



THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2024

I thought it couldn't get any wetter. It seems I was wrong, but wherever you are, I hope you are at least staying safe and dry.

It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Ron Holmes (1928-2024) on 21 February 2024. Ron was a true gentleman, kind and witty, always helpful, and appreciative of help received. Ron was a very long-standing member of Wimborne Camera Club, serving on the Committee for many years, and an enthusiastic photographer having gained his ARPS early in his membership of the Club.

Also, as I was going to press last night, I learned of the death, last weekend, of Richard Ryder CPAGB, a longstanding member of Chichester Camera Club. Both, I know, will be greatly missed.

This month the lovely Gordon Brown, president of Winchester Photographic Society, shares with us his club's history. We have some images from the recent Disabled Photographers exhibition at RPS House in Bristol and we meet the judges for next month's Championships at Bognor.

WPS's Centenary

by Gordon Brown, President 2023-24

Winchester Photographic Society was founded one hundred years ago in 1923. As part of our centenary celebrations as part of my President's Night, I chose to give a talk on the history of the Society highlighting some of the significant moments, people, founders and backbones of the Society. We contacted as many living past presidents and invited them along too. Below is a photograph of the 14 presidents who attended:

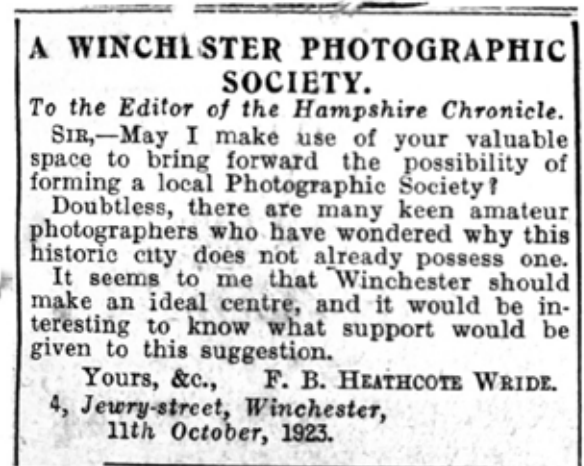


Front row: Louise Brown (president 2014), Gordon Brown (2010 and 2023), Barbara Lambert (1995, 2006 and 2012); First step: Zoe Hemsley (2009), Anne Ruffell (1989 and 2004); Second step: Tony Large (2021 and 2022), Carol Watson (2002); Third step: Glyn Paton (2018), Martin Farrow (2011); Fourth step: Steve Green (2015), Alex Fyfe (2000); Back row: Trevor Morecraft (2020), Nick Townley (2017), Eric Blake (2016)

We were also lucky enough to have Alison Carlick in attendance, daughter of, and representing Katy (1992) and also Anita Nutter partner of, and representing Delvin Stonehill (1983).

It all started back in October 1923 when a chemist and keen photographer called Francis Blake Heathcote Wride wrote a letter to the Hampshire Chronicle speculating over whether there was interest in Winchester for forming a photographic society. We still have that cutting from the newspaper.

Over the next couple of weeks there was a very positive response to this letter and within four months Winchester Photographic Society had a committee, a constitution, had held its first AGM and then its very first meeting on 5th February 1924.



The image below was taken by the author of that letter Mr Heathcote Wride. The image is from a video that he shot outside his chemist's shop in Jewry Street in 1928, you can just see his shop sign in the top left of the image. By all accounts he was a driving force in the founding and early days of the Society.



Another fascinating nugget of information that we found from the archives is a quote from one of the very first presenters to the Society, an RH Lawson FRPS:

*"the camera has its limitations ... it does not always see ... as the photographer did"
"as long as the indications of the control or fake are not seen in the finished work, the methods used to obtain that end were legitimate"*

So it seems that what we now call "photoshopping" they called faking and it was discussed as much a hundred years ago as it is today.

Those early pioneers of photography set the Society on a firm footing as the wording in our current constitution and the make-up of our season bears remarkable similarities to those early years.

- We are still called Winchester Photographic Society
- Our objectives are still the promotion of Photography by:
- Lectures
- Demonstrations
- Rambles
- Exhibitions
- Competitions
- We still meet on a Tuesday
- “Faking” is still practiced today
- Mood and atmosphere was and still is critical in an image

There are, however, some differences:

- Fortunately, new members do not need to be proposed and seconded by two members
- You don't have to write a letter to the president to leave
- Sadly, our subs have gone up a little from the original 5/- (five shillings) it cost then

The Annual Exhibition has always been a highlight and important part of the Society's season the first one was held in February 1925 and has been held annually, almost, ever since. The photograph below shows that there was quite a jigsaw approach to hanging the images in those early days.



