



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

Northern Focus

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

Serving the North of England

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

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Club Championship 2021 Best DPI "Tree in One" by Ken Rennie of Keswick PS

Northern Focus

Official magazine of Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

Serving the North of England.

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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. Interested in joining this team as a helper, understudy or on committee? Please contact N.C.P.F. Hon. Secretary Margaret Welsh at secretary@ncpf.org.uk for details.

President's Piece

Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB

At the time of writing this piece we are STILL in lockdown. It has now been 12 months since the Government locked us all in our homes (or did they?).

We cannot visit our family or friends but we can exercise in public for 1 hour a day. We aren't allowed to travel long distances from our home but some people are driving miles to 'exercise' in the countryside. Some businesses have allowed their staff to work from home whilst others have had to close and their staff furloughed.

Our Front Line Workers have continued to do their jobs under difficult and stressful circumstances. We can meet in a bubble, as long as it's with the same people. We are also allowed to go shopping for 'essential items' as long as we wear a face covering. Those of us with 'underlying health problems' have been isolating for so long we may not want to go back out again when Boris says we can. Hopefully, at the end of the pandemic, we will have had our vaccinations and emerge unscathed by Covid19.



I for one cannot wait to warm my car up and visit our beautiful countryside and seashores once again. But patience must prevail. In the meantime, I have now become a very good 'Domestic Helper'. My wife cannot believe that this person who 'helps' around the house is the man she married so many years ago. I still haven't mastered the washing machine or how to adjust the central heating, but we don't know how much longer we will be in this situation so there's still time yet.

The Executive Committee of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation have been working behind the scenes right through the lockdown. The Competitions Subcommittee organised the Club Championships which took place at the beginning of February and they are in the process of organising the Annuals Competitions.

These are scheduled to take place at the end of April. Because of the current situation the competitions have had to be amended to PDI's only but they are still taking place albeit in a reduced capacity. The Executive Committee and the Subcommittees have been holding regular Zoom Meetings to ensure that Federation business continues to run smoothly.

Sometimes, it is good to remind our Club Members that every member of the Executive and its Subcommittees are volunteers. They give up A LOT of their free time to ensure that the Federation continues to run smoothly.

Subcommittees are always looking for volunteers with fresh ideas. If anyone thinks they might have some time to spare and would like to become a valued member of one of our subcommittee groups please contact anyone on the Executive Committee.

We are in the process of organising an A.G.M. which will be held via Zoom. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 A.G.M., reports will cover the last two years. Details will be sent out to the Club Secretaries soon and information will also be published on the N.C.P.F. website.

In the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe.

Editorial

Dear NCPF Members

May I introduce myself: Alan Wilson, member of Whickham Photographic Club and until fairly recently quite unaware of the NCPF Executive, the fantastic work conducted and the opportunities it brings.

Two + years ago I was invited to attend a NCPF meeting by a good friend and WPC member. Timing corresponded to my reduction in work, and having shown willing my retirement has been occupied with new photographic learning and challenges.

I was privileged to assist with the NCPF's 40th International Salon, my first ever overview of a Salon. I have produced the last two Awards and Alliance / Selectors Choice portfolio presentations, learning about Pictures-to-exe, Audacity and WeTransfer software as I progressed. I sit on the very active Competition Sub-Committee, who have worked hard to keep things moving during the pandemic managing remote competition via Zoom, and when President Jim Welsh invited me to stand as Vice- President I was honoured and delighted to say yes.



The role of Northern Focus Editor is ideal, I am a firm believer in good communication being of immense benefit through sharing of knowledge and therefore learning opportunity, which can lead to continuous improvement. As Secretary of Whickham PC it also aligns with my regular club newsletter "bits-n-pieces".

I would like to thank John Smith for his comprehensive handover and his work as Honourable Editor over the past 6 years. As with any new broom I wish to bring in some changes while maintaining the ethos of the Northern Focus being "Our Magazine" celebrating club and individuals work within the Northern Federation. The sharp eyed may have noticed from Page 2 that the magazine will be published 4 x a year. Intent is to keep up to date with photographic happenings in our region with a seasonal issue Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. For this I require content of all things photographic that have occurred or are planned to occur, so very much welcome contributions from clubs and members (and you).

This edition is brimming with entertaining pieces as diverse as Caterpillars, Cathedrals and Conservation and I absolutely thank all contributors for sharing their stories, enhanced with some fantastic photographs.

Looking forwards we all hope to get out and about with our cameras when allowed, and are bound to create our best ever photographs with our new found editing skills (having developed them during lockdown) linked with the urge and ability to get out and explore.

Northern Focus most certainly hopes to share the best new stories, adventures, opportunities and real-people exhibitions. Here's to the future. Please share via Northern Focus your stories, successes and planned events.

Kind regards
Alan Wilson ARPS, AFIAP

NB: Talking of sharing, feel free to forward this e-magazine to friends far and wide. Copyright of images, stories and adventures of course remain with the photographers and writers but the magazine distribution is available to anyone interested in our fantastic hobby.

NNB: You will find hyperlinks 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 or (R) click to open in new window. Alan

Nettles on my windowsill

David Brown ARPS EFIAP CPAGB

2019 was a record year for the painted lady butterfly. Sitting on my allotment (North Highbury, Jesmond), one flew past and settled a few seconds on nearby nettles. It flew on then settled elsewhere on more nettles – was it egg-laying? I noted the exact spot, then searched the leaf and sure enough there was a minute shiny-green egg half the size of a pin-head. I picked the nettle, dug a nearby root and took them home, put the picked stem in water and planted the root in a plant pot and placed it on my windowsill. Thus began a 2-season macrophotography project rearing butterflies of the family Nymphalidae (photogenic caterpillars with branched spines) from eggs laid on their foodplant. There are 5 nettle-feeding species found in northern England: red admiral, small tortoiseshell, peacock, comma (recently arrived here expanding its range) and erratic north-African migrant painted lady.



Nettles on my windowsill
Comma butterfly egg, diameter c 0.5mm
Painted Lady larva

The tiny eggs are hard to find. In June 2020 I saw a comma egg-laying on a pristine nettle on which I found 2 eggs, so potted the plant. Eggs hatch in only 3 or 4 days but the minute larvae are then impossible to find amongst the spiny leaves. But they grow quickly! Within a week I discovered that my plant was hosting 4 commas and 5 red admirals! Because larvae freeze for many minutes if they feel disturbance, I placed the pot on a turntable to enable gentle rotation. As with wildlife photography generally, one needs small apertures, fast speeds and strong light or high ISO. To capture active caterpillars in a micro-jungle of leaves and branches, keeping the subject within a depth of field of a few millimetres whilst simultaneously adjusting the angle so that the background is non-disruptive, takes patience. I used a Nikon D7200 and 105mm macro lens on a monopod, manual exposure, manual focus (moving myself with camera to bring subjects into sharp focus), and also stabilising my monopod with a 1-metre rule held with left hand horizontally against the window and sliding over monopod leg, to achieve the required hand-held millimetre-accuracy.



Red Admiral larva



Comma larva

Nettles on my windowsill

David Brown

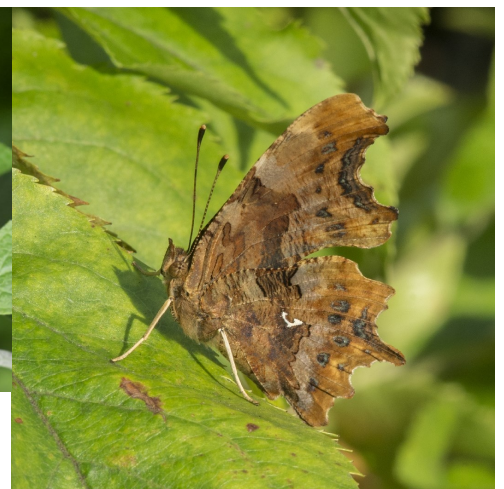
The several species have differing habits. Red admirals live singly but wrap leaves around themselves even to pupate, so are difficult to photograph (unless other caterpillars eat them out of house and home, as happened to the pupa I photographed). Peacock and small tortoiseshell larvae are colonial, many eggs being laid together and larvae living initially in a silken web. But when fully grown both wander away from the foodplant to pupate and may become temporarily lost in the room! However, when the butterfly emerges it will always fly into the window, to be safely captured. Painted lady and comma are wonderfully cooperative, roaming the nettles openly and pupating on them! To transport adults to a release site I kept them in the dark to inhibit them trying to fly: a large box in a black bin bag did the trick. Then away they go, beautiful and pristine, to live out their short lives mating and providing the next generation. Emotional moment!



*Painted Lady
larva pupating
sequence*



*(L) Newly emerged Comma on pupal case
Red Admiral released onto buddleia flower
(R) Released Comma resting*



By Editor: David Brown is a member of Gosforth Camera Club. His rapidly gained photographic distinctions are credited mainly to his very keen Nature Photography, where, (windowsill caterpillars apart), his photographs are obtained by getting out into the countryside for genuine Natural History Photographs using fieldcraft and hides.

David is North Tyne Area Representative and a member of NCPF International Salon Committee. Thank you David.

