



Oscailt

IPF Newsletter - December 2015

A cháirde,

It has been an eventful season so far in IPF clubs. Congratulations to Athlone on their stellar victory at the IPF national Shield! Some outstanding images were on show from around the country at the event in Malahide. Take a look below to see for yourselves. That's two National competition events down already; The National AV Championships, and The National Shield. I didn't make it to the AV event due to work commitments, but I did make the shield. The AV event was a fantastic event by all accounts! As I write the final lines to this introduction I am still buzzing from the quality on show both in Malahide, and also at the distinction session in Thurles yesterday!



There were some incredible images on display at both. I am always completely taken aback by the health of Irish photography! I think there is a lot of exploration going on in Irish photography right now. People are more open-minded creatively than they have ever been, and are willing to step outside the box and explore new styles. In the interests of always broadening our photographic horizons we continue to highlight any opportunities to embrace more approaches, and to continue to grow as appreciators and practitioners. This month's issue sees one such window being opened. We have a very generous trial subscription from Source magazine available for all IPF club members. See the details below, along with a fascinating Q&A with John Duncan, editor of Source Magazine, and consummate gentleman!

We also feature the third and final installment of Kevin Murphy's excellent article on shooting birds this month. Anyone following Kevin's article will surely agree that it has been a treasure trove of valuable information from a master practitioner, and we are grateful to Kevin for his generosity.

We seem to have no sooner turned our backs to the ghosts and ghouls of Halloween, than we are getting ready for yet another festive season, for whichever December holiday you subscribe to. One can't go for a loaf of bread right now without facing a barrage of festive music, coloured lights and all kinds of seasonal food adverts. As photographers, I think we tend to neglect this time of year. All of us have family and friends, and this means that this time of year there is a high premium on every minute of our time. The minute we turn our backs, somebody is arranging something to commit us to and consume the last of our already tight schedules. I would bet this is the time of year that most of us create our lowest volume of images. By the time things wind down at the end of the month, we are all so exhausted by it all that the last thing we want to do is pick up a camera.

I think this is a shame. There are plenty of opportunities to be had. My advice is to pack a small camera bag now, and take it with you everywhere you go. This is the unchanging advice every time of year I know, but it's even more valuable at this time of year. Other times of the year we may be getting enough shooting done within our chosen fields or preferred genres. This time of year we tend to leave our cameras on the shelf. I mean - there's nothing new to shoot this time of year, right? I mean - who wants to see another lit shopping street? Who wants to see another Christmas tree, or Family dinner photo? None of that will ever get me my coveted IPF gold medal, right?

Wrong! Some of the most unique images ever created have happened when someone applies a new approach to a well-worn subject. Fresh photography and ground-breaking imagery is probably more about YOU as a photographer and artist than is about your subject! Always remember that. Never give yourself the "excuse" that you have nothing "new" to shoot, so therefore you can't produce "new" work. Get out there, with fresh eyes, and come back with fresh images. At the very least, shooting more will keep you sharp. And you know what? In years to come, when some of our closest, nearest and dearest have passed on, which photos will we value the most? We will always be proud of our creative successes. The great pictorial images, the abstracts, the nature shots, the travel shots that mean so much to us, and maybe brought us some success in exhibition or competition. These are great nuggets of ourselves we leave behind, and they have huge value, but even these will be surpassed. The images we will cherish, and value the most in years to come, will be those we took of the people who mean the most to us, who looked out for us, nurtured us, celebrated with us and struggled with us. The Christmas (or alternative) season is an opportunity that brings all of these people together. And we can never know which one will be our last opportunity ...

I will leave you with a quote from Jay Maisel...

"If you are out there shooting, things will happen for you. If you're not out there, you'll only hear about it....!"

Slán go fóill

Michael O'Sullivan FIPF FRPS, IPF President

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Venue
IPF Photographer of the Year Final	Sat, Feb 20th 2016	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny
IPF Nature Photographer of the Year Final	Sun, Feb 21st 2016	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny
IPF Distinctions Sitting	Sat, March 5th 2016	Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise
IPF National Club Championships	Weekend, May 14-15th 2016	County Buildings, Mullingar
IPF Distinctions Sitting	Sat, May 14th 2016	Mullingar Arts Centre

Athlone Photography Club Victorious in IPF National Shield

Congratulations to Athlone

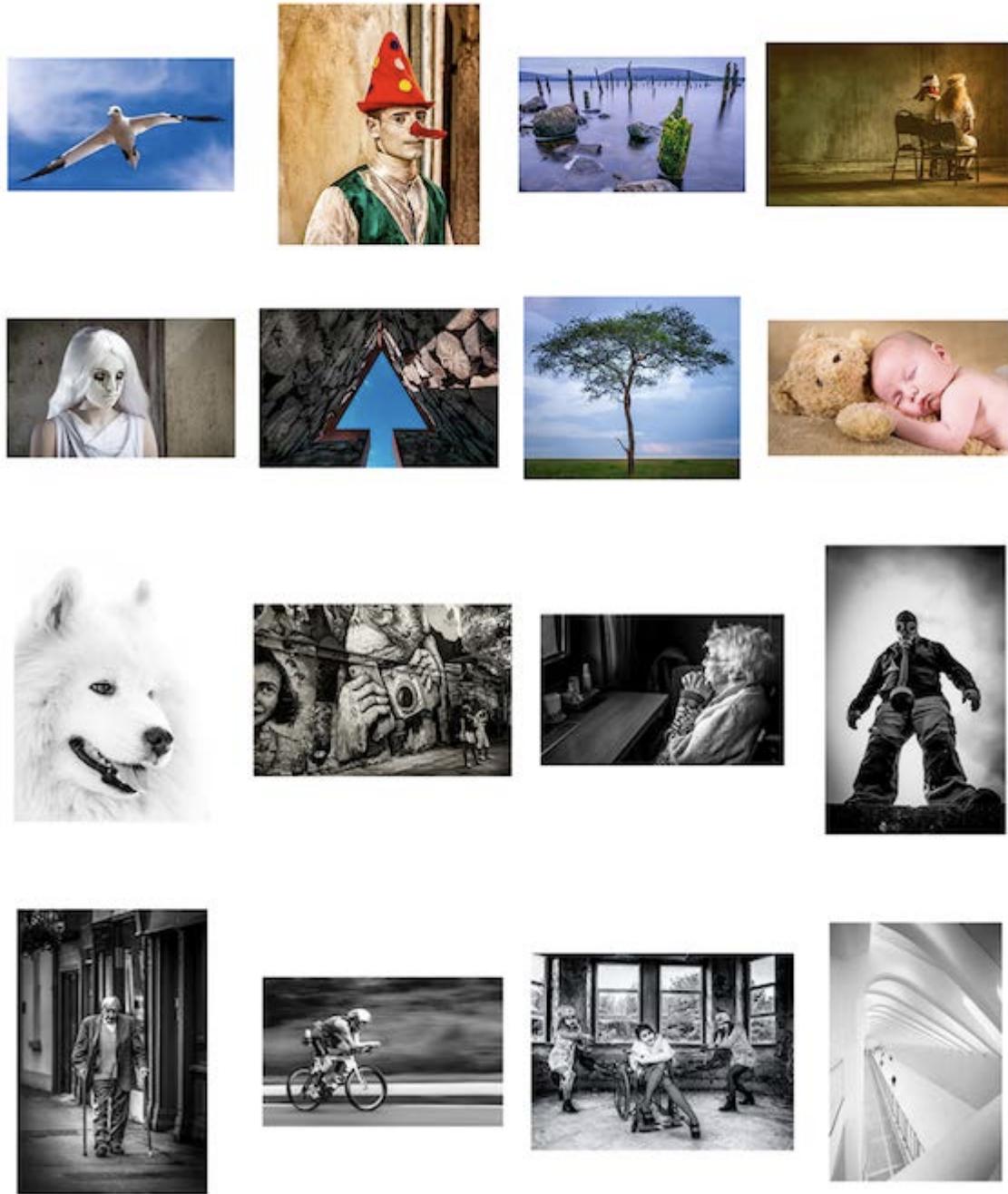
Photography Club who have won the Irish Photographic Federation National



