



THE BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 2021

EDITORIAL

At this time of the year it can sometimes be challenging to fill the Bulletin as many clubs have a break in their meetings during the summer months.

This year is different with clubs thinking about how and when they start physically meeting again. This edition contains articles which include one club's plans for starting Hybrid meetings, some advice on using social media to market your club and attract potential new members and an article on a new insurance package for photographic clubs from Zurich.

This Bulletin also contains a report following the long-awaited adjudication of print submissions for PAGB distinctions and I'm pleased to say we also have a selection of images from some of the successful applications.

Finally we have a profile of Thurrock CC as it celebrates its centenary later this year.

Enjoy the Bulletin.

Nick Akers ARPS BPE3*

Cover photograph: 'F-35 Making Vapour' by Mick Mansfield CPAGB BPE1 of Bury St. Edmunds PS. This is one of Mick's recent successful CPAGB print submission. See more images from this adjudication on page 16.*

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THE PRESIDENT

It's September and the start of a new season. Clubs are taking steps towards more normal ways of working, but carefully, with some waiting until the new year for physical meetings and others starting with hybrid meetings. But in the main, it depends on what the club members want to do. The EAF has made a start with a late but successful Exhibition at Wingfield Barns, so thanks to Naomi Saul who put it together. It was also an opportunity for me to present some APM awards in person, so congratulations to those who made it. It's not all easy, though, and has taken quite a bit of thought. Clearly those starting normal meetings have taken care about social distancing and the worries members may have. Due to the uncertainty, many have

planned meetings that can be either physical or on-line and some are taking a 'hybrid' approach. This has needed some organising and there are different ways of doing it. Also, some are wary in case permanent Zooming becomes just too easy, reducing the number of members attending meetings, especially during the winter. However, it offers a way of keeping on board members who are still unsure about large gatherings as we transition back to normal. If you still need some ideas on this it might be worth looking at one club's approach - see page 5.

This is also a time of year when clubs think about membership numbers. There is often a turnover during the summer as some of last season's members don't return and efforts are made to recruit new members. This year may be worse than usual so more effort may be needed on the recruitment front. There are all the usual methods to attract people, of course, like exhibitions, local press articles and adverts, running local competitions and spreading copies of your programme around. More recently there is social media where posts can be made on local groups to raise the club's profile or a more concerted effort to recruit can be made if you are prepared to spend a bit of money. Some pointers on advertising on social media are given in an article by Simon Jenkins on page 11.

Things will probably never be quite

the same again but hopefully we can take advantage of the useful things to have come out of the last year and a half.

Colin Birch LRPS DPAGB BPE3*

GENERAL SECRETARY

The EAF Club Directory 2021-22 has been printed and should be with Club Secretaries soon after this edition of the Bulletin is published. This document contains contact details for all clubs in our Federation together with information about their meeting times and the address of their meeting venue. The new publication is as up-to-date as possible but the Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in some problems. A few clubs are finding their venues may not be available as they try to re-start and their entry in the new Club Directory reflects this. If you are looking for venue details for one of these clubs the latest information should be available on their website which can be found on the EAF Website member clubs' page. I am pleased to report that the majority of our member clubs seem to have weathered the storm by embracing new technologies and are looking to returning to 'normal' meetings and activities.

Sue Dobson CPAGB APAGB

TREASURER

The last month has seen the first real activity on the EAF bank account for over a year, with the Special Exhibition costs, although there have been a few administration costs for postage and stationery too.

I am hopeful that by the year-end I will be able to combine the Income and Expenditure accounts for 2020 and 2021 and have some meaningful figures for Budget comparisons with the 2019 year-end.

At the AGM the following Subscription for 2022 was approved and hopefully by then some form of normality will have returned and we will be able to resume our usual activities once again:-

“That as from the 1st January 2022 the subscription for each club within the EAF shall be a basic rate of £10 per club and £1.70 per member plus the club subscription to be levied by the PAGB for the year 2022. The minimum overall subscription per club shall be £50.”

