

# NEWSLETTER

*YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC UNION*

**NEWSLETTER No. 98 - MARCH 2007**

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**If you have any photographic information, articles, announcements, letters or events that you think would benefit the rest of us, please get in touch with me: Erica Oram, tel. 0114 2630971 or email [ericaoram@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ericaoram@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Last dates for submission: Last week in January for the March issue, first week in October for the November issue.**

I reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and brevity. The opinions expressed may not be those of the YPU Executive.

Submissions including pictures will be considered. Ideally, please send any pictures in a suitable digital resolution (300dpi maximum & .jpeg format preferably). Please do not embed pictures in Word documents.

I reserve the right to “tweak” pictures to get them to fit.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the AGM this year three Executive members are resigning from their position on the committee. Although our Secretary circulated all clubs to inform them of the situation and encourage proposal of suitable candidates for their replacement, the response so far has been disappointing. However, there is time between writing this and the AGM for that to change. It is a disturbing thought that after a one hundred and eight year uninterrupted history we are having difficulty finding the help we need. Our problem is, with reduced numbers on the Executive, some of the remaining members are having to take on responsibility for more than one position. It is much better if the load can be shared, and even have one or two spare members for contingencies. I hope some, who would like to put something back into photography in return for the pleasure they get out of it, do come forward to give us a hand.

This is my final President's Piece for the Newsletter. It has been a privilege to be at the head of the Union for two years, and I would like to thank all the members of the Executive Committee for the support they have given me, also for the many hours they have put in to keep the work of the Union running as smoothly as possible.

I wish our new President, Brian Hemsworth, a successful and stress-free two year term. His first year promises well. We have all our usual activities plus the Keighley Weekend planned for October at Losehill Hall again – a lovely venue with excellent food; a Workshop for Lecturers in January 2008 and another PAGB Awards Workshop next February. Events I shall look forward to.

Best wishes to all for a successful photographic year.

Alan Ford

## PAGB INTER-CLUB PRINT CHAMPIONSHIP 2006

<b>The Final</b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Smethwick PS</b>	<b>193</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Beyond Group	186
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Amersham PS	185
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bristol PS	180
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ordnance Survey PS	177
6 <sup>th</sup>	Cannock PS	173
7 <sup>th</sup>	Dundee PS	171
8 <sup>th</sup>	Carlisle CC	168
<b>The Plate Competition</b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Oxford PS</b>	<b>68</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Southampton CC	63
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bakewell PC	62
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Eryri PG	62
15 <sup>th</sup>	Wakefield CC	57
19 <sup>th</sup>	York PS	55

The judges were Philip Charnock, Leigh Preston, Nick Scott.

Philip Charnock's Personal Choices: PAGB Silver Medals:

Colour: "Watch Dog", John Davies, Swansea CC

Monochrome: "Pssss", Jim Edmundson, Bakewell CC

Leigh Preston's Personal Choices: PAGB Silver Medals:

Colour: "Elephant Seal Pup", Don Baxter, Amersham CC

Monochrome: "Tube", Hazel McCoubrey, Bristol PS

Nick Scott's Personal Choices: PAGB Silver Medals:

Colour: "Ecstasy", Pamela Moncur, Amersham Cc

Monochrome: "At a Glance", Simon Allen, Dumfries CC

Please note - the following pictures in this article are taken from the internet so the quality will be reduced.  
Copyright remains with the original author.



“Through The Mist”  
Rikki O’Neill MPAGB FRPS (SPF)  
PAGB Gold Medal for the Best Colour Print



“The Doorman” Russell Lindsey Beyond Group  
PAGB Gold Medal for the Best Monochrome Print

