

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith

100 years, what an achievement! I am delighted to have been asked to start this Centenary celebration day off.

My own history with Dunfermline Photographic Association obviously spans much less than these 100 years, but for the past 25 years, I have had the pleasure to visit many times as a Judge and Lecturer as well as having interacted with many of the Association's committee and members on behalf of the SPF and its events. For the early years I have relied on the 70-year history of the club written by Tom Scott, and the SPF's archives. More of Tom later.

It all started off on Friday 28th May 1926 an informal meeting of nine camera enthusiasts was held in the Yorkshire Insurance Company office to consider the formation of a photographic club in Dunfermline. Those present were: - J Simpson, W Brown, A Lauder, G Morgan, J C Rae, R E Forrester, D E Horne, D Ednie and R Steedman. Two other interested parties unable to attend, were: D Longmuir and D Anderson.

At that meeting a basic constitution was agreed, and that the title of the Club would be "The Dunfermline Photographic Association".

A public meeting was advertised in the local press to be held in St Margaret's Hall.

That meeting was subsequently held on 4th June 1926 when the society was formally launched and a management Council elected as follows: -

President	J Simpson
Vice Presidents	D Brown and A Lauder
Secretary	R Steedman
Treasurer	R E Forrester
Council	Miss Philp, G Morgan, D Anderson and D E Horne

Meetings were held during the first year, at 77 Queen Anne Street on alternate Tuesdays, but with no accommodation for a darkroom, negotiations with the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust secured rooms at 17 Pilmuir Street, the Pilmuir Hall, by the November, and work began furnishing the meeting rooms and fitting out the darkroom.

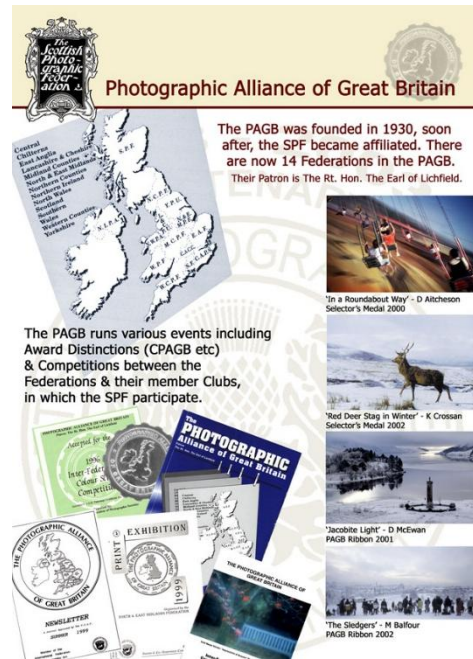
Honorary appointments were made at a meeting on the 29 September 1926 which had an extremely impressive lineup. Ex Provost Sir James Norval, FRPS was appointed Hon. President *he founded **Norval Photography**, one of the earliest and largest photographic companies 118 yrs*

Hon Vice Presidents appointed were – Andrew Allan, Andrew Swan Watson, FRPS, and **Alexander Keighley, FRPS** who was one of the founder members of The Linked Ring (later to become The London Salon) as well as being instrumental in the formation of the PAGB. The Association became affiliated to both the Royal Photographic Society and the Scottish Photographic Federation in 1926. In the same year the association Treasurer Mr Robert E Forrester, was elected to the Scottish Photographic Federation Executive Committee.

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith

In 1928 a meeting took place at the Yorkshire home of **Alexander Keighley, FRPS** which recommended the formation of a body to be known as the Photographic Alliance. And, in 1930, the Photographic Alliance of GB came into existence (or PAGB as we know it today).

Soon after the SPF became a member, and the Dunfermline PA became affiliated to the PAGB. An organisation that the club is still affiliated to today through its SPF membership.



The 1st AGM was held on 27 September 1927, to which 48 members attended, including the four honorary members. A quote from the President's address to the AGM said: - "The Association was formed in the month of June of last year owing to the feeling that there was a growing demand for an Association such as this to meet the greatly expanding populace who are interested in the Art ".