Obviously, the Society has had many, many members during our one hundred years but there are few names that should be mentioned for their outstanding, sustained and era defining contributions to the Society:

- FW Heathcote Wride: As already mentioned, a founding father of the Society, a passionate photographer, trailblazer and, by all accounts, a real livewire with ideas, a wide variety of leading roles and a backbone of the Society in those early years.
- Miss Babbage: A more reserved person perhaps but still a very keen and able photographer in a time when women tended to be marginalised. She served on the committee for many years
- George Walsh: Probably the longest serving member in our history George was a member for 60 years from 1957 until his death in 2017. George ran the WPS Exhibition for years and years through the sixties and seventies, was also a member of the Society's committee for many years and a great supporter of photography in the south with his work with the SCPF

- Bob Pendreigh: A highly accomplished professional photographer who was a member for nearly as long as George and was president of the Society a remarkable six times between 1955 and 1986
- Our two currently longest standing current members, Anne Ruffell and Philip George who both joined the Society in 1983



The above is a photo by Comdr. JH Drummond from the 1935 exhibition which is an image that would still do well today.

I am grateful to Anne Ruffell and Barbara Lambert, for their diligent and meticulous research through the Society's records and for unearthing much of the detail and interesting facts in this article.

We have been planning and preparing for this season for some time which included saving money towards some extra special speakers. Up to the New Year there have been many highlights, we've been lucky enough to welcome and be entertained by, for example:

Simon Hill, President of the RPS, Harry Borden, Jon Bentley (Top Gear and the Gadget Show), Gideon Mendel

And for the rest of the season we plan to welcome:

- Guy Edwardes
- Scarlet Page (daughter of Jimmy)
- Marc Aspland (Times sport photographer)
- Tim Allen
- Ann Healy
- Brian Lloyd Duckett

Thank you so much for this fascinating insight, Gordon, it is always lovely to learn about the history of clubs within the federation. And I recently found mention of Bob Pendreigh and two other SCPF clubs in the following newspaper cutting from the Aldershot News on 22nd March 1963:

"Alton won colour slide competition"

Aldershot Camera and Cine Club members went to Alton on Friday, armed with coloured slides to do "battle" with Alton Club in a colour slide competition. There were 20 entries from each club, judged by Mr R M Penreigh of Winchester Photographic Society.

Alton won by 131½ points to 112."

Disabled Photographers' Society Exhibition 2023/4

This year, the DPS exhibition was held at the strikingly designed RPS House in Bristol from the end of November 2023 to mid January 2024.

The exhibition opening and preview afternoon for the presentation of awards at RPS House was on 26th November with DPS President Tom Molloy HonFRPS organising the proceedings. RPS Trustee and Chair of The RPS Equalities and Diversity Committee Mervyn Mitchell ARPS did the honours and opened the exhibition, praising the photographers for the breadth and quality of their work. As a national organisation it was impressive to see many winners had made the journey to receive their certificates.

Well renowned judge and DPS member, Margaret Salisbury FRPS MFIAP FIPF AWPf AGPU FSITTP FSINWP APAGB judged the exhibition and congratulated everyone who received an award. She commented that it was no easy task with the quality of the images being truly excellent.

The DPS is able to offer help with adaptations to assist all manner of disabilities. Gillian Birbeck looks after this side of the operation explaining that one of the most popular being the Manfrotto Magic Arm Kit which easily connects to wheelchairs and other aids. This equipment is available on free loan while remaining a member of the DPS whose annual membership starts at just £10. Our thanks to Steve Kirkby for all the images.

For more information about the disabled photographers society: <https://www.the-dps.co.uk>



SCPF CHAMPIONSHIP NEWS 2024



The entries are all in for this year's championship which is being hosted by Bognor Regis and held on Sunday 17th March 2024 at St Mary's Centre, Grassmere Close, Felpham, West Sussex PO22 7NU. The day starts at 10:30am.

There will images – lots of them and a raffle! The Championships is always a fun day out, so don't miss it.

