

Gallery Photogroup

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Acklam Green Centre

and via Zoom

Tuesday 28th May 2024

Committee members in attendance: Francis Annett (Zoom), Irene Berry, Stephen Harrison, Brian Jobson, Kathleen Jobson, Hugh Melvin, Lyn Newton, Richard Price

In addition to the committee, 22 members were in attendance, and 4 members joined via Zoom

Apologies: John Dilworth, Mike Kipling, Keith Collins, Celine Alexander Brown

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM

Members formally approved the minutes of the last AGM held on 25/05/23. One matter arising regarding the 2022-2023 accounts was addressed by SH. No other matters were raised.

2. Chairman's Report

In the absence of the Chair, John Dilworth, LN read the report to the meeting. JD reviewed the impact of software advances and AI and remarked on the 'sanguine and honest' approach taken by Gallery.

The report also outlined the positive impact of the £3000 expenditure on a new lap top and projector to replace outdated equipment no longer able to display images to the best possible standard.

JD thanked all those members who contribute behind the scenes and whose goodwill and kindness lie at the heart of our club.

JD's report is attached.

3. Treasurer's Report

Stephen Harrison presented the financial statement for 2023-24 season which was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

He reported that there was an overall income of £4802.53 and overall expenditure of £6304.08, giving an overall loss of £1501.55.

The expenditure figure includes the one off cost of the new laptop and projector, partly offset by two generous donations towards the new kit, amounting to £800. Adding the balance of £3887.01 brought forward from last year there is a final outgoing end of year balance (reserve) of £2385.46. SH reported that there were however a few items which will need to be carried forward to next season's accounts.

SH also draw members' attention to an error in the Speakers costs figures and a revised set of accounts will be circulated with the Minutes.

The accounts have been checked and verified by Keith Collins.

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4. Membership Fees for 2024/25

SH outlined how membership fees over the last 8 years had barely changed apart from a deduction during the Covid period when we met on Zoom. Taking into account rising costs generally and specifically room hire costs, members were asked to vote on the proposal that membership fees be increased next year from £45 to £50.

The majority of members approved the resolution.

5. Internal Competition Secretary's Report

In the absence of John Dilworth, LN summarised the report noting that competition entries were fairly consistent over recent years with an increase in print entries. 75% of members entered at least one competition with a slight increase in numbers entering on three or more occasions.

JD confirmed that next season the club would retain two open competitions, together with natural world, people portraits and 'scapes. Two new categories – Yorkshire and Sport for All – will be added to the competition themes.

The schedule for competitions and showcase evenings will be circulated to all members in advance of the season.

JD's report is attached.

6. External Competition Secretary's Report

Richard Price outlined the results of the three external competitions entered during the season, pointing out that in the NYSDPA Gallery came joint 3rd in both the PDI and the print sections. He thanked all those members who had entered images.

RP's report is attached.

7. Data Protection Policy Report

Francis Annett reported that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) continues to apply. In line with this, the Gallery Photogroup has maintained its policy and in the year 2023-2024 there have been no issues to report on.

FA commented that it was worth noting that the Government is considering an amendment to the existing legislation, though so far it has not passed into law. In future years it will be necessary to check for updates.

FA's report is attached.

8. Review of Programme 2023-24 Season

Irene Berry reported that within the 34 week season she had researched and selected a range of speakers to try to cater for all interests. The full and varied programme of events included 7 Zoom presentations shared with Halifax allowing us to have speakers we could not afford on our own, and opportunities for members to show their own images via Showcases, Knockout, and Member Presentations. Along with competitions and two practical nights, it had certainly offered variety. IB thanked all those members who agreed to share their work.

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As IB is now standing down as Programme Secretary, she was thanked for all her hard work and dedication and given hearty appreciation in the form of applause.

