

Northern Focus



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

EDITION No.88

NORTHERN FOCUS

Official magazine of Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

Serving the North of England.

Published twice a year

Editor: John Smith APAGB, EFIAP, PPSA

Email: northern.focus@ncpf.org.uk

Cover image: Early Riser by Patrick Corris

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

Contents

3 - President's Piece

5 - Editorial

7 - Feature Article - "Thinking Image" by John Cogan ARPS

10 - NCPF Archive

12 - NCPF Members Distinctions

13 - NCPF Important Request

16 – Obituaries

30 - Club Spotlight — Dumfries C C

35 - Fifty Years On— Some Memories of the end of the Steam
Railway in 1968 - Trevor Ermel

40 — PSA

41 — Dates for the Diary

42 - NCPF 40th International Salon of Photography 2019 Details

43 - Officers and Executive of the NCPF

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

It is perhaps a little ironic that the new NCPF President takes over at the end of March just when many clubs are winding down for the summer, so you would imagine that the incoming President would have an easy time until September right? Erm not exactly.....



Many clubs have an end of season exhibition, both to showcase the work of members as well as (hopefully) attract new members for next season. I was pleased, therefore, that my first official duty as President was to open the annual exhibition at Tynemouth PS which they hold in their clubrooms. Several members showed work and I came away with some ideas for future projects. The following evening Whickham CC, one of the two clubs I am a member of, opened its exhibition and again I really enjoyed being there among friends and fellow members to look back over another season of work.

In June, Washington celebrated their 50th anniversary with a series of events culminating in an exhibition at the Arts Centre and a wonderful talk by Joe Cornish. I would like to express my thanks to Ken Henderson APAGB and the members at Washington for the months of hard work they put in arranging the celebrations, it was certainly well worth it.

It is a shame that so many clubs struggle to find exhibition

venues when photography is becoming more and more popular as a hobby, perhaps clubs who have been successful in finding them could offer some ideas to other clubs?

The executive and subcommittees meet throughout the summer, preparing for the new season and this year was no exception, the only difference was that this year we sat round in shorts and straw hats as opposed to the more usual thermals and beanies!

Exhibitions, talks and other events don't just organise themselves so can I, on behalf of all club members, say a huge "Thank You" to those within clubs who take the time and trouble to organise them, which brings us neatly on to the subjects of awards. Not Many of you will know about awards such as the APAGB and the NCPF Roll of Honour which exist to recognise the work done by club members who work, usually without any recognition, to help us enjoy our hobby. I'm sure there is at least one at every club-first out there, setting up the room and packing away at the end of the evening. Not a glory hunter, but they are the backbone of clubs and these awards are there to recognise them. Nominations can be made by any club member, not just the executive, so if you have someone at YOUR club you think should be nominated then please, contact any member of the executive for information and help.

Joseph Duffy APAGB,LRPS, CPAGB, President NCPF.

Welcome to the 88th edition of the Northern Focus and to another season upon us. With the onset of our new hard copy, for the first time for some years, it is disappointing to report that we are now resorting back to the online editions from now on. This is due to costs involved in producing the hardcopy which would be passed onto the Clubs, Societies and Associations. Thank you to those clubs who responded to the e-mail which went out to all clubs referring to this matter and letting us know their feelings.



Irrespective of the outcome I still hope that you will enjoy reading it and to continue supporting the Northern Focus with articles, knowhow and snippets of information about your club. The club season is well under way and I hope all is well with each club and that your programs are being enjoyed by the members. So, please, continue to remind us of what is happening out and about, it is always good to hear from you and your input is valuable for the future of the Northern Focus. Thank you to all those who have partaken in the production this issue.

Sadly, this has been a year when we have seen some of our well known members of clubs who have passed on. We think of Ed Martin, Jeff Evans, David Smith, Jan Clements, Jim Bennett and George Holland who were very active members to their respective clubs as well as in other areas in their lifetime. They will be sorely missed.

This year we see a change in the presidency from Alan McCormick to Joseph Duffy. We hope that Alan will have a restful time as he leaves the job for which we give him thanks for his time, effort and fervour. To Joseph we hope he has a good time and enjoys the work involved. Please support him in his time of office.

Editorial

It leaves me to say “have a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2019 New Year”, but, keep the items to the Northern Focus coming in.

