



THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2024

I know I say every month, "Wow, that went quickly", but this month it seems true once again, Thank you for not pointing out it's an age thing! As we roll into September, with Autumn looming large, our thoughts invariably turn to the photographic year ahead. So, there a number of events coming up, I wanted to tell you about. And, for the first in my up and coming series on, "How to teach an old president new tricks", this month it my pleasure to welcome Caroline Preece to the newsletter to talk about she prepared for one such exhibition. Finally this month, don't forget, entries for the league need to be in, as do entries for the Annual AV competition and just in case you need a reminder about the latter:

SCPF Audio-visual Championship 2024



The Oak Leaf Salver will presented to the best club entry, but there will also be certificates for the runners-up and the best individual sequences.

Clubs may enter, two or three short sequences, so even if your club has only one member interested in audio-visual, we'd still love to see their work so please encourage them to enter.

AVs are a set of predominantly still images with an accompanying soundtrack. A limited number of third-party images, graphics and video may be used but most, if not all, of the images should be the original work of the author.

Up to three sequences of 2 to 5 minutes duration from different authors or co-authors may be entered by a club. Members of any fully-paid up SCPF club may enter. Entries must be received by the 29th of September.

Full rules:

<https://southerncountiespf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SCPF-AV-Rules-2024.pdf>

Entry form:

<https://southerncountiespf.org.uk/av-championships-submission/>

The judge this year Micki Aston LRPS CPAGB from the Chilterns (CACC).

Last year after a break of nine years, members were treated to an amazing afternoon in Basingstoke of winning sequences at the SCPF Audio-Visual Championships. I am delighted to say following that success, it was decided to hold the same competition again this year and drum roll please . . . This season's competition is now open for entries.



The main event is on Sunday 3rd November 2024 at Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall RG25 2JQ, with Basingstoke CC hosting again.

The best twenty or so of the pre-judged sequences will be shown between 2 and 5pm with Micki presenting the certificates and trophy.

For further information email av-info@southerncountiespf.org.uk.

The July 2022 SCPF Newsletter contains a useful discussion of the genre with several tips. <https://southerncountiespf.org.uk/2022/08/july-newsletter-all-things-av/>

You might find the work of Mark Allen MPAGB/AV <https://www.youtube.com/@Almarkdotnet> or Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-AFIAP APAGB <https://www.youtube.com/@IanBateman> of interest, as well as tutorial videos from Barry Beckham <https://www.youtube.com/@BarryBeckhamVideos>.

This is really exciting event that brings together a wide variety of subject matter in many impressive sequences. So even if your club does not enter it is a great afternoon's entertainment and worth the trip to Basingstoke to spend a fun afternoon amongst photographic friends.