9. Election of Officers

The following officers and members were elected to the committee:

Chair – John Dilworth	Proposed Mike Berry	Seconded Richard Price
Vice Chair – Irene Berry	Proposed John Devlin	Seconded Trish Irvine
Treasurer – Stephen Harrison	Proposed Jean Moore	Seconded Bob Irvine
Secretary – Lyn Newton	Proposed Irene Berry	Seconded Marilyn Beacham

10. Election of Committee members

Francis Annett
Brian Jobson
Kathleen Jobson
Hugh Melvin
Richard Price

Proposed – Colin Hugill Seconded – Tony Robinson

11. Programme for next season

Hugh Melvin and Richard Price outlined the programme for next season and their plans to build in more opportunities for interaction and discussion. It was also hoped that members would be encouraged to print their work. They confirmed that the relationship with Halifax would continue next year with shared speakers using Zoom but that all other meetings would be held in person.

The programme team of HM, RP and FA were thanked for their hard work in producing an interesting and varied programme. The programme will be circulated to members during the summer recess.

12. Summer Programme

Richard Price outlined the summer programme, which has been circulated to members and asked anybody interested to get in touch through LN at galleryphotogroupsecretary@gmail.com who would then send out an information sheet to those expressing interest.

RP was thanked for producing a programme which included trips to Whitby and Sandsend, as well as events such as the Durham Miners Gala and Edinburgh Fringe and further afield for an overnight stay in the Lake District.

RP flagged up the addition of a Farnes boat trip organised by John Dilworth. Members interested were asked to let JD know as soon as possible.

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13. Any other business

RP who is the current Gallery representative on the NYSDPA announced he would be standing down from the role after the next season. He invited anybody willing to take over from him to let him know so there would be a seamless swap over.

Gallery Photogroup Financial Report - June 1st 2023 to May 31st 2024

Books Closed 14th May 2024

Overall

We had an overall income of £4802.53 and overall expenditure of £6304.08. Giving an overall loss of £1501.55

Added to a starting balance of £3887.01, gives an end balance of £2385.46

Membership Income £2295

6 Members didn't renew their subscription, we attracted no new members giving a total membership of 52 members of which 1 is a life member.

Weekly meetings

Room Hire was £1600.16 for 25 evenings plus 2 meeting room.

Income from the Bonus Ball was £383.00, paid out in prize money £190.50. Giving us a £192.50 profit.

Income from the tea money was £226.73 and we spent £62.42 on refreshments. Giving us a £164.31 profit.

Speakers costs £292.50

We managed to keep speaker cost low by sharing some speakers with Halifax.

Competition costs £159.35

Made up of £132 Judging fees and £27.35 courier fees.

Charity £43

This was raised during our meeting at the Holistic Centre and a personal donation.

Miscellaneous

Items for this are gifts to members for services to the club.

Donations

We received 2 generous donations of £400 each toward our new projector.

Provision/Accruals

We have several items which need to be carried over to next seasons accounts. These are from tea, draw, catering for AGM, engraving, charity payment and two gifts to members.



Accounts for 2023 - 2024 Season

Balance

CHAR	£9.00
COMP	(£159.35)
DON	£800.00
DRAW	£192.50
EQU	(£2,538.37)
EXP	(£7.50)
FEE	(£175.60)
INS	(£36.00)
IT	(£143.88)
MISC	(£25.00)
PROG	(£54.00)
ROOM	(£1,600.16)
SPK	(£292.50)
SUBS	£2,295.00
TEA	£164.31
TRAIN	£70.00

Income

CHAR	£9.00
DON	£800.00
DRAW	£383.00
EQU	£1,018.80
SUBS	£2,295.00
TEA	£226.73
TRAIN	£70.00
TRANS	£451.00
HOL	£1,250.00

Out Goings

COMP	£159.35
DRAW	£190.50
EQU	£3,557.37
EXP	£7.50
FEE	£175.60
INS	£36.00
IT	£143.88
MISC	£25.00
PROG	£54.00
ROOM	£1,600.16
SPK	£292.50
TEA	£62.42
TRANS	£451.00
HOL	£1,250.00