The PAGB Subscription for 2022 approved at their AGM in April this year was £32.00 – a reduction from that approved in 2019, that recognises Trustee Indemnity Insurance cover is no longer included. (See my previous reports).

The Annual Subscription renewal paperwork for 2022 will be sent to all Club Secretaries for onward delivery to Club Treasurers during November.

It remains to be seen whether club member numbers remain similar to those quoted by each Club on the 1st January 2020 Subscription payment forms. As reported previously, Club Membership numbers had already reduced significantly over the past 5 years (prior to the effects of the pandemic) and as the major part of our Subscription income is linked to Club Membership numbers, it remains impossible to realistically budget our income for next year. However, we have healthy reserves to ensure our usual expenditure is covered should losses result, which as you know I predict every year anyway and then hope to be proved wrong!

By the 2022 AGM I should know the Income received from Subscription renewal as it is due on 1st January and will then hopefully be able to assess whether the Subscription needs to be increased to cover Budgeted Income and Expenditure in 2023. I keep a tight rein on expenditure though, so hopefully I will still be able to keep any necessary increases to an absolute minimum, for ‘healthy finances’!

Naomi Saul ARPS EFIAP ASINWP
DPAGB APAGB BPE4*

HYBRID MEETINGS

An article from Chelmsford CC

From the start of the 2021/22 season Chelmsford CC plans to make Hybrid meetings available to our members. This will enable the more confident members to gather together at our meeting room, while others, who may not yet be ready to attend in person, can join in via Zoom. The approach detailed below has been tested out at our venue and may be refined as we get feedback from live meetings. We will review the need for this over the season with a view to phasing it out when it is no longer required.

Basic Requirements

Starting this season we have a new meeting location which has excellent Wi-Fi coverage.

In order to capture the evening's proceedings to make them available to remote members over Zoom we have purchased from Amazon (other suppliers are available) an external webcam and an external microphone (this particular webcam has no microphone).

The webcam has manual focus, manual zoom (5mm to 50mm) and manual aperture, a solid metal construction and is easy to use:

ELP Zoom Webcam 1080P.

The external microphone can be positioned for optimum effect separately from the webcam:

USB Computer Microphone, SUDO-TACK PC Condenser Mic with Mic Gain.

The club has a mobile sound system so the microphone will pick up the commentary mainly from this. All of the following scenarios require the use of the external microphone as it will pick up the sound much better than a laptop microphone due to better quality and the ability to place it in the best position. The use of any laptop microphones with Zoom in the room should be avoided otherwise feedback will result.

For each meeting we will send out a Zoom invite as we have been doing. The webcam and external microphone will both be connected into a dedicated master Zoom laptop which will host the Zoom meeting and control Zoom connections. This avoids late Zoom connection requests popping up on the PDI projection laptop and distracting the projectionist.

PDI Competitions

The club uses Film Free Projection (FFP) for PDI competitions and we will use this in the meeting room exactly as we have been during lockdown when the projectionist was at home. The projectionist will simply share the FFP projected screen over Zoom with the external microphone connected to the master Zoom laptop to pick up the meeting sound and the webcam will show the meeting room for when there are no shared-screen images.

Print Competitions

For print competitions we currently require members to upload a PDI of their print. We have a randomising procedure which adds the random number to the beginning of the uploaded PDI file name and this random number will be put on the back of the print.

The prints will be put on the display stand in number sequence and a club member on a laptop (having shared their screen) will simply double click each PDI and using Windows Image Viewer members at home will see the image. The external microphone will pick up the meeting sound and the webcam will show the meeting room for when there are no shared-screen images.

Panel Competitions

Chelmsford have competitions for a Panel of 3 and a Panel of 6. We will use the external webcam on a tripod pointed at the display panel and connected to the master Zoom laptop.