Newcastle's St Nicholas Cathedral—CGISS Project

Peter Strassheim

March 2018, and an e-mail arrived asking would we be interested in photographing something unique, which will only happen once in our lifetime and leave a record for posterity. Well, would you be interested???

Initial Contacts

Consultants representing St Nicholas' Cathedral contacted our Wickham Photographic Club asking if we were interested in helping Newcastle upon Tyne's St Nicholas Cathedral (Church of England) produce a photographic record of some major changes being planned. Their aim was to make a historical record of before, during and after the changes and wished to know if we could help.

I volunteered to liaise with the Cathedral and over the next few months we had visits and discussions to see what was involved. WPC provided a Letter of Support offering free support to the Common Ground in Sacred Spaces (CGISS) project, providing record shots of the works and supporting the Cathedral in their Lottery application. We also agreed to liaise with the Cathedral in future activities such as Exhibitions and Presentations.

Changes Planned to the Cathedral: *Inset Madonna and child the Cathedrals oldest window dated c1100ad*



CGISS aim is to create greater use of the Cathedral by the Public. This will be done by clearing the main area of the Nave to produce an open space that will be used in many different ways by different sets of people. This process will create a "Common Ground in Sacred Space" by Removing:

- All the pews (movable seating to be used in the future).
- Radiators and central heating (underfloor central heating to be installed).
- The floor to be lifted and re-laid with insulation, new services and new stone slabs.
- The Ledger Stones (grave stones) of the old floor being relocated to the edges of the Nave. (reducing wear)
- External grounds to be landscaped, providing meeting space.



View from Pulpit



Saving "The Colours"

2019

Majority of funds to be provided by the National Lottery (about £5.9 million), once agreed our 7 member team started recording photographs of the exterior and the interior to provide the 'Before' record shots.

WPC took the invitation to transfer our Annual Exhibition to the Cathedral for one day – this proved an excellent venue, which we look forward to using again in the future.

Newcastle's St Nicholas Cathedral—CGISS Project

Peter Strassheim

Autumn 2019



Contracts for the building work were signed and work started at the beginning of 2020. We were given permission to climb the lantern tower – 196 ft 6 in (59.89 m) from the base to the top of the steeple and something not usually allowed. Many of our Club Members made the climb which is very tight (they were smaller people when it was built) obtaining unique views over the River Tyne, Newcastle and Gateshead.

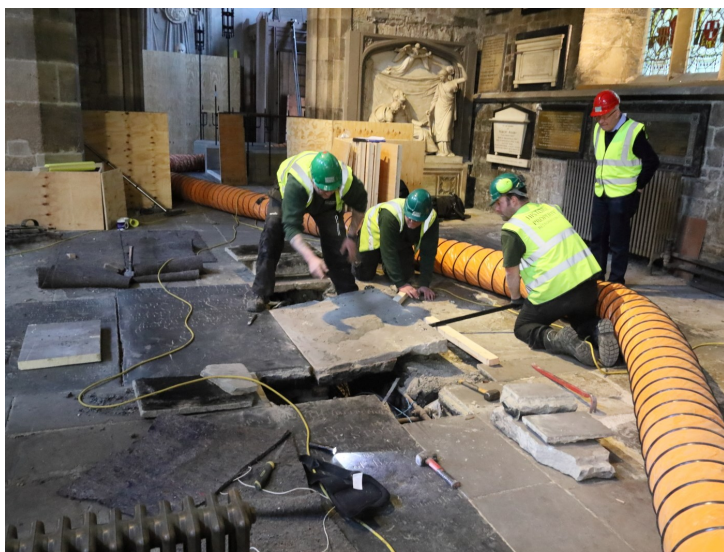
(L) Bump protection and segregation for dust control.

(R) The first Ledger Stone lifting prep



January 2020

After Health and Safety training and wearing required PPE we started the “during” shots. With no access to the Public this was privileged exclusive access during ground works planned to finish May 2021. The Builders are a skilled friendly bunch and very co-operative with us, fresh from other projects such as the Prince Bishops Castle rebuild at Bishop Auckland their passion and care for their work is obvious.



Manual Lifting—easy does it



The team of Craftsmen

One of the first jobs was to remove and safely store the many Regimental Colours (not flags as I referred to them – not a good idea). Next, the pews were removed and sold via auction.

Experts from Newcastle University then did 3D laser scans of the entire area (as a before record) including all the Ledger Stones – hi tech magic!! We did not have to take record shots of all the Ledger Stones as the experts were doing it in great detail – allowing us to use a more “Artistic” approach to our photographs – or at least try with challenges of low light, shadows, beams of light and fluorescent reflective workers jackets.

Newcastle's St Nicholas Cathedral—CGISS Project

Peter Strassheim

February/March 2020

The Builders started lifting the Ledger Stones(about 423 in total). Usually considered as grave markers, we are assured the Victorians (who were the last ones to lift them) did not leave bodies beneath.

Lifting and moving the stones is a strenuous and difficult task managed the old fashioned way with hand tools, skill and muscle. Once up, a wheeled gantry frame relocates the stones, each about 15cm thick with many over 1m x 2m and at about one ton each, very heavy.



Corona Virus Period

Unfortunately pandemic requirements stopped visits from WPC. The builders, conservators and historians also being subject to controls.

So this is where we leave this part of the story, next instalment shall come to Northern Focus soon documenting how WPC continued seeing and learning new things hopefully making a small contribution to the history of Newcastle and St Nicholas Cathedral on the way.



Top (L) 3D Photo-scan of the Ledger Stones

Top: Pews removed.

Mid: Wheeled lifting "A" frames

(L) Lifted Ledger Stones

By Editor: Story and photographs by Peter Strassheim.
Words edited from a longer presentation.

Thank you Peter.

PSA — My Journey

David Stout, EPSA, EFIAP, DPAGB

Around 2006 - while still using film but converting to digital, two people influenced me to take an interest in the Photographic Society of America. I had become friends with the late Alan Millward, FPSA, MPSA, who spoke warmly about this “worldwide camera club”, and - while attending NCPF events, Jane Black, APSA gave me several PSA monthly journals which I read intently.

January 2nd. 2007 saw me travel to Rennes, in Northern France, to begin the first of many overseas work assignments as a printer of banknotes. I was there for 3 months staying in a city centre apartment, so had lots of time to access the web, the PSA website in particular - and enrolled as a member that same month. I quickly became aware of the PSA Study Groups and joined two - General (open subject) and Photo Travel and am now world-wide secretary of both!

Like other Photographic bodies the PSA have distinctions available for those members who wish to have that platform available. At this time, I had attained EFIAP by having work accepted in FIAP approved salons/exhibitions, PSA would only accept acceptances gained AFTER joining date and they had to be from PSA recognised salons/exhibitions - so I created a new spreadsheet and began entering open, mono, and Photo-Travel salons.



The PSA hold an annual conference at various locations within the USA and in 2007 the venue was YELLOWSTONE! It was then I said to my wife Carol - the next time Yellowstone is the conference venue we are going; it was also in my mind I would try and attain the 350 acceptances required for PPSA by that time. Being in Rennes - just over an hour's drive from the channel coast, I took the first acceptance image for my quest, *Le Mont Saint Michel (L)*. Those 3 months in France also feature in more acceptances, *Lighthouse staircase (C)* and *Chateau Turpault, Quiberon (R)*.



A few years later while I was working in Ottawa a technical glitch on a printing press entailed a free week, so I popped down to Washington DC. During the week there, one of my study group colleagues took me out of town to Maryland and Virginia for a day's photography by the Potomac river. The following year - 2012, while Carol and I were in Delhi en route to New Zealand, we spent time with another of my PSA colleagues, also during this time I was compiling more and more accepts and awards in exhibitions, I was getting close to the required criteria for my initial PSA distinction.

PSA — My Journey

David Stout

When the venue for the 2015 PSA conference was announced my entries increased apace because it was YELLOWSTONE! I arranged a road trip from Denver to the venue, then to head further west and fly home from San Francisco, when I was invited to give an evening presentation to Conference along with noted photographers such as Art Wolfe it was the icing on the cake. More so because I was presented with my PPSA from the President at the opening ceremony, another big plus at Yellowstone - apart from wonderful photo opportunities, was meeting up with many of my Study Group colleagues

Having gained PPSA I kept on submitting to exhibitions in earnest with my next aim - EPSA, then in late 2017 I received a letter from someone who had attended my Conference presentation with an invitation to select at the exhibition of which she was Chair. The venue was Wilmington, Delaware in February 2018, and a fellow selector was Nick Ut no less - a winner of the Pulitzer prize for his renowned image "Napalm girl". As ever I planned our trip to include a week in Philadelphia, then by train to New York City for another week, then a train ride to Delaware, where we stayed at the home of a couple of PSA photographers for the week of selecting - and giving another Stateside evening DPI presentation. It is during occasions such as this - when PSA members gather to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for photography that the benefits of "world's biggest camera club" becomes apparent!



Carol and I had the pleasure to return the hospitality of Gary and Joyce (our Delaware hosts) as they are avid Hadrian's Wall enthusiasts and they stayed at our home before and after their east to west walk.