# PAGB INTER-CLUB SLIDE CHAMPIONSHIP 2006

University of Warwick, July 2006  
The Results

The Final			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wigan 10	L&CPU	262
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Amersham Photographic Society	CACC	254
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oxford Photographic Society	CACC	253
4 <sup>th</sup>	Beyond Group	EAF	247
5 <sup>th</sup>	Smethwick Photographic Society	MCPF	246
6 <sup>th</sup>	Paisley Colour Photographic Club	SPF	241
7 <sup>th</sup>	Cambridge Camera Club	EAF	239
8 <sup>th</sup>	Solihull Photographic Society	MCPF	233
8 <sup>th</sup>	Northallerton Camera Club	NCPF	233
10 <sup>th</sup>	Dorchester Camera Club	WCPF	232
The Plate Competition:			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Spectrum ( Guernsey C.I.)	SF	99
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Worksop & District Photographic Society	N&EMPF	98
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ayr Photographic Society	SPS	98
4 <sup>th</sup>	Southport Photographic Society	L&CPU	97
5 <sup>th</sup>	Doncaster Camera Club	YPU	96
11 <sup>th</sup>	Stockbridge Works Photographic Society	YPU	94

The Championship's panel of Judges:

Irene Froy FRPS EFIAP HonPAGB  
Margaret Hodge FRPS APAGB  
Margaret Salisbury FRPS EFIAP APAGB



Winner of the Practical Photography Trophy  
for best slide in the competition and PAGB Silver Medal  
“Windy Day” by Ray Grover South Manchester Camera Club (L&CPU)



Irene Froy's choice: PAGB Bronze Medal:  
“Robin with Worm” by Andrew Bailey  
of Amersham Photographic Society (CACC).



“Margaret Hodge’s choice: PAGB Bronze Medal:  
“Coyote in Snow” by Ian Lyons of  
Merville Newtown Abbey Photographic Club (NIPA).



Margaret Salisbury’s choice: PAGB Bronze Medal:  
“Night at the Ballet” by Pamela Moncur of  
Amersham Photographic Society (CACC).

# Selby Camera Club

## ***Annual Photographic Exhibition 2007***

### ***August Bank Holiday Weekend Selby Abbey***

*Saturday 25th, Sunday 26th Monday 27th*

***Admission Free***

#### *Viewing times*

*Saturday 10am—4pm*

*Sunday 12pm—4pm*

*Monday 10am—4pm*

*An Exhibition of photographs by Selby Camera Club members are to be displayed over the three day event. Content matter of subjects shown varies, ranging from landscapes, portraits, and sport to nature photography and showing lots of creativity in both monochrome and colour. Many of the photographs will be for sale. Please contact one of the stewards on duty.*

For further information contact 01977 685262

Or visit our Web-site

[www.selbycameraclub.f9.co.uk](http://www.selbycameraclub.f9.co.uk)

## MEET THE EXECUTIVE - BRIAN HEMSWORTH YOUR NEW YPU PRESIDENT

My interest in photography began during my Grammar School years in the early 50s. I had access to a small darkroom, of which I have to confess I made little use. In those early days photography fitted in nicely with my interest in art and also went hand in hand with my involvement in club and racing cycling. Cycling took me into the superb Dales and Lakeland landscape and gave me a chance to practice landscape and sports photography both of which are still a passion to this day. I moved from Box Brownie to Vito B, to Periflex 11, and so on. When I was around 18 I joined Leeds Camera Club as a beginner. This was a very active club with about 200 members (I believe). The high standard of work was a revelation to me and if I'm honest a little discouraging as the milk bottle bottom lenses of my Periflex seemed no match for Leicas, Rolleis and the like. I lasted one year!

Work and studies to qualify as a Mine Surveyor and a Chartered Surveyor, together with family life preoccupied me until early retirement beckoned in 1992. Images at this stage were mainly of family and places visited (with the family!). On seeing some of my holiday snaps a work colleague of mine, John Beevers, whom many of you will know, encouraged me to become involved in club photography. He invited me to accompany him to various clubs where he was lecturing. As a result I joined Leeds Co-op PS where my interest was encouraged by the friendly and supportive membership. When I joined LCPS I bought a full set of darkroom equipment, Durst colour enlarger, etc. I have to confess that is still in the packaging it arrived in. Any Offers? As a club we have hosted the YPU exhibition on two occasions. In 1993 when it coincided with the Centenary celebrations for the City of Leeds and in 1999 when it was the YPU's centenary.

In 1980 I was invited to join the YPU executive as Print Secretary. Little did I know! Alan Robson was a great encourager. I have enjoyed (or should it be endured?) the years I have held the post, but this year I have persuaded Andrew Pell to take over the reins (he'll love it!). During my time as print secretary entries have increased from around 900 to 1630 last year.