Annual Photography Exhibition

21st-22nd September 2024

Hungerford Town Hall

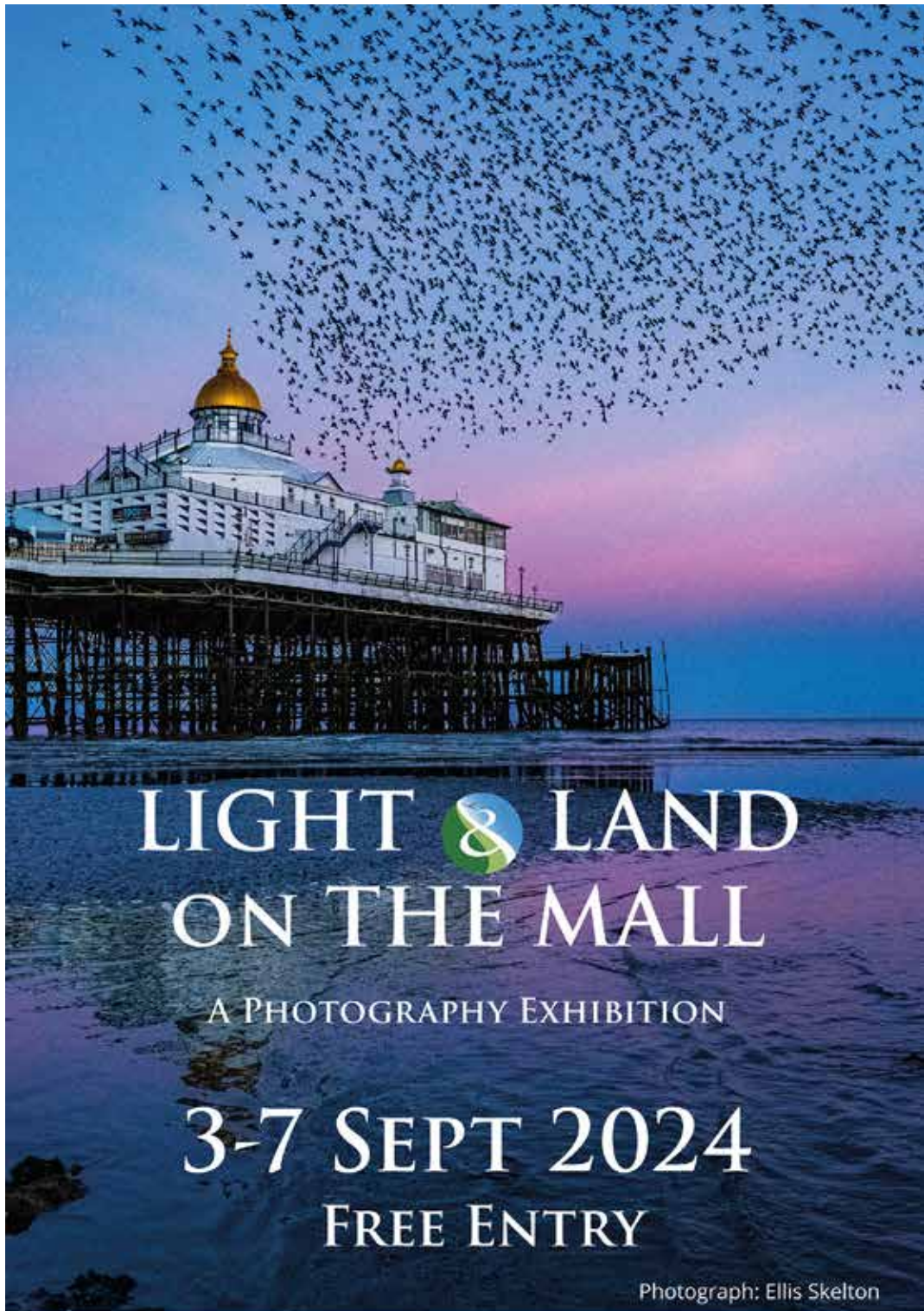
Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 10am-4pm

Entry £2

Under 12yrs FREE

www.hungerfordcamera.club



LIGHT & LAND ON THE MALL

A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

3-7 SEPT 2024
FREE ENTRY

Photograph: Ellis Skelton

MALL GALLERIES

THE MALL
LONDON
SW1Y 5AS

OPENING HOURS
3-5 SEP 10AM-7PM
6-7 SEP 10AM-5PM

IN ASSOCIATION
WITH CEWE

cewe
we love photos

We often hear from clubs about exhibitions they're putting on, but this month one of our members is involved in the Light and Land on the Mall exhibition, which is very exciting, so I pinned her down recently and asked her some insightful questions!

Thank you Caroline for agreeing to talk to me about staging an exhibition. I know you must be pulling your hair out at the moment, but an exhibition in the Mall, that's pretty special, so I have to ask you how did it come about?

The Exhibition is being organised by Light & Land to celebrate their 30th anniversary. The last one they held was in 2015. Charlie Waite (one of the organizers) is a massive advocate of printing and showing your work so it is great that he has given people the opportunity to do so in such an amazing venue. I mean the Mall Galleries on The Mall, possibly only the likes of the Tate could beat this for location!!!

What I love is that this is not an exhibition based on the results of a competition and the preferences of those selecting and the current trends. Here you purchase your space and then you are free to fill this space however you like. It is much closer to a traditional exhibition and it allows you to show the work you love and you feel best represents you as a photographer and a person. It lets your personal voice shine through. It is a shame that there are not more exhibitions like this in great locations which are accessible to mere mortals like myself (well affordable ones anyway).