Speakers

During the coming season we have 4 speaker presentations planned to be via Zoom. For these we will enable home users to connect via Zoom as normal, but in our meeting room we will project the speaker's shared screen. The webcam and external microphone will be connected for when the speaker is not sharing their screen.

Speakers presenting in person from a laptop: - Ask if they will connect to Zoom to share their screen. If not use the external webcam on the master Zoom laptop pointed at the projection screen plus the external microphone. These will be required to be active for when the speaker's screen is not being shared to capture the non-presentation parts of the meeting.

Speakers presenting in person with Prints:- Use the external webcam and microphone as for panel competitions.

Andrew Pickess CPAGB/AV
Chelmsford CC

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24th October 2021

EAF Judges Workshop

13th February 2022

EAF AGM and PDI Championship

13th March 2022

EAF Print Championship

30th April - 15th May 2022

EAF Annual Exhibition
(please check opening times)

4th September 2022

PAGB Distinctions Advisory Day

EXHIBITION SECRETARY

As I pen this article our Special Exhibition of work that scored over 12 in the 2020 EAF Championships is still open at Wingfield Barns but will be closed by the time you read this issue of the 'Bulletin'. As it was well advertised in the previous two issues of the 'Bulletin', on our Website Home page, our Facebook page and also by direct email to all Club Secretaries, I hope that you will have taken the opportunity to visit Wingfield Barns and enjoy the chance to look at the excellent and high standard of work on show and especially to appreciate the real beauty of superb prints once again.

Now, turning to our 2022 Exhibition in the hope that we will be able to hold this as normal once again. I am able to confirm our booking at Wingfield Barns – with the opening date being 30th April (official opening time 14.00 hours by our then President Vic Hainsworth - I hope), closing midday on 15th May. Opening times 11.00 to 16.00 hours Wednesday to Sunday – except for the final day, when we will close as usual at 13.00 hours. The Galleries will as usual be open over the weekends and will also include the May Bank Holiday Monday.

So once again - please make a note of the dates in your diaries, then make

a day of it. Come along to see our superb Exhibition and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the surrounding countryside as well. Incidentally just a reminder - there is also a good sized car park adjoining the venue which is free! We are asked to use this at all times but drivers with Blue Badges can park within the Barn complex by prior arrangement. The café will probably be open early for light refreshments on the opening day and there will be a 'self-service' (and donations gratefully accepted!) facility available in the Gallery constantly whilst the Exhibition is open, unless the Barns' café is open full time as it has been this year. The 'Good, the Bad and the Hungry' café and De La Pole Arms both in the village of Wingfield, also provide close places for food and drink midday and of course other suitable refreshments!

I am planning to send out the 2022 Exhibition entry packs in mid November again this year with the Annual Subscription paperwork. Lots of pages (about 9 A4 sheets actually) that takes me a very long time to 'stuff' in envelopes for each Club, but gets it out of the way all at the same time and for the cost of just one standard stamp – added to which we receive some help with postage costs by the inclusion of a publicity leaflets too and only once a year fortunately!

Once again I will not include entry forms – they will be available, to download and complete from the EAF Website. A very high majority of forms were completed by computer in 2019, which makes for much easier reading especially for the catalogue producers, despite the typo errors which they correct where possible!

With Easter being late again next year, judging will take place as usual over the last weekend in March – our booked Judges being those booked for our 2020 cancelled Exhibition, namely Dave Coates ARPS MPAGB Hon. PAGB EFIAP/p, Christine Widdall MPAGB EFIAP FBPE and David Gibbins ARPS APAGB EFIAP/b BPE5*.

Now – I realise this is a very early call but as usual - my big PLEA - if anyone relatively local feels they can and would like to spare some time to be a steward for a day or even a few hours on any Wednesday, Thursday or especially Friday during the two weeks of the Exhibition – PLEASE CONTACT ME as early as you possibly can as that takes the pressure off me in due course.

