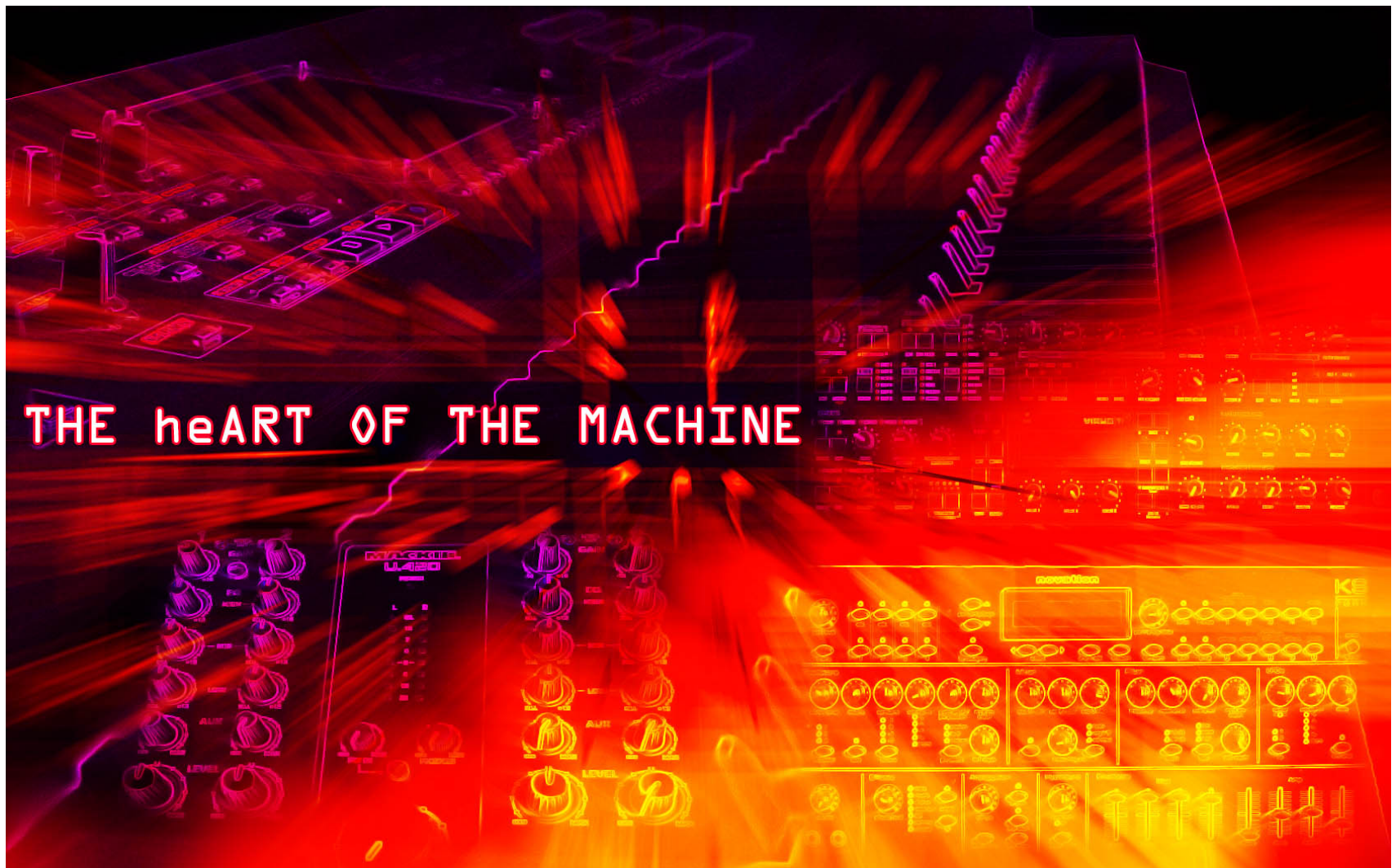


Issue 3 - October 2020



Images from 'The heART of the Machine', by Brian Harvey

Winner of the Jessops Rose Bowl in the CEMRIAC AV competition 2020

See the article in the next issue of AV News



Dear AV Enthusiast,

Welcome to the third edition of AV News e-xtra.

Firstly, I am pleased to report that the recent 'An International Audio Visual Retrospective' went very well. You can see the feedback we received at www.rps.org/av and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that contributed to making the event so successful. I have written a full write up on the Retrospective for the next edition of AV News. If you are not an RPS AV Group member or a subscriber and would like to receive AV News, you can subscribe by going to the RPS AV Group website, [fill in the form](#) and send in the fee.

What's next on the horizon? In the immediate future there will be the Great Northern Festival's 'A Celebration of Audio Visual'. For more details, see the advert in this e-xtra. Looking forward to 2021, I will be writing out to everyone who has an RPS AV Distinction with a view towards organising a possible 'Celebration of Distinctions', which is in its embryonic state at present. In the meantime, if you do have an RPS Distinction in AV, please can you make a note of the titles of the AVs and the date you achieved your distinction and whether or not it is digital or has been digitised. The reason for this proposed event, is that in 2021 it will be 50 years since the first RPS AV Distinction was awarded. I already have the first or second Fellowship. John Podmore received one the same day as Richard Tucker, but who was first? Answers to me by email please.

I have been really pleased with the way the AV Community has taken to Zoom and we've even managed to get some socialising done. Many organisations, such as our own camera club, are now able to book guests from distances they could never have afforded previously. The more we do Zoom the more comfortable we are getting with it. See the article by Ian Bateman, elsewhere in this issue, for further details on how to effectively share your AVs over Zoom.

Before writing this I read about an unconfirmed leaked email that a vaccination may be given to NHS and Care Workers before Christmas. Fingers crossed that this may mean we could have a real International AV Festival next year. On that potentially positive note, please keep making AVs.

