



Oscailt

IPF Newsletter - February 2017

A chairde,

Is beag nach bhfuilimid amuigh as an gheimhridh arís. Agus mar is gnách, tá an tréibhse is gnhóthaí agus is spraoimhar de chuid séasúir an IPF ag an doras againn. Idir seo agus lár an tsamhraidh, níl am ar bith le caitheamh sa ghaoth againn. Ní olc an gearán í sin, áfach! Is deas an rud é go mbeidh mórán againn ag buaileadh arís tar éis dorchadas an gheimhridh.



The first big get together is, of course, this coming weekend in Drogheda, as the titles of "IPF Photographer of The Year" and "IPF Nature Photographer of the year" are once again contested! I am looking forward to catching up with fellow photographers from far and wide, as well as being treated to a wealth of fantastic photography in all genres! It is events like this that make the experience of club photography special. The opportunity to learn, improve, compete, or just have a great time with friends against the backdrop of world class photography is immense and even unequalled. For those of you with a leaning more towards work of an audio-visual nature, Rita Nolan's sequence "A Father's Love" winner of the IPF AV National Championships, 2016 will represent the IPF in the annual "battle" at the Northern Ireland Audio Visual

Festival in Ballyearl this weekend. For those of you who love a road-trip, Drogheda is not a million miles from the border! :-)

This week, I had the pleasure of opening the Malahide camera club exhibition. More details are on that below. It was a fantastic opening to a great club exhibition, and I highly recommend that everybody tries to get along for a look while it is running. Congratulations must go to all involved at MCC for organising such a high standard in presentation, content and in the event overall. Like all club exhibitions, it allowed members to express themselves freely in ways that competitions do not, and that makes events such as this incredibly valuable. Sometimes, the desire to be competitive and to win competitions can take a very strong grip on our creative souls, and can result in very restrictive self-imposed limitations on our self expression. It can lead to our work becoming repetitive and even formulaic, and eventually we realise that we are no longer expressing ourselves, and have become a vehicle of expression of the “Hive Mind”. There are those who manage to avoid this, and can continue to create new, original work that is true to themselves, and spear-head the innovation in the competition circuit, and those individuals truly stand out. On the flip-side, however, there are plenty of others who are content to ride the wave-crest of each and every trend that comes along, mistaking emulation for inspiration. There are even more who reside in the middle, who get trapped by the self-imposed limitations by getting caught up in the “Hive Mind” and shooting around what might win, rather than what expresses the soul. Entering competitions and Salons is a fantastic pursuit, and is vital to pushing our photography to higher levels, and I don’t want to sound like I’m saying otherwise. I can’t wait until the day that I have more personal time to devote to entering more images again. But I do believe that as competitive individuals, we need to find ways to balance the desire to win. To find and embrace outlets that are purely for self-expression, and for nothing else. Where we can share and enjoy images that speak to us at a more primal, less intellectual level. Exhibitions like the Malahide Exhibition and other open club exhibitions are precisely that kind of outlet. They develop a far more “creatively informed” version of the “competitive us”, and I believe, leads to more innovation being given back to the world. None of us is here forever. And as visual artists, we have a responsibility to leave something of ourselves behind. For a great example of just how valuable this is, take a look at “A Photographer Named Finbarr” below.

Beimid ag caint ar ís go luath!

Slán go fóill!

Michael O’Sullivan FIPF FRPS, IPF President

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Venue
IPF Photographer of the Year Finals	February 18th 2017	The D Hotel, Drogheda
IPF Nature Photographer of the Year Finals	February 19th 2017	The D Hotel, Drogheda
IPF Distinction Sitting	March 4th 2017	Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise
IPF Distinction Sitting	May 13th 2017	Mullingar
IPF National Club Championships	May 13th/14th 2017	Mullingar
IPF AGM	May 14th 2017	Mullingar
IPF Distinction Sitting	September 30th 2017	To be confirmed
IPF Distinction Sitting	November 24th 2017	LIT Thurles, Tipperary

What's Inside this Month?

- IPF Photographer of the Year Competition
- IPF Nature Photographer of the Year Competition
- A Photographer Named Finbarr
- IPF Distinctions Service Update
- Focus on Portlaoise
- Spotlight on Graham Cashell
- IPF Council - Bill Power
- FIAP Distinctions Update
- AV Group Update
- Gerry Kerr Exhibition at DCC
- NIPA 50 year celebrations

**IPF Photographer of the Year Competition
2016/2017 - Finals Approaching!**



Dear fellow photographer,

The national finals of the IPF Photographer of the Year Competition 2016/2017 take place on Saturday February 18th at [The D Hotel, Drogheda](#). This year the competition is sponsored by [Birmingham Cameras](#) and we are delighted to announce that they will be onsite throughout the weekend so please make the most of the opportunity to chat with their very knowledgeable staff! They'll have a large selection of camera equipment available to purchase too.. so don't forget to pack the credit card!

Judging will begin at 10am and will be carried out by an international panel of three very experienced judges;

- Gwen Charnock FRPS MFIAP
- Phil Charnock FRPS MFIAP
- Rikki O'Neill MPAGB FIPF Hon SPF

Judging is open to public viewing and the judging sessions is free of charge to attend. We encourage all photographers to attend regardless of their current skill level as it's a great opportunity to not only view the judging process, but also to see some gorgeous images and find out what it takes to win at national level!

