

October Newsletter and AGM Review

They do say, don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today, and I should have sent this out to you straight after the AGM. I was waiting for something to be completed, however, then I got completely tied up with event photography. I don't know if any of you are event photographers but it's not slow, contemplative photography. You take a couple of thousand photos a day and they all have to be uploaded, sorted, edited, exported and uploaded onto social media ideally within 48 hours – plus an initial pick for the organiser for press and publicity use that same day. Multiply that for two or three days and that's your whole week gone. We absolutely love the pressure, but it takes so much time – and it's been half term too, so with 5 grandchildren their activities have helped fill the rest of the hours. So that's my excuse for being so late with this!

I expect that those of you who started your season in September and October have settled back into the club routines and, even better, perhaps you have welcomed some new members? I had hoped that we would have received the PAGB statement on AI by now and I could put that subject to bed but we are still waiting so I can't update you there. Our sub-committee is ready and waiting when it's published!

We had a smooth AGM – thank you to everyone who attended on a glorious day with two rugby matches on! More people came than I expected so thank you for that. We were very pleased to welcome Linda Meaton to the Exec and I was delighted to present Heather Bodle with her Highly Commended certificate from the PAGB Inter Fed Print Competition.



(photo by Linda Meaton)

Issues Raised at the AGM:

There are very few matters to update you on following the AGM

Travelling Exhibition

Sue Bishop is now taking bookings for the **2024 Travelling Exhibition** – please let your Programme Secretaries know so they can fix a date.

Sue, and her glamorous assistant, Pedro, have done a wonderful job this year. Everyone with a photo accepted in the Members Exhibition has had at least one print included in the Travelling Exhibition and there really is a great selection of the best of the Federation's print photography.

Members Exhibition

The closing date for digital submissions (and this includes your digital copies of your print entries) has been changed to **2nd March 2024** – a week earlier than previously advised. Obviously, Pedro will

be sending information to all clubs about the arrangements for the exhibition in due course but do note this change of date now.

New Judge and Lecturer Booking Forms

There are new forms for booking your judges and lecturers now available in the Member's Area of the website. Stephen has used the PAGB forms as a framework and adapted them to suit our needs.

We know many of you have your own forms but do look at ours. We have written them in response to several misunderstandings between clubs and their lecturers and judges. We think that if the forms are clear and lay out all both parties need to know, then hopefully misunderstandings will be less likely to happen in future.

Complaints and Safeguarding Procedures

We will be looking at complaints and safeguarding this year. These procedures are something that all clubs and the WCPF should have in place so it's something we must all produce. If any club already has a policy on safeguarding or a complaints procedure, please could you send me a copy. Thank you.

Exec Vacancies

We still have a vacancy for a **Publicity Secretary** – we really are missing the personal touch that a Publicity Officer can give, bringing our events to life and reporting on the achievements, successes and activities within our clubs. Thanks to Linda Meaton who has offered to take photos for us.

Next year we will have a vacancy for a **Secretary** and the WCPF really cannot operate without someone in this key role. Stephen made it clear from the start that he was only taking the role on for two years, and he will not be continuing after October – he isn't suddenly going to change his mind and carry on. As I said in my opening paragraph, he and I are struggling to juggle our event and family commitments along with our WCPF commitments and we are both going to be taking a step back from Federation activities next year.

If you are interested in either role, please contact me with no obligation. You can specify a time scale (e.g., for one or two years only – we don't expect you to devote your life to it) but we do need someone and the sooner we have a new potential secretary, the easier the job will be for them as they can shadow Stephen this year.

For the Secretary's role, it doesn't matter where you live because most of our meetings (except the AGM & Council Meeting) are held by zoom and much of the work involves the Gmail account so that can be done from home. Please give it some thought. It's fun being involved at the heart of the Federation.

Successes

The only Distinction success that I have been advised of is **Jenny Warr** from Dorchester Camera Club who was awarded her **ARPS in Natural History Photography**. Congratulations to Jenny.

If anyone in your club is awarded an RPS Distinction, please let me know. I can easily find out about PAGB Distinction successes but not RPS ones.