Shield for 2015 beating off stiff competition from seasoned competitors. Athlone beat host club Malahide Camera Club into second place and Offshoot Photographic Society took third spot. Congratulations also to all the individual photographers who have received awards. Full results, winning panels, winning individual images and all panels are shown below.

This year saw a record-equalling entry of 27 clubs from every corner of Ireland - well done to all participating clubs.

Athlone Photography Club also win €250 in vouchers for Canson Infinity paper from Sheldon Fine Art Papers, Malahide Camera Club won €150 in vouchers and Offshoot Photographic Society receive €100 worth of vouchers.



Judges

We would like to thank our judges who gave such great comments and feedback, they are:

- Caroline Colegate ARPS
- Christine Widdal MPAGB AFIAP
- Tim Pile ARPS AIPF EFIAP/g

Speakers

We would also like to thank our two guest speakers - Ciara Drennan and Daragh Muldowney - for excellent talks.



Thanks

Thank you also must go to Malahide Community School for the use of their superb venue and a massive thank you to our host club, Malahide Camera Club for their organisation, resourcefulness and helpfulness in running the National Shield, especially Michael Killen, Éamon O'Murchu, Tony Murray, Michelle La Grue, Ita Martin, Deirdre Murphy, Catherine Bushe, Teresa Parle, Bernie Joyce and Katy Swarbrigg. Special thanks to Michelle La Grue and Pau Raftery who provided photography on the day.

Final thanks to Joe Doyle, IPF Shield Co-Ordinator, for the endless hours which he put in to ensure this event ran smoothly.

All winning images and panels, along with presentation photos, are available to view over on the website.

IPF Photographer of the Year Competition 2015/2016



Dear fellow photographer,

Sunday 21st November witnessed the beginning of the season for the regional rounds of the IPF Photographer of the Year Competition. The action was at the Horse and Jockey Hotel in Tipperary for the SACC qualifying event. Well done to everyone who participated and a particular word of gratitude to the SACC for their familiar sleek efficiency in making this gathering the success that it is.

Behind all this annual cycle of regional and national events are sets of regional organisers and a national team from the IPF. We just don't suddenly appear around now and fade away after the national finals. This is a year round exercise from selecting domestic and international judges, fine tuning the rule book, software support, liaising with sponsors, through to transporting and processing the qualifying prints before the final.

We've already seen with the SACC how more streamlined the event is with the new digital submission of all images including the prints. Also the introduction of a colour coded labelling should make further processing of the prints a lot easier.

Yet again, please make yourself familiar with the rules of both competitions. Pay special attention to the following:

- The competition is open to all individual photographers who are paid up members of currently affiliated photographic clubs or societies
- This year we are introducing a uniform and mandatory labelling system for all print entries. These labels will be colour coded as per your region and available from IPF website
- Please take a very careful look at the definitions of Advanced and Non Advanced entry criteria. Entry into the incorrect category can cause administrative mayhem!
- A digital copy of ALL entries including prints must be uploaded at the time of online entry

The updated rules for this season along with [details of this competition are available now over on the IPF website](#). Regional qualifying rounds start in November and run through to the end of January. Keep an eye out for details of your region! I'm looking forward very much to seeing your work and meeting many of you in person over the coming months.

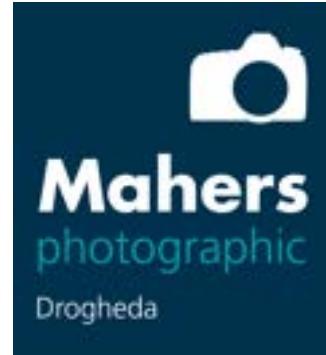
John Cuddihy AIPF,
National Coordinator,
IPF Photographer of the Year Competition

Region	Date	Closes	Venue
DSLR	Nov 28th	Complete	Palmerstown Community Centre, Dublin
Mid-West	Jan 23rd	Jan 20th	Portlaoise
North East	Jan 9th	Jan 6th	Drogheda
SACC	Nov 22nd	Complete	Horse & Jockey Hotel, Tipperary

IPF Nature Photographer of the Year Competition 2015/2016

Dear fellow photographer,

The time of year has come again when we launch into the new Nature Photographer of the Year season for 2015/2016. As you can see, we've had a change of name. No longer are we the National Nature Competition, but the IPF Nature Photographer of the Year Competition, generously sponsored this year by Mahers Photographic of Drogheda.



As with the Photographer of the Year Competition above, please pay particular attention to the following major announcements regarding this competition -

- The competition is open to all individual photographers who are paid up members of currently affiliated photographic clubs or societies
- This year we are introducing a uniform and mandatory labelling system for all print entries. These labels will be colour coded as per your region and available from IPF website
- Please take a very careful look at the definitions of Advanced and Non Advanced entry criteria. Entry into the incorrect category can cause administrative mayhem!
- A digital copy of ALL entries including prints must be uploaded at the time of online entry
- As you can see we have introduced a new rule under Section 5.7 relating to distress caused to any creature in the course of taking an image. Please observe carefully and respect all creatures you photograph.

These regional events are great social occasions too, so I'm looking forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and especially at the finals in Kilkenny on Feb 20th and 21st.

