

KINGSWOOD SALVER

A talk about photographic panels

WHAT IS A PANEL?

A collection of images that have a common link

IT'S NOT A NEW IDEA!



The Merode Altarpiece, Robert Campin, c. 1427–32

WHY PREPARE A PANEL?

- Sometimes one image is not enough
- To tell a story or convey a feeling or concept
- To fully explore a subject or genre
- To show the development of an idea or concept
- To create a body of work for a distinction
- To challenge yourself and develop and improve your photography skills

KEY ELEMENTS OF A PHOTO PANEL

- Clear theme
- Quality images
- Cohesive images
- Well laid out
- Good presentation

WHAT IS THE KINGSWOOD SALVER?

- A printed image panel competition
- Open to all WCPF member clubs
- Only one entry per club
- Panels must comprise:
 - 5 images
 - On a theme of the club's choosing
 - Each by a different photographer
 - All photographers must be current members of the club at the time of entry

OUR HISTORY WITH THE KINGWOOD SALVER

2021 - First time we entered

2022 – Second time we entered

2023 – No entry

2024 – No entry

KINGWOOD SALVER 2021 ENTRY



KINGWOOD SALVER 2022 ENTRY

A Shot In The Dark



Rose Is Missing, Please Help



The Price Of Information



The Boss Says "Back Off"



Freedom's Just One Shot Away

A1 Camera Club



Reunited! My Job Is Done

What went wrong in 2023 and 2024?

We have found a way forward!

We piloted it this year.

WHAT CHANGED?

- The club introduced a project challenge in 2024/25:
 - To be done outside normal club meetings
 - To encourage members to try out new things and explore topics in greater depth
 - To encourage members to work together and learn from each other
- In December 2024 a group of us decided to work on a project with a potential Kingswood Salver entry as our framework and goal

HOW DID WE APPROACH THE PROJECT?

There was some overlap but essentially there were 6 phases:

1. Conception
2. Planning
3. Photographing
4. Selection
5. Post production
6. Final assembly



CONCEPTION

In February 2025 we held an initial meeting to discuss ideas, agree a theme and ideas for individual images:

We agreed that:

- The theme should be equally accessible to all members taking part
- We would offer mutual support, particularly for less experienced members if they might find the chosen theme more challenging

Our chosen theme was developed from an idea put forward by Rosy and the title was proposed by Ron:

“What a carry on” – a gently humorous and colourful panel depicting individuals carrying impossibly large loads



PLANNING

Ideas for individual image ideas were brainstormed in the first meeting and a lot of detailed thought was given, and emails exchanged, before our next meeting in March. This meeting was to capture some trial shots using Alex's studio, agree our final five image scenarios and plan the shoot

The meeting agenda covered:

- Confirmation of theme, style, look and mood
- Lighting, aspect ratio, subject positioning and backdrop
- Agreement of the five "loads" the subjects will be carrying
- Props we will need and where we would source them
- Whether we would use one model or five different models
- The order of the images, how each will be staged/positioned.
- Creation of mood boards/shoot plans.



PHOTOGRAPHING

Prior to the shoot a mood board, a visualisation and a timed shooting plan were created and there were a lot of email exchanges about props.

When it came to the day of the shoot in April we were as prepared as we could be and overall it went very well. The key factors to this were:

- A timed plan with time between shoots to set up the next one
- Everyone knew what to expect and had a good idea of what we were aiming for
- We shared thoughts and ideas as the shoot progressed
- We worked at any issues that arose as a team
- But we still had individual freedom to direct the models as we wished



PHOTOGRAPHING

There were some things that did not go to plan:

- We were unable to maintain consistent lighting throughout the day or for each scenario.
- Colour calibration proved very difficult
- Some things were forgotten
- Some mistakes were made

All of which was inevitable and expected, and

WE STILL HAD TOME TO PLAY!



SELECTION

We had some slippage - due to holiday and other commitments so we could not meet to select images until the beginning of July.