Colorado Springs was the conference venue for 2020 and I had attained my 740 accepts to gain EPSA, wishing to be presented by the President, Gary and Joyce invited us to join their road trip from Delaware via the Great Plains to the conference. We would then rent a car and head down Route 66 via New Mexico and fly home from Phoenix, Arizona - another 6-week USA trip.

But as you will all be aware - Covid19 put paid to those plans. That journey did not happen - but my PSA journey continues, as well as study group activities there are ample webinar and zoom presentations to enjoy, not to mention simply keeping in email contact with the host of friends established as a PSA member, not only overseas but there is an English chapter, and at least two NCPF clubs with PSA affiliation - South Shields PS and West Cumbria PG .

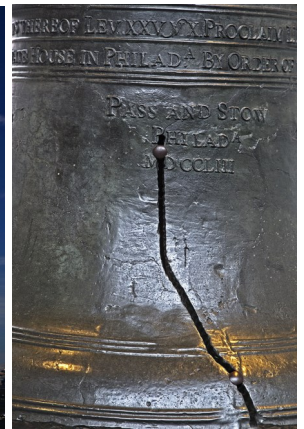
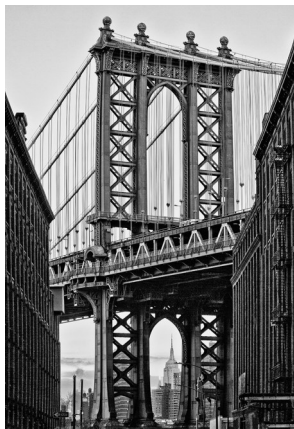
Top:

Grotto Geyser,
Yellowstone.

(L) Manhattan Bridge

(C) Liberty and
Manhattan

(R) Liberty Bell



PSA — My Journey

David Stout



Snake river reflection—David Stout

David is on the NCPF judges sub-committee. A member of Whickham Photographic Club he is well known in the region with over 20 years service on both the lecturers and judges list.

Thank you David.

Ann and Steve Toon

First instalment of a four part series— “Beginnings

By Editor: Ann and Steve are very well known as regular presenters to clubs and seminars within the NCPF area. Personal friends of mine I have badgered them into producing a photographic retrospective of how they became involved in the wilds of Africa, especially relating to their ongoing conservancy efforts. This is the first of a fascinating four part series and commences with how a chance encounter in the Kalahari Desert was to change their lives :

Part one: “Beginnings”

It all started with a pair of wet socks. The year was 1996, an April evening in Mata-Mata camp, in South Africa’s remote Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park – the Kalahari Gemsbok Park, as it was then known. We were sat beside our tiny two-man tent, sweltering in the heat, fridge-less and desperate for a cold beer. Two cans of Castle stood on the rickety concrete picnic table, wearing wet socks in a vain attempt at evaporative cooling.

Quite why the two keen photographers on the neighbouring pitch thought these were camera lenses was a mystery, but they did, and they came over for a chat. They were also from the UK, enjoying their annual four-month photographic expedition to Africa, shooting stock for photo agencies back home. We don’t recall if it was their four months in Africa, their fancy 4 x4 or their super-sized camping freezer stuffed with chocolate bars and cold beer that caught our imagination, but the seed of an idea was sown.

We were a few months into a planned two-year sabbatical round-the-world trip, a career break from our London jobs as magazine journalists. We’d both started out as journalists – that’s how we’d met – both been promoted to positions where we felt more like middle-management than reporters, both earned good salaries, and both felt increasingly unfulfilled. We’d saved hard, rented out our London flat, and hit the road.



Africa was our first destination, and it didn’t take long to fall in love with the wilderness, the wildlife, and the sense of adventure that it offered. We’d set off on our expedition thinking it would be a one-off trip of a lifetime, but we were already dreaming of ways to make it a permanent way of life. That chance meeting with our fellow campers presented us with just the scheme to make that happen. We’d become wildlife photographers. How hard could it be?

(L) Ann photographing ground squirrels



Far (L) Springbok running.

*(L)
Steve and Ann,
Tankwa Karoo*

Ann and Steve Toon

Beginnings



Aside from the two cans masquerading as lenses we had no proper equipment to our name and just a handful of holiday snaps to show for our time so far. Seriously considering making a living from photography was just about the daftest thing we'd ever thought up. We were rank amateurs, ill-equipped, underfunded, and embarrassingly naïve. But looking back now that very naivety was a strongpoint. Had we known then how difficult it would be to make money from wildlife photography we'd probably never have tried. The innocent optimism of (relative) youth, and a determination that our new-found love for Africa's wildlife would become the foundation of a future career completely shielded us from common sense and a sobering dose of reality.

Our initial business plan, if you could call it that, was simple and just as naïve. Buy some decent kit, spend six months in African game parks building up a portfolio of work, then try to sell those images. We packed in our day jobs, supported ourselves with freelance journalism and moved back north. Half the limited capital released by downsizing stretched to a couple of Canon EOS 1n film camera bodies, a 300mm f4 and a 400mm f/5.6, plus a few cheap plastic kit lenses. The rest of our cash went on time in Africa. What we lacked in focal length we'd make up for by spending longer in the field. While hardly a model plan, the additional bush time certainly ticked the 'better quality of life' box we'd set out on our list of personal priorities. We scrambled up the steep photographic learning curve, devouring magazines and books, attending exhibitions, seminars and conferences for inspiration, and



voraciously gobbling up advice and guidance wherever we could find it. We pored endlessly over the work of successful wildlife photographers whose work we admired in the hope that some of their gold-dust would rub off, scouring all corners of the web to find the best exponents of the art.

Top: Orange breasted sunbird

(L) Meerkat

(R) Blackbacked jackal chasing Cape turtle doves

(R) > Leopard female watched by gemsbok



Ann and Steve Toon

Beginnings

But nothing beats hands-on experience, and it was only when we finally got back to Africa for our six-months of intensive game park photography that we really started to learn our craft. And what a steep learning curve it was. A crash course in animal behaviour, the discipline of shooting unforgiving 50 ISO Fuji Velvia, 36-frame dust scratches across our favourite sequences, sub-zero desert nights under canvas, acacia thorns in tyres, day after day of pre-dawn wakeups, the endless hours of waiting for elusive subjects in searing heat: the solid foundations for where we are today. We loved every minute of it.



After six exhilarating, exhausting months in South Africa and Namibia, we returned home with a few hundred images of which we were inordinately (and unjustifiably) proud and the absolute conviction that we'd found our future. We spent a month or so carefully labelling our slides, then with hearts in mouths posted them off to one of the UK's leading nature picture agencies.

Those weeks of anxious waiting felt like the longest in our lives., but eventually a reply arrived. They liked our images, they liked our use of light, they wanted to represent us!

A few hundred images with one agency weren't going to pay our bills, but it was a huge confidence boost.

As we'd learned more about the business of wildlife photography our original youthful optimism had been gradually tempered by reality.



Yet now people whose opinion we respected were telling us that just perhaps, with a fair wind, we might make a go of our mad-cap dream. Our path was set. Now the real challenges began.

Next issue: Finding our feet



Top (L) Namaqua chameleon

Above: Lion male yawning

(L) Lioness

Ann and Steve Toon

Beginnings



Ann and Steve Toon: Cheetah Drinking

Part Two - "Finding our Feet" shall be in the Summer Edition of Northern Focus

Allan Potts

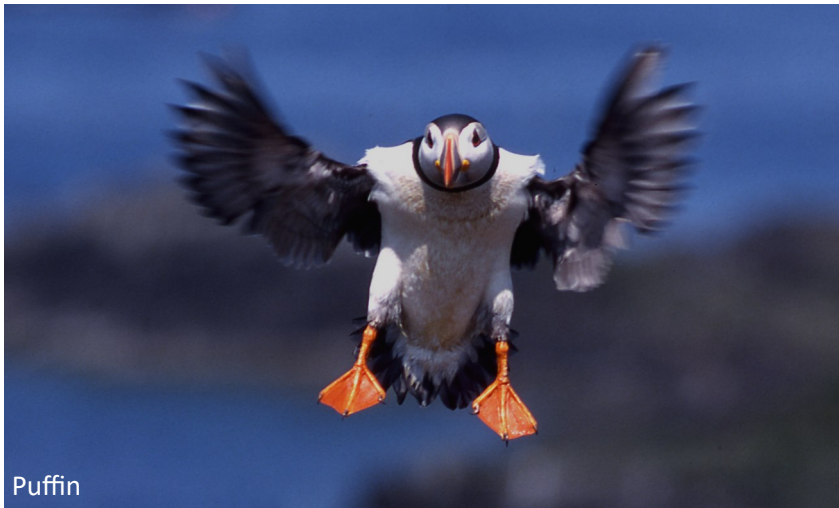
A family tribute

The words and photographs below have been provided by the family of the late Allan Potts, it has been a pleasure talking with them, and through them feeling the immense pride regards Allan's work and family love.

Thanks go to Allan's wife Mrs Mary Potts, daughter Helen who wrote the piece and to Nick Ridley for sending on Allan's photographs which include some of Mary's personal favourites the "fluffy" Robin, the Bullfinch and the Great Crested Grebes.

Allan's passion for photography was greatly encouraged by joining the Whitley Bay Camera Club in the 70's.