Total Income £6,503.53

Total Outgoing £8,005.08

Profit/Loss -£1,501.55

Balance brought forward £3,887.01

Provision/Accruals £0.00

Final Balance £2,385.46

Gallery Photogroup Financial Report - June 1st 2023 to May 31st 2024

		Income	Expend	net 23-24	net 22-23	net 21-22	net 20-21
Subs	Membership subscriptions	2295.00	0.00	2295.00	2170.00	1905.00	1875.00
Draw	Weekly Draw	383.00	190.50	192.50	184.81	0.00	0.00
Sta	Stainery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-8.84	0.00
Tea	Tea Money	226.73	62.42	164.31	84.36	-8.70	0.00
Don	Donation	800.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	72.00
Char	Charity	9.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	-145.00
Room	Room Hire	0.00	1600.16	-1600.16	-1227.46	-340.50	0.00
Spk	Speakers	0.00	292.50	-292.50	-285.00	-390.00	-475.00
Comp	Judges/Competition Fees	0.00	159.35	-159.35	-242.08	-85.00	-40.00
Ins	Insurance (equip PAGB, PLI NCPF)	0.00	36.00	-36.00	-3.00	-229.64	-210.04
Fee	Fees; PAGB, NCPF, NYSD.	0.00	175.60	-175.60	-188.50	-123.00	-60.00
Prog	Programme printing (misc)	0.00	54.00	-54.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IT	Web Site, Software	0.00	143.88	-143.88	-203.87	-143.88	-143.88
Exp	Expenses	0.00	7.50	-7.50	-8.50	-15.00	
Equ	Equipment (incl repair)	1018.80	3557.17	-2538.37	-132.66	0.00	0.00
Xmas	Christmas event	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pres	Presentation Evg, Trophies	0.00	0.00	0.00	-20.00	-24.00	-12.00
Exhib	Exhibition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-28.46	0.00
Adm	Admin	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc	Misc	0.00	25.00	-25.00	0.00	-95.58	0.00
Cat	Catering for events	0.00	0.00	0.00	-232.00	0.00	0.00
Train	Training events	70.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P/A	Provision/Accruals	0.00	0.00	0.00	-107.68	-145.00	0.00
Totals		4802.53	6304.08	-1501.55	-211.58	267.40	861.08
Cash Flow from operations 2023/2024				-1501.55			

As of 28/05/24

Gallery Photogroup Financial Report - June 1st 2023 to May 31st 2024

ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

opening balance	Bank a/c	3548.07
	Cash	338.94
	Total	3887.01

closing balance	Bank a/c	2145.88
	Cash	239.58
	Total	2385.46

Statement of Assets	23/24	22/23	21/22	20/21
Current	2323.88	3650.75	4180.14	3532.06
Uncleared(+)/ Unpresented(-)	0.00		0.00	0.00
Cash	239.58	335.84	55.35	11.35
Provision(-) / Accruals(+)	-178.00	-107.68	-145.00	0.00
Total	2385.46	3878.91	4090.49	3543.41
Equipment	4260.00	800.00	800.00	900.00
Trophies (3 glass)				
Total	6645.46	4678.91	4890.49	4443.41

Gallery Photogroup AGM - Chairs Report 2024

We began the season talking about Artificial Intelligence. Is AI the existential threat to photography ? Should we as photographers join the “AI heatwave” or remain puritanical in our image making?

Ansel Adams and his collaborators formed ‘Group f/64’ as long ago as 1932 and their principles resulted in photography characterised by pure clarity and detail. And yet he was the arch manipulator of images. We all are. The technology has moved on from a few paddles on sticks and our dextrous hands and now, aided by 60-70 years of still advancing computer science, it’s inside our cameras and smartphones as well as the post processing software we use every day. We can even “reimagine” our images using ‘Generative Fill’ and we may soon have our very own ‘AI Assistant’ to anticipate our every creative need.

AI is here to stay of course and we’ve taken a sanguine and honest approach in Gallery. A photographer’s approach. As long as they’re your images, captured and post-processed faithfully by you using the ‘tools’ you have available we can maintain both ‘clarity and detail’ as well as be faithful to the other great tradition of ‘Pictorialism’, placing beauty, tonality and composition at the heart of our image making.

Setting aside AI for the moment, what is the future like for photography – particularly those of us who are hobbyists and enthusiasts? Moreover, what is the future like for Club Photography? I’m not trying to be negative but I’m going to leave that open as an ongoing conversation piece.

Gallery members shoot thousands and thousands of images each year. We only ever get to see a small number of those throughout our season in showcases, on social media, exhibitions, competitions and in our special interest groups. Having said that, I’m sure you will agree with me that what members produced over the past year has been magnificent and inspiring.