All images in the final have qualified from regional qualifying rounds around the country and we wish all photographers the very best of luck.

Schedule:

10.00am: Judging commences - sequence below:

- Colour Print - Open
- Colour Print - Theme

- Monochrome Print - Open
- Monochrome Print - Theme
- Projected Image - Open
- Projected Image - Theme
- Awards ceremony

There will be a break for lunch and other shorter breaks throughout the day as necessary. We expect to be finished by approximately 5pm. Given the nature of judging, it is not possible to provide an exact schedule for the day or fix break times. We appreciate your understanding in this.

Dinner

The following day, Sunday February 19th, the finals of the IPF Nature Photographer of the Year Competition take place. Why not stay for the weekend and join your photography friends for a social dinner at The D Hotel with fellow photographers and judges! [Book and pay now via the website](#) - we close for dinner bookings on February 16th. Dinner costs €25 per person.

B&B Room rates at The D Hotel (041 9877700) are as follows - mention IPF when booking:

€99 per room per night based on two sharing - Friday 17th

€99 per room per night based on two sharing - Saturday 18th

€89 per room per night based on two sharing - Sunday 19th



About our Sponsor - Birmingham Cameras

Birmingham Cameras is an Irish company set up in 1968 by Paddy Birmingham, the original owner. Now the store is owned by Brian Whelan, who has worked in the store since 1968, and they are a family run business. They have a huge range of photographic equipment stock in both new and used equipment, and have been awarded the statuses of:

- Nikon Professional Dealer
- Canon Imaging Partner
- Fuji X-Series Specialist
- Panasonic Lumix Imaging Specialist
- Sony Imaging Specialist

They pride themselves on their technical knowledge and after sales service and welcome photographers of all levels. They run regular training events and talks for their customers and also exhibit at various tradeshows throughout the year. They support camera clubs and the IPF in various different ways including sponsorship and camera club events.

If you are not based close to them, their website carries the full inventory of their stock and they also have a very active social media presence with the latest news and updates from their store.

If there is anything they can help you with, please do not hesitate to call into the store, email, call or contact them whichever way is convenient for you!

Birmingham Cameras- Ireland's no. 1 for your Photographic needs!

Tel: 00-353-1-6772205 Fax: 00-353-1-6719166

berminghamcameras.ie

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twitter.com/berminghamcams



**IPF Nature Photographer of the Year - Finals
Approaching!**

Dear fellow photographer,

The national finals of the IPF Nature Photographer of the Year 2015/2016 take place on Sunday February 19th at [The D Hotel, Drogheda](#). Our sponsors for the Photographer of the Year Competition, [Bermingham Cameras](#), will be with us for the entire weekend with a variety of photography equipment to demonstrate and we encourage you to take the opportunity to talk with them about all your photography needs and have a look at some of those gadgets on your wish list!

Judging will begin at 10am and will be carried out by three nature judges;

- Gwen Charnock FRPS MFIAP
- Mick Durham FRPS
- Phil Charnock FRPS MFIAP

For all the nature photographers out there, the high-scoring and award winning images are a feast for the eyes and watching the judging process is a great learning opportunity for those new to the genre. Please feel free to attend - judging is open to public viewing and is free of charge.

All images in the final have qualified from regional qualifying rounds around the country and we wish all photographers the very best of luck.

Schedule:

10.00am: Judging commences - sequence below:

- Print - Open
- Print - Theme
- Projected Image - Open
- Projected Image - Theme
- Projected Image - The Natural World - Open
- Awards ceremony

There will be a break for lunch and other short breaks throughout the day as necessary. It's not possible to provide exact times given the dynamic nature of these events, so please bear with us throughout the day. We expect to finish around 5pm.

Dinner

The previous day, Saturday February 18th, the finals of the IPF Photographer of the Year Competition take place.

That evening, to cap a great day with your photography friends, join them for a social dinner at The D Hotel with fellow photographers and judges! Book

and pay now [via the form below](#) - we close for dinner bookings on February 16th. Dinner costs €25 per person.

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A Photographer Named Finbarr

Editor's Note: Heartfelt thanks to Finbarr's mother Gráinne and father Declan for their courage sharing this with us. For those in Cork that knew Finbarr Townsend, it's likely that the image that just popped into your head is of a man with a smile as wide as the ocean and a big gentle heart. This is his story.

Every Pain Sufferer Should Have a Hobby

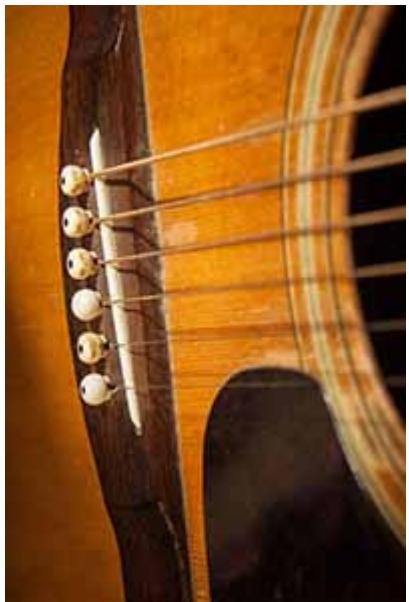
We had hung this photo at the top of the stairs. A Black and White, rather menacing image, of a growling sky, taken through the gnarled and misshapen branches of a sculptured Contorted Hazel. It may not be the best photograph he had taken, but it has a dramatic quality that is immediately eye catching.