The updated rules for this season along with [details of this competition are available now over on the IPF website](#). Regional qualifying rounds start in November and run through to the end of January. Keep an eye out for details of your region! I'm looking forward very much to seeing your work and meeting many of you in person over the coming months.

John Cuddihy AIPF,
National Coordinator,
IPF Nature Photographer of the Year Competition

Region	Date	Closes	Venue
DSLR	Jan 30th	Jan 27th	Palmerstown Community Centre, Dublin
Mid-West	Jan 23rd	Jan 20th	Portlaoise
North East	Jan 16th	Jan 13th	Dunleer, Co.Louth
SACC	Jan 24th	Jan 22nd	Celtic Ross Hotel, Clonakilty, Cork

Focusing on: Athlone Photography Club



Q: When was Athlone Photography club founded?

A: The club was founded in September 2013.

Q: How many members do you have?

A: Numbers have been growing strongly since the foundation of the club and we currently have 43 paid members for this season.

Q: When and where do you meet?

A: We meet every second Wednesday at Abbey Road Studios, Abbey Road, Athlone between 19.30 and 21.30, although the meetings usually last until much later.

Q: Any notable events?

A: For the past two years, the club has been involved in the RTE All-Ireland Drama Fringe Festival. Every year in April, the drama festival organises events in Athlone and the club has been exhibiting themed images for the duration of the event. For the first year, APC exhibited landscape images of Athlone and its surroundings and last year, we put together of series of environmental portraiture of local peoples such as shopkeeper and other art related groups. The exhibition takes place in the Athlone Town Centre.

Q: Any members have any significant achievements or milestones recently?

A: Since its creation, APC has been gathering a number of individual awards. Two members were fortunate to represent Ireland at international level. Liam Kidney had one image which was included as part of the Projected Panel at the Celtic Challenge 2015. Anthony Demion was selected to represent the country at the 28th FIAP Projected Image Competition which was held in Indonesia. He was also chosen as part of the "Aternum Fotoamatori Abruzzi" in Italy. Liam Kidney also obtained an Honourable Mention at the National Club Finals 2014.

Alan Hunt was awarded two IPF Medals over the last two PPI competitions.

Last but not least, Grito Miko, Lina Gorodeckaite Bechara and Paul Grogan managed individual recognitions at the recent National Shield claiming two IPF Gold Medals (Grito in the colour category, Lina in the Mono category) a bronze medal (Paul in the Mono section) and an Honourable Mention (Grito in the Mono section).

The club currently have seven members who have LIPF distinctions (Ann Dwyer, Lise Helberg, Aine Connaughton, Helen Maloney, Paul Doran, Anthony Demion and Henry Yee), many of them

already started work on their Associateship Panel.

Q: What do you attribute your success at the National Shield to?

A: There's a few things. Club members will organise events and trips, some great images always come out of these. A selection committee with a broad range of tastes and personalities is put together. But mostly it's down to the club members, almost everybody that was entitled to entered images for consideration. That meant there was a lot of options and a lot of strong images that made selection difficult.

Q: What was your selection process?

A: Initially, as a selection group, we studied the images on our own and got familiar with all the images. We then identified each person's best three or four images, and brought that subset of images into our final panel selection meeting. The obvious ones picked themselves, but we debated and voted on the remaining places. The image with the most convincing argument won through. That sounds like it was quite a short process, but it was anything but. Everyone involved put in a lot of effort.

Q: Any suggestions to other clubs for next year's National Shield?

A: Get out on group photo shoots, be it a day trip, an evening session, or a planned themed shoot. Simply just get out with your camera. Share your knowledge to help the person beside you; and help yourself improve by soaking up any information, techniques, ways of seeing from those around you.

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

A: The club welcomed three guest speakers last year and all were very well received by the audience. George Karbus gave a captivating insight in his wildlife, landscape and underwater photography which took everyone's breath away. Seamus Costelloe visited us with all his prints and talk about his portraiture work and we all enjoyed listening to his work and finally we had the chance to have Dina Douglass, Los Angeles based wedding and High Fashion photographer, drop by Athlone while on her European Tour to present her work and perform a demonstration. All were very different yet extremely entertaining. Finally, the club organised a weekend trip to Connemara and also set up a Halloween theme photoshoot which were both fun, entertaining and resulted in creating a lot of stand-out images.

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

A: It's not a secret but Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral along with the Luan Gallery is a crowd favourite for anyone with an interest in Architecture photography. Being on the shore of Lough Ree, there are many locations which can provide a lovely scene for a sunset image such as Glassan, Rindoon or Portlick Castle and woods. The forest of Mote Park outside Roscommon is a great location to capture the Autumnal colours and less than an hour's drive the Lough Boora Parkland is a club members' pleaser.

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

A: We believe that our club is there to promote photography in a fun and friendly environment. We tend to learn from another by sharing our knowledge amongst the group. Generally, a member with a field of interest would present what she or he does in the view of providing some knowledge that another member may not yet possess. This has proved to be a successful method so far.

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

A: Athlone Photography Club is part of the Mid-West region. This is probably one of the smallest region in the IPF and does not possess as yet the structure that the DSLR or SACC have. It would be a great idea to try and promote a similar pattern if the interest of the various clubs who belong to this region is there to see it grow stronger. It is something APC would relish the possibility to be involved in.

[Visit Athlone Photography Club's website.](#)

FIAP Update

Closing Date

As previously announced, the closing date for Irish applications for FIAP distinctions has moved to February 28th this year as increasing demand for this service requires a longer timeframe for processing applications. Anyone considering applying for a distinction should contact FIAP Liaison Officer Paul Stanley via the IPF site to confirm their intentions and receive instructions.



MFIAP Applications

Effective immediately, MFIAP applications are also being processed.

The applicant must have held the EFIAP for a minimum of 3 years. The application is by means of 20 prints (with accompanying jpg images). In addition the application must complete a photographic CV or Resume and submit an introductory text describing the subject and the creative concept of the photographer. This distinction, the Master level, is awarded to a very small amount of photographers worldwide each year and we hope that more Irish names will soon be added to that list!

Please be aware that the closing date for MFIAP applications is **December 31st 2015**. Anyone who is considering applying for an MFIAP must do so via our FIAP Liaison Officer Paul and should contact him immediately.

To constitute a portfolio the prints must be linked, and must be a coherent and harmonious whole, both in respect of the contents of the images and vision of the author, and in respect of their size and presentation. The choice of idea behind the portfolio is left entirely to the initiative of the applicant, who has the largest possible freedom of expression. The portfolio can be built on a theme, be a sequence; or the illustration of a story. These are examples but not an exhaustive list. This award is by no means automatic and, unlike all those above, the criteria are much more subjective. Applications are considered by the members of the FIAP Directory Board and are awarded on a simple majority vote of those members. If the award is not made the candidate receives a written explanation for the rejection.

