

Whitley Bay
Photographic
Society

www.wbphoto.org

WBPS NEWS

Whitley Bay Photographic Society Newsletter

April 2026

Welcome to WBPS News

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*Cover image- Waves at
Whitley Bay Seafront*

What's been going on

Bay Tales



*Some of our members at work during the Bay Tales event,
which we were invited to cover.*

On Saturday 28th February, Karen, Alan C, Andy and Alan W spent a fascinating day shooting some of the leading national and international crime authors, including Ann Cleeves of *Vera* and *Shetland* fame, multi-award- winner Belinda Bauer, and TV journalist Steph McGovern discussing her first book.

Exchange Visit with Gosforth CC

On Tuesday 3rd March, we welcomed Gosforth Camera Club in the second part of this season's exchange visits.

Our members entertained them with a wide range of AVs.

Alan & Pat Porrett opened the evening with creative in-camera work, producing surreal impressions from Canadian autumn colours.

Andrew Nicoll followed with two AVs capturing the power of the waves off the North Tyneside coast.

Gary Jenkins then took us to Berlin with an AV created after a club trip, exploring the city's history through the relics that still sit within its modern streets.

Les Smith brought us to London with a series of street portraits, before Peter Reynolds guided us through a historic tour of Tynemouth.

Shauna Hogg explored Paris over a 24 hour period, while Richard Narcross used AI technology to recreate the lost village of Wharram Percy and its history.

Anne Watson showcased the Lightwaves Fiesta, a community event our club is closely involved with.

Alan Watson returned us to London for the Colour Walk fashion show. The evening ended with Les Smith's Japan or Not, an AV demonstrating how music can completely change the viewer's perception of place.

We were oversubscribed with contributions, so it wasn't possible to show everyone's work.

Thank you to all who submitted, and apologies to those we couldn't fit in.

The evening concluded with a fantastic buffet provided by WBPS members, and the event was very well received by our guests from Gosforth.

Thank you all for your contributions and help on the night.

Astrophotography With Larry Bedigan



Tuesday 17th March turned out to be one of those club nights that genuinely surprises you.

Our guest, Larry Bedigan, delivered a superb presentation on astrophotography that opened our eyes to the stars—literally.

He guided us through how to find fascinating objects in the night sky, then treated us to breathtaking images from deep space, the aurora, and even dramatic winter cloud formations.

The room was captivated with his dramatic images

Within minutes of the talk finishing, the club WhatsApp group lit up with members eager to head out and try astrophotography for themselves.

It was an inspiring evening that sparked real curiosity and enthusiasm across the club.

52 Frames

On Tuesday 24th March, Karen Rollison, Janey Brownlee, Joanne Kerry and Nigel Rickaby gave a lively and insightful talk on the 52 Frames challenge.

All four have taken part over the past year, joining photographers from around the world in this weekly creative test.

Each week brings a new theme, and participants must shoot and submit an image taken within that same week.

The challenge has pushed their creativity, stretched their skills, and—by their own admission—become rather addictive.

Their presentation was fascinating and clearly struck a chord.

Many members left feeling inspired and are now seriously considering joining the challenge themselves.

Thank you for a very inspiring insight into this very interesting challenge.

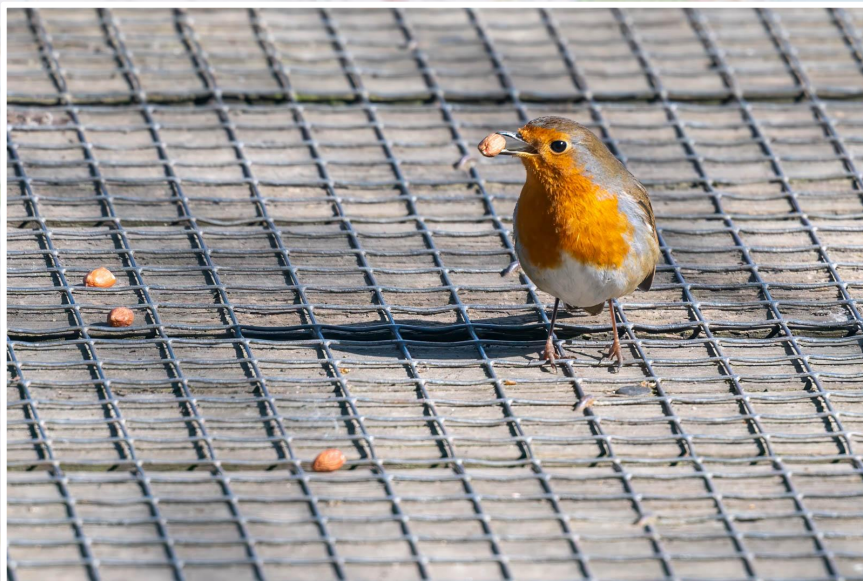
Click on the link to find out more
[52Frames - Weekly Photo Challenge Project](#)

March's Club Trip Bolam Lake & Shafto Crag



Getting close to nature!

Bolam Lake Country Park was the destination for our March club outing.



We explored the beautiful lake and the surrounding woodland which gave us plenty of opportunities to photograph the landscape and the local wildlife.

Some members then went on to explore the nearby Shafto Crag.

Click on the link to view images from the day

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/PsHS3duEVbfudtGA9>

Have you ever thought of becoming an NCPF Judge?



Judges play a crucial role in club photography; without them, our competitions simply wouldn't happen.

This September, the Northern Counties Photographic Federation is hosting an event for NCPF club members who may be interested in becoming judges.

For full details, please follow the link.

<https://ncpf.org.uk/2026/03/24/judges-recruitment/>



By Karen Rollison

Early in March I spent 3 days at the annual Photography and Video Show at the NEC in Birmingham. I had been a couple of times before, once in Birmingham and once in London -it rotates annually. I have always really enjoyed it and this year was no exception.

The show is a big event. There were over 200 stalls - selling all sorts of things including a wide range of photography gear- camera, lenses, accessories, papers and albums. It is a great opportunity to look at things and try them out.

But the main attraction is the talks. There were 7 stages for talks and the Sony, Nikon and Canon stands did talks too. The key is to get the programme and plan your day. I attended several talks each day on a range of topics including landscape, wildlife, street, portrait, ethics and printing.

Highlights - Charlie Waite on landscapes – ‘always keep a set of steps in the car’ (good advice for us shorties). Lindsay Adler on Posing. She set up the model on stage and showed us how to use different poses and camera positions to get the look you want. I was so impressed I bought her book. And a wonderful talk by Sukhy Hullait on the ethics of documentary photography and how your prime responsibility is always to the subjects of your photos and not the clients employing you.

The conference itself was not too expensive - £33 for 3 days with early booking. I stayed in a hotel in Meriden - a twenty-minute bus trip away, much cheaper than staying on site . They have a good curry house there too.

So it was a great few days. The best bit is that it was really inspiring. It just made me want to get out with my camera.

Maybe a Club Away Trip in the future?



Print Competitions Round 3

On Tuesday 10 March, we wrapped up this season's print competitions with Lynda Golightly as our judge.

Monochrome Prints

- **Club Section: Michelle McCarthy took first place.**
- **Advanced Section: Alan Clark came out on top.**

Colour Prints

- **Club Section: Janey Brownlee won the round.**
 - **Advanced Section: Richard Narcross took first place.**
- Congratulations to all our winners and everyone who won a place on the night.**

Click on the link to view our YouTube video of all the winning entries

Club Section - <https://youtu.be/TpOGd3fgmtM>

Advanced Section - <https://youtu.be/HtBusHEEdGE>

2025/6 Print Championships

This season's championship winners are;

- **Monochrome prints – Club Section: Janey Brownlee**
- **Monochrome prints– Advanced Section: Shauna Hogg**
 - **Colour prints– Club Section: Janey Brownlee**
 - **Colour prints– Advanced Section: Richard Narcross**

**Well done to all our champions,
and a huge thank you to everyone who entered**

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



Mono Results Club Section

1st	Michelle McCarthy	Stonefish
2nd	Yvonne Petitjean	Atmosphere
3rd	Janey Brownlee	Tyne Bridge
4th	Yvonne Petitjean	Take a Journey
5th	Janey Brownlee	High Bridge

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



Mono Winner Club Section



Stone Fish

By

Michelle McCarthy

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



Mono Results Advanced

1st Alan Clark Lamp Repair Shop

2nd Shauna Hogg Just the 2 of Us

3rd Gary Jenkins Getting up Steam

4th Alan Clark Don't You Dare

5th Andrew Nicoll Close Encounter

WBPS Competitions 2025/6

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Mono Winner Advanced



Lamp Repair Shop
By
Alan Clark

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



2025/6 Mono Championship Winners

Club Section

1	Janey Brownlee	26pts
2	Yvonne Petitjean	21pts
3	Michelle McCarthy	18pts

Advanced

1	Shauna Hogg	20pts
2	Alan Clark & Nigel Ricakby	19pts
3	Andrew Nicoll	16pts

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



Colour Results Club Section

- 1st Janey Brownlee Alan's Gramophone**
- 2nd Michelle McCarthy Scenic Seaton Sluice**
- 3rd Michelle McCarthy Big Small Even Ferry Boats**
- 4th Janey Brownlee Little Boat**

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



Colour Winner Club Section



Alan's Gramophone
By
Janey Brownlee

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



Colour Results Advanced

1st	Richard Narcross	Hero
2nd	Richard Narcross	The Race
3rd	Karen Rollison	Fair Ground Attraction
4th	Gary Moffat	Silent Reverie
5th	Alan Clark	A Quiet Residential Street
HC	Gary Jenkins	Hanging Around

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



Colour Winner Advanced



Hero

By

Richard Narcross

WBPS Competitions 2025/6



2025/6 Colour Championship Winners

Club Section

1	Janey Brownlee	30pts
2	Andrew Mills	21pts
3	Michelle McCarthy	15pts

Advanced

1	Richard Narcross	20pts
2	Alan Clark & Gary Moffat	19pts
3	Shauna Hogg	15pts

WBPS Competitions 2025/6

Keith's Top Tips

By Keith Smith-Gillespie

*Interesting photography related articles, tips,
recommendations and tutorials from the internet*

Why You Should Embrace Abstract Photography | PetaPixel

<https://share.google/GRgAGclRZfjjU8h0W>

Back-Button Focus Explained With Real Scenes:

Sky, Movement, and Recomposing

<https://share.google/2H3xiig27yFxx2t3a>

The Earth's Rotation Can Limit IBIS Performance | PetaPixel

<https://share.google/tFKN27xNuQPLN4p85>

Can a Pocket-Sized Telescope Be a Real Astrophotography Tool?

<https://share.google/j3SRikkoiZ6VB9kKR>

Photography Isn't About the Camera — It's About Learning How to See

<https://share.google/zBBwkyxVBEdqEdHSS>

This open-source image editor does 90% of what Photoshop does for \$0

<https://share.google/76bQvC0bCZ8an4FZp>

**'Real Photographers Shoot Film': Chance Encounter Leads to Unlikely
Friendship | PetaPixel**

<https://share.google/eKiKHnU5qOx1GLEGG>

**Would I be mad to quit Photoshop after 20 years – or is this the smartest
move to make? I just can't decide! | Digital Camera World**

<https://share.google/2r75hLzZvODKGA5Mx>

5 Reasons You Should Stop Shooting at Eye Level | Fstoppers

<https://share.google/d15VUkC4MLvx5hFg0>

**A Wildlife Filmmaker Put a Fujifilm GFX100 II in the
Path of Bull Elephants**

<https://share.google/wBNEmdXe0TUVV6KKw>

Telephoto Landscapes: The 100-400mm Trick That Fixes Empty Frames

<https://share.google/1410JQScL9WxntIfU>

What's happening in April 2026

7th

**President's Trophy &
Allan Potts Trophy
Competitions**

*Judged by
David Ord*

14th

**Guest Speaker
Pete Robinson**

"Eye of the Tyne"

21st

**Anne Swearman
Competition, PDI &
Print of the Year**

*Judged by
Stephen Fowler*

28th

**Annual General
Meeting**

**Whitley Bay
Photographic
Society**

www.wbphoto.org

WBPS Travel

Palace on the Hill Tour

**our annual club outing to
London**

25th to 28th April 2026

**see Alan Watson
for further details**

Local(ish) Events

April 2026

2nd - 4th	Washington Folk Festival	Arts Centre, Washington
3rd - 6th	Easter Eggstravaganza	Tanfield Railway
3rd - 19th	Easter Celebrations	Beamish Museum
3rd - 5th	Scarborough Scooter Rally	Scarborough Spa
4th	Blyth MAG Easter Egg Run <i>charity Motorcycle Ride attracting hundreds of motorcyclists</i>	Starts Woodhorn Museum 11am. Ends at 2.15pm at Cramlington FC
4th - 5th	Living History Weekend	Eden Camp, York
5th	North Tyneside 10k Road Race	The Parks, North Shields to St Mary's Whitley Bay
11th	Morpeth Castle Open Day	Morpeth Castle
15th	Live Jousting	Bamburgh Castle
15th - 17th	Belsay International Horse Trials	Belsay Estate
18th	Durham & Darlington Running Day 2026 <i>Classic buses</i>	Burtree Road, Newton Aycliffe



19th	Sunderland & District Classic Vehicle Society Car Show 2026	Beamish Museum
23rd - 24th	Amble Puffin Festival	Amble
23rd - 26	Harrogate Spring Flower Show	Harrogate
25th- 26th	Horses in Harness 2026	Beamish Museum

How to follow us on Social Media



Facebook
(public group)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/whitleybayphotographicsociety/>

Facebook
(members only group)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1337624903048865/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/whitleybayphotographicsociety/#>

Website

www.wbphoto.org

YouTube

[Whitley Bay Photographic Society - YouTube](#)

Whatsapp
(members only)

Contact Gary, Anne or Alan W

Newsletter

Posted on the club website and
emailed to all members / potential members

Contributions and suggestions from members are always very welcome.