



BPS NEWS BULLETIN

Issue No 22: October 2024

Great Start to New Season

Beckenham's 2024-2025 season kicked off in great style with three fascinating talks from prestigious photographers. Our own Polina Plotnikova launched the season with a delightful retrospective of her still life and flower work, many including her favourite lensbaby creatives and finishing with some examples of her images of precisely and exquisitely created dolls. It was especially interesting to hear about those artists and photographers who have been the inspiration for her work.



Our second speaker was Nick Gregan – well known to members who also attend the Camera Club. Nick is a renowned portrait (head and shoulders) photographer who has captured many famous celebrities.



Nick gave us a real insight into how he gets the best from his models by building rapport and then demonstrated it working in practice with two members who volunteered to act as models. The results show how his techniques can produce delightful portraits.

The third speaker joined us courtesy of Zoom. Suffolk-based Peter Benson took us on a fascinating tour of Photography on the Darkside: London Nights. His stunning images gave many members encouragement to get out to locations around the River Thames and other areas of the Capital to capture equally captivating night-time scenes.



Peter enjoyed his evening with Beckenham and has offered members a pre-Christmas discount of 20% on any orders of his puzzles through to 16th November 2024. The code "BeckenhamPS20" is limited to one use per member and is for all the puzzles in that order. To claim the discount, enter the code in the code "Promo Code" box on the cart page of his website store - www.peterfbenson.co.uk

Retina Cup Success

On 9th October the inaugural Retina Cup competition took place between Beckenham Photographic Society and South London Photographic Society, hosted by BPS at St John's. The competition was won by Beckenham, with a total of 142 points to 137. Judge David Smith ensured an entertaining evening for all, including guests from South London.

Top ten marks were achieved in the print section by Sandy White for Serenity and Fred Barrington for Broadgate Number 2. (Other results: Touché by Andrew Moss 8.5; A Gentle Soul by Cathy Myers 8; Cross Flow by Angela Ford 9; Artery to the Sea by Roger Ford 9.5; Mum's Protection by Tarina Hill 8.5; Gentle White by Nenne Van Djik 7).

In the PDI entries Angela Ford scored 10 for Three of a Kind. (Other results: The Dynamic Duo by Andrew Moss 8.5; 1 to 2 by Fred Barrington 8.5; Jet Ski Donut by Keith Surey 8.5; Red Squirrel on the Lookout by Sandy White 9.5; High Tide Huts by Keith Surey 8.5; Painterly by Polina Plotnikova 9; Flying Puffin by Tom Maguire 9).

Thanks to former BPS President Barrie Brown for organising the competition and trophy to promote inter-club competition after the demise of the Federation of South London Photographic Societies.

Ordering Mount Board for Annual Exhibition Entries

If you haven't already done so, it's time to start work on your prints for the Annual Exhibition (**last entry date 11 December**) and for the rest of the season. Aiming to avoid minimum order and delivery costs, Lesley Rees will organise a bulk order with Cotswold Mounts. Prices will include a small added margin for club funds.

Popular items include Camera Club Mount Boards (sold in packs of 4), ready cut to standard 50x40cm size, as well as backing board and mounting tape. Mount board is available in various colours - one of the 'whites' is recommended - with a cream or white core. Customised pre-cut apertures (again in packs of 4) are also available. Please see Cotswold Mounts website (<https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/>) for details.

Please email Lesley (lesleyrees@btinternet.com) with your order by 28 October at the latest. Don't hesitate to ask her if you have any questions.

KCPA 2024 Annual Exhibition and Some Competitions for Members

The KCPA is holding a one-day Print Exhibition on 3rd November and members are invited to enter up to three prints each. It will take place at Detling Village Hall between 9am and 4pm and prints for exhibition can be taken there on the day or dropped off at one of three locations by October 24th. It is free to enter.

If you are entering unmounted prints the size should be A4 while mounted prints are up to 50cm x 40cm. They will need to have a label on the back which can be found [here](#) on the KCPA website along with more information about the exhibition including the drop off points. The address of the hall is Pilgrims Way, Detling, Maidstone ME14 3EY.

Keen bird photographers may also be interested in the Society of International Nature and Wildlife Photographers' Photographer of the Year competition which closes on October 31st. For details and entry go to <https://sinwp.com/bird/>.



Entries cost £1 with the fee going to the RSPB. If you check out the website, you can see the images that have already been submitted. On a similar theme, members may be interested in viewing the winners of BPOTY 2024 competition - <https://www.birdpoty.com/2024-winners>.

A competition with a slightly longer lead-in is the Downe calendar photo competition for the village's 2026 calendar. Entries need to be in by **October 15th 2026**. You can send pictures in JPEG format at any time to amdixon@btinternet.com (please title your e-mail "2026 calendar").

Anna, the organiser, says these can be "shots of anything that takes your fancy: the poppy field in bloom, a snowy Hamish, the Remembrance poppies, our lovely May Queen or even local characters or buildings. Adding a catchy title will help."

Launch of The London Nature Photographers Network

The LNP Network has been set up by a group of London-based photographers as an informal online community of those who share an interest in the beauty, complexity and fragility of the natural world. It is aiming to provide an easily accessible support network of nature photographers. Plans include organising an annual exhibition of members' prints from 2025 onwards. Membership is open to photographers who are members of a photographic society or club within the London Region and costs £4.99 a year. For more information go to <https://www.londonnaturephotographersnetwork.com/>

Image Exchange with our French Twin

Just a reminder that Face to Face is the theme for our next challenge with the French club Image 'in Perigny. I am sure we will have another varied set of images, as always, to show on the night during the BPS meeting in February. A selection of printed images from the project will also be shown at the Annual Exhibition. So please send your images to Angela Ford by 30th November to angelaFord19@hotmail.com. Each member can submit up to 2 images 1400 x 1050 pixels.

Events for Your Diary

As part of a world tour, 'Japan / A Love Story' featuring highlights of **Michael Kenna's work in Japan** over four decades is on display at Asia House, 63 New Cavendish Street, W1G 7LP. The exhibition runs until 20 October, open Monday-Sunday 10am-6pm. <https://www.peterfetterman.com/exhibitions/38-michael-kenna-japan-a-love-story/overview/>

The **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** winning entries are now on display at the Natural History Museum until 29th June 2025. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year.html>.

Until 10th November the Photographers' Gallery is presenting **Reimagined Landscapes** with works by three photographers exploring themes of cultural identity, home and displacement. <https://printsales.thephotographersgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/>

The National Portrait Gallery will be presenting the winners of the **Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 2024** between 14th November and 23rd February 2025. This is the 17th year of the competition which celebrates a diverse range of images and tells the fascinating stories behind the creation of works, from formal commissioned portraits to more spontaneous and intimate moments capturing friends and family.

Go to: <https://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/exhibitions/2024/taylor-wessing-photo-portrait-prize-2024/>

And there is still time to catch *Lee* – the film about war-time photographer Lee Miller played to positive critical review by Kate Winslet – at cinemas. Members may remember the fascinating talk we heard in BPS' Centenary year about the model turned journalist.

THANK YOU for reading this News Bulletin. Look out for Issue No 23 in December/January. It is really appreciated if you can contribute articles, feedback, images, news items, suggestions, advice, announcements. Please send to beckenhampscomms@gmail.com. Deadline for copy for the next issue is midday on 15th December.

