

PhotoNews

Where shared passion for photography creates synergy & inspiration



Henry Leeson – Silent Agents



David Johnston – Northern Lights

“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade”

Charles Dickens, Great Expectations

THE
**Photography
& Video** SHOW



14 – 17 March 2026 • NEC Birmingham

Club
Outing!

--/--

The March edition of PhotoNews opens with a compelling feature by **David Johnston** documenting his personal journey into Astro photography.

We have the results of the final *Print Competition* on page 3, judged by Rob Cowell and showcasing some excellent work from a broad range of club members, but the evening belonged to **Neil Avery**, **Liz Gillham** and **Phil Turney**.

On page 5, **Clive Haynes** presents a 'Before & After' feature designed to engage and motivate members to explore new techniques, transforming seemingly bland photographs into compelling and visually striking images.

While on page 10, **Kaz Diller**, takes us on an enthralling day out in Nuremburg at the Grand Hotel Parr – fascinating!

And, on page 14, **Richard Broomfield** shares some recent memories from his Tour of Asia.

**The Contemporary Photography Group
WhatsApp Group – 'CPG Inspirational'**

Is now available with the aim to exchange ideas, images, chat, inspirational links, work in progress and anything relevant to the Group and contemporary photography.

Contact Tej Kaushal or Clive Haynes direct - to join!

Click on icons below to:

Submit
an
Article

Submit
an
Idea



Submit
a
Question

Submit
Ad-Hoc
Image

Regular Features

Member
Book
Choice

March features a book choice from
Nigel Reader
Fay Godwin's - Photo Book 'Land'

Club
Notice
Board.

Adverts Galore! - From **Merchandise**,
FaceBook, **The Tea Academy** through to
Ad Hoc and **Special Interest Groups**

The
CPG
Group

Features an article from the charismatic
character - Darren Leeson.
'The Automaton Facility'

What's
on this
Month

The final round of the **PDI** competition,
the **Nature** competition and a **fabulous**
programme of **Speakers!**

The
Digital
Group

Features images
'Favourite Images of the Year'
with direct links to the full eBooks

60
seconds
with...

March 60 seconds features **Ron Childs**, a
member of the club since 2023 and a
photographer since 1963!

Events
&
Comps

Well, only one event this month
The Photography Show at the NEC.
'Enjoy it with a Club Outing!'

&
Finally

Features more hilarious interpretations of
a **Photographers Vocabulary!**
Smiles all around

My Search for the Northern Lights

by David Johnston

Astronomy has always fascinated me and so, whenever a documentary comes on the TV, I tend to tune in to see some of the amazing photos.

One day I hoped that I might be able to take some myself.

And so about six years ago I decided to take a trip to Norway to see the Northern Lights and hopefully get some photos.

To try and give myself the best chance of seeing them, I signed up for a coastal voyage that would take me way above the

Arctic Circle to the far north.

Unfortunately, although I did see the Northern Lights, they were not what I had hoped for, and the photos were not good. Two years later I went back but again although it was a better display, it was not what I was looking for.

Last year I received an email about an Astronomy voyage in January this year so being a gluten for punishment, I signed up as to my knowledge this year was:

'To be an Aurora Maximum'.

On top of this we would be fortunate to have an Astro Physicist, Dr John Mason on board who would give us talks each day on not only the lights but the Planets etc. in our Galaxy. His knowledge is exceptional, and I really learnt a lot from his talks.

As far as seeing the Northern Lights I can say it was well worth the trip as according to Dr Mason it was:

the most spectacular display he had seen in the last twelve years.

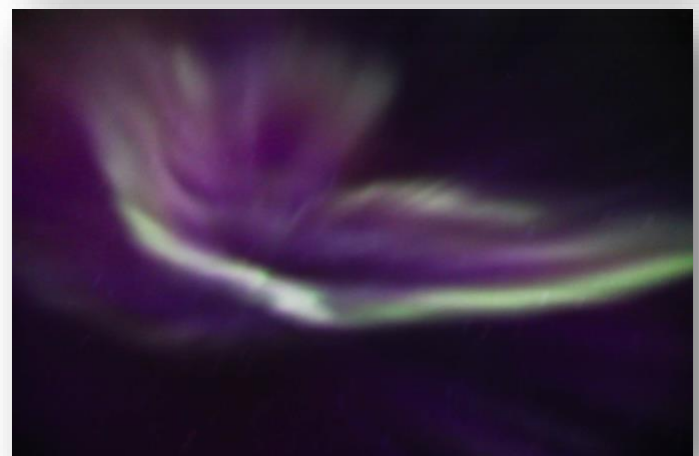
My first encounter was one morning during twilight and for the following eight nights it just got better. They would appear around five o'clock in the evening and go on until the early hours of the morning or until you got so tired you went to bed.

