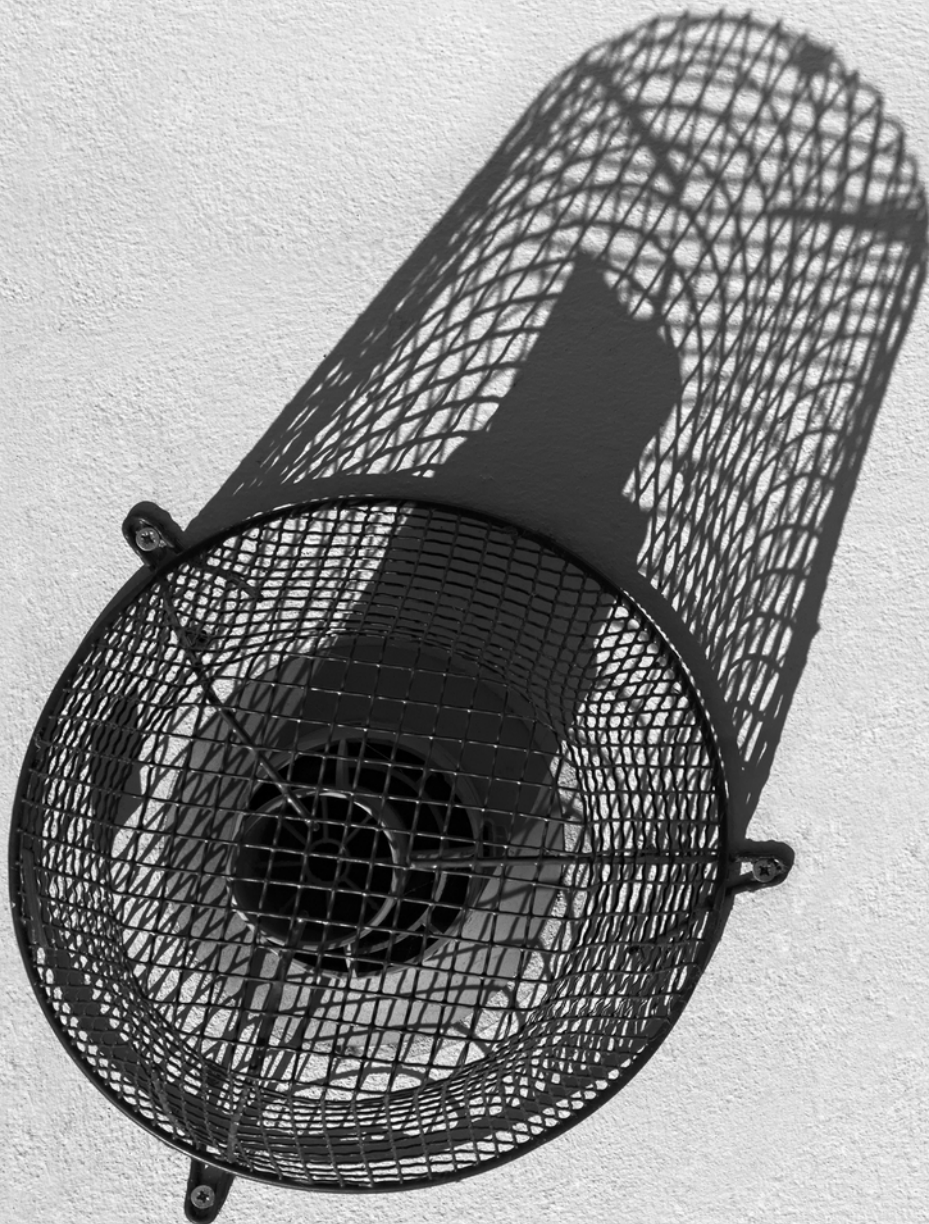


# OSPS newsletter

The newsletter of the Ordnance Survey Photographic Society  
In its 64th year.  
spring/summer 2017



Nights of year results  
Flash! A little piece of SciFi  
Coming soon to a small club near you

## Editor's thoughts

You never want to find one sitting there in your email inbox but every now and then, one appears. The title line is someone's name and I've learnt to associate such emails with bad news. And so in February I learnt of the death of John J Philpott MBE FRPS, one of the founder members of the Ordnance Survey Photographic Society and an outstanding photographer.

