**“A photographic print is a tangible object, not just a fleeting image on a screen. By printing images, the art of the photograph becomes a way we can continue to walk into the future with our memories in hand.” Adorama**

 Long before the first photograph was developed in 1826, we have tried to preserve images that would capture the essence of life in a moment. People have commissioned artists to create paintings, drawings, sculptures and more, hoping that events, people, and stories would be remembered. Photography today is still the same — we photograph to remember how people, relationships, places, experiences, objects, or events made us feel, and to keep those

 memories alive for the future. A print achieves this so much better than a digital file!

 Do you have a box full of old photographs of past generations? Whether or not you have looked at them recently, your family photo albums are stored safely. Could the same be said for your digital photographs of the last 20 years? Unless you’ve removed images from every old computer and device you’ve owned, there is a chance many of these forgotten

 moments are lost with no hope of recovery.

 Digital photography is a wonderful way to share your photos with your Club and with the world, but it incurs the risk of getting them permanently lost or destroyed due to a myriad of factors that are often out of your control. Changes, disruptions, or failures in technology will not harm printed photographs. Losing a photograph is a horrible experience — prints protect and preserve your memory in a way digital images might not.

 PDI are very convenient and are cheap to produce, once you have invested in the necessary

equipment and software, but how long do viewers give to your beautifully crafted masterpiece? A few seconds? A blink of an eye? A print in the hand or on an exhibition wall can engage the viewer for many minutes. They see so much more to enjoy, or perhaps criticise. What they are looking at is ART, and most will give their attention and their respect to your image in a way that doesn’t happen when they view it on a monitor or a screen.

 A Print is a final product of which a digital file is only an ingredient.

 Whether you’re the photographer, the subject of the image or the viewer of the image, each will find meaning, understanding and connection through photography in the printed form. A fine art print can be held and appreciated long after a screen image has disappeared from your memory.

 Of course we enjoy images seen on social media platforms or in projected competitions, but these moments are transient. The beauty of a printed photo means that we have time to connect with and explore the meaning of the image before us. A print is a tactile reminder that can be shared with others, a moment to escape the digital distractions of screen images. There is so much more to appreciate with the texture and finish of the paper chosen and the careful mounting which points to the importance of the image. A print in your hand or on an exhibition wall can engage you far more than a flicker on a screen. It is an art form that won’t be lost and you have an opportunity to add your magic.

 Photo prints can last longer than a lifetime and can be passed down through the generations to be shown or exhibited at any point in time. Photographs printed onto archival papers can be preserved almost indefinitely, to be displayed, enjoyed and connect with future generations. Rod Wheelans

Further:

As newer devices or applications are created, you can store more of your digital

 media in a single space. Unfortunately, these rapidly changing resources sometimes render previous tools virtually useless. Consider how digital storage devices have drastically changed since the 1980s. Beginning in 1981, floppy disks were widely used for document storage. However, they became obsolete in the 2000s as devices with more versatile storage options were created.

 CDs and DVDs were used for software and media storage for decades, but many computers today do not include computer optical drives. Other physical and virtual storage options feature more gigabytes or terabytes of space, as well as streamlined applications that provide instant access to stored data.

 Mobile computing devices include features that automatically upload data to server- based storage(cloud) systems. However, the uncertainty of this type of storage can bring with it possible losses of data

Lorna Hatton CPAGB

I was late to the printing party, buying my first printer in late 2018. I had always been a bit apprehensive about printing after hearing stories that it was too expensive, too difficult and too time consuming. So what changed my mind? A moment of madness in applying for my CPAGB distinction, I wanted to use prints and since I’m the control freak from hell I wanted to produce them myself.

After much research, and much agonising I bought a medium quality printer, a book about printing and set off on the most exciting photographic journey I have ever been on. Its official I am now an evangelical print convert!

I can say that my photography has been improved

immeasurably by learning to print, all the horrible little things that judges tend to notice, (and you wish you had), become so much more apparent with a print is in your hands, rather than looking on a screen.

An often overlooked advantage of printing is that the use of the right paper can elevate an image from nice to spectacular. An example of this is the lone tree image that I had accepted into the 2021 Masters of Print. On a normal lustre it was nice and I was pleased. However, on a fine art paper it was elevated to a portfolio shot, one that hangs in my living room.

However the main reason I print is that it’s fun and I love doing it. If you are debating learning to print, take the plunge – you will become a convert as I have. Lorna

The benefits of printing

It gives you more control over the outcome of the image.

 • It allows you learning opportunities to improve your photography skills.

 • Prints make for more personalised, thoughtful gifts and momentos.

• Your prints can be used as decorative items such as framed images, but can also be transformed into pieces of art that are imbued with personality and originality.

 • You can more critically examine your images and better understand your shooting style.

 • It makes for a great hobby and inspires creativity

“It completes the creative process. It is an enjoyable technical process watching my prints come out of the printer. A lot of money goes into the kit and software, and the physical outcome is the evidence of all that investment. The best way to enjoy your work is to print it and preview it in the cold light and warm light of day. Look at it in your home, some - one else’s home, an exhibition space or photography club. Share it with others. The printing process involves a human element and brings people together.” - Alex Hare, Fotospeed Ambassador

Recommended links from Dr Ian Wilson Member of Cambridge Camera Club and the RPS

Presentations to the RPS Nature Group

Raw Conversion: [Opt Raw Conversion Ian Wilson 270620 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5dqUjFX52Q)

Layers and Masks: [Layers and Masks for Nature Photos Ian Wilson 150820 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaFQCeYnFSE&t=4s) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2M7LvWUNCH4&feature=youtu.be>

File prep for printing: [File Preparation and Printing Ian Wilson 020121 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQvddkg7r5c)

Sharpening & Noise Reduction: [Sharpening and Noise Reduction in Depth Ian Wilson 020621 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxksDVlkeS4)

Fotospeed: Various articles on printing and colour management

[Blog (fotospeed.com)](https://fotospeed.com/blog/)

Fotospeed: Free Art of Printing e-book [Art of Printing (fotospeed.com)](https://fotospeed.com/ebook/artofprinting)

Printing support

Permajet: [Printing Support - PermaJet](https://www.permajet.com/category/printing-support/)

Permajet Frr Downlo the Art Of paper selection [Fibre Based Papers - PermaJet](https://www.permajet.com/product-category/inkjet-paper/fb-baryta-papers/) scroll to bottom and enter your details