Gallery, remember, is one of the top Clubs in our region – for example 4th in the NYSDPA Inter-Club DPI only one point off second place and 3rd (again only one point off Runner-up) in the prints section. This is a great performance among our peers. We can strive to do better and that is our challenge for next year. So look out for more inspiration, ideas, advice and encouragement in next season’s programme.

Yet bear in mind it’s not just about competitions. There’s been a lot said about judges, and ‘judge bait’ and ‘Photography Club mentality’ but also a lot of emphasis this past year has been on aesthetics, impact, artistic intent, vision and so on. It’s important to note how many excellent images we see that are not entered in competitions and there will be deliberate attempts to encourage that trend going forward.

After the hiatus COVID created we’re also seeing a return to printing our images. Again, that is to be encouraged as we’ve seen and appreciate the difference in quality and presentation of prints throughout the past season and we will be looking at ways to increase the number of print submissions throughout the coming year(s).

The Club has also set out to improve members' experience and has now bought a new laptop and projector. Both are now in use and, with a bit of fine tuning, will display DPI images on club nights to the best possible standard. That's approaching £3000 of expenditure on new kit.

This has come about not least from the generosity of two of our members. They wish to remain anonymous, but I want to put on record our sincere thanks on everyone's behalf - not only for their generosity but for their commitment, loyalty and deep affection for Gallery Photogroup.

BTW, where there's technology there's always a 'gremlin' and the most unexpected of things still happen but be assured there is a 'hive mind' dedicated to getting the best out of our new kit.

I have to mention Zoom as well, another post-COVID feature of club life. I realise there are alternative views expressed about the platform but, with respect to those views, on balance it has proved to be an asset in my opinion. It's inclusive, cost effective and gives the club reach in terms of speakers and collaborations as well as supporting the special interest groups. Nevertheless, the conversations will continue so that our use of Zoom remains proportionate in relation to the programme and the values we hold as a club.

The one thing I get to see more than most, I guess, is the amount of unfussy, generous gifts of time and effort that goes on 'behind the scenes'. I'm sure everyone understands this and I'm sure no-one takes it for granted but whether its sending out information, keeping the books, programming and organising events and activities, maintaining the website and social media or catering for us plus a host of other acts of goodwill, support, encouragement, forbearance and kindness that reassuringly lies at the heart of our Club.

Thank you.

Finally, I would like to repeat what I said last year and regard as the importance of our photography.

It is, of course, primarily for our pleasure, enjoyment and expression. I also think photography, in all its genres, is vital to record and interpret the world around us. I regard photography as a maker of memories, as art, as a record, as creativity, as history making and as an influencer. In other words it is relevant to the world we live in. Photography has both an intrinsic value and can also have purpose.

We have a great programme lined up so there's a lot of scope for you as a member of Gallery to attempt, practice and achieve all these things, importantly, at your own pace, within your means, interests and for your own (and our) pleasure and I look forward to being involved with you along that path.

I hope you have enjoyed your season and will continue to enjoy your photographic journey with us next year.

John Dilworth
Chair
May 2024

Report of the Internal Competitions Secretary for year 2023-24

Once again, here is a summary of the competition season September 2023 – May 2023.

Competition entries were, overall, fairly consistent with trends over recent years with, as expected, an increase in the number of print entries. It shows there's a core group of members regularly contributing.

The number of members entering at least one competition, including some new authors, again remained on trend with last season 39 members (75%) entered at least one DPI competition and slightly more 30 (28) entering on three or more occasions.

In total there were 232 (222) individual entries in our seven competitions with 394 (435) images submitted. That's a consistently high level of entries and it compares well with previous seasons with a solid core of members (about 20 or so) regularly submitting five or more images with around 30 members featuring in external competitions representing the Club.

A more complete summary follows on page 2.

It's still my great pleasure being able to see all the images submitted and I think you will agree the overall standard has been excellent once again. Our judges might (or might not) always be right but well done everyone and hopefully you find their feedback constructive, helpful and inspiring.

The second "Open" competition remained in the programme this year and that will remain again in 2024/24. We retain a mix of staples (such as the Open 1 and 2, Portraits, Nature and 'Scapes) along with two new broadly based topics with "showcases" to stretch your imagination and creativity.