Fellow Photographers have, over many years, been a great encouragement to me and members of the executive are always willing to help and advise. I enjoy most aspects of photography including visiting clubs to judge & "lecture"! Looking at, enjoying and assessing images is a real pleasure and more often than not I see work of a standard which I would dearly love to achieve.

Having accepted the post of President Elect in 2005 I take on the role of President in 2007 and consider this to be a real honour and something to which I had not aspired. I am also our club President this year. On learning this my club colleagues, (bless 'em!) suggested "Wouldn't it be a good idea for the club to host this years YPU exhibition?" Coincidentally 2007 turns out to be yet another centenary event for Leeds as it represents the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leeds receiving its first charter as a "new town".

I have refrained from mentioning names, as the Newsletter is not big enough to include all the fellow photographers who have helped and inspired me.

Brian Hemsworth

## THE 2007 YPU ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND ASSEMBLY

**The YPU Annual Exhibition  
Saturday 12th — Monday 14th May 2007  
9am to 5pm daily  
Leeds Town Hall Crypt**

Entrance to the Crypt is via the Calverly Street entrance then via the imperial staircase which leads directly into the Crypt. Access is available for anyone with mobility problems via the street level access at the front of the building.

**The YPU Annual Assembly  
Saturday 12th May 2007 at 2pm.  
University of Leeds Conference Centre,  
Auditorium 1.**

The Assembly includes presentation of Annual Exhibition Awards and a showing of the accepted Slides and Digital Images. The Conference Centre is immediately to the North of Leeds General Infirmary and there is on site car parking. This is the same venue as used for the 1999 exhibition assembly.



Digital Imaging Group,  
Yorkshire Region  
Organiser

Robert K. Croft LRPS,  
27, Deer Park Court,  
Monk Fryston,  
LS25 5EZ

Tel : 01977 685262 / 07876 655801

Email : [Robert@robertcroft.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Robert@robertcroft.wanadoo.co.uk)

WebSite : <http://yorkshire-digi.mysite.orange.co.uk>

**RPS Digital Imaging Group.**  
**Yorkshire Region.**

Meeting to be held Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
Selby Community Centre, Scott Road, Selby. YO8 4BL.  
Ample Free Car Parking.  
10.00am – 4.00pm.

**Regional Organiser** : Robert K. Croft. LRPS.  
**Secretary** : John Stringer. LRPS.  
**Treasurer** : George Hodlin. ARPS.  
**Committee Members** : Norma Phillips. LRPS. David Burgess. LRPS.  
Phillip Hack. LRPS.

Starts @ 10.00am – 10.30am : Tea, Coffee & Biscuits available at a small charge.

**Followed by: Simon Clifford-Smith. Colour Management Specialist.**  
**Talk / Demonstration — “Calibrate Your Digital Equipment”**

**Lunch Break At 12.30pm – 1.30pm.**

Tea & Coffee available at a small charge. (Bring a packed lunch).

**Followed By “Exploring Photoshop” With Sid Pearce. FRPS. EFIAP.**

2.45pm – 3.00pm Tea / Coffee available at a small charge.

**Continued : “Exploring Photoshop” With Sid Pearce. FRPS. EFIAP.**

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW @ £5.00 TO RPS. DIG MEMBERS / £6.00 TO NON RPS. DIG MEMBERS.

**Cheques to be made payable to :- RPS-Yorkshire DI Group.**

Tickets available from: Robert Croft. Regional Organiser : Tel 01977 685262

Email : [Robert@robertcroft.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Robert@robertcroft.wanadoo.co.uk)

WebSite <http://yorkshire-digi.mysite.orange.co.uk>

**RPS Digital Imaging Group.**  
**Yorkshire Region.**

Meeting to be held Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2007  
Selby Community Centre, Scott Road, Selby. YO8 4BL.  
Ample Free Car Parking.  
10.00am – 4.00pm.

**Regional Organiser** : Robert K. Croft. LRPS.  
**Secretary** : John Stringer. LRPS.  
**Treasurer** : George Hodlin. ARPS.  
**Committee Members** : Norma Phillips. LRPS. David Burgess. LRPS.  
Phillip Hack. LRPS.