PAGB - 2021 INTER - FEDERATION INTERIM PROJECTED IMAGE COMPETITION

Club Members work was selected from the EAF PDI Championships 2020, for our Federation's entry in the PAGB 2021 Inter Federation

Interim PDI Open and Nature Competitions. The results are shown below. As usual both sections were judged on the same day in June and Federation Committee Members and those Club Members whose work was selected for entry, were invited to join the zoom presentation on the day. The Acceptance mark in each Section was 13 and over.

I am delighted to congratulate Andy Gutteridge who achieved a Highly Commended award of a PAGB Ribbon for his Open PDI - 'Gymnast Focused on Beam' and Simon Jenkins who also achieved a Highly Commended award of a PAGB Ribbon for his Open PDI - '1940's Children'.

Our Federation ranking in each section (out of a total of 15 Federations) was as follows:

Open PDI	- 3rd equal
Nature PDI	- 9th

This last result was due to the PAGB rejecting one image and scoring it NIL. We challenged the PAGB about this at the time and requested a reason but to date we still await a response.

The 2021 PAGB Inter Federation PDI Competition will be available on DVD and when prepared, can be downloaded for a small fee from the PAGB Recorded Lecture Service via the PAGB Website. It will make excellent viewing on a Club evening, once meetings can resume once again.

FINALLY, having been deeply involved with the EAF Exhibition for over 20 years, I have decided that the time has come for me to take time to enjoy my own photography once again and also get chance to edit some of the many images that I have taken during that time (there are in excess of 50,000 of them not yet looked at – so I will never be short of something to do!)

So, the 2022 Exhibition will be my last which means that the EAF is now looking for a new Exhibition Secretary - or even better, Joint Exhibition Secretaries, that can have chance of a lead-in during 2022, ready to take over the role of Exhibition Secretary officially from the AGM in February 2023.

As a guide the Exhibition Secretary's role includes:

- Arrange venue and organise the Federation Annual Exhibition;
- Liaise with the Exhibition sub-committee;
- When approved by the Executive, book a venue for the Judging and the PAGB Judges from outside the Region to cover a 2 day period – namely Saturday afternoon for PDI Judging, Sunday for Print Judging;
- Arrange duties for Judging day;
- Advise entrants results;
- Set up the Exhibition;
- Dismantle the Exhibition and arrange return of prints via Collectors;

- Produce detailed sub-committee Minutes / Notes for the full Executive Committee;
- Provide Reports for Committee meetings;
- Deal with the PAGB Inter-federation Exhibition/Competition entries etc;
- Prepare and advertise the portfolio disc of Exhibition acceptances with commentary and music as appropriate, for hire by Clubs.

If you feel this role is one you would really enjoy, then I have a very detailed schedule of work guidelines with suggested diary dates etc, that I will be very happy to email to all those keen applicants who phone me (01462 711772 with answer-phone facility) to discuss more fully what is involved.

Naomi Saul ARPS EFIAP ASINWP
DPAGB APAGB BPE4*

CLUB CONTACT CHANGES

New venue address for Biggleswade & DCC:

The Sullivan Room, Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, Beds. SG18 8JH

CLUB INSURANCES

As you will already know, I spent a lot of time investigating the PAGB Trustee Indemnity cover very thoroughly during the early months of 2020. I reported the findings in depth to all our Clubs for their guidance at the 2020 EAF Annual General Meeting followed by a report in writing via the Bulletin as well as direct to Club Secretaries.