And just to get you further in the mood, meet the judges. We have three highly experienced judges looking at the images, and in no particular order, they are:

Professor David Wheeler FRPS DPAGB EFIAP/d3 MFIAP

David took up photography whilst at school and has become a keen amateur interested in a wide range of subject matter including Landscapes, Industry and People. He has been a member of Smethwick Photographic Society for over 40 years and has served two terms as president. He has lectured extensively at Photographic Clubs and judged Local, National and International Exhibitions both in the UK and abroad.

He gained his Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society in 1980 and was invited to become a Member of the London Salon in 2005. In 2009 he obtained a Master of the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) with a panel of colour prints of Rajasthani villagers. Most recently, in 2023 he was awarded the Excellence of FIAP at the Diamond 3 level (EFIAP/d3) based on his International Exhibition acceptance record.



Juggling his career (as a hospital medical doctor and University Professor) and family life has been a challenge over the past 10 years, but David has recently been able to commit more time to photography and has enjoyed learning computer-based post- production skills to enhance his images.

Cherry Larcombe EFIAP ARPS DPAGB BPE5*



Cherry says, "I have a passion for digital photography. I love being able to be in control of the whole process, composing the shot, taking the shot, post processing the shot and finally printing it. It's my attempt at being creative and artistic which gives me much enjoyment and fulfilment. My photography activities for the last few years have been concentrated on creative and artistic ways with flowers and plants."

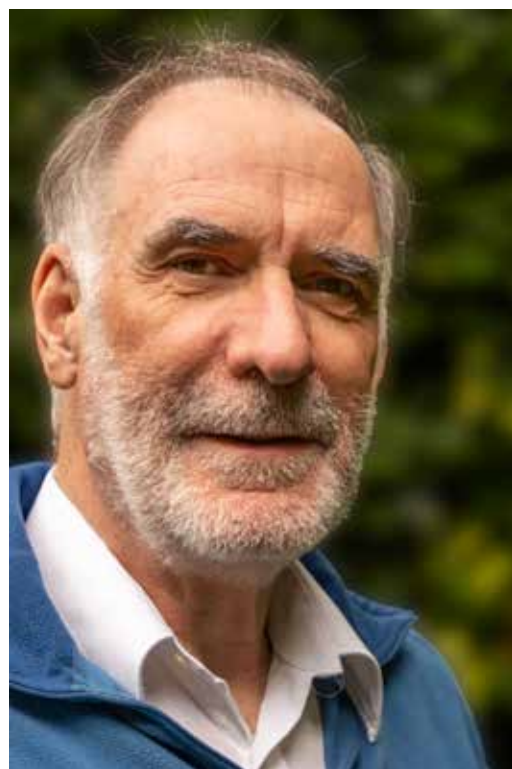
Cherry is being modest, her work is regularly accepted in both national and international salons, and she also has obtained an EFIAP award. She is a member of the Eastbourne Photographic Society and on the KCPA's premier judging list, so is always extremely busy with both judging engagements and giving talks to clubs as far afield as Australia. Although she always prefers to do them in person, so people have the opportunity to see the prints that support her various talks.

David Smith LRPS CPAGB BPE1*

David is a former President of Woking Photographic Society (currently Woking's deputy-head tea person) and immediate Past President of the SPA.

His own photography started primarily in nature but he is now enjoying a mixture of street photography and travel with portraiture as well.

David is also a member of the PAGB Executive Committee and Chair of the Inter-Club Print Championship held annually in Blackburn. And if that's not enough, he is also a member of the PAGB APM Committee and the administrator for the PAGB APM Online Advisory Service, in which capacity, he says, he has been in contact with a substantial number of SCPF club members. And if there are any members at the Championships who would like to know more about the mentoring scheme and what it involves, then please see David out and ask him. My words, not his, but David is lovely and I know he will be happy to help.



What are the Championships? The SCPF Print and PDI Championships is a one-day, inter-club event, run under PAGB patronage, open to all member clubs and held by a different club, in March each year.

Three judges are invited and will score all the images between 2 and 5. There will be individual awards in each class, an overall gold medal and three "judge's choice" medals in each class.

All the image scores are then totalled by club and the winning club and the runner-up in each class go on to represent the Southern Counties Photographic Federation at the Inter-club Championships organised by the PAGB. The Inter-club PDI Championships are usually held in in July, with the Print Championships in October.