John Smith
Hon. Editor

“Thinking Image”

An appreciation by John Cogan ARPS on Roger Coulam’s lecture to Durham Photographic Society February 2018

Some few years ago I wrote an article for Tony Griffiths and the DPS Website about Roger’s last visit to Durham PS and his evening with us ([link](#)). How the wheel turns. Here I am again putting my fingers to the keyboard, writing a second piece. Is there much change from that first article that warrants a second one? I believe so.

The first section of the evening was a look at his storm-chasing images. Even for those of us who remember them from last time Roger visited, they hold a power to inspire awe. My personal favourites are the black and white cloudscapes. This is where the use of a monochrome film wins, the tones and textures are, without doubt, monumental. No pun intended.

The following sets were advised by Roger’s passionate commitment to document photography. The scenes at the Sunderland Air Show, potentially a Martin Parr pastiche, were underscored by Roger’s critical and compassionate eye. The chaos of “The mad melting pot” of *Mackams* disporting themselves provided a context for their young children being shown how to handle service-issue weapons. Possibly the most shocking image was one of the sequence featuring the seriously wounded mannequin. This particular image featured a legless model wrapped in bloody bandages.

Standing by and looking on were two young girls restrained, on leads, by their young mother. During the Falkland’s Campaign I can remember news footage of a Para being lifted off an Army Wasp helicopter, his left leg shattered. It was only once that the sequence was shown before it disappeared. That image was real but not nearly as horrific as the dummy and the fake blood.

Roger's choices of images (and I feel certain there are many more in his files back at home) reflect a passion and a to follow in the footsteps of many of the great humanitarian photographers. Likening him to Martin Parr does Roger a disservice. Parr is an observer. His images are not editorial. Roger, however, follows in the footsteps of the Humanist photographers of the past, those whose images hold a deeper truth.

Roger's last section took us to the coast and Blast Beach, Seaham in particular. Each image added to an overall story of misuse and decay. The area he chose to illustrate was once a dumping ground for whatever was discarded by the pit, built on the cliff top above the beach. Over time, since the pit closed, erosion and weather has sought to reveal whatever it finds. Brought down to share the foreshore with amputated plastic dolls' legs and seabird skulls these pieces of flotsam and jetsam offer Roger a chance to gather them up and construct a collage of waste. Looking at the slides projected onto the screen it became a sequence of wonder, juxtaposed items arranged so that one piece would act as a counterpoint to its



Sunderland Air

**Show by Roger
Coulam**

neighbour. The crab claw segueing into pieces of plastic which, in turn, leads the eye to the gannet leg (stench and all).

Roger brought the same commitment and passion to the collections from the beach that he had brought to his critique of those who are exposing young children to violence. Whether you agree with him or not, that he is involved in these two projects is a salutary lesson in how photography can become a conduit for expressing hopes and aspirations. For those of us who have left our youthful stamina long ago, even we can use the camera to look out at the world and make our voice heard.

John Cogan ARPS

<http://www.rogercoulam.com/about/>



The Lighted Portico

This old slide was found in the archives of Tynemouth P.S. It was taken by Burdus Redford FRPS who was President of the society from 1913 to 1933. He was also Chairman (Vice President) of the NCPF for most of those years. He left the society when his presidency ended which dates the picture to prior 1933.



Uncle Tom

This picture was taken from a print and is entitled "Uncle Tom". It was taken by Joe Downey ARPS who was a chiropodist in the West End of Newcastle and amongst his patients were quite a lot of Indian ladies and gentlemen. Many of them sat for portraits and Joe was an excellent portraitist who gained his ARPS in that section. The first record of him being a member of a federated society was in the 1940s at Newcastle P.S. He later moved to Dunston C.C. which was his main club. There is still a trophy in his name at Whickham P.C. which was founded when Dunston closed.

NCPF Members Distinctions

DISTINCTIONS GAINED

PSA DISTINCTIONS



- EPSA - John Spittle West Cumbria Group
- PPSA - Bill Herbert West Cumbria Group

FIAP DISTINCTIONS



- AFIAP - Simon Allen Stokesley PS
- Peter Maquire Gosforth CC
- Carmel Morris Stockton CC
- John D Tillotson Penrith and District CC

- EFIAP - David Price West Cumbria Group

PAGB DISTINCTIONS



- APAGB -
- CPAGB AV - Christopher John Bote Penrith & District CC
- CPAGB - David Christopher Connell Penrith & District CC
- CPAGB - Peter Maguire Gosforth CC
- CPAGB - Donald Stuart Smith Gosforth CC
- DPAGB - Jo Knight Penrith & District CC

NCPF DISTINCTIONS



The Federation Needs You



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

At this particular time the Federation needs help in the form of a Prints Officer for the NCPF Annuals.