At the meeting Mr Andrew Allan, Hon Vice-President presented a Member's Trophy, "The Allan Trophy", which was won by William Brown. The Allan Trophy is still in use today.

A portfolio of seven prints were chosen for the SPF Annual Portfolio from the 86 entries in the 1927 Annual Exhibition. They gained sixth place out of sixteen clubs competing. In the following year the Association achieved first place in the SPF Portfolios.

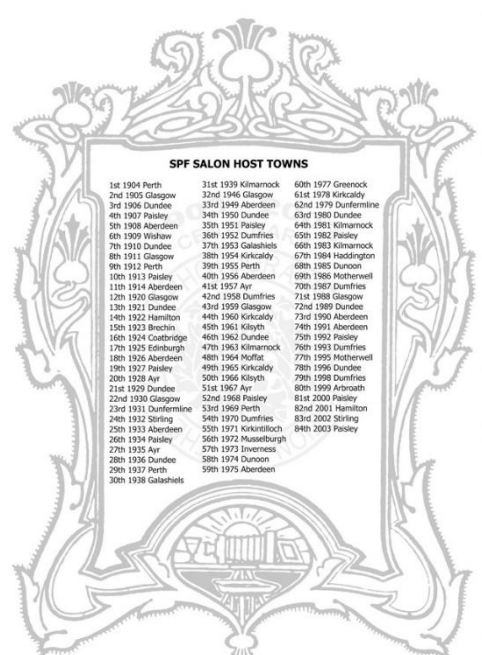
The JD MacDougall Plaque for the best print in the 1936 SPF Annual Portfolio was awarded to Association member to Mr Peter Scott.

Several members particularly R E Forrester were successful in having acceptances in various overseas exhibitions.

This was just the start of many SPF competition and wider successes for the Association, spanning all of the 100 years.

The early 1930s proved to be a particularly active time for the Association.

In 1931, the 23rd Scottish Salon was hosted by the Association, and the resultant Exhibition was held in the Pilmuir Hall for 3 weeks during Feb and March. This was the first time the Scottish Salon had been presented in Fife. Sadly, the SPF don't have a catalogue of this 1931 Salon in their archives.



Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith

It was customary in the early Salon years for the Hon President of the SPF to be a local dignitary from the host Club's area. During 1930-31 this post was held by Ex-Provost of Dunfermline, Sir James Norval FRPS.

In 1930, Mr Robert E Forrester, was to become SPF Vice President, before becoming SPF President in 1932, a post he held for 2 years. After a further two years as Past President, he remained on the SPF Executive Committee as a member until the war saw the organisation pause meetings.

By 1932 the Association membership had almost doubled to seventy-two. A few members were beginning to take an interest in cinematography, and this later blossomed into a very successful Cine Section of the Association which, in later years, held their own meeting nights, before becoming a separate organisation in the 50s.



In Nov 1939 the association also suspended its activities for the duration of the war.

The reforming of the Club after the war took place in March 1946 in Abbot House where an AGM was attended by 30 pre-war and new members. Mr Robert E Forrester Chaired the meeting. A proposal was made to amalgamate the Dunfermline Photographic Association with the Photographic Section of the Naturalist's Society. The Agreement was subsequently signed by the two clubs on 17 Sept. The Dunfermline Naturalists Society retained its name but the Dunfermline Photographic Association was to have "Affiliated to the Dunfermline Naturalist's Society" added to its title.

William Dick, OBE, was re-elected as Hon. President. Robert E Forrester was elected President Thereafter meetings were held in Abbott House in rooms shared with the Naturalist's Society and by Dec 1946 the Association was up to 58 members of which 20 were members from pre-war (including 7 Founders), and 7 who were also members of the Naturalist's Society.

1946 - For the first time Mr John T Knight, FRPS of Musselburgh presented a lecture to the Association and was to be a popular visitor for many years thereafter. He was later to become an Hon Vice President in 1971.