Next Year's AGM

Next year I have booked **Paul Mitchell FRPS** to give our AGM talk on Saturday 5th October 2024– he will be giving us his new digital presentation "**Creative Vision**". More details nearer the time.

A report on this year's wonderful presentation by Sue O'Connell and Peter Brisley follows at the end of this newsletter.

Next Event

Our next event is the Kingswood Salver Panel Competition – held at Bovey Tracey Golf Centre on Saturday 11th November – 10.30am for an 11am start. The speaker and judge will be Leo Rich ARPS DPAGB EFIP/g Hon PAGB. Leo will be giving a talk in the afternoon at 2pm – ‘Lucky Leo – The Finale’.

Eddy and Pam have organised this very popular competition and talk and we hope to see lots of people there. Fotospeed will be in attendance.

In Conclusion

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Kingswood Salver. After that the WCPF goes into full competition mode as we prepare for the **WCPF Inter Club Championship**, the **Members’ Exhibition** and the **Knights Hayes Trophy – Water in all its Forms** – Stephen and I will be judging this jointly, Junior Choice will return, and we will be looking for new and original work!

The WCPF will continue to support and encourage printing – and I urge our many excellent printers to consider entering the PAGB Masters of Print.

Don't forget to let Bill Aven know of any chances to contact details so he can keep the **WCPF Directory** up to date.

Finally – don't forget to follow the **WCPF Facebook page** for all the latest news, photos, activities and exhibitions happening around our very active Federation.

Helen

Review: Sue O’Connell and Peter Brisley

Photos by Linda Meaton – more on the WCPF Facebook page.

Sue O’Connell and Peter Brisley from Bristol gave us the most wonderful talk after our AGM – and had a wide selection of prints on display throughout the day which I know you really enjoyed. They are both Fotospeed Ambassadors.

Sue and Peter consider themselves ‘Photographers who travel’ rather than ‘Travel Photographers’.

Sue’s talk took us with them on a visit to Ethiopia and told us all about the conditions they had to endure. This was no cosy stay in a 5 Star hotel – they were out in remote areas, with armed guards and very basic conditions. They all got sick. Nevertheless, they had the trip of a lifetime, visiting small villages and really getting to know the people, their culture and traditions. Sue explained the background history and geography of the nation, important for setting the scene. She then treated us to a digital tour of Ethiopia, told with both humour and deep emotion.

Next Sue took us on her journey to be awarded the FIPF – Fellowship of the Irish Photographic Federation – her subject being the people she photographed in Ethiopia. This was a print submission comprising 20 of her Ethiopian portraits and she had them all on display for us to inspect. Well, you hear people talking about high quality prints and the quality of Sue’s prints were the very best of the best. She also used brave crops, unusual angles and lots of eye contact. Throughout her empathy for the people she photographed shone through. These were sympathetic portraits taken with real understanding for, and rapport with, her subjects. Such a strong emotional connection. This was a very special talk and one we will all remember.



Follow that, Peter...and he did!

Peter's talk was simply entitled 'Miscellany' and he treated us to a world tour of different styles and genres- showing us his versatility as a photographer. We enjoyed colours, textures and Geishas in Japan – and those unforgettable Gods wearing woolly hats! We then moved continents to South America with waterfall photographs so dynamic that we could hear the water rush. We travelled to Iran for the grandeur of its architecture, enjoyed a cruise along the Nile in infrared, and were amazed by stories to be found in beautiful Irish stained glass. We saw colour and monochrome, negative images, colour popping – Peter isn't afraid to break any established 'rules' and push the boundaries. Peter then ended his talk with a series of stunning portraits.

Yes, a miscellany , but it flowed as a sequence and we were all engrossed and impressed by the sheer range and variety of Peter's photography , not to mention the outstanding quality of his work. I also learnt that I had been pronouncing 'Miscellany' wrong my whole life! Thank you for that correction, Peter :-)



Sue and Peter did not charge us a fee for this wonderful afternoon of photography so the WCPF were delighted to make a donation to the charity they support – **Survival International**.

All the best

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President - Western Counties Photographic Federation

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