



## May 2024 Newsletter

It's the start of the Next Year for RPS Scotland, as that's another AGM over. An online AGM this year, and that's going to be the pattern from now on in too, in line with most of the other Regions and SIGs within the RPS. There was one change at the AGM, as Clive Watkins LRPS took over as Secretary. When Dave took over as RO he expanded the committee to include the geographical volunteers, and that allowed those folks to sit in and listen and learn, and that allows them to make that transition to office bearers easily, giving a sensible succession structure. We also have a 3 year rotational policy, so that the office bearers can get into the role, but not get stuck in it. Dave himself will have done his 3 years next year, and we have potential RO being considered by the Board of Trustees, moving up from being a regional volunteer. These posts are a great example of how members can progress through on the Committee...volunteer, help locally, and kapow you're The Boss. We did get two new local volunteers at PhotoFest 24 too...Filipe in Edinburgh, and Jamie in Orkney, check out the whole list on P7. So, if anyone fancies a bit of that, then get in touch and start your journey.

The RPS have brought out a uniform set of Terms of Reference for Regions and SIGs, which we have to adopt and adhere to, within a defined timescale.

<https://rps.org/media/f2hvl3k/240322-rps-tor-community-rev0-sh-final.pdf>

It sets out the expectations of the RPS with regards to advisory sessions, events, talks etc, and also describes the make-up of the Committee going forward. I'd say we are compliant in all the event type areas, and we just need to get the Committee fully compliant, and we'll be good to go, and that will happen with RPS HQ guidance, and within the required timescale. The Committee looks vibrant, and I feel confident that the next few years will be good ones for RPS Scotland.

## Monthly Competition

The theme for April was Nighttime, and the dark images magically appeared. Here's our very worthy winner: Leavin' Home Kevin Flanagan LRPS. Very Hido, very good.



Full results on the webpage:

<https://rps.org/regions/scotland/scotland-monthly-competition/>

May's theme is Architecture, so maybe the TWTers have a wee advantage? Prove me wrong and send entries to Ken, sized at 1000px wide, by as many pixels as you want tall, via [scotlandweb@rps.org](mailto:scotlandweb@rps.org)

## 2024 Exhibition

This was the first year of the dreaded new regulations for choosing the Annual Travelling Exhibition, and we just weren't sure how that would go. First of all we'd halved the number of prints you could enter, and then we'd aligned the categories with the RPS Distinctions categories and we'd asked the photographers to choose what category they wanted their image entered in. It was an evolutionary change, but it felt revolutionary.

How did it work out?

Well, we have 40 strong images. Result.

Those 40 images are a straight reflection of the numbers of each category submitted. Result.

We chose the 40 images in 2½ hours, which was quick, but still got in all the group viewing and discussions that we all enjoy and look forward to. Ray Spence said he'd never seen anything like it before, but I'm not sure if that was a compliment or not! Result though.

The number of entrants was broadly the same as normal, although I think that the overall quality was higher...some of the choices that we had to make were really tough, and although it's not really my "thing" I'd say that you could have had an exhibition of Landscape images on their own.

The largest two categories were Contemporary and Landscape, and there was surprisingly few Natural History and Portraiture...is that just how it was this year, or was that how it will be every year? Hard to say, but I'd guess that it's just the cycle of what's hot and what's not, and that will wax and wane through the years.

So, overall, it was fine, and not as revolutionary as it felt like it might have been.

**RPS**  
**Scotland**



Littoral Concretion - Mairi MacAulay ARPS



**Exhibition**  
**24**



PhotoFest 24 is now in the memory banks, but those memories will stay strong for a while. For many, it was their first RPS event, and overall the atmosphere was very relaxed and convivial. Everyone mixed well. The Hotel was very comfortable, the food was tasty and plentiful, and the red wine flowed as much as the craic.

The speakers were fantastically coordinated, and we started with Colin Prior's fabulous Karakoam and then took a surprising turn in to his birds eggs...beautiful, and fascinating. The man is a star turn for sure, and in more ways than I thought he would be. We then were treated to the wild enthusiasm of Andrew Allan and his Night Skies... aurora, Milky Way, Venus, the Moon, and all in great technical detail as well as beauty. It was a breakneck gallop but fun and educational. It was an RPS day, so we were very lucky to have Simon Hill, the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees with us, and he gave us the low down and background of the RPS and it's raison d'être, it's journey, it's difficulties. He was, though, positive and good natured, and he made many friends over the weekend with his easy going nature.

In a separate room we had Richard Brayshaw FRPS, and Ray Spence FRPS (in what was his last ever RPS assessment /advisory day) were conducting advisory sessions for F's, A's and L's. These are tense events for the photographers, but both Richard and Ray are very experienced and they coaxed the aspiring distinctions candidates through the process and talked about their images. Getting that sort of face to face advice, and hearing the comments about the other panels will be incredibly useful for those photographers.

The afternoon eased the physical elements of the morning presentations into mental and emotional highs, and we started with Karen Gordon who lifted us up with her inspirational social photography, based in Glasgow amongst the immigrant population, and her obvious joy in her work. It was moving and humbling. Paul Strand then took the audience along his personal journey from the absolute highs of Fleet Street to the absolute lows of a break down. His searingly honest presentation silenced us all, but his come back, his imagery, his whole newfound simplicity and clarity lifted us all back up. It is fair to say that he really connected with everyone, and we won't be forgetting his message. Our last speaker was Simon Riddell, and he took us back up to the physical heights again, up the Cuillins, but via a troubled youth, and a tragic death, and carrying a massive field camera, glass plates and bottles of noxious chemicals. The resultant images are stunning, and I've never seen such a personal statement, never heard such a strong story. His was a triumphant end to the day's talks, and the bar beckoned before our dinner in the Conservatory.