A Kodak sponsored lecturer appeared on the syllabus for the first time and in the following years was to be joined by lecturers from Ilford, Johnson of Hendon, Agfa and others, Many lectures and instruction continued to be given by members.

The first Fife Inter-Club Competition was held on 14February 1949 between Dunfermline Photographic Association and Kirkcaldy Photographic Society. A trophy was

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith

donated by Association President Robert E Forrester, called the 'Forrester Shield'. It was won by Kirkcaldy, a trend which was to continue for the following two years.

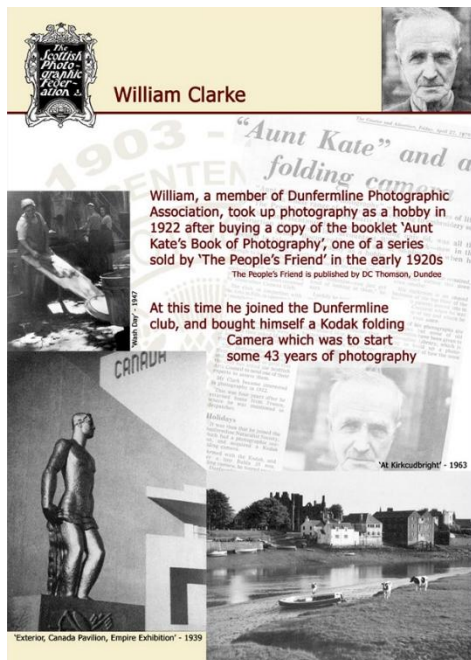
In 1951 rules were agreed for the Inter-Club competition, that would permit all Fife Clubs to compete, in addition to Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy. *This competition continues to run to this day, and I have had the pleasure of Judging it on several occasions.*

In 1950 two more trophies appeared, one presented by DPA Council member **Mr George R Wallace**, to be known as the "**G R Wallace Shield**" and the other purchased by the Association to be known as the "Dunfermline Photographic Association Shield". They were to be awarded for the best mono slide and the best colour slide, respectively, in the Annual Exhibition.

Mr George R Wallace was to become Treasurer of the Scottish Federation for 6 years from 1946-1952

In 1950 Founder member **Robert E Forrester** was rewarded for his long service to the Association by the appointment to Hon. Vice-President. He was not long to enjoy this honour, as his obituary was given by Mr Wallace at the 1951 AGM.

The 1950 Annual Exhibition displayed 75 prints. For the first time **William Clarke's** name (or Willie as he was known) appears as the winner of the Allan Trophy for the best print in the Exhibition. **Willie** was again to the fore with a success in the monochrome slides winning the Wallace Shield for the first time in 1951.



Willie took up photography as a hobby in 1922 after buying a copy of the booklet 'Aunt Kate's Book of Photography' one of a series sold by The People's Friend. Soon after he bought himself a Kodak folding camera which was to start some 43 years of photography. Initially he was a member of the Dunfermline Naturalists Society before joining the Association in 1946.

He was elected President in 1951 and would later serve as Treasurer for many years. He went on to be elected Hon. Vice President in 1975, and on the death of W. McCormac, was made Hon. President in 1976.

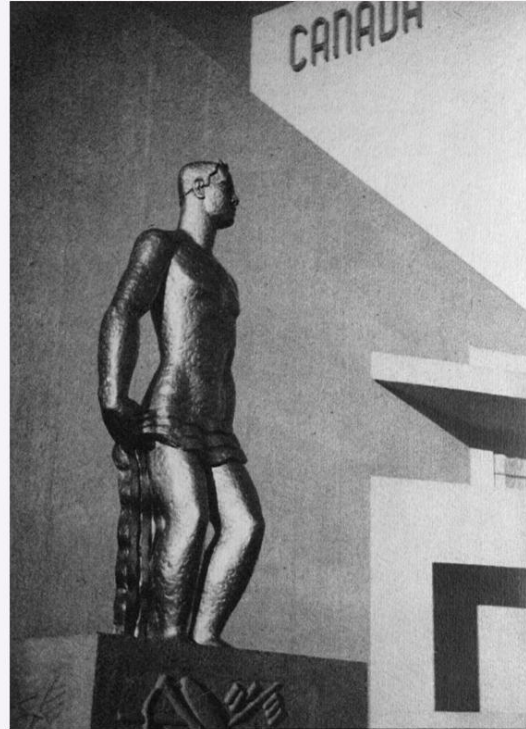
On his passing in 1983, His sister gave his prints, slides and equipment to the Association.