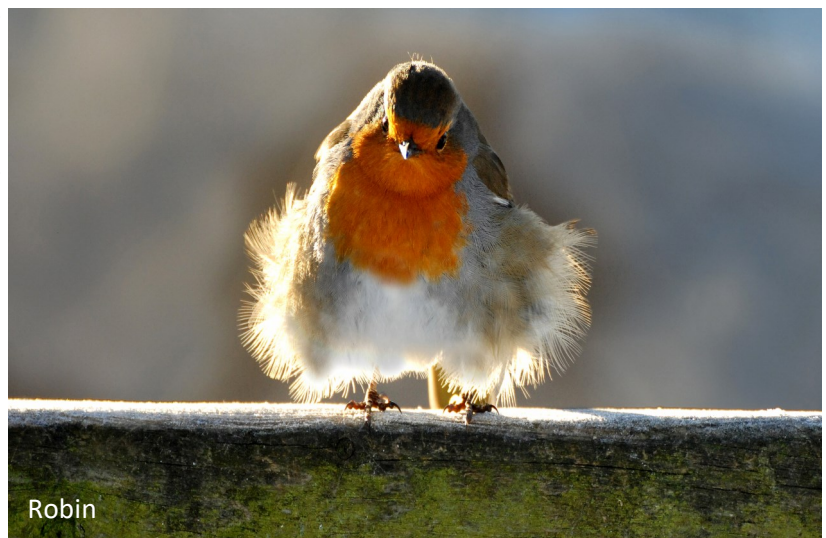
Initially interested in portraiture, Allan soon developed a love for wildlife photography and began creating audio visual slide presentations, using three projectors linked to a dissolve unit with an audio commentary and music track.



He travelled to many photographic clubs up and down the country sharing his work and was awarded a Fellowship with the Royal Photographic Society in 1975. His A.V programmes won International awards and acclaim and he went on to create programmes for the Northumberland National Park and Wildlife Trusts and Tourists Centres.

As a family we remember well his high regard for the camera clubs and the enjoyment and pleasure he received from sharing his work, making a number of life long friends along the way.

They provided a convivial place to have work appraised and appreciated and we know Allan felt gratitude and affection for the support he received and his honorary memberships.



Allan Potts

A family tribute



"A camera to me is an emotional tool that we can use to express our characters. I believe that mastering photography is built on three foundations: sensitivity to lighting, composition and above all our gentle perseverance. Whilst technology has advanced, one thing that has not changed is the photographers ability to see and compose, I call this personal vision. I look upon nature photography as a form of devotion. Sometimes a photograph fails to convey the intended emotion, a disappointment and a devaluation of the original experience, it happens to us all. It however keeps us balanced and engaged and with patience we improve." Allan Potts



Allan and Mary travelled the world taking in many countries and continents. Notably his work commissioned by the Falklands tourist board gave him the incredible opportunity to photograph the huge colonies of penguins. He spoke about the feeling of complete amazement and insignificance being surrounded by such a multitudinous body of birds, the noise, the sight and the smell.

(Top) St Mary's

(L) Gentoo

(Below) (L) Grebe (R) Grebe Killingworth Lake



Allan Potts

A family tribute

It was however his unwavering love of the Northern and Scottish landscape that would reward him time and time again and whilst maybe not providing the excitement and rush of a new adventure abroad, it was his trips to Northumberland and Scotland that would truly enrich his life. He also had a great ability to see beauty and interest in overlooked or less visited places on his doorstep in North Tyneside, the old colliery wetlands, disused railway embankments and even landfills all flourishing and being colonised by birds, insects and native flowers.



Photography was to accompany him throughout his lifetime, from the young man enjoying a new hobby with his box brownie, to the awards and acclaim that would follow years of hard work. Even as his health deteriorated his pleasure and motivation never waned. It was incredibly fortunate that Nick Ridley, my brother in law, introduced Allan to the joys of digital creativity which gave his later years new meaning, when he no longer had the ability to walk into the wilds of the countryside Alan continued to capture beautiful images of garden birds, spent much time photographing Great Crested Grebes on Killingworth Lake or rising before dawn to be filled with awe for a simple North East sunrise.



(Top) Blue Hare

(L) Coquet at Linbrigs

(R) Bullfinch

(Bottom) Waves and wind



Allan Potts

A family tribute



(By Helen) We are fundraising for St. Oswald's hospice to give deep gratitude for the care we received as a family during the last years of Allan's life. A "Just Giving" page has been set up in Allan's name. Many people are looking for a way to make a difference, and supporting charities such as this is a fantastic way to say thank you to our health care professionals.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/allanpotts>

Helen Potts

By Editor: Thank you Helen, Mary, Nick and family.



(Top) Biscuit Factory, (L) Moody Lake, (C) Barn owls (R) Puffin.

(Below) Cramlington Hospital. Photograph where Allan's super large image of St. Mary's lighthouse is permanently displayed at Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital.



NCPF Members Distinctions and Awards

PSA DISTINCTIONS



| | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tony Potter, | Workington | - Grand Master Silver Level (GMPSA/S) |
| John Gilkerson, | Newcastle | - Master (MPSA) |
| Carrie Calvert, | Brampton | - Proficiency (PPSA) |
| Stuart Edgar, | Carlisle | - Proficiency (PPSA) |
| Jo Knight, | Penrith | - Qualify (QPSA) |

FIAP DISTINCTIONS



| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Sheila Coates, | Northallerton CC | EFIAP/b |
| David Brown, | Gosforth CC | EFIAP |
| Peter Maguire, | Gosforth CC | EFIAP |
| Stuart Edgar, | Penrith and District CC | AFIAP |
| Jane Morris Abson, | Richmond CC | AFIAP |

PAGB DISTINCTIONS and AWARDS



Dave Coates, Northallerton CC
The JS Lancaster medal and the meritorious service award of HonPAGB

NCPF DISTINCTIONS and AWARDS



Howard Wilson, Tynemouth PS
Meritorious Service Award and name added to the NCPF Roll Of Honour.

Congratulations to all

NCPF Members Distinctions and Awards

Dave Coates ARPS, EFIAP/p, ESFIAP, APSA, EPSA, MPAGB, HonPAGB, Northallerton CC

The following is “snipped” from [PAGB e-news 15th October 2020](#) Very well done Dave a worthy recognition.

DAVE COATES HonPAGB

The J.S. Lancaster medal and the meritorious service award of HonPAGB have been awarded to Dave Coates EFIAP/p MPAGB ESFIAP, the PAGB FIAP Liaison Officer

One of the most satisfying duties the President of the PAGB has to perform is that of bestowing awards upon the deserving.

Dave Coates joined the Executive of the PAGB in April 2009 and has completed over 11 years on the Executive. After two years as Federation Representative he took over one of the most demanding posts as FIAP Liaison Officer.

The work involved has been tremendous and he has carried it out with great enthusiasm and gusto, earning great respect for his help and patience with those applying for FIAP Distinctions.

Dave is planning to relinquish his FIAP duties at the April 2021 AGM and at that point will hand over to a nervous replacement. I feel sure that FIAP will also wish to honour him for his service.

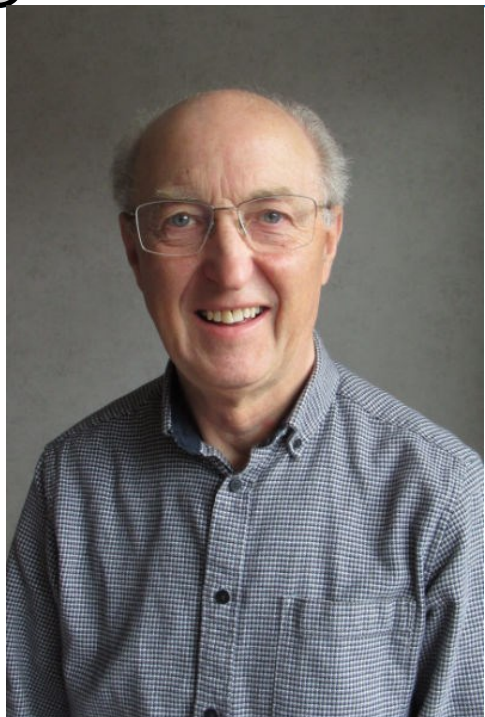
Unfortunately, due the current situation I have been unable to award and congratulate Dave in person and so it has been done online.

Congratulations.
Howard Tate, PAGB President



Dave Coates

NCPF Members Distinctions and Awards



Howard Wilson APAGB CPAGB/AV

Howard Wilson, CPAGB/AV, APAGB, Tynemouth PS

Tynemouth member Alan Forster writes: Those members who joined our Zoom meeting on Thursday night 3rd December will know we had a fantastic evening. There were over 30 attendees with visitors from Cramlington Camera Club, friends, family - and special guests Jim and Margaret Welsh, the President and General Secretary of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation. We were all privileged to see a special award made to our own Howard Wilson APAGB, CPAGB/AV.

