

August 2026



No doubt you have noticed Summer is nearly over and the new club programmes will be out soon. I certainly can't wait to see which exciting speakers my club has chosen and just hope that I'm not booked elsewhere those evenings.

There must have been many festivals and concerts that have attracted our snappers. Basingstoke Pride remains a free event and is just one of several charity events covered regularly by my club. My image of Sarah captures the joy and exuberance shared by several hundred people on the day. I'm sure the long hot summer will be a common theme in the pix we will be competing with and against in our coming season.

Several clubs have had exhibitions and a few are explored later in this edition. They are a great way of getting known in your local area and attracting members. Finding suitable space at a reasonable cost can be challenging, but many clubs might be able to manage it. Basingstoke CC are lucky enough to use unoccupied shops in the town centre but you may be able to obtain a favourable rate for a council venue. There are many ideas can be shared to help you put on a successful event and costs can be offset by catalogues, raffles and refreshments. It is quite uplifting to see your work admired by friends and family alongside the other great work of your club friends. Having ideas and kit are key so, as a Federation, we are here to pool our knowledge and resources; it could be possible to negotiate the loan of print or exhibition stands from another local club. Reach out if you need help.

Attending Federation events is key to broadening your outlook within club photography. As announced in the last month's newsletter, the new Conference Day is another great opportunity to meet others and bring ideas back to your club. There are a couple of spaces for speakers left; please consider sharing something with us. Book early and avoid the rush at the start of the season.

A couple of Federation clubs have changed their names away from "Camera Club", perhaps to try and attract those whose photography is solely from their mobile phone. However, compact cameras are experiencing a resurgence just now; the laws of physics will always apply to sensors and optics. Many clubs that have had Phone Camera competitions have found all the usual suspects are still winning. Name changes on their own rarely attract many members and it is important not to ignore traditional promotions to get known in your area: local newspapers and magazines, flyers, posters, exhibitions, community photography and curated social media. A competent and up-to-date website (with your latest programme and accurate contact details) is also vital. It will be interesting to see whether the name changes are beneficial either in terms of numbers and demographic of members.

Suzie Kirkby CPAGB/AV, SCPF President

Members' Meeting 2: Conference Day

Sunday 27th September, 9:30-16:30 at Littleton near Winchester

20 photography talks, 10 minutes each

Attendance is just £5 for SCPF members and speakers alike. The price includes bottomless tea and coffee all day too.

Booking is essential – see the [SCPF Website for details](#). Places are strictly limited because of the size of the venue so **do book early**.

There are several splendid speakers signed-up; they will be revealed soon. **Just a handful of speaking spaces remain** and it would be great for you to be part of this exciting day. Talks are very brief at only 5-10 minutes and there are so many different ideas that could be presented.

What can you bring to the event?

This is a superb opportunity to show off your photography, camera/editing skills or just tell us about something or somewhere interesting. The content is entirely up to you as long as it is photography-related.

With so many speakers discussing different topics there's bound to be something for all our photographers to enjoy. You'll also be able to meet our Council members and find out about all the competitions, awards and the other services that your Federation provides.

If you don't want to speak but still want to show-off your photo-books, prints or special/unusual items of kit, there will be tables put out for people to look at your offerings during the breaks.

Talks are strictly non-commercial but there is the opportunity to leave out flyers. Guidance for speakers will be given once you've booked and closer to the event. You must follow the SCPF Sensitivity Guidelines.

There is more [about the event on the Federation website](#) and in the [previous SCPF Newsletter](#) so, to avoid disappointment, [register now](#).

If you want to know more just email me at president@southerncountiespf.org.uk.

Suzie Kirkby
SCPF President



Were You Eclipsed by the Eclipse?

Did you follow all the advice and plan accordingly?

Here are the rather varied experiences from three of our members.