The unfortunate position we are in is that John Twizell needs an operation on his knee and has been advised that the waiting time is approximately three months and after the operation he will not be allowed to drive for a further six weeks.

Thanks to John everything is in place regarding the Judges, except the booking of the hotel and some administrative items, which he says can do. What he is unable to do is to collect the print entries from at the NCPF AGM along with the administrations that go with it. He will not be able to co-ordinate the event at Clara Vale. As you can see we are desperate for someone to step in and take this on **as soon as possible** or we will not be able to run the Annuals.

If anyone is able to help and take on the responsibility for receiving the Print entries please contact John and he will give you all of the information you will need to complete the task. Alternatively, if you have anyone in your respective clubs who you think would be willing to join the Sub- committee, please speak to them.

Our Federation is in dire straits at this moment in time as we also need a Portfolio Secretary as Joseph Duffy has resigned from this position.

Margaret Welsh NCPF Secretary



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

PORTFOLIO SECRETARY

As you are aware, the NCPF organises several events throughout the year, such as the Club Championships, The Annuals Competitions, The International Salon and the Presentation Event. We also organise recruitment workshops for new judges.

These events can only happen if we have people who are prepared to volunteer some of their time to help with their organisation. Some people may not want to be part of the organising team but would be prepared to help with the 'backroom' tasks such as setting out chairs or assisting with the judging of prints. Each club's print entries have to be ordered in sequence and this is only one of the tasks that take place behind the scenes. As attendees or participants, we take this for granted. If you think you could help please get in touch.

Apart from volunteers to help set up for events we are looking for someone to take over the organisation of the NCPF Portfolio.

Organising the portfolio entails:

Sending out booking forms to clubs

Collecting the selected images from the competition secretary

Organise the recording of the judge's comments for their selected images.

Assemble the final portfolio, produce DVDs and send them to the clubs who have booked them in time for the new season and to make sure they are available in the correct running order for presentations.

The Federation Needs You



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

It DOES sound a little daunting, but as always with any task undertaken for the NCPF there are plenty of experienced people who are happy to help and advice where necessary. YOU WOULD NOT BE ON YOUR OWN.

Think about your own club - the syllabus didn't magically put itself together. Entries for club competitions don't just appear in front of a judge. Things only happen if there are people to make them happen and as a Federation we have always been extremely lucky that there are people willing to volunteer their time to help us enjoy our hobby.

This can only continue to happen if people are willing to take on these essential roles as they become available.

If you would like more information on this, or any other role within the NCPF please do not hesitate to contact me on 0191 4783214 or email me at duffyjoseph9@gmail.com

Joseph Duffy APAGB, CPAGB, LRPS
NCPF President

Obituary

Edmund Martin; Ed.

Whickham Photographic Club



The death of Edmund Martin, Ed; who died on the 10th February 2018 aged 84 years, was a very sad event for his wife Val, son Wayne, daughter in law Wendy and grand-daughter, Emma. Ed will also be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues

.

A Welshman, proud of his heritage, Ed had a subtle sense of humour and a gracious manner. As a long serving member of Whickham Photographic Club, he liked Projection Slide photography, enjoying the enhancing quality of colour film.

Scenery and Landscapes, featured strongly in Ed's photography and his ranging knowledge of the Lakes, North Yorkshire, Northumberland and Durham were the areas he liked to visit.

