



THE BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 2020

EDITORIAL

Apologies to those of you that were expecting a printed copy of the Bulletin this time. As clubs are not meeting physically, distribution of the Bulletin to club members by electronic means seems sensible - and it saves money too!

This edition included 'hot off the press' news about EAF Subscriptions in 2021 and the Championships.

Also there is an article by Peter Young, the PAGB Treasurer, explaining the relationship between individual clubs, their Federations and the PAGB. We also continue to spotlight EAF member clubs and there is a profile of Loughton CC - one of the 16 EAF member clubs based inside the M25.

Finally, as many clubs continue to operate during the pandemic, there is an article about how one club, Norwich & DPS, has coped and indeed, thrived.

As ever, I welcome articles and photographs for future Bulletins showing what EAF clubs are doing.

Nick Akers ARPS BPE3*

Cover photograph: 'News Break, Vietnamese Market' by Colin Strong ARPS CPAGB of Potters Bar & DPS.

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THE PRESIDENT

Well, it will all be back to 'business as usual' in September, won't it? As time moved on and the weather improved we thought that, OK, we'll need to revamp the programme to make sure we can run on-line until Christmas. It is now September and the Executive Committee has decided after much debate that the AGM will go ahead over Zoom and the Annual Exhibition will take place, but we must cancel the Championships. Everyone is then looking at what the budget implications are of running on-line for the whole year.

There are plusses, of course: most clubs have discovered the joys of Zoom, appreciating speakers from afar without the time, costs and hassle associated with travel. Summer programmes, previously perhaps a few pub evenings, have

been much more adventurous with the opportunities afforded by a remote approach. This has helped clubs keep in touch with their members and will encourage them to renew their membership at the start of the new season. For those who have had a quiet summer, there are places to go to for help such as the EAF website for speakers and judges who will work over Zoom, and e-news issue 262 extra for a wider list. Also, the Zoom Photographic Register at zoom.clubsoftware.org has lots of entries and UK Club Photography group on Facebook carries all sorts of information.

On the difficult question of when to go back to physical meetings, not all clubs are in the same position: some are small or meet in premises with plenty of space and well prepared for social distancing but others would not be able to do so safely. However, the requirements on both the owners and users of premises are fairly onerous, and clubs do tend to have a fair proportion of older members who may not be too keen on indoor meetings. It may, therefore, be wiser not to rush into the return to physical meetings but that is a decision for individual clubs based on the risks in their particular circumstances.

Progress on the definition of what constitutes a Nature image has been limited. The latest version issued at the end of May did not change anything and the PAGB views this as

the last word on the subject. I have not received much support from the other Federations so perhaps the PAGB AGM is the occasion to raise it.

I do miss the meetings at clubs and I had hoped to be going to even more this year. However, although we have been locked down, I have still been busy with plenty of work to be done. I look forward to more normal times but I'm not at all sure what that means. The main thing is to take advantage of all the positive things that have come out of this pandemic.

Colin Birch LRPS DPAGB BPE3*

GENERAL SECRETARY

I am pleased to report that only six of our 121 member clubs failed to respond to the e-mail request for confirmation of club contact details held by the EAF.

The new EAF Club directory and list of Judges & Lecturers for 2020 – 2021 was posted to club secretaries in mid-August. Because of Government restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I was unable to take the envelopes directly into the local Sorting Office in my car but had to drag them in my shopping trolley to the nearest large pillar box in the high street – I have no idea what passers by must have thought as I fed 210 envelopes into the box! (*See page 12 Ed.*)

Sue Dobson CPAGB APAGB

OBITUARY



GORDON BRAMHAM

MPAGB MPSA2 EFIAP/p ARPS BPE5*
1944 - 2020

I am sad to report the passing of Gordon Bramham in July, after a short illness.