It was difficult to decide which way to look as the whole sky was illuminated with greens and reds. The movement of the ship did not always lend itself to getting the stars sharp, so it was a bit of trial and error.

The photos here are just a selection of the many hundreds I took so if you wish to see more, please pay a visit to my website - click on the picture below - and hopefully you will be amazed.

David Johnston

David Johnston Photography



Print Competition #2

Winners & Leading Images

Judge Rob Cowell had the privilege of presiding over the final leg of the Print Competition. On the night, the winners were **Neil Avery LRPS** in Advanced, **Phil Turney** in Intermediate and **Neil Avery** again in Mono.

Overall season winners of the Print Competition are **Neil Avery LRPS** in Advanced, **Liz Gillham** in Intermediate and **Neil Avery LRPS** for Mono.



Advanced

Neil Avery: Small Skipper – 20pts



Advanced

Paul Minshull: Mama Wag – 20pts



Advanced

Jeff Steady: Griffon Vulture In Rain – 20pts



Intermediate

Phil Turney – The Reflections of Grace
20pts



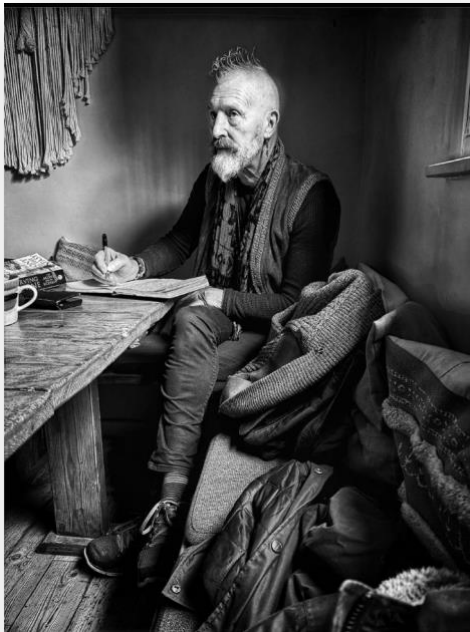
Neil Avery: Wembley – 20pts



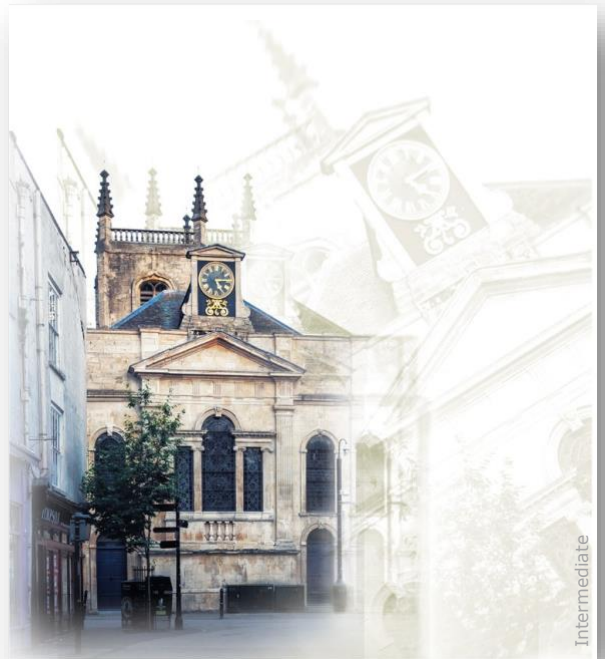
Phil Turney: The Oceans Opening Gambit – 20pts