Starts @ 10.00am – 10.30am : Tea, Coffee & Biscuits available at a small charge.

**Followed by: Print Appreciation (Members to bring their prints)**

**Lunch Break At 12.00pm – 1.00pm.**

Tea & Coffee available at a small charge. **(Bring a packed lunch).**

**Followed by “Getting the Best Results Using PhotoShop”.**  
**Lecture / Demonstration**  
**by Paul Batty**

TICKETS @ £5.00 TO RPS. DIG MEMBERS / £6.00 TO NON RPS. DIG MEMBERS.

(Tickets available from 01.06.07).

**Cheques to be made payable to :- RPS-Yorkshire DI Group.**

Tickets available : Contact Robert Croft. Regional Organiser : Tel 01977 685262

Email : [Robert@robertcroft.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Robert@robertcroft.wanadoo.co.uk)

WebSite <http://yorkshire-digi.mysite.orange.co.uk>

## SHARPNESS - MAKING A POINT.

BY COLIN NEW

Some old photographic lag once told me that the only advantage of having a FRPS was that when you exhibited an out of focus picture – other people believed that you had always intended it that way. What do we mean when we say that a picture is sharp? Perhaps more to the point what do we mean when we say a picture is not sharp?

At the dawn of photography while many early photographers were thrilled with the clarity and amount of fine detail that could be seen in their pictures, other photographers hated this “sharpness” and felt it was unseemly and lacked artistry. Victorian portrait photographer Julia Margaret Cameron would carefully focus on her subject and then take the picture out of focus to add mood and atmosphere. There were many photographers in the early days trying to add “artistry” to their pictures by using all sorts of diffusion techniques. Some even took Vaseline and sandpaper to their negatives to create the desired arty impression.

You see “sharpness” is really a matter of taste. Darkroom workers have for many years used high acutance developers to increase the impression of sharpness in their pictures. These film developers (Paterson’s had a whole range called Acuspeed, Acutol, Acuspecial etc.) worked by increasing the contrast at the edges – where light met dark in the negative. With transparency film exactly the same trick was used in development by film manufacturers. “Give the public what we think they want!”

Of course digital cameras do not use developers and so this artificial edge definition has to be created by a technique called “sharpening”. Small compact cameras are made to automatically sharpen images in camera. The manufacturers assume that the purchasers of these cameras do not want to deal with this issue themselves. As purchasers move further up the pricing ladder so there is less and less automatic sharpening done in camera. Top end SLR’s have little or no sharpening. It is left to the photographer to sort out and deal with sharpening as appropriate for the image. Interestingly, some people who move from their compact cameras to high end SLR’s have been known to be disappointed because their cameras do not appear to be as sharp and the little compact they previously owned. What I am reminding you is that “sharpening” is an artificial convention – starting with high acutance developers that is now being continued with digital cameras. Sharp pictures are no more correct than unsharp pictures.

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Continued from page 14)*

Why is it that Camera Clubs are so obsessed with “sharpness?” A couple of years ago I saw an exhibition of Cartier Bresson Portraits. Many of these portraits of celebrities were not “sharp” in the camera club sense. Cartier Bresson – great photographer that he was rarely if ever used a tripod. His work was about catching that fleeting essence of the moment. His work was intuitive and depended upon incredible judgement about pressing the shutter at “the decisive moment.” A slight change of angle of view could make all the difference and to be able to work quickly without the hindrance of a tripod was absolutely essential to his picture making. Cartier Bresson used a Leica Rangefinder camera with a 35mm lens loaded with Tri X film – a combination that is very forgiving regarding camera shake. However, looked at closely – where there was poor light there is evidence of camera shake. “That picture is not sharp” I hear the camera club judge say.

However, Cartier Bresson’s pictures are so good – so full of atmosphere and mood. The decisive moment is so well captured that the lack of “sharpness” is irrelevant. Bresson is not the only great photographer who is not totally obsessed with apparent sharpness. There are many who felt that the image is far more important than the technical conventions.