I thought it would be a nice idea to create a special edition of the OSPS newsletter in John's memory, including articles that he had written over the years for the newsletter. However, this isn't it. I hadn't realised just how much John had written so I found the special edition morphing into a 20-page memorial, comprising John's articles and a collection of tributes from members. It took a while to assemble but it's now available on the OSPS website on the same page as the other newsletters.

In this edition you'll find the night-of-year results, a calendar of events for the forthcoming season and a fascinating little article about flash memory – how small it's got and how much it doesn't cost.

**Mike Stacey**

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## Officers / committee 2017-2018

<b>President</b>	<i>Position vacant</i>	<b>Programme Sec</b>	Ian Miller
<b>Vice President</b>	<i>Position vacant</i>	<b>Ext Competition Sec</b>	Martin Buckley CPAGB
<b>Chairman</b>	Variable/adaptive	<b>Int Competition Sec</b>	Niall Tyler
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<i>Position vacant</i>	<b>Membership Sec</b>	Mike Stacey LRPS
<b>Secretary</b>	Jenny Harding	<b>Web Master</b>	Alison Ramsell / Dave Perkes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Stacey LRPS	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Mike Stacey LRPS

Cover image: 'Wall with vent' © Mike Stacey

## Nights of year results 2016-17 season

It's been argued that entering photographs into an environment where they're judged is somewhat absurd as it's competitive aesthetics. An extreme example would be to ask which is better, Leonardo's Mona Lisa or Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling? But if Instagram had existed at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, I wonder which would have got the most likes?

For OSPS, the nights of year have been an evolving tradition and part of club activities from the early years. As a result of that, many of the trophies are old and named in memory of club members, so not wishing to break with tradition, here are the results for the past season.

<b>Trophy</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
<b>Primary colour prints</b> (for the Colour Print Trophy)	Roger Beauchamp <i>Yellow Brick Road</i>	Roger Beauchamp <i>Low Tide</i>
<b>Senior mono prints</b> (for the Metcalf Trophy)	Dave Perkes <i>Market Altercation</i>	Roy Fisher <i>Moorland Trail</i>
<b>Senior colour prints</b> (for the Colour Print Tankard)	Alan Harris <i>Cliff Face</i>	Brian Jones <i>Ebbing Tide</i>
<b>Primary PDI</b> (for the J. Leisnam Cup)	Niall Tyler <i>Tired Girl</i>	Martin Williams <i>Farley View</i>
<b>Senior PDI</b> (for the Premier Colour Award)	Alicja Karpinska <i>Autumn Reflections</i>	Mike Stacey <i>Line and Circle</i>
<b>Open print competition</b> (for the Open Print Trophy)	David Toft <i>Yellow Billed Stork</i>	Andrew Mills <i>Maria ~ with apologies to Lewis Morley</i>
<b>Open PDI competition</b> (formerly Herbie Cox Trophy)	Dave Perkes <i>Boxer</i>	Barbara Beauchamp <i>Hat &amp; Cane</i>
<b>Panel of 3 print competition</b>	Andrew Mills <i>I'm so tired</i>	Roy Fisher <i>Bourdeaux Graffiti</i>
<b>Panel of 3 PDI competition</b>	Barbara Beauchamp <i>Graffiti</i>	Maureen Toft <i>Cheetah Family</i>
<b>Most prolific worker</b> (The Bill Bessant Print)	Roy Fisher	Barbara Beauchamp
<b>Most consistent mono printer</b>	Brian Jones	Roy Fisher
<b>Most consistent colour printer</b>	Brian Jones	Roy Fisher
<b>Most consistent PDI worker</b>	Mike Stacey	Roy Fisher
<b>Derek Travis Trophy</b>	Not awarded this season	

**Mike Stacey**



# Flash!

If on hearing that word your first thought is the Queen soundtrack from the film of the same name, I'm not surprised. However, if you're a photographer then something has gone horribly wrong as you should be thinking of the little memory card in your camera. But what do you know about it?