Best regards,

Edgar

Optimising your system to show AVs over Zoom

With the Covid restrictions looking to be in place for some time, showing AV sequences to groups and clubs will be via the Internet for the foreseeable future. Zoom has become the platform of choice, but has to be optimised for AVs to play back smoothly.

If you've already tried doing this, the chances are that using it 'out of the box' will not have given your audience a positive experience. You of course won't know this, as on your computer the sequence will play perfectly well – at the viewer's end though it may look very choppy and jerky.

To correct this, there is a series of steps to go through, each of which will make a small improvement, with the overall result being a much smoother show for the viewers to watch.

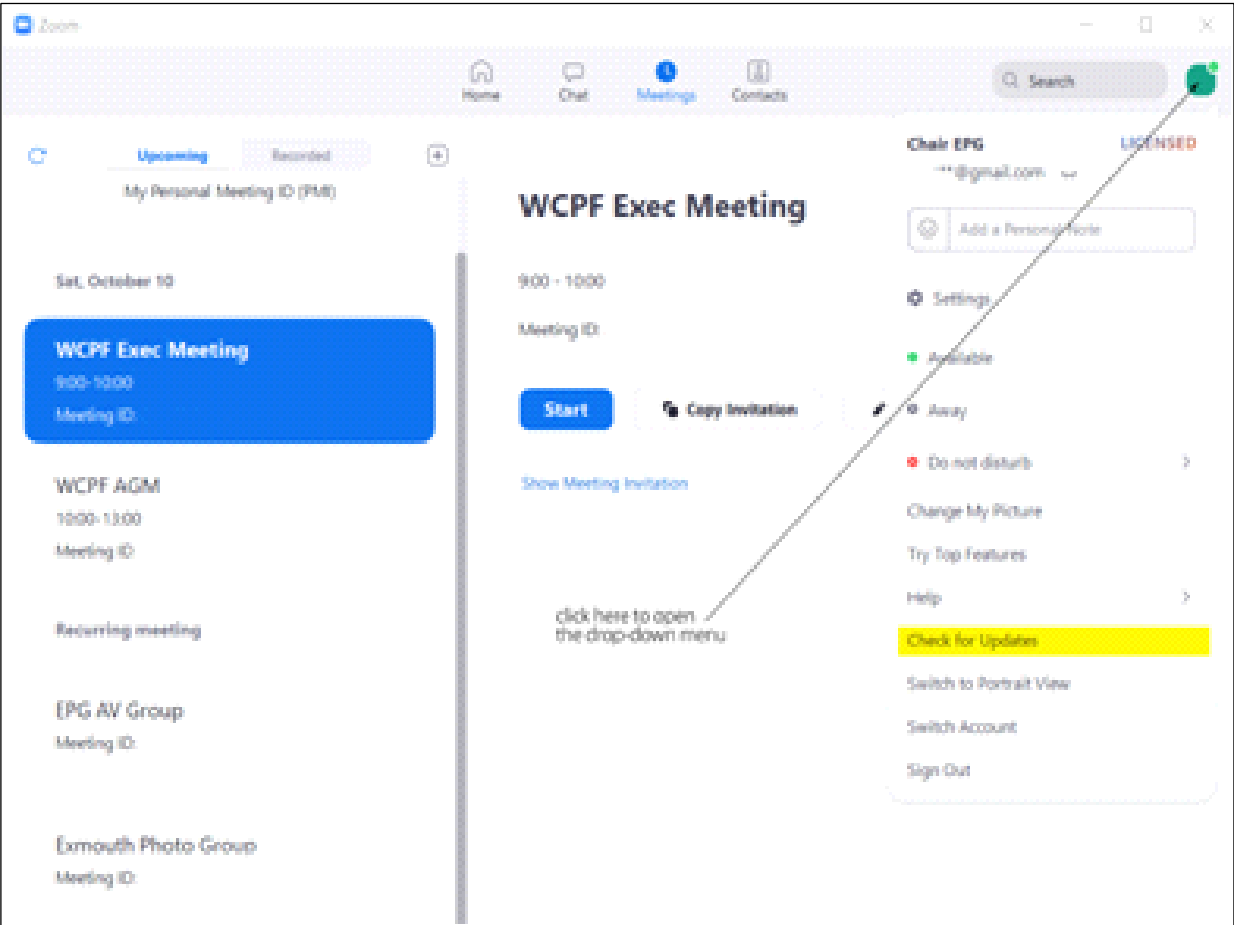
Step 1 – check your upload speed. Domestic routers are configured so that the download speed is prioritised, as the vast majority of use is to stream TV and music, browse websites and watch videos. Typically, your download speed will be three times faster than your upload speed. For showing AVs though, the upload speed is critical, and should be in the region of 8Mbps or above. You can check this on <https://www.speedtest.net/>. When I first tested mine, I was getting an upload speed of less than 1Mbps, so I phoned my ISP to see if it could be improved, and they sent me a new router that now gives me 9.6Mbps.

Step 2 – connect your computer to the router by an Ethernet cable. This will remove any speed lag in your home wifi, and gives you the best chance of maintaining a steady upload speed. It's best to buy a 'fast' cable, and a Cat 5e is a good compromise between speed and cost. Some laptops don't have an Ethernet port, so would have to be connected via a USB adaptor. Amazon sells both cables and adaptors.

Step 3 – update your video drivers. Its easy to assume that your system is always being kept up to date, but in practice some updates can get missed. An excellent way to keep on top of this is to install Glary Utilities from <https://www.glarysoft.com/>. Amongst other things, this will check for updated drivers, including the video drivers for your graphics card. I was getting mediocre performance on Zoom before ensuring that my drivers were completely up to date.

Optimising your system to show AVs over Zoom

Step 4 – Make sure you are using the latest version of the Zoom software. An easy way to check this is to click your ID icon in the top right corner of the Zoom app. Select the 'check for updates' option and it will check for a newer version, and let you update if there is one available.