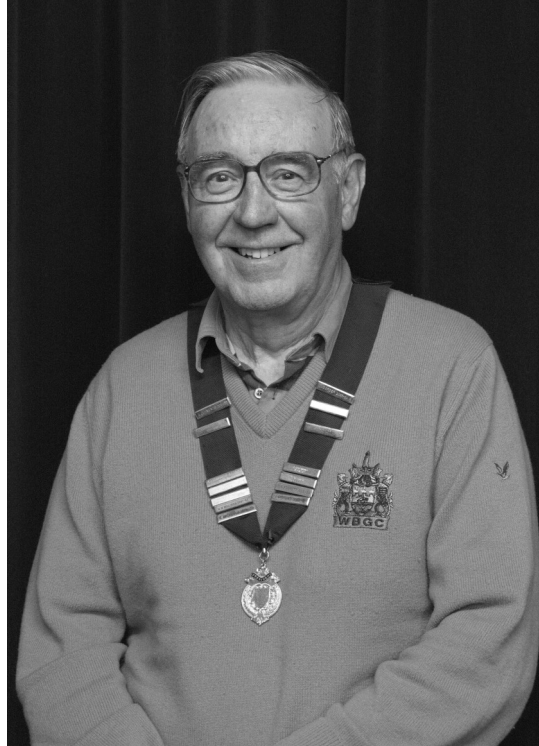
During the turn of the new Millennium, Ed and the late Cairns Purdy, shared cars on a specific Wednesday in each month, for photo shoots. Subsequently, a number of older members expressed interest, which Ed welcomed and the Wednesday Group was formed. At the start of the group, with Ed's business contacts, he managed to obtain discounts on food and visitors entrances fees. A bonus point? The group still exists and anyone in the club can participate.

Ed served Whickham Photographic Club, as Committee Secretary 1996 -1997 and in other posts such as Auditor. During 2004 - 2006 Ed was President of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

Tommy Cook

Jeff Evans

Whitley Bay Photographic Society



It was so sad to learn of Jeff's passing last weekend. We all thought he was on a gradual but slow path back to health after a major operation, but alas it wasn't to be.

Jeff was a member of Whitley Bay Photographic Society for some 15 years. He was a very active member with a keen interest in many branches of photography. He is our immediate Past President and was currently on our selection committee and programme sub-committee. Interestingly, his father, Tim, was also a President of the club as well as Treasurer for many years, and Jeff's mam, Winn, was also an enthusiastic member. Jeff travelled a lot for work but immersed himself in our club on retirement.

In 2008 he was the Club Colour Print Champion, in 2013 he won

The Print of the Year and the President's Trophy. In 2017 he was Advanced Monochrome Champion and again won the Print of the Year. This year he won the Allan Potts Nature Trophy.

In 2013 Jeff was awarded the Weir Trophy for best colour print in the NCPF Annual Competition with "Western Isles". The same print had won the best individual entry award in the North Tyne area interclub Competition in 2012 which Jeff won again in 2016 with his print "Ring to Enter". He also won best individual entry in the North Tyne Area PDI Competition in 2011 with "Abandoned".

Jeff was particularly interested in creating audio-visual sequences and developed a great expertise in this area. He was a trailblazer in our club, teaching many members to use the PicturesToExe (PTE) software over the years. Indeed he was co-author of the online help guide for PTE, a tester for software updates and an active member of both the PTE forum and the Barry Beckham forum. Jeff was also an enthusiastic member of what is now the Northern AV Group where he gave a well received presentation last year. In addition, he presented a great many AV shows on behalf of our club to outside community groups.

Jeff was a man of many interests. Golf, sailing, bowls, piano playing and gardening as well his family which took up his time. Indeed in recent years he created two lovely gardens. He was also a qualified badminton coach. He was not content to do anything in a superficial way but always liked to get to the bottom of things and to learn to do them expertly. This was very noticeable in his photography where his skills in AV production and in the printing of photographs continually improved and had reached a very high standard.

He was always available and willing to help and advise other members and to share his knowledge with them. Jeff was the first person the other members turned to when needing help and support since he also brought a high level of IT and wisdom in a variety of areas. He was not averse to turning his hand to a bit of DIY in the club premises when needed. Jeff was very sociable and enjoyed the club outings, joining in and supporting all club activities and for some years organised our annual dinner.

Jeff, you were always a pleasure to be with and we shall miss you enormously.

Jan Clements

David L Smith: 10th June 1935 -7th March 2018
Stokesly Photographic Society



David spent his early years living with his maternal grandmother at Crosshills near Keighley whilst his mother and father had a house built in Derby. He attended Bentham primary school where he passed his scholarship, and then attended Alexander Academy.

From there he went to agricultural college where he spent a year before commencing a year's practical on a farm. Unfortunately, he could not continue due to a dermatitis reaction caused by the chemicals used on the farm.

Glasgow University was his last place of study where David achieved a first-class honours in botany. He stayed on there for a short duration as an assistant lecturer. It was on his return to Keighley during his holiday breaks that he was to meet his wife Shirley.

They then moved to Manchester where they had 2 sons before moving to Belfast where he worked in Queens University lecturing in Paleobotany; it was whilst here that their youngest son was born.

