



THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2024

Well here we are. December and another year over. So to finish this year on a positive note, this month we are looking at our second Fellowship of the Irish Photographic Federation panel in recent months. This time congratulations to Sue Sibley FIPF who went beyond the pale for her recent success. Sue explains how she found the process and shares some of her images from her successful panel.

Sue Sibley FIPF Panel Plan



Tell me about your panel.

For my panel I decided to try what many consider a rather mundane subject 'Still Life'. I wanted to give it a new lease of life using some modern techniques to give the final pictures a fine art but vintage feel.

The inspiration for it came one day while walking my dog. I spotted dead hydrangea heads in a neighbour's garden and suddenly knew I wanted to produce an image worthy of such fine, detailed foliage. One idea soon followed another. I moved away from flowers and foliage to items that had more narrative, many of which were very personal to me. Back in 2012 an ARPS panel of 15 images came from this idea, all the original photos were taken at the same time of day to give a consistent light and feel. Some twelve years later adding the additional images for the fellowship panel was tricky trying to recreate those exact moments to achieve similar tones. I had used window light to keep the natural warmth. The objects were set against wallpapers (we were redecorating the bathroom at the time), potato sacks (nothing to do with the bathroom!) and voile.

I experimented with different top layers created from photographs I had taken of rocks, wood and rust or Emeli Sande album covers to add texture over the image which I blended using soft light, no more than two layers in each case and one of them usually monochrome, so not to change the colours. I did the final tweaks to each of the end images by using Photoshop's photo filter.



SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION

55th ANNUAL EXHIBITION

**at the Young Gallery,
above the Library,**

Market Place, Salisbury SP1 1BL

Saturday 4th January 2025- Saturday 1st February 2025



FREE ENTRY

Viewing Times

Monday 10am - 7pm

Tuesday and Friday 9am - 7pm

Wednesday and Thursday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 5pm

<https://southerncountiespf.org.uk/exhibition/>

Image: Stacked nicely
©Jim Crone

The idea of an Irish Fellowship was inspired by an invitation to judge in Belfast which sadly got cancelled due to lockdown, and over the last four years I have worked on a number of new images, but not actually finished them.

Then on one sleepless night at the end of October this year I ended up looking at the Irish Photographic Federation website again, not a great idea at nearly midnight and entered without realising the actual date for the adjudications was only four weeks later on 23rd November.

Okay, four weeks, tight but doable I thought. I work well under pressure. Except next morning I got an email to say I had to have everything uploaded by the 8th November and that was only two weeks away. (I don't recommend doing this)

I didn't want to upload anything until I had the final pictures sorted, printed and mounted just in case. And that's when things started to go wrong.

I had decided to go small, 7.5 inches x 5 inches, but still mounted in the usual 50 x 40cm mounts, except I wanted to go for a V-groove and for twenty exactly the



same I needed to have them done professionally which was going to take time, time I didn't have. Then my printer decided not to print properly so I ended up buying a new one.



As I said, earlier, the new panel was based on my old ARPS panel from 2012, some images I revamped and of course I needed to take more for the required twenty images

then work on bringing them all together. But the layout for the Irish Photographic Federation as we saw with Chris Pocock's panel has to be on two lines whereas with the RPS it can be on three. That in itself was hard to ensure an overall pleasing picture. A good tip is to think of the panel as your twenty first image.



Did you go over to watch the assessment?

Yes, I decided to fly over. I experienced a fair amount of panic when it started to snow in the morning of the flight. But I'm glad to say I was only delayed 30mins and then there was the drive to Thurles in

County Tipperary which felt a very long way.

The format for the assessment is similar to that of the Royal with six judges, who having studied the images will be given the opportunity to indicate what they feel with a yes or no vote. Some of them are then invited to discuss the images before a second and final vote is taken, and no I do not have any nails left!

The images have a beautiful depth and colour to them, what paper did you decide to use?

Paper choice is never easy, but for this panel I used Permajet Fine Art Silk, in this instance it gave me the look and feel I was looking for.

One of the questions I forgot to ask Chris about his fellowship, was whether there is the same requirement as the Royal Photographic Society for payment of an annual fee in order to keep your letters?

You can pay annually, or you can choose to pay a one-off fee, but you don't need to be a member of the Irish Photographic Federation in order to take the qualifications.

