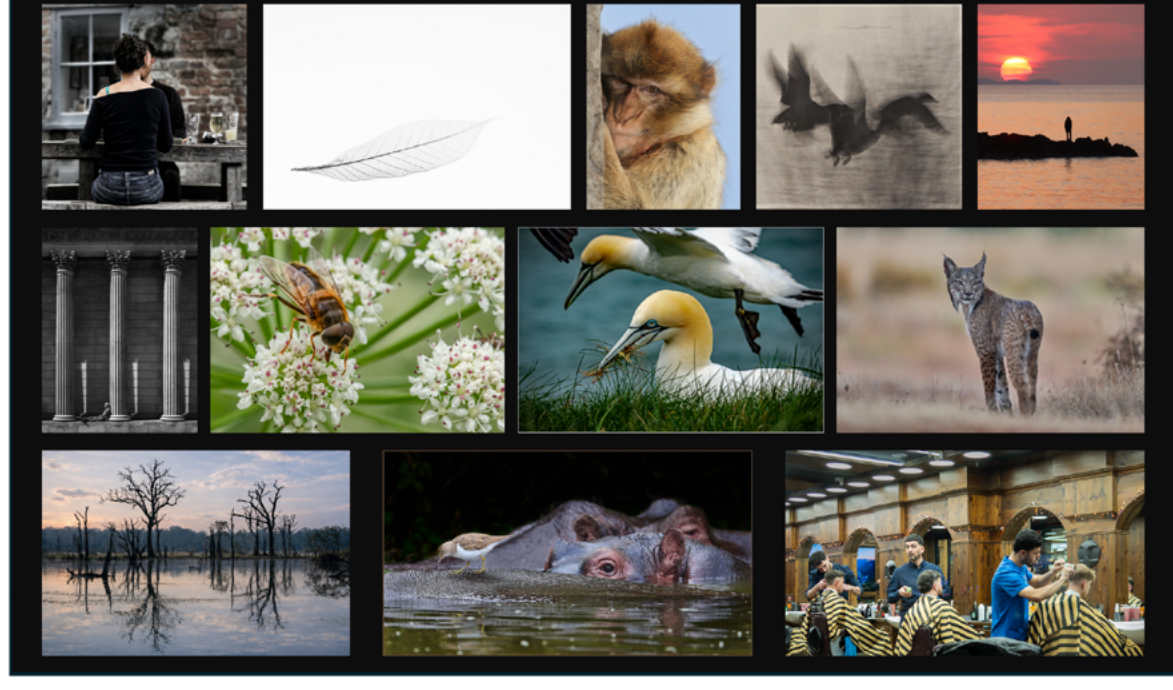


03 October 2026

Top Scoring Prints and PDIs from League Round #1



Top row left to right images from Mark Rendall, Paul Knowles, Martin Callaghan, Adam Turner, and Hugh Pitfield

Middle row left to rights images from Jeff Kelsey, Mike Carrington, George Turnbull, and Tony Brown

Bottom row left to right images from John Campbell, Tony Brown, and Jeff Kelsey

What a great way to kick off our league competitions!

It was fantastic to see so many people in the hall on Wednesday for the first round of our Print and PDI League Competitions. With such a strong turnout, a wonderful variety of genres, and entries from photographers across the club, the evening was a superb start to this season's competitions.

Thank you to everyone who came along, whether to compete or simply to enjoy the event. Congratulations to all the photographers who took part in what proved to be a closely fought competition. Special congratulations, of course, go to the ten photographers who achieved scores of 9.5 or 10, it was particularly pleasing to see so many members recognised for the quality and creativity of their work.

A huge thank you, as always, to Neil McIntyre and Nigel Peach for delivering another excellent competition evening, and to our judge, Suzie Kirkby, for her thoughtful, constructive and encouraging assessments. We'll be seeing Suzie again in the new year when we host the annual tri-club *Mix and Match* competition.

A reminder, too, that the second round of the League Competitions takes place on 25 November, when Paul Moran will be our judge. If you'd like to see examples of Paul's photography in advance, you can visit his website at [Images by Buzz](#).

We'll be taking another look at the top-scoring images from this week's competition during the first part of Wednesday's Zoom meeting when we'll be hearing the stories behind them directly from the photographers themselves; and we'll be showcasing some of the images from our recent visit to the historic Farnborough Airport after the break.

Looking further ahead, the rest of the month promises to be just as busy. We have what is sure to be a fascinating presentation from James Smith on storm chasing, we'll be hosting the Spectrum and Heywood competitions, and we'll be enjoying a selection of the *Best of the Best Prints* from the 2026 Inter-Federation Competition. And don't forget that there is also plenty happening at the Rural Life Living Museum throughout the month.

Full details of all upcoming events can be found below and on the club's web calendar at [AFFCC Programme](#). If you haven't already done so, why not subscribe to the calendar and make sure you never miss an AFFCC event?

I hope to see many of you on Zoom on Wednesday evening for an evening of inspiring, insightful and lively discussion as our photographers share the stories behind their images, and perhaps even reveal what they really thought of Suzie Kirkby's comments and scores; and look forward to seeing some of you on Thursday for our outing to Guildford Cathedral.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the club.

Mark

Mark Rendall
AFFCC Chairman
email: chairman@affcc.uk



Backstories Print & PDI Round #1 & "More than one way to shoot a wind-tunnel" Wednesday 07 October



"Airship Hanger, Farnborough Airport"
Graham Chisnall

In the first part of this two-part Zoom evening, we'll take a closer look at some of the highest-scoring images from this week's opening round of our Internal Print and PDI competitions. Then, in the second half, we'll review some of the outstanding photographs from our outing to historic Farnborough Airport and explore the question: Is there more than one way to photograph a wind tunnel?

Backstories evenings offer a unique opportunity for our photographers to share the stories behind their images, revealing the creative decisions, techniques and thought processes that shaped the final results. Informative, insightful and often surprising, these sessions give us the chance to hear about the challenges our photographers overcame and, whether through careful planning or fortunate timing, the moments of serendipity that helped transform a good photograph into an award-winning one.

If you have photographs from our Farnborough Airport outing that you would like to share with the club and haven't yet submitted, please send them to me at programme@affcc.uk and to Nigel Peach at socialmedia@affcc.uk.

Zoom details:

Meeting ID:

Passcode:

Guildford Cathedral Photo-Outing Thursday 08 October



"Mother and Child Guildford Cathedral"

WWI Centenary Memorial carved in situ by Nicholas Thompson, completed January 2016
[NJTSculptor](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Our October outing is to the Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit, Guildford, better known as Guildford Cathedral.

At first glance, with its striking exterior of warm brickwork and bold, simplified forms Guildford Cathedral may bear more than a passing resemblance to Battersea Power Station. Perhaps that's not surprising as the two buildings share a connection through Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, architect of Battersea Power Station and adviser to the cathedral's principal architect, Sir Edward Maufe.

But beyond the brickwork the cathedral offers a wealth of photographic opportunities both inside the building and around its Stag Hill setting. Inside highlights include the impressive pipe organ, whose origins can be traced back to an instrument dating from around 1866 in Rosse Street Baptist Church, Shipley, Yorkshire, before being rebuilt and expanded for Guildford Cathedral; while outside, photographers can explore the tranquil Seed of Hope Garden, and capture panoramic views across Guildford and the surrounding Surrey countryside.

We will be meeting at 12:30 pm on Thursday 8 October at the front of the cathedral. There is ample on-site parking, although stays are normally limited to two hours, extending to four hours if you visit the shop or café. This should provide plenty of time to explore the cathedral and grounds, as well as enjoy refreshments in the café, which closes at 3:00 pm.

The cathedral is accessible to all visitors. While there are steps in some areas, including access to the gardens, alternative routes with ramps are available, although these may be slightly longer.

The cathedral appreciates advance notice of larger groups. so numbers will need to be confirmed beforehand. If you would like to join this outing, please contact Andrew Collins at [andrew.collins@guildfordcathedral.org.uk](#)

Finally, as is common at many cathedrals, visitors are invited to make a small donation. Guildford Cathedral currently suggests a contribution of £5.

My thanks to Andrew Collins for organising this outing.

Storm Chasing by James Smith

Wednesday 14 October

On 14 October, James Smith, photographer, storm chaser and member of Woking Photographic Society, will be joining us in the hall to share some of his dramatic images and recount his experiences of pursuing extreme weather across some of the world's most storm-prone regions.

Drawing on his travels through America's famed Tornado Alley, James will present not only his photographs but also the stories behind them, offering a unique insight into the planning, perseverance and occasional nerve required to document some of nature's most powerful and unpredictable spectacles.

James's presentation comes highly recommended by members of Woking Photographic Society. Whether your interest lies in landscape photography, weather photography, travel, or simply spectacular imagery, this promises to be a fascinating and inspiring evening, providing a rare glimpse into the world of storm chasing through the eyes of someone who has experienced it first-hand.

Fleet Jazz

Tuesday 19 October



"Fleet Jazz"

Fleet Jazz never fails to deliver an enjoyable and rewarding evening of music and photography, whatever your musical tastes. On 19 October, we will be returning to The Harlington to photograph El Chamuyo, a London-based quartet of violin, piano, bass and bandoneon that will be performing a wide sweep of Argentinian tango music, ranging from golden era of the 1920s and '30s, through to the tango nuevo masterpieces of Piazzolla as well as original music.

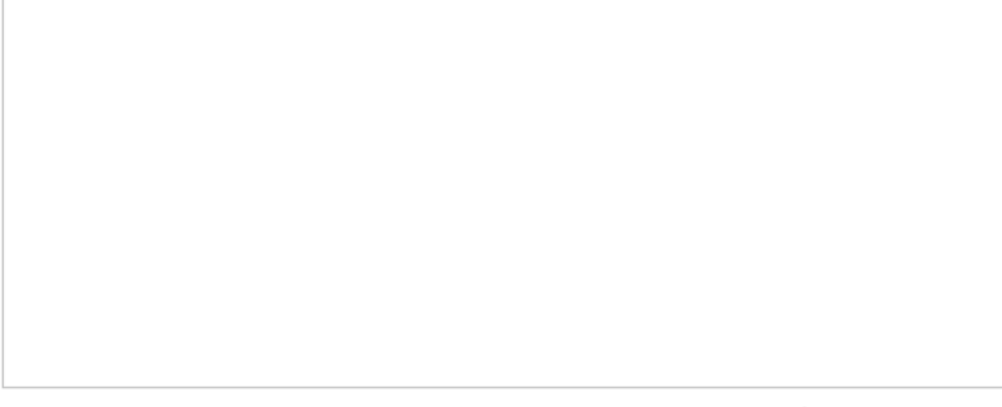
Unfortunately, all of the photographer places for this event, and the November event, have now been allocated. However, if you would like to be added to the reserve list, or are interested in photographing December concert, please contact Mike Carrington at secretary@affcc.uk.

Even if you are not attending as a photographer, this promises to be a memorable evening of some of South America's most passionate and evocative music, performed by a group renowned for blending tradition and innovation. Further details and ticket information can be found at: [What's on | Fleet Jazz Club](#).

Spectrum and Heywood

Wednesday 20 October

AFFCC Highly Commended Images from the 2025 Spectrum and Heywood competitions



From left to right: *"Magpie Inkcap (Coprinopsis picacea)"* by Ana Peiró Muñoz, *"Silent Prayer"* by Hugh Pitfield and *"Peering Out"* by Mark Rendall

On Wednesday 20 October, we will be hosting the annual tri-club Spectrum and Heywood Trophies PDI Competition, with Roger Creber ARPS EFIAP DPAGB judging the entries.

The Heywood Trophy is an open competition, while the Spectrum Trophy is a themed competition and this year's theme is *Natural History*.

For AFFCC members we will be using PhotoEntry to manage our submissions. If you wish to enter, please note that PhotoEntry will close at midnight on 16 October, the Friday before the competition to give Neil an additional day to collate and sequence the images submitted by the three participating clubs.

My thanks to Neil for taking on the organisation of the Spectrum and Heywood competitions, liaising with Farnborough and Yately, and for the work involved in bringing together entries from across the three clubs.

PAGB Prints - The Best of the Best

Wednesday 27 October

The PAGB Inter-Federation Competition is held annually in June and showcases the very best club photography from across the UK. Federations submit entries on behalf of photographers from their affiliated clubs in three print categories: Monochrome, Colour and Nature. From these entries, a prestigious travelling exhibition is selected and shown throughout the participating federations. On Wednesday 27 October, we are delighted to welcome Ferg Cowhig DPAGB EFIAP/b BPE5, the SCPF's PAGB Competition Secretary, who will be bringing the exhibition to Hale for us to enjoy and discuss.

This is a rare opportunity to view some of the finest photographic prints produced within the PAGB, representing the work of photographers from more than 850 affiliated clubs across the organisation's 15 federations. Covering a wide range of subjects, styles and techniques, the exhibition will offer an inspiring showcase of contemporary photographic excellence.

Members' News

RPS Distinctions

A few of us received a note from the RPS earlier this week about the future direction of their awards programme, the contents of which I have reproduced in full below.

"The RPS Distinctions Programme is being updated for 2027 following a substantial review and redevelopment. I'm writing to share more about what is changing and what photographers can expect from the updated programme.

The Royal Photographic Society has recognised achievement in photography for more than 130 years. Over that time, RPS Distinctions have evolved alongside photography itself, responding to changes in photographic practice, technology and the ways photographers develop and present their work.

Following the pause to assessments earlier this year, we have undertaken a substantial redevelopment of the programme. The updated programme retains Licentiate, Associate and Fellowship while introducing clearer standards and guidance, stronger support for applicants, and revised approaches to assessment, moderation and feedback.

At the heart of the updated programme is a clearer progression through the three Distinction levels:

Licentiate (LRPS) recognises a sound level of photographic ability and provides an accessible first step into the Distinctions Programme.

Associate (ARPS) recognises a high level of photographic achievement, with applicants demonstrating an individual approach and a developed body of work.

Fellowship (FRPS) is the RPS's highest Distinction, recognising exceptional photographic achievement and a significant, sustained and highly developed body of work.

The updated programme also recognises the breadth of contemporary photographic practice and the different ways photographers can demonstrate achievement. Applicants will have clearer information about what is expected at each level and greater support in preparing for assessment.

A clearer, more supportive applicant pathway

The updated programme introduces a clearer applicant pathway, bringing together guidance, tutorials, assessment and feedback as connected parts of the Distinctions experience.

Learning and development will play a more prominent part in this pathway. Applicants will have access to structured tutorial support before assessment, creating opportunities to discuss their work, understand the requirements of their chosen Distinction and make informed decisions about their submission.

Assessment itself is also changing. Clearer criteria, strengthened moderation and a revised approach to feedback are intended to support fair, rigorous and consistent decisions across the programme.

What happens next?

Applications to the updated Distinctions Programme will open in 2027. Further information about the three Distinction levels, routes, standards, applicant support and assessment is now available on the [RPS website](#).

More practical information, including application dates and fees, will follow as we approach the opening of applications.

RPS Distinctions have played an important part in the RPS and photographic community for generations. The updated programme preserves their value and rigour while making the journey clearer, more supportive and better suited to the breadth of photography today.

We look forward to welcoming photographers into the updated RPS Distinctions Programme in 2027.

email from the RPS "*The next chapter of RPS Distinctions*" Monday 28 October 2026

As a club, we remain firmly committed to supporting members who wish to pursue photographic distinctions, and to providing opportunities for discussion through our learning and education programme. Based on our review of the information above and the details currently available on the RPS website, our initial assessment is that little, if anything,

has changed in terms of the standard or requirements applicants must meet to achieve an RPS distinction. The principal changes appear to relate to the support, guidance and resources that the RPS will provide to candidates, although some aspects of the new arrangements have yet to be fully clarified. Look out for more news on this coming soon.

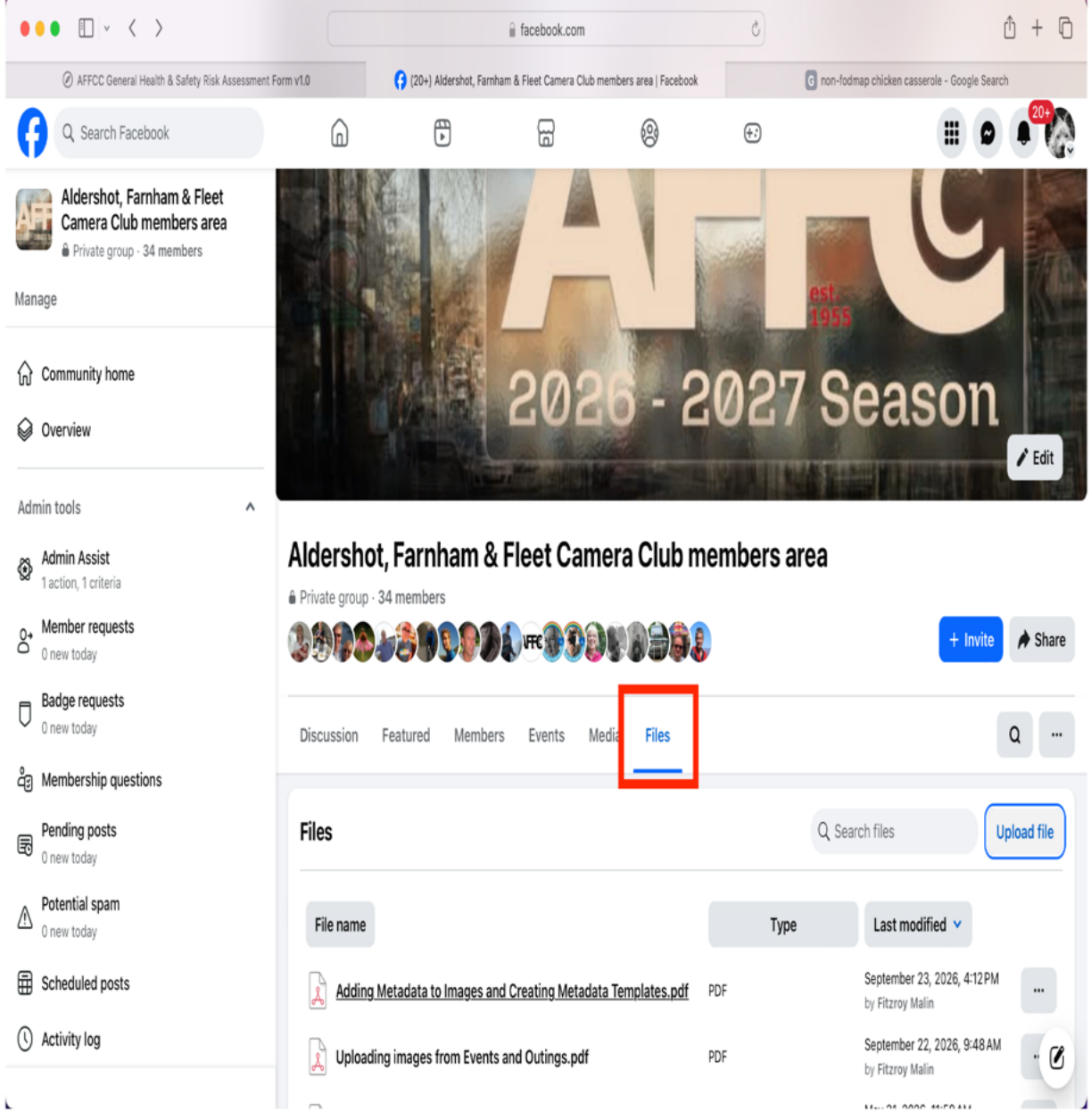
My thanks to Adam Turner and Michael Bacon for their input and assistance.

Guide to Resizing

As we continue to build our knowledge base resources my thanks go to Michael Bacon for all his hard work and for the addition of another guide to our library of "how to ..." documents.

Michael has added a guide to resizing images for competition entry and other Club uses. This guide includes instructions for a number of the most popular post-processing apps, Windows and macOS. Please note though that in general, the instructions are based on the current versions of the apps and OSes, and we cannot guarantee that the functionality, or the steps or the field labels will be the same in your version.

The guide can be found in the Files section of the Member's Facebook page, for details of how to access the Files section see below.



Monthly Challenge

September Monthly Challenge

Voting will open shortly for the September Monthly Challenge on the theme of:

"Parched"

Please send your votes by 15 October to:
webmaster@AFFCC.uk

October Monthly Challenge

The theme for our October Monthly Challenge chosen by Mike Carrington is:

"Eyes"

Please send your entries by the end of October to:
webmaster@AFFCC.uk

And Finally ...

... if you're looking for something a little different next Saturday, why not visit a local still life photography studio?

As part of Farnham Craft Month 2026, photographer Arabella Shelbourne will be opening her studio to visitors on Saturday 10 October, from 12.00 noon until 4.30pm. Entry is free.

Arabella is a product, fashion and portrait photographer working from her studio in The Grain Barn at Pierrepont Home Farm, just off The Reeds Road, Farnham (GU10 3BS). This rare open-studio event offers an opportunity to see a professional still life photography workspace, learn more about the creative process behind commercial photography, and chat with the photographer about her work.

Further details of the event can be found on the [Farnham Craft Month event page](#) and you discover more about Arabella and her photography on the [Arabella Shelbourne website](#).

My thanks to Ana for bringing this event to my attention.

My thanks to David Millard, Adam Crosby-Jones, Graham Chisnall and Pat Gibson for their images of historic Farnborough Airport used in this week's newsletter banners.

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