David then bought and converted a barn at Crackpot, in Swaledale, into their home whilst undertaking his last few years of work and then retiring there.

But then due to Shirley's failing health they decided to move to Stokesley where they continued to lead an active social life before her health worsened and David became a full-time carer until Shirley passed away.

David still continued to write and have published scientific papers on the Study of Legumes in his 80's.

David was an accomplished painter and photographer and was an active member of Stokesley Photographic Society from 1994. He frequently shared his deep knowledge and love of his subject matter through talks and presentations to the Society and other local groups. He achieved the following photographic distinctions: FRPS , ARPS,LRPS, MPAGB EFIAP.

P.W Forster : - Photograph By Noi Dennis

Jan Clements MBE
Whitley Bay Photographic Federation



It is with great sadness and dismay that we learnt of Jan's passing on the 15th July 2018.

Jan joined the Whitley Bay Photographic Society in the early 1980s. She was Social Secretary from 1988—99 and President from 1991—92. In 1999 she took over from her husband Ron as Secretary and has held the post ever since.

Jan was also Secretary for the North Tyne Area of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation where she and Ron have been ably representing our club interests for several years.

It's largely due to Jan that we present AV shows to outside organisations. She has organised, presented and was the point of contact for them.

Jan was central to the organisation of Tomorrow's History in 2001. This was a collaborative effort by all club members to record aspects of North Tyneside in the new millennium. A digital

Archive was lodged with the Libraries Department. Jan also organised several public exhibitions of members' work at various venues. This often involved arranging funding from grant authorities.

Jan won the Lloyd Trophy (Beginners' Slides) in 1968 and the Gowan Trophy (Intermediate Slides) in 1990. However her real photographic love was in the creation of Audio-Visual sequences and from 1998 to 2002, she and Ron between them, monopolized the club AV Championship—in good old days of dual projectors and slides and taped soundtracks. Nowadays it's all digital and PicturesToExe and Jan and Ron embraced this new world enthusiastically and with sequences that have got better and better. Some sequences were made together whilst others were individual efforts. Examples of these were La Gomera in the Canaries, The Cotswold, Isle of Wight and the Trossachs. Some had a historical flavour: Chester, Saltaire and The Blue Plaques of North Tyneside. Local subjects included South Shields and Wallington Hall; and then there were the special sequences on children's author Robert Westall and on the National Centre for Children's Books of Seven Stories in Ouseburn.

Jan was a Librarian by profession and during a distinguished career was Head of the Schools Library Service for North Tyneside. She was Chair of the Northern Children's Board of Trustees for Seven Stories and served on many of its committees.

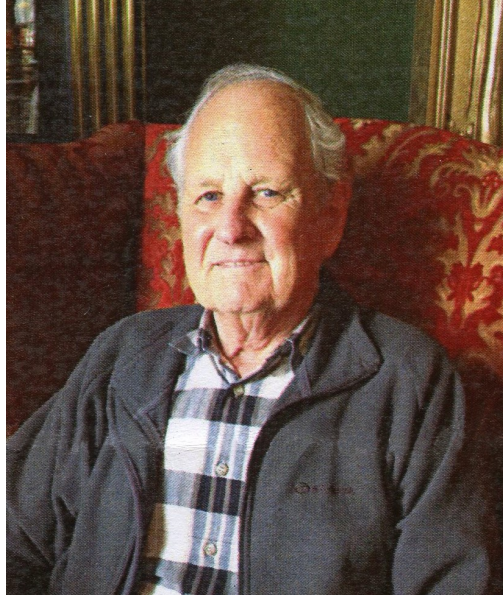
Jan was fluent in French and passed grade 8 in piano. With Ron, she was a member of the Phoenix Walking Club. She was truly a person of many talents and interests.

Jan was good natured with an infectious smile. She was often our first point of contact with new members and visitors, always

welcoming and friendly. She was always willing to help with the unseen jobs of tea making and cleaning. She was very organised and thorough and was the perfect Secretary for our club and a most valuable support to the serving President.

A good friend to all of us, Jan you will be very sorely missed in the club and the North Tyne Area. To Ron, we share in your loss and deepest and warmest sympathy.

Jim Bennett
Durham Photographic Society



One of Durham Photographic Society's most highly respected members, Jim Bennett, has died. Jim, in his 80s, was a highly skilled black and white worker whose impressive quality prints were an inspiration to all his photographic friends.