Gordon was born in London Colney and grew up in Bow, East London. On leaving school he did an Electrical Contracting course with Hackney Tech. and a city contracting firm. At 22 he joined the Merchant Navy with a firm called Shaw, Saville and Albion and spent three years on the Australia and New Zealand run. On leaving the Navy, he set up an Electrical Contractor and Control

Panel Builder business with his brother. After several years working 14-16-hour days seven days a week he decided he needed a hobby and that's when he got into photography. His first camera was a Kodak Baby Hawkeye, given to him as a gift in 1949, as he had no such thing as money to buy film, it was used as a toy, until the late 80's, when he put a roll of 127 film through it with dire results. Lucky he did not do it in 1949.

His first proper camera was a Canon AE1 Program and he continued to use Canon equipment for the rest of his photographic journey.

He built a darkroom in his back garden and experimented with all types of printing and developing with differing amounts of success. He had two fridges, one to keep the paper in and one with Gin & Tonic and produced lots of prints that were out of focus in the morning.

It was around this time that he joined Upminster Camera Club, though he is well known for his Natural History pictures, he also produced some never to be forgotten images. "Loads of Monet" a picture of his daughter dressed in red in a Rape field, with a grainy soft focus, which he spent ages perfecting, with different fabrics and finally found a 15 denier black stocking did the trick. He also got his daughters to dress like Goths for some sinister images.

Gordon was a past Chairman and

President of Upminster Camera Club and also an active member of the Lea Valley Nature Photographers and had been their Chairman.

He would often be asked to judge Upminster's internal competitions and was known to be firm but fair, he had his likes and dislikes, woe betide anyone who showed anything that was "Too big in the frame" or the "Greens" looked wrong.

He had that same reputation on the circuit when judging, but would always have time to speak to members after the meeting to discuss their pictures and how to improve them. Such was his love for photography and photographers.

He was a great advocate for National and International competitions and encouraged people to enter them "to add a different layer to your photog-

raphy to see what is going on in the photographic world"

Although he was justifiably proud of his Gold medals and distinctions, he was very modest about them and appeared to be embarrassed when it was mentioned in the club that he had gained another distinction or won another medal.

He also encouraged and helped people to gain their own distinctions and would support them through the process.

A kind, funny, helpful and considerate man he will be missed by his photographic friends, colleagues and family.

He leaves a wife Kathy and two daughters Claire and Susan.

Andy Laing

Upminster Camera Club.



*'Snow Leopard Captive Montana' and 'Ibis with snake' both by Gordon Bramham MPAGB MPSA2 EFIAP/p ARPS BPE5**

PA EXECUTIVE MEMBER

The PA Executive met via video conferencing on 1st August 2020. The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 3rd October 2020, also to be held via video conferencing and Notice of the Meeting has been circulated to the Federations.

Finance: The Finance Committee discussed the 2021 subscription because of the impact of Covid-19. At the February 2020 meeting it was agreed that the subscription for 2021 remain at £38 per club. However, in view of the Alliance's financial reserves and, in order to recognise the issues being faced by the Alliance, Federations and Clubs, it was agreed that no subscription will be payable for 2021. This proposal will be put forward by the Executive at the October AGM.

FIAP - Applications: Of the 103 applications for FIAP Distinctions, 102 were successful. The unsuccessful entry fell foul of the FIAP's requirement that portfolio images must "not be the same, resemble or be similar" to those in any previous portfolio. The FIAP Liaison Officer has issued an article in e-news explaining this ruling for future applications.

FIAP Biennials: The FIAP Biennial Congress planned for India later this year has been cancelled along with the Monochrome Biennial and the Black & White Biennial scheduled

to coincide with the Congress. The Nature Biennial already sent to Russia will be judged on 15th August 2020.

PAGB Inter-Federation Print & PDI Competitions/Exhibitions: This event scheduled for 13th June 2020 was cancelled. Prints from the 2019 Exhibition are still in storage and the Inter-Federation Secretary will liaise with Federations to arrange their return.

The 2021 Inter-Federation Competition will be a virtual competition for PDI only on 5th June 2021, hosted by L&CPU. A Print only competition is proposed for 2022.