So, I ask again why is it that Camera Clubs are so obsessed with “Sharpness?” Whenever we used to have slide competitions in the club the continued clarion call of the judge was “Will it sharpen up a bit?” Sharpness is one of those technical things that it is fairly easy to judge. It is far easier to talk about technical matters like “sharpness” and exposure than it is to talk about the meaning and emotional impact of a picture. Judges often shy away from talking about the difficult things like “what is this picture about” or “what is the author of this picture trying to say” – far safer to talk about technical matters.

When I first started seeing digital photographs I felt uneasy by the large amount of sharpness in the images being displayed. The pictures seemed unreal and therefore to me unsatisfactory. In fact they were no more real – no less real - than those darkroom made pictures that exploit high contrast and high acutance developers – or even those soft fuzzy dreamy pictures made by the Victorian pictorialists. I guess what we need is the degree of apparent sharpness appropriate for the image. It all boils down to preference and taste.

**Colin New**

## PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM PAGB REPORT, FEBRUARY 2007

### ***FIAP News.***

Wigan 10 won the first FIAP Club's World Cup with a runaway victory, details and winning images can be found on the FIAP Website (<http://www.fiap.net/index-en.html>).

The new points system for FIAP awards will be published in the new PAGB Handbook (due out in October 2007) and the changeover will be the date of publication of the handbook. Salon acceptances will gain 2 points for prints and 1 point for projected images. 28 FIAP distinction applications were received for 2006.

The latest list of exhibitions with FIAP Patronage list is available on the FIAP Website.

### ***PAGB Exhibitions***

The YPU will be hosting the 2008 PAGB Slide Exhibition.

All 15 Federations have been asked to comment on outline proposals made by the exhibition subcommittee. One of the proposals is that Federations host both the print and the slide exhibition in the same year leaving 15 years between hostings for the federations – a period too long methinks.

### ***PAGB Digital Imaging Technical Standard Committee***

The technical standards committee have produced their fifth interim report and will now produce a checklist of things to do for organisers of digital image exhibitions and competitions. There will shortly be a link to the report on the PAGB website. It can also be accessed at <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/markbuckleysharp/> The report makes for interesting reading if you are thinking of running or hosting digital competitions. The YPU Executive will be commenting on the report.

### ***PAGB Newsletter***

The Winter 2006 Newsletter is available to download on the PAGB website (<http://www.pagb-photography-uk.co.uk/>)

### ***Photographer's Accreditation***

The PAGB has decided to write to Austin Mitchell MP expressing opposition to any scheme of Accreditation of Photographers as it is not required and would not prevent any incidents involving the public

## ***Royal Photographic Society News***

The RPS is liaising with Austin Mitchell MP concerning the introduction of a photographers ID card vetted by the criminal records bureau – don't hold your breath.

Distinction application fees have risen to LRPS £40, ARPS £60 and FRPS £75. Subscriptions go up £2 for UK members under 65, UK members over 65 and Overseas £1, Students £2 and Family Members £5 (bit excessive that last one).

Howard Tate

## **KIRKBYMOORSIDE C.C. ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

Kirkbymoorside Camera Club will be holding an exhibition of monochrome photographs at Sutton Bank Visitor Centre in October 2007. By popular demand the club's exhibitions at Sutton Bank have now become an annual event. Alternating monochrome with general photography, the three previous exhibitions have proved very popular with photographers and the general public alike, with some people travelling long distances specifically to see the exhibition.

Over the last few years a high standard of monochrome photography has been established in the club resulting in Kirkbymoorside winning the Keighley Challenge Trophy and two members winning individual monochrome trophies at recent Y.P.U. exhibitions.

If you have been to our previous exhibitions we will be most pleased to welcome you again. If you have not been before then please come along and give us your opinions. Exhibition stewards are always pleased to chat to visitors and a welcome cup of tea is available in the Centre's excellent tea room. Parking is plentiful (small charge) and there are facilities for the disabled. Why not combine your visit with a waymarked walk from the Centre or simply enjoy the wonderful views from the top of Sutton Bank – Cameras essential!!