Since then I have been working very closely with Zurich, who specialise in cover for “not-for-profit” organisations and after a number of months working behind the scenes they have put together an excellent package suitable for Organisations with an

income of less than £300,000 per year, which of course suits the majority, if not all Clubs and our Federation too. Unfortunately this package was not legally released until 1st February 2021 so just too late for us to give the information to you all for the current year cover, but I am pleased to say that because I had been working with Zurich, the EAF were the very first Policy Holders, with our cover set up and effective on 1st February. Ahead of the Annual EAF Subscriptions renewal for 1st January 2022, I am therefore delighted to let you know the full details of this Policy by Zurich:-

ONLINE PACKAGE, specifically for ‘not-for-profit’ groups (please see publicity advert for details). Designed

zurich.co.uk/charity'. The Zurich logo is in the bottom left corner, and a stylized blue and white circular graphic is in the bottom right corner." data-bbox="79 502 908 896"/>

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We provide specialist insurance for not-for-profit clubs or societies. Our online package starts from £96 a year, and includes cover for the following:

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for not-for-profit clubs and societies with an income under £300,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO GET A QUOTE, VISIT <http://www.zurich.co.uk/charity>.

As a Federation we still require ALL Clubs/Societies to hold Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of £5,000,000 as a condition of Membership.

However, I am taking this opportunity to remind you that All Clubs/Societies are at liberty to select their insurance provider. It is not compulsory for cover to be taken via the PAGB arranged Scheme although to be eligible for cover under the PAGB Insurance Schemes it is ESSENTIAL for you to have Federation Membership as well.

There are some very useful Guidance booklets that explain and simplify all forms of Club and Society Insurance produced for general use by Zurich Insurance, that are very well worth reading. Copies are available for you to download from the EAF Website (download page).

AS WITH ALL INSURANCE COVER, IT IS ADVISABLE AND IMPORTANT THAT YOU NOT ONLY UNDERSTAND THE COVER YOU ARE TAKING OUT BUT THAT YOU ALSO OBTAIN QUOTES FROM MORE THAN ONE INSURER, SO YOU CAN COMPARE COSTS.

Naomi Saul ARPS EFIAP ASINWP
DPAGB APAGB BPE4*

MARKETING YOUR CLUB

Here are some suggestions for social media campaigning or promotions for camera clubs. They are all quite effective, but like a lot of things, they can require a significant amount of time and effort to maintain and promote. At least for Facebook, you may need to budget some money to put towards paid-for campaigns. To be successful, you really require your members to be liking, sharing, or otherwise doing their bit and some clubs may have more engaging members than others. Unless your club is in a big well-known city, I would say that none of them is a magic bullet that will suddenly draw in masses, but they are good as part of a more traditional local campaign in e.g. a library, newspaper, supermarket etc.

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/accounts/signup>

Instagram is free and is generally a more visual social media community than e.g. Facebook which is all forms of written and pictorial media. By using hashtags that people follow (e.g. #photo, #xxxcameraclub, #greyheron, #busheypark), then your images and posts can potentially reach a lot of people. Essentially you need to post images quite often, use as many appropriate hashtags as possible and get people 'following' you.

The positives are that it is free, it is

extremely popular and because it is generally photo or video focussed, followers are more likely to look through a longer trail of posts compared to e.g. Facebook. It is good for recommending people to your page or images based on algorithms that determine images they may like. By tagging others and getting them to like your image could increase the visibility further into their own friend communities.

The negatives are that it only works on smart phones and although you can view Instagram on your PC in a web browser, you can only upload or post via a phone. You therefore need a process to move images from a PC to a phone, though one method is to just take screenshots from Facebook if you have uploaded them there first, or from a shared storage like Dropbox or OneDrive. There may be third party apps that will work from a PC if this is an issue.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com>

