



February 2024 Newsletter

The Annual Exhibition is now in Aberdeen, in the Arts Centre there, having been hung by local Volunteers on 30th January. Can you help in your area, or Nationally in any way? Get in touch and volunteer too, and reap the personal benefits of being more involved.

The AGM and exhibition selection is now being officially announced and will be held in Stirling, on the afternoon of the second day of PhotoFest 24...which in itself is a welcome return to RPS Scotland's biennial weekend event. It's a great chance to meet up with old and new friends, to listen to some of Scotland's most amazing photographers, and to really encourage those photographic juices.

<https://billetto.co.uk/e/photofest-24-tickets-896441>

The AGM will be a hybrid one, with physical and Zoom attendance encouraged, see the What's On pages for the links.

The Exhibition print selection will be on the afternoon of the 7th April, and attend for the whole day, you can send in prints, you can come to Stirling just for the afternoon with your prints. Very flexible. There is a new set of requirements, so read them, and get your entries in via our website page, the QR code is below.

Monthly Competition

The theme for January was the best of '23, and here it is:

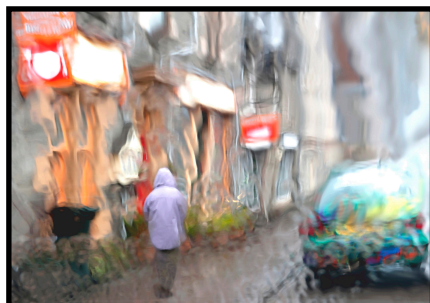


The hugely atmospheric Savra by Viv Cotton. Love it!

February's theme is Monochrome, so let's get those greys graded and entries to Ken, sized at 1000px wide, by as many pixels as you want tall, via Scotlandweb@rps.org.

RPS
Scotland

Down Came The Rain Mike Tibbs



PhotoFest 24

Last month we had our second two speakers profiled, and we continue that high high standard with our next two. The weekend is booking up well, and from all over the UK too. Get your tickets booked!



Simon Riddell

Simon Riddell was born in Rugby, and moved to the Highlands of Scotland over twenty years ago and is now based on the Isle of Skye. Simon started experimenting in analogue photography in 2015 with his Dad's 35mm camera, then progressed into medium format doing abstract pinhole shots. A year later, he moved into large format doing paper negatives and multiple exposures incorporating portraits within landscapes. In 2019 Simon journeyed into a World War II oil storage tank to create possibly the world's largest darkroom, this resulted in the documentary called *One Shot: Inchindown*. More recently, during the start of Covid-19, Simon started to practice wet plate collodion photography initially as a means to express the states of mind associated with his undiagnosed PTSD. This led to collaborations with other artists and subjects also suffering with mental health issues. Due to social distancing at the time, these wet plate sessions were often carried out online, thus enabling a feeling of connection within a very isolated time. Through his project *Mental Collodion*, Simon was awarded a commission by Spirit of the Highlands to make portraits of his fellow Lifeboat Crew members. In 2023 he was awarded a second commission from Spirit of the Highlands focusing on Skye's coastline and the people that inhabit it, these wet plates will have a permanent exhibition in Inverness Castle, the capital city in the Highlands. Influential artists within Simon's career have been Shane Balkowitsch, Markus Hofstätter and Borut Peterlin. Simon is entirely self-taught throughout his photography career and known for his wet plate collodion expeditions within the Scottish Cuillin mountain range. His latest project is called *Peak Perseverance* which will culminate in a feature-length documentary focusing on capturing the beautiful yet brutal Cuillin landscape.

Simon's work has featured in many analogue publications including: Analogue Forever, The Royal Photographic Society Journal, The Sunday Post, Scottish Mountaineering Press, Lomography Magazine, Emulsive Magazine, Analog.Cafe.

Mostly recently Simon has been the subject of a BBC arts documentary entitled: *Photography Saved Me from PTSD*.

<https://www.srfilmphotography...>

<https://www.facebook.com/SRFil...>

<https://www.instagram.com/srfi...>

There is also a very illuminating article about Simon, written by Flora Blissett, which is well worth a read.

<https://florablissett.wixsite.com/writing/post/simon-riddell-mountains-of-self-and-place>



Mick Durham FRPS

Mick has been a wildlife photographer for over 45 years, learning his skills in North Wales. He moved to Dumfries in Scotland just over 25 years ago and has enjoyed working with the huge variety of wildlife the country has to offer. Otters are one of his favourite subjects and he has spent hundreds of hours photographing them here in Shetland and along the west coast of Scotland. Mick loves travelling abroad for photography - and in particular to Arctic Scandinavia. A long stint there in the summer followed by trips to Finland, Lapland and the Varanger peninsula in winter culminated in him being awarded a highly coveted Fellowship by the Royal Photographic Society in 2013. He became a member of the Natural History assessment panel soon after and since 2020 has acted as Chair of the panel. He also works as an occasional guide for Shetland Wildlife, both in Scotland and abroad.

<https://www.wildlife-photograp...>

<https://www.facebook.com/profi...>

It's a Funny old RPS World...

It's nearly RPS Scotland's AGM time, and it's kind of the same throughout the Regions and the SIGs. The RPS has it's issues, it's got it's problems, but we hope that in general it is going forward to a brighter place. There are new people in charge, with a clearer view as to what sort of organisation the RPS should be, and I guess we just have to trust that it will all go well.