Down at ground level we stood back to see how it looked, up in the lofty height at the turn of the stairs. It looked good. It looked mighty good! Inside my head thoughts chuckled. I was remembering the day it was taken. He had wanted to get the tree, but he had also wanted that growling sky. Having tried positions that had his body as contorted as the tree, he had, somehow, managed to lie down on the gravel under the tree, the camera (as inanimate objects always do) objecting to his efforts by always being in the way! But now he had all three, the sky, the misshapen branches of the tree, and the reluctant Camera in his command. It had taken two of us to get him out of there! That was Finbarr, always leaving us with a smile, a chuckle.



© Finbarr Townsend

Finbarr died suddenly on the 27th June, 2013. It is not his ability as a photographer that is the subject here. It is the joy and satisfaction, the outlet for his creative being, the stimulation of the curiosity within his intimidating intellect, that photography brought into his difficult life. That is the amazing story to be told.



Knocked from his bicycle in June 1986, when he was 19 yrs old, he suffered 27 years of Chronic Pain. At the time of the accident he was a very promising Viola player, with his heart set on making a career in music. But that dream was shattered that fateful day. For the next 20 years he fought to be "just a normal guy". Over and over he changed direction, took degrees, diplomas, courses. Always the damage to his back let him down. His young brother wrote an article for Chronic Pain Ireland magazine, and in it he laid out the Roller

Coaster Ups and Downs of Finbarr's life. In one sentence, repeated over and over, Peadar summed up the spirit of Finbarr, his amazing courage - "Give up. Finbarr? NEVER".

It was Peadar too, being the "Kid Brother Buddy". who discovered Fin wanted a really good camera. So into this life, filled with traumas, on his 40th birthday, came his beloved Canon camera.

To begin with he played with the Camera, taking photographs of everything and anything around his house in Dublin, where he worked as an editor with an Online Educational Company. By now he was also under the care of the Chronic Pain Unit in St Vincent's Hospital. The folder of photographs from that time show that he always had the camera with him. Unusual gates, a funny dog, a showy Wisteria, the photos we all take,---- because some things we see are beautiful, funny, and there to be captured.

It was 2009 when any attempt to ease the ever increasing pain, without the crippling medication, went pear shaped. He was exhausted and broken. He came home. It was time to admit he needed care, security and, most of all rest. After a period of much needed rest, the beloved Canon made its appearance again. A few days in Kerry with friends saw some really good images. A trip to Beara, with more friends and again, in the folder of that trip, you can see the confidence returning.

Unable to sleep he had, over a few nights, sat in the dark and mastered the various settings in the camera until he never had to look while taking a shot. It had been like practicing a passage of music until “you had it in your fingers” was his playful comment on “Not using Auto” He was certainly doing that, and doing it with his roguish sense of fun!



It was at this point that I began to see the camera for what it really was to Finbarr. While studying in England he had undergone two back operations. The second was in The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. There they did a most

comprehensive course with patients on how to live with Pain. From this he carried with him many of the practices that had kept him going through the intervening years. One in particular he used almost as a Mantra - simply the word “Distraction”.

Distraction - When things got tough, when pain, or the devastating effect of some of his medications got too hard to bear, you would see him go off with his camera, accompanied by his Golden Dog Jessie - “Jessie The Wonder Dog”. I learned not to ask that silly question Mums usually ask - “Are you OK”! I learned the importance of DISTRACTION.

The shots taken at these times were of everything and anything. He frequently coaxed Dad into helping. So Dad threw a ball for Jessie, Dad threw a frisbee for Jessie, Fin took photos of Jessie! Distraction. Laughter and shouted encouragement of “Yea Jessie”, “Good Dog Jessie” soon punctured the quiet. There are some great shots of Jessie in action, jumping for the frisbee, her body floating effortlessly, her head turned to the frisbee with the lovely grace of her kind. Then there are photos of ‘Just Jessie’ - so many, all different, for she was a handsome dog, and his constant companion.

He had another model, another joy to photograph, and that was his little nephew.....an engaging small boy, who could be a photographic rogue even when all on his own! Fin seemed to catch him in such funny or even serious situations. Again, so many



photographs of this small boy. We were learning, all of us, to not even notice Fin and his camera. He was learning to be discreet and unobtrusive! All these photos of his nephew are not posed, they are the child as he was in that moment. Some he knew were excellent, one in particular - "I'm going to Win a Competition with that photo some day". Distraction.

Then, one land mark night, he took his healing self in to see what the Cork Camera Group was all about. Suddenly - it was all there! There was the inspiration of what others achieved, the Creativity, the Art ,the challenge to try and try again. Most of all, there were the folk who gazed through a camera lens at a world full of beauty, of wonder, of fun, and managed to capture a moment, a face, a cloud. He responded with all he could squeeze from his battered body and spirit.



Among the many courses he had taken while trying to be "Just a normal guy", was a comprehensive course in Multi Media. He loved to show me the magic of Photoshop, Yet he was wary of Photoshop. It was too easy to "over photoshop" he informed me. Yes, confidence was

returning like an incoming tide! He bought his first Lightroom Suite.