Thank you once again to all our members for getting your entries to me in a timely fashion. It helps a lot that nearly all are correctly formatted and sized to meet our deadline with judges.

I'm sure the coming season will offer a variety of opportunities to inspire you and attract your submissions for both competitions (if that's your thing) and, importantly, our member's showcases, externals and exhibitions.

Recipients of the '*Image of the Year*' and '*Photographer of the Year*' will be revealed at the AGM.

IOTY is judged by members and POTY determined by points accumulated from competition placings and commended images.

Being Competitions Secretary is always interesting and rewarding for me and once again I'm looking forward to the new season and a fresh set of your images.

Finally, as always, may I wish you good luck and good health for the new season.

John Dilworth
Internal Competitions Secretary
May 2024

Gallery Photogroup – Internal Competitions Summary 2022-2023

Open Competition #1

10th October 2023

Prints	21 (20)	Entries	13 Members	Winner	Susan Devlin	Lone Tree
PDI	53 (48)	Entries	31 Members	Winner	Karen Larkin	You Can't Land Here

People Portraits

7th November 2023

Prints	11 (12)	Entries	5 Members	Winner	Steve Owens	Market Porter
PDI	37 (33)	Entries	21 Members	Winner	Jeannie Moore	Concentration

Thankyou for the Music

5th December 2023

Prints	8 (21)	Entries	5 Members	Winner	Steve Owens	Many a Good Tune
PDI	29 (48)	Entries	17 Members	Winner	Mike Kipling	Rehearsal

The Beauty of Buildings

23rd January 2024

Prints	9 (0)	Entries	13 Members	Winner	Susan Devlin	3NX Cube
PDI	48 (53)	Entries	26 Members	Winner	Lyn Newton	Gold Lights in the City

Open Competition #2

20th February 2024

Prints	18 (19)	Entries	10 Members	Winner	Graeme Clarke	White Throated Cormorant Taking Off
PDI	41 (44)	Entries	24 Members	Winner	Tony Robinson	Malcolm McDowell

“Scapes” Competition

19th March 2024

Prints	17 (12)	Entries	10 Members	Winner	Susan Devlin	Big Skied
PDI	44 (41)	Entries	26 Members	Winner	Chris Morton	Belvedere Dawn

The Natural World

23rd April 2024

Prints	13 (0)	Entries	8 Members	Winner	Colin Hugill	Weaverbird
PDI	41 (84)	Entries	23 Members	Winner	Graeme Clarke	Buffalo Cow with Calf

(2022/23 summary based on 7 Competitions)

(2022-23)

Total Number of Prints entered	101	(84)
Total Number of PDIs entered	293	(351)
Number of members who have entered print competitions	19 - 37%	(--)
Number of members who have entered DPI competitions	39 - 75%	(--)

Appendix 1 - Proposed Gallery internal competition themes 24-25 season

Dates 2024/25	Criteria
08/10/24 OPEN 1	As always, just what it says on the tin!
05/11/24 People Portraits	A living human subject (not animals or pets), Subject or group of subjects must be prominent in the frame. This can include a standard posed portrait where the subject(s) is completely aware of the camera. Or an anonymous, candid or environmental portrait where your subject(s) may not be aware of the camera. ... Or a creative portrait with images that go beyond a single frame with other elements to form a composite image. Everything must be your own work don't forget!
03/12/24 Sport For All	The 2024 Paris Olympics inspire us about sport of every kind and where anyone can participate. You are invited to capture the emotion and endeavour of sport, including action in the playing area, at every level and even behind the scenes. The ball's in your court.
07/01/25 Yorkshire	God's own country is grand, the biggest county, a mixed bag wi' lots going on o'er hill and dale, with rocky shores and rich in flowers, folk and fauna. Now then, if you fancy it, you might want to get out an' about to find ways to capture and celebrate the culture and history of Yorkshire. We'll be reight chuffed to see what you can do.
18/02/25 OPEN 2	Again, as we say, "just what it says on the tin"
18/03/25 'Scapes	Landscapes, seascapes, waterscapes, city/streetscapes, skyscapes, day or night all where people do not dominate.
22/04/25 The Natural World	Bugs, Birds, Beasts, Broods, Behaviour, Flora and Fauna (big or small), Weather and Sky. Naturally occurring subjects to predominate, (No pet portraits please and nothing made or caused by people) but including landforms, and celestial bodies.