Flash memory was invented by a Toshiba scientist, Fujio Masuoka, in 1980, and it was announced to the world in 1984. If you're wondering why it's called 'flash', Toshiba will tell you the name was suggested by one of Masuoka's work colleagues because the way the memory was cleared reminded him of the flash of a camera. It's also helpful for a successful product to have a short, catchy name, and this certainly turned out to be a successful product!

I first heard of this remarkable piece of technology thanks to an article in the November 1992 edition of New Scientist. It was called 'How flash wins when the chips are down' and was about a new type of memory device that retained data without a power supply. I kept the article, and still have it, because such a device seemed like science fiction. Yet, here it was. By the early 1990s flash was finding uses in 'awkward' environments, for example, where a reliable power supply was uncertain, but it wasn't long before a variety of industries were finding uses for it.



You may have heard of 'Moore's Law'. This refers to something Intel co-founder Gordon Moore realised in 1965. He noticed that the number of transistors per square inch on integrated circuits had doubled every year since their invention (though this was later revised to every 2 years), and predicted that this trend would continue into the foreseeable future. So far Flash has been following Moore's Law, and together with something called Dennard Scaling it has seen its capacity dramatically increase while its cost dramatically decreases. However, it wasn't until recently when I was clearing out a cupboard that I appreciated what this really meant.



Back in 1993 I bought a Psion Series 3a, one of the first of the 512KB version to reach Southampton. It was a clamshell, pocket computer, not dissimilar to the Samsung Note 2 I'm using now in overall size, but twice as thick. It was a wonderful device and I used it almost every day for the next 10 years. The battery life was incredible, especially considered now, as it could run for almost a year on a pair of AA lithiums! The onboard memory, all 512KB, yes kilobytes, was pretty good considering that individual files for documents and spreadsheets were very small. Forget images, as the screen was a low-res monochrome type. Even so, a point was reached where I needed more memory capacity, and fortunately the 3a had a pair of slots to take what Psion called 'solid state discs'. A couple of years after I bought the 3a, I purchased a 512KB RAM SSD for £130! Horribly expensive

but it gave me the space I needed for quite a while. However, even that space was used up, so in 1999 I was looking for another SSD and found one in a John Lewis clearance sale. A 1MB flash SSD for £25! That was much cheaper than the RAM SSD and twice the capacity! Little did I realise how that trend would continue.

By 2003 I was finding the Psion 3a too limiting, so upgraded to a vastly more powerful Sony Clie. This device had software options the Psion could only dream of and a much better colour screen. All this needed a lot more memory of course, a new generation of flash that was much smaller and efficient and now also being used in digital cameras. I started with a 128MB Sony memory stick which cost £50 – twice the cost of the Psion SSD but 128x the capacity. The Clie's upper limit was (for then) a staggering 2GB but I couldn't afford that. I did eventually opt for a 1GB memory stick for £100, but that was a mere 4x the cost of the Psion SSD for 1024x the capacity! Are you seeing a trend here? This was Moore's Law and Dennard Scaling in action.

As the years passed the Clie was replaced with progressively more powerful machines and, not surprisingly, the memory demands kept pace. Although Moore and Dennard have become a part of routine life, I did a mental double-take last year when I bought a new 64GB micro SD card for £18. There were two reasons for this. Firstly there was the cost per MB aspect. That Psion 1MB SSD cost me £25, and here was a 64GB or 65,536MB micro SD for £18! I may be getting old but I still find that astonishing. Oh yes, and then there's the second reason; size.