Define your level of excitement?

I think my emotions up to the hanging which happened on Friday were a mix of excitement and terror. It has been a steep learning curve and it is a huge leap from camera club exhibitions to the Mall Galleries. Light & Land produced some great guidance videos for exhibitors but in some ways they added to the nerves instead of relieving them, I suddenly found myself immersed in the world of Limited Editions, Mirror Plates, Certificates of Authenticity, and my personal nemesis - framing - or at least finding great wooden frames which did not require me to rob a bank to buy them!

I may have told everyone I know about the exhibition, and a number of random strangers !!!

How many images are you exhibiting and are you exhibiting along others, if so who?

In my space I have chosen to show 5 images. The only requirement of the exhibition was that the photographs have to be taken outside which means I was able to show work which reflected my passion for street photography. The Mall Galleries is a big space so in total there will be 65 exhibitors including Charlie Waite, Astrid McGechan, Bill Ward, Charlotte Bellamy and a number of other well-known people.

How did you select the images you'll be showing?

This is the hardest thing about exhibitions, you need to find images which work together, not just your favourite images. My photography is predominantly street photography so I focused on that. In the end I went for 5 colour prints. To break up the regularity and add interest the bottom row consists of a portrait format image, a landscape format image and then another portrait format image. Then the top row are two more portrait format images. For me this is more visually interesting than having everything the same, but it is still balanced.

What sort of preparation did you have to do? Are we talking presenting images as one would for a camera club comp, or RPS, or even PAGB assessment?

We have been given absolute carte blanche to present the images how we would like. There are no rules. The nature of your subject matter and what suits it best determines how you present

the images. I like this freedom from the more formal restrictions of camera clubs, RPS and PAGB. That said there were only so many new things I could take in at one go so I opted for the safe and familiar 40cm by 50cm format so I didn't need to worry about the mounting aspect.

My images themselves however are small within the frame - halfway between A4 and A5. How big you print impacts how the viewer interacts and experiences the image. With small prints it makes it a much more intimate experience, the viewer has to get closer. I think this suits my style of photography better than an A4 or A3 print.

I know you were concerned when we spoke about frames, did you manage to resolve that?

I am definitely a little older and a little greyer as a result. Apologies to all framers out there, I am sure it is more complex and involved than it looks, but I may have spent a lot of time muttering about the fact that it can't be that hard to stick 4 pieces of wood together in a rectangle! I looked back at a recording of a work meeting the other day and I was even ranting about frames there!!!!

Now I have to hold my hands up and admit part of this is my own fault, I left things a little late (a bad habit of mine!). I had totally underestimated how hard it would be to find good quality frames with non-reflective glass at reasonable prices ... and then I had the extra challenge of the frames needing to be wood as they were being hung using mirror plates which needed to be screwed into the frame and the gallery walls.

It is most definitely not like popping into John Lewis or Home Base as i found out to my cost!

Luckily I eventually found a great London company called Abstract House [<https://abstracthouse.com>] who have been handmaking frames in the UK for over 20 years. Whilst not cheap, they are a fraction of the price of many places I approached. Their customer service was amazing as well so very happy to give them a plug here :).

Can you share some of the images and say a few words about each?

Out of the darkness.

This for me summarises street photography. You set yourself up for success and hope the gods are smiling on you. I had waited a while at this location and there was no-one photographically interesting passing through. I was just about to give up when this small boy came along with his parents. He stopped and pointed to the light. For me an image can mean a lot more than what was actually taking place at the time. For me this image represents hope. Out of the darkness comes the light.

Taking time out.

Another example of the gods smiling favourably. Despite what it looks like it is a candid shot. This image was taken in Regent Street in London. The guy sitting down had been performing in front of the shop but then he stopped and took a break. This made a much more interesting image due to his body





language and expression. I am frequently drawn to this sort of in between moment. He reminds me a little of a 'sad clown' even if he is not actually a clown. The shop interior behind him however makes the image for me, it gives it a Narniaque quality.

