

WHAT IS THAT ORGANISATION AND WHAT DO THOSE LETTERS MEAN?

The photographic world, like any other, has its organisations right from club level to international level. Just to complicate matters many of them offer awards and distinctions for either photographic achievement or service to photography. We endeavor below to cut through some of the mysteries. Together with a brief description of each organisation set out below the Web site address has been included; in fact our web site "Links" page contains links to them all.

Northern Counties Photographic Federation:- NCPF

Web site:- www.ncpf.org.uk

The UK is divided into 15 regions and the NCPF is one of those regions. It covers Northumbria, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Cleveland, North Cumbria and the Northern parts of North Yorkshire. Northallerton CC is affiliated to the NCPF along with 50 other clubs, societies and groups throughout the region. The NCPF was formed in 1901 and is the 2nd oldest region after the YPU. It is responsible for providing lists of Lecturers and Judges, organises competitions and other events. It is run by an Executive elected each year from member clubs. Our neighbouring Regions are the **Yorkshire Photographic Union - YPU**, the **Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union - L&CPU** and the **Scottish Federation - SPF**.

Photographic Alliance of Great Britain:- PAGB

Web Site:- www.pagb-photography-uk.co.uk

This is the national umbrella organisation for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It was formed in the 1930's by the various regions to give a national structure to club photography. The vast bulk of the members of its Executive are elected annually, one each by the various Regions. These Representatives also sit on their own Regional Executives like the NCPF. It runs a number of services which include, a National List of Lecturers and Judges, which is available in the form of the PAGB Handbook to all clubs in the UK that are affiliated to one of the constituent regions (circa 1,000 clubs). It runs national competitions between the various regions and between clubs and provides a patronage service for Federations and Clubs major competitions. It also provides a Recorded Lecture Service for clubs. In more recent times it has also provided a distinctions structure, known as the PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit which members of affiliated clubs can aim for.

North Yorkshire & South Durham Photographic Association:- NYSD

Web site:- www.nysdpa.org.uk

Formed about 1950 in the aftermath of World War II, it was designed to fill a geographical gap between the centres of activity of the NCPF at Newcastle and the YPU at Leeds. Clubs in the area had difficulties in getting lecturers and judges due to the difficulties in travel. It is an independent organisation and is not affiliated to the PAGB or any other photographic organisation. Its membership consists of about 15 clubs in the South Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire Area, including Northallerton CC. It provides a small lecture and judges list from within its member clubs, organises an annual competition and an occasional lecture.

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Royal Photographic Society:- RPS

Web site:- www.rps.org

This is a national photographic organisation, which also has an international dimension to its membership, who are all individuals, rather than clubs or other organisations. It draws its membership not only from the amateur world of photography but also from the professional photography. A number of Northallerton CC members are members of the RPS. A registered charity, it is run by a council of elected members from its headquarters in Bath. It is perhaps best known for its provision of distinctions for photography that can be obtained by them. It also provides patronage to International Exhibitions and Salons worldwide (including the Northern Counties International Salon of Photography) but unlike FIAP and PSA does not provide any awards or distinction structure for those taking part in events patronized by them. It also runs International Exhibitions open to all and generally promotes the art and development of photography. It produces a high quality monthly Journal which is circulated to all its members. Like the PAGB it does have a regional structure, each run by an Organiser and a small committee. Northallerton Camera Club falls geographically in the Yorkshire Region, but traditionally its members who are also RPS members tend to support the Northern Region, which has more or less contiguous boundaries with the NCPF and is perhaps more active. So much so that the club has for a number of years run joint lectures with the RPS, notably in our Anniversary Year, with Jean Claude Bacle, Des Clinton, and Rikki O'Neil.

Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique:- FIAP

Web Site:- www.fiap.net

This is a worldwide organisation with affiliations from over 90 countries, stretching around the globe. The PAGB is affiliated to FIAP and does have representatives on its council, which meets in Paris. Again it provides an umbrella service to its member countries which include Biennial Competitions. It also provides patronage to International Exhibitions and salon world wide, including to the Northern Counties International Salon of Photography. As a result Acceptances and Awards from such events count towards and extensive distinctions structure that is provided by FIAP.

Photographic Society of America:- PSA

Web site:- www.psa-photo.org

This is the United States and Canada's version of the PAGB. However it like the RPS has a substantial international dimension to its membership, which can either be as a club or photographic organisation or as an individual. For example, the NCPF is a member of PSA, as is Hexham PS (a member club of NCPF). A number of Northallerton CC members are members of PSA. It also provides a patronage service and awards structure to International Exhibitions and salons world wide, which whilst structured differently are of equal standing to FIAP distinctions. It provides patronage to the Northern Counties International Salon of Photography as well as FIAP and the RPS.

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United Postal Postfolios of Great Britain:- UPP

Web site:- www.uppofgb.org

This is a stand alone club, which at one and the same time has a national membership, but which operates within the national club structure through affiliation to one of the regional Federations. It has a membership of nearly 400 which is divided into a number of “Circles” consisting of about 10 to 15 members per circle. Each circle circulates photographs between its members in portfolios and they give observations, comments and marks to the photographs of fellow members; taking out their own old photograph and replacing it with a new one each time a portfolio comes to them. The UPP holds an annual meeting at the time of its AGM when the best photographs for each circle are entered into a national competition. A substantial number of Northallerton CC members are also members of UPP.