Mike Inglis: Hayling Island Camera Club

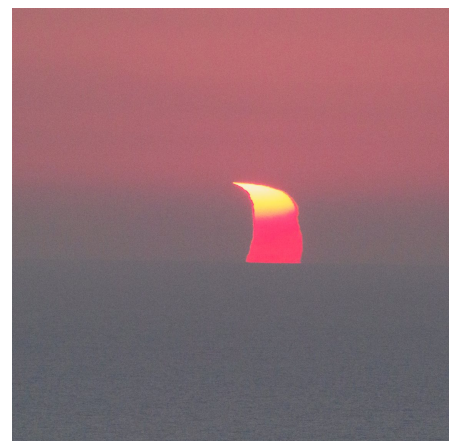
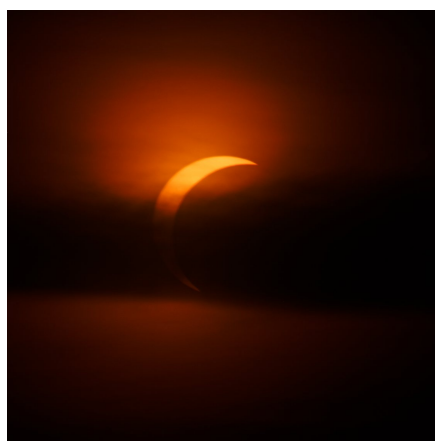
I had planned this image for some time before the partial eclipse and wanted some local foreground interest of the COPP Memorial, located on the sea front at Hayling Island. I ordered solar glasses and, most importantly, an ND100000 solar filter couple of months prior to the eclipse. After reading all the warnings, I went for the K&F filter, and my sensor is still okay, considering I had my Canon R5 with RF100-500mm plus 1.4x Extender pointed at the sun for most of 2 hours. I took around 300 images of the partial eclipse from start to finish, and although the landscape image was added later, (and the suns are obviously not to scale!), all images were taken from the same position, as you can see from my setup image. As far as post processing is concerned, my Photoshop skills are pretty basic, so YouTube was my friend, specifically Nebula Photos (<https://youtu.be/DaMFe5Fzn0o>). I used an interval of approximately 6 minutes between shots for the composite.

My landscape image was taken on my R7 with RF 24-105mm at 24mm with a graduated ND filter. The precariously positioned third camera was my GoPro Hero7 trying to do a time-lapse from start to finish, but it didn't work (sun too small and too bright - I got the settings wrong!).

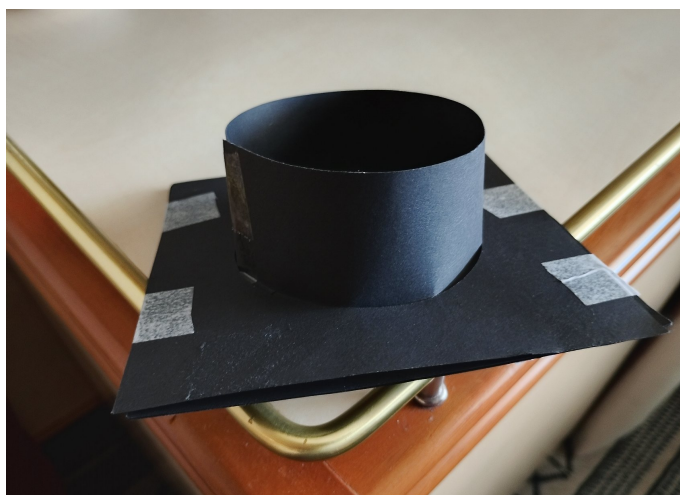


John Clegg: Basingstoke CC

On holiday in Majorca: *"I saw most of the eclipse. Unfortunately, the sun disappeared behind a cloud just as totality was starting. We did get to see the crescent sun setting into the sea though."*



Lorraine Milford: Basingstoke CC



Before the trip I prepared a DIY lens solar filter using solar film. A bit flimsy but it worked.