On behalf of the NCPF, Jim and Margaret presented Howard with the Meritorious Service Award and added his name to the NCPF Roll of Honour. Jim explained that this special award was made in recognition of over 50 years outstanding service Howard has given to Tynemouth Photographic Society and the NCPF. Jim went on to say that over this time Howard has held just about every position on the TPS Committee serving as President, Vice President, Syllabus Secretary, Competition Secretary and General Secretary, often holding each position on more than one occasion. In addition Howard has been the caretaker of NCPF equipment stored at TPS.

The honour was originally planned to be awarded at the NCPF AGM in March but had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions and the rearranged date in December took much planning to ensure it was a surprise for Howard who was extremely pleased and honoured to receive the award. A framed certificate to mark the event will be presented to Howard as soon as circumstances allow. I am sure every member of TPS will join me in congratulating Howard for this wonderful and well deserved award. Congratulations Howard!

ROLL OF HONOUR OF THE NCPF - Since the creation of the Honour in 2012

| | | |
|-------------|--|------------------------|
| 2012 - | Colin Hall ARPS, APAGB | Gateshead CC |
| 2012 - | T H Morrison ARPS, APAGB | Newcastle upon Tyne PS |
| 2012 - | Leo Palmer FRPS, FPSA, EFIAP, APAGB | Hexham and District PS |
| 2012 - | Alan Porrett ARPS, AFIAP, DPAGB, APAGB | Whitley Bay PS |
| 2012—2017 | Vince Rooker ARPS, DPAGB, EFIAP, APAGB | Morpeth CC |
| 2012 - | John Smith AFIAP, APAGB | Gateshead CC |
| 2014 - | D Coates ARPS, AFIAP/p, APSA, EPSA, MPAGB, APAGB | Northallerton CC |
| 2017 – 2019 | K Henderson APAGB | Washington CC |
| 2019 | R Spiers DPAGB, BPE2*, APAGB | Morton PS |
| 2019 | P A Garabedian DPAGB, EFIAP, EPSA, APAGB | Carlisle CC |
| 2020 | Howard Wilson CPAGB/AV, APAGB | Tynemouth PS |

The Northern Audio Visual Group

Excellence in Sound and Vision

The Northern Audio-Visual Group

By Ron Henry – Chairman of the NAV Group

Who on earth are they you might ask? Well, as far as the NCPF are concerned, we may be a bit of an anomaly. Most clubs and groups which come under the umbrella of the NCPF are camera clubs who share their interest in still photography at least once a week during the winter months or probably through Zoom meetings in these 'new normal' days. The Northern Audio-Visual Group or The NAV Group only meet twice a year and when they do it's for a whole day, once in spring and once in autumn. We meet in the delightful St John's Church Hall in the wonderfully named village of [Snods Edge](#) which is near Consett in County Durham.

It may seem like an out-of-the-way place to meet but our members hail from all over Northern England and the Borders. I say "members" but, because we meet so infrequently, anyone who is interested in AV, books online, turns up to a meeting and becomes a member for the day.

We have a list of over sixty interested enthusiasts from whom we usually attract a group of 35 to 40 for each meeting. Their skills range from folks who started producing AVs over 40 years ago to people who only became interested recently. Some of our members don't make AV programmes anymore but enjoy the company of like-minded producers and appreciate watching their latest efforts.

Inaugurated some 40 years ago, we were initially affiliated to the audio visual wing of the Royal Photographic Society but, as our 'members' were drawn from this area, and most were members of photographic Societies, (there might be one from your club) we deemed it of more benefit to become affiliated to the NCPF.

We often invite acclaimed speakers from 'down south' or 'up north' to spend a couple of hours showing programmes which are successful in national or even international competitions and divulging their secrets. Our own people are also very AV savvy so, many times we just talk amongst ourselves but always with the objective of passing on new or developed skills in audio visual programme making.

Our longer serving enthusiasts will wax lyrically about how we had to make our own dissolve units then and about the primitive attempts at recording sound. Today it's all moved on apace and anyone with a camera and a computer - and a good imagination, - can produce perfectly acceptable AV programmes and even award-winning programmes - with a little help from your friends.

So, what is an audio-visual programme? Well I intend leaving the explanation until the next issue of Northern Focus where if the Editor lets us, we give our views on digital AVs and the coming together of AVs and digital videos. Unfortunately, like many other organisations we are not planning a meeting just yet and the Wi-Fi bandwidth of Zoom curtails meaningful AV meetings through that media, but we'll be back – and when we are, you will be most welcome to join us - you don't need to be skilled, just interested – it's worth coming just to be able to say – I'm going to Snods Edge!

Website: <https://www.thenorthernavgroup.co.uk/>

Obituary

Norman Smith

Sadly NCPF have lost a good many friends and fellow photographers during the past 12 months.

Mr Norman Smith of Gateshead CC 1925 - 2020

Norman was not a North-Easterner but in a long sojourn here he became an ardent enthusiast for our area right up to his final illness when attempts were made to repatriate him to Cheadle Hulme where his roots were.

Norman was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took a degree after a wartime 2-year course.

He was directed by the government into the aviation industry (Hawker Aircraft, Kingston) but the government decided he would be better employed nearer home working on town planning. Wythenshawe was a huge council estate near Manchester and some of its planning was down to Norman.

Norman's work eventually took him to local authorities (notably Norfolk), Sunderland and finally Gateshead. He was a keen walker and after meeting up with myself (a rambler) he joined Gateshead Camera Club (early sixties?)

Norman enjoyed slide photography, indeed all his pictures were on slide film (Fuji) and he steadfastly resisted any attempts to convert him on to colour neg or (horror of horrors) digital photography. N.J.S. became President of Gateshead Camera Club in 1966 and did duty as a Federation Representative.

In conversation with other friends of Norman it is noticeable that one phrase is frequently uttered – "Norman was a gentleman" – and so he was. We shall miss him.

Raymond Rayner.

Obituary

Allan Potts

[Allan Potts, Stanhope Photographic Society - April 2020](#)

A Tribute and Farewell to Wildlife photographer and farmer Allan Potts.

Allan Potts died on 28th April 2020. He had been unwell for several years with Parkinson's disease. He will be greatly missed by his wife Mary, children, grandchildren and many friends.

Allan Potts was a highly regarded award winning wildlife photographer and a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society. He wrote articles for the Northumbrian for over 30 years and contributed images to the Living North magazine.

His book "The Natural North", a celebration of the wildlife and landscapes of the north of England is widely enjoyed and commended. His photographs on five occasions won awards in The British Gas/BBC Wildlife Photographer of the year competition. He collaborated with fellow photographers Simon Fraser and Roger Clegg to create an inspiring exhibition for the Northumberland National Park "scENE" which received much acclaim. His super large image of St. Mary's lighthouse is permanently displayed at Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital.

It was the interlinking nature of his vocation as a fourth generation farmer and creativity as a photographer that gave such richness and meaning to his life and it is knowing that he lived such a full and happy life that gives his family such comfort. Remembering and sharing in his love, through the legacy of images and books that he leaves will always be a poignant and affectionate reminder of him.

"Intrigued as I am by nature, I feel very privileged to have been able to combine farming and photography. The countryside draws me, the wildlife, the beautiful patchworks of colour created by fields, stone walls, hedgerows and rivers and the opportunity for solitude and kinship with our environment. It is with this in mind that I believe we all bear the responsibility to be caring custodians" Allan Potts

By Editor: Both Jane Black and John Smith contacted me suggesting an article/obituary looking back at Alan's photographic work and success. John advising "He was a great nature photographer in the North and was in many magazines. He was also a great supporter of the NCPF and went to many clubs showing his work".

Allan's family have been fantastic, pulling together a fascinating and fitting tribute with supporting images which Northern Focus are delighted to feature. [Pages 18–21](#)

Obituary

Mrs Jenny Gray

[Mrs Jenny Gray, Stanhope Photographic Society - April 2020](#)

On Tuesday 21st April 2020, Mrs. Jenny Gray aged 104 years, a member of the Stanhope Photographic Society for 52 years, who took part in competitions until her ill health earlier this year.

Jenny was a friend to all she met, treating members of the Society as her family, an inspiration and mentor to all.

She is survived by her daughter Dr. Christina (Better known as Rina) Gray.

R. Stobbart (Sec. S.P.S.)

Obituary

Robin Sinton

[Robin Sinton, Whitley Bay Photographic Society - July 2020](#)

I have to inform you of the death of Robin Sinton.

Robin has been a member of Whitley Bay P. S. only for a short time and formerly of Tynemouth P.S., however, he was well known in the NCPF region, judging & lecturing at a number of clubs. Our thoughts are with his family.

Peter Reynolds

Whitley Bay Photographic

Obituary

Paul Murphy

[Paul Murphy, Wallsend Photographic Society - July 2020](#)

It is with great sadness & with the permission of Paul's family that I announce his sudden death on 13th July 2020.

He was an active member of Wallsend Photographic Society, former Chair and Committee Member, known across many clubs within the region and will be greatly missed.

Catherine Ball

Obituary

Kathleen Brown

[Kathleen Brown - August 2020](#)

Kathleen Brown passed away on Monday 10th August 2020 at the age of 83.

Kathleen (or Kate as she was known to her friends) was instrumental in setting up a photographic group at NALGO in Durham's County Hall. Later she became a member of Durham PS and when her family moved to Cumbria she became a member of Carlisle CC and also Penrith CC.