- Paul Stanley, IPF FIAP Liaison Officer

Club Affiliation Fees for 2016

Our Treasurer Brian sends us the following note regarding annual fees for 2016. Please ensure your club treasurer is aware.

"For a Club to be affiliated to the IPF they must pay an annual Affiliation Fee. Please note that regardless of when a club pays this fee, the affiliation year runs from 1st January to 31st December. Only affiliated clubs may enter IPF competitions and members of affiliated clubs can apply for distinctions at the preferential rate, which offers a 50% reduction on the distinction application fee.

The Affiliation Fee is €75 for clubs with less than 50 members and €100 for clubs with 50 members or more.

All clubs must complete the online form when making the payment as this allows the IPF to maintain up-to-date information on club contacts. Your yearly application is not complete until this form is completed. You may pay

via Paypal directly from this form, or indicate on the form that you will be paying by cheque. For ease of administration, Paypal is preferred.

Each club is also obliged to provide a copy of its current public liability insurance cover. There is a space on the online form to upload a digital copy of this (or you may send a paper copy).

New clubs must also lodge a copy of their constitution with us.

The facility for clubs to pay the 2016 Affiliation Fees will be made available on the IPF website from 1st December 2015 and payment should be made before the 31st January 2016.

For SACC clubs, please note that the same process and same form applies, but payment & information is collected via the SACC website instead.

- Brian Deering, IPF Treasurer"

Cork Salon - Final Call for Entries

3rd Cork International Salon of Photography



Under the patronage of FIAP, PSA, RPS, IPF and SACC

5* Full Colour Printed Catalogue

Six sections

143 awards

www.corkcameragroup.net

Closes December 1st 2015

The 3rd Cork International Salon of Photography is now open for submissions for 2015.

Cork's salon operates under the patronage of FIAP, PSA, RPS, IPF and SACC and its full colour catalogue has received a five star rating from FIAP (the highest rating possible). Along with Tallaght, Cork is one of only two Irish salons to have patronage from FIAP.

Closing date is December 1st 2015.

There are six sections:

- Colour Open
- Monochrome Open
- Landscape

- Photo Travel
- Nature
- Creative

More information can be found at <http://www.corkcameragroup.net>

Follow them on their [Facebook page](#) to keep up to date.

In the Spotlight: John Finn

Q: When did you take up photography?

A: In the 1970s.

Q: What persuaded you to take up photography?

A: To capture some of the wonderful variety of the world around me, or at least to attempt it.

Q: Which club are you a member of?

A: Cork Camera Group

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

A: LIPF, ARPS.

Q: Can you tell us about your relationship with photography - when did it start?

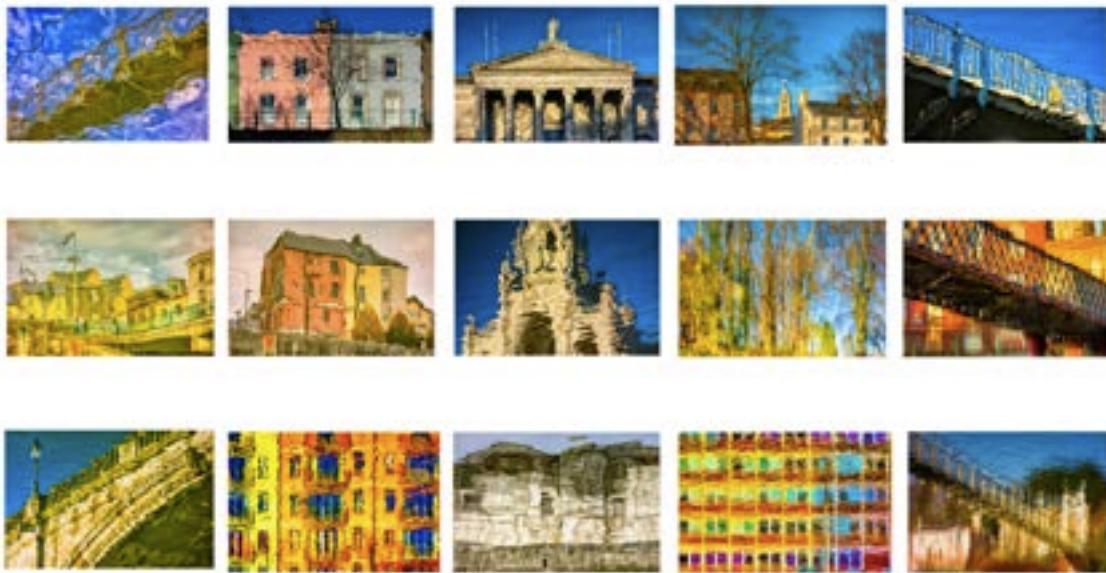
A: My first exposure to serious amateur photography was in 1973 at the (long since defunct) Cork Camera Club - not to be confused with the Cork Camera Group! A work colleague was President and he invited me along to a meeting. It was the first time I saw Kodachrome slides projected and the quality - the sharpness, the colour saturation - blew me away. I immediately made plans to buy a camera that could deliver such quality. When I did, I joined the Cork Photo Workshop, a breakaway from what was regarded as the old fogeys and stale attitudes of the rather staid Cork Camera Club. It was there I learned my craft.

Q: What was the background to your most successful image?

A: If I can chose images plural then it would have to be my 15 photo ARPS panel. It was comprised of a series of inverted reflections in the River Lee, Cork City. It got the unanimous approval of the RPS judges. It was shot with a 5/5/5 presentation configuration in mind and so I have not put it forward for



an IPF distinction as such a configuration is not catered for by the IPF and it would not work in any other arrangement.



Q: First camera? First DSLR?

A: A Nikkormat FTn - a consumer version of the professional grade Nikon F - was my first film SLR, purchased in Vic Odden's in London in 1973. My first DSLR was a Canon 20D.

Q: Are there photographers you are influenced by?

A: I like the architectural work of Joel Tjintjelaar and Julia Anna Gospodaro. In landscape, I like Charlie Waite and Gary McParland. My all time favourite photographer is Elliott Erwitt - I love the humour in his work

Q: Your own favourite image?

A: My 7-year-old granddaughter aged 1 day. I have a huge canvas print of it hanging on a wall. I expect she will be showing it to her own grandchildren when she is a very old lady.

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

A: General interest with a leaning towards landscape and architectural and latterly, influenced by my friend Bill Power FIPF, model photography - what might be described as "fine art nudes" but I would never use the term "fine art" for any of my work as I have an irrational loathing of the term.



Q: Canon or Nikon or Fuji or Sony ?