We were due to be on a cruise at A Coruña, Northern Spain during totality.

Before we left, we were advised that the original sailing time was 21:00, some 30 mins after totality.

Unfortunately, when docked, a rather big hill would have completely hidden any view of the setting sun.

A couple of days before we sailed, P&O sent out an email advising us that we would now sail at 16:30. A big sigh of relief. The captain moved the ship to the optimum position, ably advised by Ian Ridpath, Astronomer from the Royal Astronomical Society. Taken near El Ferrol, 43° 55N, 008° 21.8W.



PAGB Awards

Prints & PDIs: The most recent APM session in April was detailed in PAGB e-News 411. A few of our members were successful and the Federation president still has certificates left to present. The next APM Adjudication is hosted by the EAF in Colchester on November 22nd/23rd 2026. There has been considerable interest in this Adjudication which is now full. The SCPF has 10 entrants.

Applications are now being accepted for the April 2027 Adjudication to be hosted by Lancashire & Cheshire Photographic Union on 24th/25th April at a venue still to be confirmed. There is only one application so far from the SCPF.

APMs in Audio-visual: These are happening on Sunday 20th September and you should be able to catch them online. We're reliably informed that we have some SCPF entrants and there might be some spaces still available. If you think your work is up to scratch please consider entering. Use of the mentoring service may be helpful.

Ray Hems, SCPF PAGB Awards

SCPF Audio-visual Championship 2026

Judge David Smith LRPS CPAGB

Entries close Sunday 27th October

Audio-visuals are a collection of predominantly still images with an accompanying soundtrack. This competition is open to all members of SCPF clubs and, unlike other federation competitions, every member can submit an entry through their club. This competition remains free to enter.

Remember to ask your members to start preparing their entries now for upload on or before Sunday the 27th September.

[The AV Championship Rules](#) are on the Federation website, as is the [Submission Form](#). Although clubs' entries will still be managed and submitted by Competition Secretaries, there is no restriction on how many members can have their work included.

The three top-scoring sequences qualify for our club trophy: The Oak Leaf Salver. As well as the main sequences' certificates, there are three additional certificates to be won this season:

- ▶ best original photography
- ▶ best harmony sequence
- ▶ best original script/soundtrack

The top twenty sequences will be shown and the award winners plus winning club revealed at the online event: **Sunday 25th October, 2-5pm**. There will be a later Zoom session to see all the entries.

Suzie Kirkby, Audio-visual



Exhibition Round-up

Chichester Camera Club

Our annual exhibition was open this year between Saturday 1st August and Saturday 8th August. 1,657 visitors attended which was 295 more than last year. We remain committed to keeping the exhibition free for everyone to attend and free for all club members to enter, regardless of their photography group within the club. There were 288 Prints, both colour and monochrome, and 156 PDIs on display covering all genres.

We thank this year's judge, Annie Healey FRPS DPAGB EFIAP/p A.APS BPE5, for judging the images and selecting those to be awarded Certificates of Merit and trophies across all our categories.

The exhibition takes considerable planning to succeed and work has already begun on next year's event. Thanks to our volunteers this year's exhibition was set up and managed efficiently, helping visitors enjoy their experience.

Our café remained popular serving teas, coffees and a daily selection of fresh home-made cakes for visitors to enjoy while viewing our PDI show.

We invite visitors to vote for their favourite print. This year's result was very close with only five votes separating first and second place. David Pritchard BPAGB was the winner and both he and the visitor whose voting form was drawn received a £40 gift token.

Peter Farrelly, Chair of Chichester CC



David Pritchard and his winning print "Heated Discussion" (right)

Hayling Island Camera Club

Once a year in August the club shows off its members talents in our annual print and PDI exhibition. This event is our main way of trying to attract potential new members and try to make some extra revenue too so we can try and offer varied speakers during the season.

The club displayed 102 prints and 228 PDIs for the public to enjoy, which for a group of 45 current members the choice and variation of prints on show is a credit to them and the club.

