



December 2024 Newsletter

Another year over, and it seems to have been a quick one. RPS Scotland wise it's been a busy one, maybe that's why it seemed to go so quickly. Amazingly, next year is going to be even busier...we start off with the next two legs of our travelling Exhibition in Inverness and Aberdeen; our first Photoforum in Glasgow; the Woodland Workshop with Paul Mitchell FRPS; an Advisory Day; the legend that is David Eustace, on zoom; a Celebration and Print Selection day; a Photoforum in Edinburgh, then one in Dumfries and then one in Nairn. Throughout the year there will also be days out, organised by your local volunteers, or by the Scottish SIG organisers, and there will more zoom talks organised as well., and the Landscape SIG is having it's a bi-annual conference at North Queensferry.

The monthly competition will be getting a splash of glamour, with points being tallied up throughout the year, and a grand (that's small "g" not £1000!) prize going to the photographer with the most points, and another prize for one of the other photographers who entered at least 6 times.

All of this content and opportunity is to make your RPS experience better, and to improve the value of your subscription, but they take time to organise, and all we ask in return is that you support and attend these events. Go and get booked!

Monthly Competition

A tree...

Eva McRitchie's sumptuous Rex Silvarum is the worthy winner... congratulations.



Send entries to Ken, sized at 1000px wide, by as many pixels as you want tall, via scotlandweb@rps.org December's title is Reflections.

Next year there will be points and prizes up for grabs! And it starts off with "Blue" in January. Anything then, as long as it's blue.

RPS Scotland



Littoral Concretion
- Mairi MacAulay ARPS



24 Exhibition



So, how's it going for you?

A year end is always a time to reflect and refine, for all of us. Is your photography where you want it to be? Is it fun? Are those two concepts connected?

We're all different, and have different experiences, different goals and motivations, different hopes and fears...yet we compare ourselves incessantly with others' images and directions.

Tough stuff.

However, aren't we all as valid and important as each other?

If it's not been enjoyable then you could be heading for the dreaded cul-de-sac of snapper's block. So, step back, focus on the positive, and look around you for inspiration and encouragement. Think about your favourite photographers, your favourite artists, your favourite authors, your favourite musicians...what makes them special for you? It'll be their style, their self-expression, their confidence in putting themselves out there. That could be you too. I'm all for a bit of experimentation, a bit of pushing some boundaries, but if you spread yourself too thinly you could be the dreaded jack of all trades, and master of none. This is the RPS "journey" that the distinctions describe, the finding of your voice and vision.

Here at RPS Scotland we too reflect and refine, and you'll see an array of opportunities available for you next year, and we're planning on the year after too. If we're not doing it for you...tell us. If we are...tell us. It's the silence that is the kicker.

RPS HQ continues to try to solve it's problems, and we all hope they will be successful, but for your personal development you have your own future and happiness in your own hands and memory cards, and RPS Scotland is there for all of you.

For Sale

I thought that there may be photographic "stuff" lying on your shelf that you'd maybe like to sell on? There's 700ish readers (theoretically at least) of this newsletter, and all involved to some degree or another in photography, so potentially someone out there just perfectly matched to your excess gear.

Send your lists to me on contemporarySCO@rps.org

Canon Pro-1 A3+ printer, with a full set of Canon inks, and a few spares too.

Works great, but long story...my Mac wouldn't take the newest LR, and struggled with the newest PS, so I upgraded to a new M4 Mac, and the Canon Pro-1 doesn't have a driver for that new Mac. It's huge, heavy and immaculate, so we'd need to meet to conclude the deal...£250 (the inks are £270 a set)

Steve: squarehole@btinternet.com

**In Memory of Sandy Cleland FRPS, AFIAP, Hon SPF Naturalist,
Photographer, Teacher, and Friend
10th November 1943 - 12th October 2024**

Sandy Cleland was an outstanding photographer, an exceptional friend to many, a devoted family man, a gentleman in every sense, and someone who always made time for others and who had a great sense of fun. Sandy had such a lively mind and was an inspiration to all. He was a wonderful storyteller, often reducing his audience to tears of laughter. He always had a kind word for everyone and could lift your spirits whatever the circumstances.