Facebook is probably the most well known of social media communities. Camera Clubs can set up a 'Page', which is similar to your own personal profile, but has additional tools to promote, track, see insights, receive and respond to messages, create events and many other capabilities. You can also use hashtags on Facebook, though I don't think it is absolutely necessary. You can also look for local groups like the well

known 'Spotted in...' groups, or other community groups, then you may be able to post links to your club for free. Some groups require you to be accepted as a member and some will be moderated and may or may not approve your post. But this will also help reach a wider audience for free. The positives are that it is free and the average person spends probably a few hours a day looking at Facebook. It has many tools and capabilities to promote things and it is easy to create and share posts. You can manage your page alongside your own profile and can share the load with other people too. By tagging others, asking people to share your posts and getting them to like your image, could increase the visibility further into their own communities. The negatives are that paid for campaigns are costly. Even with location-based filtering and keyword matching, the 'reach is unpredictable'. As an example, one campaign cost £30 over 7 days, reached over 10,000 people and 241 people clicked on the link. Another cost £50 over 16 days and only reached 3,470. people and 120 clicked on the link. These are very small numbers when you consider even your local town, let alone those around it having tens or hundreds of thousands by population. Facebook can be a bit 'pushy' in very regularly reminding you to post or promote something.

Simon Jenkins ARPS DPAGB BPE3*

Subject to Government restrictions.

Judges Workshop



www.eaf.org.uk

**24th October 2021,
9.30am - 5.00pm
for new judges and a
refresher/promotion group
for
existing judges**

**Foxton Village Hall, Hardman Road,
Foxton, Cambridgeshire CB22 6RN.**

Application form available from
Judges Secretary, Alison Jenkins ARPS DPAGB BPE1*
email: JudgesSec@eaf.org.uk

AWARDS SECRETARY

At last, the APM team have managed to do the long-awaited catch-up on the prints. Sadly, the overall results were lower than we would have liked. Thanks must go to all those involved, especially in the current situation. A great deal of effort had to be put in to pull off this event. To the future; the next adjudication weekend is scheduled for 27th/28th November 2021, with a live audience after a two-year break so, hopefully, we can all meet up again. Currently, we have 17 applicants putting their heads above the parapet. The packs

with the final instructions will have been sent out by now. We wish them all every success.

The books are open for the April adjudication which will take place over the weekend of 23rd/24th April 2022, hosted by the MCPF at the Hillscourt Education Centre, Rose Hill, Rednall, Birmingham. More details will follow.

Finally, we are planning to hold a 'live' APM Advisory Day on 4th September 2022. Please see advance poster on the website. Further information and application forms will be online in early February 2022.

Vic Hainsworth ARPS DPAGB



Some of the successful APM print applicants were presented with their certificates by Colin Birch at the EAF Special Exhibition - L to R Naomi Foster CPAGB BPE1, Harwich & Manningtree CC, Christine Holt DPAGB, Hoddesdon CC, David Morement CPAGB, Hoddesdon CC, Stephen Ball CPAGB, LRPS, Colchester PS, Colin Birch LRPS, DPAGB, BPE3*, EAF President, Mick Mansfield CPAGB BPE1*, Bury St. Edmunds PS, Sally Freeman CPAGB, Chelmsford CC and Jackie Gillman CPAGB BPE1*, Bury St. Edmunds PS.
Photo by Paul Radden DPAGB, EFIAP/s, BPE4*.*



Photographic Alliance of Great Britain
Awards for Photographic Merit



ADVANCE NOTIFICATION

PAGB Distinctions



Advisory Day

**Foxton Village Hall
Hardman Road, Foxton,
Cambs. CB22 6RN.**

**on
Sunday 4th September 2022, 10.00am – 5.00pm**

Application forms will be available to download from the EAF website
from 9th February 2022.

Vic Hainsworth ARPS, DPAGB E-mail: AwardsOfficer@eaf.org.uk



IMAGES FROM SUCCESSFUL APM PRINT APPLICANTS

*Above: 'Bled Island Slovenia' by Fiona Adamson LRPS DPAGB BPE3**

Below: 'The Groovy Arts Club Band' by Steve Ball LRPS CPAGB





*Above: 'Steely eyed rider' by Mick Mansfield CPAGB BPE1**

*Below: 'Barn Owl quartering a field' by Paul Smith DPAGB AWPFL SINWP BPE5**





Above: 'The stare' by Richard Burn LRPS CPAGB

*Below left: 'Fly Agaric' by Naomi Foster CPAGB BPE1**

*Below right: 'Dying swan' by Jackie Gillman CPAGB BPE1**



CLUB PROFILE

THURROCK CC

A Centenary of Photography

As a relative newcomer to Thurrock CC (joined in 2014) it has been interesting over this past year looking back at how the club was formed and the many changes that have taken place both at the club and with photography itself. In those early days, photographers were expected to carry out the whole process from taking photographs, developing and printing them.