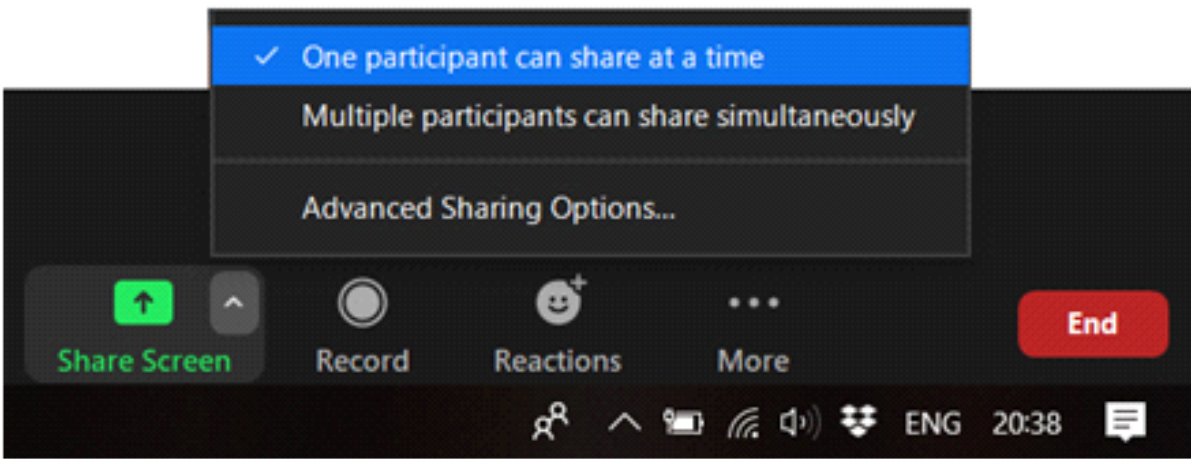


Step 5 – Long dissolves and slow pans and zooms are particularly prone to stuttering over Zoom, so it is worth re-editing the AV sequences that you intend to show and decreasing the dissolve times to around two seconds or so. These can then be saved as 'Zoom-friendly' versions. Time consuming, but worthwhile doing.

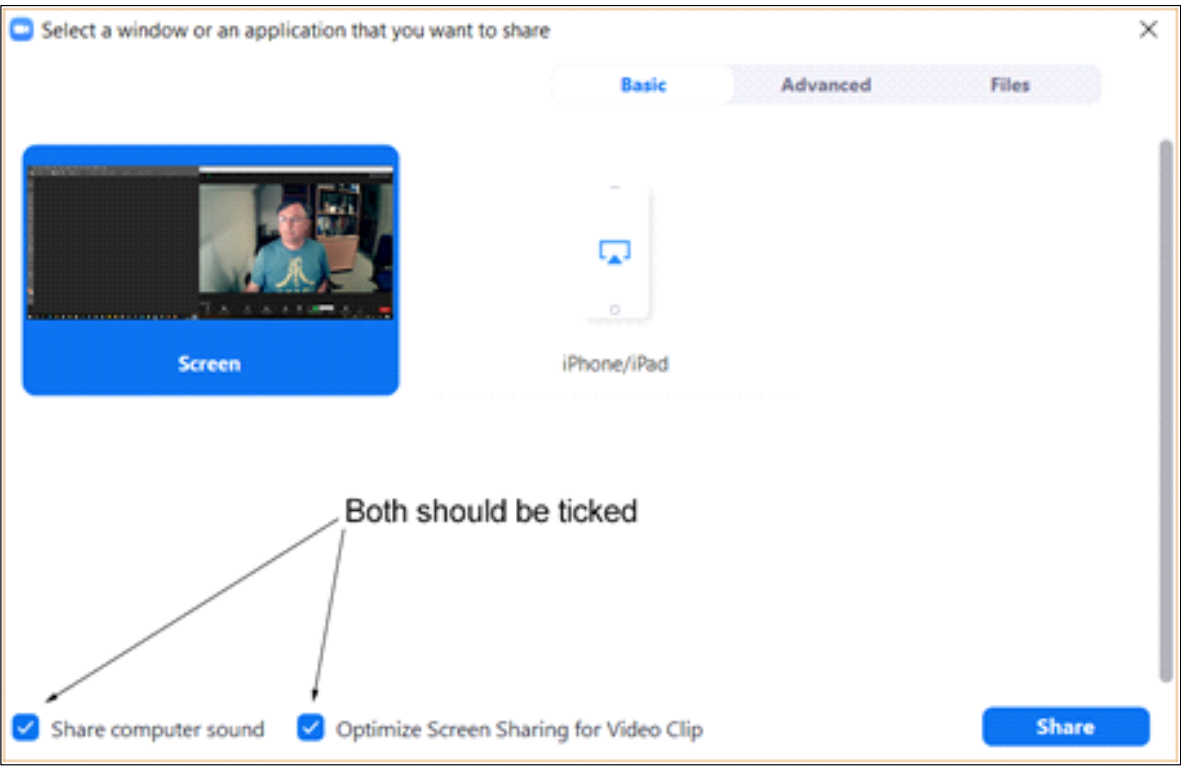
Step 6 – If you have a high-resolution screen, change the resolution down to 1920 x 1080. This limits the amount of data that Zoom has to upload, and in all likelihood the viewer would see a small video with a black border anyway if you started from a hi-res screen.

Step 7 – When using Zoom, make sure (especially if you're not the host) that the Screen Share option is set to only one person sharing at a time. If the multiple people checkbox is ticked then the 'Optimise Screen Sharing for Video Clip' option will be greyed out.

Optimising your system to show AVs over Zoom



Step 8 – After you press the ‘Share Screen’ button, make sure you tick the checkbox “Optimise Screen Sharing for Video Clip”. This will also automatically tick the “Share Computer Sound” checkbox, which will ensure that the audio part of your AV will stream from the file rather than being picked up by your microphone. Optimising for video increases the frame rate from a default of about 5fps to anything up to 30fps. The actual frame rate will depend on your upload speed, and Zoom automatically adjusts this to the optimum rate. The dissolves and pans/zoom will now be a lot smoother. The downside is that the video resolution will be reduced to 720p, but as a compromise it’s much better to have a smooth show than a choppy one, so it’s an acceptable trade-off. If you show still images rather than an AV though, don’t tick the “Optimise Screen Sharing for Video Clip” as the images won’t be as sharp.