However, in a way what happens in Bristol stays in Bristol, and as I've been banging on about over the past few months that sort of high level stuff is not really what we are members of the RPS for, and although it will impact on us all, our day to day enjoyment and benefits of the RPS are much more to do with our Regions and SIGs. These bodies are all run by volunteers, all of whom give their time and passion in the hope that it promotes the underlying RPS ethos, which is all about photography. Sometimes these volunteers will get things wrong, or things won't go to plan for whatever reason, but in the main the daily glory that is the RPS is all because of these volunteers, and we should be very grateful to them. So, that seems like a lot of pressure is on them, but actually I can tell you that it isn't so bad, and it can be a lot of very positive fun. I'd recommend it in fact.

I would ask you to support the Regions and SIGs by attending their online talks and events, by attending their face to face days out, their weekend events... each small thing you do makes a huge difference.

Book in for the Talk-Walk-Talk events...they are free to members, and they are all over Scotland.

Book in to PhotoFest 24. Each day has a lot going for it...stellar speakers, RPS Scotland Distinctions celebrations, and the joy of RPS Scotland community.

Attend the AGM, either in person or online.

Enter the Annual Print Exhibition.

I would ask you to consider volunteering yourself...every area of Scotland needs volunteers, every SIG needs Scottish representation. The more the merrier, and the more there is the greater the spread of work. .

My role as Secretary ends at this AGM, so we are especially looking for a volunteer for that. It's not onerous, and I'll still be helping as a Tayside volunteer so you won't be on your own, and this phased, and managed transition is an attempt to promote continuity and consistency.

Step up, step up.

TWT - Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE)

Architecture and the Built Environment covers all human made buildings and structures from the present day back to ancient times, from cities to rural locations.

We are offering walks in over 40 locations around the UK. For Scotland Region these are at -

Dumfries 21 February at 10.00 - lead by Jean Robson - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Clyde Waterfront 16 March at 14.00 - lead by Clive Watkins - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Edinburgh 11 March at 10.00 - lead by Colin Balfour - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Culross 9 March at 10.30 - lead by Monica Vella - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Dunfermline 1 March at 14.00 - lead by Viv Cotton - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Dundee 22 February at 10.30 - lead by Steven Whittaker - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Aberdeen 29 March at 10.30 - lead by Ian Booth - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Inverness 14 March at 13.30 - lead by Janet Benson - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Nairn 9 March at 10.00 - lead by Patricia Roberts - To book this walk go [HERE](#)

Bookings open - close on 15 February

TALK with Mark Reeves FRPS 19th February

WALKs 20 February to 31 March 2024

TALK discussions during April

Following the final TALKs in April there will be an online gallery of images and an e-Zine will be produced to celebrate the work of the participants.

Full information and a link to the booking site available via the DI web page [HERE](#).

The T-W-T programme is free to all RPS members; the public are welcome to join us, but we make a charge for their participation.

For those on any of the islands contact us for additional information.

Any questions email tw@rps.org



What's On in February?

Making Space: Photographs of Architecture. Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh 07/10/23-03/03/24. <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit/scottish-national-portrait-gallery>

10th February: Grampian Day Out - Aberdeen beach, and Fittie. Contact Nigel on RPSGrampian@gmail.com

19th February: Talk-Walk-Talk introductory talk, by Mark Reeves, see the last page for the booking details..

26th February: Contemporary / Documentary SIG - Book Night, contact Steve on squarehole@btinternet.com

28th February: Contemporary SIG - In Conversation with Marc Wilson

<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/in-conversation-with-marc-wilson-3a2NN2o01/overview>

29th February: Documentary SIG: I Burn But I Am Not Consumed, Alicia Bruce

<https://events.rps.org/en/engagement-talk-alicia-bruce-i-burn-but-i-am-not-consumed-4a2NN2DPS1/overview>

Further ahead:

9th March South West - Dumfries & Galloway Group, Contact Jean on digmem@rps.org

Haugh of Urr Village Hall, Main Street, Haugh of Urr, DG7 3YA 14.00-17.00

A meeting for members to bring work to share and discuss. If you would like to talk about your work with a group of like-minded photographers why not come and join in. Participants are encouraged to bring along up to 6 images (prints or pdis).

Everyone will get a chance to explain their work and ask for advice on whichever aspects they choose. This is not an advisory day or Photoforum, simply an opportunity for everyone to give and receive feedback. We believe that everyone has views worth expressing, so why not come and join the fun. Price- free to RPS members, £5.00 to non-members.

6th/7th April 2024: PhotoFest '24 and AGM and Exhibition Selection, Stirling University. AGM / Exhibition Selection details will go live on our website nearer the time.

<https://billetto.co.uk/e/photofest-24-tickets-896441>

AGM Online link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86016323928?>

[pwd=UVZpU1E0bXR3SVhRci85aUIHS3NqZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86016323928?pwd=UVZpU1E0bXR3SVhRci85aUIHS3NqZz09)

Annual Exhibition Print Selection:

<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/rps-scotland-annual-print-exhibition-selection-5a2NN21e2Lt/overview>

RPS Scotland Committee

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Local contacts:

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Mark Reeves FRPS

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Bob Black

Lanarkshire

Douglas Thompson FRPS

Glasgow

Anne McKelvie

Borders

Fiona Cadger ARPS

Tracey Largue

Ayrshire

Clive Watkins LRPS

South West

Jean Robson FRPS