Several of his prints featured in the 2003 SPF Centenary Exhibition along with the storyboard you see here with these copies of the exhibited prints, and are shown here.

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith



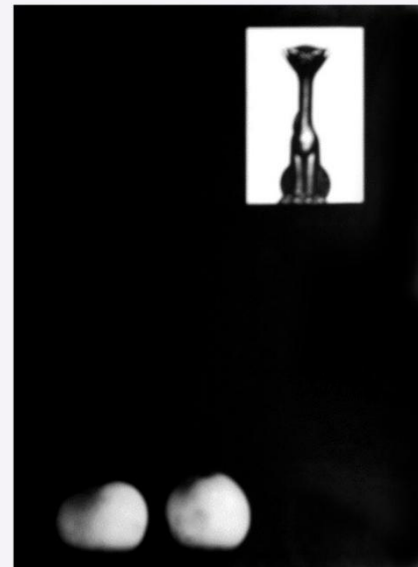
Late 1930s – 'Holiday by the Sea'



1939 Exterior, Canada Pavillion, Empire Exhibition



Late 1950s – 'At North Queensferry', the new car ferry



1962 – 'Two Apples and a Black Cat'

In 1963 the affiliation with the Naturalists ended as did the premises at Abbott House, so a move to 156 Chalmers Street followed. In 1967 there was a further move to the Bruce Street Drill Hall, but after a fire gutted that Hall in 1975, it was to be the end of exclusive premises and a darkroom facility.

Meetings were held in The Music Institute, Benachie, until in 1980, the weekly meeting place moved to the Nethertown Institute, now Dell Farquharson Centre, where the Association still meets to this day.

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith

At the 1972 AGM a new name joined the council, **Iain Wilkinson**.

In 1974 Iain won all three of the monthly print and one of the slide competitions. 1975 Iain's name was well to the fore again, winning two of the four print competitions. He also won the Allan Trophy for Best Print in the Annual Exhibition. This trend was to continue throughout the remainder of the 70s.



'Winter Desert' by Iain Wilkinson - Summit of Ben Cleuch, Ochils; After being accepted into the SPF Portfolio 1972 it went on to be accepted into the PAGB Inter-Federation Print Exhibition 1972. It also featured in the SPF's Centenary exhibition in 2003.

Iain later became Association President in 1976.

By 1971 "trade" lecturers from Kodak, Ilford, etc had dried up and our visiting speakers came mainly from other Scottish camera clubs.

1979 An interest in audio-visual prompted the purchase of a manual dissolve gadget, followed towards the end of 1986 by a new

Phillips tape recorder and the Association entered the audio-visual scene.

In 1979 the main item on the agenda was the 62nd Scottish Salon, being jointly hosted by Dunfermline PA and Kirkcaldy PS.

The selection day had to be arranged, prints and slides to be received, unmounted prints from abroad had to be mounted. A catalogue to be assembled and printed at a cost of £330. A daunting task and the normal activities of the Association had also to proceed.

Dave Mitchell, now a Vice-President was deeply involved in this work, along with other members and members of the Kirkcaldy Club.

The 62nd Scottish International Salon of Photography 1979 saw 1802 prints and slides entered, from 29 countries. The Salon Print Exhibition ran from 2nd to 18th June at Pittencrieff House Museum, with slides being additionally shown at the Music Institute Annexe at the weekends. The event was a resounding success.

The following year, DPA decided to show their Annual Exhibition prints in the Pittencrieff Park Museum, which was also a great success with an attendance of 3905 visitors.