I know you've had a lot of success with your images in all sorts of competitions, do you find panels harder to work with?

Some of the images on the panel have been submitted singularly for club competitions, mostly they've done quite well, but I love putting together panels, it gives you far more opportunity to bring together a body of work, it is often difficult to tell the full story with just one picture and there is an art to bringing them all together and of course the overall layout is as important as the images themselves.

And any takeaways from this, Sue?

Yes, definitely, if you can't sleep at night, that doesn't mean you should enter for photographic awards!

Thank you, Sue, (smiley face emoji!) for sharing your success and congratulation again for a well-deserved award.

More Congratulations!

And congratulations go to the five photographers from the Southern Counties Photographic Federation for their recent successes at the November PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit:

Alan Crisp BPAGB	from	Bognor Regis
Mike Taylor CPAGB	from	Gosport CC
Amanda Hepburn CPAGB	from	Overton PC
Stan Maddams DPAGB	from	bh photography club
Dee Maddams DPAGB	from	bh photography club

So finally that just leaves me to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is my last newsletter, as from next month Stewart will be taking up the reins. But I have no doubt that you will be hearing from me again in 2025, I am still working on series of articles for newsletters and thank you everyone who has contributed articles



and pictures so willingly over the last three years. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing all your stories and celebrating your successes and I look forward to reading about more of them in the future - Over and Out!



Entries are now invited from all photographers of any level

SOUTHAMPTON INTERNATIONAL 111th Year



**Exhibition of
Photography 2025**

**Open from:
17th November 2024**

**Closing date:
2nd February 2025**

- Over 150 awards including medals, ribbons and certificates
- 3 International judges
- Free Digital catalogue (printed version now optional)

[2024 Digital Open Colour GPU Ribbon]
A Mother's Love by Carol McNiven Young.
FRPS EFIAP/g EPAGB ABPE AWPf



www.southamptoninternationalexhibition.co.uk

Email enquiries: admin@southamptoninternationalexhibition.co.uk

SCPF Print and PDI Championships 2025

Sunday 23rd March 2025

Colbury Memorial Hall, 133 Main Rd, Totton, Southampton SO40 7EL

Judges

Martin Fry FRPS FBPE EFIAP/d3 AV-EFIAP/b APAGB

Sandie Cox ARPS DPAGB EFIAP

Pat Couder CPAGB BPE1* QPSA

The SCPF Print and PDI Championships are held in March each year. This is a one-day event and each year it is hosted by a different club from within our Federation and this year New Forest Camera Club are kindly doing the honours.

This inter-club event is run under PAGB Patronage and open to all member clubs, no matter how small. Clubs can enter up to fifteen images in either or both the Print and PDI classes. There are three judges who score all the images between two and five. All images compete for the individual gold medal winner, one of three "judge's choice" silver medals and some Highly Commended certificates in each class. The winning club and the runners-up in each class go on to represent the SCPF at that year's PAGB Inter-club Championships. The PDI event is usually held in July and the Prints in October.

Even if you don't have the full 15 images do still consider entering as this does not affect the consideration of your members' pictures for the many individual awards.

The PAGB restricts nature images in their competitions so the rules for the SCPF Championships differ slightly from our other competitions. For this event a limited number of nature images can be submitted. Full details of the rules and how to upload images can be found on the Federation website.

<https://southerncountiespf.org.uk/championships/championship-rules/>

SCPF Audio-Visual Championship 2025

I am delighted to let you know that we have the eminent Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-AFIAP APAGB judging this competition next season. Ian last judged for us back in 2014 and is a highly-respected AV judge, creator and organiser of the his own federation's competitions as well as the PAGB APMs in audio-visual. As yet the venue has not been decided and it would be good to have a host club in the west of our region. If your club has access to a hall that could host and provide refreshments on the afternoon of Sunday the 26th October 2025 then please let me know.

The two dozen sequences from the 2024 Championship were shown again last month at a Zoom session and it was great to see so many of you joining that call. However, that clashed with the last round of PAGB APMs so there will be another Zoom session on Sunday 9th February at 19:30 – a Zoom link will be made available nearer the time. It would be lovely if you can join me then.

Do get in touch if you'd like more information about audio-visual sequences and how easily they can be created. av-info@southerncountiespf.org.uk

Suzie Kirkby CPAGB/AV
Championships & Audio-visual



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.