COLCHESTER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

COLCHESTERPHOTOSOC.CO.UK



"Max and Trainer"
by Richie Cunningham

PROGRAMME of EVENTS 2026/27

The Society meets on Tuesdays at
Christ Church, Ireton Road (off Maldon Road), Colchester, CO3 3AU
www.colchesterphotosoc.co.uk

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Aims of the Society

To promote and encourage interest in the study and appreciation of photography. This is achieved by inviting top lecturers, both amateur and professional, to present their work and demonstrate techniques. In addition, the Society provides practical demonstrations and competitions, as well as encouraging members in advancing their photography.

Programme 2026/27

All meetings commence promptly at 7.30pm.

8th Sept **"Magical Atmospheres of the Wilderness"** - Talk by **Tobias Gjerde.** Tobias is an exciting young wildlife photographer from Norway, already gaining international recognition for his atmospheric and artistic approach to nature photography. Despite his age, he has built an impressive portfolio, won major awards, and become one of the youngest members of the Norwegian Association of Nature Photographers.
Tobias will discuss how to capture atmospheric wildlife photographs, with a focus on the photographic decisions that create specific moods.
(Visitors £5.00) ***[tobiasgjerde.com]***

15th Sept **"Our Members Present"** - Short presentations by members of the Society. This is an opportunity to share your images with your fellow members. Volunteers required please! If you would like to take part please inform Steve Ball, Programme Secretary. (programmesecretary@colchesterphotosoc.co.uk).

22nd Sept **"Fine Art, Minimalism, and Long Exposure Photography"** - Talk by **Gary Gough** MFIAP FRPS MPAGB APAGB. Join Gary Gough as he shares his approach to creating striking fine art images through minimalism and long exposure techniques, transforming simple coastal scenes into powerful, atmospheric photographs. He will also discuss his photographic journey and how his YouTube channel has grown into a platform for teaching, inspiration, and community. (Visitors £5.00) ***[garygough.co.uk]***

29th Sept **Projected Digital Image League Competition** (1st round)
Appraisal by **Paul Parkinson** ARPS CPAGB BPE3*

6th Oct **"Capture the Moment – A Passion for Sports Photography"** - Talk by **Nick Alston** ARPS AWPF DPAGB BPE4*. Nick is an experienced photographer with a passion for capturing the energy and intensity of sport. In this engaging talk, he shares images from a wide range of disciplines, with a closer look at hockey, rugby, and boxing, alongside the key techniques behind successful action shots.
Covering timing, camera settings, composition, workflow, and the creative use of colour and monochrome, Nick offers both practical insight and inspiration to help you capture those decisive sporting moments in your own style.
(Visitors £5.00) ***[nwa.org.uk]***

13th Oct **Colour Print League Competition** (1st round)
Appraisal by **Richard Rackham**

20th Oct **CPS 8 X 8 Trophy Competition**
Eight clubs compete with an entry of eight prints, each by a different photographer. Appraisal by **Ben Pike**

24th Oct (Sat) *PAGB Print Championships at Harper Adams Agricultural College, Newport, Staffs.*

27th Oct (Now Zoomed into the Hall) **"From Animal to Man – and Multiple Exposures."** - Talk by **Marketa Zvelebil** LRPS CrGP Capturing what we perceive as "reality", the behaviour of animals and people, is one of the most compelling aspects of photography, where we wait, camera in hand, for the decisive moment. At the other end of the spectrum lies a more artistic approach, where reality becomes something we shape and reinterpret.
Through the creative use of multiple exposure, both in-camera and in post-processing, images can be transformed to convey beauty, narrative, and deeper meaning. Marketa will share her techniques and present a selection of her work to illustrate this process.
(Visitors £5.00) ***[marketa-zvelebil.pixels.com]***

3rd Nov **Projected Digital Image League Competition** (2nd round)
Appraisal by **Matt Cooke** ARPS MA (Distinction - Mdx) FHEA

10th Nov **"Alternative Truths"** - Talk by **Damien Demolder**
How closely do our photographs reflect the way we truly experience the world? In this thought-provoking talk, Damien explores the gap between perception and image, and how creative use of camera, lens, and technique can bring the two closer together.
By experimenting with perspective and visual interpretation, he reveals ways to produce striking, original images that remain authentic to the moment while offering a fresh view of reality.
(Visitors £5.00) ***[damiendemolder.com]***