Not always being well enough to attend the weekly meetings of the Camera Group - he took advice heard at a talk, or while in discussion with other members. In rolled the books, the magazines, the lenses, the filters. He spent time now on research for these purchases. Then he spent time learning to use them. The DISTRACTION was turning into an Obsession!

Adding a self made, beautifully crafted desk, and a large monitor to his room enabled him to work on a larger scale. There he worked on his photos. He played with his new "toys" when he could.

For me it was a magic time. I would stand behind his shoulder and watch the cursor float across the screen at neck breaking speed. Silently, I watched the change of a tiny detail, the removal of a fault on the object of a photo. We talked so much. I learned the importance of light, its many variations, the difficulties he was having with it. I discovered the meaning of 'The Raw', by comparison to the Jpeg. He deleted so many beautiful photos because they were "Not Sharp". So many photos where "just that bit out of Focus". The perfectionist that had made the promising musician rose in a crescendo and tried again and again.

Came the day he decided to exhibit at the Camera Group's Annual Exhibition of its work. This was indeed progress in the self confidence it demonstrated.

We attended the opening of the exhibition with him. He was downright proud of his two pictures, and rightly so. But it was here, from those he so respected, he received the affirmation, the encouragement to lift his self esteem.



Call it Hobby, call it Distraction, call it Obsession - but reading, study, youTubes kept his mind occupied, helped him to cope with his difficult life, helped to improve his work. There was a period of Table Top photograph trials. This he attempted during a difficult phase in the pain life. It was obvious to me that he was pushing himself, and the whole attempt lost the magic he had hoped to create. He lost interest and moved on.

Looking back, it is impossible to believe that all this adventure with a Camera occurred over a period of a mere three and a half years. That was a time when life fluctuated from the giddy heights of the "Hobby", to periods of pain, depression, and the effects of Zombie-creating Medication. He would struggle for days or weeks, like one lost in a forest of Confusion. Then he would burst into a clearing and the Camera was what dragged him through.



There to help him with the bigger "photo shoots" was his beloved girlfriend. "The Lady S" he called this beautiful, calm, caring girl who lived in London. When she could, she was the guide and assistant as he tried the big panoramas, the buildings, the sculptures. She patiently helped with bags of lens, filters, camera stands. She

brought him to the piers and beaches along beaches in the South of England, to London, Cardiff, Oxford, Kerry, West Cork. We have the many photographs of these shoots. With "Lady S" (always spoken with a gentle, roguish smile) at his side some of these photographs are amazing.

When he hit on the idea of photographing Flowers I find hard to remember. Inspired by a friend in the Camera Group, whose work he so admired, he took his Macro lens out into the garden! The Macro lens and what it could see simply exploded his mind. Suddenly we were surrounded by flowers. He would visit a Garden Centre and land a box of plants on the table. Then with his impish smile, he would leave it to "Mom" to pot them up! After the initial play with "the flower", he discovered that photography could be an Art Form. He produced so many photographs of artistic beauty that he became afraid his computer's memory would not contain them. They were transferred to my computer! He was off on a further adventure!

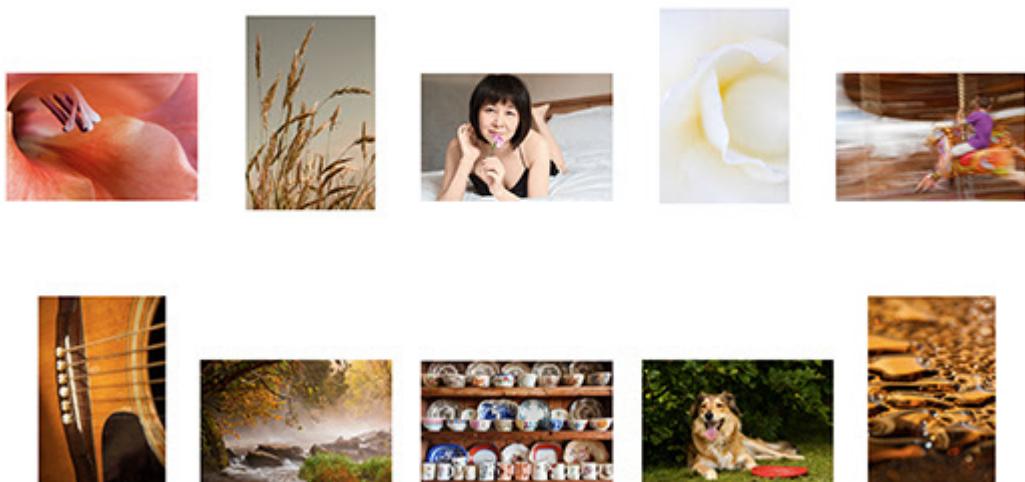


This whole Camera World had the amazing effect of carrying him through those last five years of his life. A life filled with pain, with the crippling effect of medications, with the whole business of how to cope, is a life filled with depression and panic. The Camera, working on his photographs, the wonder of the affirmation of his peers and friends - was uplifting to watch. He wrote in his blog just before he died - "Every one should have a Hobby - and a dog".