**The exhibition runs from Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday October 19<sup>th</sup> 2007. The Centre is open from 10am to 5pm.**

## FIAP BIENNIALS - RESULT OF THE 28TH BLACK AND WHITE BIENNIAL - CHINA (CHENGDU)

Pos	Award	Country	Works Points	Conf. Points	Total Points
1	<b>World Cup</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>233</b>
2	FIAP gold medal	Vietnam	168	64	232
3	FIAP silver medal	China	182	48	230
4	FIAP bronze medal	Italy	154	68	222
5	FIAP Hon. mention	Hungary	147	70	217
6	FIAP Hon. mention	Oman	153	63	216
7	FIAP Hon. mention	Pakistan	152	62	214
8	FIAP Hon. mention	England	155	55	210
9	FIAP Hon. mention	Scotland	150	59	209
10	FIAP Hon. mention	Argentina	149	55	204

The winning images and the best of the rest are shown over the next couple of pages. Copyright is retained by the author



“The white marble torii of Longquan Temple”

Song Jupu

China

FIAP gold medal



“Fishing net on the river”

Võ Thi Cuc

Vietnam

FIAP silver medal

No title

Abdulrahman Al-Hiani

Oman

FIAP silver medal



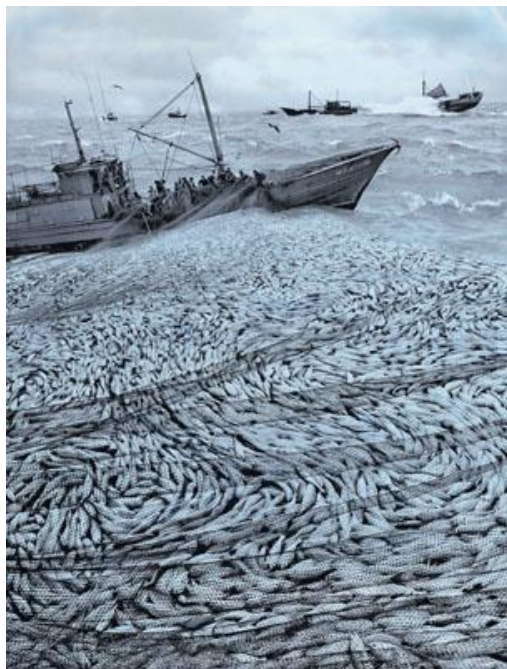
“Happy old men”

He Jun

China

FIAP bronze medal





“The contribution of  
the sea”

Chen Guoren

China

FIAP bronze medal



“Matin d’Automne”, Lasfargue Francis, France  
FIAP bronze medal



“Verso Sera”, Renato Maffei, Italy  
Best Print of Landscape



“Sarah”

Studer Gunter

Austria

Best print of People

Patricia Ruddle was the only YPU author in the British entry with

The Yorkshire Photographic Union's

# Keighley Memorial Event

A residential weekend  
to be held at

Losehill Hall, Castleton

on

19th – 21st October 2007

The cost is £130 for accommodation, meals, lectures and workshops. The number of places available is 55

The accommodation is all en-suite in single, twin and double bedded rooms

Meals are from Friday evening dinner through to Sunday lunch and includes morning coffee and afternoon tea

Our distinguished guest lecturers for the weekend will be

Phil Charnock, FRPS, EFIAP

Gwen Charnock, FRPS, EFIAP

Leigh Preston, FRPS, EFIAP, MPAGB, FIPF

and

a further speaker (to be confirmed)

Don't leave it too late and be disappointed  
Booking forms can be obtained from your club secretary

## OBITUARY — JOHN HAROLD NICHOLLS

An Engineer and keen amateur photographer died on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2007, aged 82.

With a passion for things both agricultural and technical, John worked at David Brown Tractors in Meltham, Huddersfield for many years. Whilst there, along with other members of their Photographic Society, he was involved with photographically recording a massive feat of engineering – the construction of the M62 motorway at Windy Hill, the reservoir and overhead road bridge at Scammonden. This work was subsequently made into an Audio Visual presentation and was available for interested Societies and Groups. Although the show is now lodged with Tolson Museum, John had presented it on several occasions, adding his own observations of the conditions the team endured on the moors trying to complete the task.