This year we used a new venue at the Hayling Island Community Centre. Over 150 visitors attended but maybe the exceedingly hot weather deterred many this year.

We offer a free five-hour workshop to anyone who might be interested in joining the club just before our new season starts in September. Our Skills Secretary Trevor Ager talks them through basic photography skills, and takes them on a walkabout with their cameras/phones before returning to show them how to do some basic editing. This year 9 signed up for the workshop, who will, hopefully, join as members for the new season.

The raffle has proved very popular the last three years and this one didn't disappoint. Refreshments with cakes donated by members allowed visitors to sit back, relax and enjoy the exhibition.

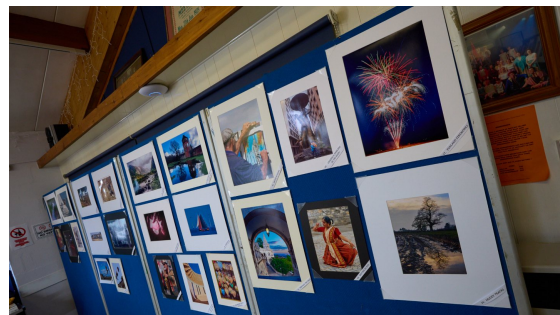
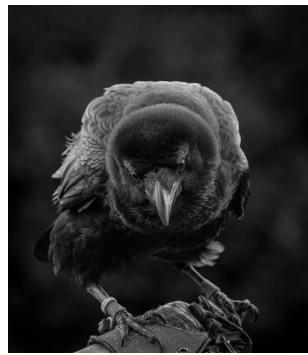
This year the club held a competition for members to take photos of Hayling Island for a club calendar to sell to the public. Image could only be taken using a mobile phone and any edits could also only done on the too. The idea was to show that no expensive equipment was needed in order to take a good image, as so often with potential new members this seems to be one of the reasons people feel they can't join.

We also hold a free competition each year for the public to vote and choose their favourite print. At the end of the exhibition, one winner is pulled out of all the entries, and they receive a copy of the print they chose. This year the winner was Raven's Stare by Debbie Mcilroy.

All the public entries are counted to see which member has the most popular print for the annual exhibition trophy winner. This year it went to Glen Coe by Mike Inglis.

Debbie Mcilroy, President of Hayling Island CC





Newbury Photography Club – D-Day exhibition

Thursday 6th June 2024 (the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day invasion) was announced as a day of National and International Commemoration via a full Programme of events. 13 of our members photographed many of these both in and around Newbury.

The day began in Hungerford at 8am with a proclamation commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day; this set the tone for a day of remembrance and reflection. Memorial services were held at many local locations and events at Greenham Common Control Tower and Thatcham War Memorial were photographed. Winchcombe Place Care Home hosted a D-Day 80 street party; this event fostered community spirit and allowed residents and visitors to celebrate and remember together. The bells at St Mary's Church, Shaw "Rang out for Peace" in a symbolic gesture echoing the sentiments of the day and commemorating the end of the war. Beacons were lit at Chapel Row and Donnington Castle at 21:15, accompanied by the reading of the International Tribute. Additionally, the Control Tower was illuminated, creating a visually striking end to the day.

There were also events in Parkway on the 9th of June and a Commemorative Military Convoy travelling from Basingstoke to Hungerford on the 31st June.

The objective of this exercise was to create a unique and lasting photographic record of local memories from this historical occasion of Commemoration. The exhibition shows a selection of the many photographs taken, together with other local information and supporting stories.

The exhibition is at Greenham Common Control Tower, RG19 8BZ until 13th September. Tues-Sun, 10am-3pm weekdays and 10am-5pm at weekends.