The club's inaugural meeting, under the name of 'Grays and District PS', was conducted on 7th November 1921 and was held at the Victoria Café Assembly Rooms, High Street, Grays. The first Chairman of the Club was The Rev A. E. Fox. Over the next 100 years the club operated with a variety of names until 1938 when it became "Thurrock CC" and held its meetings at numerous venues around Thurrock until 1984 when it found its current home – Cowdrey Hall, West Thurrock.

It was interesting to note that the syllabus for that first year had a lecture on "Developing plates and papers" and the following year included a lecture on 'Gaslight Printing'. As we look forward to next year's syllabus, we have lectures on 'Post Processing'. In essence things have not changed that much, we are still keen to develop the skills of our members. Over the years our syllabus has developed



'Laddie' by James Rhodes. A photograph from April 1964 supplied courtesy of James's grandson Daniel.

into a balance of competitions, both external/internal, lectures and open/practical nights.

Our current chairman Paul Taylor (who joined in the early 80s) recalled the fact that all images had to be processed by the member, and most images were B&W simply due to the cost of colour printing at home. The introduction of slides brought about a change and colour images could then be trade processed. Slide competitions were then inaugurated to run alongside the print ones until 2007/08. The digital age came and once again the club took up the challenge – the slide competitions were replaced by DPI competitions in 2008/09.

In 2014/15 the club had some suc-

Continued on page 21



Thurrock CC Exhibition 1923. Photograph courtesy of Thurrock Museum.

'What a life 1' by Thurrock CC member Thasan Sakthi.



cess at Regional and National level. Chris Aldred recalled the EAF Print competition at Fulbourn Cambridgeshire, we were among 35 clubs entering from throughout East Anglia, we achieved second place in the competition which was an excellent result for a club with a small membership, this result qualified us for the PAGB national competition. In October five members made the trip north to Elsmere Port to compete in the National Print Championships, for the first time in club history. The competition was in two rounds, the top 10 clubs from the first round went on to a final, the remaining clubs entered into a second competition called 'The Plate'. Clubs from across Britain were invited to compete in the Championships, Thur-

rock came 14th out of 37 so did not qualify for the final and were entered into 'The Plate' where we came 9th. Thurrock were awarded the 'Best Rookie' award for our performance. We also collected an award from the volunteers – they voted Thasan's 'The Human Reflection' the best in the Championship.

Two years later, we had success at the EAF Championships at Fulbourn but this time in the PDI Championships, where we gained second place, qualifying for the PAGB PDI Championships at Warwick University in June. One of our members, Brian Titchener, was awarded best image in the championship, for his 'Silver Surfer'. Sadly we did not do at all well this time, but at least we were not last!



'Quicksilver Surfer' by Brian Titchner of Thurrock CC

2020 was a challenging year for everyone. A global pandemic Covid-19 swept through the countries of the world. For us at the camera club we had to consider how to keep the club running when there were no meeting facilities. It was agreed to trial Zoom meetings to keep in contact with our members. We found many benefits from the introduction of Zoom - we were able to meet regularly with members, some of whom lived in Wales. We were also able to engage with judges and speakers from further afield which added a richness to the club's syllabus.

Looking ahead to our centenary on 7th November 2021, we are hoping to continue with a balance of competitions both internal and external as well as opportunities for club members to develop their skills. But most of all to promote a love of photography.

Sue Hughes Secretary Thurrock CC



'More Precautions' by Ray Diamond of Thurrock CC