



# PRESTON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

## FAQs - External Organisations (the L&CPU, the PAGB, BPE, the PSA and the RPS)

### 1. What is the L&CPU?

The L&CPU is the Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union. It is the regional co-ordinating body for those amateur Photographic Clubs and Societies in the North West of England that subscribe to it. There is no membership for individuals except through affiliation as a member of a North West club or society.

It is a voluntary organisation funded by subscription levied on member clubs. Other regions of the UK have their own equivalent organisations. Clubs, including ours, elect delegates who attend and vote at appropriate meetings.

#### The L&CPU:

Develops and agrees policies with clubs enabling them to meet statutory and other requirements - e.g. health and safety, child photography and with the PAGB(see below), guidelines for photographic competition.

Provides bloc Public Liability and All Risks Insurance cover for clubs and their members through its membership of the PAGB.

Co-ordinates a number of annual competitions at an individual and inter club level.

Represents the North West in PAGB Inter Federation competitions using work selected from inter club competitions.

Selects and provides training for a panel of competition judges and maintains a panel of lecturers for clubs to use.

Assembles both print and projected image portfolios using work retained from its club level competitions. Clubs may borrow these for their annual programmes.

The L&CPU maintains a comprehensive WEB site full of news, useful information and a forum that as members of the Preston society, you are entitled to make use of. The following link will take you there:

<http://www.lcpu.org/>

External Competition Secretary & LCPU Delegate: John Crashley

tel: 01772 707340 email: john.crashley@btinternet.com

web: [www.prestonphotographicsociety.org](http://www.prestonphotographicsociety.org) blog: [ppsociety.wordpress.com](http://ppsociety.wordpress.com) twitter: @ppsociety



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## 2. What is the PAGB?

The PAGB is the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. It is the UK wide organisation that co-ordinates the activities of the UK regional bodies, that is the L&CPU and its sister organisations. There is no membership for individuals except through the L&CPU as a member of a club or society.

It is a voluntary organisation funded by subscription levied on the Regional Bodies. Each Regional Body elects delegates who attend and vote at appropriate meetings held by the PAGB.

### The PAGB:

Arranges the Public Liability and All Risks Insurance available to clubs via the L&CPU the other regional organisations.

Organises a number of annual competitions between the different regions of the UK. These are known as the "Inter - Federation" competitions.

Bestows Distinctions that can be applied for by individual photographers who have met set criteria. Successful applicants can use the distinction after their name indicating that they have achieved a given standard of photography.

Provides Patronage and supplies medals, ribbons and certificates ( Merit Awards) to clubs that organise and hold UK wide Photographic Salons.

Has available, a number of recorded audio visual lectures and CD Portfolios for use by clubs as part of their annual club programme.

Represents the UK internationally as a member of FIAP (see below)

More detail on the various functions carried out by the PAGB can be had from their WEB site through the following link:

<http://www.pagb-photography-uk.co.uk/main.htm>



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## 3. What is FIAP?

FIAP is the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique. It is an international organisation based in Paris and invites membership from national federations. In the case of the UK, this is the PAGB. There is no membership for individuals except through your club and its affiliation to your National Federation. Its stated objective is "the promotion of photographic art under all its aspects and by all kinds of photographic events".

### In pursuit of this FIAP:

Provides Patronage and supplies medals, ribbons and certificates to clubs worldwide that organise and hold International Photographic Salons.

Publishes a calendar of all of the competitions that it supports.

Bestows internationally recognised Distinctions (see separate FAQs on [Distinctions](#)) that through the appropriate National body can be applied for by photographers who have met set criteria. Successful applicants can use the distinction after their name indicating that they have achieved a given standard of photography.

Organises a number of annual competitions of its own including the FIAP World Cup for clubs and/or Regional organisations worldwide.

Holds an International Congress somewhere in the World every two years.

FIAP also maintains a WEB site accessed via the following link:

<http://www.fiap.net/index-en.html>



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## 4. What is the BPE?

BPE stands for British Photographic Exhibitions. The organisation was formed in the late 1980s when 10 clubs that independently had established photographic exhibitions, banded together to share experience and promote photographic competition within the UK. Locally, Southport PS was one of the founding members. In 1991, the BPE went on to introduce its own series of awards for successful photographers. Currently 17 exhibitions run by UK clubs are recognised by the BPE.

### The BPE:

Provides patronage to its member exhibitions.

Provides guidance and broad protocols for the running of those exhibitions.

Publicises planned exhibitions on its WEB site.

Bestows Distinctions known as BPE Crown awards, to successful competition entrants (see separate FAQs on [Distinctions](#)).

The BPE maintains a Web site that is a useful source of information from which you can download the annual exhibitions calendar for UK base competitions and the relevant Rules/Entry forms published by the organising clubs. The latter is particularly useful in the case of those clubs who still today do not have on line facilities. The BPE Web site can be found at:

<http://www.b-p-e.org.uk/>

## 5. What is the PSA?

The PSA is the Photographic Society of America. It is the U.S. equivalent of the PAGB. It represents the very many US photographic clubs and societies but unlike the PAGB, you don't have to belong to a US club or society to become a member. Membership is open to anybody worldwide, amateur and professional. Due to its size, it is able to publish a free monthly magazine for its members.



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## The PSA:

Provides Patronage (often in tandem with FIAP) and supplies medals, ribbons and certificates to US clubs and clubs worldwide that organise and hold Photographic Salons.

Sets common standards for these competitions in return for its patronage.

Publishes a calendar of all of the competitions that it supports.

Bestows internationally recognised Merit Awards (Distinctions) that can be applied for by photographers who have met set criteria (see separate FAQs on [Distinctions](#)). Successful applicants can use the distinction after their name indicating that they have achieved a given standard of photography.

Organises a number of annual competitions of its own. These are mainly for members or member clubs but also holds the PSA annual Open exhibition that is open to all in.

Holds an annual conference each year somewhere in the U.S. somewhere in the World every two years.

Runs a number of photographic training workshops for its members.

The PSA maintains a very comprehensive Web site full of news and interesting information including a calendar of the international exhibitions that it supports. Where they exist, links to salon Web sites are generally provided. The PSA Web site can be found at:

<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

## 6. What is the RPS?

The RPS is the Royal Photographic Society. Formed in 1851, it is one of the oldest if not the oldest Society in the UK. Membership is open to all but it differs from other clubs and societies in that:

It enjoys Royal patronage - first bestowed by Queen Victoria. It gained its Royal Charter in 2004.



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It includes both Amateur and Professional photographers and caters for specialised group interests in Science and Art as well as general photography. It publishes its own Journal.

It is UK based with a permanently staffed Headquarters in Bath but it has both UK Regional and Overseas Chapters.

It is not part of the hierarchy formed by the L&CPU and the other regional organisations with the PAGB.

## The RPS:

Provides Patronage and supplies medals, ribbons and certificates to a limited number of clubs worldwide (Commonwealth countries in particular) that organise and hold International Photographic Salons.

Bestows Distinctions that can be applied for by professional and amateur photographers alike who have met set criteria. These are internationally recognised qualifications of merit (see separate FAQs on [Distinctions](#)).

Organises a number of international and local regional Salons.

Maintains an important permanent collection of historical and contemporary photographs which is housed in the National Museum of Photography in Bradford.

Organises major photographic exhibitions of photography, many taken from its permanent collection.

Runs photographic courses that are generally open to the public and in conjunction with The Guardian newspaper, offers an annual bursary for a photographic project.

Confers a number of annual awards to photographers who have made a significant contribution to photography.

The RPS has a very comprehensive WEB site which can be found at:

<http://www.rps.org/>