Friends catching up in a cafe



This was taken through the glass door of a cafe in Sussex. The decor was amazing and gives the image its painterly and timeless feel. But for me the critical bit is the relationship and interaction between the 3 women. This image has been mistaken a number of times for a studio shot and people have congratulated me on the lighting. I am not that good!!! It is actually a candid shot where I got lucky with the subject matter and the owner's choice of interior decorator. Different people and a different moment may not have worked as well.

I write books and people often ask me for an elevator pitch, so it's my turn to ask, what is your elevator pitch for this exhibition?

I have no experience of writing elevator pitches, this is my first. Hopefully it is suitable. here goes,

65 Exhibitors, a top London Gallery, the only restrictions are that the photographer and/or the subject must have been outside. Whatever your tastes and interests there will be images which you will connect with, which will move you, which will inspire you. Come and see the Light & Land Photography Exhibition at the Mall Galleries.

That's perfect. So final question, when, where, what?

Tuesday 3rd September to Saturday 7th September. The gallery is open from 10am to 7pm Tuesday to Thursday; and 10am to 5 pm on Friday and Saturday.

It is being held at the Mall Galleries, London, SW1Y 5AS Entry is free.

That's fabulous Caroline, thank you for taking time out to talk to me. Good luck with the exhibition. I am hoping to get up to London on Saturday to see it.

Project Support Group

The Project Support Group is a relaxed informal workshop where we support photographers undertaking a project.

- Are you working on a project for personal development and satisfaction?
- Do you want support and guidance on applying for a RPS Distinction or PAGB Award?
- Want advice on the suitability of images for your project?
- Want to know how to improve your images that were not as successful as expected in a competition and work on them in relation to judges' comments?
- Do you have any printing, mounting or calibration issues?



The bh photography club has a number of experienced members who are willing to offer their help and advice. Occasionally we will invite an experienced judge to provide advice on the projects and panels.

One to one mentoring is available if you don't like working or asking questions in groups.

The workshops will run on a Sunday, every other month - 10:00am to 3:30pm.

There is a charge of £5 to cover the costs of the group, which includes tea/coffee.

Bring your own lunch and your work, either prints or PDIs, for us to help with.



You don't need to have started a project to attend. If you are thinking about starting a project and want to discuss your plans (or lack of them) or just want to see what other people are up to, you are welcome to attend.

The Project Support Group meets at:

Muscliff Community Centre
Shillingstone Drive, Muscliff, Bournemouth. BH9 3LR
What3Words: ///slave.items.backs

Dates for 2024/25

15 th Sep 24	19 th Jan 25
17 th Nov 24	16 th Mar 25
	18 th May 25

Contact Russ Foote at rdfphotos@yahoo.co.uk for further details.



Enter: UK at Play photo competition

and stand a chance to win great prizes!

CEWE is partnering with the PAGB to bring you the 'UK at Play' photo competition. Between 1st August and 31st October 2024, enter your best photos of Brits enjoying leisure and play in the UK.

You can submit up to 100 photos to give you many opportunities to showcase your art of photography. Your photos will be judged by a panel of recognised industry experts and professional photographers.

There are some great prizes up for grabs such as CEWE vouchers and personalised wall art of the winning photo.

Plus the winner will also receive a Medal from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

You can also enter your images from this competition into the CEWE Photo Award, the world's largest free to enter photo contest, which CEWE are proud to have PAGB as patrons of.

Entering the CEWE Photo Award is completely free and give you the chance to spotlight your images on a global stage as well as potentially win a share of €250,000 in prizes.

cewe
Photo Award

Our world is beautiful

International Photo Contest

For each uploaded photo CEWE donates 10 Cent to

UN CHILDREN'S FUND

Top tips to make your photos stand out within the competition

- Ensure your photos are representative of the theme and tells a unique story with a fresh perspective. Images that communicate an idea or emotion in a clear and effective way always makes an impact.
- Master your individual technique. Photographers who strive for excellence in their imagery are generally noticed by our judges.
- Lastly, read the rules carefully to ensure you submit your images accordingly.

https://contest.cewe.co.uk/ukatplay/en_gb/