12th Nov (Thurs) *Halstead Twin Towns External Comp at Halstead*

17th Nov **Monochrome Print League Competition** (1st round)
Appraisal by **Barbie Lindsay** MPAGB FRPE EFIAP/s AWPF

24th Nov **"Adventures in Madagascar"** - Talk by **Chrissie Hart** ARPS DPAGB
A captivating collection of digital and printed images from Chrissie's travels in Madagascar, showcasing the people, wildlife, and unique landscapes of the world's fourth-largest island. With some prints for show during the break.
(Visitors £5.00)

1st Dec **Projected Digital Image League Competition** (3rd round) Appraisal by **Caroline Preece** LRPS

8th Dec (by Zoom) **Annual CPS vs Wetzlar PDI Competition**
Appraisal by **Tom Peck** LRPS CPAGB

15th Dec **Image Appreciation** - Tonight we're blending a relaxed social gathering with an opportunity to explore the printed medium. Tables will be set up throughout the hall where members can display possibly unseen and/or unmounted printed images they've created. This is a chance to discover a variety of genres, explore ideas, discuss paper types and receive valuable feedback to refine and enhance the presentation of your own work.

22nd & 29th Dec - No Meetings during Christmas Period

2027

5th Jan — **The Essex Challenge**
An open PDI competition for images of any subject but which must have been taken in Essex. Two entries per person allowed.
Appraisal by **Jim Bennett** CPAGB

12th Jan — **Colour Print League Competition** (2nd round)
Appraisal by **Nick Akers** ARPS BPE4*

19th Jan — **"From Amersham Photographic Society to Colchester Photographic Society"** - Talk by **Andrew Bailey.** Andrew reflects on how his landscape and nature photography has evolved from his days at Amersham Photographic Society through to the present day at Colchester Photographic Society. Through a selection of images, he explores the stories behind their capture, the techniques involved, and the lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful photographs. (Visitors £5.00)

26th Jan — **MIPS Challenge Trophy Interclub PDI League Competition**
Appraisal by **Tim Morland** DPAGB ARPS

2nd Feb — **Monochrome Print League Competition** (2nd round)
Appraisal by **Jane Barrett** ARPS AWPF DPAGB BPE5*

9th Feb — **"Butterflies, Dragonflies and Other Invertebrates"** - Talk by **Liz Cutting** ARPS DPAGB BPE5* As both a naturalist and photographer, Liz brings a deep understanding of her subjects to her work. This talk focuses on photographing invertebrates, particularly butterflies and dragonflies, exploring how observation, timing, and technique come together to capture these delicate and fascinating creatures in their natural environment.
(Visitors £5.00) ***(lizcuttingphotos.com]***

16th Feb — **Projected Digital Image League Competition** (4th round)
Appraisal by **Alison Jenkins** ARPS DPAGB CPAGB/AV BPE1*

23rd Feb — **Colour Print League Competition** (3rd and Final Round)
Appraisal by **Naomi Saul** ARPS ASINWP EFIAP DPAGB APAGB BPE4*

23rd Feb — *Wetzlar vs Colchester P.S. away leg in Germany - Appraised by Andreas & Maria Schäfer*

2nd Mar **"Wild Women: Creativity, Community and Collaboration in Photography"** - Talk by **Amy Haynes** An inspiring look at how bringing female photographers together in supportive, creative spaces can spark new ideas, build confidence, and push artistic boundaries through shared experimentation and collaboration.
(Visitors £5.00) ***[fieldsphotography.co.uk]***

2nd Mar *Braintree Mono Shield at Braintree*

9th Mar **Three-on-a-Theme (Prints) and Digital Triptych (PDI) Competitions**
Appraisal by **Jonathan Vaines** LRPS CPAGB AFIAP

14th Mar (Sun) *EAF Annual General Meeting plus PDI & Print Championships at Fulbourn*

16th Mar **Colchester vs Ipswich Annual Battle at Colchester Venue**
Appraisal by **Julie Hutson** ARPS DPAGB

23rd Mar **"Land, Sea and Sky: From Vistas to Intimate"** - Zoom Talk by **Robert Canis.**
Tonight you will be entertained within the comfort of your own home by our speaker; one who has achieved many awards and made a number of BBC TV appearances. Tonight he will cover the wild coastline of Ireland and moorland of Dartmoor to the cobbled lanes of Prague and meadows of Italy. In this talk Robert also reveals to us that which goes into capturing vistas and the often overlooked, as well as the creative process behind making meaningful landscape photographs.