John was a member of the Huddersfield Photographic Society and also served on the Executive Committee of the YPU. Seeing an opportunity to keep alive the apparently ‘obscure’ medium of 120 roll film, he was mainly responsible for bringing together a set of photographers to form the Yorkshire Medium Format Group in 1999.

He is survived by his wife Enid and son Richard.

Albert Booth

### QUOTE

“A Picture lives with the life you put into it. If you put no life into it—no thrill, no concentration of delight or exaltation of visual discovery—then the picture is dead, no matter how much thorough and scientific work is put into it” - *D H Lawrence*

## HOW TO CUT YOUR SPENDING IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Huge savings could be made to cut the costs of digital photography! Almost everyone you meet is searching for the most economical papers, cheapest inks, printers, programmes, mounts, in an effort to contain the costs of consumables. Our urge to produce prints is stimulated by the accessibility of the finished work – ready for the competition or exhibition wall. The subject of cost must have aroused your interest by now as few can avoid the need to contain costs. So how can we achieve huge savings? Two words or letters provide the solution – Audio Visual, or put simply, AV.

In past years AV has been treated derisively in club circles. AV did get off to a bad start in the hands of some practitioners who set indifferent holiday slides to music, sometimes narrated by wives or other people not used to reading aloud, let alone recording. Devotees of the art do not disagree with this point of view, in fact many would endorse the sentiment. But all this is about to change as highly skilled photographers from YPU circles are now scanning their precious transparencies to achieve new mileage through digital AV productions.

Stuart Clark of Leeds AV Group has set about reactivating the YPU Audio Visual Championship. Few who attended the last Assembly at Todmorden would disagree that Keith Scott's production "In Loving Memory" has raised the standards far beyond the AV productions of yesteryear. Highly skilled members of the YPU have vast image banks which could now enjoy a new exposure, by using them to illustrate a theme or story or by merely setting them to appropriate music (for which there is no disgrace, the RPS having recently introduced a category – Photo Harmony – for this very style). The polished production can also now enjoy well-designed title slides – no more rub-down letters or liths.

'So where's the saving?' I hear you ask. 'What about the costs involved in buying projectors and software?' Most clubs now have a digital projector which could be used to show your computer generated productions. You could also write your epic to DVD for the home TV – easy viewing compared with that of blacking-out and assembling a screen for slide projection. Software is readily available

and, with the low state of the dollar, at advantageous prices with PicturesToEXE at around £18 and Proshow Gold at £48. Both these programmes easily accept sound but if you want to make DVD's the latter is the one to buy. Projectors, directed at home entertainment rather than AV producers, are selling well, and top flight gear is on the market at well under £800, whether your needs are to fill a 50 inch square or the 10' 6" screen to be used by Leeds AV Group in their annual Colour & Musical Spectacular Show at St Chad's Centre, Leeds, on March 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Growing interest and awareness in the production of digital Audio Visual sequences is being channelled toward the full day YPU AV Championship to be staged at the National Media Museum, Bradford on March 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are acquainted with anyone producing AV sequences, do encourage them to enter. It will be an exciting day as many entries are already promised. There is still just time to get a form and your entry in by emailing [stuart@clarkphotos.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:stuart@clarkphotos.fsnet.co.uk) or leaving a message on my voice mail (01132 862547). The new trophy will be awarded to the winning entry which will be screened at the YPU Annual Assembly in Leeds.

Information: Stuart Clark. 01132 869668 Leeds Audio Visual Group

### SOME WEBSITES TO INVESTIGATE WHILST WAITING FOR YOUR PRINTS TO EMERGE

<http://www.liquidsculpture.com/index> Fine art photography of water droplets by Martin Waugh

<http://www.luminous-landscape.com> The galleries might not be all that good but there are some very interesting tutorials and other articles

<http://www.earthboundlight.com> Bob Johnson's photography from north-west USA—great galleries and Photoshop techniques

<http://www.dpreview.com> Get the latest digital camera reviews and more

<http://www.members.aol.com/crhfoto/> Clive Haynes' website. Inspirational gallery and excellent, down-to-earth Photoshop technique articles.