Step 9 – When screen sharing, always share your desktop first and not files inside a folder. Starting from the desktop will ensure that all menu buttons and links will function normally. If you start by sharing a folder there is a danger that the viewer won’t see the AV at all, especially if it’s launched from a menu button. It will play fine on your system, so you’ll only find out when someone tells you they can’t see anything!

Optimising your system to show AVs over Zoom

Step 10 – Ensure that everyone is muted. If not, someone will invariable say something and their voice will take priority over the audio stream.

Step 11 – get everyone to switch off their video cameras. This is a small step by itself, but will help by squeezing as much as possible from their own download bandwidth.

Step 12 – If you are running the meeting, hand over the hosting to someone else. If you are presenting at someone else's Zoom meeting, ask them to enable general screen sharing (to one person at a time as per Point 7) instead of making you co-host. The reason being that if someone enters the waiting room while you are showing an AV you will get a pop-up notification as host/co-host, and this might freeze your AV until the person is admitted.

Still having problems?

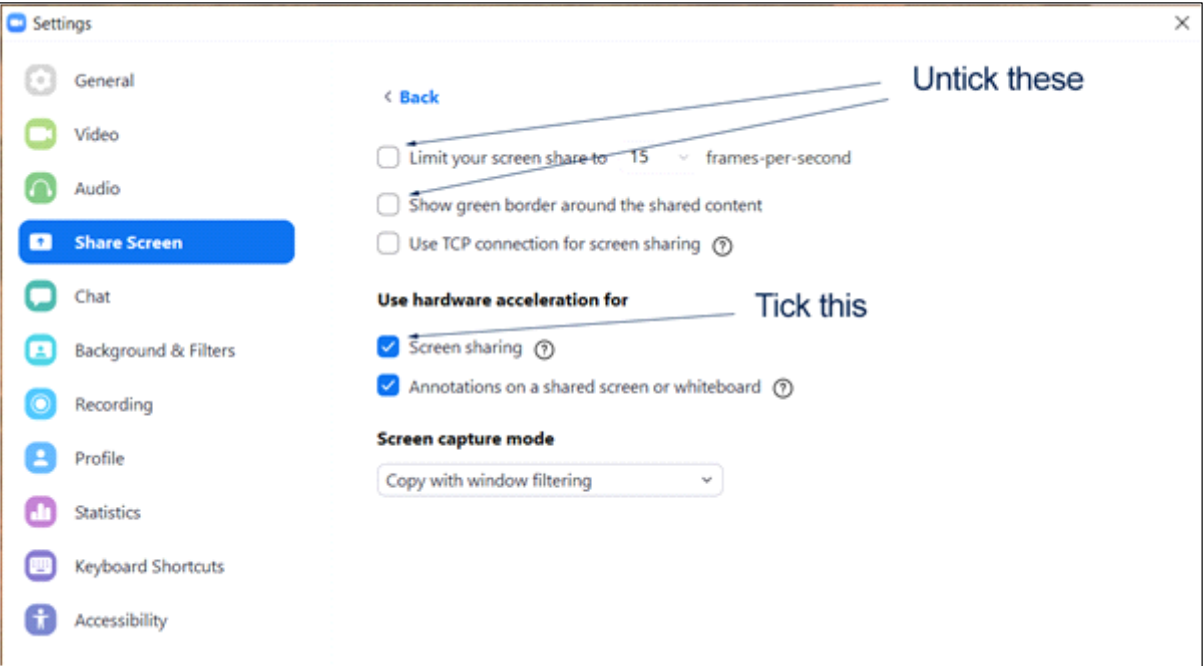
If you've done all of the above and viewers are still telling you that your AV is stuttering, check that nothing else is eating into your precious bandwidth. If someone is making a video call on WhatsApp or Facetime for instance, this will cause a huge dent in your resources. Likewise if someone is watching Netflix, YouTube, Amazon or any streaming TV service it will cause problems. On-line gaming will also steal resources so ban everyone else from wifi!

One last thing to look at is that you've not inadvertently throttled your frame-rate in the Zoom settings. To check this, open the Zoom video settings (click the small chevron next to the Stop/Start Video button in the bottom left corner).

Select the Share Screen option, and click the Advanced button. In the pop-up window, make sure that there isn't a tick in the "Limit your screen share to X frames per second".

Also make sure that there is a tick in the "Use hardware acceleration for screen sharing" checkbox. It's also a good idea to untick the "Show green border around the shared content" as this will simply put an unwanted green frame around your sequence.