PAGB Inter-Club PDI Championship: The 2020 competition was cancelled. A provisional date of 17th July 2021 has been set for next year at Warwick University.

PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship: The 24th Print Championship to be held on 25th October 2020 at The Croston Theatre, Westholme School, Blackburn has been cancelled. No date has yet been set for next year.

PAGB GB Trophy 2021(Prints) / GB Cup 2021 (PDI): It is hoped to run both events simultaneously in January 2021. New Rules have been drawn up in an attempt to attract more entries and will be published in due course.

PAGB 'masters of print' Exhibition: The 2020 Exhibition has been

cancelled. The Cathedral has been booked for next year and the official opening for the 2021 Exhibition will be held at St Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham on 4th December. Exhibition opening will be mid-November 2021.

Awards for Photographic Merit

– **Print & PDI:** The APM On-line Advisory Service has been very successful with 59 people signing up to give advice on different levels with 207 advisory sessions being organised. Everyone did a great job with special thanks to Vic Hainsworth and Roy Essery of the EAF for their help and advice. The Advisory Service will continue under the direction of David Smith, Executive Member, Surrey Photographic Association.

Awards for Photographic Merit –

Audio Visual: The AV Adjudication planned for 15th August 2020 has been postponed until next year. An AV Advisory Day is proposed for June 2021.

Meritorious Service Award: APAGB

was awarded to:

Noel Morgan

L&CPU

Recorded Lecture Service: Due to clubs cancelling their meetings because of Covid-19, the PAGB has relaxed the terms of business for the RLS and allowed distribution of lectures to members within their respective club or society. There are however certain rules that must be adhered to as follows:

- Clubs may only distribute a PAGB lecture to their members providing they own a licence for that lecture.

- Clubs may only distribute a PAGB lecture to their members during 2020.

- Clubs are asked to ensure that all copies (including any links) are destroyed or removed on or before 31 December 2020.

- A club official must send an email to the PAGB RLS Secretary informing him of the club's intention to distribute a lecture prior to doing so, giving details of the lecture.

New lectures added to the list are two from "The London Salon of Photography 2017 & 2018" and a 'FiAP Distinctions Portfolio' consisting of 500 photographs submitted by PAGB applicants.

RLS lectures can be downloaded via the link <https://pagbhost.co.uk/main/main.php>

Insurance: Guidance is being sought from the brokers, Darwin Clayton, about Public Liability & Management Liability Insurance regarding Covid-19.

A Covid-19 Guidance document has been issued by the PAGB to all Federations outlining the procedure that must be followed if some Federations and Clubs are considering resuming normal meetings. Video conferencing is encouraged wherever possible.

PAGB e-news: With Issue 263 on 1st August 2020, e-news is 12 years old.

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During lockdown there have been extra issues with a Lockdown Special, e-news 260.

A full list of judges and lecturers willing to present online during the coronavirus pandemic has been amalgamated into e-news 262 extra, dated 21 July 2020, which also indicates whether or not a fee is payable.

Standards & Governance –

Recording of Meetings: Mark Buckley-Sharp has issued an advisory document for Clubs with regard to the introduction of on-line meetings, pointing out that there are two aspects to consider before recording a meeting:

- Copyright
- DataProtection.

In the fast expanding “Zoom-Age” it has become easy to record a lecture given remotely but clubs should be aware that both a judging and a lecture are copyright performances by the speaker. A speaker not only has the right to refuse recording of the event, but also has complete control over all terms and conditions of a licence under which the club might be permitted to use any recording. Apart from anything else, the speaker could charge a fee for a licence.

A meeting therefore must not be recorded by a club except with the express prior permission of the speaker, including an agreement on the use of any recording.