While desktop and laptop hard drives settled on a standardised 3.5 inch and 2.5 inch format, flash turned out to be a little more promiscuous. The Compact Flash (CF) format that originated in 1994 became the most successful of the early memory card formats. It's still in use over 20 years later, though only just, while many other smaller formats have fallen by the wayside – SmartMedia, XD, Mini SD, Memory Stick and Miniature Card to name a few. CF's star is waning and a new format, XQD, has appeared as a successor, but the dominant formats now are the smaller SD card, its

tiny offspring, Micro SD, and its cousin the USB flash drive. As you can see in the photograph above of the Psion SSD, there's a Micro SD card sitting on top of it. The 1MB SSD is 64mm x 42mm x 5mm, while the 64GB Micro SD card is the size of a finger nail, barely 1mm thick and has 65,536x the capacity!

As one additional size/capacity comparison, in the photograph on the right there are two hard drives. The biggest drive at the bottom of the stack is a late 1980s Conner CP-3044 3.5 inch with a capacity of 40MB. The second is a 2003 Seagate ST94019A 2.5 inch with a capacity of 40GB. If you look carefully you will see that on top of the Seagate, in the circle, is the 2016 64GB Micro SD card. If 64GB is not sufficient, 128GB and 256GB cards already exist, and the theoretical limit (at the moment) is 2TB! Enough progress for you?



**Mike Stacey**

## Programme for 2017-18

Please note that this programme may be subject to last minute changes due to factors outside of the club's control.

Date	Event	Judge/Speaker
Sep 5	Enrolment evening	
Sep 12	'New Zealand' (presentation)	David & Janet Barton
Sep 19	1st monthly competition*	Judge: Paul Bradley
Sep 26	Summer challenge evening 1	
Oct 3	Summer challenge evening 2	
Oct 10	Open projected image competition*	Judge: Alison Cawley ARPS EFIAP DPAGB BPE1
Oct 17	'How to put your image on the web'	Ian Miller
Oct 24	Summer challenge evening 3	
Oct 31	2nd monthly competition*	Judge: Alan Cooke
Nov 7	My photographic journey	Roy Fisher FRPS
Nov 14	3rd monthly competition*	Judge: Chris Neill-Griffin BA(Hons) ARPS MFA
Nov 21	SCPF league PDI competition	Judge: Colin Gogerty
Nov 28	Technical evening: still life	Ian Miller
Dec 5	Presentation (subject TBA)	Andrew Mills ARPS MA
Dec 12	'Panel of 3' competition*	Judge: Dr Barry Senior Hon FRPS APAGB
Dec 16	Christmas meal	Details T.B.A.
Dec 19	Annual social evening	Presentation: Alan Brindle
Dec 26	No meeting: Christmas	
Jan 2	No meeting: New Year	
Jan 9	Photo skills presentation	Keith Woodhouse
Jan 16	Image clinic discussion	Members Evening
Jan 23	4th monthly competition*	Judge: Giles Barkley
Jan 30	'Speed & Motion' presentation	Paul Dunmall
Feb 6	Selection for SCPF championship/Newbury	
Feb 13	SCPF print league competition	Judge: Leo Rich ARPS EFIAP/s ABIPP
Feb 20	5th monthly competition*	Judge: Tony Oliver ARPS CPAGB BPE2*
Feb 28	How to create better landscapes & macro	Presentation: Chris Button
Mar 6	New Forest friendly competition	Judge: Glyn Edmunds APSA EPSA EFIAP/s ABIPP
Mar 13	Wish you were here for astronomers	Presentation: Lilian Hobbs
Mar 20	6th monthly competition*	Judge: Jim Pascoe ARPS ABIPP
Mar 27	Cape Town & The Western Cape	Presentation: Philip George
Apr 3	No meeting (Easter)	
Apr 10	Night of the year (mono & colour prints)	Judge: Zaid Meherali
Apr 17	Night of the year (PDI)	Judge: Roy Lambeth DPAGB AFIAP BPE2*
Apr 24	SPF exhibition/league selection	
May 2	AGM	

**\*NOTE:** PDI entries to [ospscomp@gmail.com](mailto:ospscomp@gmail.com) and print entries no later than 7:15pm please.

**Ian Miller**