Optimising your system to show AVs over Zoom

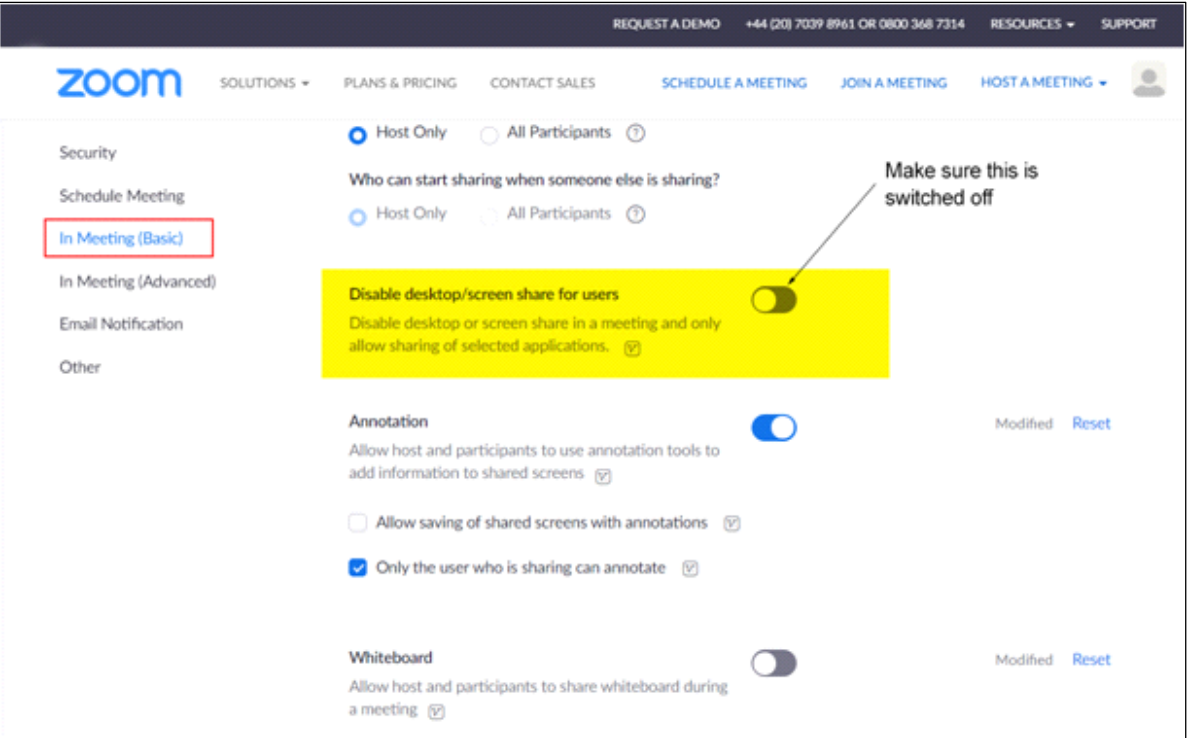


Share Screen button greyed out?

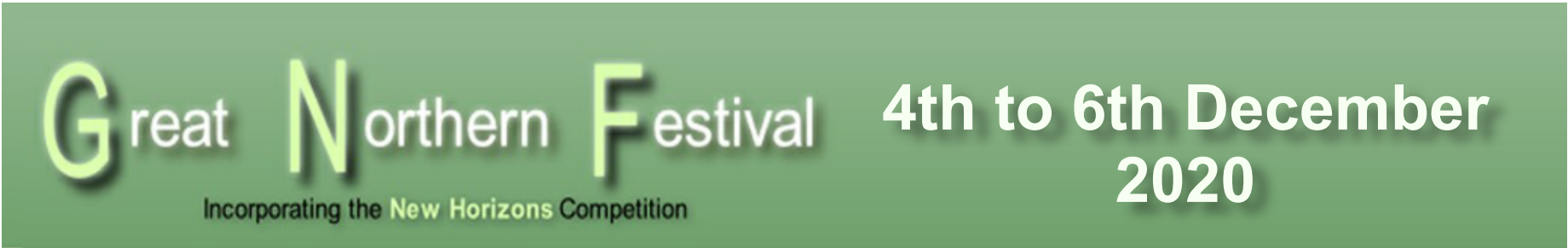
This caught me out recently. To enable a menu to function, the screen share has to start from your desktop (see Point 9 above). However, you might find that you are unable to do this as the Share button is greyed out. If so, the host has disabled Zoom from sharing your desktop. This is an option on the Zoom website, and is a toggle switch on/off.

The host might not even realise that this has been done, but it will severely limit the functionality of presenting your AV shows. If the host isn't confident about switching this option off, the workaround is to start an AV sequence outside of Zoom, pause it, then tab back to Zoom and share the running sequence. This will have to be done for each one so is very fiddly.

You'll find that you are able to share a running menu or a folder screen this way – BUT, the AV shows will run behind the menu/folder so the audience won't see them (even though they will look fine on your machine).



Ian Bateman 13thOctober 2020



A Celebration of Audio Visual

Covering a Quarter of a Century



Free Tickets
will be available later in the Year to attend this
Online Celebration

Sign up to our email **Newsletter**
to keep in touch with all the News



For more information visit our website
www.gnfestival.org.uk





[Full details are on the website, click here](#)

Speakers taking part over the two days:

Alan Lyons (Ireland)

Use of the Creative brief and a Shooting list in AV development.

Every AV starts with an idea. Here is how to organize your thoughts into an AV.

Judith Kimber (Northern Ireland)

Adding the A to the V.

Inspiration for sound and music from the world of film.

Alastair Taylor (UK)

Innovative Transitions: Beyond the Simple Fade.

Investigating image to image transitions to find the one which gives the best effect with the most impact.

Linda & Edgar Gibbs (Wales)

"To begin at the beginning".

How and why we made our AV called 'A Rich Legacy'.

Howard Bagshaw (UK)

Video in AV, yes or no?

Adding video clips into your AV is technically possible, but when does it make sense, when should you try it and when not?

Ian Bateman (UK)

Unlocking the mysteries of masks in PTE

Sheila Haycox (UK)

"Bizarrrity"

Rotation, modifiers and tips in O & A"

Liam Haines (Ireland)

Making "The lexicon"

The processes involved in producing a club AV with all it's ups and downs.

MCPF Midphot AV Competition

Essential Information on the MCPF Annual AV Competition



**THE MIDLAND COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION
MEMBER OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN**

MIDPHOT 2021 AUDIO VISUAL COMPETITION

<https://midphotav.blogspot.com/>

Entries are invited for the Audio Visual Competitions to be held on
Saturday 30th January 2021

This years competition will be held on line using the ZOOM platform

Competition Judges

Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB APAG AV-AFIAP

Sheila Haycox ARPS MPAGBAV EFIAP

Derrick Holliday ARPS

The Competition is organised for the MCPF by Alastair,
assisted by friends from the Midlands AV Community.