30th Mar **Projected Digital Image League Competition** (5th round)
Appraisal by **Peter Norris** AFIAP DPAGB BPE3*

6th Apr **Monochrome Print League Competition** (3rd and Final Round)
Appraisal by **Mike Fuller**

13th Apr **"Photographing Namibia"** - Talk by **Justin Minns** FRPS
Join award-winning landscape photographer Justin Minns on a photographic journey through one of the world's most dramatic environments. From vast desert landscapes and towering dunes to abandoned towns and dark, star-filled skies, Namibia offers endless creative possibilities for the photographer.
Through his images, Justin explores how light, conditions, and composition come together to capture the atmosphere and scale of this extraordinary landscape, revealing why it is such a compelling destination for landscape photography.
(Visitors £5.00) ***[justinminns.co.uk]***

20th Apr **Projected Digital Image League Competition** (6th and Final Round) Appraisal by **Penny Reeves** LRPS

27th Apr **"My Life in Photography and Photography in My Life"** Talk by **Hilary Knight** CPAGB. Hilary reflects on a lifelong passion for photography, from her early days working in a photographic shop and studio through to the present day. Covering a wide range of genres, including portraiture, wildlife, macro, street, and creative photography, she shares how photography has remained a constant source of enjoyment, inspiration, and memorable experiences throughout her life.

"The Wildlife of Delta de L'Ebre" Talk by **Naomi Foster** CPAGB BPE2*. Naomi presents a photographic exploration of the wildlife of Delta de L'Ebre in the Catalonia region of Spain, based on five visits made at different times of the year. Through her images, she reveals the rich variety of birdlife and natural habitats found within this unique wetland landscape, while highlighting how the changing seasons influence both the wildlife and photographic opportunities.
(Visitors £5.00)

1st - 15th May *Annual EAF Exhibition at Apex Gallery, Bury St Edmunds*

4th May **Image of the Year Print and PDI Competitions**
Appraisal by **David Steel** DPAGB

11th May **"A Passion for Wildlife"**- Talk by **Kevin Pigney** ARPS DPAGB ASINWP **.** In this engaging presentation, Kevin Pigney shares the story of his wildlife photography journey, illustrated through a selection of his most successful and memorable images. More than just showcasing photographs, he reveals the stories behind them: covering locations, planning, and the field craft required to get close to his subjects.
With a strong emphasis on practical, in-camera techniques, Kevin explains how he approaches projects, works with natural light, and captures authentic wildlife moments in the field. The talk combines inspiration with clear, experience-based guidance for photographers of all levels.
(Visitors £5.00) ***[kjpphotography.myportfolio.com***]

18th May **Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Awards, followed by a presentation after the break.**

COMPETITION RULES & CHECKLIST 2026-2027
ADVANCED and INTERMEDIATE GROUPING.

In order to provide a degree of equality, members entering competitions are split into groups. The first of these is the "Intermediate" group, being members who are either relatively new to photography or those who, whilst being a little bit more than a beginner, are not yet at what might be considered a highly skilled level.

The "Advanced" group is comprised of those members who are at a higher level than the aforementioned.

♦ New members, upon joining the club, should suggest their preferred grouping, having a view to their personal experience, and to be agreed by the Print and PDI Secretaries. Members who have come from other clubs and who have regularly achieved success in their previous club competitions or have a photographic accreditation will be placed in the higher category.

♦ Members can go up from Intermediate to Advanced but not the other way. At the end of the season and at the discretion of the committee, those members who reach the top places at the Intermediate Level will be promoted to the Advanced.

In addition, promotion of other members may also occur in order to maintain a reasonably fair balance between the two groups. Such advancement will only occur after discussion and agreement between the parties concerned.

