



20/20 VISION

Our Annual Spring Event

17-19 April 2020 at RPS House

It's a while now since the initial plans for our 2020 Spring Weekend were shared. This is an important opportunity for the Group to meet together and consider its activities while hearing from a variety of experienced and highly-regarded travel photographers from outside the group as well as from Group members.

You may remember one of our key speakers this year winning the 'Bring a Print' competition at the very same meeting a few years ago in Runnymede : it could be you this year! And this year we are being invited to bring a print each day.

The programme has been planned to be both stimulating and enjoyable, not just to learn but also to enjoy the company of others who get pleasure from travelling with their cameras. The informal parts of the weekend are as important to its success as the formal - the drink in the bar with other Group members as likely to set us off on new paths as the talks.

Our Chairman has negotiated favourable rates at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel where the Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday evening in the Kiln Restaurant.

Sue O'Connell and Peter Briseley have travelled extensively and their websites demonstrate the success they have had in high profile competitions such as Travel Photographer of the Year while Will Cheung identifies with the problems many keen photographers face of not being able to choose the time of day when you will visit a certain place, because the itinerary is planned by others : a situation shared by many!

Debbie Ireland will describe the work of some very early travel photographers and we'll be grateful that our equipment is much more easily transportable.

Safeena Chaudhry will bring us her understanding of 'Affinity' and Kath Phillips will share her experience of working towards a ARPS in Travel Photography, hopefully offering a few tips for those who are travelling a similar path.

But the weekend will only be the best it can be if there is a good proportion of group members to join in discussion and think ahead together.

Online booking is open and we look forward to a really good weekend together.

ANNUAL PROJECTED IMAGE COMPETITION

In the last month or so, every Group member should have received emails from Keith Pointon as he prepares this year's Projected Image Competition.

The documents which were attached to the email can also be found at:

<https://rps.org/media/so2n2cn2/annual-projected-image-rules-and-entry-form.pdf>

Look soon, though, there's a rapidly approaching deadline.....



Silver Medal: Easter Vigil Ethiopia by Julian Cook



*Bronze Medal: The Nizwa Cattle Market, Oman
by Justin Cliffe*

The Projected Image Competition is an important part of sharing our photography at the Spring Weekend, providing one of the few opportunities we have as a Group to enjoy each other's work, so do, please get your entries in as requested, being sure to meet the changed sizing requirements. These are the dimensions required for your image to be seen at its best on the RPS House equipment.

THINKING AHEAD

Had you been indulging in a bit of retail therapy in the Rathbone Place, London, branch of Park Cameras on Saturday, 11th January, you might have heard a degree of huffing and puffing from the study room downstairs. That was your committee thinking ahead!

We have a number of on-going projects, focussing particularly at present on ensuring the success of our Spring Weekend. Online booking is now open and there are more details of the event elsewhere in this edition of the e-news.

An important element of that weekend is the Group's AGM which takes place on the Sunday afternoon. We are always looking for new ideas and fresh blood on the committee and are keen to find volunteers to represent the Travel Group in each RPS region so that we can better meet members' needs.

We want to continue to achieve two-way communication with members.

The Group now seeks new committee members. Over the next three years there will be some significant changes as officers of the committee stand down having reached the end of their tenure.

One such is Keith Pointon, who has been a member the Committee for over 13 years, serving as Secretary from 2009 to 2015. He is currently coordinating the Group Trips and the Annual Projected Image Competition. Keith has registered his intention not to seek re-election at April's AGM.

Do you have or could you learn the skills needed to replace him? Or, indeed, other skills that might help the Group in its continued development.

We ask you all, please, to think about how YOU can contribute to the effectiveness of the Group and especially to consider whether you might be able to volunteer as a committee member or as a Regional helper, supporting the Group's aim of hosting events in different parts of the UK. There is some scope for flexibility in the composition of the committee beyond the essential officers.

If you would like to know more, please contact John Riley, our Chairman or have a chat with any committee member you know. **Don't wait to be asked!!**

Travel Photographer of the Year, the Art of Travel

Many congratulations to **Paul Sansome** on being awarded first place in the Art of Travel section of the Travel Photographer of the Year competition. Paul is one of our most regular Facebook contributors. The images he used for the TPOTY competition are not 'typical' travel images and may well add to the discussion on the Facebook page recently about the nature of Travel Photography. Is there such a thing? What makes a travel photograph?

Paul's winning portfolio can be seen [here](#) - just be a little patient as you scroll through the Young TPOTY winners to find Paul's work! Sadly, there's not enough space here to do the portfolio justice, but Paul has posted it on Facebook for us to see.