So here we were, Finbarr's friends and me, sitting on a wall, in glorious May sun, outside the Arts Centre in Mullingar. Laughing, triumphant and crying. We cried with joy, we cried with relief, we cried because he was not there. How he would have "whooped" had he heard that magic phrase - "Panel Succeeded"! How his whole being would have bubbled with pride, amazement and outrageous fun. How his infectious laughter would have carried us high into that beautiful May sky. How his eyes would have danced.

Finbarr Townsend L.I.P.F.

*Finbarr Townsend
Cork Camera Group*



We hugged this moment to ourselves for some time. It was without doubt a Memorial to his great courage such as would bring that gentle smile to his weary being. It was testament of loving, caring friendship. On the third anniversary of his death I wrote on Facebook :

June 27, 2016

“Thanks to the imagination and support of his friends in Cork Camera Group, Finbarr was posthumously enrolled as a Licentiate of the Irish Photographic Federation on 14 May last. IPF President Michael O’Sullivan explained to the packed auditorium at Mullingar Arts Centre that death had robbed Finbarr of the honour of presenting his panel of photographic images in person - as he had been preparing to do three years earlier. The audience - and indeed, the international panel of jurors - greeted the news with a unanimous, spontaneous Standing Ovation! We all remember how Fin Loved a Standing Ovation!! Declan and I wish we could adequately thank his wonderful friends for their unstinting generosity and help in fulfilling his dream. Today - 3rd Anniversary of his death - seemed a good day to “go public” with what Fin, a camera, and inspiring friends achieved through the muddle of pain and medication that was his last five years. I like to think he is chuckling to himself as I write! Suaimhneas a Stóirín”

Finbarr would urge anyone, whether having difficulties with life, or those who are not, to take a Camera - any camera - and go and see the world through the lens of that Camera. There is joy, satisfaction, creativity, and friends there! I will dare to suggest his oft-expressed enthusiasm on his behalf!

Go for it!”

Editors note: Finbarr is pictured in the centre of this photo. He had just won his very first photography award at Cork Camera Group - the title of Grade 3 Photographer of the Year. About 20 seconds before this, when his name was announced, he fell off his chair such was his delight and shock! How we wish we had a reaction camera in place that day :-) We leave you with this image of Finbarr, now forever smiling.



IPF Distinction Service Update

-- by Bob Morrison, IPF Distinction Secretary



Saturday 4th March - Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise

This session will be for Associate and Licentiate panels only. The session is fully booked and no more applications will be taken.

Applicants should bring their panels to Dunamaise Arts Centre for registration between 9.00am and 9.30am on 4th March. Assessing will begin at 10.00am, starting with Associate panels and then Licentiate panels.

If you are booked to put forward an Associate or Licentiate panel in May, attending the March session is an excellent way of getting a sense of what is required for successful panels.

Saturday 13th May - Mullingar Arts Centre

As for the past several years this will take place in conjunction with the IPF National Club Championships, which will be held next door to the Arts Centre in County Buildings' excellent

Atrium. Once again, the session is booked out for all applications, Fellowship, Associate and Licentiate applications. More details of the schedule closer to the date.

Saturday 30th September - Venue to be confirmed

The third sitting in 2017 will take place on Saturday 30th of September. We will confirm the venue closer to the date. This session will cater for all levels and we are currently open for applications. Limited availability remaining for Associateships and Fellowships at this sitting.

Saturday 25th November - LIT Thurles

The final sitting of 2017 is scheduled for Saturday 25th of November at LIT Thurles, Co.Tipperary. This session will cater for all levels. We are open for applications for Fellowships (with limited availability) and for Licentiatechip. There is no availability remaining at Associateship level at this sitting.

Annual Fees

For those who have already successfully gained an IPF Distinction, did you know that payment is due on an annual basis in order to allow you to use your distinction letters i.e. LIPF, AIPF, FIPF? Without making this annual payment, which is due on the 1st of January each year, you do not have permission to use them. Your annual fee helps the Irish Photographic Federation to continue to expand and to provide a great service for photographers to learn, grow, compete and enjoy socialising with other photographers at events throughout the year. Due to an investment in technology, from 2017 onwards, automated reminder emails will be sent at the start of each year. Please note, regardless of when you pay your renewal fee, our year runs from Jan 1st to December 31st. Those who gained their distinction at the November 2016 sitting are exempt from the 2017 fee.

Courtesy

Information on future assessment dates will be published in the months IPF newsletter and posted on our website. While we are very happy to deal with your queries, please bear in mind that we are volunteers, and ask that you respect the time we give by first checking for the information you need on our website.

Waiting Lists

The team of assessors engaged for any session is planned well in advance based on the subjects to be presented in Fellowship, Associateship and in many cases Licentiatechip applications. Given this, and the added administrative burden to maintain a waiting list, please be advised that there are no waiting lists, no standby lists etc.

Deferrals

Applicants must proceed with the assessment date they applied for and changes of date are no longer allowed. If an applicant does not fulfil the date applied for, the application is regarded as cancelled and the application fee will not be refunded.

All of this means that prospective applicants should give careful consideration to whether or not their panels are at least substantially ready before applying for assessment. If in doubt seek advice from others, particularly those who have been successful in getting distinctions. Better still, go to a distinctions advisory day when one is organised by your Region.

