then there are the audio visual enthusiasts who can fit into any of the above categories but choose to display their images accompanied by music, voice overs and sound effects. These extra dimensions require additional skills and expertise which are not normally catered for in a regular Photographic Society. These enthusiasts usually gravitate towards the Northern Audio Visual Group.

Although the NAV Group have only been associated with the NCPF for the past two years, we have been attracting Audio Visual enthusiasts in the northern area for nigh-on 35 years.

Following an enthusiastic meeting at a Yorkshire slide/tape day in the early 1980s, Ken Biggs and Eric Bower set up a new meeting in the Moot Hall in Hexham under the auspices of the RPS Northern Area. Fifty enthusiasts signed-up for the event with Tony and Marjorie Furmston the Group's first speakers. The organisers soon found that the Moot Hall had difficult access and was not always available so they moved to the Wentworth Sport Centre in Hexham but the conflict between serious AVs and raucous children's parties separated only by canvas screens, soon made it necessary to look for a more suitable venue.

Eric was a member of St John's Church and their Church Hall in the tiny hamlet of Snods Edge near Shotley Bridge, was an ideal venue. Set in a quiet country location, (there's only a church and three houses in the hamlet), with plenty of parking, good access and situated mid-way between the 'catchment areas'. The RPS AV group settled in and established a base which has served them well during the past 30 years. Who can argue with a

location bearing the name Snods Edge? Apparently it means snow edge and was traditionally the snow-line on the high moors.

The only problem now was, being a former school, the church hall has big windows letting in that enemy of early slide/tape presentations - bright light. The problem was soon solved by Stuart Edgar and the Carlisle contingent who, right from the start, have kept us all in the dark by almost acrobatic placement of temporary plastic sheets. Some say that the highlight of Snods Edge is the lunch provided by the ladies of the parish Daphne, Shirley and Beverley. Well this is closely followed by the teas and coffees which are traditionally provided by the wives of our members. This has, over the years, built up a lovely family atmosphere.

In the early days, slide/tape presentations as they were known, involved many different types and style of equipment. From the sometimes ludicrous homemade devices to Sir George Pollock's very popular 'Purlock Duo-Fade'. These were sometimes accompanied by massive 4-track tape recorders and often valve operated amplifiers with huge speakers and several different makes of slide projectors. Many a time members insisted that only their own equipment was suitable. Sometimes the back of the hall looked like a cross between mission control and a Heath Robinson installation as Philip Nixon, the group's designated 'projectionist', tried to maintain a semblance of order with, every so often, great humour (or frustration, depending upon which side of the projector you were on).

Soon, electronic dissolve equipment developed to become the preferred slide changing device and the audio equipment became smaller. Sometimes this reduced the laughter but increased the frustration.

At the beginning of the new millennium, computers and dedicated software started controlling the presentations; a flatter playing field was evolving. Initially software problems dominated. Many of our talks were on Photoshop and as we became familiar with this, the tips and tricks we learned were used to improve our pictures and sequences. Many discussions revolved around which digital projector was best and the technicalities of laptop verses PC as well as the mysteries of graphic cards. Jim McCormick was the sage of equipment while Peter Appleton helped guide us through the minefield that was AV software. This type of discussion has not totally gone away, now it is Pictures to EXE verses Pro Show and Photoshop verses Lightroom.

A few years ago, some of our members felt that the RPS had become too distant from the group; it was decided by popular



vote that we could control our destiny best by unhooking from the RPS and linking up with the NCPF. At the time, Geoffrey Darling was our Chairman, Chris Bate our Treasurer and Howard Wilson our Secretary and they niftily steered us through the procedure without any pain or suffering and importantly, without losing friends.

We have two meetings each year and have adopted the philosophy of inviting one of our own members to talk at one session, (because we are a specialist group, we have some extremely knowledgeable members) whilst gaining knowledge from the wider AV community by inviting a speaker from outside our area for the other meeting.

We continue to set-aside part of our meetings for the projection of member's AVs and invite comments from experts in the AV fraternity so that we can all learn and advance our interest. The equipment challenge seems to have settled down with the NAVGroup having bought its own extremely high quality apparatus so that members and speakers alike can now, with confidence, bring their programmes on a pen drive and know that the quality of the audio and visuals are as good as they originally made them. We still attract about 45 members to each meeting but like most groups, we seem to have difficulty persuading members to volunteer for committee duties.

Our meetings are in March and October at Snods Edge which is beautiful in the spring and autumn. The lunches are true Women's Institute country food, and the atmosphere is friendly and convivial. Not everyone brings sequences for projection and comments but if you do, we insist that our adjudicators are helpful and informative. Our speakers are experts in the field and no matter what your knowledge of AVs, you are bound to learn something. Look out and listen for announcements at the



photographic clubs where fliers are sent prior to every meeting. Otherwise, if you contact our secretary he will be happy to add you to our circulation list: -

Secretary: Howard Wilson 0191 2531827

email: howard.wilson440@btinternet.com

Ron Henry

Esh Winning and District Camera Club

Esh Winning Camera Club is one of the smallest, if not the smallest, club in the Federation, having at present 17 members. We are a small but active group, meeting on a Friday evening from September until Easter time and with occasional summer informal outings to socialise and take pictures.