She had a very long association with the N.C.P.F. and was involved in the organisation of the Lakes Weekend Seminars with Jane Black.

Kate also held the position of President of the N.C.P.F. from 1980 to 1982.

She will be sadly missed by her family and her local community, of which she was very much a part of, as well as her many friends in the Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

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

Obituary

Ann Swearman

[Ann Swearman, Whitley Bay Photographic Society - February 2021](#)

[p1 of 2](#)

It was a very sad day when the club learnt of the passing of our most respected member, Anne Swearman.

Anne has been involved in photography for most of her life starting at school where she won a photographic contest in the school magazine. Using her father's plate camera, she developed her technique, with some help from her father in the art of printing, which also included making an enlarger using a spiral from the dining table to provide a means of adjustment.

In the 1950s, Anne joined the Newcastle Photographic Society, but with her independent spirit, she found it was not for her. Indeed, for many years, she could see no benefit in joining a photographic organisation, but photography was still in her heart.

As with most people, hobbies must take a back seat when they get married. It was no different for Anne when she married the love of her life, Morrice. The next few years were spent raising a marvellous family, but the photographer was waiting in the wings.

One of Anne's other passions was fell walking which provided material for her pictures. Again, that independent spirit surfaced, and organised walks were dropped in favour of personal outing where she could dictate the pace and location.

Another, Art Appreciation, would have given her ideas and inspiration, reflected in her work.

Her main outlet for her images was the Women's Institute. Here, she gave talks illustrated by slides which eventually developed into Audio Visual productions. So successful was she that she represented the Area W. I. in a National competition. Anne also had many pictures accepted for the W. I. calendar. Later, advancing her AV talents, she became an active member of the Northern AV Group, showing some wonderful presentations.

History was another passion, especially the pre-Norman period and Saxon architecture. This, together with fell walking provided material for her pictures as well as her AVs ranging from historic documentaries to comedy sequences. Anne always enjoyed writing the scripts for these along with the necessity to research the subject.

Two dates stand out in the Whitley Bay Photographic Society's history, 1951 when the club was formed and 1981 when Anne joined (although it was only to support her son, Andrew, in his new hobby).

Anne threw herself into the club scene winning the Beginners Championship. Her son's interest was short lived, but fortunately for us, Anne decided to stay, enjoying the competition and the judges' comments. Anne continued her success in club competitions in the following years, winning the Intermediate and Advanced sections. She was also to hold many positions on the administration side of the club, becoming President from 1987 to 1989 and was still an active member of the committee right up to the end.

Obituary

Ann Swearman

[Ann Swearman, Whitley Bay Photographic Society - February 2021](#)

[p2 of 2](#)

She was also very active at Federation level: Area Representative, Social Secretary, Editor of "Northern Focus". Here she transformed the publication from a newsletter to a proper magazine which won a prestigious award from the PSA. Later she became the President of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation from 1996 to 1998.

During all this time, she was also engaged in gaining photographic awards including an ARPS, submitting work to exhibitions, member of the UPP folio circles, judging at various levels and giving presentations to clubs in the North of England.

In 2012, Anne was awarded the APSA for her excellent service to photography not just within the PSA, but other photographic organisations such as clubs, councils, federations, national and international societies, and exhibitions as well as to the general worldwide community; a well-deserved award.

Anne was a rarity in photographic circles, always giving new ideas a chance, never afraid of change. She embraced digital photography-learning the techniques and teaching others as well as forming the Monthly Digital Group at WBPS. Always very generous with her time, she had the ability to encourage others in their photographic endeavours, her extensive knowledge was an encyclopaedia to other members. She was a perfectionist but above all, an enthusiast for photography in all its forms and a very good friend to all who knew her.

Not only were Whitley Bay Photographic Society fortunate in having such a great member but Anne's influence was spread throughout the Northern Counties.

A very sad loss to the photographic world which will probably never be replaced.

Alan Porrett & Peter Reynolds,
Whitley Bay Photographic Society.



Recent Events

A look back at recent NCPF events.

NCPF Club Championship 2021

The NCPF club championship was held on Sunday 7th February. Pre-planning and co-operation ensured success for this event which is normally held live in front of an enthusiastic audience at Clara Vale. Submissions in this Covid restricted time were PDI only, but this did not detract from some excellent, high quality work being shown. Live Zoom was made available to clubs, and 60+ devices logged in.

Many thanks go to Judges, Clubs and Organisers involved in making the event possible. Special thanks going to judges John McVie, George Ledger and John Tillotson and the Competition sub-committee under the leadership of Chairman John Twizell with main players Gerry Adcock who worked his I.T. magic and Margaret Welsh who as ever helped pull it all together. The full results are shown below:-

Club Championship 2021 - DPI Results

| Position | Club | Points | Position | Club | Points |
|----------|------------------|--------|----------|----------------|--------|
| 1st | Keswick PS | 236 | 12th | Gateshead CC | 203 |
| 2nd | Gosforth CC | 225 | 14th | Ryton CC | 202 |
| 3rd | South Shields PS | 217 | 15th | Stanhope PS | 201 |
| 4th | Northallerton CC | 215 | 15th | Tynemouth PS | 201 |
| 5th | Saltburn PS | 214 | 15th | Whitley Bay PS | 201 |
| 6th | Gallery PG | 212 | 18th | Consett PS | 198 |
| 7th | Amble PG | 210 | 19th | Stockton CC | 197 |
| 7th | Durham PS | 210 | 20th | Ponteland PS | 192 |
| 9th | Stokesley PS | 206 | 21st | Castleside PC | 190 |
| 10th | Hexham PS | 205 | 21st | Wear Valley PC | 190 |
| 11th | Richmond CC | 204 | | | |
| 12th | Alnwick CC | 203 | | | |

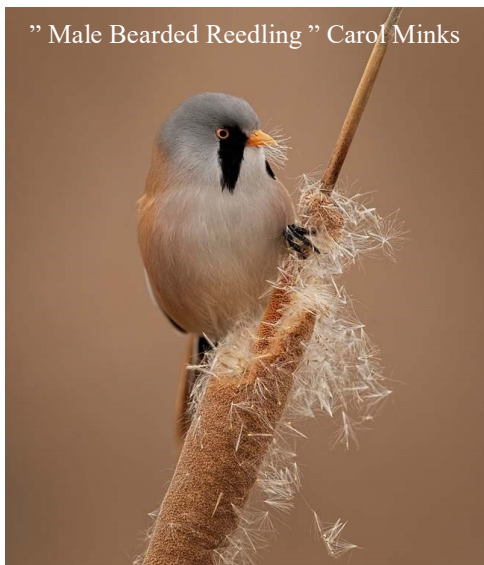


Recent Events

NCPF Club Championship 2021 continued

Congratulations go to Keswick Photographic Society who have a tremendous success rate in both this and the Annuals Competitions: Well done. Their work shall go forward as representative NCPF club to PAGB / Warwick along with second placed Gosforth Camera Club who continue their year on year improvement.

" Male Bearded Reedling " Carol Minks



Keswick's winning images: Cover page shows Best DPI "Tree in One" by Ken Rennie.

Keswick's full entry can be seen [here](#)

" The Pour " Richard Jakobson



" Rattlesnake about to Strike " Alan Walker



Unfortunately with still no Face to Face meeting the Presentation for this year has had to be cancelled. Memento's and Certificates will be posted to the winning entries. Trophies being held by Margaret Welsh.



"Luskentyre Pony" Sue Rugg

" Glencoe " Ken Rennie

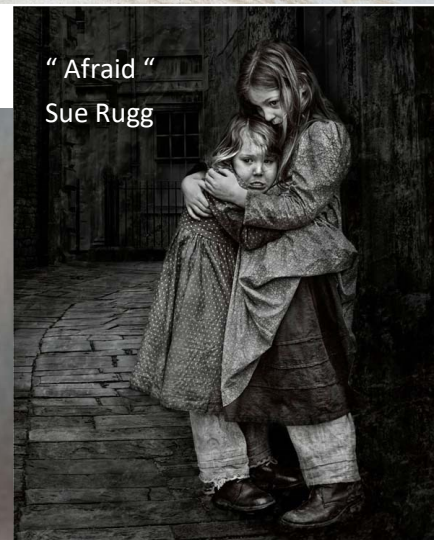


Anyone wishing to collect their trophy may contact Margaret direct regards Covid compliant arrangements.

"Adjusting Her Ballet Shoes " Julie Walker



" Afraid " Sue Rugg





Recent Events

NCPF Club Championship 2021 continued



(Top) White Tail Eagle Patrolling Forest"

Ronnie Gilbert

(Above) "Sitting Pretty"

(R) "Wild Horses"

Ken Rennie



(Top) "Mr Pan"

Deborah Tippett

(Above) "Mountain Hare in Rain"

Julie Walker



Future Events

NCPF Annuals 2021

The Annual Competition's are the main competitive event organised by our Federation. They are open to all affiliated clubs and their members **free of charge**. And shall be run over the weekend 24th/25th of April.

Final date for entries to NCPF Competitions Officer is 01st April 2021.

