



Oscailt

IPF Newsletter - April 2016

A cháirde,

Tá súil agam go bhfuil sibh ag baint taitneamh as an aimsir breá atá tagtha anois. Tá deireadh an gheimhridh le feiceáil againn anois, measaim! Bhí eagla orm nach mbeadh an griain le feiceáil againn arís riamh!

Well, unlike the winter that we are just emerging from, I promise that this month's introduction will be short!



Recently, I had a bit of a spring clean at home. Badly overdue I realised, as I sifted through payslips from 1999! As I filled the giant skip in the yard with the unnecessary clutter that one can pick up over 10 or 20 years, my mind wandered to the idea of mental and creative clutter. Specifically, how overdue am I for a creative Spring clean? How much baggage, rules, restrictions, assumptions, old-habits and general lazy comforts do we accumulate over the years? How often do we really clear it all out, keep what is truly important, and dump the rest? In my own case - not often enough for sure! For me, that is the next step in terms of creative development I think, and I'm looking forward to it! It's easy to forget to indulge in a spot of mental gardening every now and then, when we are so tied up in habit and routine! I'm looking forward to clearing things out and making room for fresh inspiration!

Speaking of which, I am delighted to say that we have a huge section of this month's newsletter dedicated to the fantastic images from the recent National Nature Photographer of The Year competition in Kilkenny. Just like last month's coverage of the more general Photographer of The Year finals, the successful images are a feast for the photographic soul indeed! The entry was of a fantastic standard overall, and the record crowd in attendance were transfixed by the amazing work on show! It was truly a

spectacular show! Congratulations to all who entered, and for making it such a great event! Congratulations especially to the winners, who more than deserve their success! Take a look below to see the stunning images!

We are now into April, and speaking of competitions, we have the pinnacle of the club competitive year just around the corner! Yes, it's nearly here already! See below for the details, but all I will say is that I can't wait for that event! As well as seeing the top work that IPF clubs have to offer, it is a fantastically enjoyable social weekend! Get organising your accommodation in Mullingar now and come along for an informative and hugely fun weekend!

On a sad note, we in IPF National Council had to say farewell to Mark Sedgwick as he announced his retirement from his roles in IPF council and as chair of distinctions. There is more on that below, but it is fair to say that we are hugely grateful to Mark, we are sad to see such a stalwart of the IPF go, but we wish him the very best of luck none the less!

Slán go fóill,

Michael O'Sullivan FIPF FRPS, IPF President

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Venue
IPF National Club Championships	Weekend, May 14-15th 2016	County Buildings, Mullingar
IPF Distinctions Sitting	Sat, May 14th 2016	Mullingar Arts Centre
IPF Judging Workshop	Sat, June 11th 2016	Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise
IPF Distinctions Sitting	Sat, September 24th 2016	George Moore Auditorium, UCD
IPF National Shield	Sat, November 12th 2016	Cork (venue tbc)
IPF Distinctions Sitting	Sat, November 19th 2016	LIT Thurles

IPF Nature Photographer of the Year 2015/2016 - Results!



IPF Nature Photographer of the Year 2016
Overall Winner - Neil O'Reilly
'White Tailed Eagles'
Neil is a member of Tallaght Photographic Society



The finals of the IPF Nature Photographer of the Year Competition 2015/2016 took place on Saturday February 21st at the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. This year, we were delighted to welcome back Mahers Photographic as competition sponsors.

We are delighted to announce the overall winner of the 2015/2016 competition as Neil O'Reilly from Tallaght Photographic Society with his image 'White Tailed Eagles'. Congratulations Neil!



Neil O'Reilly of Tallaght Photographic Society (right), winner of IPF Nature Photographer of the Year 2016 pictured with chairman of the DSLR Region Martin Devlin (left)

Speaking about the event, Michael O'Sullivan FIPF FRPS, IPF President said:

"This year's Nature Photographer of the Year was one of our most successful ever. I was delighted to see a record attendance at the public judging, which speaks volumes about the appetite in Ireland for this type of photography. The technical skill and knowledge of subject matter apparent in the imagery on display was amazing, and the winners must be congratulated for achieving such stellar standards. The Overall Winning Image, "White Tailed Eagles" is a fantastic example of Nature Photography, combining great technical skill with timing and vision to capture an image with narrative, impact and beauty."

Neil O'Reilly tells us about his winning image:

"This picture was taken in rural central Poland. A crisp frost covered the ground as I made my way to the hide at 5.30 am. It's important to enter the hide under the cover of darkness so as not to cause any disturbance. The birds had been feeding on a deer carcass for several days now....would they turn up today?"

The crows and magpies were first to arrive. They fed greedily as they knew breakfast would not last long. All of a sudden in a flurry of wings they were gone, a dark menacing shadow passed overhead. An Eagle landed near the carcass, then another..and another. Soon they were squabbling to establish a "pecking order" and I was lucky enough to get a few shots."

There are so many people to thank for helping to make this event such a success;

- The judges - David Osbourne and Paul Keene
- IPF Competition Co-Ordinator John Cuddihy
- Ground staff - Kilkenny Photographic Society members who were out in force
- Techies Jason Town and Niamh Whitty
- Staff at the Newpark Hotel
- Pat Kavanagh for presentation photos
- Jim McSweeney for beautiful calligraphy skills on certificates
- Everyone who entered and attended

Our gratitude once again to our sponsors Mahers Photographic who provided a significant prize fund, from regional winners all the way up to the overall prize won by Neil.

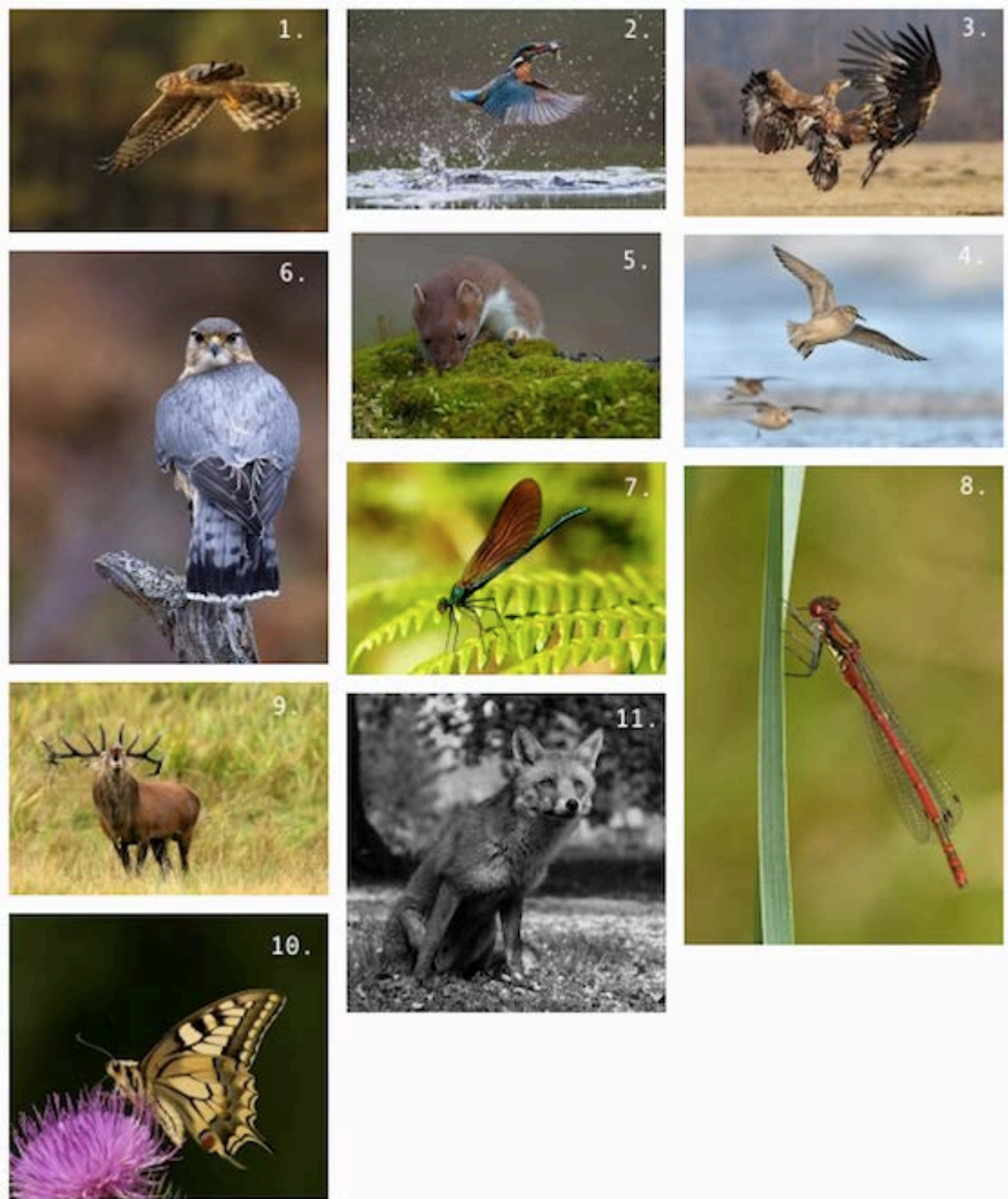
We are delighted to share with you the winning images below. Further details and presentation photos are available over on [this article on our website](#).

Regional Winners



1. Tom Ormond - Stoat - Celbridge Camera Club - DSLR
2. Dominic Reddin - Fish Pass - Portlaoise Camera Club - Mid West
3. Teddy Caffrey - Bee Orchid - Mid Louth Camera Club - North East
4. Charlie Lee - Golden Plover - Clonakilty Camera Club - SACC

[Print Open](#)



1. Neil O'Reilly - Montagus Harrier - Tallaght Photographic Society - Advanced - Gold
2. Pdraig Molloy - got ya - Wexford Camera Club - Advanced - Silver
3. Neil O'Reilly - Dogfight - Tallaght Photographic Society - Advanced - Bronze
4. Derek Lynch - Grey Plovers in Flight - Drogheda Photographic Club - Advanced - Judge Medal
6. Dominic Reddin - Merlin - Mountmellick Photographic Society - Advanced - HM
5. Tom Ormond - Stoat - Celbridge Camera Club - Advanced - HM
7. Michael Grant - Demoiselle Agrion - Mountmellick Photographic Society - Non Advanced - Gold
8. Michael Grant - Red Damselfly - Mountmellick Photographic Society - Non Advanced - Silver
9. [Photographer not listed]
10. [Photographer not listed]
11. [Photographer not listed]

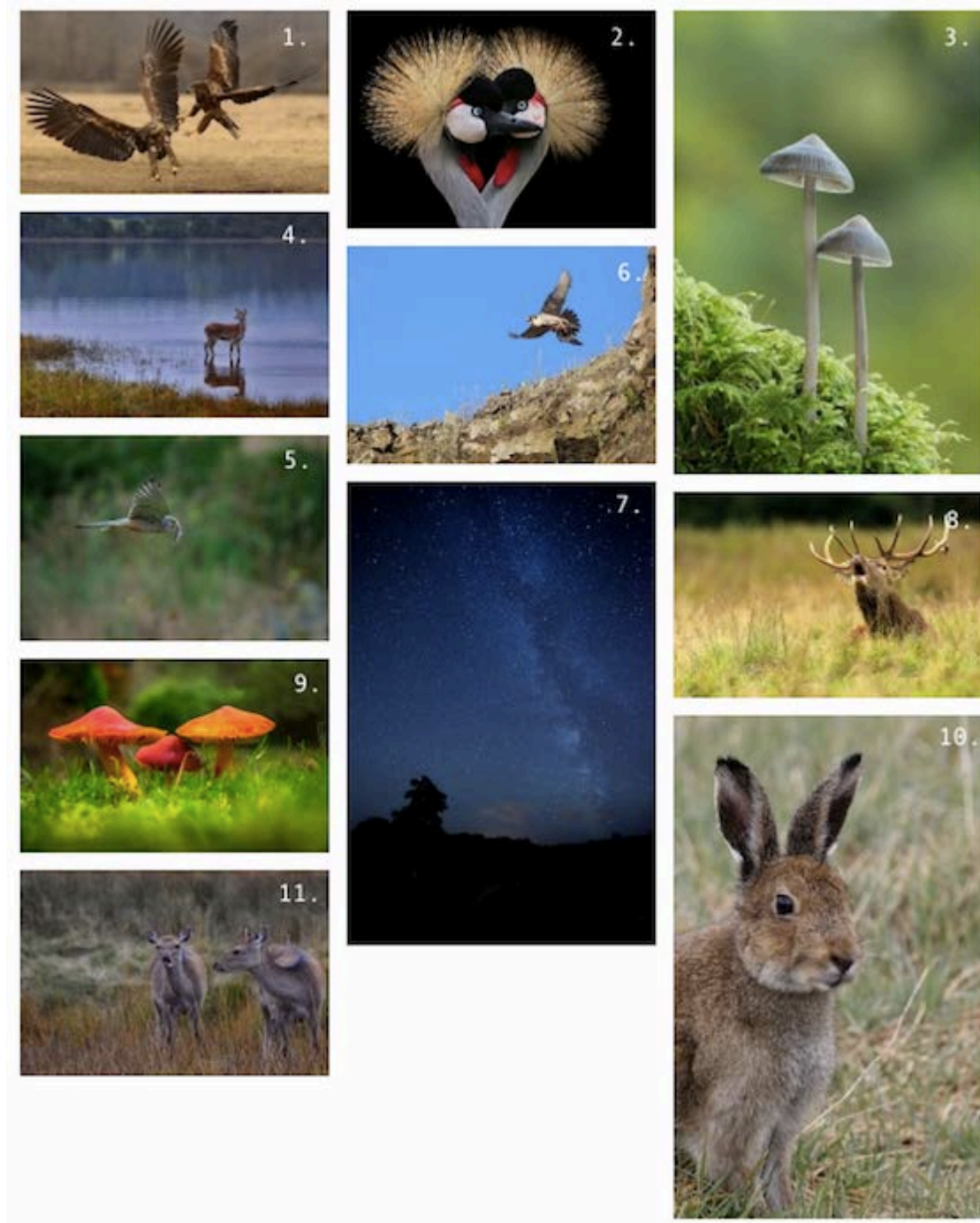
9. Jim McSweeney - Mighty Roar - Mallow Camera Club - Non Advanced - Bronze
10. Mary Doherty - European Swallowtail 1 - Wicklow Photography Club - Non Advanced - HM
11. Seamus Mulcahy - Staring Fox - Blarney Photography Club - Non Advanced - HM

Print Theme - Mammals in Action



1. Patrick Kavanagh - Dolphins in the Bay - Palmerstown Camera Club - Advanced - Winner
2. Teresa Kavanagh - Mother and baby nature - Palmerstown Camera Club - Advanced - HM
3. Tadhg Hurley - Feathered Giraffe - Blarney Photography Club - Non Advanced - Gold
4. Jim McSweeney - Are You Looking At Me - Mallow Camera Club - Non Advanced - HM

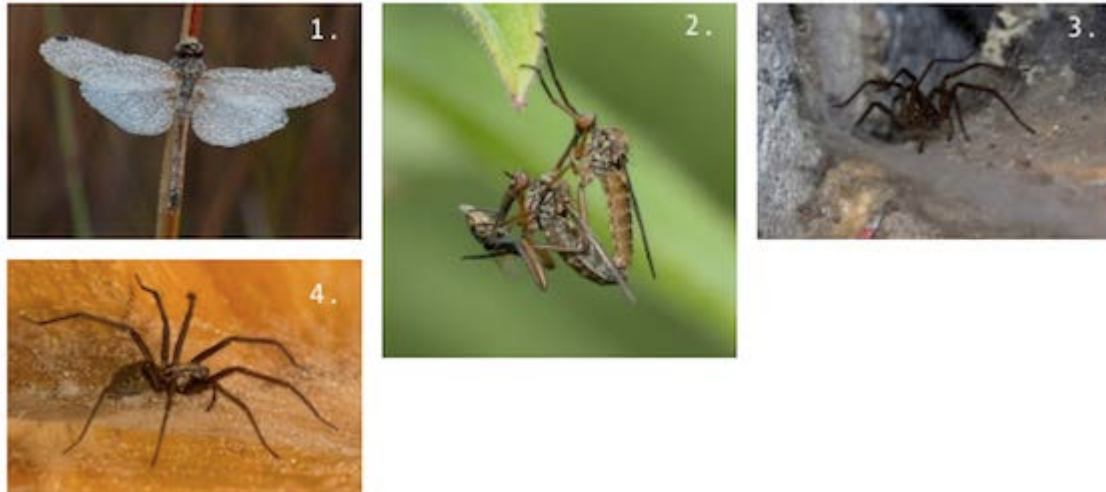
Projected Open



1. Neil O'Reilly - White Tailed Eagles - Tallaght Photographic Society - Advanced - Gold
2. des connors - Jedward - Breffni Photography Club - Advanced - Silver
3. Eddie Kelly - Two Stools - Ballincollig Camera Club - Advanced - Bronze
4. Kieran O'Mahony - Deer Reflections - Blackwater Photographic Society - Advanced - Judge Medal
5. HUGO REIDY - Prey - Kilkenny Photographic Society - Advanced - HM
6. des connors - Grubs up - Breffni Photography Club - Advanced - HM
7. Christopher Fitzgerald - The Great Rift - Killarney Camera Club - Non Advanced - Gold
8. Jim McSweeney - Morning Call - Mallow Camera Club - Non Advanced - Silver

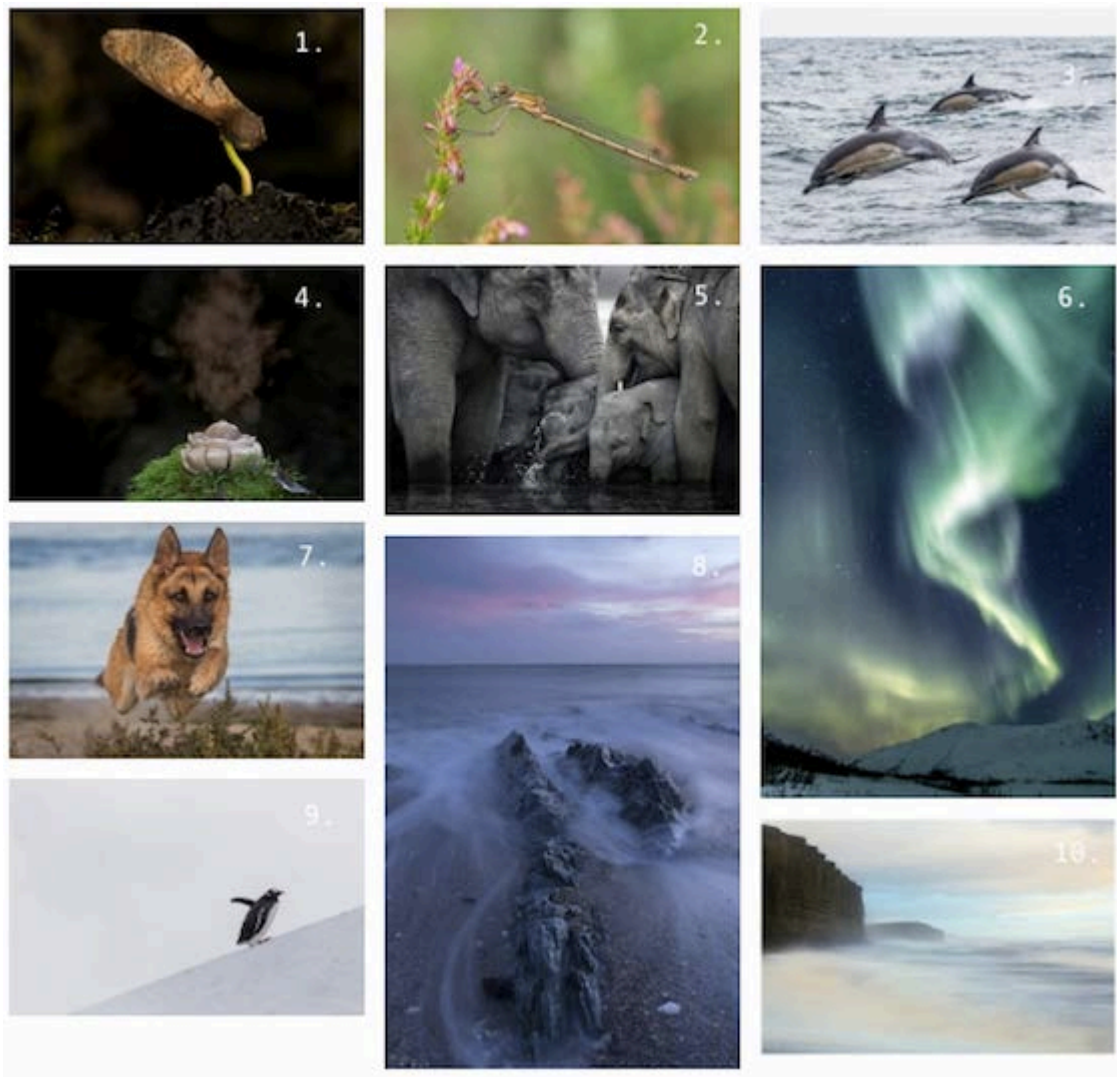
9. Seamus Mulcahy - Coloured Mushroom - Blarney Photography Club - Non Advanced - Bronze
10. Heather Rice - Mad March Hare - Mountrath & District Camera Club - Non Advanced - HM
11. pat guilfoyle - deer in glendalough - Portlaoise Camera Club - Non Advanced - HM

Projected Theme - The World of Insects



1. Michael Linehan - Common Darter - Celbridge Camera Club - Advanced - Winner
2. Eddie Kelly - The Flies - Ballincollig Camera Club - Advanced - HM
3. Noel Brodigan - Legs Up - Mid Louth Camera Club - Non Advanced - Gold
4. Noel Brodigan - Mr Skinny Legs - Mid Louth Camera Club - Non Advanced - HM

Projected - The Natural World



1. Derek Lynch - Sycamore Seedling - Drogheda Photographic Club - Advanced - Gold
2. Eddie Kelly - Emerald on Heather - Ballincollig Camera Club - Advanced - Silver
3. Malcolm McCamley - Common Dolphins - Bray Camera Club - Advanced - Bronze
4. Derek Lynch - Earth Star - Drogheda Photographic Club - Advanced - HM
5. des connors - The Water hole - Breffni Photography Club - Advanced - HM
6. Jenny Benoist - The green lady dance - Dublin Camera Club - Non Advanced - Gold
7. Andrew Fleming - In Mid Flight - Ballincollig Camera Club - Non Advanced - Silver
8. Kevin Maguire - Rocky Shore - Tallaght Photographic Society - Non Advanced - Bronze
9. Jenny Benoist - Long way from home - Dublin Camera Club - Non Advanced - HM
10. Paul Crockett - West Bay, Dorset - Mullingar Camera Club - Non Advanced - HM

IPF Distinctions Service Update

Latest Distinction Successes

Please find below a complete listing of all successful distinction applicants from the IPF Distinctions Adjudication Sitting held at the Dunamais Arts Centre in Portlaoise on March 5th 2016. One Associateship and 28 Licentiateship applications were successful. Congratulations to all concerned. You can view many of the panels and see the presentation photos over on [this website article](#).

Photographer	Club	Distinction
Patricia Roche	Wexford Camera Club	AIPF
Adele Spencer	Greystones Camera Club	LIPF
Alan James Dunne	Mid-Louth Camera Club	LIPF
Brendan Byrne	Dunboyne Camera Club	LIPF
David Linehan	Blarney Photography Club	LIPF
Eamon Walsh	Athlone Photography Club	LIPF
Elizabeth Tabb	Cobh Camera Club	LIPF
Finbarr O'Shea	East Cork Camera Club	LIPF
Frank Gaughan	Offshoot Photographic Society	LIPF
Hugh McGuckian	Catchlight Camera Club	LIPF
Ian Hennessy	Palmerstown Camera Club	LIPF
Inta Kaulina	Dublin Camera Club	LIPF
James Costello	Breffni Photography Club	LIPF
Jason Mulcahy	Cobh Camera Club	LIPF
Jimmy Meehan	Malahide Camera Club	LIPF
Joe Vize	Catchlight Camera Club	LIPF
John Sludds	Midlands Photography Club	LIPF
Kaidi Niit	Greystones Camera Club	LIPF
Karen Maguire	Palmerstown Camera Club	LIPF
Leo Reddy	Athlone Photography Club	LIPF
Michelle Hughes Walsh	Boyle Camera Club	LIPF
Patrick Maguire	Palmerstown Camera Club	LIPF
Paul Crockett	Mullingar Camera Club	LIPF
R. Michael Smith	Offshoot Photographic Society	LIPF
Sean Ganly	Athlone Photography Club	LIPF
Shirley O'Neill	Catchlight Camera Club	LIPF
Stephanie Daly	North Meath Photographic Society	LIPF
Stephen Ferguson	Catchlight Camera Club	LIPF
Terry McSweeney	Killarney Camera Club	LIPF

Images of Distinction - Volume Three

We are now closed for submissions.

Volume 3 will be launched on May 14th at the Mullingar Distinctions Session and we look forward to presenting all participants in the project & paid up distinction holders with a complimentary copy of the DVD at the Launch, or shortly after.

Availability

To check latest availability, [click through to this link](#) for the distinction application form. Please do not apply unless you are ready to submit a panel for adjudication on the date you have chosen.

New Distinction Application Fee Structure

Due to a number of factors, it has become necessary (and perhaps overdue!) to re-evaluate the application fees for each level of distinction. With effect for all new applications from March 1st onwards, the following is the fee structure for IPF distinction applications.

For members of IPF affiliated clubs:

- Licentiateship - €60
- Associateship - €80
- Fellowship - €100

For those who are not members of IPF affiliated clubs:

- Licentiateship - €80
- Associateship - €100
- Fellowship - €120

Please note that the new fee structure applies to new applications only. Where applications are already in place and/or on a waiting list for the May, September or November sessions, the fees already paid will remain at the previous levels and no additional amounts will be payable.

Annual Fees

Please note that annual fees for distinction holders are due from January 1st each year. These may be paid now [over on our website](#). Lifetime distinction fee option is also available at the fantastic rate of only €400.

Action Packed Weekend of Photography in Mullingar this May!

The Irish Photographic Federation National Club Championships 2016 will be held on the weekend of the 14/15th of May in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

The event will also have a fascinating talk, the Club Championships prize giving ceremony, awarding of latest FIAP distinctions, a social evening with dinner and of course the May IPF Distinctions Sitting!



National Club Championship 2016

Can new kids on the block, Creative Photo Imaging, keep their crown from last year, will Dundalk come to the fore again or will another club take the title!? We can't wait to see the entries from all the clubs and enjoy the fun of

old rivalries and new!
Monochrome prints will be on display on Saturday from 2pm to 5pm, and the colour prints on Sunday afternoon from 2pm to 5pm.

Online entry is now open ([see website article](#)) and closing date for entries is midnight on the 8th of May.



The entry fee is €75 and this competition is open to all clubs who are in good standing with the Irish Photographic Federation.

Please register your club's interest by sending an email to darragh.sherwin@gmail.com

For full information on this years competition, [please visit our website!](#)

We welcome this year's judges and look forward to hearing their insights and learning from them!

- [Anne Sutcliffe FRPS](#)
- [Vanessa Slawson FRPS FBPPA ASWPP ABIPP AFIAP DPAGB](#)
- [Romain Nero EFIAP/g HonEFIAP](#)

May Distinctions Sitting

Nervous but exciting, the distinctions sitting will see photographers submit for three levels of assessment: Licenciateship, Associateship and Fellowship. Some of the work represents many years of carefully developed style and mastery, a joy to see. There will be beautiful photographic work on display and you can't help coming away from a distinctions sitting with fresh ideas about photography and inspiration for your own creative projects. Best of luck to all the entrants preparing their work. The distinctions sitting takes place on Saturday May 14th at Mullingar Arts Centre (just around the corner from the Club Championships venue!). Associateship panels will be adjudicated first, followed by fellowships and concluding with licentiatehips.

Saturday Dinner

We are looking forward to meet old friends and hopefully a few new friends at dinner on Saturday night in the beautiful Annebrook House Hotel. Dinner is intended to be a relaxed affair, and will be from 8pm. To book your place and view the menu, [please fill out the reservation form over on our website](#). The

price is €25 per person for three course meal and if last years meal at this venue is anything to go by, we're in for some wonderful food!



FIAP Distinctions

We'll be presenting the pins and certificates to all who were successful in their applications for FIAP distinctions this year just before we announce the results of the IPF Club Championships on Sunday May 15th.

Sunday Morning Lecture with Nick Scott

We're delighted to welcome [Nick Scott](#) FRPS MPAGB APAGB EFIAP as our guest speaker on Sunday morning with his presentation - "Every Picture Has a Story"

The accomplished Nick Scott is a Fotospeed lecturer, RPS Distinctions and PAGB judge, and has more letters after his name than you can shake a stick at! Nick will be giving a lecture on Sunday morning entitled "Every Picture Has a Story". He has a plethora of experience and interests; Nick was a forensic photographer, a press photographer and he loves photographing live theatre; so this will be one not to miss.

Accommodation

The [Annebrook House Hotel](#) have a rate of €119 for a double room in the main hotel and €75 for single occupancy per night. They also have a number of 2 bedroom apartments available.

Success for IPF Audio Visual workers at NIPA AV Festival 2016

Report by Lilian Webb, IPF AV Group

The Northern Ireland Photographic Association's Audio Visual Festival, 2016 was held in Ballyearl Arts & Leisure Centre on 20th February. The judge of the All Ireland section was Howard Bagshaw, ARPS, MPAGB.

Celbridge Camera Club's sequence "The Bog of Allen" was highly commended. The members who contributed were Brendan O'Sullivan, Noel Mahony, Bridie

Maughan, Rita Nolan, Dallas Camier, Margaret Finlay, Lilian Webb, Michael Linehan & Mark Sedgwick.

Liam Haines with “Townships” also received a highly commended.

Rita Nolan’s sequence “A Father’s Love” came third.

Celbridge Camera Club’s other sequence “St. Brigid’s Pastures” was awarded second place. Those who contributed to the sequence were Brendan O’Sullivan, Bridie Maughan, Rita Nolan, Liam O’Reilly, Cliff Hutchinson & Lilian Webb.

The winner was Margaret Finlay with “Sweet Afton” from Palmerstown Camera Club.

Alan Lyons of the IPF AV Group, won the best creative sound prize for “Night Soil or Mind Your Language”

In the “battle” between the Federations, Raymond Hughes from Merville Newtownabbey Camera Club representing NIPA won with “To What End”, which also won the IPF AV International section last year.



1. Alan Lyons receiving the best creative sound prize at the NIPA AV festival
2. Brendan O'Sullivan receiving a Highly Commended for Bog of Allen by Celbridge Camera Club
3. Carol Bagshaw presenting Brendan O'Sullivan, Rita Nolan & Bridie Maughan, Celbridge Camera Club with their 2nd prize
4. Liam Haines receiving a Highly Commended in the All Ireland NIPA AV festival
5. Margaret Finlay receiving her 1st prize in the All Ireland section of the NIPA AV festival
6. Rita Nolan receiving her 3rd prize in the All Ireland section of the NIPA AV festival

Mark and Rosemary Sedgwick Honoured

- by Michael O'Sullivan, IPF President

Last month, Mark Sedgwick announced his intention to retire from his roles as a member of IPF council and as Chair of Distinctions. This was a massive shock to us, his colleagues, as Mark has been one of the most dedicated people to the IPF and to the cause of Irish Photography over the years. So dedicated that we kind of assumed that he'd be there for good! At least, I know that I did! Mark has been involved in IPF council for many, many years, and in that time has served as President, secretary, chair of distinctions, vice chair of distinctions, FIAP liaison officer, and as a member of countless other sub-committees and task forces. He has been instrumental in helping to shape the IPF into the organisation that we have today. He has always prioritised the needs of the IPF, and the needs of the thousands of Irish Photographers out there above his own. He has been absolutely unwavering in his dedication and commitment, and will be sorely missed by his colleagues and friends in council, as well as by the wider photographic community.



This also then brought Rosemary Sedgwick to mind. Rosemary, Mark's wife, has been another dedicated, though more silent hero of the IPF. Apart from the fact that Mark's enormous contribution and magical effectiveness would not have been possible without Rosemary's help, support and patience, (LOTS of patience!), Rosemary is also a huge contributor in her own right. Because she does not hold any official role within the IPF, it is easy to understand how her contribution would be less visible. Distinctions session after session, event after event, Rosemary has been there. Always willing to weigh in and lend a hand getting things done, and she has spent countless hours making and printing all of our certificates for distinctions and competition awards, year in, year out!



It is no surprise then that Council wanted to mark (no pun intended), the occasion of Mark's last distinctions assessment sitting on the 5th of last month in Portlaoise. I was delighted on behalf of National Council, and the membership at large to interrupt proceedings to take Mark and Rosemary by surprise, and to present them with 2 extremely prestigious awards in recognition of, and in gratitude for their immeasurable contributions to the IPF and Irish Photography. I'm specifically not saying that we honoured them, because we could never sufficiently pay our debts to Mark and Rosemary. In fact, it is they who have honoured us, for many years, and we, their thousands of indebted friends in the Irish photographic community are just saying thanks.

Rosemary was awarded the Very prestigious Brendan Walkin memorial medal for outstanding contribution, and Mark was awarded the Séamus Scullane award, gold level, which is the highest award that the IPF has at its disposal to bestow upon any member.

We wish them both the very best of luck and happiness for the future.

IPF Judging Workshop

We're been listening to your requests and are very pleased to announce details of a photographic judging workshop which will take place on Saturday June 11th at Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise. Come and join us and learn the challenges of being a judge. See it from the other side!

We are delighted to welcome Stan Miller over from the UK as keynote speaker on this workshop and look forward to hearing his perspective on judging images.

This workshop is intended as a hands-on learning experience. All participants will be provided with scoring and commentary sheets and will be expected to actively participate during the day. In addition to Stan's presentation, participants will be separated into groups guided by a facilitator chosen from experienced national and international IPF judges.

Full details will be posted on the website shortly along with booking form. The workshop costs €40 per person with discounts available for group bookings from IPF clubs and for paid up IPF distinction holders.

Cost:

€30: IPF Paid Up Distinction Holders

€30: Group booking for five or more people from an IPF affiliated club

€40: All other participants

Focusing on: Letterkenny Photographic Club



Q: When was Letterkenny Photographic Club founded?

A: The club was founded in May 2010

Q: How many members do you have?

A: We have 65 paid up members this year

Q: When and where do you meet?

A: We meet every 2nd Monday in the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny

Q: Any notable events? (exhibitions / workshops etc)

A: We just had our annual exhibition, hosted in the RCC. This consisted of all our 1st place Theme winners. We also produced a magazine with all the placed entries. The exhibition ran for 4 weeks.

Q: When was the club started and by whom?

A: The club was the idea of Ciaran Cunningham who had previously been involved in Letterkenny's last photographic club, 20 years previous. With the great support of our county Arts centre, we launched in May 2010. We have had a steady increase in membership, with emphasis on introduction and education of beginners.

Q: What do you attribute your success to?

A: Our success comes from a core group of enthusiastic members, who take on different responsibilities to ensure a busy and active club. We also have a great facility, provided free of charge, by the Regional Cultural Centre, which gives us space to work and host our work. We run all our Themed competitions online on Picturk. All competitions are judged by members and each theme runs from the 1st to the last day of each month. We regularly have over 100 entries in each theme.

Q: What was the best outing/talk/club night in last 12 months?

A: We have a guest photographer, and we go on one practical outing each month. We have had some great guests, from Formula One photographer Mark Capitan, to one of our regulars, Astrophotographer Brendan Alexander, who is largely responsible for highlighting that the Northern Lights could be seen and photographed from Donegal.

Q: If another camera club came to Letterkenny where are the best kept secrets that they should photograph?

A: We feel so lucky, just take any road out of Letterkenny and you will come on some amazing scenic landscapes. Go north to Malin Head and shoot the Northern Lights. Go West and shoot the rugged Donegal Coast, including the amazing cliffs at Sliabh Liag. We could go on.

Q: What is the aspect of your group that makes it so special?

A: Our club feels like a group of friends meeting. We have a great social group. One of the highlights has been watching new members develop their skills through participation in our club.

Q: If you could ask the IPF to improve on one thing, what would that be?

A: I guess we feel a little isolated being so far north. We haven't really engaged with the IPF for that reason.



Club Affiliation Fees for 2016

Our Treasurer Brian reminds you that annual club affiliation fees were due as and from January 1st 2016. We've put in place a shiny new form with integrated payment facility over on our website on the [club affiliation page](#). Please note every club MUST fill out this form every year to help us keep our club contacts up to date!

Clubs who have not renewed will not be eligible to compete or have their members compete and will also not be eligible for the preferential rate for distinction applications for their members.

For SACC clubs, please note that the same process and same form applies, but payment & information is collected via the SACC website. Note that SACC clubs pay both the IPF Affiliation Fee and the Region Fee as a single payment.

- Brian Deering, IPF Treasurer

Cork Camera Group take SACC Interclub title for fourth year in a row!



Members of Cork Camera Group celebrating being SACC champions for the fourth year in a row

Congratulations to Cork Camera Group who recently won the SACC Interclub title for the fourth year in a row! This year, 13 clubs took part in the competition which was held in Cork City. In addition to winning the overall club award and best colour panel, their member Bill Power took home best colour print, best projected image and best overall image title!

Paul Reidy from Blarney Photography Club took the best monochrome print title and Blarney themselves finished in second place overall with top panels in both monochrome and projected sections!

Wexford Camera Club took third place overall and placed second in the colour section. Kilkenny Photographic Society just missed out on the overall silverware with a fourth place finish, but they did take second place in the monochrome section and third in the projected section.

It was a great day out in Cork by all accounts and we can't wait to see what the SACC clubs bring to the National Club Championships in May!

To see the winning panels and images and to read more about the competition, [please follow this link](#).

In the Spotlight: Neil O'Reilly

Q: Congratulations on your win, what does it mean to you?

A: It means a lot to me. It's nice to have your work recognised.



Q: Tell us about your winning image.

A: The picture was taken in Poland in 2015. I travelled over to try and take pictures of White Tailed Eagles. The Eagles had been feeding on a deer carcass and the picture was taken from a hide nearby. I spent 3 days in the hide and the first two days were disappointing because the light was not great and it was raining so there was little chance of any good shots. On the third day the weather cleared up and I was able to get a few shots I was happy with.

Q: What's the earliest photograph that you remember taking?

A: The first photograph of a bird I took was about 8 years ago. Back then I had a small Olympus point and shoot. I was driving along a road in Co Louth when I spotted a Buzzard soaring above. I stopped the car and scrambled up the embankment and pointed the camera at the Buzzard. The resulting shot was a tiny speck in the middle of a big blue sky. I was thrilled!



Q: What persuaded you to take up photography?

A: A love of nature & wildlife and especially Birds of Prey. I wanted to try and capture some of the amazing wildlife we have here in Ireland.

Q: Which club are you a member of?

A: Tallaght Photographic Society

Q: Do you have any IPF / FIAP / RPS etc distinctions?

A: No

Q: First camera? First DSLR?

A: After the little Olympus point and shoot I bought a bridge camera and then my first DSLR was a Canon 1000d. I currently use a Canon 7d m2 & Canon 300 f2.8 with extenders.

Q: Are there photographers you are influenced by?

A: Not particularly

Q: Your own favourite image?

A: Well I have to say the fighting Eagles at the moment.

Q: What is your favourite image by another photographer or artist?

A: I like all good wildlife photography.

Q: What genre of photography best describes your photography or are you a general interest photographer?

A: Wildlife & Nature.

Q: Canon or Nikon or Fuji or Sony ?

A: Canon

Q: Would you recommend joining a camera club?
Why? What have you got out of it?

A: Yes most definitely. You learn an awful lot about different aspects of photography.

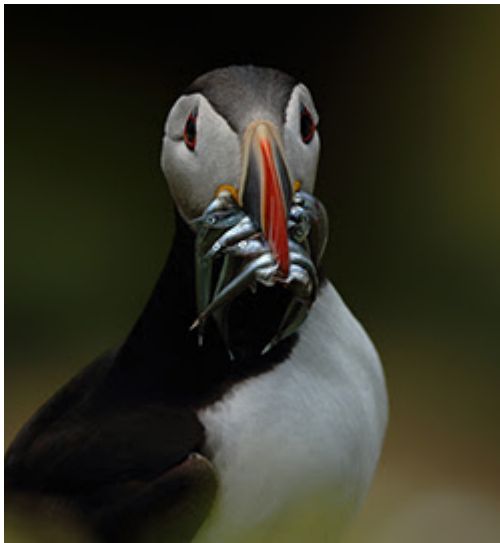
Q: What does photography mean to you?

A: It's something I love and it gives me great satisfaction when I get some shots I like.



Q: What is your photographic dream?

A: Not sure really, maybe to travel more and try to photograph different wildlife in different countries.



Q: If there was advice you'd like to give, what would it be?

A: Keep going, keep taking pictures.

Wildlife photography can be very frustrating at times. Some days you come home with no shots at all and this can be soul destroying. When it does come together and you get a shot you like it makes up for all those hard times.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to

add?

A: Just to thank my family & friends who have supported and encouraged me on my photographic adventure.

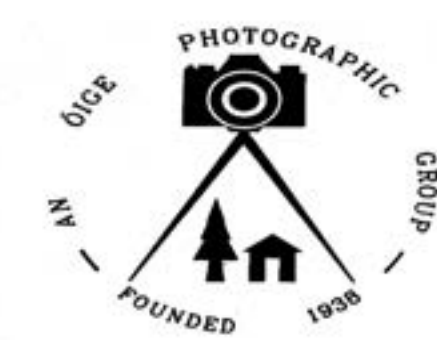


Check out [Neil's Flickr feed](#) for more of his stunning imagery!

An Óige Photographic Group - Annual Exhibition

An Óige Photographic Group was established in 1938 and they are getting ready to hold their 78th Annual Exhibition, which will run from the 15th of June to the

26th of June at National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.



This exhibition has been run in conjunction with their Open Annual Competition since 1988 and is approved by the IPF. In addition to awards from An Óige, two IPF gold medals are available, one for best overall image in the Open Section and one for first place in Portraiture Section with a number of IPF certificates also available.

For those of you collecting Irish qualifiers for FIAP distinctions, please note that any acceptance in the Open Section counts. Open Section only.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 13th 2016 and a copy of the entry form is available to download [on our website](#).

Please note if you have queries regarding this competition, please contact [An Óige Photographic Group](#) directly.

Photofest Ireland 2016

There's a great lineup for Photofest Ireland 2016 on April 17th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre and we'll be there too! Drop by and say hello if you are there!



Top Tips for Music Photography - Ciara Drennan AIPF

Ciara Drennan concludes her series of articles this month about her passion, music photography. Thanks to Ciara for sharing her knowledge and inspiring us to get out there photographing live music performances.

[Let's Talk About Pit Etiquette](#)

So you've been accredited to shoot at a major venue/festival/event...what's next?

There are some things to remember regarding what is known as Pit Etiquette!

To me this begins the moment that you set foot on site...always be respectful to others, from the PR staff to security, to the stage guys, sound/lighting, vendors, musicians, performers and other photographers....what goes around comes around! Seriously show a bit of respect and look out for others and you will have such a better experience and dare I say it a few doors potentially opened for you!



At the larger venues/festivals you have access to the Pit which is the area right in front of the stage, right in front of the crowd barriers...it's an overwhelming feeling sometimes going into a pit with thousands of people right behind you and some of the largest bands in the

world on the stage in front of you. Yes we do get giddy and excited sometimes when we are shooting our favourite bands...there could be up to 40 or so photographers in the pit for the headline act at Electric Picnic and we do have the craic but the moment the lights go down and the band arrive on stage we all go into shoot mode. I have been known to have been shaking while shooting certain musical heroes of mine with tears in my eyes...I know how privileged I am to be in that space at that time shooting that band.

In the Pit!

You have three songs (sometimes less), to shoot each band.

No Flash... let's say that again NO FLASH! Not only are you going to ruin the atmosphere of your shots but more importantly you are going to piss a lot of people off in your surrounding area (including musicians, management, other photographers, security & audience) if you fire your flash and you will likely be removed from the pit.



The pit can be very crowded so be aware of the other photographers around you, when you are moving from one side of stage front to the other be mindful that you are not blocking anyone (I would love someone to do a time-lapse of the pit because we are all ducking and diving literally!), leave your bag at the side or in the media tent, if it's on your back it's taking up space, be mindful of the audience... they have paid to see the band and they have been waiting up the front for up to hours to see their favourite band!

Ear Plugs....these are a must, you are at risk of damaging hearing, remember you are right in front/beside the speakers, I usually carry a couple of packs on me because I am known for losing them!



Style

Some photographers like to take in the whole atmosphere of the event and others prefer to concentrate on the main action on stage. When I started photographing live music I very much focused on individual portraits of the

performers, over time I have started to widen my perspective and include more of the stage and what's happening in the background....telling a larger story!

I'll occasionally take an audience shot (which are important shots when you are shooting for a publication) but only when I spot something or someone intriguing in looks, nature or what they are doing.

Every now and then we are treated to the performers coming down into the pit to interact with the audience, and that's when a mad scramble in the pit starts! One of my favourite shots from Electric Picnic 2015 was Damon Albarn from Blur coming into the pit and onto the barricades to reach out to the audience....it was chaotic in the pit as everyone wants to get the shot...but it's also great fun as you don't have time to think....you go into burst mode and only get to review your images when you have left the pit and are hoping for the best!

I said earlier in the article that I shoot in RAW and convert afterwards. My general workflow is I import via Lightroom, I do a general cull and then do a basic colour correction and lens correction, noise reduction in Lightroom. I then bring the image into Silver Efex Pro where I convert it to mono. I developed my own high contrast presets for Silver Efex and I use one of these as a starting point & refine it for each image. If the image is to be printed I will do advanced noise reduction and sharpening in Photoshop CC.

And Finally.. Some General Festival Tips

- Be weather prepared, it's Ireland, we can have sunshine one minute and a raging storm the next. Bring wet gear with you, bring sunscreen, bring layers (it gets cold as the sun goes down and your body is already tired from a long day of walking, running and pressing that shutter!), bring protective gear for your camera (Conns do a nifty waterproof cover for under €20).



- Comfortable shoes...boots if ground is soft and I always have my runners to hand for drier weather. At Electric Picnic 2015 I stopped checking my phone when at 3pm on Sunday and I had walked 65 km since Friday evening. Bring bandages to combat those blisters!
- Charge your batteries and bring loads spare memory cards
- Earplugs!
- Cash for food and drinks...stay hydrated and keep sugar levels even throughout the day...have a beer...you will have earned it!
- I have a little bum bag on me that holds my essentials so I don't have to keep going back to media area for cash etc...it's a life saver and also carries wet wipes (essential festival survival kit!)
- Invest in a camera harness....trust me your shoulders and back will thank you after
- Study the line up and stage times...put together a lovely list of who you have to/want to shoot (when shooting for a publication you are often given a list of acts to cover)...cry over the time clashes and then throw half the list out the window over the course of the festival and discover some new bands and musicians by rambling into a tent on your way to another stage!

- Have fun !



Who's Who on IPF Council

This month, we say hello to Des Clinton. Des is the chairman of the IPF Distinctions Panel and a member of the IPF Distinctions Advisory Group. He's a long time member of Drogheda Photographic Club. Des holds fellowships with

the IPF and the RPS and is one of only four Irish photographers to have achieved the master level of MFIAP.

"I got my first box camera at age of 15 and have been involved with various aspects of photography ever since. I was at the founding meeting of the IPF way back in 1978 and have been involved ever since serving as president and national secretary several times. Among others involved in early days were Sean Casey, Podge Kelly, Cliff Hutchinson, Sean Cannon and Westport's Michael O' Sullivan. I was a passionate monochrome photographer and darkroom worker and a colour slide worker till I was converted to digital several years ago. My mentor in photography in 1980s was the great Irish photographer Peter Slattery who had a photography shop in O'Connell Street in Dublin for many years. My passion for all genres of photography is as strong today as it ever was.



The IPF as we all know now has been growing and expanding and improving over the past 38 years into the wonderful organisation it is now, serving Irish photographers and photography clubs and it has been great to be part of this progress. The highlight for me was the IPF winning the top country award in the World FIAP Colour Print Biennial and also winning the FIAP Mono Print Biennial in the year 2012 and having an image in each of the IPF panels. This was a truly amazing achievement for the IPF and Irish photographers. For me personally I really enjoyed winning the top mono print award in the POTY competitions in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

I have always loved a personal challenge in photography and from my early days I have been testing myself to put panels of images together and see if I could get to the standard of the various distinctions with Royal Photographic Society, the IPF and also FIAP. I remember failing my first attempt at Licentiate level but saw this as part a learning curve to go on for my FIPF and FRPS and MFIAP. I have been a member of the RPS distinction's panels for 15 years now and involved with IPF distinctions as member, Chairperson or Vice Chairperson for over 20 years. The IPF distinctions are so educational and informative and transparent and so popular and a great challenge for photographers and a great method of improving a person's photography skills.

As for ambitions, I would like to see the IPF distinction's system continue to grow and improve. I think we need to improve club judging and provide clubs with lists of recognised judges at all levels as well as supplying clubs with lists of people who will give lectures to clubs."

Woodland Workshops this Autumn

Nature Photography with Bill Power

FIPF AFIAP


Toadstool & Autumn Woodland Photography Workshops with Bill Power, FIPF, AFIAP

€40 per person
Group booking rates available, subject to terms and conditions.
Expert tuition from a master of the craft.

BOOK NOW - Don't leave it too late!

DATES FOR 2016

Saturday, 10th September	Saturday, 24th September
Sunday, 2nd October	Sunday, 30th October



For further details and bookings please contact Bill via 087-8113611: private messaging on Facebook or at forestfungiworkshop@gmail.com



Please provide your telephone number and email address in all correspondence
Visit Bill's website at www.billpowerpx.com

Toadstool & Autumn Woodland Photography Workshops with Bill Power, FIPF, AFIAP

Following his very successful workshop last Autumn, Bill will hold four Toadstool & Woodland Workshops in Autumn 2016

Learn how to find and photograph toadstools, woodland scenes, details and abstracts, trees and rocky rivers.
Workshops run from 10.30am to 4.30pm
€40 per person
Group booking rates available, subject to terms and conditions.

Workshops will be held near Mitchelstown, County Cork

DATES FOR 2016

Saturday, 10th September
Saturday, 24th September
Sunday, 2nd October
Sunday, 30th October

Small groups - max size is twelve per workshop

For further details and bookings please contact Bill via 087-8113611: private messaging on Facebook or at forestfungiworkshop@gmail.com

Please provide your phone number in all correspondence
Visit Bill's website at www.billpowerpx.com

Toadstool & Autumn Woodland Photography Workshops with Bill Power FIPF AFIAP are now open for bookings at €40 per person. Contact Bill on 087 8113611 or forestfungiworkshop@gmail.com for more information.

Dates: Sep 10th, Sep 24th, Oct 2nd and Oct 30th at a location near Mitchestown, Co.Cork

Aurora over Cavan!

Michelle Brady from Breffni Photography Club captured this image of a rare aurora borealis display over Co.Cavan on March 6th. Thanks for sending it into us Michelle!



Got News?

Have news for us?! Great! Send it in!
Suggestions for future editions also most welcome!

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Next month, wait and see what we have in store :-)

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