The Club was formed in the early 1950s when the local Pharmacist Wilf Hannon put a notice in his shop window inviting interested folk to a meeting to discuss the formation of a camera club. A group was formed and met initially in the local Colliery welfare hut, with its large open fire blazing in the corner of the room. Very soon it moved to a room in the local pub but then found what was to be its settled home for many years in the local secondary school science room; the headmaster, Ted Yates, being the club Treasurer.

In the 1960's the Local Authority built a new Primary School with integral "Community Room" at a time when the fostering of a communal spirit was actively encouraged, and money seemed to more available, and the Club moved to this new room which was its home for the next 40 years or so. In the late 1980s the NALGO Club at the County Hall closed and we were fortunate to acquire an influx of members who lived in the area, a number of whom are still regular attendees. The Authority decided a few years ago to build a completely new school and demolish the old Secondary school and the Primary School/ Community Centre. The club, together with other communal groups, were offered space in the new building, but Local Authority 'subsidies' were withdrawn and the new "Economic Rent" was beyond the means of our small club. The local Methodist Church however offered the use of its small Church Hall for a rent that could be afforded

and the club has met there since.

The club continues to attract members, mainly from the Esh Winning and Deerness valley area and prides itself on being a friendly and welcoming group. Our members enjoy taking photographs, viewing other people's work and trying to improve skills by listening to the lecturers provided by the Federation and taking part in competitions. In a typical club year we have a number of these lectures when the lecturer will show his/her work, discuss their techniques and explain their methods, a number of portfolios of work are also usually shown, from the Federation, and also from various other organizations such as the London Salon of Photography and the RPS. There are also usually 3 club competitions and a number of 'members' evenings' when discussions and 'self help' and the viewing of members AVs is the order of the day. As a club we have tried to be broad in our interests and for many years a slide exchange was popular with the Newhaven camera club in Connecticut in



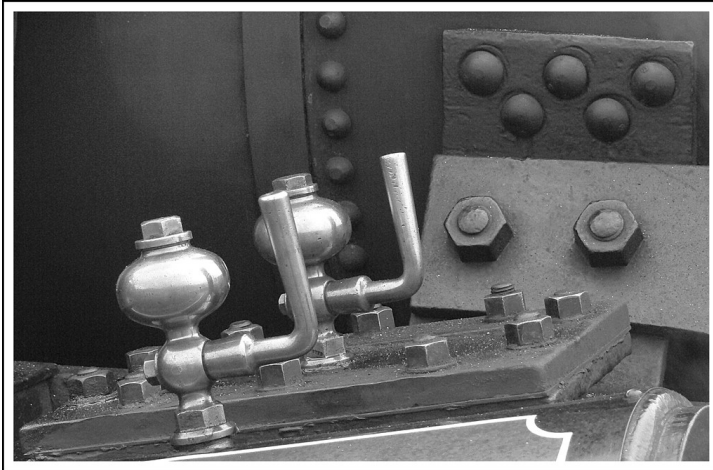
Gibbside

the USA: this eventually ended and another exchange ran for some years with the Woking club in Kent, before this too 'ran its course' and an exchange was then arranged with the Blyth club in the Federation, through the good offices of one of their members, who was the sister of one of our members, John Major; this ended when slides became less and less popular as the Digital revolution advanced.

As a club we do not attempt to "teach photography" or photographic skills but we derive a lot of knowledge and enjoyment from seeing what others do and by discussing problems and techniques. A new member can very easily be overwhelmed or put off when first attending a club by what appear to be people with skills they do not possess. We try not to give that impression and are keen to help in every way possible to encourage members to find answers to photographic problems. We are all out to enjoy photography and to help and encourage others to do the same.