A: Canon DSLRs and a Sony RX100 compact (with which I photographed my successful ARPS panel) .

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

A: Absolutely. A good club helps with motivation and with raising one's own standard of photography. I certainly have experienced that in the CCG not to mention the assistance and advice from fellow members. And of course there is the social aspect. I had been out of the club scene for years but I'm glad I returned.

Q: What does photography mean to you?

A: If I can be a bit pretentious, it's a form of artistic expression. I find that to do serious,

personal photography I have to be "in the zone", a state of mind where there is total focus and heightened attention to detail and in turn that can result in serendipitous moments where all the elements come together and an exceptional image is created. It is almost a meditative state.

Q: What is your photographic dream?

A: Ideally, it would be to develop a signature style, to do something different to the clichéd, boring old stuff that I still turn out.

www.johnfinnphotography.com

[John's Flickr Page](#)

[John's Blog](#)

Top Tips for Perfect Bird Photography - Kevin Murphy FIPF ARPS

Kevin Murphy, one of Ireland's finest nature photographers, concludes his fine series of articles regarding bird photography in this edition. We hope you enjoyed reading his tips and admiring his stunning images. Kevin holds a Fellowship with ourselves and an Associateship with the Royal Photographic Society. Thank you Kevin!

In my previous articles, I talked about the challenges of photographing fast moving birds. You need to get close, shoot fast and you need to be very familiar with your camera settings. In this article I'll give some tips on how to practice and improve your photography skills in your own back garden. All you need is a feeder and lots of nuts!

The trick is to position your camera close to a bird feeder. I shoot through an open window with the feeder 3 metres away. Set up the feeder close to the house, leave it for a few days, keeping it topped up, and let the birds get familiar with the new location. I regularly get 10 different species visiting mine, often on the same day, so there is plenty of variety and colour to choose from.

Attach a freshly cut twig to a spare tripod and place it 2 metres from the feeder, at the same height. The birds will use this as a staging post before moving on to the feeder. Set up the camera on a tripod, slightly higher than the feeder, angled slightly downwards.

Perching Birds

To get a sharp picture of perching birds you will need a shutter speed of 1/300th to 1/500th of a second. For this type of shoot I usually use Aperture Priority with a low setting of f/5.6 - f/6.3 and adjust the ISO to give me the required shutter speed. The ISO setting is dependent on the available light, but on a sunny day it should be around 500 - 800. Use as low an ISO setting as you can, to achieve the required shutter speed. Take a few test shots of the twig and check the histogram to make sure the exposure settings are correct and adjust, using the exposure compensation dial, if required. Check that the lawn in the background is out of focus and blemish free. Remember to focus on the bird's eyes and take plenty of shots.

Blue Tit

Canon 5D, Canon EF 100-400mm

Aperture Priority

No Flash

f/6.3, 1/320th sec, ISO 500

Focal Length 400mm



Chaffinch

Canon 5D, Canon EF 100-400mm

Aperture Priority, No Flash

f/5.6, 1/500th sec, ISO 800

Focal Length 400mm

Birds in Flight

After you have mastered the technique of taking pictures of perching birds you can attempt to capture them in flight. This is not as easy as it sounds. Their small size and fast flight makes focusing extremely difficult and bear in mind that the wings are beating at up to 20 times per second.

The plan is to capture the birds in flight, between the twig and the feeder. We have set up a predictable pathway, where we know they will fly to and from. They will stop off at the staging post then head to the feeder, when there is an available landing slot. The flight time will take about 1/5th of a second.

You will need a shutter speed of at least 1/4000th of a second to totally freeze the wing beats. The best way to achieve this is with high speed flash. I use a Canon 580EX Speedlite (off camera) and set it to the High Speed Sync function. Set the camera to Manual, shutter speed 1/4000th, aperture f/5.6, ISO 1000. Take a few test shots of the feeder and check the histogram to make sure the exposure settings are correct and adjust the flash output if required. Set the lens to manual focus - the birds will be flying faster than the camera autofocus (or you) can react. Set the focal point of the lens on the bird feeder and fire the shutter using a remote switch.

Now, we are all set! When you see a bird on the twig positioning itself to take off, hit the shutter button on the remote switch. Don't even look through the viewfinder - keep your eye on the bird on the twig and shoot as soon as it

makes a move. It all happens so fast that, in many of the images, the bird will be sitting on the bird feeder eating nuts. But, when you get into the rhythm of it, you will get some fantastic shots showing the intricate detail of those majestic wings.

The following sequence of pictures was taken when there was snow on the ground, hence the white/blue background of the lawn.



Goldfinch & Great Tit

*Canon 5D, Sigma 170-500mm,
Manual*

Flash

*f/5.6, 1/4000th sec, ISO 1000
Focal Length 307mm*



Chaffinch & Goldfinches

Canon 5D, Sigma 170-500mm, Manual

Flash

*f/5.6, 1/4000th sec, ISO 1000
Focal Length 307mm*



Goldfinches Fighting

Canon 5D, Sigma 170-500mm, Manual

Flash

*f/5.6, 1/4000th sec, ISO 1000
Focal Length 307mm*



This month, we are delighted to welcome John Duncan, editor of Source, a photography magazine based in Belfast and share with you a very special offer for readers of our newsletter!

Source is a photography magazine based in Belfast with a remit for photography being produced across Ireland and the United Kingdom. The magazine is funded by the Arts Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. John Duncan has been one of the editors since 1994 and we spoke to him to find out a little more about Source. And to let you know about how to get 16 back issues and the current issue for free in a special offer to all IPF members.

Q: When did Source magazine start?

A: Source was set up in 1992 by a group of photographers who wanted to create more opportunities for photographers to have their work seen. Over the years Source gradually grew from its original 8 page A4 black and white format increasing in page numbers, changing format, printing in colour and regularly updating its design.

The content of the early issues of the magazine included news, reviews, features and portfolios of individual photographers. These have remained a mainstay but as the magazine has increased to its current 80 page count they have increased in number along with new sections covering photo book publishing and specialist columns on photography and the law and a regular column analyzing advertising imagery.

Image Simon Burch from Under a Grey Sky, featured photographer



Q: What is your mission / magazine concept?

A: Source is based in Belfast but our remit is to publish the most interesting work being produced across Ireland and the UK. We also connect to what's going on internationally through our book review section. And of course a lot of the exhibitions we review have work in them by international photographers.

