



In Focus

Tavistock Photography Club | Newsletter No. 1 | June 2026

A warm welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *In Focus*, our new Tavistock Photography Club newsletter. As the club season draws to a close following the AGM, I wanted to share a few updates, celebrate a wonderful recent project, and highlight some summer events that may provide plenty of photographic inspiration.

Our season ended with the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 10 June. Howard, our outgoing Chair, guided us through the meeting in record time, new officers were appointed, and we also said farewell to Penny and John. Both have given so much to the club over the years, and we wish them every happiness in their new adventures.

Club news

I've already seen an early draft of next season's 2026/27 programme, and it looks varied and exciting. There is much to look forward to.

I'm also pleased to say that the club calendar, featuring selected members' images, is progressing well.

As your new Chair, I thought it would be a nice idea to keep in touch over the summer by sharing a few club updates and some dates for your diary.

Member spotlight

Following the River Tavy: a photographic journey from its source on Dartmoor to the Tamar

On Saturday 13 June, Ray Jacobs presented his work, **A photographic journey along the River Tavy, from Tavy Cleave on the heights of Dartmoor to its confluence with the River Tamar at sea level**, to the Tavistock and West Devon Branch of The Devonshire Association at the Town Hall. The work traced the course of the River Tavy from source to confluence and included a rolling slideshow set to music composed by Andrew Wilson, a local and internationally recognised composer. There was also a display of printed images by several club members, capturing the river along its full length. Ray was supported by Pedro, who provided the display frames, while I helped in a much smaller way. The exhibition attracted a great deal of interest and admiration from visitors throughout the day.

Afterwards, I sat down with Ray and asked him a few questions about the project.

So how did you get involved in the first place?

Ray explained that, following previous collaborations with the Edge Group and the Tavistock Subscription Library, the Devonshire Association invited the club to help portray the River Tavy from a range of viewpoints. As a member of the Association himself, he was keen to help bring the idea to life.

How did you encourage others to join?

A club-wide email invited members to take part, and Ray also organised a walk up Tavy Cleave with Henry Guly acting as our guide.

Did you have any worries it might not work?

Ray admitted that there were the occasional sleepless nights along the way. However, he said that if the project had looked unlikely to come together, he would have let the Devonshire Association know in good time.

Were you pleased with how things turned out?

Ray was delighted with the result. He said that the collaboration with Andrew Wilson came about through a chance conversation at the Tavistock Subscription Library, where they are both members, and that the music added a special finishing touch to the slideshow. On the day, both were extremely pleased with how the presentation came together.

What are you planning next?

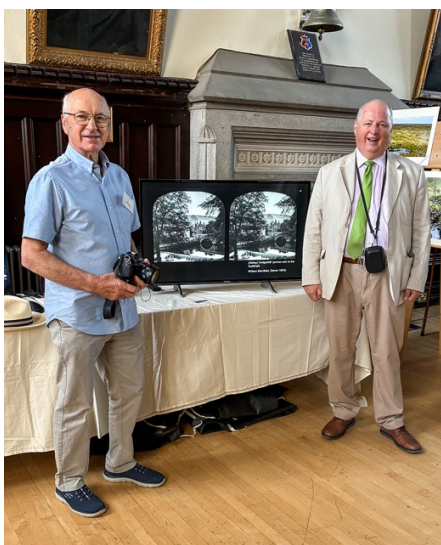
Ray said the next project is already underway: creating photographic illustrations inspired by the pen sketches of Dartmoor walks in the 1909 edition of *Crossing's Guide to Dartmoor*. Coincidentally, the Devonshire Association plans to mark the centenary of Crossing's death in 2028, so the timing feels particularly fitting. The exact format is still being developed, but it is another exciting community-based idea.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Ray said that projects like this show how Tavistock Photography Club can contribute to the wider community through members' skills, creativity, knowledge and enthusiasm. They also help raise the club's profile and create fresh opportunities for members to get involved. He also highlighted the value of the club's Open Shutter subgroup, whose gatherings, photo outings and collaborative projects continue to add to the enjoyment and benefits of membership.

I thanked Ray and everyone involved for their dedication in bringing the project to such a successful conclusion, and I suggested that it would be wonderful to see the slideshow and hear the accompanying music at a future club workshop.

Below is a small selection of images from the project, including a photograph of Ray Jacobs and Andrew Wilson.



Ray Jacobs and Andrew Wilson.



All set up



Middle Tavy Cleave

Summer photo opportunities

Summer is a wonderful time to get out and about with your camera. Here is a selection of local events that may offer plenty of inspiration over the coming weeks:

- **20–21 June – Plymouth Car & Bike Show, Newnham Park, Plympton**
Ideal for action shots, vehicle details and candid moments.
- **27 June – National Stone Walling Championships, Merrivale**
A chance to capture craftsmanship, character and Dartmoor atmosphere.
- **4–5 July – 1940s Weekend, South Devon Railway, Buckfastleigh**
Great for vintage detail, portraits and storytelling images.
- **11 July – Tavistock Fringe**
Perfect for lively street scenes, performers and atmosphere.
- **30 July – Launceston Show**
Good opportunities for agricultural scenes, portraits and local character.
- **13 August – Okehampton Show**
Another excellent event for colour, movement and candid photography.
- **22–23 August – RAF Harrowbeer**
Interesting possibilities for heritage, re-enactment and documentary-style images.
- **27 August – Club Photography Exhibition, Butcher Hall**
A date to support the club and celebrate members' work.
- **August Bank Holiday – Sampford Spiney Sheepdog Trials**
Ideal for capturing rural life, movement and traditional local events.

If you know of any local events that would make an excellent photographic outing, please do get in touch. It would be lovely to include more members' suggestions in future editions.

A final note

Wishing you all a wonderful summer of photography. I hope many of you enjoy getting out with your cameras over the coming weeks, and I would be delighted to hear about any events, projects or images you would like to share in the next issue.

Chris Harvey
Chris.harvey@inspired-images.co.uk
Chair, Tavistock Photography Club