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRIES

Mounting: Advanced Section:

♦ An image MUST be on a 50cm x 40cm mount. This is a universally specified size of print mount which was established to avoid damage caused by smaller prints to others when placed in a pile prior to judging. Any prints offered on mounts of a different size to that stated will be rejected. Prints should be in a Window Mount, however a "full-page-bleed, flush mounted image", namely one that covers the whole area of the mount, is also acceptable but please note that damage to the print edges during handling may occur. Please ask if you need help cutting mounts.

♦ Image title and the name of the photographer to be clearly shown on the rear of the mount in the top left-hand corner when viewed from the back.

♦ The front of the image shall not show any identification as to the photographer.

♦ Printed borders – as required by yourself.

♦ Note that pre-cut-to-size mount-board, backing board and framing tape can be purchased through the club at bulk prices. Please speak to Chrissie Hart for details.

Mounting: Intermediate Section:

Same rules as above but:

♦ Members may want to take advantage of our 50cm x 40cm off-white pre-cut mounts with window suitable to take either landscape or portrait A4 size prints – please ask Vic.

♦ We will allow prints to be surface mounted onto 50cm x 40cm board but note that this increases the chance of prints getting damaged. Please also note that prints so mounted will not be able

to be included as part of the club's entry into external competitions because of risk of damage. However, in such situations the selection committee may consider having such prints remounted to avoid this problem.

♦ Please ask if you need help cutting your own mounts. Speak to Chrissie Hart or Vic.

P.D.I. (Projected Digital Image) COMPETITION ENTRIES

♦ Size: Max 1600 pixels in width. Max 1200 pixels in height. Note that as pixel dimensions are given "Resolution" can be ignored.

♦ Save as JPEG/Quality12 (note: Quality 12 means maximum quality)

♦ Borders – optional, as required by yourself.

♦ The image shall not show any identification as to the photographer.

♦ It is important that you insert certain information within the image file (this is called "Metadata") and please keep your name under "Author" constant so that all your images will be grouped together. This aids the PDI Secretary in scoring, image display, etc on the night

♦ Save file as Image Title only and without the name of photographer (example: "Pink Flower") in both upper and lower case as above. Mac users are asked to respect the advice given about not embedding files in emails.

Images will be shown in alphabetical order of title name. It is, therefore, best to avoid prefixing the image name with words like "The" or "A".

♦ If in any doubt please follow the clear instructions on our website under "Preparing Images for PDI Competitions". A link for this is on the CPS Website. Failing this, please speak with the PDI Secretary for advice.

THE COMPETITIONS

Print League Competitions

There are two open print league competitions, namely Colour and Monochrome. The term "Open" meaning any subject of your choice. There are three colour print and three monochrome print rounds, which collectively are spread over six evenings.

♦ A maximum of two prints may be submitted for each round of both the colour and monochrome print competitions, giving a maximum seasonal total of six images per competition. The winner will be the person with the highest total aggregate score. If two or more members have the same total then a tie-break image will be offered up to the last judge with his/her preferred image attracting a single point, thereby defining the season's overall winner in that particular print category. It is important to note that the tie-break image shall be one that has been used in one of the current season's previous two print competitions and you need to ensure that it is handed to the Competition Secretary **before** the last competition begins.

♦ A PDI of images entered as prints must also be submitted with the requisite Exif file information in exactly the same format as for PDI competitions prior to the competition taking place.

♦ All images must be submitted via the PhotoEntry system. Please speak with the PDI Comp.

Sec. if help is needed. These images will be used on the website for members' galleries and the top images from each competition will be displayed on both Facebook and the club's website. Mac users are asked to respect the advice given about not embedding files in emails.

Projected Digital Image League Competitions

♦ There are six rounds in the PDI League. Again the subject is "open" and therefore any subject of your choice.

♦ Images can be any combination of colour or monochrome.

♦ Members in the Intermediate Section. - A maximum of two images per competition can be entered in rounds one, two and three, with one image only permitted in the fourth, fifth and sixth rounds. The maximum number of digital entries in the Intermediate section will therefore be nine images. The overall winner is derived by adding together their seven highest scores. In the event that two or more members have an equal total at this stage, their eighth highest score will then be added and, if a tie still exists, then their ninth and final score used to establish a winning total. If two or more members still have the same cumulative total at this stage, then a tie-break image will be offered to the last judge with their preferred image attracting a single point, thereby defining the season's overall winner. The tie-break image shall be one that has been used in one of that season's previous five competitions and must be submitted with your entry for the sixth and final round.