We have a small editorial staff, myself and my co editor Richard West, so it's quite a lot to keep an eye on. We try to bring our readers the most interesting material we can find. After twenty years in the job I have looked at a lot of photographs so I hope I can spot what is interesting, and what is new either in terms of subject matter or the approach taken by the photographer. In each issue we feature three photographers work. We work on an edit of images with the photographer and we run 8 to 10 images one per page. So it's a good way to present photographs to readers. And the focus is always on photographer's personal projects. The work that wouldn't maybe otherwise get seen. The sets of images tend to focus on one idea or theme and it's usually something the photographer has been working way on for quite a while.

Q: Who are your audience?

A: Most of the colleges and the Universities who offer degrees in photography, over 150 subscribe so one group is definitely students. From the feedback we get a lot of our readers are photographers. And it's probably photographers who are working towards personal exhibitions or book projects. But we know most people don't make a living from that so many of those photographers are also doing a variety of paid photographic work.



Source on sale at the Gallery of Photography Dublin

Q: How has your readership grown since you started?

A: Our remit has grown from Northern Ireland to all Ireland to UK and Ireland since 1992. And with that have come readers across that geography. We also have a smaller international distribution and readers. But that's for the printed magazine. Source is a cross platform publisher so we also have the magazine as a digital edition, that's a new opportunity for more international readers.

And then there is our web site www.source.ie its has over 1000 pages of free

content and the readership there is a great mix of national and international readers. We have also grown our followers on Social Media with 29,000 twitter followers. And nearly 10,000 on facebook. We also have our free enewsletter which you can signup to on the website. And we make short films to go with some issues of the magazine which we distribute via our website and Youtube. So it's a mixture of print and digital readers. I still prefer the printed page myself.

Source website www.source.ie



Q: Who can submit to your magazine?

A: In each issue we advertise for submissions. Its open to anyone and we don't set a theme. We are interested in people's personal projects and that's usually as set of 8-10 images around one idea. We have published a wide range of photographers work including landscape, portraiture and documentary. The artists section of our website http://www.source.ie/artists/artists_main_index.php is the best place to get a flavour of what we do. We can't consider your work if we haven't seen it so its always worth sending material. You can see how to here <http://www.source.ie/main/submissions.html> its via email. I look at all the work that comes in so it's a good way to introduce your work to us. We also regularly run days for photographers to come and show us work directly which are advertised in the magazine. That's a great way to get some free feedback and pitch us work for publication.

Source Editor John Duncan discussing work with Cork Photographer Roseanne Lynch



Q: What are our plans for your website Source.ie?

A: We have been developing a number of areas of the site. We are in contact with a lot of teachers so we have some online resources for those getting started in photography. These are available here <http://www.source.ie/learning/index.html> And they introduce images and ideas around the themes of portraiture, landscape and documentary.



We have great contact with photographers and we have been putting up a number of interviews that outline different careers in photography. This is a new project which we will be adding to <http://www.source.ie/careers/index.html>



Our short films have proved popular particularly the ones on photography archives http://www.source.ie/feature/archive_season.html so we are hoping to do some more films in the future for the web site.

One of the short films on the Source website



Q: Where can people get the magazine and how can you get the free trial copies?

A: You can subscribe to the printed magazine on the website. But Michael O'Sullivan, President of the IPF, was a fellow judge on this Year Irish Times Photography Competition, we got chatting there and hit upon the idea of a an offer of a free trail subscription to the digital issue for Irish Photographic Federation club members.

So we are offering a free Digital issue and you get 16 back issues with that. We really want to try and get people interested in what we do and the wider world of photography. And as a non profit funded by the Arts Council it our aim to try and find new readers.

If you would like a free trial copy of the digital edition email all you have to do is drop us an email to subs@source.ie and we will send you the link to download the magazine. Just email and include **IPF FREE TRIAL** along with your club name.

You get the new issue and 16 back issues for free, no catches. And let us know if you would like to be added to our free enewsletter of photography news and events. Your email will not be used for any other purposes and it will not be passed to anyone else.

Who's Who on IPF Council

This month we say hello to Joe Doyle who many of you will be familiar with as our very efficient co-ordinator of the recent IPF National Shield Competition.

"I'm Joe Doyle and I am the National Shield Coordinator on the National Council. A hugely enjoyable role as it gets me to talk to most of the clubs in the IPF from all corners of the island. Originally from Waterford City, I am member of Malahide Camera Club in North Dublin, where we have over 100 members. All my photography education has come through the club and the many friends in the IPF whom I have made over the years. My day job as Head of Card Strategy for Bank of Ireland pays for my photography! While my wife and two daughters do slag me when I disappear for day's shoot, I suspect they breath a sigh of relief at not being dragged with me on the shoot!"



Is There a Doctor in the House?

I'm not in the habit of entering images into salons. That habit however, fell by the wayside during the summer when Paul Stanley, our FIAP Liaison Officer drew my attention to a little known FIAP recognised salon for doctors and dentists, namely [PhotoArtMedica](#) based at Czestokowa in the south of Poland. So, why not?

Having submitted a set of four images into the open section, and my old friend "Castle Mountain" into the landscape, I forgot about it all and got on with life. That is, until I received an email in mid October informing me that I won the Open Section gold medal. My first thoughts - was it just between the ambulance driver and myself? As it turned out, not so.

Life is short, so off I went to Poland for the prize giving. The welcome and hospitality was extraordinary to say the least. And furthermore, the Grand Prix winner was Irish too! Dr Paul Byrne, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin presented a set of top class monochromes. His image from Ballydwane in Co Waterford occupied a prominent place at the prize giving ceremony at Czestokowa town hall. Since then I've been nudging my gynaecologist friend in the direction of a certain camera club in Camden Street.

In case my fellow photographers quake in their boots at the prospect that I might take the salon world by storm, sleep well. There's no trophy room in the planning, but I'll sure enter PhotoArtMedica 2016.

And finally, the Black Madonna sends her loving regards. Hopefully I'll be back to see her again next year. Sure why not!

- Dr. John Cuddihy



John Hooton - New Book Out Now

Dingle, My Only Place is the second book by John Hooton. John is a well known photographer from Mallow and his first book "Gathering Light on the Dingle Coast" received wide acclaim.

John together with his wife Noreen live in Mallow with their family. Here he runs his own furniture making business but spends much of his free time in Dingle. Coming from a family of 11 children John has dedicated this book to his mother whom he describes as "an extraordinary woman".

For the last 30 years John has been a member of Mallow Camera Club and has achieved many national and international awards for his photography. He has been awarded the highest



distinctions from the Irish Photographic Federation, the Royal Photographic Society and the International Federation of Photographic Art. In the past his work has been exhibited throughout Ireland, mainland Europe and America.

His love of the Irish landscape and especially the Dingle Peninsula is evident in his work. All the images for this new book were taken over the last three years and in it he takes the viewer on a photographic journey of the Dingle Peninsula from Blennerville on the northern shore to Inch on the southern coast. Many of the images were taken during the 'magic hours' of pre-dawn and post dusk when the available light offers opportunities that make the difference between the ordinary image and the extraordinary image.