Not recording an on-line meeting means that no personal data is retained and there is no obvious Data Protection issues.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB APAGB

AWARDS SECRETARY

Sadly, due to government and Covid-19 restrictions, we had to cancel the Audio-Visual workshop planned for 1st November. The restrictions placed on us by the Foxton Village Hall management committee (and rightly so) made it very difficult for us to run the event safely, bearing in mind the age of the majority of attendees. So, as with almost all the photographic events in the UK, it was another victim of Covid-19.

On a brighter note, after the cancellation of both the April and November adjudications for 2020, applicants had the choice of being moved to the ‘closed’ adjudication (although a date for this still has to be decided by the PAGB team when they feel it is safe to do so), or being entered into the April (now May) or November 2021 sessions. To date, we have 27 applicants for the closed adjudication for “C” and “D” only, 21 mixed levels for May and 6 for November. Ironically, the “D” and “M” levels for May are almost full. However, there are still plenty of spaces for the Credit level. As expected, it has been a very

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quiet period for applications since March lock-down, with only a trickle coming in. I understand this under the current situation, but with clubs beginning to meet (virtually) again, I am hopeful we will see applications begin to come in. So, if you have been working on images throughout the past four months and feel that you have sufficient material to apply, there are still several months before the images have to be up-loaded. Usually, when applications start to arrive, the flood gates open. Soon after the lockdown in March APM Chairman, Rod Wheelans, put out a request for members who had experience in the APMs to volunteer for online mentoring. Those of you who read the PAGB e-news will have seen that it has been so successful that the PAGB Executive has agreed that it should be established on an on-going basis during the current situation. David Smith, a PAGB Executive member, has agreed to administer the scheme. The list of advisors is almost complete, so if you want to take advantage of this online advisory service, please contact David at apmonline@thepagb.org.uk Once the system is open, David will contact each applicant and put them in touch with an advisor. To see the full details of this system please go to the current issue of the e-news 265, 1st September, Page 10. Should you like to receive your own copy of e-news direct, go to the

PAGB website thepagb.org.uk , click e-news and complete the request form. It is free and currently coming out twice a month, full of information and with plenty of stunning images. I look forward to receiving applications from many of you in the near future. It just leaves me to wish you and your families well. Please stay safe.

VicHainsworth ARPS DPAGB

WEBMASTER

Only very small changes to the Website over the last few months due to the current situation.

I would like to remind clubs about the EAF Diary/Poster Page. At the moment there is only one entry. If you are holding an on-line Exhibition please let me have details, ideally with a Poster, but not essential. Send to posters@eaf.org.uk or webmaster@eaf.org.uk and I will put the details on the Diary/Poster Page. Additionally, if you have an on-line lecture and are happy to have attendees from other clubs, and have suitable procedures in place, then again please send me details. There are dates for your diary on the EAF Events Page for next year's AGM, Inter-Club Championships & EAF Exhibition.

Steve Robinson

TREASURER

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021 - BREAKING NEWS

Naturally, many of you will be wondering whether the EAF Subscription for 2021 will remain as formally approved at our AGM in February, bearing in mind that some of our activities have had to be cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Your Committee have been meeting on the usual dates, but via Zoom technology and as I write this, we have just completed a 3 hour meeting discussing, amongst many other items, the way forward for the Annual Subscription renewal due on 1st January 2021.

To summarise, the Executive Committee have decided that the Subscription payable as approved at our AGM will change for the coming year from:-

“That as from the 1st January, 2021 the subscription for each club within the EAF shall be a basic rate of £9 per club and £1.70 per member plus the club subscription to be levied by the PAGB for the year 2021. The minimum overall subscription per club shall be £50.”

To:-

“Due to the restrictions in place as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic – as from 1st January 2021 the Subscription for each **existing Member Club** within the EAF shall be a basic rate of £10 per Club and £0 per Member plus the Club subscription to be levied by the PAGB for the year 2021 (currently expected to be £0 also), although this is yet to be approved at their delayed AGM on 5th October. From the 1st January, 2021 the subscription for **any New club joining the EAF** shall be a basic rate of £10 per club and £1.50 per member plus the £38 club subscription levied by the PAGB for 2020”

We are hopeful that this reduction will encourage Clubs to rejoin us next year at a cost that will also allow them to resolve their own financial situation too.