Focusing on: Portlaoise Camera Club



Q: When was Portlaoise Camera Club founded?

A: February 2011

Q: How many members do you have?

A: Thirty on the books, 20 active members.

Q: When and where do you meet?

A: We meet every Wednesday 8-10 in Portlaoise Parish Centre.

Q: Any notable events?

A: We ran a series of three exhibitions "Laois Through the Lens" and we have 100 environmental portraiture that we aim to publish as a single collection.

Q: When was the club started and by whom?

A: Our founding members are John Dunne, Carl Cutland, Ciara Drennan, Fintan Kennedy and Ger Ryan back in February 2011.

Q: Any significant achievements or milestones recently?

A: We finished 5th in the National Shield with Evita Eiskne winning a bronze medal for her photo "Daddy's Boy".

Q: To what do you attribute your success?

A: We are a small club with an active committee. There is a lot of variety of photography interests within the club and we are willing to share our knowledge.

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

A: We had three inspiring speakers in the last 12 months: Des Clinton, John Hooton and our neighbours Athlone Photography Club came and they all inspired us in different ways. Following Athlone's talk we arranged an outing in Kerdifftown House with models and MUAs, and had a wonderful day of shooting in a lovely setting in Co. Kildare. Following John Hooton's talk we visited St Margaret's Bay, Co Wexford for a sunrise shoot, getting up at 3am, driving for 2 hours, nearly tripping over a seal on the beach, tea from the flask and an Irish breakfast on the way home, along with some great shots, made for a very memorable trip.

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

A: The Slieve Bloom mountain range is on our doorsteps, so the Catholes and Glenbarrow are in that direction. Emo Court, Heywood Gardens and Durrow Castle are all worth a trip. Not a well-kept secret, but the Rock of Dunamaise is also nearby.

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

A: The club is really a group of friends sharing the same interest, and we enjoy meeting up and having a cuppa and discussing what worked and what didn't, and how to get that shot.

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

A: It feels like the IPF only relate to members on a competitive level and that may be there should be another link. Outings/talks similar to the Nature Group.

In the Spotlight: Graham Cashell

Just as we go to print, news came through that Graham has been awarded the coveted FIAP Blue Badge as the Overall Best Author in the 3rd Creative International Salon in India. Graham had all eight of his prints accepted and six out of eight of his digital photos. He also won six awards and two cash prizes for the best series of photos in two sections!





Q: When did you take up photography?

A: I suppose you could call transition year in school, 1997, as when my interest in photography got a chance to develop (pun intended!) It was just at the end of the film days and I was one of

a small team involved in capturing photos for the school annual. I had use of my dad's camera, which was a Canon film camera. To be honest though, there wasn't much to my photography. I just liked taking photos and seemed to have an eye for it. I usually saw something nice, but thought, if I hop this wall and get down lower, imagine the shot I might get! While transition year was my first foray into photography, I remained a point and shoot camera person, with simple editing done in Picassa from around then until my 30th birthday. This was 2011, I got a DSLR and also got involved with a camera club. This was when I feel my real photography journey begun.

Q: What persuaded you to take up photography?

A: I put this down totally to my dad. He was always interested in photography, but on a personal capacity. He never got involved with clubs, or editing, just loved taking photos, at every family and school event, and got some really super captures over the years.

Q: Which club are you a member of?

A: I'm a member of Greystones Camera Club, in Wicklow. A little story about how this came out. In 2011, I was part of a discussion on Boards.ie, with 4 or 5 others from the area, out of which a common interest group was setup. We met in a pub, can't complain about that, and nearly everyone arrived with another person who was interested in joining. Then the next week there'd be more plus ones. So, then we moved to a bigger pub!..an Irish answer to an Irish problem! And, then again, lots more people arrived. Before three months had passed, we had outgrown the pub, could no longer be just a common interest group, and a month later, we had Greystones Camera Club. After all the work in getting it to that point, I really had to join, didn't I?!



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

A: I obtained my Licentiate of the IPF in September 2014. Prior to that, in December 2013 I started the salon route towards the FIAP distinctions. I was awarded the Artiste FIAP in May 2015 and I have just recently got all the requirements for the Excellence FIAP and will, all going well, be awarded it this coming May.

I have also been lucky enough to win numerous awards over the past few years. In 2014 I won my first photographic medal. It was a gold medal for winning the monochrome section in the 77th An Oige Open Competition. The following year, I once again won the monochrome section in the 78th exhibition, but went one step further in also winning the overall best entry, and being awarded an IPF Gold Medal. A day that is etched in my memory!



On the international circuit, while chasing my AFIAP, I won two awards, a salon medal and a FIAP Honorable mention. However, after taking an enforced break from shooting and salons in mid-2015, when I started back again in May 2016, my new style, portrait and fine-art nude won a huge haul of awards. In the past seven months, I have won almost 60 awards with 14 different photos. These included six FIAP gold medals from six different photos, a number of PSA golds, and the national medals of Germany, Spain, Argentina, India and Serbia. I also had a catalogue cover in the 14th Salon International d'Art Photographe de Pessac, Bordeaux.

I have also had photos selected to represent Ireland in international events. "Under the Blood Red Sky" and, most recently in the Celtic Challenge which Ireland won, "Dark Fredau".