Neil Avery: Spitfire Mk VC – 19pts



Nigel Reader: The Writer – 19pts



Sue Biggart: St Swithun's Mealcheapen Street
19pts



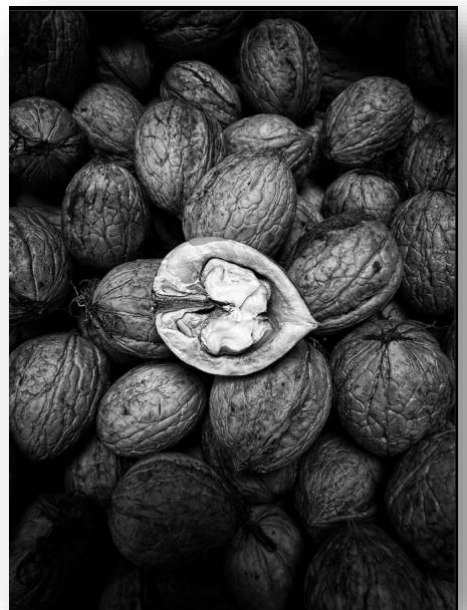
Jeff Steady: Squacco Heron – 18 pts



Liz Gillham: Kiva Kitty - 18pts



Pat Catlin: St Govans Chapel – 18pts



Nigel Reader: Nuts – 18pts

Before and After

The Making of 'Crossfire'

By Clive Haynes FRPS

We've all attended reenactments and whilst they're always entertaining and informative it's difficult to come away with meaningful images.

In the main it's very apparent that our pictures are simply records of people dressed up, no matter how faithfully.

A few years ago, I attended a reenactment which included people who brought army conditions of the Second World War to life. I got talking to a young man with his Bren Gun and we worked out a few angles for a picture.

However, I knew the colour picture wasn't going to be satisfactory and I wanted to bring the scene to life. It had potential and I could imagine the outcome I wanted.



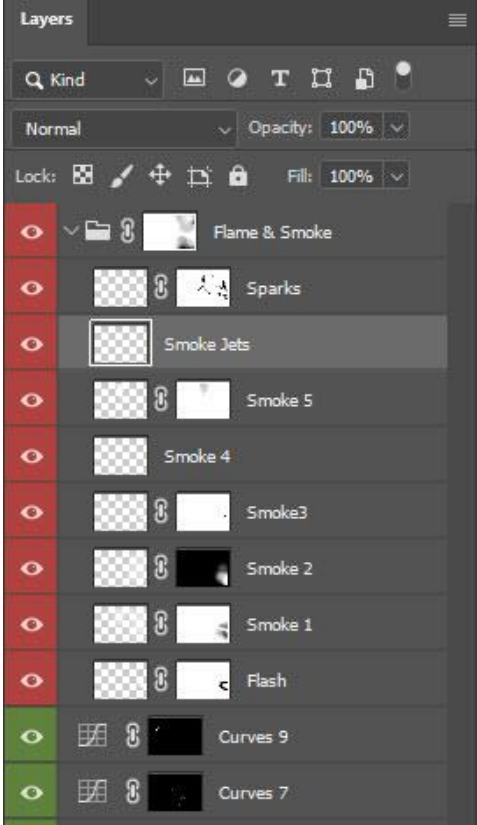
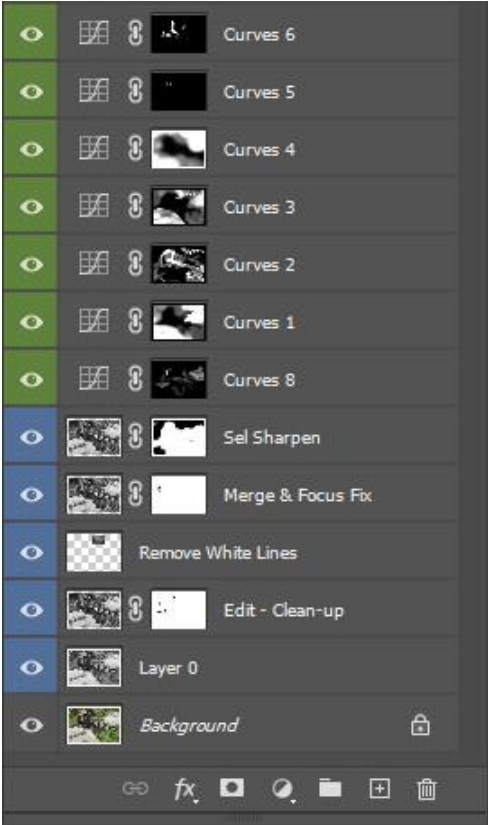
My first step was to convert the photo to black and white. I adjusted the tonal values of the underlying colour information to offer the best contrast.

Using Photoshop I made 'Adjustment layers' for individual areas. This included making the scene low-key and adding an uneven vignette to concentrate interest upon the subject. All this, plus the addition of 'smoke' (using 'brushes' on separate layers) further contributed to the atmosphere.