Again due to Covid this year's competition will be PDI only, a detailed description with entry forms have been forwarded to all clubs secretaries requesting share amongst relevant committee and invitation to members to submit work via their Competitions Secretary. All entries are chosen and made by individual members of our affiliated clubs.

The competition has a number of sections

Beginners Classes: Judged by a NCPF judge

Open Classes: Judged by a panel of experienced judges. Two from outside our Federation one from NCPF.

Alliance Selection: Once the Open Sections are complete a separate panel of NCPF listed judges takes a fresh look at the most successful entries and selects from them our Federations entries into the Inter-Federation Competitions "Alliance Competition" organised by the PAGB.

Selectors Choice Portfolio: After the Alliance Entry has been chosen a further panel of three look at the remainder each selecting a portfolio of photographs they wish to write comment on with constructive critique.

For this year only, PDI entries per person have been increased to

- Four in the OPEN section. (or, where eligible)
- Two in the BEGINNERS (Jane Black Trophy) plus Two in the OPEN section.

Though this is predominantly a competition for Members, Each club is invited to nominate SIX of their best images submitted for entry into the Club Miles Audas Trophy.

Trophies are awarded for the best club entry as well as for the best entries by individual members. There are a number of Open Section Trophies for the best individual entries in various categories such as Sport, Landscape, Natural History, Creative, and Human Portrait, as well as Highly Commended Certificates. Finally there is a trophy, "The Joan Rooker Centenary Trophy" for the best photograph of the competition.

After the Competitions have been completed the NCPF Portfolio Secretary prepares two separate portfolio presentations which are made available for NCPF clubs to book for their programme .

Previous years Portfolio Presentations have been sold to clubs for a nominal amount to cover postage and DVD/USB Media. As with last year, **this years presentations** shall be offered **free of charge** to **every NCPF club** in MP4 format, via WeTransfer.

NB: *By Editor: Did your club receive last years Portfolio: For reasons unknown a number of clubs failed to reply to this free offer. Want a copy from last season - please request direct to alanwilson445@msn.com*



Future Events

NCPF Annuals 2021 Continued

Judges for NCPF Annuals 2021

Annuals - Open Competition:- 1 x External 2 x NCPF:

Bill Broadley, NCPF: Gerald Chamberlin, NCPF: Hunter Kennedy, PAGB:
NCPF Reserve, Jim Welsh: PAGB Reserve, Peter Gennard

Beginners Section:- 1 x NCPF Judge

Keith Archer: Reserve, Will Ireland:

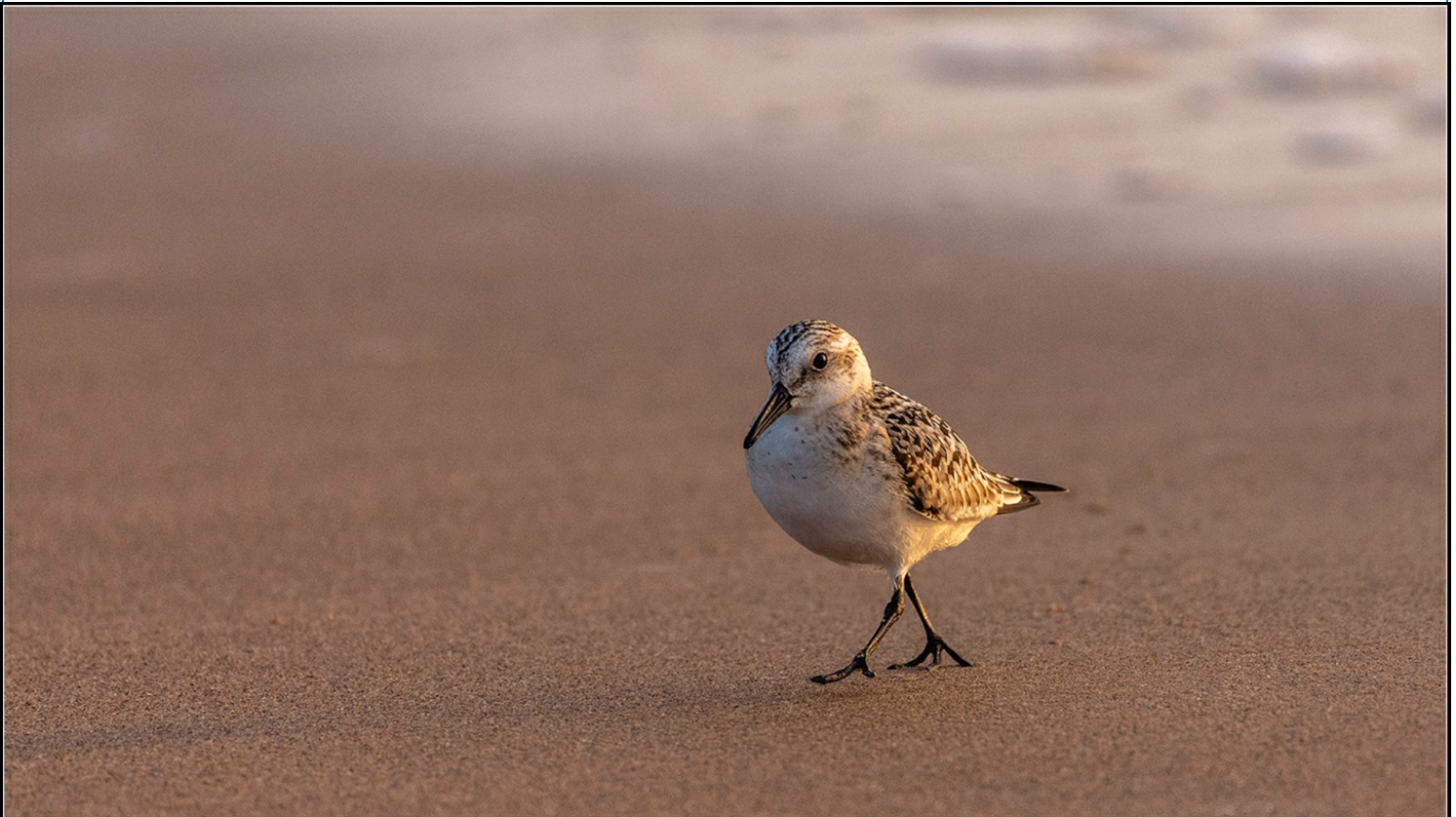
Alliance Section:- 3 x NCPF Judges

Leo Palmer: Richard Speirs: John Williams :

Portfolio Section:- 3 x NCPF Judges

Peter Yearnshire: Patrick Shepard: David Ord:
Reserve for Alliance and Portfolio Sections:, Jim Welsh

Looking back: Some winning images from 2020 Annuals: Where the Winning Club for the Myles Audas Trophy was: Keswick PS with a score of 80 points, 2nd Gosforth CC 77, 3rd Gallery PG 75.



Joan Rooker overall best image all sections and Diamond Trophy best pdi image - SANDERLING PHIL DUNN South Shields



Future Events (Looking back)

NCPF Annuals 2021 Continued

Some winning images from 2020 Annuals



Eagle Trophy best Sport image
Hexham PS
FLYING FREE -
GEORGE LEDGER ARPS



Bryan Gilbert Trophy best Portrait image Keswick PS
THE LOOK - ALAN WALKER MPAGB, ARPS, MPSA, EFIAP



Vickers Trophy best Natural History image

Keswick PS -
HERON WITH
VIPERINE WATER
SNAKE
TONY MARSH



Thomas Bates Trophy best Landscape Winlaton CC
JANUARY SUNSET REG ORD



Hilton Trophy best Creative image
Blyth PS CHIM CHIMINEE ALISON LEDDY LRPS



Jane Black Beginners Trophy

1st placed TARGET ACQUIRED DOMINIC ROBINSON
Penrith and District Camera Club



Future Events

Happy



Birthday

T.H.Morrison

25th April 2021 see's an incredible milestone reached with the 100th birthday of T.H.Morrison.

Opting to be called T.H. to avoid name clash with a Mr. D. Morrison of the period, T.H. as he was known by all played an influential role in the NCPF, Church and National Trust. A Northern Irishman by birth T.H. had significant knowledge of Newcastle upon Tyne, its history and architecture often lecturing in the National Trust as an adopted Geordie.

Talented in Engineering he was not only a Chartered Engineer, but a Fellow of Mechanical Engineers - and also, incredibly, a Fellow of Electrical Engineers.

A member of Newcastle Photographic Society his presentations would often include practical applications. Using negatives provided by club members (that he had not seen before), he would demonstrate enlargement and developing techniques using chemicals and dishes with final prints being viewed against the originators.

When colour slides were first becoming popular with photographers of the time, his modern approach led to other presentation titles. "Why photograph in colour" and "What is Pictorial Photography".

T.H. joined Ryton and District Camera Club in 1957, retiring in 2007 aged 80. It was however the Newcastle upon Tyne Photographic Society that is noted within the front leaf of our NCPF Directory, recording his time as President of the NCPF. Indeed it was T.H. who thought of and piloted the, then Executive and AGM and the area structure we still have today.

1965 - 1967 T.H. Morrison ARPS Newcastle upon Tyne PS

T.H. is also one of the six worthy NCPF photographers to be added to the original NCPF [Roll of Honour](#) in 2012.