Rob Carpenter, President of Newbury PC

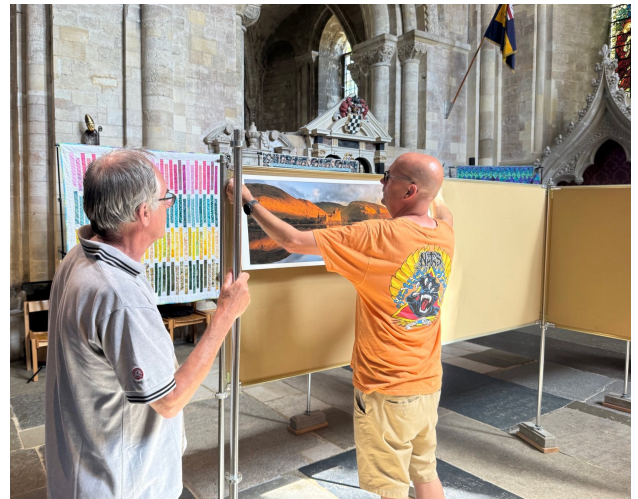


Viewfinders of Romsey Camera Club at Romsey Festival

As part of the 2026 Romsey Festival, Viewfinders of Romsey held a very successful exhibition in Romsey Abbey from 4th-17th July. There were 40 prints on display and 47 PDIs, showcasing a diverse display of our members' work.

A large number of people visited the Abbey over the course of the Festival fortnight. We were fortunate to exhibit alongside a beautiful display of quilts and a calligraphy exhibition. There were many and varied events in the town during the Festival, and Viewfinders' members made up the majority of the official photographers.

Carolyn Eyles, Viewfinders of Romsey CC (Pix by Romsey Festival Photographers and Suzie Kirkby)





Wareham Camera Club

Wareham Camera Club's annual exhibition on Saturday 8 August proved to be a real success, drawing over 300 visitors throughout the day. The hall buzzed with conversation as people lingered over the displays and taking time to enjoy the wide range of photography showcased by members. The coffee and home-made cakes, offered at just £2, were a particular hit and kept the atmosphere warm and sociable. Many attendees stayed longer than they planned, chatting with members.

Promotion through local social media clearly paid off, bringing in new faces from Wareham and the surrounding area as well as tourists on holiday down in Dorset. As we are only a small club virtually all members participated in some way be it helping to set up, displaying prints, baking cakes, providing raffle prizes, stewarding, and talking to visitors. With the strong interest shown the club is hopeful that several visitors will become new members in September, adding fresh energy and creativity to the club (and keeping us in Div 1 this year ☺).

Nigel Gidney, Wareham CC



Online Directory Updates

Thanks for all your club and officer updates. Do please remember to put in valid and accurate email addresses for officers. There are occasional login issues that can occur; the email address for sorting this and other directory issues is: directory-support@southerncountiespf.org.uk

As mentioned in the President's introduction, some clubs have changed their name and please check when arranging/publicising matches and events with other clubs.



Don't Miss Out!

Upcoming Federation Events

Next Reps' Meeting: Tuesday 8th September (online)

Members' Meeting 2: Conference Day – Sunday 27th September – just £5, booking required including speakers: [see website](#) 9:30am – 5pm at Littleton Memorial Hall near Winchester, SO22 6QL.

SCPF AV Championship Entry Closing Date: Sunday 27th September; ***all members can enter***

SCPF AV Championship Event: Sunday 25th October (online) with judge David Smith LRPS CPAGB

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Club Exhibitions To Visit

If it is not already there, please post your event on the SCPF Facebook page.

All these exhibitions are free admission and highly recommended. There might be a nominal charge for catalogues, refreshments, raffles, etc. See club websites and social media for other information and times.

Newbury Photography Club: Greenham Common Control Tower, until 13th Sep (Not Mondays)

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society: The United Free Church, September 10th – 12th

Gosport Camera Club: Holy Trinity Church, September 11th – 20th

Farnborough Photography Club: Princes Mead shopping Centre, September 26th & 27th