Closing date for entries ~ Saturday 16th January 2021

Completed Entry Forms together with the Entry Fee should be sent to:

Alastair Taylor, Greendale, 9 Wood Lane,
Hinstock, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2TA

Telephone 01952 550398 E-Mail midphotavcomp@gmail.com

MCPF Midphot AV Competition

Essential Information on the MCPF Annual AV Competition

Open AV and Photo Harmony

AVs entered in the Open AV competition will be judged using internationally accepted criteria, where the quality and appropriateness of the images and the sound track, how those two interrelate and of the concept/production, will all contribute to the overall judgement.

AVs entered in the Photo Harmony competition will only be judged on the quality of the images, the harmonious way they transition from one to the next and how those transitions relate to the sound track used. Any other features of the AV, such as a story line, narration, graphics or text, will not add any credit to the entry, though they will not penalise it.

Awards

The winner of the Open AV competition will be awarded the 'Tom Prince Trophy'; the winner of the Photo Harmony competition will be awarded the 'Howard & Carole Bagshaw Trophy'. In each competition the judges will also award MCPF medals to the first and runner-up AVs. Each of the three judges will also award a 'highly commended' MCPF ribbon for their choice in each competition.

Commendations may also be given at the discretion of the judges.

Audience Popular Vote (The Martin Fry Trophy)

The 'Martin Fry Trophy' will be awarded to the AV, across both competitions, which the audience present at the Championships, judge to be their favourite.

The Judges



Ian Bateman FRPS
MPAGB APAG AV-
AFIAP



Sheila Haycox ARPS
MPAGBAV EFIAP



Derrick Holliday
ARPS

Worcestershire Audio Visual Group

Wednesday 18th November 2020 ~ 19.45
Howard Bagshaw: ARPS, MPAGB

Dear Friends,

Using the magic of the Zoom conferencing app ...
'Worcestershire A.V. Group' would like to invite you to join us in the company of
our guest speaker Howard Bagshaw.

The event will be free of charge.

If you would like to share our evening can you please reply via email by 15th
November 2020.

Copy and paste the red section and send to ... yannybav@gmail.com

W.A.V.G.

An Evening With Howard Bagshaw: ARPS, MPAGB

Wednesday 18th November 2020

Name:

Email:

Club / Society:

I will send the Zoom meeting link details out on the morning of Wednesday 18th
November 2020.

Many thanks.

Ian Bennett.

www.worcestershireavgroup.co.uk



At least until February 2021, meetings will be held online using Zoom.

[To join the WGAVG or to attend specific meetings on Zoom, click here.](#)

Saturday 7th November (afternoon/evening) - An Exchange of Sequences with the East Midlands AV Group & Ireland AV Group

Some club members do not travel to other events & competitions, so rarely see work outside of their own club. The idea of the exchange is to see work produced by different regions and to receive feedback. This is not a competition or to show new or the 'best' work from the club, but that from a range of members at all levels. It is more like a 'Members Sequence Evening' where the work is discussed & constructive comments made. This way each Group will benefit from the comments & see a range of work at all levels from different areas.

20th November - AVs from the Netherlands

An evening shared with our friends from the Netherlands, led by Henk Tulp and Willem van den Berg.

Each country tends to have its own style of sequences, all slightly different from each other. We will watch a selection of AVs from Dutch authors and hear how they gain inspiration and ideas.

18th December - Christmas Competition

A not-too-serious competition judged by the Audience - this year's theme is 'Happy Times' Make an AV to this theme, it can be serious or humorous.

2021

8th January - An Exchange of Sequences - Part 2

With the East Midlands AV Group & Ireland AV Group

22nd January - An Evening with Leeds AV Group

A chance to share work with our friends from Leeds

5th February - An Evening With Alastair Taylor

Alastair has been making AVs for many years and tonight will show a selection of his work, talk about how they were made them and the inspiration behind them.



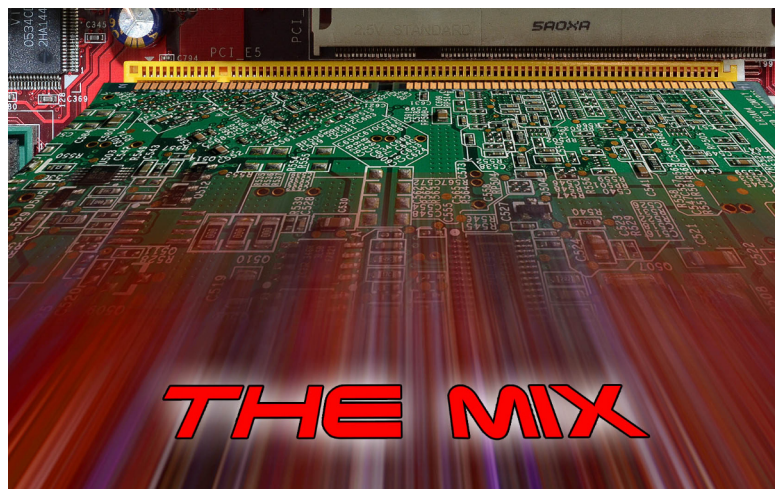
CEMRIAC A.V. Competition
for the
Jessops Rose Bowl

Held on Wednesday 30th September 2020

Judge ... Mike Edwards ARPS ABPE DPAGB/AV

Results

First ... The heART Of The Machine / Brian Harvey



Second ... A Fishing Trip / Alan Tyrer

Third ... Inside Outside / Richard Brown

Highly Commended ...

I Can Stand On Mountains / Malcolm Imhoff

On The West Side / John Holt

Commended ...