Gold Medal: Playing Holi at Baldev, India by Tony Smith

Angst, Resilience, Perseverance, Success

I didn't join a camera club until a couple of years after I'd retired and when I did one of the first talks I attended was about RPS distinctions. My immediate thought was "I could do that - that's a good retirement project". To cut a short story even shorter, within a couple of months I'd spectated at an LRPS advisory day and was pitching up at Bath with 10 prints from "Photobox", nicely double mounted in Cotswold Mounts. Even the assessment was double quick time - my panel was the first up and within about 25 minutes of entering the room I was sitting there not only knowing where the fire exits were, but sporting a very broad grin and LRPS after my name. Some raised eyebrows at the Camera Club I can tell you - who was this upstart who'd done the unthinkable and achieved an LRPS within a few months of joining. Eyebrows were, I hope, slightly lowered when I showed them my panel - truth to tell I'd been quite a keen photographer whilst I was still at work but now had the time to build a panel from my back catalogue. Even so I did get very lucky and nobody should take this experience as the norm.

So, after that - ARPS - how hard can it be? I tried the same approach in the Travel genre. I'd trekked to Annapurna Basecamp a couple of years previously and returned with some ideal photographs for a travel panel, or so I thought. So back to Photobox, back to Cotswold Mounts and back to Bath. This time I sat and watched as panels obviously better than mine were rejected and I became resigned to my fate - which duly came to pass, or rather to fail. One or two of my pictures were ill-judged choices but mostly it was our old enemy, the blown highlights, which were my undoing - those Himalayan peaks are mighty bright in the sunshine. I put it down as a learning exercise - resilience, perseverance and a better strategy needed.

These all soon kicked back in and about a year later I was back - this time in the Applied genre. I endured an Advisory Day in London on what must have been the hottest day of the decade. But, to cut another long story down to size, while the advisors had enthused about all aspects of my panel, the assessors did not - quite definitely, quite emphatically did not. Inconsistency from the RPS, angst for me - enough said. My enthusiasm was definitely dented - it took several years for resilience and perseverance to return. Even so, when they did, I resolved to rely on my own devices.

It was a trip to India that triggered a third attempt at a travel ARPS. This time only my wife knew I was having another try. I rather let this furtive approach

run away with me by allowing myself to include some favourite photographs which, deep down, I probably knew, weren't up to scratch - it's very difficult to be entirely objective based on just your own judgement. But I also realised that I wasn't going to progress unless I printed my own work. Commercial prints are usually of very high quality at low cost - I don't think there's anything wrong at all with using them. It's the delays and costs of getting them through the post which cause the problems when building a big panel. This leads to a tendency to say "that's good enough" when you'd reprint on your own printer. Besides making your own prints is a satisfying activity in its own right.

We'd been to Cuba in 2016 and I'd got a few decent shots before being struck down with the usual travellers' ailment. This spoiled the holiday but I resolved to go back to finish both the holiday and a panel for ARPS and this we duly did early in 2019. There was even a modicum of resilience and perseverance needed to return to somewhere where I had felt so rotten - but, there again, Cuba is just such a great place both for a holiday, and especially for photography, I really didn't need that much persuasion.

On returning I processed my choice of the 30 best photographs combined from both trips. Then, rather in the way that the England rugby XV used to be selected, I placed them in 2 Lightroom collections - the probables and the possibles - and asked my best photography pal to look through them with me. There were relegations from the probables, and promotions from the possibles until the final first XV was selected - with several reserves "on the bench". After that the panel layout almost designed itself taking account of symmetry, pattern and the overall look.

In short it was a one-to-one, very unofficial advisory type evening, with a couple of beers thrown in. If you can find the right buddy and have clear sight of the overall objective this seems a reasonable approach to me. But the RPS is correct in its advice - don't rely on advice from family or well-meaning friends - it has to be someone whose photographic judgement you trust.

I kept the printing simple on my newly acquired Canon IP8750 A3 printer. I used Marrutt lustre paper masquerading as its Canon equivalent with the printer controlling the colours. This straightforward approach led to a panel of 15 crisp, consistent and