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

A: My most successful image is "Fredau's Look". This was taken on what was my first proper shoot since deciding to explore the portrait and fine-art nude genre. It was taken in an old mill in Belfast, a location that will be familiar to many a photographer! It was a really creative shoot, with great collaboration between model, make-up artist and photographer. From that day, I've had six awarded photos.

Q: Your own favourite image?

A: My favourite image is "The Dive Board", which won me the IPF Gold Medal at the An Oige Exhibition. This was taken while I was thinking towards the IPF POTY theme of monochrome seascapes. I have loved mono portraits and I put

it down to the love for mono I got from shooting mono seascapes, something that was not what I was used to!

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

A: For a number of years, land and seascapes were my go-to genres. While I dabbled in nature, macro and a bit of architecture, I loved all the land and sea.



This all changed in April 2016 when I decided to go down a new route after an enforced break and needed my next challenge. I looked into a few genres but went with portrait and fine-art nude. While some of my work is in studios, mainly it is about mixing landscapes or locations with a model. Both my passions come together. As a photographer friend said, once I try it out, I won't look back. I can certainly attest to that!



Q: First camera? First DSLR?

A: My first DSLR was a present from my wife for my 30th birthday, in 2011. It was a Canon 40D, with the Canon 15-85mm IS lens. While I upgraded to the Canon 7D in 2014, the 15-85 is still my go to lens. An $\ddot{\epsilon}L$ lens for the crop sensor as it is often described.

Q: Canon or Nikon or Fuji or Sony ?

A: Canon - simply because it's all I have ever used. So, no, you won't get me dragged into the "Canon, better than all other cameras debate" even if it might well be!

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

A: Yes, definitely. It is a super learning ground and a place to find people to go shoot with. Many a member of GCC have gone on to sit distinctions, something that would never have happened had they not been immersed in the club environment and driven by seeing what others have done. Not all happens within the club though. I have made fabulous friends from other clubs by doing talks and judging competitions, all which would never have happened if I didn't join the club.

Q: What is your photographic dream?

A: My dreams have constantly changed as I reached levels I really didn't think were possible. Without picking short term dreams, I would love to continue producing new photos that get awarded on the domestic and international scene. If distinctions come out of these shots, even better.

On a more general level, I want to give as much knowledge as I can back to others. Be that through judging and giving feedback on photos, through to workshops and talks. I love giving time to those that want to learn and I hope I can continue to do this more and more.

You can view more of Graham's work over on his website: www.grahamcashell.com

Who's Who on IPF Council

This month we say hello to Bill Power. Bill is our current international competitions co-ordinator who along with his team of selectors has the very challenging job of creating panels of images to represent the IPF in international competition and sorting out the entries!



"When I became chairman of the Southern Association of Camera Clubs about four years ago, I also became the region's ex-officio representative on the IPF Council. In May 2015, four months after my retirement from the SACC, I was elected to Council. Last year, I was asked to take on the role of IPF international competitions co-ordinator from Denis Whelehan, who had been very successful in that position for many years. Last year, Ireland came second in the Black and White World Cup Biennial and won the Celtic Challenge (the latter being co-ordinated by Denis).

My photography passions evolved from my life-long interest in history and heritage. I regarded my camera as a tool to record places and people of interest and most of my work before joining a camera club in 2010 was for that purpose. I never envisaged in 2010 that I would become interested in the competitive side of photography, but I'm glad that I did because it has been pivotal to how my photography has evolved. My Associateship (2012) and Fellowship (2014) panels were nature subjects. If I had to put panels of my work together today they would be in completely different genres.

So, what's my kind of photography? The answer is 'everything that pleases my eye'. I think what baffles many is that I work in several genres including nature, portraiture, artistic nude and creative digital. I can't fathom what I call 'one trick photography' (shooting only one genre) because that easily leads to complacency and unoriginality. I want and like to be challenged. I'll try anything. I love Photoshop and Nik Efex. People have told me I'm creative but I don't think that I am. I strive to be different because it's easy to be ordinary.

My experience in international competitions has brought me to the role of international co-ordinator. Since taking on that position, I've made several changes to how images can be selected

and this will stand to us in future years. The selectors (Des Clinton, Paul Stanley, Michael O'Sullivan and myself) have over a century of experience between us. Our next gathering will be for the purpose of selecting images for the FIAP international colour biennials being held in Norway in March."

Malahide Camera Club Exhibition



John Hooton Workshops This Spring in Dingle

SPRING WORKSHOPS

On the stunning Dingle Peninsula

Join John and Noreen Hooton this spring at their base in Ballyferriter for a weekend of photography and hospitality. Experience John's intimate knowledge of the peninsula and Noreen's warm welcome and acclaimed home baking!

The Dingle Peninsula is not merely a place to visit. It is a place to experience!!

March 10th - 12th - 4 Places available
March 24th - 26th - 3 Places available
March 31st - April 2nd - Fully Booked
April 7th - 9th - Fully Booked
April 21st - 23rd - Places available
May 5th - 7th - Places Available

Contact John for more details
E: johnhooton@eircom.net
www.john-hooton.com
Facebook - PM

FIAP Distinctions Update

Applications for AFIAP, EFIAP and the EFIAP levels distinctions are now being accepted - with a closing date of 28th February 2017.