Jim joined DPS in 1980 and became society president in 1998 and 1999. He was well known for his superb prints, mostly landscapes, throughout the Northern Counties Photographic Federation and was a past winner in the prestigious South Shields international print salon which for many years attracted worldwide entries.

With Durham colleagues Don Bennet (no relation), Mavis Ord and the late Brian Wilcoxson, he gave lectures to other NCPF camera clubs over a number of years on their special interest in infra red photography.

His photographic friend for around 40 years, Mavis Ord said: 'He had amazing talent with black and white print photography. The quality of his images was most impressive.'

Scots-born Jim's expertise was not confined to photography. He began his working life in the Clydeside ship yards and later

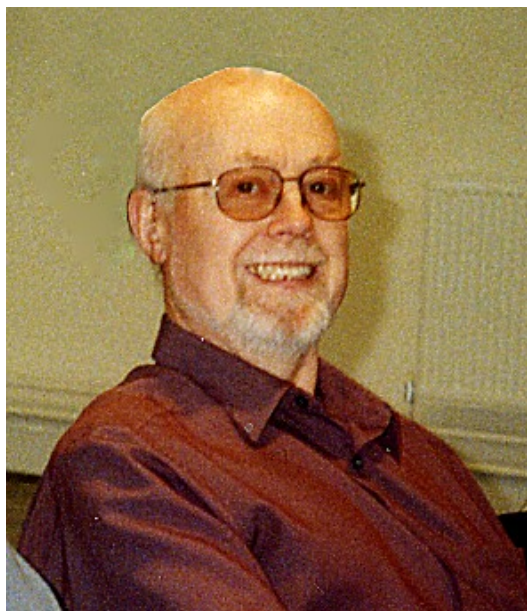
became a sea going engineer. His engineering skills were put to excellent use in later years when as a volunteer at Beamish Museum he helped restore historic items and he built impressive working model steam locomotives which ran at Beamish and on tracks at Chester-le Street on certain occasions. He lived not far from both these locations in Co. Durham.

To his many photographic colleagues one of his most impressive achievements was building from scratch a Victorian style half plate camera complete with fine woods and brass fittings. And it worked superbly well .

Jim produced some of his finest landscapes with this heavy piece of kit which he carried out on location uphill and down dale just as his intrepid forebears did generations earlier.

Jim was predeceased by his wife several years ago.

George Holland
South Shields Photographic Society



It is with deep regret to inform you that George Holland passed away on the 5th September 2018. Anyone who has been involved in photography during the 1980 & 90's onwards within the NCPF Tyne & Wear region would scarcely failed to be acquainted with George Holland who was often at many NCPF events over the years.

George, was by profession a telephone engineer with the Post Office which later became British Telecom or as we know it today simply as BT. I am not really sure when George first became interested in photography, but he and his good friend Dave Javan were introduced to South Shields Photographic Society by the late Brian Turton ARPS in 1992. Both he and Dave were experienced advanced photographers in their own right, which in those days was film and wet bench based having previously been members of Washington Camera Club came to us with a wealth of talent, sadly Dave passed away a few years after joining SSPS.

George was an active member within SSPS and supported all of the competitions and social events. Although he was not involved with the Committee at this time, but however due to the sudden death of our Competition Secretary in 1997, volunteered to take over the position for a year, which he later reprised in 2001. The following year having been elected to committee he took over the role of Syllabus Secretary until he retired from SSPS in 2005 which he later rejoined in 2017 after having a spell at Whickham Photographic Club.

George had a wealth of knowledge on cameras and photography in general and was one of the driving forces in the society at the dawn of the digital age, however, he was often noted for his strong points of view which often ruffled a few feathers, never the less he will be greatly missed by us all.

Phil Dunn
South Shields Photographic Society

DUMFRIES CAMERA CLUB

The club recently celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a variety of events, having been established on the 21st February 1947 in the Municipal Chambers in Dumfries . This was the result of a paragraph inserted in the Dumfries and Galloway Standard at the instance of Dr. Hutcheon who invited all who had an interest in photography to meet together for the purpose of considering the formulation of a camera club.

According to the minutes of the first meeting, 'The response was good, the attendance being 35 including two ladies.....' (I doubt that we would use similar wording today.)