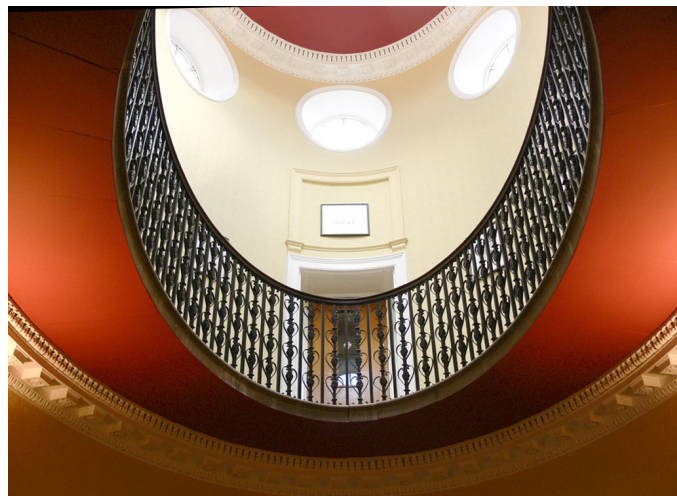


Ribblehead Viaduct



Onion Valves

Looking Up



Florence Duomo

Dates for your diary

18 th March to 7 th May 2017	Sunderland PA Annual Exhibition Sunderland Museum
6/7/8/9 th April 2017	Great North Steam Fair at Beamish
7/8 th April 2017	Judging of NCPF Annual Competitions
21 st /22 nd April 2017	Whitby Goth Weekend
20/21 st May 2017	NCPF Beamish Weekend
8 th – 14 th June 2017	Appleby Horse Fair
4 th to 28 th August 2017	Edinburgh Fringe
1 st September 2017	Closing date for the 38 th NCPF 2017 International Salon www.ncpf.org.uk
13 th – 15 th October 2017	Pickering 1940's Wartime Weekend
28 th November 2017	South Tyne Area PDI Competition

38th NORTHERN COUNTIES INTERNATIONAL SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY 2017



The Salon enjoys Patronage of the Federation de l'Art Photographique (2017/248), the Global Photographic Union (L170065) (*formerly UPI*) and the Royal Photographic Society (2017/20). For the efficient management of the 2016 Salon it has been granted Special Recognition by the Photographic Society of America (2017/229). FIAP Catalogue Rating - 4 Star.

(NB:- *On-Line Entry for the 2017 Salon is now open for Entries*)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Salon will comprise of the following six sections:-

Projected Digital Images

**Open Colour (PID), Open Monochrome (PID),
Nature (ND) and Photo-Travel (Trad) (PTD)**

SALON CALENDAR	
Closing Date:-	1st September 2017
Selection:-	12th to 15th September 2017
Notification:-	26th September 2017
Catalogues:-	30th November 2017

For more information about our Salon, including **Entry Conditions** and **Fees, Definitions** and **On-Line Entry** (when available), or to view the **Results** and **Galleries** from recent years' Salons please use the links on the left hand side panel.

Officers and Executive of the NCPF

President	-	Alan McCormick ARPS
Vice President	-	Joseph Duffy LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
Immediate Past President & Competition Officer PDI's	-	Clifford Banks LRPS, AFIAP, PSA3*
Hon. Life Vice President & Non-Executive Archivist	-	Stan Bewick AFIAP, APSA, APAGB Hon.
Secretary	-	Margaret Welsh
Hon. Treasurer	-	Peter Yearnshire LRPS
Hon. Life Vice President & Chairman of International Sub Committee & Awards Officer	-	Jane H Black ARPS, FPSA. Hon PAGB
Competition Organiser	-	Vacant
Competition Officer – Prints	-	John Twizell
Competition Office Club Championships	-	Vacant
Chairman Judges & Sub Committee & Publications Officer	-	Pax Garabedian DPAGB, EFIAP, PPSA

- Webmaster & Portfolio Secretary - Gerry Adcock ARPS
- PAGB Representative - Richard Speirs DPAGB, BPE2*, APAGB
- Editor of the "Northern Focus" - John Smith EFIAP, PPSA, APAGB
- Elected Member - Keith Kirkland
- Area Representatives
 - Northern - Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
 - North Tyne - Vacant
 - Southern - Dave Coates ARPS, EFIAP/p, APSA, EPSA, MPAGB, APAGB, ESFIAP
 - South Tyne - Trevor Walters APAGB
 - Wear - Vacant
 - Western - John Williams EFIAP/b, MPSA, DPAGB

NORTH TYNE AREA

Cramlington CC
Gosforth CC
North Shields PS
Ponteland PS
Tynemouth PS
Wallsend PS
Whitley Bay PS

SOUTHERN AREA

Darlington AP
Gallery PG
Guisborough PG
Hartlepool CC
Hartlepool PC
The Leica Fellowship
Northallerton CC
Richmond CC
Saltburn PS
Stockton CC
Stokesly

NORTHERN AREA

Alnwick & District CC
Amble PG
Ashington Co-op CC
Blyth PS
Cambois CC
Morpeth CC
Wooler & District CC

WEAR AREA

Bishop Auckland PS
Castleside & District CC
Chester-Le- Street CC
Consett & District CC
Durham PS
Esh Winning & District CC
Northern AV Group
Pen & CC of Methodism
Stanhope PS
Sunderland PA
Washington CC

SOUTH TYNE AREA

Gateshead CC
Hexham & District PS
Riding Mill PS
Ryton & District CC
South Shields PS
Whickham PC
Winlaton CC

WESTERN AREA

Carlisle CC
Copeland PS
Dumfries CC
Keswick PS
Morton PS
Penrith & District CC
West Cumbria PG
Workington & District CC