

## ABOUT THE YPU

Alan Stopher, President of the Yorkshire Photographic Union, visited the SPG in October (2018). He outlined the function of the YPU, its relationship with the PAGB, and described the services YPU provides.

The YPU was described as a sort of umbrella group for some 73 affiliated clubs and is one of 15 federations affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. YPU promotes photography, it runs competitions, offers merit awards, and has its own panel of judges. The PAGB is affiliated to the FIAP (the latter being the international organisation). There are 14 volunteer executives each with their own role. There is an AGM in March and a reps meeting in November. Clubs pay affiliation fees. The YPU holds considerable funds having a £20,000 a year turnover. It organises events such as the Annual Assembly and Exhibition. They now produce an A4 booklet containing selected images.

Awards one can try for include a Masters award but there is also one indicating good club level photography. There are also Keighley Days as they are referred to, there are print workshops, and there are various other means of advancing photography. PAGB events are hosted locally. They run the Yorkshire International Salon, which had 6,800 entries in 2017, with 50-60 countries participating. Different countries have different approaches to photography.

There are judges for clubs and training for judges, speakers for club meetings, a travelling print portfolio and free hire of stands and frames. An archive is kept and there is club Public & Trustee Liability Insurance offered. The portfolio offered is half of the 200 photos that get to the exhibition. Currently, frames are kept at Pontefract and stands at Ilkley.

In terms of communication there is an AGM, a November meeting, an annual report and e-mails to club secretaries. The website is at <http://www.ypu.org.uk>. There is a Facebook group and there is e-mail to executive members.

Alan also held a Q & A session.

To get more photos accepted by the YPU, Alan suggested looking at what succeeds and to look in galleries, competitions, exhibitions and to see what people see as worthwhile. He agreed there are some 'trends' e.g. there was a run of photos depicting environmental portraiture with photos featuring large heads with a background. Kingfishers, for example, might be rather overdone with many high quality examples being entered. There may be a trend now to setting birds in some sort of context/environment. He suggested looking in the Impressions Gallery (Bradford). Increased numbers of entries may result in more acceptances, perhaps. Landscapes may be becoming more popular again. Good sport/action shots tend to win compared to photojournalism.

Alan gave us an excellent evening that set out the YPU in its worthwhile context.