♦ Members in the Advanced Section. - A maximum of one image per competition can be entered in rounds one, two and three, with two images being permitted in the fourth, fifth and sixth rounds. The maximum number of digital entries in the Advanced section will therefore be nine images. The overall winner is derived by adding together their seven highest scores. In the event that two or more members have an equal total at this stage, their eighth highest score will then be added and, if a tie still exists, then their ninth and final score used to establish a winning total. If two or more members still have the same cumulative total at this stage, then a tie-break image will be offered to the last judge with their preferred image attracting a single point, thereby defining the season's overall winner. The tie-break image shall be one that has been used in one of that season's previous five competitions and must be submitted with your entry for the sixth and final round.

♦ All images must be submitted via the PhotoEntry system. Please speak with the PDI Comp. Sec. if help is needed.

THE FOLLOWING COMPETITIONS WILL NOT BE SPLIT INTO ADVANCED AND INTERMEDIATE:

Essex Challenge Trophy

♦ PDI competition with a maximum of two images following standard PDI guidelines.

Three-on-a-Theme Print Competition

♦ Prints - Maximum of two panel print entries.

♦ Each set presented as a panel of three inter-related images and individually mounted (three images on a single mount is not acceptable).

♦ Each image in the panel shall be clearly labelled in the top left corner on the back of each print with the individual name of the panel and the name of the photographer.
♦ Each image shall be clearly marked under the panel name with its position within the overall panel when viewed from the front (e.g. Left, Centre or Right).

Triptych PDI Competition

♦ Digital Images – Maximum of two digital, inter-related Triptych* images following standard PDI guidelines.
♦ Each image file name shall clearly display the title of the triptych image, followed by the name of the photographer. See rules for filling in File Info under Digital Images for Projection.
* Triptych = For the purpose of this club's competition, a triptych is a presentation made up of three (and only three) distinctly separated photographic images displayed on a common background, which must be of a single colour or tone and not an image, pattern or texture. It cannot be one image split into three elements. The only restriction on the arrangement of the triptych's three images is that they must not meet or overlap. There is no requirement that the three images must be either the same size or the same shape. Added borders, drop shadows etc. are allowed.

Image of the Year Competitions

♦ These are one-off competitions in two categories, namely projected digital images and prints, which take place towards the end of the season. There will be a winner in each category.
♦ A maximum of two entries per member can be entered, either 2 PDI's, 2 prints or 1 of each.
♦ Entries must be selected from those images already entered into any competition (including "fun competitions") in the current season. There are no restrictions on which category images can be entered into (i.e. an image previously shown as a print can be entered as a PDI for this competition or vice-versa). The selection of an image from the digital triptych PDI competition is permitted.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

♦ An image or similar variation of it can only be entered **once** in the League Competitions, either as a print or a PDI, colour or monochrome.
However, this image may also be entered in any other competition but only in the same season, including the Image of the Year. Minor processing tweaks are allowed, but the image must otherwise be similar to your previous entry. In other words, you cannot change it from colour to mono or vice-versa, etc..
♦ Images entered must be entirely the work of the photographer, including that of any post processing. This does not preclude trade processed prints being entered.
Royalty Free and Clip Art Images are not permitted and neither are images freely available on the web, or elsewhere, or copyright images that you have purchased the right to use but did not take.

The use of images or part thereof that was generated by the use of Artificial Intelligence, which samples pixels or objects from another photographer's work, is also not allowed. The use of software that helps make a selection, such as Photoshop's "Replace Sky" filter is permitted provided that the image used for the sky's replacement was one you photographed yourself and not a stock image or one contained in the software library.

For further advice we refer you to a document provided by the PAGB, which we endorse, entitled "**Guidance 'Artificial Intelligence' in Photography**", which can be found at: *https://thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/guidance_ai.pdf*

All images entered into a competition must have been captured by a camera, mobile phone or a scanner and under your full and direct control. Images produced by natural means, such as salt prints, cyanotype, etc. are allowed. A copy of the original file containing its metadata shall be presented if requested.

If you are still unsure always seek guidance from the club's Chairman or another Committee Member please.