Prior to the meeting:

- Members selected their best images, carried out basic edits and uploaded them to a shared drive.
- The images were downloaded to a lightroom catalogue to facilitate review and selection.
- A Photoshop template with different mount options and using a sample of the submitted images was created to help visualise the finished panel.
- The templates were uploaded to the shared drive so that individual images and the panel templates could be reviewed before we met.



SELECTION (2)

In the meeting:

- We reviewed the template examples and agreed there were two subjects with potential for central placement
- We reviewed the submitted images selected a shortlist
- Shortlist images were put in the template to help visualise and:
 - Decide which ones to include in the panel
 - Confirm the order in which they would appear
- There was considerable debate over the centre image but once decided the other images and the placement in the panel fell into place
- The selected images were critiqued and potential edits agreed for processing before meeting to harmonise the panel



PROCESSING

Summer holidays meant we were unable to meet as a group until September and with a submission deadline of 11 October things were getting tight!

The purpose of the processing meeting was to make any final adjustments to the images to bring them together into a cohesive panel. Things did not go exactly to plan so here is what happened:

- The edited images were loaded into the template and viewed on a calibrated screen.
- The edits carried out since the previous meeting were reviewed.
- Further edits to harmonise the panel were agreed and as far as possible were processed (these related to colours, brightness, contrast and shadow detail)
- We then tried to bring consistency to the backgrounds... and failed.



PROCESSING (2)

We reverted to “Plan B”

- Which was to use different coloured backgrounds for each image
- The panel template was used to try different colour backgrounds and agree the colours that most complimented the images and fitted together in the panel.
- In the end this was fortuitous because the coloured backgrounds increased the energy and joy in the images significantly and made the subjects pop.
- However, we had run out of time so a JPG version of the template was saved and shared between members so that each could make adjustments to the background colour and shadow detail at home.



ASSEMBLY

Although originally intended to take place at the same time the printing and mounting of the images took place on Saturday 4 October and Monday 6 October.

- We decided to print on a dye ink printer because of the vibrancy of dye inks.
- When printing at scale we carried out final checks for visible artifacts/blemishes and that the resolution was OK.
- Some minor edits were required to achieve this (mainly to background colour masks)
- One image had to be reprinted on Monday 6 October because of water spot damage.

The final mounted images were delivered by hand on Thursday 9 October and the digital versions were submitted on Friday 10 October... Just in time!



And now the results of our labours

THE VISUALISATION



THE DRAFT PANELS – TEMPLATE EXAMPLE 1



THE DRAFT PANELS – TEMPLATE EXAMPLE 2



THE DRAFT PANELS – THE FINAL SELECTION?



And at last

OUR KINGWOOD SALVER 2025 ENTRY



What A Carry On!



A1 Camera Club

And now let's ask the photographers to
comment on their images and their
participation in the project

CARRY ON TRAVELLING – NICK SMITH



CARRY ON WITH THE LAUNDRY – RON PARISH



CARRY ON CLOWNING – ALEX KING



CARRY ON AT THE BEACH – ROSY HOPKINS



CARRY ON PARTYING – CRISTINA LIVIERO



WHAT THE JUDGE SAID

Ron, William and I attended the judging of the Kingswood Salver which took place on Saturday. This is what the judge said:

- That we obviously had fun creating the panel
- Planning evident
- Liked the joyous feel
- Strong colour backgrounds effective
- Enjoyed the subtle details
- Don't see any faces but don't need to



To summarise - very interesting, fun and a pleasure to view.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The way is open for any of you to get together with other members and have a go for 2025/26 and I would thoroughly recommend it.

If you do you can expect:

- It will be hard work
- It will take a lot of time
- It will require a lot of planning and co-ordination
- It will challenge you
- You will learn a lot, particularly about planning, creativity, the nuances of composition and presentation and team work.
- You will have a lot of fun!

QUESTIONS?



What A Carry On!



A1 Camera Club