

PHOTO NEWS NEWSLETTER OF

BIDEFORD CAMERA CLUB



Tim's Rants and Raves

What has bugged me or pleased me this month. Where has my camera taken me this month.

What's On in the coming months

[Events and exhibitions](#) - close to home and for those with passports further afield.

Maybe even further than Barnstaple or heaven forbid Exeter.

Calendar -

I will try to be as comprehensive as possible.

But if you know of an event not on the listing - please let me know. -

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RANTS AND RAVES

Hi everyone,

Welcome to my first newsletter for some time, I hope it finds you well and eager to get out and photograph all the wonders that spring brings forth. Living in this wonderful location with the coast and both Dartmoor and Exmoor right on our doorstep we are all spoilt for choice. Or if cultivated flora is more your thing we have superb gardens at Rosemoor and Marwood close at hand.

Well with the niceties of welcoming you back, done I can get on with my rant for this edition.

This concerns photobooks and this is loose terminology for the effort I received from "PRINTERPIX". They were quite quick in turning around the print order and I was quite impressed until I opened the package to be greeted with a book that was not properly adhered down the spine and the pages falling out on first opening. So I email "PRINTERPIX" customer service to be greeted with a message to the effect the their in box was full and not accepting any mail. So that is ok, I had already taken my blood pressure medication so I thought lets phone "PRINTERPIX" customer service and to be fair quickly got through to a real person and explained the situation. I got an apology and a request to send in a picture of the fault - no problem I'm a photographer and I will probably use the photo in a club competition later on.(yes I am that desperate). But their email service is full, I tell him this - no problem I am told "I will email you in the next 10 to 15 minutes and you will be able to reply to the email". Fifteen minutes, fifteen hours, fifteen days and still no email from "PRINTERPIX". Still there is still the chatbot to try - it was apparently on holiday. Still lesson learnt the first and last time I use "PRINTERPIX". Well that is the end of my rant for the month, oh and just in case I have not mentioned it before the company I received this bad service from was called "PRINTERPIX".

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Springing into action.



Whats On Soon

Just a small selection of events from the calendar, with links and locations.

ONLINE

Photographers who have won RPS awards in conversation – previous events can be viewed or forthcoming events can be booked all are free of charge. Each recording lasts about one hour, just double click on View Recording.

Can be booked here [Awards Talks Series \(rps.org\)](https://www.rps.org/AwardsTalksSeries)



Past events:

[Owen Harvey](#) in conversation with Roger Tooth - [View Recording](#)

[Professor Liz Wells](#) in conversation with Professor Martha Langford – [View Recording](#)

[Ajamu X HonFRPS](#) in conversation with Ingrid Pollard HonFRPS - **[View Recording](#)**

[Carly Clarke](#) in conversation with Stephen Lovell-Davis – [View Recording](#)

[Andrew Dewdney](#) in conversation with Victoria Walsh – **[View Recording](#)**

[Craig Atkinson](#) and Grant Scott - [View Recording](#)

[Anne McNeill](#) and Dr Pippa Oldfield – [View Recording](#)

[Dafna Talmor HonFRPS](#) and Duncan Wooldridge – [View Recording](#)

[Tom Hunter HonFRPS](#) and Zelda Cheatle HonFRPS – **[View Recording](#)**

[Hellen van Meene HonFRPS](#) with Martin Barnes – [View Recording](#)

[Kym Cox ARPS](#) with Hugh Turvey HonFRPS – [View Recording](#)

[Jason Bell HonFRPS](#) with Mike Trow – [View Recording](#)

[Phoebe Boswell](#) with Renée Mussai / **[View Recording](#)**

[Silvia Rosi](#) with Renée Mussai / [View Recording](#)

[Lola Flash HonFRPS](#) with Renée Mussai / [View recording](#)

[Anna Fox HonFRPS](#) with Karen Knorr HonFRPS. / [View recording](#)

[Joy Gregory HonFRPS](#) with Zelda Cheatle. / [View recording](#)

[Sunil Gupta HonFRPS](#) with Clare Grafik / [View recording](#)

[Ingrid Pollard HonFRPS](#) with Gilane Tawadros / [View recording](#)

EXHIBITIONS

Documentary Photography Open 2024 – Speaking Out: Changing Times

Museum Barnstaple and North Devon Feb 10,
2024 - Apr 13, 2024

This year's theme, *Speaking Out: Changing Times* asks entrants to comment on the recent political, social and environmental events that are affecting North Devon. Whether you're documenting the strength shown in communities, the changes affecting our towns, villages and countryside or local protests about national or worldwide interests - entrants can focus on whatever this theme means to them.

THE DARTMOOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHRIS CHAPMAN

This permanent exhibition was established in June 2022.

This exhibition aims to celebrate the renowned work of Chris Chapman who has been recording life on Dartmoor since 1972 and the social change that has occurred since then.

His photographs have captured not just a landscape under pressure from constant modernisation but also the residents and individuals who have made up the local population.

Some of these characters are immortalised in print and when viewed by the public they are looking back in time to a period from which the like of these will never be seen again.

This important record of rural life on the moor can be seen at Providence Methodist Chapel, Throwleigh, Dartmoor EX20 2HZ.

12noon to 6pm.
Every 2nd Saturday of the month
May to October 2024.
May 11th
June 8th

EXHIBITIONS FURTHER AFIELD

THERE ARE SOME EXCELLENT EXHIBITIONS IN BRISTOL - WELL WORTH THE EFFORT

International Photography Exhibition 165

RPS Gallery | *February 3 - June 2 2024* | Free admission

The RPS International Photography Exhibition (IPE) is the world's longest-running photography exhibition. Now in its 165th edition, renowned for showcasing a diverse range of contemporary photography from around the world.

The International Photography Exhibition 165 explores themes such as environmental issues, identity, community, dementia or grief in their work, showing how contemporary photographers are engaging with and capturing aspects of the world that are not only visually compelling but also socially and culturally significant.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2023 at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery

Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1RL

About

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery is proud to host the fifty-ninth Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, meaning you can experience these incredible images alongside the museum's fascinating natural science collections.

View the 100 winning photographs out of 49,957 entries into the competition by photographers of all ages and experience levels from 95 countries.

The exhibition features soundscapes, videos, expert insights and stunning photography that capture animal behaviour, spectacular species, and breathtaking diversity of the natural world.

**Times:**

Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm

Closed Mondays except Bank Holiday Mondays and Mondays during Bristol school holidays: 10am-5pm

Tickets:

Full price (16+) - £10 weekdays, £11 weekends

Concessions - £7.50 weekdays, £7.50 weekends

Art Fund members - £6 weekdays, £6 weekends

Under 16s - Free.

Concessions

Concessions are available with proof of identity for people over 65, NHS staff, unemployed

There are plenty of others venues in Bristol that often feature photographic exhibitions and free admissions.

Try searching: -

Arnofini

Martin Parr Foundation

Spike Island

West of England Arts Academy

CLUB MEETINGS

- **4th Apr : Competition** - (Thursday) 3B's Interclub Battle & Social at Barnstaple, Judge John Barker
- **9th Apr : Talk** - In Africa with a Camera by Colin Humphrey
- **16th Apr : Competition** - Masters (Print), Judge Peter Fry
- **23rd Apr : Members Night**
- **30th Apr : AGM**

EVENTS

This will expand over time but this is just a quick scan of coming events.

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|--------------------|---|
| March 31 | Point to Point The Spoppers and West Dartmoor at Cherrybrook |
| April 15 to June 2 | At the Burton at Bideford - Devon and Cornwall by Martin Parr |
| April 15 to June 2 | At the Burton at Bideford - Uncertain Landscape by Robert Darch |
| April 7 Barton | South West Off Road Motorcross Championship - Whiteway |
| April 20 | Point to Point Flete Park Races - Flete Park |
| April 27/28 | Wiscombe Park Honiton - Hill Climb |
| April 28 | Axe Vale Point to Point - Stafford Cross |
| May 4/5 | Rosemoor Hobby Weekend |
| | Werrington Park Hillclimb |
| May 7 | BCC visit to Instow |
| May 11 | Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway Steampunk Gathering |
| May 11/12 | Wiscombe Park Hillclimb |
| May 14 | BCC visit to RSPB Reserve Chapel Woods Spreacombe |
| May 16/17/18 | Devon County Show |
| May 18/19 | Wiscombe Park Hillclimb |
| May 21 | BCC Visit to Kate's Farm |
| May 25 | Dulverton Sounds Music Festival |
| May 26 | Bideford Bike Show |

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| May 28 | Member's night at the Blue Lights Hall |
| June 4 | BCC visit to Boathyde Northam |
| June 6 | Okehampton Show |
| June 9 | BCC visit to Tamar Lakes Lyn Valley Classic Car Show |
| June 11 | BCC visit to Hartland Quay |
| June 18 | BCC visit to Halsdon Nature Reserve Dolton |
| July 24 | Dunster Country Fair |
| July 28 | Porlock Horse Show |
| Aug 10 | Dunster Show |
| Aug 14/15 | Exford Horse Show |
| Sept 7 | Challacombe Sheepdog Trial |
| Nov 17 | Herring Festival Clovelly |

A date to be confirmed as Sampford Courtenay has a major reenactment planned to mark the 475th anniversary of the "Prayer Book Rebellion" which was rooted in the village near Okehampton.



“Photography for me is not looking, it’s feeling. If you can’t feel what you’re looking at, then you’re never going to get others to feel anything when they look at your pictures.”

—Don McCullin

LOOKING BACK

I suspect there are few in the club who can remember much about 60 years ago and fewer still who will admit to it.

So here we look back to 1964 a general election year in which Labour swept to victory and Harold Wilson replaced Alec Douglas-Home as Prime Minister.

The year also saw the last executions in Britain as Gwynne Owen Evans and Peter Anthony Allen were hanged simultaneously in Liverpool and Manchester respectively.

In technology the first ATM received it’s patent, I am sure very few of the general public would have known about it and even fewer would have envisaged their current ubiquitous nature on our high streets or indeed the increasing rarity of high street banks. Another technological advance was born as the BBC offered those wealthy enough to afford a state-of-the-art receiver the first taste of colour television.

The culture of the time produced “mop top” haircuts, made Carnaby Street synonymous with the radical new fashion, including the miniskirt. In television the public delighted in viewing Z Cars, The Likely Lads and the first in the ground breaking documentary series 7 Up. There was also the airing of the first episodes of Top of the Pops and Match of the Day and female members may remember “Jackie” which first appeared in 1964.

In sport the summer Olympics were held in Tokyo where Mary Rand the golden girl of British athletics won gold in the long jump. In cricket England’s fast bowler fiery Fred Trueman became the first test bowler to take 300 test wickets. In football Liverpool won the first division title, while the glamour team of English football won, the FA Cup.

In music this was the time of the Merseybeat, Beatlemania, and the meteoric rise of Motown, the Rolling Stones recorded their first album, all contributing to the “swinging sixties”.

Departing this mortal coil in 1964 Harpo Marx, Cole Porter, Peter Lorre, General Douglas MacArthur, Sam Cooke, Herbert Hoover and the first lady to take her seat in parliament Lady Nancy Astor.

But what of photography?

Photographers could quench their thirst for photographic knowledge with a copy of Practical Photography magazine for half a crown or take out an annual subscription for 36 shillings and keep them pristine in a binder for 16 shillings and sixpence.

Advertised within its cover is a plethora of adverts for cameras of the day few of the names will ring any bells today. But they included Nikon F, Practica IVF and IVFB, Exakta, Petri, Braun, Adox, Retina Reflex iii, Rolleicord TLR and Zeiss Ikon Contessamat. Interestingly there is very little mention of Canon in any magazines of the time except for quite a strange looking little camera called the Canon Dial 35. The Polaroid camera was being advertised as a “new kind of camera” and a “new kind of film” which “together make colour pictures in 60 seconds.

Magazines of the time are filled with advertisements for darkroom equipment, enlargers, timers and also the chemicals and papers to make black and white prints.

It is perhaps in the field of film that we can really appreciate how much more difficult it was for photographers of the day. Advertised as the fastest film of the day Ansco and Anscochrome were rated at 200 asa (ISO) it was imported from the USA and was the film NASA astronauts were using on their missions into space. This was quite exceptional and it was expensive for everyday photographers Ilford Ilfocolor negative film was rated at 32 asa (ISO) just think it is unlikely the native ISO on your digital camera will go down to that level. Even these everyday films were not cheap 8shilling and sixpence for 120/620 and 127 roll films or 22 shillings for a 20 exposure 35mm film.

Pentax produced some of the best cameras of the day advertised as “The Sensational” Pentax Model S.I.A could be sourced with a choice of 12

different lenses and over 100 accessories. Coming with an impressive shutter speed range of 1 second to 1/500th of a second. What would this state of art camera cost you if you found it irresistible. A mere 72 pounds and 10shillings and add an ever-ready case for another 97 shillings and 8 pence. In comparison the average house price in 1964 was £3104 as compared to £290,000 today, while the average annual salary was £1068 compared to £34,963 today.

Sorry no pictures to go with this a victim of my current nomadic lifestyle - perhaps next time.

And now the final word

End