In 2013 John also featured on RTE's Nationwide with Anne Cassin. The programme followed John on one of his photographic workshops which he runs from his base in Ballyferriter. In it John spoke of his love for the landscape and his efforts to try and capture those very special moments. Participants on the course spoke of John's ability to teach and his willingness to share his knowledge and experience gained over the years.



latest book.

Dingle, My Only Place was launched by Sean Sherlock, Minister of State Department of Foreign Affairs and also in attendance was Mr. Michael O'Sullivan, President of the Irish Photographic Federation who wrote the foreword for the book. The launch took place in Mallow Primary Health Care Centre on Wednesday 25th November in front of a large audience including members from clubs from all over County Cork showing the high esteem John is held in.

We wish John every success with his

Opening of Tallaght Salon Exhibition

Tallaght Photographic Society is delighted to welcome you to the opening the exhibition of the Tallaght International Salon of Photographic Art at 7.30pm on Tuesday, the 5th of January 2016 in the County Library, Tallaght.

All awards will be presented on the night with 33 awards going to Irish authors including the highly coveted FIAP blue ribbon for best author going to Paul Stanley from Dublin Camera Club.

On display in the library will be 120 framed prints, all accepted into the salon from over 5000 images along with digital images.

The exhibition will be on display for 2 weeks until Saturday, the 16th of January. The library is open from 9.45 am to 8pm Monday to Thursday and 9.45am to 4.30pm Friday and Saturday.

[Full list of award winners](#)

[Directions to the library](#)

[Tallaght Salon on Facebook](#)



Best Image from Salon, titled "The Peak" by Linda Wei from Australia

IPF Nature Group Update

The Nature Group has been up and running now for the last year and we would like to take this opportunity through the Newsletter to let you know how the group has fared during this time. As well as organising field trips and workshops we keep our members informed, through our Facebook page, of any interesting sightings of suitable subjects for photography and any Nature related talks and lectures.



We had a good start to the year with an illustrated talk given in Belfast by one of the world's top bird photographers, Jari Peltomaki, called "Wild Finland". This was attended by some Nature Group members even though it was mid week in Belfast. It was certainly the best illustrated talk I have seen with truely amazing photographs of Finland's wildlife.

This was followed in early March with a four day trip to Caerlaverock in Scotland. Caerlaverock is a Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Reserve and we were able to book accommodation on the reserve itself. We were in luck with the weather (wall to wall sunshine) and had no difficulty in photographing our target species - Whooper Swans, Goosander, and Red Kite. Memory cards filled rapidly and to finish a really good trip an American duck (Blue Winged Teal) put in an appearance and it too was easily photographed.



Blustery weather in early May took the group to the Burren in search of insects and flora, with the welcome assistance of Gerry Butler from Shannon CC, whose local knowledge led us to some really good new locations. Again luck was with us as the flora was in perfect condition for photography and all the rareties in flower in spring were located and photographed. Insects were not quite as good as the Spring weather was a little cooler than usual. However, we did manage to photograph Brimstone, Wood White and Dingy

Skipper butterflies.

In conjunction with the Dublin and South Leinster Region we ran a Focus Stacking and Macro workshop in June in Palmerston Community Hall. This was fully booked at an early stage and all participants learned a great deal and, more importantly, enjoyed themselves. The tutors for the workshop

were Mica Gabb Photography.

September saw us join with the NIPA Nature Group for a joint venture. We were to go Dolphin watching in the Shannon estuary but the weather did not favour us this time and we were forced to cancel the outing. As the ten strong NIPA group had already travelled we had a day on Loop Head and dinner together that evening. It is intended to run another joint trip next year.

In October Myles Carroll advertised a whale watching trip out of Youghal on our Facebook page. This was quickly booked out and on the 16th October we assembled at the pier in Youghal. The weather was rather dull for any good photography but the trip went ahead. The Whales performed and did their best to give us a great show. Fin Whales and Humpbacks in good numbers together with lots of Common Dolphins made for a memorable trip.





We had a really good end to our season with Bill Power organising an outdoor workshop, Autumn Woodland and Toadstools. Again this was rapidly booked out and a lot of very positive feedback was received from those who took part. If anyone thought photographing Fungi was easy I think they found out on the day this was definitely not the case.

We are now at the early stages of organising a programme for next year. We would hope, weather permitting, to organise some outdoor workshops followed by a review and critique of what we photographed. Field trips will also be organised according to the season and If members have any ideas we would love to hear from you.

Membership of the Nature Group can be arranged by completing the application form over on the [IPF website](#).

Jack Malins, Chairman IPF Nature Group

SACC Creative Photography Competition 2015

The SACC Creative Photography Competition 2015 was held in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow, on Saturday October 31st 2015 and was hosted by Carlow Photographic Society.

Congratulations to all those who won awards in particular to Michael O'Sullivan from Cork Camera Group who took home the top prize of best image with 'Death of Giselle'.



SACC Creative Photography Competition 2015

Overall Winner - Michael O'Sullivan

'Death of Giselle'

Michael is a member of Cork Camera Group



As well as the competition itself, we were delighted to welcome Ray Spence, one of our judges, for his first of three talks in the SACC region this year. His talk included an extremely interesting and diverse range of work including some stunning creative images which he did in the years prior to the advent of digital imaging and post-processing and was very well received by all in attendance.

Since it was revived in 2014 the competition has continued to attract an increasing number of entries as interest in this photography genre finds increasing favour with new participants. We were delighted to see photographers from all around the country taking part as this event is a national competition and is open to members from all IPF affiliated clubs. Additionally the top scoring 35% count as Irish qualifiers for those going for AFIAP distinctions. We were treated to a diverse and really creative set of images on Saturday, both in the print and the projected sections of the competition, some achieved in camera and some enhanced using creative techniques in post processing. The winners are shown below and can be viewed in more detail over on the [SACC website](#).



Interested in Sports Photography?