Although a very modest man, he was held in high esteem internationally as a photographer. His first love was nature photography, and he was also very successful in street photography. It was in this area that his infectious humour was apparent. As a nature photographer he was outstanding and totally uncompromising in his ethics in all aspects of Natural History photography. The subject was always far more important to Sandy than the photograph. Although travelling abroad with family and friends, his favourite haunts for photography were much closer to home.

Sandy was well known around the photographic world through his International Exhibition Acceptances and Medals gained for work in Nature, Street and Portraiture photography. He was a Selector for major international exhibitions, including those of the Royal Photographic Society and London Salon. He gave many sponsored photographic talks and his infectious enthusiasm made him a favourite, someone who was always invited back. For many, many years he was also one of the best-known and most popular photographic judges both nationally and internationally.

Edinburgh Photographic Society - Sandy was a very long-standing member of the Edinburgh Photographic Society for some 60 years, mentoring many new members when they first joined and throughout their photographic journeys. He served the EPS in many capacities throughout his time with the Society - President from 1984-87 and Chair of the Edinburgh International from 1987-97. He was a member and regular contributor to the Natural History Group from its early days in 1975. The Phoenix Group was started around 2003 by Sandy to give EPS members the opportunity to discuss their work and to encourage participation in external competitions. Both groups still meet regularly today. Sandy was made an Honorary Life Member in 2010 and an Honorary Vice-President of EPS in 2018.

As an active member of the Royal Photographic Society for over 35 years he encouraged and mentored people from all over the world in their journeys towards RPS Distinctions. He was so pleased for everyone that succeeded and never failed to encourage others to try again had they not been successful. He served on the Distinctions Advisory Panel and was a panel member and Chair of the Licentiate and Nature Panels. He was also Chairman of the Selectors for the 155th RPS International Print Exhibition in 2012. He received the Fenton Medal and Honorary Life Membership of RPS in 2005, given for outstanding service to the RPS and the wider photographic world.

He was awarded the Scottish Photographic Federation Role of Honour, presented to individuals for exceptional services to Scottish photography over a minimum of 15 years. Sandy was also successful in gaining acceptances and winning medals in the London Salon. This is a prestigious body of photographers, with worldwide membership, whose sole aim is to exhibit annually the very best of pictorial photographic imagery. He was elected as a member of the London Salon in 2012, being one of only two Scottish members at that time, along with Rikki O'Neill. Sandy was an inspiration to many and was respected and loved by all who knew him. He will be sorely missed for his laughter, enthusiasm and his exceptional photography. Our sincere condolences go to Sandy's family and friends.



What's On in December?

December 4th : Street Level Gallery - Jill Furmanovsky Exhibition
email contemporarysco@rps.org

Further ahead:

January - RPS Scotland Exhibition - Eden Court Theatre Inverness. Members event to be confirmed.

January 15th A Chat with Simon Hill Hon FRPS - contemporarysco@rps.org
<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/a-chat-with-simon-hill-honfrps-5a2NN26RY3l/overview>

February - RPS Scotland Exhibition - Aberdeen Arts Centre. Members event to be confirmed.

February 8th Photoforum Pollokshields Burgh Hall Glasgow
<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/rps-scotland-glasgow-photoforum-5a2NN27khKT/overview>

March 7-9th Landscape SIG DoubleTree North Queensferry
<https://billetto.co.uk/e/landscape-group-conference-2025-full-price-tickets-tickets-902441?rr=aHR0cHM6Ly9ycHMub3JnLw==>

April 4th Woodland Workshop with Paul Mitchell FRPS Darn Walk, Bridge of Allan

<https://rps.org/events/regions/scotland/2025/april-2025/darn-walk-woodland-workshop-with-paul-mitchell/>

April 5th Advisory Day, Stirling Uni Bridge of Allan

<https://rps.org/events/regions/scotland/2025/april-2025/distinctions-advisory-day/>

April 14th RPS Scotland Talk: David Eustace - Social Portraiture, Still Life, Art!

<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/david-eustace-social-portraiture-5a2NN27kgt3/overview>

AGM - will be online, 2nd March 2025.

May 10th - Celebration Day / Print Selection - Bridge of Allan,

June 2025 Edinburgh Photoforum, at EPS...date to be confirmed

TWT 25...gardens and blooms, after Easter, details to follow.

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