



THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025

So here we are at the start of a New Year, Christmas is already a distant memory, the decorations have been put back in the loft and most of us have already broken whatever New Year's resolutions we may have made. The New Year also sees a new editor of the newsletter. I would like to thank my predecessor, Anne Eckersley, for her fine work in bringing entertaining and informative content each month for the last 3 years and presenting me with the challenge of maintaining the standard.



I would love to hear from clubs and ordinary members – perhaps you have an event that you would like to promote, a photographic achievement that you would like to celebrate or a new technique or piece of kit that you think may be of interest to others.

I would also like to introduce one of our 66 clubs in each newsletter so that we can get to know each other a little better and perhaps share insights, ideas, successes and challenges. We are a federation of clubs with a shared passion for photography in its many forms and we are here to help each other. I will start this month with Basingstoke Camera Club as it is my own club.

Stewart Lacey
President

SCPF Annual Exhibition

Our 55th annual exhibition is now on at Salisbury Library, in the Young Gallery, 6 days a week until 1st February. We have 28 club print panels and a panel of prints by our exhibition judge, Peter Gennard MFIAP EFIAP/ diamond 3. There is also a rolling presentation of the 280 images from the 35 clubs who entered PDIs.

We had a well-attended preview evening on the 3rd January where most of the awarded individuals and clubs were there to receive their awards in person. A big thanks to everyone who helped out on the evening and also to the large number of you who helped hang the exhibition in record time on the 2nd.

We want to have the exhibition stewarded throughout the month and we are grateful to everyone who has registered so far. There are still a number of slots to be filled so please volunteer for a slot if you are able. Go to <https://southerncountiespf.org.uk/exhibition/exhibition-stewarding-rota/> to add your name.



Picture credits: Suzie Kirkby

The exhibition catalogue gives details of all of the entered images in prints and PDIs, together with thumbnails. You can also find all of the results and awards, together with the judge's biography and panel. The catalogue can be downloaded [here](#).

In case you weren't able to visit the exhibition in person, there will be a Zoom session showing the exhibition PDIs and prints on Sunday 2nd February 7:30-9:30pm. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83347831504?pwd=T5M8z28Qq6ssO2eGoxotEhd8Wy1T1S.1>

SCPF Print and PDI Championships 2025

A reminder that this year's Championships will be held on Sunday 23rd March and is hosted by New Forest Camera Club at Colbury Memorial Hall, 133 Main Rd, Totton, Southampton SO40 7EL.

Entry for the Championships is now open and full details and rules can be found [on our website](#). You can also refer to the article in last month's newsletter. The closing date for entries is Sunday 2nd March. Remember, your club does not need 15 images to enter and even a single image could win an award, and entry is free!

John Ring

It is with very great sadness that we announce the loss of Gosport Camera Club's longest standing member: John Ring, who died suddenly Monday the 6th of January.

John was a hugely influential member of Gosport Camera Club, performing many functions behind the scenes, as well as being a committee member for many years, including one as Chairman. Many Southern Counties Federations Clubs will be familiar with John who attended as many League rounds as possible (both Prints and PDIs), as well as Championships and Finals events.

John was very helpful to many members of Gosport CC, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for photography to all who took up his regular offers of assistance. His loss has come as a shock to all who knew him and he will be sadly missed by us all. Our sympathy goes to his wife (Diane) and his family at this time.

Meet Basingstoke Camera Club



*Simon Williams
President Basingstoke CC*

What are the origins of the club?

BCC has been around for over 100 years though, before WW2 it was known as Basingstoke and District Photographic Society. The club was affiliated to the RPS in May 1921, as recorded in The Photographic Journal of June 1921. The club held its first annual exhibition in April of the following year at the long since demolished Immanuel Church Schools, Basingstoke.

It appears that, after a hiatus during the war, the club was meeting again as Basingstoke Camera Club by the end of 1945. There is not much information on the club's post war history. We have programmes going back to 1978 and a record of a contribution of 10s 6d to the RPS towards a portrait of William Henry Fox Talbot in 1951!

What is the current membership and trend?