♦ If joining from another club or organisation, previous competition images that are more than twelve months old shall not be offered up for a C.P.S. competition.

♦ All entries for the Print Competitions shall be brought along on the club evening one week prior to the competition, or earlier if you are likely to be absent, and handed to the Print Competition Secretary.

♦ All entries for any of the digitally projected competitions shall be uploaded via the PhotoEntry system by no later than the Thursday evening prior to the date of the competition.

♦ The Member agrees to the use of their images for publicity purposes, on the club website and to enable the club to enter a number of external competitions. Members may request that their images are not used in this way by informing the Club Secretary. The image shall not show any identification as to the photographer.

♦ If re-using mount board please ensure that any sticky residue is removed or securely covered. This is to prevent marking to other prints that might come into contact.

You are urged to review the rules and other details relating to our competitions above and take careful note of the changes that may have occurred from last season.

Please speak to the Competition Secretaries if you have any questions or need some guidance. We really do want to see your work, irrespective of the level you are at. This is especially true for those new to photography. Everyone is here to help you in the submission of your images and to guide you in the improvement of your work and overall enjoyment.

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

The Colchester Photographic Society (CPS) is established with the objects set out in its Constitution, and is a data controller within the UK.

The personal information referred to in this Policy may include name, contact details, records of entries to events, and such other information as may be necessary for the effective management of the legitimate interests of CPS. Any person wishing to verify the information held by the CPS may apply to the Secretary.

Colchester Photographic Society collects and holds personal information about:
1. Its members, as defined by the Constitution, and which is shared with members of the CPS Committee.
2. Those offering their services to the CPS e.g. as judges or lecturers. This information is used to facilitate administration, services and the general organisation of CPS and its various activities. This information is shared amongst the members of the CPS Committee.
3. Details relating to members of the Committee are published each year in the annual programme.
4. Photographers as the creators of images used in the activities of CPS. This information is managed subject to the Constitution and Rules of CPS.

CPS may retain historical archives, for example but not limited to, records of meetings, competition entries, awards and other events and results.

PARKING

Please note that parking for Club Members is only permitted to the left hand side of the car park. The spaces on the right hand side, under the windows immediately alongside the church, are reserved for others or disabled members.

When parking, can you please make sure that the front of your vehicle is facing the wall, so that reverberation noise from exhausts does not inconvenience the neighbours.

Subscriptions

£72 for individual full membership

£116 for joint full membership

£53 for Associate Membership

£43 for student/disabled/country membership

Normally £3 per night for visitors, unless specified otherwise in the programme.

(Note: Visitors are permitted to make three attendances after which they are required to take up full membership. If such occurs within the same season that previously paid as a visitor will be deducted from the total due.)

Associate Membership – The Society has a limit on club membership numbers and, in the event of the limit being exceeded, potential members may apply to go on the waiting list to join when a vacancy becomes available. Associate Membership has been introduced, allowing people to join the club and enjoy all the benefits of full membership, except that of being able to enter the formal PDI, Print and Image of the Year Competitions. A reduced annual fee exists to reflect this. The category of Associate Membership is only open to potential new members. Upon a vacancy becoming available and offered to the individual concerned, their Associate Membership shall be relinquished and Full Membership shall be adopted.

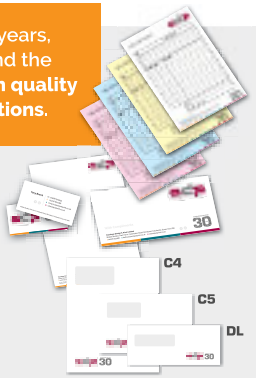
Full Membership – Full membership of the Society occurs when a vacancy becomes available, most usually occurring at the start of a new season. Factors taken into account when assessing membership applications will include, but are not limited to, considerations such as existing Associate Membership, length of time on the Waiting List, known character and prior attendance as a visitor on club nights and other Society events, such being seen as a demonstrable keen interest in joining the Society.
It should be noted that selection based upon "waiting list, first-come-first-served basis" will not necessarily apply.

Membership selection is generally made by the Committee taking full account of the foregoing and their decision is final. The Society maintains the right not to provide a reason in the event of a refusal. This applies to both categories of membership.

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"Male Bearded Tit"
by Dene Carter



"Dreams"
by Bola Oshisanwo