Serenity / Brian Harvey

Autumn Light To Winter Frost / John Holt

My Private Peaceful / Jim Waddington

Best Sound ... A Fishing Trip / Alan Tyrer



2020 Latow International Audio Visual Festival Showcase

[Link to Vimeo to watch the showcased AVs](#)



[You can also see the showcased AVs from the 2019 festival here](#)



[...and the showcased AVs from the 2018 festival here](#)

The Making of 'The Holy Brook'



'The Holy Brook' starts with a young boy running across the fields chasing butterflies above his home village in the Cotswolds. We then see him as a young soldier preparing to go to the Battle of The Somme. He starts to remember back to his childhood and his valley where the stream 'The Holy Brook' runs. At this

point the song of the same name begins, with music by my friend, singer songwriter Johnny Coppin and words from the English Poet, Frank Mansell. In the poem, Mansell describes his friend remembering the valley and the brook flowing free. After a music interlude Mansell's words continue:



*In dim remembered meadows, cool with trees,
He felt the brook beneath him, heard it sing,
Past unfrequented places and from these
Some power upbore him and his life took wing.
He died in war and men forget his name,
All that he was is vanished into night,
The brook still flows, new-born and yet the same,
Out of the womb of Cotswold to the light.*

These overlay the images seen in this article and, last about a one minute. So where visually do I start? In any audio visual I try to build, a few overlapping images near the beginning or end to enhance the storyline and engage further the viewer. Here though, it was in the middle of the audio visual and I wanted to take you from the trees to the trenches to the ultimate sacrifice and then out to the light. The visual concept started from visiting Hill 60 near Ypres in Belgium, where you can walk in the old trench line. As the sun



beat down that day my feeling was of being trapped in the trench. This I tried to portray as the images flow from the woods to the Hill 60 trench, then to one archive soldier image used and ending with the Holy Brook in the Cotswold valley.



All these images were created in Photoshop layers with colour gradually reduced in the middle section. The next stage was building this part of the audio visual in Pictures to Exe Objects and Animation. What you don't see in the stills is the whole section continually zooming inwards along the trench line as

though you are walking in the trench. On top of this, as the trench section takes over, a layer of mist and smoke moving across the trench which was added using panning in Objects and Animation. This finally dispersing as we reach the poppies and eventually to the brook flowing into the light.



The sequence finishes with an image of the soldier's hat left on the camp tent following by people laying wreaths today as the sunsets and the Last Post sounds

The Holy Brook.

MidPhot Judges Medal and Audience Vote

Winner of Peter Coles International, UK

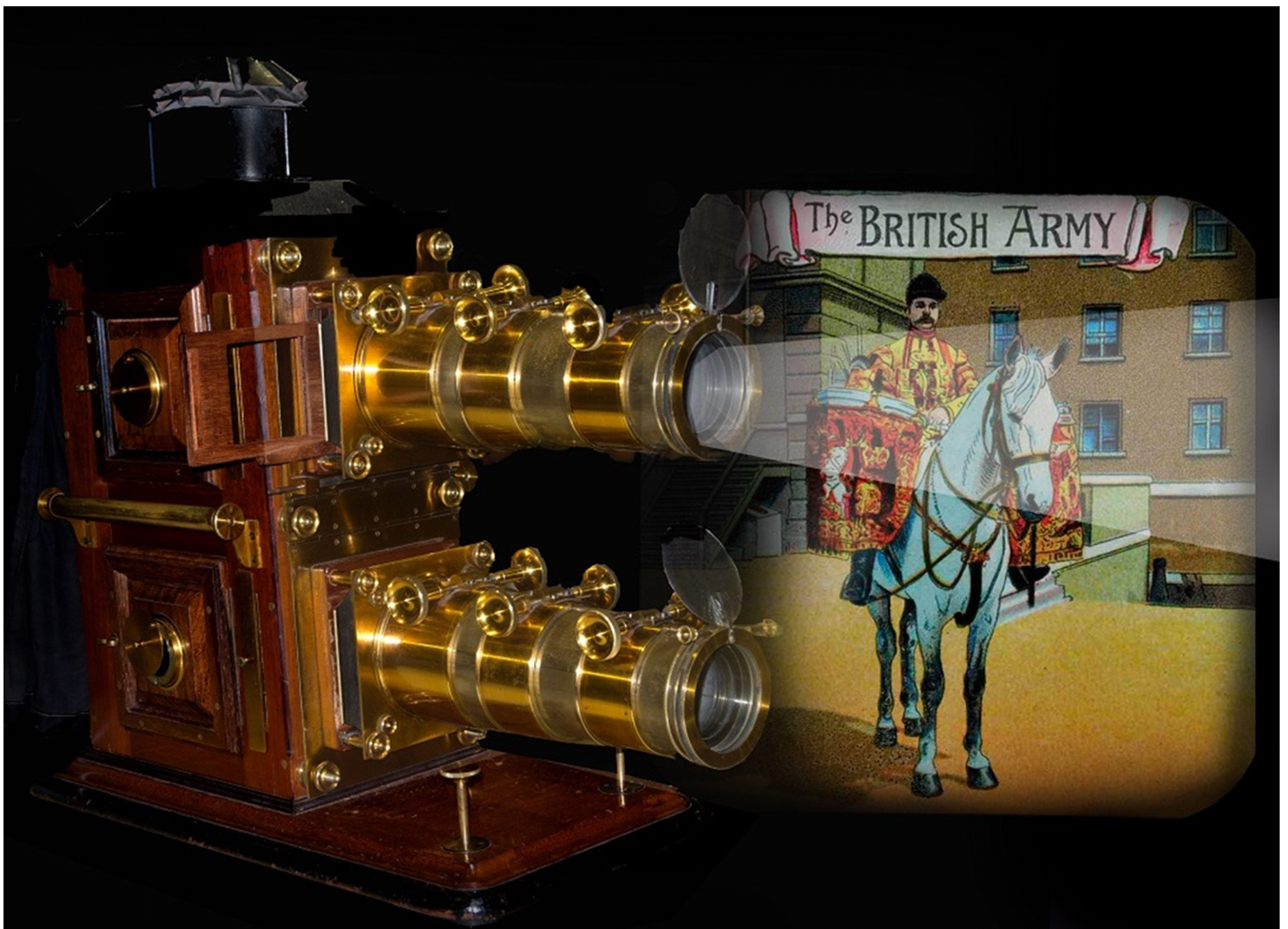
Winner of Adelaide international, Australia

Best Photography – Epinal, France

Bronze – Audia, Romania

For me, AV has given me the opportunity to share with fellow photographers, at over 300 photographic clubs, my own photography and love of the medium. There is nothing greater than having an audience observing your work on a big screen and to get that 'buzz' from them, which at this time is greatly missed. Indeed, AV reaches more of the senses than any other form of photography. So why not have a go yourself at this great art form and inspire others when we can celebrate back together.