This gives the broad scope and meaning of these themes in the programme, although an enquiring photographer may find other, broader, definitions

MEMBER'S SHOWCASE EVENINGS

Informal Club evenings where all members are welcome to share their images.

DATE	TOPIC
29/10/24	Summer Programme – an opportunity to show our images from the various outings
26/11/24	Mono Forum Evening: What has the Mono Forum been up to one year on?
13/05/25	It's a Knockout
20/05/25	Images of your Year – show us (up to 12) of your favourite images of the past year

Gallery P.G. External Competition Secretary's Report - 2024.

This season Gallery has been getting back to normal after recovering from the ongoing effects of Covid. We are now enjoying more meetings in the Acklam Centre and we have entered the NYSDPA and NCPF competitions submitting both Prints and PDIs.

Northern Counties Photographic Federation – 2024 Annual Competition.

This competition is mainly for individual entries although we do select six to be our top six in each category.

The categories are Colour Prints; Monochrome Prints & Projected Digital Images (PDIs).

In the “Inter-club” section -

Gallery came 11th out of 22 clubs in the Colour Prints

Gallery came 14th out of 21 clubs in the Mono Prints

Gallery came 20th out of 28 clubs in the PDI section.

Exhibition Selection - Following on from this Northern Counties Photographic Federation competition the NCPF enter a chosen number of Prints and PDIs for the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (the PAGB) National competition. One of the Prints, by our John Birch titled Mountain Hare, has been shown in the PAGB Inter-Federation Nature Print Exhibition.

So, many congratulations to John for that achievement!

Alliance selection – where the NCPF judges choose images to represent the Federation in a National Inter-Federation competition organised by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) – Gallery has 6 images selected by the NCPF for this prestigious National competition: -

Martin Stokes (Serpentine Bridge).

Graeme Clarke (Hammer-head storks mating).

Colin Hugill (Blesbok Antelope).

Colin Hugill (Weaverbird).

Susan Devlin (Lone tree).

Lyn Newton (The Mohicans).

Portfolio Selection – where NCPF judges select a Portfolio of images to represent individual Federation members: -
Susan Devlin (Whitby glow).
Tony Robinson (Durham).

In the NCPF **Projected Digital Image** section Gallery had 8 **Highly Commended** images scoring 13 or 14 out of a possible 15 -

Stephen Byard – Jetski racers 13.

Stephen Byard – Warm & Cool, Dunstanburgh 13.

John Birch – Mull Shorty 13.

Colin Hugill – Lone Rhino 14.

Graeme Clarke – Black backed Jackal hesitating 14.

Colin Hugill – Giraffe sunset 13.

Lyn Newton – My new eyes 13. (*shouldn't that be "My new Knee" ?!!*)

Mike Kipling – Caught in the Rain 13.

Congratulations to those particular entrants and a big thank you to all who entered Prints and PDIs into the NCPF competition.

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North Yorkshire & South Durham Photographic Association.

This season's event was hosted by Northallerton C.C. in November 2023 and the Inter-club competition was hotly contested as always. Each image is scored out of 30 with each club entering 6 Prints or PDIs into the competitions. Gallery came joint third in the Prints section with 157 points, second place was Wensleydale with 158 and first place going to Saltburn with 164 points – just two extra points for Gallery would have seen us in second place!

In the PDI section Gallery came joint 3rd with 148 – joint second place went to Guisborough and Richmond with 149 and in first place was Wensleydale with 160 points. Again, another couple of points would have seen Gallery jump to second place.

The A/vs for the Inter-club Prints & PDIs were shown in December last year when I had opportunity to have all the competition Prints to hand.

The A/vs of the Individual competition were shown on Tuesday 20th May for which there was a good turn out at Acklam Green and I am sorry Northallerton decided not to show the author's names on the projected images but I'm sure you will have recognised your own photographs. Again, many thanks to all who entered photographs into this competition.

Richard Price (Ext. Comp. Sec.) 23rd May 2024.