The next step was to create an element of realism by making the Bren Gun appear to be firing live ammunition. To get it right, I explored the internet to find video clips and demonstrations of Bren Guns firing. The results allowed me to spot where smoke, flames and sparks were emitted during shooting.

Adding another 'empty layer' I selected suitable 'brushes' in Photoshop to 'paint' straight lines which were then edited with a layer mask to break up and taper the 'sparks'.

To better explain about how 'layers' in Photoshop aided the evolution of this image, I include a screenshot at the end of this feature.





The Tea Academy

Promoting Teamwork

Fun & Camaraderie



Great to see Phil, our new 'tea trainee' at the hatch recently!

Under the watchful eye of his father Ron,
Phil is shown where to pour the tea!

He passed with flying colours!
Thank you, Ron and Phil.

If you'd like to volunteer to make refreshments at a meeting –
please contact **Liz Gillham** for information.

Spaces available!



Maddy takes up the teapot for the first time!

Thank you so much!

While Liz looks on with her clipboard, still looking to fill a few gaps in the rota.

*Don't be shy
come and have a go.*

Maddy had no problems at all with the expert tuition!



Richard reported in that trainee, Nick had done a marvellous job behind the hatch.

He even took initiative apparently!

Not sure about the plastic chocolate bun on the plate though?!

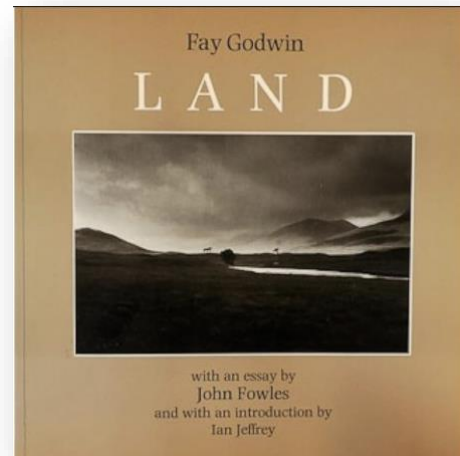
*Thank you,
Nick and Richard.*

Members Book Choice

from Nigel Reader

Fay Godwin's 1985 photo book "Land"

marked something of a turning point in the development of landscape photography.



To put it in context, we were then of course some decades before the advent of digital photography, and landscape work was largely confined to production of picture postcard style views showing a romanticised ideal of the countryside.

Fay's black and white images are more reportage in conception and often deliberately reject the romantic ideal in favour of a more realistic depiction, often touching on issues of ecology and the politics of land use.

They are however still carefully framed, and her prints were always meticulously crafted - in the photographic darkroom.

Rather remarkably she was self-taught.

The quality of her work was however soon noticed, and she was able to collaborate with some notable writers of the time. "Land" carries with it an "essay" by John Fowles.

By the time she died in 2005 she had been made an honorary FRPS, had had a retrospective exhibition at the Barbican and had been the subject of a television documentary on The South Bank Show.

Her archive of over 10,000 prints is held by the British Library.



Nigel Reader

Buy 'Fay Godwin' from Abe Books

A Day in Nuremburg

by Kaz Diller

What do you most associate with Nuremburg?

The historic German city known for its medieval castle?

The location of the Nazi war crime trials after World War II?

Russell Crowe's portrayal of Herman Goring in the recent film titled: Nuremburg?



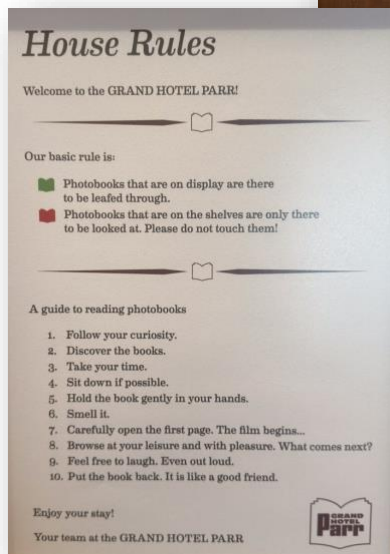
None of these come close to a visit to

Grand Hotel Parr.

In October 2025, Martin Parr's exhibition/installation Grand Hotel Parr was shown in the Nuremberg State Museum of Art and Design.



Whilst on holiday, rather than visit the historical sights, I spent an afternoon exploring this exhibition. I had previously listened to Martin Parr on two occasions, once when he presented his Black Country Stories in the New Art Gallery in Walsall, and then in the Bodleian Library when he presented his Oxford work. Both projects built a photographic archive focussed on the quirky nature of these places and people, which were very different to my impression of them.