## ALEX KEIGHLEY SLIDES

Gerry Padgett distributes the Alex Keighley Slide Lecture and recently received the following letter of commendation for it.

### Newark and District Photographic Society

Dear Gerry,

I would like to thank you for supplying the Alex Keighley Slide Lecture and pass on the thanks of the rest of Newark Camera Club. One of the comments received included “the best evening in 2 years”.

One of our members, who you may recall yourself, Geoff Harrison, was at the lecture and recalled seeing some of Alex’s work 60 years ago and had met Alex. Geoff introduced the show and remembered him as “a real gentleman...always arrived chauffer driven...keen to help everybody and never asked for a single penny in payment”. He also recalled in advance the brown paper parcel camera that was mentioned in the commentary.

In these days of digital manipulation, it is interesting to see fine examples of darkroom manipulation in the production of art works. It is too easy to forget that photography is an art medium and I think the lecture was a timely reminder for all of us.

Many thanks once again, good shooting!

Richard Ward  
Programme Secretary  
Newark and District Photographic Society

If your club would like to book the Alex Keighley Slide Lecture please contact Gerry Padgett (01924 372423).

## SNIPPETS...

Even though Hasselblad has officially discontinued the X-Pan, you can still see your work via a 6x7 projector. Come along to a Medium Format Group meeting and see your masterpieces up to 8ft wide! 6x6 formats also catered for - contact Andrew Pell for details on 01924 477450.

Ray Brammhall continues to be on the look out for archival material for the YPU archives. Executive Committee members will be bringing questionnaires to your clubs when we come to judge/lecture. Please consider whether you might have any material of archival interest and return the questionnaires to Ray.

Congratulations to Gerry Padgett who was recently awarded APAGB for meritorious service to the PAGB.

Wigan 10 have produced a CD of over 100 of their award-winning images. Although it is not a recorded lecture it can be booked via the Recorded Lecture Service (Group Two).

Due to an "admin error" at the 'Down Under' end, the Australian picture exchange fell through this year but next year's images are expected on CD. CDs will be available for clubs to buy and use at their leisure whenever you have some free programme slots to fill.

The YPU has recently applied for a Lottery Grant for equipment. We have put in bids for a digital scoring machine, digital projector, laptop, and calibrator among other things. Fingers crossed!

Normanton Camera Club invite other clubs to attend their Prestige Lectures. Upcoming dates are: 13th March; "Guide to Wildlife Photography" by Peter Preece, Dip.A.D.(hons), 3rd April; "Floral Art" by Steve Gosling, 1st May; "Magnificent Monochrome" by Dave Butcher, ARPS.

"Movement and Light", a solo photography exhibition from Pat Belsen is at the Priestly Centre in Bradford from Tuesday March 14th until Friday April 21st. The exhibition experiments with various light sources in the domestic space. All photos have been taken with a pinhole camera, made from gift boxes, shoes boxes and even empty gravy cans. Other works mix the traditional pinhole camera with modern innovations such as digital imagery for a highly individualistic photographic approach.

## WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
10th March 2007	Awards for Photographic Merit in Audio-Visual (Hosted by Kent County PA).
26th March 2007	YPU Audio-Visual Championship, National Media Museum, Bradford
28/29 April 2007	Awards for Photographic Merit Prints and Slides (Hosted by Welsh PF).
12th May 2007	YPU Assembly 2pm University of Leeds Conference Centre
12/13/14 May 2007	YPU Annual Exhibition, Leeds. Leeds Town Hall Crypt.
21st July 2007	PAGB Inter-club Slide Championship, University of Warwick
21/22/23 September 2007	National Audio-Visual Championships (Venue to be arranged)
29th September 2007	Deadline for receipt of applications for Photographic Merit in Prints and / or Slides.
19/20/21 October 2007	Keighley Weekend, Losehill Hall (see inside for details)
27th October 2007	Inter-Club Print Championship, Deeside College, Connah's Quay
10th November 2007	YPU Club Reps Meeting 10.30am, Selby Community Centre
10th November 2007	Medium Format Slide Competition, Selby, 2pm start. Contact Andrew Pell for details.
24/25 November 2007	Awards for Photographic Merit Prints and Slides (Hosted by NEMPF).