As a Federation, we will still require all Member Clubs/Societies to hold Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of £5,000,000 as a condition of EAF Membership

Naomi Saul ARPS. EFIAP. ASINWP. DPAGB. APAGB. BPE4*.

CHAMPIONSHIP SECRETARY

Championships 2021

Sadly, the Executive Committee has decided that the Championships for 2021 should be cancelled. We were lucky in being able to hold this year's Championships just before the lockdown came into effect, selecting clubs to represent the EAF at this year's PAGB Championships. As both events, at Warwick in July and Blackburn in October, have now been cancelled, we can carry forward these selections to next year.

It was a difficult decision but it is unlikely that precautions required to avoid the pandemic will change until a vaccine is widely available, and the age profile of people likely to attend means that many would be reluctant. It would be possible to do something on-line but it would be far from satisfactory, particularly for prints. The detailed options were thoroughly debated but we now have a clear decision.

Colin Birch LRPS DPAGB BPE3*

CLUB CHANGES

Since the new Club Directory was issued there have been two changes:

Clacton CC - new Secretary David Egerton

Aldeburgh PG - new e.mail alderburghpg@gmail.com

BOTTOM(S) UP

An article by **Peter A Young** LRPS
CPAGB AFIAP APAGB.

PAGB Treasurer and WPF President

I was in a Zoom meeting with my club, discussing our future programme. "When will the WPF let us meet in person again?" asked one member. "Peter will tell us," said another, "he's the WPF President." I had to tell them that's not the way it works. A club must listen primarily to government advice and to the requirements of its landlord. However, this passage did make me realise that many members may have the wrong impression of their place within the system, not realising that Clubs, Federations and the PAGB use "bottom up" processes.

The PAGB does not and must not tell the 15 Federations (its only members) how they should operate. None of the Federations may tell their Clubs (just over 1000 of them throughout the UK) what to do. Even the Clubs must not tell their members what to do. Of course, we all do ... but only through a democratic process.

A club member helps to elect a committee to run the Club. If he/she doesn't like the way the committee works and the democratic process does not operate favourably for that member, there are three options: elect another committee; walk

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away, either to join another Club or to leave club photography; or find other like-minded individuals and form another Club. So, in one way or another, the members run the Club and decide what to do.

Clubs become members of a Federation and a similar system operates with the Clubs' electing an executive committee, probably via a delegate system. The Federation gives service to the clubs in many ways, like organising events and competitions, that the clubs could not arrange for themselves as they don't have the contacts, the time, the energy etc. If the clubs don't want something, or want something new, they tell the Federation and authorise it to make the change they want. At no point can the Federation impose something on the clubs if the majority of the clubs do not want it.

In turn, the Federations are members of the PAGB. The same principles govern the way that the PAGB serves the Federations (its members) and the clubs (their members). Everything is done democratically. Of course, democracy is informed by (un?)social media, these days. However, social media has not changed the democratic process; it has just made protests easier. Sometimes, however, the number of people making a point is insufficient democratically to sway the committee of their own camera club, let alone a Federation or the PAGB. Just because a point is made vociferously does not

make it valid. That does not mean that the PAGB or a Federation will not listen to the reasoned complaints or positive suggestions expressed on social media. They do and will act if it is considered appropriate. However, a club member should still try to persuade their committee first, the Club should try to persuade the Federation and the Federation should try to persuade the PAGB. Technology has not broken that mould.

To paraphrase John F Kennedy's inaugural address, "Ask not what the Alliance or Federation can do for you — ask what you can do for the Alliance or Federation."

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Sue Dobson, Hon General Secretary posting to Clubs - see page 3

NORWICH & DPS v. COVID

How one club has kept running during the pandemic.