Reid, Senior, Armstrong and Lockhart

By July 1948 the club had its own premises, including a studio and darkrooms. At the time it was noted that, 'Despite generous contributions of materials and the voluntary work of members, the cost of furnishing and equipping the Club Rooms has been

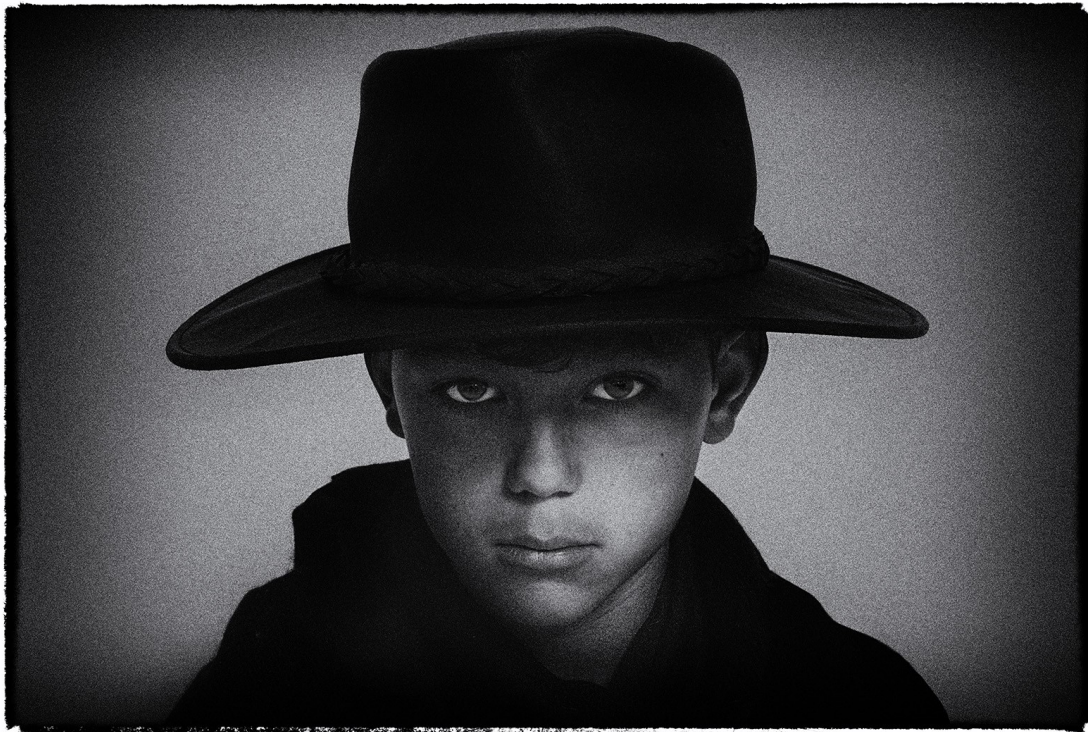
considerable, involving an expenditure in the region of one hundred pounds.' This was probably no small expense at that time.



New Abbey 1950s

The intervening years have seen many club members come and go and the club itself has achieved notable recognition in a variety of areas e.g. hosting the Scottish International Salon of Photography on a number of occasions and gaining success in prestigious events and competitions such as winning the Inter-Club Print Championship run by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. The club also boasts a large number of members who hold PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit at the three Credit, Distinction and Master levels. In fact there are at last count more MPAGB holders than any other club in the UK.

It is one of the most successful amateur photographic clubs in Scotland and is consistently amongst the top 5 in the UK. We are affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) through the Scottish Photographic Federation (SPF). In addition, because of our close links with many of the clubs in the North of England, from whom we obtain some of our competition judges and lecturers, we are also members of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation (NCPF).



Boy in a Hat

The club gives a warm welcome to all levels of photographer, from beginner to international award winner. As well as competitions which run throughout the year, speakers (both national and local) visit the club to lecture and give presentations on various aspects of photography.

You don't even have to take photographs, however, but if you are looking for inspiration, want to know which buttons to press

on your camera or just want to join a friendly, progressive photographic club you will always be more than welcome.

Presently we meet in Gracefield Studios on Edinburgh Road, Dumfries (Wednesdays 7.30-9.30 pm) and our programme runs from the last week in August until May of the following year. Further detailed information is also available on our website dumfriescameraclub.co.uk



Rainy Days



Arctic tern over Luskenytre



Leaving Oban

Babysitting



Trevor Ermel

WHICKHAM PA HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT AND TYNEMOUTH PS MEMBER, TREVOR ERMEL, LOOKS BACK 50 YEARS TO THE END OF STEAM ON BRITISH RAIL

Was it really fifty years ago? Yes, the records confirm that the last steam trains in normal service on British Rail's main lines ran in August 1968. (To put that into perspective, that's five years before I even joined the fledgling Whickham Camera Club in its inaugural season!)