Application and payment are to be made via the [IPF website](#) - however applicants for these distinctions should also contact Paul Stanley to ensure that they have the most up to date information.



Gerry Kerr - Fellowship Exhibition at Eddie Chandler Gallery



The journey to this fellowship panel starts 30 years ago and completely unrelated to photography. On the birth of our first child, my wife and I began

sponsoring children via the Action Aid charity and have been doing so ever since. Our current sponsored child lives in the village of Dharamanger on the Nepal-India border. This is an area of Nepal that has suffered the ravages of war over the centuries and is economically extremely deprived up to this day.

Our plan was to stay with the family in the village and that's exactly what we did! Over the course of 3 days, we were granted a unique opportunity to meet with our sponsor child, his family and wider friends and community. To say that we were made welcome is an understatement and I was given unique access to document the people of the village. The village of Dharamnager is 170km from Kathmandu but decades behind. Dark nights with no electricity or running water, harsh sunlight, mud & brick huts in dark shadow, extreme heat and extreme humidity made the conditions challenging. To immerse ourselves in the life of the village, we stayed with a family in very simple accommodation. The warmth and generosity was extraordinary and for a lot of the people, we were the first westerner they had ever seen.

www.idonate.ie/NepalActionAid

The exhibition is on in the Eddie Chandler Gallery in association with Dublin Camera Club, Camden St, Dublin. It runs until 11th March and is open on Saturdays from 11am to 5pm.



Audio Visual News - February, 2017 by Lilian Webb

The IPF AV National Championships together with an International AV competition will be held on Saturday & Sunday, 21st & 22nd October, 2017. Aras Chronain, Clondalkin has once again been provisionally booked. The judges who have confirmed that they will judge are Richard Brown & Andrew Gagg - both Fellows of the Royal Photographic Society.

On Saturday, 22nd April in the Oakwood Hotel, Shannon, there will be a showing of the top sequences presently being judged in an international AV showdown. Brendan O'Sullivan, Alan Lyons and Lilian Webb judged the IPF leg. The participating groups are the IPF, Staffordshire AV Group, Tauranga Photographic Society, New Zealand, NIPA, de-AV-Group Westland - the Netherlands, AV Makers, South Africa, Melbourne Camera Club AV Group and the AV Club of South Australia. There are 5 sequences representing each group.

In conjunction with the showdown, it is hoped to have a workshop by Richard Brown, FRPS - details to be confirmed. Put the date in your diaries now - and further details next month.

NIPA Celebrating 50 Years!

The Northern Ireland Photographic Association was established in 1967. To mark our 50th year, we are planning a weekend of activities to celebrate all aspects of photography.

On the weekend of 20th and 21st May, we have organised a number of talks, competitions and events to bring together all those who love photography.

The 'NIPA 50th Weekend' will take place in the Marine Court Hotel in Bangor, and we would be delighted if you could join us.

Saturday will feature:

'NIPA Print Archive' (100 prints showing how photography has changed in 50 years)

Pete Cairns - 'Through the Lens / Behind the Lens' (Landscape, Nature and Wildlife Photography)

Gabriel O'Shaughnessy MFIAP, FIPF, FRPS, EFIAP/b - 'Before & After' (The wonders of club photography)

Rod Wheelans AMPA FIPF FRPS MFIAP MPAGB / Anne Greiner MPAGB - 'Holiday Snaps' (Escape in travel photography)

Dinner and Presentation of 'NIPA Service Awards'

Sunday will feature:

NIPA Top Print and PDI Competition

Group Outing to Mount Stewart

OR

Advisory Workshop for PAGB Distinctions (Critique of images for potential C or D applicants)

Further information on our main speaker, Pete Cairns, can be found on the attached poster. Tickets are available through EventBrite (search for 'NIPA').

Darren Brown

NIPA Secretary

BEHIND THE LENS / BEYOND THE LENS

PETE CAIRNS



Peter Cairns is a nature and conservation photographer based in the Scottish Highlands with almost 20 years professional experience under his belt.

Co-founder of multimedia projects such as *Tooth & Claw*, *Wild Wonders of Europe* and *2020VISION*,

Peter has travelled extensively but now focuses on his homecountry in his new venture, *SCOTLAND: The Big Picture*.

In *Behind The Lens. Beyond The Lens*, Peter tells us about his changing photographic style but more significantly, the philosophy behind what he does and why.

Against a backdrop of stunning imagery this presentation is bound to inform and inspire in equal measure.



NIPA 50th Weekend

Celebrating 50 years of the
NI Photographic Association

Saturday:

Anne Cassidy - 'NIPA Archive'

- 100 Prints Showing How Photography Has Changed in 50 Years

Pete Cairns - 'Through the Lens Behind the Lens'

- Landscape, Nature and Wildlife

Gabriel O'Shaughnessy - 'Before & After'

- The Wonders of Club Photography

Rod Wheelans / Anne Greiner - 'Holiday Snaps'

- Escape into Travel Photography

Dinner and Presentation of Service Awards

Sunday:

NIPA Top Print and PDI Competition

Group outing to Mount Stewart

or

Advisory Session for PAGB Distinctions

Critique of Images for Potential C or D Applicants

DATES : Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st May

VENUE : Marine Court Hotel, Bangor

TICKETS : nipa50.eventbrite.co.uk

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

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