On the 16 March the Prime Minister announced the first measures to combat the pandemic and for the third time in just over 100 years our Society could not meet as a group - two world wars and now a pandemic. But on the 23rd March the Committee met, using Skype, and made a series of bold decisions to have immediate effect – for the foreseeable future no meetings, no landscape groups, no studio shoots, no trips. But the boldest decision of all was to appoint a small steering sub-committee with the brief to keep the members connected with one another and to steer the Society through these difficult times.

This sub-committee of 4 members of the main Committee, each chosen for their particular skills, met immediately and took the view that the pandemic was an opportunity to take the Society in new directions and allow the members to take part in events that previously had not seemed possible. Special presentations were arranged for almost every week using specialist speakers from as far away as France, Ireland and the USA. On one or two occasions members themselves gave presentations - to great effect. All this by means of



'Happy photographers'. Norwich & DPS members enjoy time at Weybourne in June. Photo Adrian Richmond.

Skype conferencing.

Not only presentations but also competitions have been held by this medium!

In addition, an online questionnaire was designed, and all members were asked about their photographic interests, equipment and how they saw the Society progressing which has given us some exciting ideas to work with and implement.

To the great pleasure of the steering committee, and the full committee, the weekly Skype meetings have proven to be very successful, with good attendance and we are grateful to all our members, speakers and judges who have adapted so effort-

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lessly to this medium. We have even been able to increase the paid-up membership!

Besides organising the weekly Skype meetings, every member has received a weekly eNewsletter called 'In Focus' that has proved to be extremely successful. Besides making sure everyone is kept up to date with what is going on, In Focus has offered the chance to spotlight the photographic journeys of individual members and other items of interest. Lock-down seemed like an unmitigated disaster but the Society has come together and continues to flourish. Of course, we are not out of the woods yet, but the signs are very promising. We are looking ahead to next year and being able to use the skills we have learned to further improve and innovate.

Tom Watson Chairman, Norwich & DPS



'Bringing Home the Seaweed' by Phil Lumb, Loughton CC

member suggested three words to describe the club. The result is the word cloud below (the size of the word relates to how frequently it

PROFILE - LOUGHTON CC

Loughton Camera Club is a thriving medium sized club, just inside the M25 to the east of London. The club is 75 years young with a membership of 53 who meet weekly on Wednesday nights at Lopping Hall on Loughton High Street at 8pm.

Rather than give a personal point of view, I thought it useful to canvas the members and give a more considered opinion of what the club is like. Each



was mentioned):

The key descriptors are very clear: friendly, helpful, competitive and diverse. A fascinating mix... Loughton is definitely very friendly. Being only a mid-sized club helps with that: everybody knows everybody else and no-one ever feels left out. There are no cliques. The club is very helpful too: tuition and mentoring are offered by more experienced photographers to those who want it, and there is an open sharing approach to techniques, whether in camera or processing. The club is competitive too – the standard of photography is strong and as well as the internal club competitions, Loughton battles with other local clubs and indeed with other clubs on different continents! We have a yearly competition with the Rosanna PC in Australia. Loughton is diverse too – over one in four members is female; our youngest member is in her 20s and our oldest in his 80s.

It's great to see other descriptors appearing too. The club is very active and creative – we hold regular workshop evenings with a studio group, practicing lighting techniques with models from the local acting school; plus organised excursions such as an evening photographing actors at Copped Hall, a local ruined stately home; or an evening in London with Leica UK where we get to play with all manner of expensive kit; or the more surreal: Photographing dancers at night in Epping Forest (including flash lighting effects and smoke machines...).

If I were to add my own descriptor of Loughton I would say it is vibrant. There is a buzz and an energy in the club, which is exciting and stimulating. If you would like to check it out, come along one Wednesday night – you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Thomas Peck CPAGB LRPS
Loughton CC



'Bedtime Stories' by Dan Beecroft, Loughton CC

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'Musical spoons' by Karen Gibbon, Loughton CC



'Leopard trail scenting' by Peter Warne, Loughton CC