Martin Fry FRPS EFIAPd1 AV-EFIAP ABPE APAGB



An international journey And through our history too

DR ALAN HODGSON ASIS HON FRPS RPS President

It has been a frenetic couple of weeks and just catching up. This would normally be my international travel season with conferences and standards meetings at this time of year. But it still feels like I have been around the world, despite never leaving my desk.

It started off with the [RPS AGM](#) and I counted 7 nations represented. The same weekend I joined the [International Audio Visual Retrospective](#) and the theme continued. For me it has been a journey across the world but also through history. Like the AGM the audio visual event took us around the world but also showed us snapshots of photographic history. A couple of the presentations took us out to India and my eye was caught by a sequence compiled by the organisers Linda & Edgar Gibbs featuring a magic lantern show. I had been researching the RPS in 1895 for the [Collodion conference](#) the next week and lantern slide technology featured in this. So quite a journey that weekend.

Published 12 October 2020


How can we grow and develop more interest in this great photographic genre? This is a question we have been exploring in the RPS AV Group Committee and we would like to ask your help in bringing together ideas of ways the RPS can support this growth. Please contact any member of the committee.

Helping people join AV groups. Is your AV Group listed on the RPS AV Group map? Please take a look: <https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/av-clubs-uk/>
There may be people in your locality looking for a group to join.

Judges and Lecturers. The RPS AV website lists a number of judges and lecturers willing and able to support local AV groups: <https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/judges-and-lecturers/> . We hope this will provide groups with a useful resource to help them enrich their programmes.

Presentations to AV groups. Are you an experienced AV worker who is able to present a lecture or workshop to photographers wanting to learn how to make great AVs? If so, please register on the RPA AV list of lecturers. Please contact Peter Warner at peter@peterwarner.co.uk.

Judging AV Competitions. Are you an experienced judge and AV worker who is able to judge AV competitions? If so, please register on the RPS AV list of judges. Please contact Peter Warner at peter@peterwarner.co.uk.



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Judges, Lecturers and Workshop Leaders

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Judges and Lecturers

The Audio-Visual Group of the Royal Photographic Society are striving to support the development and growth of local AV groups. As part of this initiative we are setting up an online register of judges, lecturers and workshop leaders who are willing to judge at or present to local AV groups, either in person or using internet technology.

Below is a register of people who have offered their services to AV groups as judges or lecturers who may or may not be members of the Royal Photographic Society. Please note that inclusion in this list is not an indication that individuals have gone through any selection or approval procedure and the society is not responsible for them or for the quality of their work.

Groups should contact the judge/lecturer directly and agree the terms of their booking, including any fees and expenses. These will be charged at the discretion of the judge/lecturer.

To view registers please click on either [AV Judges](#) or [AV Lecturers](#) to download or view a PDF Document.

Martin Fry - Lockdown Thoughts

If somebody had said to me in January, I would not be doing any judging or talks to camera clubs until possibly 2021 I wouldn't have believed them. Lockdown has shaken us all and given us time to stop and consider what is important in life. The Creative Arts have really taken a hit and will take time to recover. A Primary School Headteacher for many years, I have always felt that The Arts, after basic skills, are critical to our wellbeing. As our Year 6 pupils left each summer, they shared their memories of school with most highlighting art projects, visits by musicians, the school plays and visits to museums and art galleries, including the National Gallery in London.

Why the National Gallery you may ask? Well, each year the gallery identified one painting in the 'Take One Picture' initiative that schools used as a starting point for project work, for example Turner's 'The Fighting Temeraire'. At the end of the project we took the children to the National Gallery to see the painting and the school's exhibition related to the project, which we were lucky to be invited to exhibit at on two occasions. At one of these days, our Guide asked the children how the gallery made them feel. In answer one of our pupils said, "Well, sad and happy at the same time - some of the artists have painted sad times and others good days and sunny weather, it's about life."

With the lockdown I guess the same could be said, and just like the master painters in the gallery, we as photographers can capture those moments of life. Documenting lockdown in my local town was uncomfortable to do and such a contrast to walking out in the local countryside with the freshness of Spring all around. They both gave different emotions to me with each image capturing a little bit more of the story. As the old saying goes, "Every picture tells a story." In judging Salons, I find it is those images with strong story elements and, often which have been photographed in a minimalist way that are both memorable and successful. A powerful one image may be, but put a series of images together on a subject that means a lot to you and add appropriate sound, then you have the 'magic', that is audio visual.

For me the beauty of AV is fitting all the pieces together to form the story, tell the documentary, interpret the music and create the emotion. This takes time to get it right but is so rewarding. I first got 'the bug' 35 years ago. I had just won Cheltenham Camera Club's inaugural AV competition and then decided to enter the MidPhot AV Championships. The next year, I was fortunate to win the first of my many successes. Since that time, AV technology has advanced beyond belief and is so easily accessible to all. We have amazing software that allows you to create stunning visuals, effects, and quality sound that can be edited so simply to make the whole production cement together. The sequence can then be shared across the many visual platforms around the world. All you need is a bit of time and inspiration and off you go.

Martin Fry FRPS EFIAPd1 AV-EFIAP ABPE APAGB



The RPS AV Group webpages can be viewed at:
<https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/>

Information includes:	
• Benefits to Join	• AV Examples
• One Minute AVs	• AV news
• Judges & Lecturers	• International Audio Visual
• AV Clubs in the UK	• Retrospective
• Useful information	• National AV Competition
• Distinctions	• Making an AV Sequence
• Links and Resources	• Special Awards
• News Articles	•