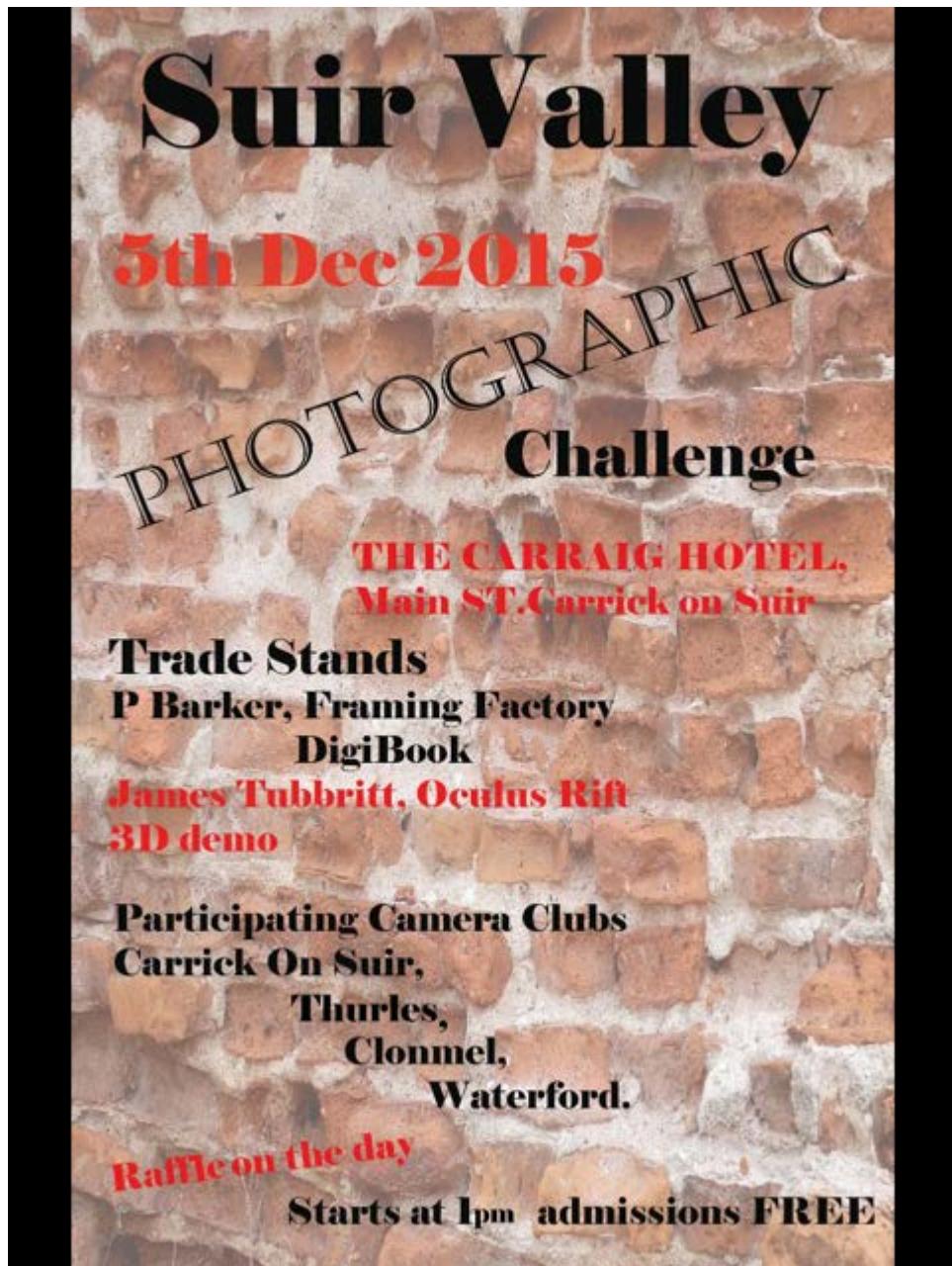
Are you seeking opportunities to attend high quality sporting events and be willing to give up a few hours of your time voluntary?

Special Olympics is a year round sports training and competition programme for individuals with an intellectual disability. Special Olympics Ulster offers this programme in 14 sports to 2000+ athletes and supported by approximately 3000 volunteers. Each year, across Ulster they deliver high quality competitions in a range of sports, during which they wish to capture the highs and lows of competition.

They are seeking volunteer photographers who would be interested in attending our events to help us in capturing these amazing moments. Anyone interested will be asked to register as a Special Olympics Ireland Volunteer. Check out www.specialolympics.ie for an overview of the programme.

Please contact Emma at Special Olympics on 028 9089 2993 or emma.mcmenamin@specialolympics.ie for further information.

Suir Valley Photographic Challenge



The Suir Valley Photographic Challenge takes place on December 5th at the Carraig Hotel in Carrick on Suir and sees Carrick On Suir, Thurles, Clonmel and Waterford camera clubs competing for the title.

It starts at 1pm and with free admission and many photography related trade stands present, why not pop it into your calendar!

Charlie Waite in Belfast

Belfast Photo Imaging Club

proudly present

Charlie Waite

World leading Landscape Photographer

Saturday 23rd January 2016

1:30 pm entry for a prompt 2:00 pm start

at

Crescent Arts Centre

2-4 University Road, Belfast BT7 1HN



Charlie Waite is an English landscape photographer, noted for his "painterly" approach in using light and shade. Born in England, he worked in theatre and television for the first ten years of his professional life before moving to photography.

We cordially invite you to join the celebrated photographer as he shares some of his outstanding images and speaks about how he is inspired to capture the light that paints the natural world.

Tickets £ 15.00 available by request from info@bpicni.com

Charlie Waite is an English landscape photographer, noted for his "painterly" approach in using light and shade. Born in England, he worked in theatre and television for the first ten years of his professional life before moving to photography.

Belfast Photo Imaging Club cordially invite you to join the celebrated photographer as he shares some of his outstanding images and speaks about how he is inspired to capture the light that paints the natural world. Tickets £ 15.00 available by request from info@bpicni.com

<http://bpicni.com/charlie-waite>

Competition time!

This month our winner is 'Spider Spider' by Tom Whelton from Cork Camera Group. Congratulations Tom!

Tom spotted this small jumping spider walking around on top of a cardboard box in my garden and grabbed his camera to capture this shot.



So.. to be in with a chance to win €50 next month, keep on reading :-)

The rules are simple:

- Image **MUST** be sized to 851 pixels wide by 315 pixels high
- Winning image will be posted to our Facebook page as cover image for as long as we see fit (about a month!)
- Closing date is midnight Friday December 18th
- Send your entry to newsletter@irishphoto.ie
- This month, we're looking for an image that celebrates Winter!

We look forward to receiving your entries!!

PS: Keep in mind where the image will be used and how the Facebook profile image covers a portion of the cover image... choose wisely!

Well done to the shortlisted images this month which are shown below.



From top: Catherine Bushe, Fidelma Read and Colette Gemmell

Got News?

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

Get in touch via Contact Page on our [website](#) and select "Newsletter" to send your message!

In Our Next Issue..

Next month, we'll be proudly announcing our latest batch of distinctions holders and preparing for Christmas and a bright new year, plus sharing all your news!

Share the News

Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you feel may be interested and encourage your club members to subscribe via [this link](#).

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Irish Photographic Federation

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