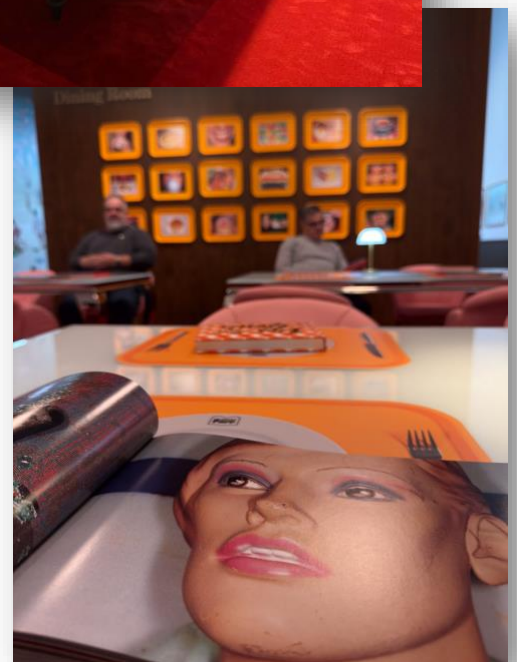
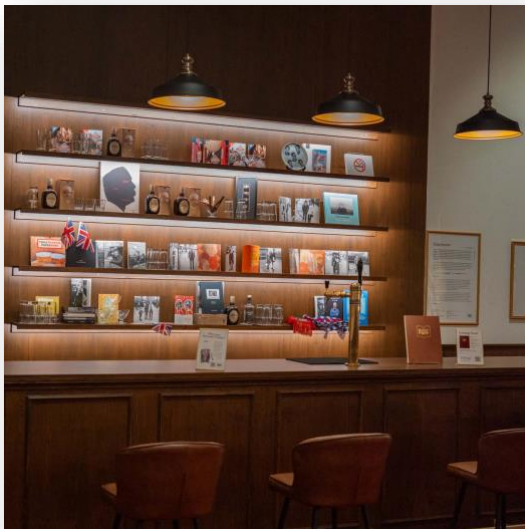


Although knowing that Martin was ill, I didn't know how seriously when exploring his hotel installation, which was probably his last exhibition before his untimely death. I commend Alec Soth's recent YouTube video "Picking Favourites On Martin Parr ...", both members of Magnum.



To regain my composure, I bought a massive, heavily discounted, tome exploring Lee Friedlander's work forgetting that I was in Germany.

Now getting to understand Friedlander's work in German that's a challenge!



Click on picture to view YouTube video by Alec Soth

Picking Favorites: On Martin Parr and my favorite photobook of 2025

Alec Soth
31.3k subscribers

Subscribe

988

Share

Save

Article by Kaz Diller



CLUB NOTICE BOARD

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Email to:

ruthbourne@gmail.com
note: 'hh' in the middle

More images
required for
Facebook
please!

Help Promote
the Club!

Please use 'We Transfer'
or similar if sending
more than 3 or 4

All images will be credited!

Club size is
fine
1600x1200
pixel max

No bias intended but it would
be great to have more of our
female photographers



The Tea Academy

Looking for **NEW**

Recruits

This is your chance to promote
Teamwork, Fun and
Camaraderie!

Contact Liz Gillham direct!



You are invited to the next
Digital Group Meeting

Thursday 19th March at 7.30 pm
Royal British Legion

Ad-Hoc

Single Shot Image Board

More single images from all members
with one or two sentences please!

Make PhotoNews interesting!

WCC Contemporary

You are invited to the next
Contemporary Group Meeting



Sue Biggart – Window Blinds

Thursday 5th March at 7.30 pm
Zoom

PhotoNews

Articles

Wanted

Everyone has a story!
Please share it!

South East Asia

images from our recent tour

Richard & Alison Broomfield

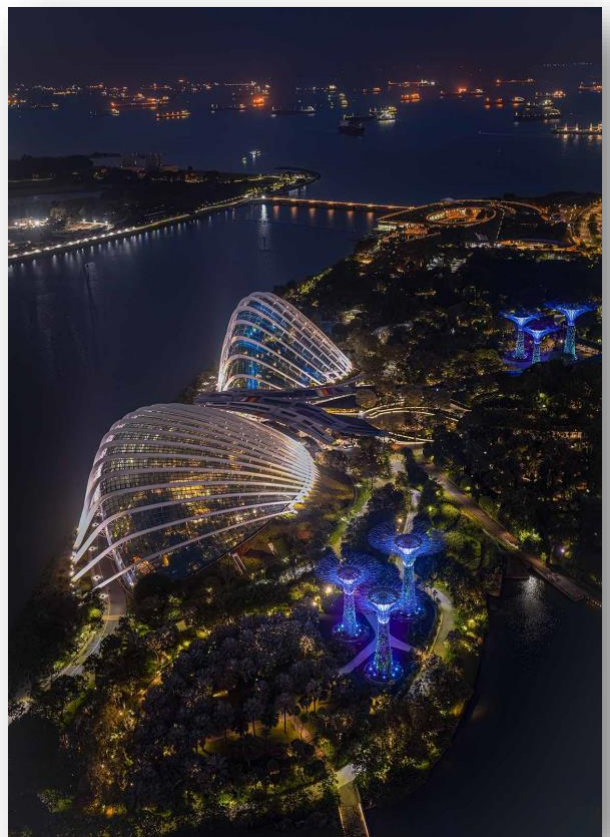
Club member Richard Broomfield ARPS EFIAP/b and his wife Alison have just returned from a month in south-east Asia.

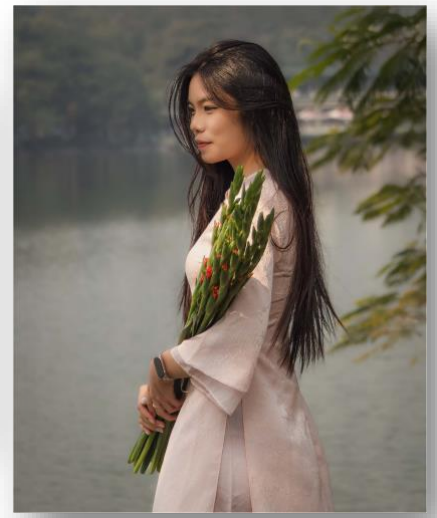
As PhotoNews editor I asked Richard if he would share a few images from their trip to Singapore, Vietnam and Cambodia to give a flavour of the local culture and sights.

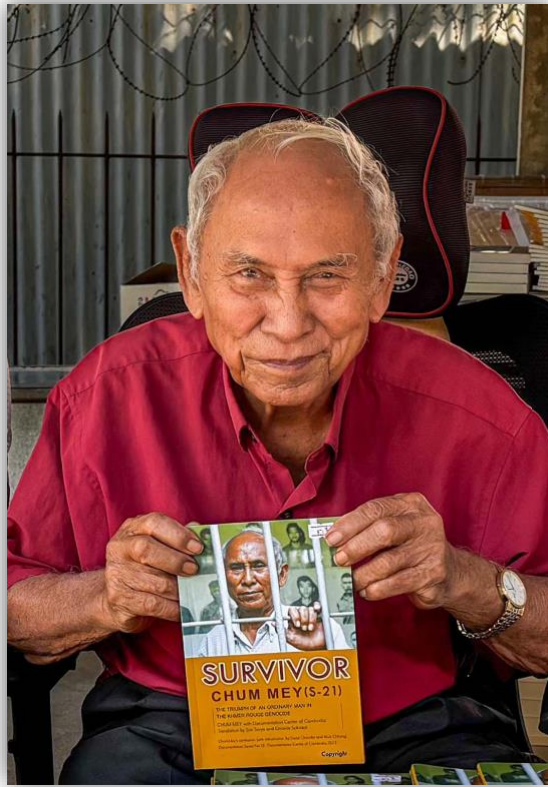
Richard agreed and stated he has "only just scratched the surface with the selection he has shared and has thousands of images still awaiting scrutiny" but we have a fantastic selection here from their travels!

Their most *harrowing visit* was to the S-21 Genocide torture museum site and the Pol Pot Kymer Rouge Killing Fields in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. They were privileged and humbled to meet Chum Mey age 94 one of only 8 (only he and one other living now) survivors from the S-21 Khmer Rouge prison genocide. He signed Richard's book and invited them to sit with him; it certainly brought tears to their eyes, and as such, Richard will not share any pictures from the Killing Fields. *Richard stated it was*

'An absolutely glorious holiday, and hopefully we can return soon'







Chum Mey
Kymer Rouge
torture survivor
Phnom Penh





DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Annual Books - Favourite Images of 2025

The 'Favourite Images of the Year' eBooks for 2025 are now available on the Club website!

Thank you to all the contributors – listed below – and especially to Martin Addison who compiles them year after year!

They are a great read and a fantastic source of inspiration – click on any image below to access the full eBooks



In this volume

Bob Green
Bob Oakley
Chris Ford
Clive Haynes
Colin Nash
David Hall
David Johnston
Derek Skinner
Duncan Gonnella
Gill Haynes
Jeff Steady
Judy Knights
Karen Gonnella
Lawrence Keen
Les Bailey

Lawrence Keen



Malcolm Haynes



In this volume

Linda Marshall
Luigi di Vito
Maddy Pennock
Malcolm Haynes
Martin Addison
Neil Avery
Nick Baldwin
Nigel Reader
Paul Minshull
Phil Turney
Richard Broomfield
Richard Handley
Sue Biggart
Tej Kaushal
Tessa Mills
Wendy Allard

Part 2



Duncan Gonnella

Nick Baldwin



Bob Green



WCC Contemporary

The Automaton Facility

WCC
Contemporary
Photography
Group

Before I went to Mannequin Hall, I already had an idea in my head of what I might photograph:

"I imagined something quite dark — like the photographs taken when the Nazi concentration camps were discovered at the end of the Second World War, where Jews and others had been murdered and bodies were found piled up. When I thought about stacked torsos and limbs, I assumed that would be the direction my pictures would take. But when I got there, it didn't feel like that"

Darren Leeson

The building was damp and leaking. Some of the mannequins were sealed in plastic bags, some stored outside. Rain had got in through holes in the roof. Water droplets clung to the plastic. When I looked through the camera, those droplets appeared as if they were inside the bags rather than outside. It looked almost as though the figures were breathing. The condensation made them feel alive.

As I walked around, my thinking changed. Instead of looking like something from the past, it started to feel like something from the future. I began to imagine this as a small factory run by artificial intelligence, making humanoid companions for people to buy — maybe ordered online in years to come.

It didn't feel like the future of *Star Wars*, George Lucas's space fantasy world. It felt more like the damp, industrial atmosphere of *Alien*, directed by Ridley Scott — dark spaces, leaking roofs, and machinery just about keeping going.

In one photograph, two figures stand face to face behind pallets. They almost look like they are about to kiss. If they could move, perhaps they could. But that is all they could do. They have no arms, no hands to touch each other, and no sexual organs to take it any further. They seem to be hiding slightly behind the pallets, while other figures stand nearby as if watching. There is something slightly voyeuristic about it, as though they are trying to have a private moment, even though privacy isn't really possible in a place like this.

I also photographed a human worker sorting through body parts. He is just an ordinary man doing his job, wearing his working clothes, slightly rough looking, unshaven, with a beer belly and a bit overweight. There was absolutely nothing polished about him. Behind him stood these perfect bodies in plastic bags with labels attached, ready to be sent out to the next customer. The contrast struck me — the imperfect human surrounded by these humanoid shapes with perfectly flat muscular stomachs, ideal female figures, and flawless forms, all sealed and waiting.



I used to work in engineering, going into factories to repair machinery. Even then, it felt like I had joined manufacturing at the tail end of its life in this country. Many of the factories I visited felt like they were just about surviving, struggling to compete with cheaper imports from abroad. Walking around Mannequin Hall gave me that same feeling. In my mind, this wasn't a powerful global company. It was a small business in the future, trying to keep going while bigger, cheaper competitors exist elsewhere.



For the Contemporary Group, we write a statement to go with the photographs. In my statement, I wanted to get across the idea that these humanoid figures are programmed by AI — that their personalities, thoughts and responses would all come from artificial intelligence. That is where I had the idea of asking AI to help write the statement itself. It seemed to fit the concept — AI describing creations that are themselves imagined as being programmed by AI.

What started in my mind as something connected to the horrors of the past changed completely because of how the place felt to me and what I saw at that time. In the end, the photographs became less about what they are pictures of, and more about what they are about. And for me, that is what the Contemporary Group is really about — not just showing an object or a scene but exploring the meaning behind it.



[CLICK HERE](#)

To read Darren's 'Statement' and view his complete 'Set of inspiring Pictures' in the February edition of the 'CPG Viewpoint' eBook



60 seconds with...

Ron Childs

1. How long have you been a member?

I JOINED IN 2023 AFTER MOVING UP TO WORCESTER FROM HAMPSHIRE.

2. How did you find out about WCC?

WHEN MOVING TO WORCESTER I DECIDED TO JOIN A CLUB STROLLING THROUGH THE WEBB WORCESTER CAMERA CLUB APPEARED SO I JOINED.

3. What do you or did you do as a career?

I WORKED AS A ENGINEER ON THE SHOP FLOOR TO VARIOUS COMPANIES IN DEFENCE AND ELECTRONICS ETC TO WHICH SOME YEARS AS A SUPERVISOR.

4. Do you have any other Hobbies outside of Photography?

I HAD A SPELL FRESHWATER AND SEA FISHING LONG TIME AGO, I ALSO ENJOY GARDENING.

5. How did you get into photography?

I STARTED PHOTOGRAPHY IN 1963 WITH A KODAK 44A THEN ZENIT B, CANON AE1 SLR, ON TO CANON DIGITAL CAMERAS. I PROGRESST MORE JOINING A CAMERA CLUB.

6. What do you love about photography?

GOING OUT WITH THE CAMERA TO NATIONAL TRUST, HOLIDAYS AND LOOKING FOR THE BEST SHOT ALSO WITH IPHONE IF YOU FORGET THE CAMERA.

7. What is your favourite genre within Photography?

I DO NOT HAVE A SPECIIFC GENRE BUT LANDSCAPES, OLD BUILDINGS, AND ANYTHING WHICH LOOKS INTERESTING.

8. Do you have any favourite photographers?

NOT REALLY HAD ANY FAVOURITES BUT THERE ARE GREAT PHOTOGRAPHERS OVER THE YEARS YOU CAN FIND IN BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

9. In what way has joining the Club helped your Photography develop?

JOINING A CAMERA CLUB GIVES YOU A LOT OF INSPIRATION TO DO BETTER WITH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY. WORCESTER CAMERA CLUB HAS BEEN MY THIRD CAMERA CLUB OTHERS BEING WEYBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB AND ESHER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY BOTH IN SURREY.

10. The Worcestershire Camera Club is.....TO LEARN FROM OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS TO HELP YOUR PROGRESS.

What's On this Month?

All events start at 7.30pm unless stated

MARCH

TUE 3 RD	Rosemary Wilman "The Way I See It - Focus on Composition - people and places"	Zoom
THU 5 TH	Contemporary Group	Zoom
TUE 10 TH	PDI Competition 4 - "Judge: Peter Turner CPAGB"	Bishop Allenby Hall
THU 12 TH	Photography Development Group	Royal British Legion
TUE 17 TH	Chris Upton - "A Passion for Pictures"	Zoom
THU 19 TH	Digital Group	Royal British Legion Club
TUE 24 TH	Richard Broomfield ARPS/EFIAP	Bishop Allenby Hall
THU 26 TH	Members Critique Night Malvern Vale Community Centre – YMCA Worcestershire, Swinyard Rd, Malvern WR14 1GU, UK	
TUE 31 ST	Nature Competition - "Judge: Mike Sharples MFIAP MPAGB FBPE ARPS EFIAP"	Bishop Allenby Hall

APRIL

THU 2 ND	Contemporary Group	Zoom
TUE 7 TH	Dave Jordan - "Simply Black & White"	Zoom

Click on venue pictures to get directions:



Royal British Legion
Claines

WR3 7PL



Bishop Allenby Hall
Worcester

WR3 7HS

Competitions Events & Exhibitions

THE
**Photography
& Video** SHOW

FEATURING
**CREATOR
CON**

14 – 17 March 2026 • NEC Birmingham

Show info

Opening hours:

10:00-17:00

Dates:

Sat, 14 March - Tues, 17 March

Location:

Hall 5, NEC Birmingham

14 – 17 MARCH 2026

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storyteller

TICKET INFO

BOOK A STAND

Entry
60+
£15.95

THE
**Photography
& Video** SHOW

🕒 Monday, March 16 2026 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

📍 [Hall 5 Photography and Video Show](#)

Club Outing!

I'm planning to go to the Photography Show at the NEC on Monday 16th March. It is open from 10.00am to 5pm.

I shall be going by train (probably catching the 9.24am from Worcester Foregate Street arriving at Birmingham International at 10.31am). Other trains and other forms of transport are available, so we could just meet at the NEC instead.

Details of the show are online including ticket prices etc.

If you fancy coming along, do sign up here but also contact me via email please so we can hatch a plan!

elizabeth.gillham@outlook.com

