

BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS HISTORY

BPE was formed in late 80's by a group of exhibitions wishing to help one another with promoting the interests of Photographic Exhibitions within a British national catchment area and learn from each others experiences. This cooperation produced some immediate advantages, the most obvious being an increase in entries. In 1991 the Crown Award Scheme of accruing points for acceptances in its member exhibitions leading to awards similar to the one FIAP ran in the international exhibition world was launched. At a later date BPE distinctions were added to the scheme. This proved to be a way of not only encouraging entry but also of further emphasising the cooperation between exhibitions.

BPE did not wish to dictate how each exhibition was run with the exception of a few basic rules which included the provision of a catalogue for the purpose of recording acceptances, having usually a panel of 3 selectors, a maximum of 4 entries per section and that exhibitions should endeavour to attract entries from all over the United Kingdom and not just from a particular region.

The founding exhibitions in 1991 were: - Solihull, Southport, Clay Cross, Wellingborough, Leicester Forest, Rushden, Dingwall, Romsey, Nottingham, Sheffield and Handsworth.

Other exhibitions joined later as follows:-

1993 Ashfield, Bromsgrove, Guernsey

1995 Shrewsbury

1998 Cotswold, Wirral

1999 Vale of Evesham

2003 Bebington

2007 Great Barr, Beyond

2008 GDPU, Havant

To date in 2009 of the above the following remain:-

Bebington, Beyond, Bromsgrove, Cotswold, Dingwall, GDPU, Great Barr, Guernsey, Havant, Rushden, Shrewsbury, Solihull, Southport, Vale of Evesham, Wirral

FIRST CROWN AWARDS	TOTALS	
One Crown March 1991	Up to Aug 2008	454
Two Crown March 1991	Up to Aug 2008	343
Three Crown Jan 1992	Up to Aug 2008	202
Four Crown Feb 1993	Up to Aug 2008	85
Five Crown Feb 1994	Up to Aug 2008	47
ABPE May 1997	Up to Aug 2008	17
FBPE Dec 1998	Up to Aug 2008	7

The BPE website can be visited at www.b-p-e.org.uk

July 2009