In the background Neil McIlwraith had a cornucopia of new and used books from his Beyond Words business. He left with a much reduced stock, and his wee credit card machine was red hot. Colin and Andrew also sold lots of books, and signed them as well, just to add to the sense of special occasion that pervaded PhotoFest 24.

Bring on '26!

## Talk - Walk - Talk

The second of the Landscape / DIG TWT events is now fully over, and looking at the images that have been put on to the e-zines they have all been busy and productive.

The next TWT event will be in the Autumn, and the theme for that one will be Woodland, so hopefully there will be at least as many as we had for Architecture, and maybe even some more? Volunteers are always welcome, so if the e-zines below get you feeling enthusiastic then get in touch with either Landscape / Digital Imaging or even just me, and I'll pass your details on.

Crichton Church Dumfries:

<https://issuu.com/home/docs/tfizoelsple>

Dundee Old City:

<https://issuu.com/home/docs/zdfdqhf2e0c>

Dunfermline Abbey & Palace:

<https://issuu.com/home/docs/b74f7k6htsv>

Clyde Waterfront

[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/clyde\\_waterfront](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/clyde_waterfront)

Aberdeen

[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/t-w-t\\_aberdeen](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/t-w-t_aberdeen)

Edinburgh

[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/twt\\_abe\\_edinburgh\\_final\\_-\\_zine](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/twt_abe_edinburgh_final_-_zine)



# 160th Edinburgh International Exhibition of Photography 2024

## Now Open for Entry !

<https://edinburghprint.myphotoclub.com.au>



FIAP 2024/221



L.240045



## Prints Only

**Two Sections - One Section £12, Both Sections £16**

**OPEN Mono and OPEN Colour**

**One of the oldest and most highly regarded  
international print salons, the 160th  
Edinburgh International is open for entry.**

**Entries close on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Enter via <https://edinburghprint.myphotoclub.com.au>**

**Now with more awards than ever before!**

The Exhibition, held in Edinburgh Photographic Society's premises at 68 Great King Street, Edinburgh EH3 6QU, receives thousands of visitors. Visit the exhibition in August (3<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>) during the Edinburgh International Festivals. Entrants are admitted free.

All accepted prints are displayed.

<https://www.edinburghphotographicsociety.co.uk/wp/international-ex-160-v2/>

## What's On in May?

Edinburgh International Salon entries open:

<https://edinburghprint.myphotoclub.com.au/>

29th March onwards: Photo Cities - how images shape the Urban World, V&A Dundee. <https://www.vam.ac.uk/dundee/whatson/exhibitions/photo-city>

29th March - 27th October Diorama Map, Dundee, Sohei Nishino V&A Dundee

5th April - 28th August: International Garden Photographer of the Year Verdant Works Dundee, <https://www.dundeeheritagetrust.co.uk/event/exhibition-international-garden-photographer-of-the-year-exhibition-17/>

May 16th: Contemporary / Documentary trip to the V&A, and International Garden Photographer of the Year, Dundee. Contact [contemporarisco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarisco@rps.org) for details

Further ahead:

<https://rps.org/groups/documentary/dpa-2023/#>

June: Documentary Photography Awards Exhibition - Eden Court, Inverness

June 1st Contemporary / Documentary visit to Eden Court, contact [contemporarisco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarisco@rps.org) for details

July: Documentary Photography Awards Exhibition - The Smith, Stirling

July 2nd Contemporary / Documentary Open Evening at The Smith, contact [contemporarisco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarisco@rps.org) for details

July 16th Contemporary / Documentary Day at Glasgow Kelvingrove / West End, contact [contemporarisco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarisco@rps.org) for details

July 23rd Adventure: Scottish Highlands, Cape Wrath Trail.

<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/?>

[search=scotland&sortBy=date&category=&date=TODAY&keywords=association:Western%20Region](https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/?search=scotland&sortBy=date&category=&date=TODAY&keywords=association:Western%20Region)

3rd August: Edinburgh Photographic Society - Edinburgh Salon, RPS Scotland Exhibition, a Fringe venue

7th August: RPS Documentary / Contemporary Scotland - Day Out, starting at EPS for the Fringe shows, and then wandering on, contact [contemporarisco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarisco@rps.org) for details.

## **RPS Scotland Committee**

### **RPS Regional Organiser:**

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### **Committee:**

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### **Local contacts:**

#### **Northern**

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#### **Grampian**

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#### **Fife**

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Ken Goodfellow LRPS

Mark Reeves FRPS

#### **Central**

Bob Black

#### **Lanarkshire**

Douglas Thompson FRPS

#### **Edinburgh**

Filipe Teixeira-Dias

#### **Glasgow**

Anne McKelvie

#### **Borders**

Fiona Cadger ARPS

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#### **Ayrshire**

Tracy Ross LRPS

#### **South West**

Jean Robson FRPS

#### **Orkney**

Jamie Bodley-Scott ARPS