Basingstoke's membership currently stands at a healthy 107. We have a steady stream of new member enquiries, a lot of which is down to the quality of the [club's website](#). We have also enrolled a significant number from the annual members' print exhibition that we have held in the town's busy shopping centre for the last 2 years. We are pleased to say that we have been reasonably successful in attracting a broader age range and more women members, around 30%. BCC is open to anyone aged 14 and above.

We are striving to make BCC as inclusive as possible – encouraging less experienced individuals, who may only be using a smartphone.

Describe a typical club meeting?

We meet weekly on Thursday evenings in a community centre hall from September to May. The venue also has the benefit of a cheap bar next door! We offer a balanced programme of events which include a variety of internal print and PDI completions; we also participate in both SCPP leagues. We have monthly presentations from quality external speakers, aiming to cover a broad range of genres and photographic interests. We also encourage our own members to present on subjects of their choosing. We have a number of practical evenings, and these are usually themed. Often, they are based on earlier presentations and are usually preceded by a prep session on Zoom. Our programme continues over the summer – typically a weekly field trip or photo walk to a nearby location followed by the obligatory pub.



A club external speaker, Susan Phelps, with her son who flew from New York just to support her!

What other activities and facilities do you offer to members?

As well as the Thursday meetings we also have activities most Tuesdays. Most of these are over Zoom. Photoclinic is an opportunity to review and discuss images in a friendly environment, even doing basic



Annual club dinner and awards evening

edits online. We have a print surgery once a month – a physical meeting which covers all aspects of a print workflow. There are also advanced technique presentations and Zoom presentations with speakers from further afield.

We have a number of special interest groups, currently: portraiture, night photography, nature, photopoetry, street, infrared and AV.

This year we plan to restart our photography basics workshops and mentoring for beginners. We have DSLR cameras which are available for members to borrow. We also have mount cutters, a monitor profiler, studio lights and backdrops and a set of Lee filters, all for member use.

What engagement does the club have with the SCPP

We are proud that Basingstoke CC was one of the 17 founding members of the SCPP back in 1963.

We have been active in the federation league competitions since the beginning and are currently in division 1 for prints and division 2 for PDI. We also enter prints and PDIs in the Championships and annual exhibitions. We proudly hosted the AV Championships for the last 2 years and won the Oak Leaf Salva in 2023.

11 of our past and present members have been admitted to the SCPP Roll of Honour and 3 Basingstoke members currently serve on the SCPP Council.



Club members helping at PAGB APM hosted by the SCPP last April

How does the club work with the wider community?



President Simon Williams with Hospice marketing

The club has a long-standing relationship with North Hampshire's St Michael's Hospice and have donated over £20,000 from the proceeds of our national open exhibition. We also provide photographers to cover their fundraising events and for marketing shoots.

We have engaged with the Mayor's office, participating in the Basingstoke Variety Show and even provided the photography for the Mayor's Christmas card and the order of service for his carol concert.

Our annual members' exhibition in Basingstoke, as well as attracting members to the club, has encouraged the public to take a greater interest in photography. We set up a photographic studio and offered the public free portraits and headshots. We had over 700 recorded visitors in 2024

What are your plans for the future?

Basingstoke Camera Club is currently in a good place. We have a strong and dedicated committee, and a stable and enthusiastic membership who are generally satisfied with what the club offers. We ran a member feedback survey at the end of last season, which confirmed what we believe is working well, but also identified areas we can improve, so there is more that we can do.

We want to provide more assistance to beginner photographers through offering more fundamental workshops with guidance through mentoring and structured field trips. We hope to offer some fundamental training on the use of Adobe Lightroom too.

We want to encourage existing members to step out of their comfort zone – try new genres and techniques. Organising trips to exhibitions encourages members to be exposed to a wider range of photography, not just that which does well in competitions.

The club is also looking at carefully selected purchases/ acquisitions which can benefit the members. The current shopping list includes an IR converted camera and a studio backdrop system installed in the hall.

Most importantly, we continue to listen to our membership to ensure that Basingstoke Camera Club continues to develop to support the photographic and social needs of all of our members

Simon Williams

President Basingstoke Camera Club