Original prints of old Newcastle by T.H. remain on rolling exhibition at his church Jesmond United Reform Church and at the Side Gallery, Newcastle to whom T.H. donated much of his printed work.

With visiting to his Elderly Care Home Covid curtailed, NCPF Hon Secretary Margaret Welsh shall forward a suitable birthday card to T.H. on our behalf.

Happy Birthday T.H.

Thanks go to Trevor Walters of Ryton CC for these recollections.



Future Events

NCPF Annual General Meeting

118th NCPF AGM shall be held on Sunday 11th April 2021 using Zoom

Previous full AGM was last held 17th March 2019, the 2020 planned meeting being cancelled at short notice by the Prime Ministers issuing of the first Covid guidelines. Though not long ago, Zoom was something we had not heard of, so En-Block acceptance of Executive Members, Sub Committee Chairs and Area Representatives and their reports were approved in principal via e-mail communications. Action required as several Committee Members had come to the end of their tenure and others were resigning from positions with volunteers awaiting confirmation. These measures allowed the Executive Committee to function as smoothly as possible.

Following this exceptional year NCPF therefore advise:

Those submitting reports to merge 2020 and 2021 reports into one, excepting the Treasurers report.

With NCPF professional Zoom subscription limited to 100 participants, invitations will be sent to each of our NCPF clubs secretaries suggesting they attend the meeting, or if unavailable nominate a club representative member.

Do YOU have a question, comment or suggestion you wish aired at the NCPF AGM, please discuss with your clubs nominated Committee and request your club secretary follow NCPF guideline to raise the topic.

Along with routine AGM topics where the new Executive Committee shall be sworn in there shall of course be pleasant duties and milestones including celebration of:

- Meritorious Service Award to Howard Wilson.
- J.S. Lancaster Medal to Dave Coates with designatory Hon.PAGB.

Milestone Event

Retirement of Jane Black ARPS, FPSA, Hon.PAGB as Chair of the NCPF International Salon. A position she has held since 1980. Her tireless work and that of her committee in the organisation of 40 years of the International Competition is to be commended.

As well as holding the majority of Executive Positions and serving on all of the sub-committees at one time or another, Jane has also been heavily involved with the RPS and PAGB and remains one of our two NCPF Honorary Life Vice Presidents.



Future Events—AGM

Current NCPF Executive, Committee and other posts:

- President Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
 - Vice President Alan Wilson ARPS, AFIAP
 - Past President Joseph Duffy LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
 - General Secretary Margaret Welsh
 - Honorary Treasurer Peter Yearnshire LRPS
 - International Salon Chair Mike Allport
 - Judges sub-committee Chair Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
 - Publications Officer Pax Garabedian DPAGB, EFIAP, EPSA
 - PAGB Representative Pax Garabedian DPAGB, EFIAP, EPSA
 - Competition Secretary Prints Gerry Adcock ARPS
 - Competition Secretary PDI Gerry Adcock ARPS
 - Club Championship Officer John Twizell
 - Competitions Committee Chair John Twizell
 - Editor of "Northern Focus" Alan Wilson ARPS, AFIAP
 - Portfolio Secretary Alan Wilson ARPS, AFIAP
 - Web Master Gerry Adcock ARPS
 - Awards Officer Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP
 - Elected Member 1 Richard Speirs DPAGB, BPE2*, APAGB
 - Elected Member 2 Trevor Walters APAGB
 - Elected Member 3 John Smith EFIAP, PPSA, APAGB
 - Northern Area Rep Jim Welsh LRPS, CPAGB, APAGB
 - South Tyne Rep Keith Kirkland
 - Southern Area Rep Dave Coates ARPS EFIAP/P APSA EPSA MPAGB APAGB ESFIAP, HonPAGB
 - Western Area Rep Gerald Chamberlin DPAGB, EFIAP
 - Wear Area Rep Debra Taylor
 - North Tyne Rep David Brown CPAGB, ARPS, EFIAP
 - Non Executive Archivist Margaret and Jim Welsh
 - Non Executive Equipment Caretaker Howard Wilson CPAGB/AV, APAGB
 - Auditor Mr. Warren Snowdon
-



Future Events

Dates for your Diary and Club Events

Unsurprisingly this section is pretty bare.

Some Clubs have planned their 2021/22 season optimistically with real people meeting in real buildings, other clubs remain with main bookings via Zoom.

Whichever way your club has planned, we encourage big events to be advertised in next (planned) Northern Focus. Do you want an event advertised - as normal send any news items requiring prompt distribution amongst our 49 clubs to Gerry Adcock: gerry@ncpf.org.uk

However: For major club advertisements for Summer months please send to Alan Wilson at northern.focus@ncpf.org.uk

NCPF Committee: Vacant positions and multiple posts.

Committee is always welcoming to members of NCPF clubs who would like to expand their photographic skills and knowledge by joining or assisting NCPF Committee. Opportunities are available in Committee and sub-committees, perhaps even understudying a role with intent to learn the position and take over in the fullness of time.

One such position exists with Honorary Treasurer Peter Yearnshire advising he shall stand down in 2023. An essential and prestigious role, interested parties for this, or any other role should enquire via Margaret Welsh at secretary@ncpf.org.uk

KEITH KIRKLAND
SOUTH TYNE AREA REPRESENTATIVE
N.C.P.F EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
N.C.P.F EVENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

WHICKHAM
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

CONTACT DETAILS TEL MOBILE 07891426253
EMAIL kirklandimages@yahoo.com

MY NAME IS KEITH KIRKLAND I HAVE BEEN IN CAMERA CLUBS FOR 47 YEARS
 I HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SUBJECTS AND DONE
 MANY CLUB AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS
 I HAVE TAKEN OVER AS THE SOUTH TYNE REPRESENTATIVE
 IN THE COMING SEASON I INTENT VISITING ALL THE CLUBS IN THE AREA
 AND MEET YOU ALL BEST REGARDS **KEITH KIRKLAND**

Keith Kirkland has recently taken on South Tyne Area Rep and is proud to present his credentials.

Thank you Keith.

Wanted, Wanted, Wanted

Information, anecdotes, club updates, personal success stories, tributes, 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

Official magazine of Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

Serving the North of England.

Published four times a year.

We hope you have enjoyed this, the 91st edition of Northern Focus

Thank you for reading



Organisation References

A brief look at Federations, Alliances and International Societies



The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) is a membership organisation that co-ordinates activities for photographic Clubs in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Island (including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). It does this through 15 geographical Federations.

The PAGB organises photographic events for its Federations and Clubs. It offers services such as Recorded Lectures and its own Photographic Distinctions, known as Awards for Photographic Merit. www.thepagb.org.uk



Northern Counties Photographic Federation

The Northern Counties Photographic Federation (NCPF) is one of fifteen such organisations that between them cover the whole of the United Kingdom.

We serve about 50 clubs across the North of England and the Scottish Borders. Divided into six geographical Areas, services and functions for its member clubs and their individual members are numerous including competitions, workshops, judges seminars, Directory with judges, lecturers and club details and (returning in 2022) Northern Counties International Salon of Photography. www.ncpf.org.uk



The Royal Photographic Society was founded in 1853 with the objective of making the art and science of photography more widely available.

The international charitable organisation is dedicated to increasing the knowledge and understanding of photography and film, supporting photographers, and inspiring public engagement. The RPS is one of the world's oldest photographic societies.

The RPS offers a diverse education programme which includes exhibitions, talks, workshops and symposia which are held at Bristol, as well as at venues across the UK, internationally and online. Internationally-recognised qualifications, such as Distinctions, set new challenges, enhance skills and stimulate creativity.

<https://rps.org>



Organisation References

A brief look at Federations, Alliances and International Societies



FIAP: Federation Internationale De L'Art Photographique

The International federation of Photographic Art is active worldwide. Its purpose is the promotion of photographic art in all its aspects and through all kinds of photographic events. FIAP is present in 92 different countries in the five continents and represents the benefits of more than one and a half million individual and professional photographers. FIAP patronages more than 350 international competitions around the world every year along with selected photographic exhibitions. Only the acceptances and awards in events with FIAP Patronage are taken into account for the granting of FIAP artistic distinctions. <https://www.fiap.net/en>



The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is a worldwide organisation for anyone with an interest in photography. There are over 6,000 international PSA members residing in over 80 countries. Established in 1934, it is the largest association of its kind, bringing together professional and amateur enthusiasts of all ages and levels of achievement.

The mission of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) is to promote the art and science of photography as a means of communication, image appreciation and cultural exchange. PSA members benefit from educational resources, study groups, competition opportunities and recognition.

<https://psa-website.com>



"Global Photographic Union", shortened as GPU

At the outset, it must be said that GPU is not a replacement for local "club" photography where photographers attend on a regular basis and take a full and active role in their "club" or for regional, federation or national level photography.

GPU is formed for those photographers who wish to take part in a truly international organisation where photographic art allows and encourages cultural exchange.

GPU operate its own distinctions scheme where photographers collect points from acceptances, mentions and awards in international exhibitions; members can apply for GPU "crowns" without further submission of work or gaining more "acceptances". <https://www.gpuphoto.com>