Arnside

Carnforth



Steam's last stand was in Lancashire, with the depots at Carnforth, Lostock Hall (Preston) and Rose Grove (Burnley) being the final engine sheds to close their doors to steam locomotives that summer.

Carnforth



As a Gateshead schoolboy who had been mad keen on trains for nearly five years and on photography for almost as long, I just had to be there to witness 'the end', along with thousands of other like-minded individuals. So, armed with a camera, notebook, 'railrover' ticket and probably the bare minimum of a change of clothes I took advantage of the school summer holidays and spent two separate weeks based in the Youth Hostel at Arnside, a short train ride from Carnforth.

The accompanying photographs show some of my attempts at recording the end of an era. For the technically-minded, the negatives (which have been digitally scanned) were taken with a second-hand 35mm Kodak 'Retinette' camera using Kodak Panatomic-X film (yes, 32ASA! – how on earth did I manage to take action shots in dull weather?), which I developed at home in Microdol-X developer.

Carnforth Shed



**Lostock Hall
Shed**

To those of us who only know shiny steam locomotives on today's preserved railways, the pictures might come as something of a surprise. This was the 'real' railway, with (mainly) filthy locomotives and engine sheds, when BR was desperate to get rid of an outmoded form of traction which had no place in their plans for a nice, new, modern-image railway. And the public agreed with them.

Preston



Preston



Ulverston



Preston

Who could imagine in 1968 that half a century later there would be hundreds of beautifully-restored steam locos and dozens of 'heritage' lines giving pleasure to thousands?

Trevor Ermel



For further details of the benefits of PSA membership please visit their website. You will find many interesting things there especially on the benefits of becoming an individual member or club, society membership. They offer a great variety for all with a tremendous selection of exhibitions in all areas. Learn, Stay informed, Share your photographs and expertise, Honours and Distinctions, member discounts and of course their PSA Journal. Take a look at their website for many more interesting things aimed at the photographer.

<https://psa-photo.org>

Members of the Photographic Society of America don't forget this year's 2019 conference
For details please visit the web site below

Dates for your diary

15th January 2019	NCPF Executive Meeting
11 th February 2019	NCPF Executive Meeting
24th February 2019	NCPF Club Championships at Clara Vale Community Centre
17th March 2019	NCPF AGM at Swalwell
5th April 2019	NCPF Annuals Competition
1st April 2019	NCPF Executive Meeting

40th NORTHERN COUNTIES INTERNATIONAL SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY 2019



The Salon enjoys Patronage of the Federation de l'Art Photographique (————) the Global Photographic Union (————) (*formerly UPI*) and the Royal Photographic Society (————). For the efficient management of the 2018 Salon it has been granted Special Recognition by the Photographic Society of America (————). FIAP Catalogue Rating - 4 Star.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Salon will comprise of the following four sections:-

Projected Digital Images

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

SALON CALENDAR	
Closing Date:-	TBA
Selection:-	TBA
Notification:-	TBA
Catalogues:-	TBA

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.

**PLEASE KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR DATES AND OTHER
INFORMATION ON THE 40th NCPF INTERNATIONAL IN THE
COMING MONTHS**

Officers and Executive of the NCPF

President	-	Joseph Duffy LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
Vice President	-	Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
Immediate Past President	-	Alan McCormick ARPS
Hon. Life Vice President & Non-Executive Archivist APAGB Hon.	-	Stan Bewick AFIAP, APSA,
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	-	Alan McCormick ARPS
Publications Officer	-	Pax Garabedian DPAGB, EFIAP, EPSA
PAGB Representative	-	Richard Speirs DPAGB, BPE2*, APAGB

- Webmaster & Portfolio Secretary - Gerry Adcock ARPS
- Editor of the "Northern Focus" - John Smith EFIAP, PPSA, APAGB
- Elected Member - Keith Kirkland
- Area Representatives
- Northern - Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
 - North Tyne - David Brown CPAGB
 - Southern - Dave Coates ARPS, EFIAP/p, APSA, EPSA, MPAGB, APAGB, ESFIAP
 - South Tyne - Trevor Walters APAGB
 - Wear - Debra Taylor
 - Western - Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP