

# N M C P F News

Apr 2026

Edition 205





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## Useful MCPF Contacts:

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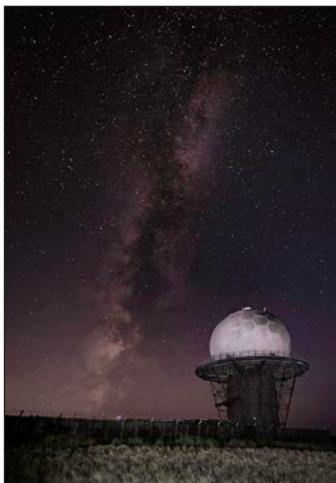
President: [president@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:president@mcpf.co.uk)  
General Sec: [sec@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:sec@mcpf.co.uk)  
Webmaster: [webmaster@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@mcpf.co.uk)  
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PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit:  
[apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:apmsecretary@mcpf.co.uk)  
Seminar Secretary: [seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk)  
Print and Pdi Championships:  
[mcpfchampionship@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:mcpfchampionship@mcpf.co.uk)

## Calling All Club Secretaries

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Please forward any information that is emailed to you from the MCPF about: exhibitions; entry forms; and events, including the Newsletter cover letter to all your club members.





Clee Hill Summit  
Susan Sudbury  
Wolverhampton PS

## MCPF Diary 2026

More details about each of the events can be found at [www.mcpf.co.uk](http://www.mcpf.co.uk)

Date	Event	Contact Details/Venue
<b>2026</b>		
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	AV Competitions	Alastair Taylor <a href="mailto:avchamp@mcpf.co.uk">avchamp@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton Burton on Trent, DE13 0HE
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	MCPF General Meeting	Christine Lovatt, <a href="mailto:sec@mcpf.co.uk">sec@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	MidPhot 2026 Closing Date	Ralph & Lu Duckett <a href="mailto:midphot@mcpf.co.uk">midphot@mcpf.co.uk</a>
Mar 25 <sup>th</sup> –29 <sup>th</sup>	MidPhot 2026 Exhibition	Ralph & Lu Duckett, <a href="mailto:midphot@mcpf.co.uk">midphot@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse Oldbury, B69 2AS
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	Print and PDI Championships	Peter Owen, <a href="mailto:mcpfchampionship@mcpf.co.uk">mcpfchampionship@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Braunstone Civic Centre, Braunstone
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Closing date Photofolio 2026	Bob Goode <a href="mailto:photofolio@mcpf.co.uk">photofolio@mcpf.co.uk</a>
Jun Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> ~ Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Photofolio Exhibition	Bob Goode <a href="mailto:photofolio@mcpf.co.uk">photofolio@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS Days and times to be announced
Jun 13 <sup>th</sup>	MCPF Annual General Meeting	Christine Lovatt <a href="mailto:sec@mcpf.co.uk">sec@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Jul 5 <sup>th</sup>	APM Workshop	Mike Sharples <a href="mailto:seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk">seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
TBA	Midland Salon	Midland Salon Closing date
Aug 8 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	Midland Salon Exhibition	Judith Parry: <a href="mailto:chairman@midland-salon.com">chairman@midland-salon.com</a> Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS Days and times to be announced
Sep 19 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	Christine Lovatt, <a href="mailto:sec@mcpf.co.uk">sec@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
Sep 19 <sup>th</sup>	Closing date Panel Exhibition 2026	Nasar Hussain
TBA	Panel Exhibition	Nasar Hussain Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
TBA	Seminar	Mike Sharples <a href="mailto:seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk">seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk</a> Venue: Smethwick PS. The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury B69 2AS
<b>2027</b>		

## Contact

Newsletter Editor  
[newsletter@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@mcpf.co.uk)

## Subscribe

To subscribe to the MCPF Newsletter for FREE please go to the MCPF website homepage where you will find a link to the subscribe page or click on this link <https://mcpf.co.uk/newsletter>

## Editorial Notes

As you can see I am trying to use as many images as possible in the newsletter. I hope I am not upsetting anyone by not contacting them directly for permission, but I would like to point out that they are of low resolution and as part of our Exhibition rules, we can use your images to promote the MCPF and its member clubs. Any opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of Midland Counties Photographic Federation and neither the Editor nor the MCPF accepts any liability for any content. Any mention of products or services in e-news does not constitute an endorsement or approval of those items.

## Articles and Club Adverts

Send your club event, exhibition or news to: [newsletter@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@mcpf.co.uk)

Please send it in text format along with an image and a poster. All this information will be forwarded to the Webmaster for inclusion on the MCPF website.

Closing date for submissions is 28<sup>th</sup> of each month. The editor reserves the right to withhold any submitted article if it is deemed inappropriate for this publication and to postpone publication if required.

## Website News

All the clubs who have websites should have the www icon next to their names in the "Find a Club" on the MCPF website. If, for whatever reason, you change the address, please ensure that you update your details on our database. Whilst going through and checking, I did notice a couple of clubs have changed their venue address but have not updated this on our database. Help us to help you by keeping your details up to date with us.

# FIAP Portfolio

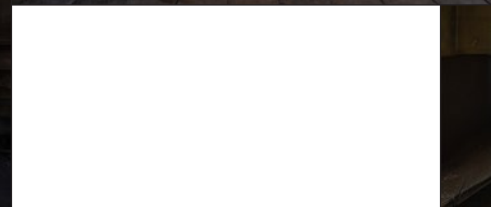
The FIAP Portfolio - a new distinction starting in January 2026.

## Mike Sharples

My portfolio was based on environmental portraits and titled Life Stories

It was driven by my passion for Photography and that of photographing people in their environment, is a subject that has long fascinated and captivated me. Being driven by my passion and being inspired by people's life styles and dress.

How people express themselves in their chosen environment life styles, making a connection between the person being photographed, and the person viewing the portraits. This relationship is defined by the expression, putting the viewer into someone else's shoes, evoking a private moment of the character portrayed.



# Well Deserved Accolade



## Peter Gennard APAGB

to crop, hence the nickname. He is also the most entertaining of speakers with over 10 lectures to choose from, he gives stories and anecdotes about all his images.

### Peter Gennard MFIAP, EFIAP/d3

Peter Gennard is one of the most prolific photographers, judges and lecturers on the MCPF and PAGB circuits. We suspect that there are very few weeks that Peter is not out at a club somewhere.

Peter started in photography whilst at his local youth club and was hooked immediately, he first joined Hagley CC moving on to Smethwick PS in 1985, still helping out at Hagley CC whenever needed.

In the early days of his photographic career, he shot slides and monochrome film, which he was able to develop and print at the Express and Star where he used to work. It was when digital came along that he got into his stride and was able to have colour prints produced commercially and to this day he uses a commercial printer. This also set him off in pursuit of FIAP letters, becoming one of the first in the UK to become an EFIAP diamond and has gone to diamond three. He also holds MFIAP which is not an accumulation of points but a panel of 20 prints. This collection must be coherent from its conception to its realisation and presentation and is assessed by the members of the FIAP board. It does make you wonder how many photographs Peter has in his archive!

However, it is his prowess as a judge and lecturer for the MCPF and other organisations that we want to acknowledge today. 'Chopper' Gennard, went onto the list of judges and lecturers in the early 1990's and is one of the most popular judges on the circuit. He has judged all over the UK and Ireland and abroad and he has judged countless, inter-clubs, national competitions and National and International Exhibitions. He is always a constructive judge and never makes derogatory comments about anyone's work, though he does like

Peter has always been a active member of club that he has been a member of and certainly over the 40 years at Smethwick PS he has been heavily involved with their selections for competitions, national and international. He helps out whenever required for judging days, on occasion, he has entertained international judges with trips around Birmingham. He will volunteer to help man the exhibitions whenever he can. This help is extended to MCPF run exhibitions where he will again help out whenever he can.

He is staunch advocate for the photography, the MCPF and the PAGB. We know he promotes our events at clubs he visits and encourages members, even, if they don't want to enter, then at least visit exhibitions in



their local areas and Federations.

As mentioned at the start of this citation, there surely is rarely a week goes by that Peter is not out and about doing something photographic. Peter gives up so much of his time to photography; he loves to see other people do well and helps out both individuals, clubs and the Federation for which we are grateful and honoured. For his services to photography and being an all-around nice guy, we wish to add Peter to the APAGB list.

# MIDPHOT 2026 Presentations





MCPF  
Photographic Events

**MCPF  
PRINT and PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGE CLUB  
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026**

**Saturday 18th April 2026**

**Civic Centre,**

**Braunstone,**

**Leicester. LE3 2PP**

**Doors open 9.30am**

**Event commences at 10.30am**

Judges:

Erica Oram CPAGB, EFIAP, BPE3

Daphne Hanson DPAGB, HonPAGB

Vincent Scothern DPAGB, EFIPA, BPE5, PPSA

This is a great day of Midlands Photography with over 20 Clubs competing  
Even if your club is not competing, still a great day out.

*Look for the special offers by Permajet who will be at the event*

**TICKETS £10.00**

Payment on the door by card or cash is accepted or  
Tickets purchased in advance via the MCPF Website [www.mcpf.co.uk](http://www.mcpf.co.uk)

**Change of Rules for both PAGB Inter-Club Print Champs and Pdi Champs**

The PAGB Executive has recently agreed that federations may nominate up to three clubs per Federation for this championship, which will be the same number as for the PDI Championship

The 2026 Pdi Championship will be held at Warwick School on  
Sunday 19th July 2026

The 2026 Print Championship will be held at Harper Adams University on  
Saturday 24th October



# MCPF

## Photographic Events

The MCPF council are seeking to encourage keen photographers to challenge themselves to take their next step to apply for a BPAGB, CPAGB, DPAGB, EPAGB, MPAGB

July 12<sup>th</sup>

This MCPF APM Workshop is designed to support, encourage and to assist you when applying for a PAGB Awards of Photographic Merit

The MCPF APM Workshop Will cover (but not limited to)

### Morning Session

How to apply for an APM.

What Level of the APM should I apply for?

How to meet the eligibility criteria for the APM

What do the Adjudicators look for in a photograph?

The Adjudication method

The APM Voting system

### Afternoon Session

Bring your proposed APM images for critique and advise on possible improvement

Tickets will be available via the MCPF Web Site

**Cost: £10.00**

Last booking date 27th June 2026

### Event Information

Session one commences 10.00 hrs to 16.30hrs

### Event Location

Smethwick Photographic Society

Churchbridge

Oldbury

West Midlands

B69 2AS

### Catering

Tea and Coffee available (bring your own packed lunch)

### Contact details

Mike Sharples MFIAP MPAGB FBPE EFIAP ARPS

[seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk](mailto:seminarsec@mcpf.co.uk)

Mobile 07774 321411



BPAGB



CPAGB



DPAGB



EPAGB



MPAGB

N.B.This is a change of date - originally July 5th



## THE LONDON SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The London Salon of Photography welcomes entries to it's 112<sup>th</sup> annual exhibition.

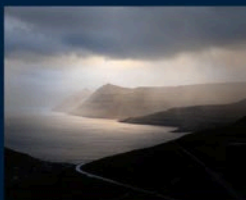
This prestigious exhibition is print only, and entry is open to all photographers, with online entry available until 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at [thelondonsalon.org](http://thelondonsalon.org)

**"The aim of the London Salon is to exhibit only that class of photographic work in which there is distinct evidence of artistic feeling and execution"**

Prints to be received by April 19<sup>th</sup>, with the results available from May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Exhibition opens June 14<sup>th</sup> at Smethwick PS Exhibition Centre, full venue schedule available at [thelondonsalon.org](http://thelondonsalon.org)

All Images (c) their respective authors



[thelondonsalon.org](http://thelondonsalon.org)





Unpacking day



Getting the prints into the correct order ready for judging



Unpacking day



Judging day



Selecting the winners



A well earned rest at the end of day one of judging.

*"Thank you and all those involved in MidPhot 2026 I enjoyed the experience and am working to engage others in the event for next year. It's a brilliant way for those new to Club Competitions to try "the next step" and I'm recommending it as it's inexpensive and not too daunting."*

*Kevin Burton Rocester and Uttoxeter CC*



Opening Night Audience

# A Huge Thank you

We wanted to extend a sincere thank you to all who joined us for MidPhot 2026 and to everyone who entered their work. As a Federation, we organise these events for our MCPF Club Members because we truly believe your creative efforts deserve to be seen and admired by others. It's always wonderful to see so many of you from various clubs coming together to appreciate the work on display—it really makes all the time and effort spent organising worthwhile.

A special thank you goes out to our six judges for generously sharing their expertise and contributing to the success of the exhibition. We received plenty of compliments regarding the diverse range of subject matter chosen, which is a testament to the talent and dedication within our community.

We are also grateful to the Smethwick PS members who managed the tea bar during both the exhibition and judging days. Particular thanks to Shelia Ballantyne Smith, whose refreshments were a real highlight and much appreciated by everyone, as well as to her capable assistants, Bob Hudson, Sandra, and Peter Gennard.

The MCPF relies heavily on its Council Members, so I want to express my gratitude to all those who helped with unpacking, judging, manning the exhibition, and repacking prints. Your time and energy are essential and genuinely appreciated.

Thank you once again for making MidPhot 2026 such a memorable event.

International Exhibitions now open for entries

# MIDLAND SALON 2026

INTERNATIONAL PRINT AND PDI EXHIBITION



2026-177



L260048



2026-020

20  
26

## 162nd Edinburgh International Photography Exhibition 2026

Edinburgh Photographic Society



One of the oldest and most prestigious print salons in the world

This is a Print-only Salon. Entry open from  
**28th February to 29th May 2026**  
**Prints must be received by 3rd June 2026**

Only 2 sections.  
Enter up to 4 prints per section:

Open Mono

Open Colour



Yellow and Black 7866 by  
Mohammad Ali Salim



Impressionist Sunset by Keith Snell

Enter here!

<https://pixoroo.com/eipe2026>



Help by Dianne Owen

All accepted prints will be exhibited 8<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>  
August 2026 as part of Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Images accepted in the 161st Salon 2025

Entry fees: £12 for one section, £16 for two sections  
Payment is via PayPal



2026-189



L260049



2026-021



2026-022



Inter Club Print Championship

## Weston Building

The 2026 PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship will be held on **Saturday 24 October 2026** and it will be held at Harper Adams University in Newport, Shropshire.

Westholme School in Blackburn has become increasingly expensive and has other issues with changes to the hiring conditions.

Clubs from the southern part of England have also asked if a midlands venue was possible because Blackburn required an overnight stay when the PDI Championship in Warwick did not.

Harper Adams University in Newport is 15 miles from junction 15 of the M6 and a 20 minute drive from Stafford station on the West Coast mainline and a taxi to the venue, depending on traffic conditions, around £25-£30. There's also an hourly bus which takes 35 mins (£2). Telford Station is nearer but doesn't have as many fast trains but has links Birmingham Airport. Birmingham airport is 47 miles away from Newport with Manchester airport 58 miles away. Newport has a Premier Inn 4 miles from the university and there is lots of accommodation in Telford, including a Premier Inn, Holiday Inn and a Ramada Hotel. There will be free parking and WiFi and we will be using the Weston Lecture Theatre.

Teas, coffees and sandwiches are available in a coffee bar about 5 minutes' walk from the lecture theatre and lunch boxes can also be provided if ordered in advance.

Watch for more information in e-news nearer the time, including ticket arrangements.

## What is the FIAP Portfolio Award PFIAP

PFIAP/bronze PFIAP/silver PFIAP/gold MPFIAP



The FIAP Portfolio Distinction requires a 10-image, thematically cohesive set demonstrating visual and conceptual consistency, intended to tell a story or explore an idea. Applicants must have a FIAP Photographers Card, maintain a consistent email with their myfiap.net account, and submit via the designated portal [1, 2] by January 15, May 15, or

October 15, with a one-year waiting period between successful applications.

More detailed information, including application, portfolio requirements, and submission links can be found here: <https://www.fiap.net/en/services/distinctions-service>

# PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION 2026



Leicester & Leicestershire  
Photographic Society



## EXHIBITION DATES

Friday 8th May 2026

6.30pm-9.00pm

Saturday 9th May 2026

10.00am-4.00pm

to be held at CHRISTCHURCH, Clarendon Park Rd, Leicester LE2 3AH



© M JANES

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
FREE ADMISSION

## MCPF Travelling Portfolio Now open for 2025-2026 bookings

The Travelling portfolio is available  
to all MCPF affiliated clubs to  
show from September 2025

A booking fee of £12 is payable when  
making the booking.  
To make your booking please complete  
the attached booking form and email to:  
portfoliosec@mcpf.co.uk

A showcase of Midlands Photography available as  
a PDI presentation (MP4 format) or complete with  
a set of original prints from the 2024 Photofolio  
Exhibition with optional recorded commentary  
by Leigh Preston and Graham Walton



# North West AV Day Sunday 19th April 2025

## PAUL KITTEL FACI

"Paul is a BAFTA-nominated director/producer and an  
inspiring speaker with valuable insights into the power of  
film and still images"

## COLIN BALLS FRPS APAGB

"Colin's five decades at the beating heart of the AV world  
gives you excellence and entertainment in spades"

## JOHN SMITH CPAGB APAGB HON LCPU HON NWPA

"John is a well known AV worker, judge and technical guru and will be  
demonstrating sound editing. Focussing on, but not exclusively, use of  
Audacity"

North West AV Day

Showcase your own AVs

More information is available on the RPS web site.

<https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/forthcoming-events/>

Tickets will available from the RPS website from 2nd January onwards.



Cheltenham Camera Club  
Inspiring the Photographic Community Since 1865

## Annual Exhibition 2026



The Gardens Gallery,  
Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham, GL50 1SD

15th – 20th April 2026

(1000-1700 daily)

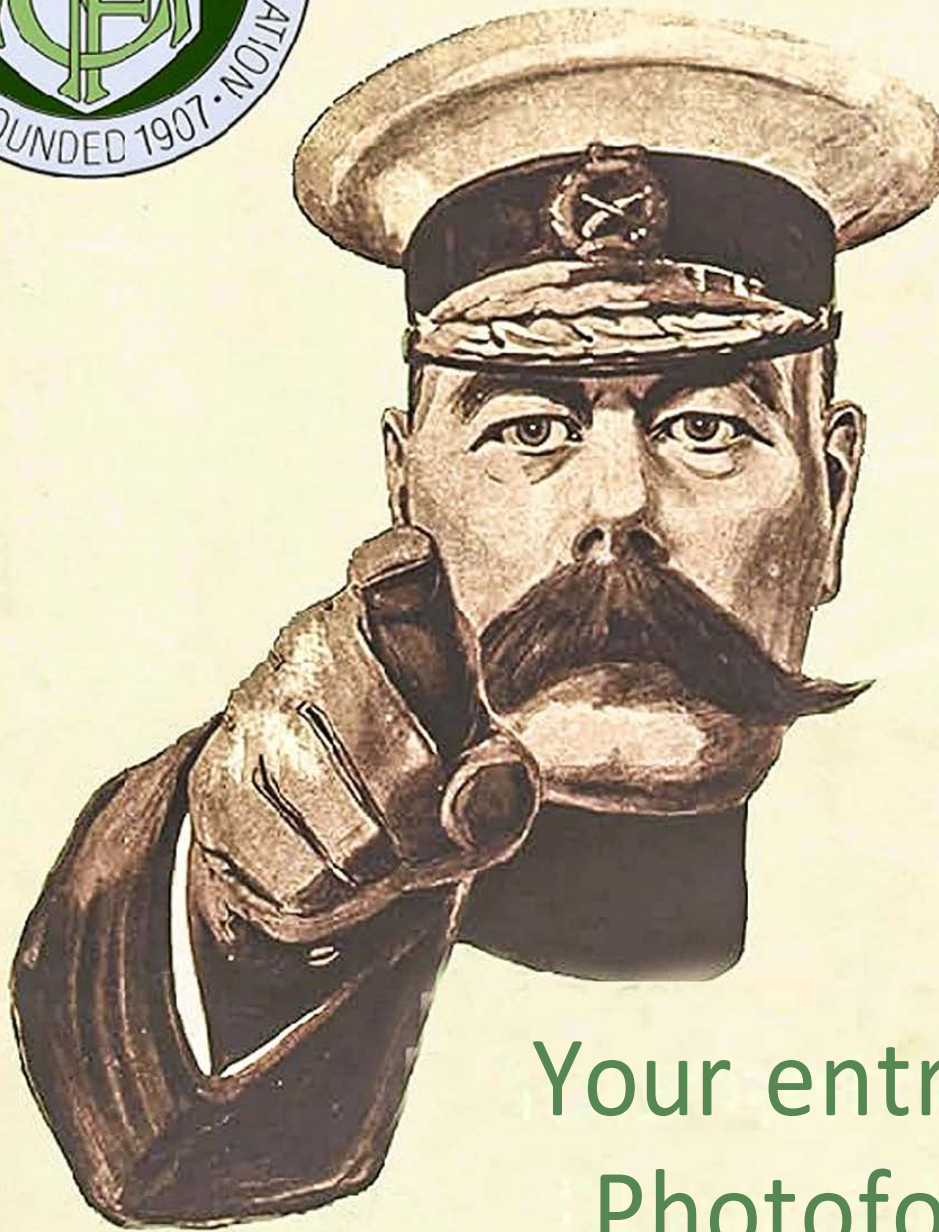
Entry Free.

[www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk)





Your M.C.P.F.  
needs .....



Your entry to  
Photofolio  
2026

Closing date for entries - May 4<sup>th</sup>

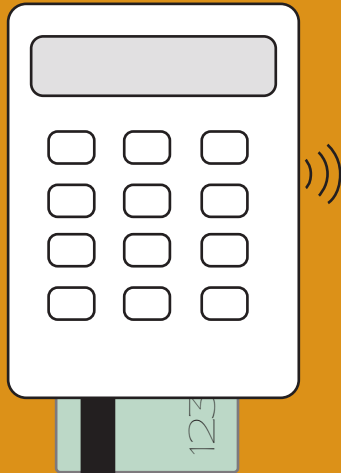
Exhibition Dates - Jun 10<sup>th</sup> to Jun 13<sup>th</sup>

More details and access to on-line entry system  
on MCPF website - <https://mcpf.co.uk/2026-mcpf-photofolio>

# GOING CASHLESS?

Is your Camera Club thinking of going cashless? More and more members asking to pay their evening subs by card or phone?

SumUp are offering a discount and transaction fees and terminals to all Camera Clubs.



For details contact Mia at SumUp at **Mia Amor** Account Executive, POS TribeSumUp Point of Sale. Own your business. 16-20 Shorts Gardens | Seven Dials | London WC2H 9US +44 7401 106230 | [mia.amor@sumup.com](mailto:mia.amor@sumup.com) [sumup.com](http://sumup.com).

## The Eye International Photography Festival - Newport

The Eye International Photography Festival 2026  
Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May 2026



Created in 2012, the biannual EYE International Photography Festival is the longest-running photography event in Wales and is gaining momentum to be one of the largest independent photography festivals in the UK, attracting audiences spanning aspiring students to recognised professional photographers from around the globe. Details here: <https://www.theeyefestival.com/>

An advertisement for the Dudley Camera Club Annual Exhibition 2026. The background is a black and white aerial photograph of Dudley, showing a large church spire and residential buildings. The text is overlaid on the image in blue and yellow. The advertisement is displayed on a large screen in a modern, dark interior space with a large window on the right and a dark bench in the foreground.

**Dudley Camera Club**

**Annual Exhibition 2026**  
**Saturday 7th March - Saturday 4th April**  
**at**  
**The Dudley Archives and Local History Centre**  
**Tipton Road, Dudley, DY14SQ.**

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the **British International Amateur Film Festival (BIAFF) 2026**, taking place from **Monday 18th to Monday 25th May**.

This year's festival combines a full week of online screenings with our in-theatre weekend at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham.

### Online Festival Week

#### Monday 18th – Friday 22nd May (online only)

Join us each evening for:

- **Online Evening Cinemas** – screenings of selected films from this year's competition
- **The IAC Peter Coles International AV Competition Winners' Show** – showcasing the best AV sequences from this year's internationally recognised competition

**Access is free of charge**, and the same Zoom link is used throughout the week:

#### Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87129612970?pwd=GhK2BI9Nb3l6yCnF8xAHyzuoacnns.1>

**Meeting ID:** 871 2961 2970

**Passcode:** 052026

Join us from **7:00 pm (BST)**, with screenings beginning at **7:30 pm**.

### In-Theatre Festival Weekend

#### Saturday 23rd – Monday 25th May

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Our in-person programme includes:

- **Saturday Evening Cinema + Networking**  
Launching the in-theatre weekend, followed by socialising in the theatre bar (and the traditional fish & chips!)
- **Sunday Cinema**  
A full day of screenings from this year's competition
- **The BIAFF Festival Dinner & Awards Show (Sunday evening)**  
A celebratory evening at the Novotel Hotel, where category award winners are announced
- **The Award Winners' Show (Monday)**  
Featuring the very best films of the festival, including Diamond Award winners and the major awards:  
**Best British Young Filmmaker, Best British Entry, and Best in Competition**

#### Tickets & Earlybird Offer

If you plan to join us in Birmingham, we encourage you to take advantage of our **Earlybird ticket prices**, available until **31 March**.

#### Book your tickets here:

<https://www.crescent-theatre.co.uk/event-details/323531ASLSCTTDDSGNLPRKTLBCCSTKDTT/biaff-british-international-amateur-film-festival-2026/>

## Sigma - Prime Examples

### 31 March - 11 April

Sigma, manufacturers of cameras, lenses, and photographic accessories, will be showcasing the work of six photographers from the end of March. Each photographer was invited to produce five images at their chosen focal length, using a fast-aperture prime lens from the Sigma Art range. The resulting exhibition reveals not only the character of each lens, but the personal way each photographer has chosen to see through it.



Date for your Diaries  
5th Dec  
Printing workshop  
Hosted by the MCPF in  
conjunction with Permajet  
Details to be announced  
in a future Newsletter



MP Sarah Coombes (centre) with members of Sandwell Council, SPS Members and visitors to MidPhot

## Local MP and members of Local Council Visit Smethwick PS and MidPhot 2026

Sarah Coombes, MP for West Bromwich, and members of Sandwell Council visited the Smethwick Photographic Society (SPS) on Saturday 28 March 2026 to view the MidPhot 2026 Exhibition. This was fact-finding mission to explore how the local authority and the Smethwick Photographic Society can collaborate to increase community engagement and more visitors. The visit aimed to support the development of the society's complex into a more sustainable community asset. Enhancing the venue's facilities would allow it to host more prestigious events for regional bodies like the Midland Counties Photographic Federation (MCPF).

## Send us your News

Tell us what your club has been up to in recent months, how you have attracted more members, events you are hosting, and photographic tips.

Use the MCPF Newsletter and website to advertise your event.

Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter. It does not matter if they are things you have seen in other parts of the country. If it is about photography, we want to hear about it.