Dave Mitchell became President in 1981; Alec Mercer was appointed Hon Vice-President and also continued his duties as Treasurer.

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith



1966 - 'Flood Tide' by Dave Mitchell
of Dunfermline Photographic Association.
Part of the 2003 SPF Centenary
Exhibition

Also, a very accomplished photographer Dave's work also featured in the 2003 SPF Centenary Exhibition - Flood Tide' by Dave Mitchell 1966

Tom Scott wrote his 70-year Club history from the Club records available to him. But he didn't cover his own contribution over many years, other than the occasional mention of serving on the association's council, as his work would allow. His own photography was only mentioned once, around 1946. He said of a Judging he recalled

"I remember one judging session when he was appraising one of my prints, which incidentally won the competition. It was a night-time skyline of Singapore over which I double exposed a shot of lightening on the enlarger. He enthused about how patient the photographer must have been to wait for the lightning strike and then expose at just the right moment. I doubt John T Knight (Judge) had ever photographed a lightning storm. I refrained from enlightening him. "



1961 - 'Pensive' by Tom Scott
of Dunfermline P A.
After being accepted into the SPF Portfolio
it went on to be accepted into
the PAGB Print Exhibition 1961
It was entered in the 1962 Fife Inter-Club Competition
Accepted in 47th Scottish Salon, Kilmarnock, 1962
Exhibited RPS - Aberdeen, Newcastle and Wednesbury

Tom had work exhibited in the SPF Portfolios, and PAGB Inter-Fed Exhibition as well as accepted for the Scottish International Salon.

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith

Sadly, Tom didn't quite make this centenary as he passed away in June 2023, at the age of 97. His history lives on and can be read in full on the Club website.

Bringing the history up to date, under the leadership of Gillian Temple President, Allan Clark Secretary and Dennis Brooks Treasurer, the Association have continued to be a strong proactive friendly Club, embracing new and ever-changing technology, while continuing their strong connections with Kirkcaldy and the other Fife clubs through their passion for photography.

Competitively they have continued to do extremely well against several much larger clubs in the SPF arena, and wider.

The Association's members having continued to have work selected for the PAGB Inter-Federation Exhibitions. Just two examples -



Accepted for the 2017
PAGB Inter Fed Exhibition
'Clouds over Rhum'
by David McConkey



Accepted for the 2017
PAGB Inter Fed Exhibition
'Puffin with Sandeels'
by Ken Goodfellow

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith

While others having achieved photographic distinctions,
including in recent years -



Nov 2018 -
David Bolton CPAGB
at Pontefract



Nov 2021 - Gillian Temple DPAGB
at Newton Abbot



April 2025 - Ian Monk CPAGB
at Dunblane

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith

Some notable recent successes for the Association and its members in SPF competitions include –

SPF Digital Championships where in 2021 the Club won the Plate Trophy; in 2022 they were 2nd equal and in 2024 the Club finished 3rd equal.



2024 SPF Digital Championship
Best Overall Plate Trophy Image
'King Charles Puppies'
by Gillian Temple, Dunfermline PA

In the SPF Annual Portfolios 2025 The Club finished 5th= and



SPF Annual Portfolios 2025
'Three Amigos' by David Scott
Best Overall Mono Print

In The February 2026 SPF Print Championship The Best Nature Print Was Awarded To 'Stand Off' By Gillian Temple.

Dunfermline Photographic Association Centenary Event Saturday 30th May 2026
Intro and Brief History by Libby Smith



2026 SPF Print Championship
Best Nature Print
'Stand Off' by Gillian Temple
Dunfermline PA

A Great Start to 2026, and to the next 100 Years.

However, a club doesn't get to 100 years without the support of all of the membership over the last 100 years and the unstinting dedication by the numerous Council members that have served past and present, only a small number of whom have been mentioned here. But without them all, we wouldn't be here today. Congratulations on this wonderful achievement to the Council and Members of DPA!

Libby Smith MPAGB EFIAP HonPAGB, HonSPF ESFIAP,

SPF Hon Life Vice President
& SPF Treasurer