CONGRATULATIONS, Chris West ARPS

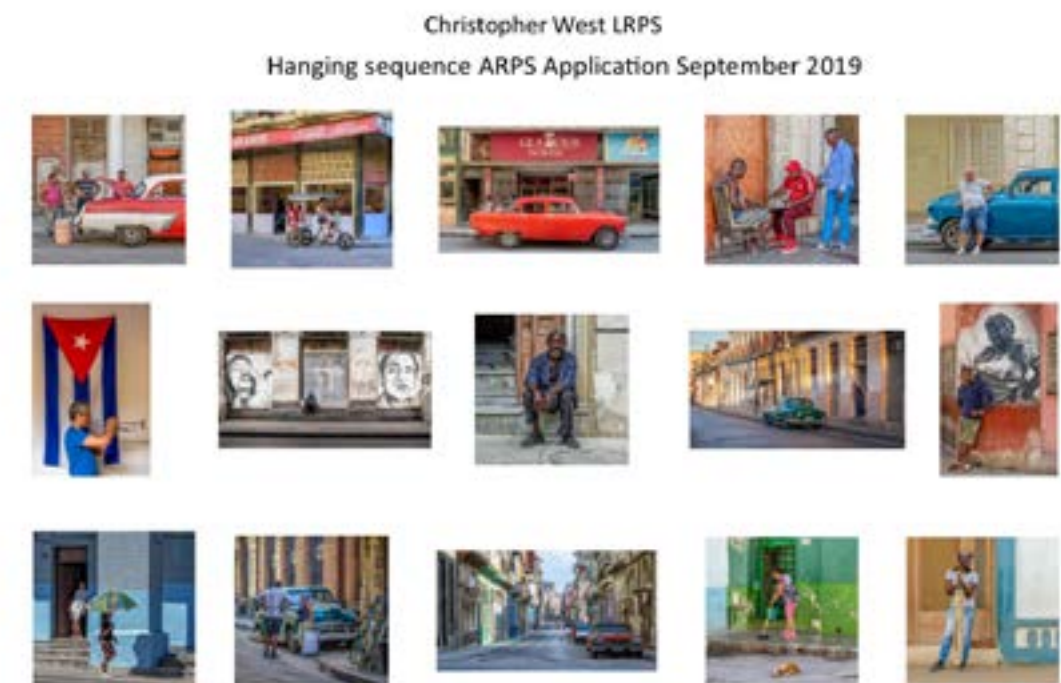
Statement of Intent

The authentic Havana is not found in the restored old city but in the residential districts. Here grand buildings still have frontage onto wide boulevards but most are in terrible repair, some just a façade, others totally collapsed. Street art abounds and live music can be heard everywhere.

The greatest classic car show on earth takes place daily. However most cars here are a far cry from the immaculate convertibles which cruise the tourist hub.

The residents' homes may be in the tumbledown buildings but their social lives, and often their working lives, are spent on the street. Sitting on the doorstep people watching is a favourite pastime - there's always something going on - it's that kind of place.

My intention is to give an authentic impression of this real Havana, its citizens and their lifestyles - photographs that could not be taken anywhere else.



accurately coloured prints which was my objective. I have also learned to cut decent mounts without a visit to A and E so that contributed to the panel being "all my own work" which now feels important to me.

We were caravanning in France on Assessment day, not paying much heed to dates or days of the week. So it came as a very pleasant surprise when the email from Ben Fox popped up on my 'phone saying I was now an ARPS. Our usual lunch of baguette and cheese was augmented with a bottle of the best the campsite shop could offer - after which a slightly unsteady call to my photography pal was in order. Thanks, mate.

Later that afternoon I strolled down to the local village. I took a few photographs - and pretty good ones too - after all I was an ARPS now. There was even a photographic exhibition in the town hall, I took a look and fell into conversation with the exhibition photographer who'd introduced himself after noticing my camera. His English was about as good as my French but we got by in Franglais and with the good fellowship of photography. As we said "au revoir" he invited me to sign the visitors' book so, of course, I wrote a well-deserved complimentary comment. Then I signed my name and, for the first time, added the letters ARPS. And with that I was able to put the angst behind me, to add the resilience and perseverance to the mental folder marked "life skills" and enjoy the success. A sweet moment - one worth striving for.

The New RPS Website

It might be a good idea to note the URL <https://rps.org/groups/travel/> as in the new RPS site Groups are less easy to find than they were on the old site. On the main RPS homepage they are now hidden under 'About' in the top menu with activities organised by the HQ team taking much more prominence.

Please note:

- As yet, there is no way of having password protected pages for groups, so there is no content that is private to the Group. The result is that we have not published the most recent edition of Travel Log online. An archive will be added gradually as time permits.
- We would welcome further Tips and Tricks to go alongside Graham's input on Photobooks. What can you offer? Please email your ideas to the address at the bottom of this page.
- Please let me know if you upload a Gallery (oops - now called Portfolio) of Travel images, especially if it's an A or F panel so that we can create some links and make it easier for members to find one another's work.



However, you will find that forthcoming events are there including the opportunity to book online for our Spring Event.

Do, please, let me know if you find ideas on other parts of the website that you'd like me to try to replicate for our Group and I'll do my best to make it happen in time.

One thing that has been suggested is that we have a calendar page to list Travel Group events. This is because with the new format only events in the near future are signalled on the main events page. By their very nature many of our events are publicised and need to be booked months in advance and will not appear. Hopefully we can rectify this by creating our own calendar.

I am very grateful to Emily and Lowri from the HQ team for the support they have provided as the site has been migrated and for the help they continue to offer as it is developed further. They can't please everyone all of the time!!

Issues or ideas?
email travelweb@rps.org

Many thanks to Geoff Chrisp ARPS for allowing us to use one of the images from his successful A panel as the link to the Travel Group on the RPS Groups page of the website. I'm delighted that the credit has now appeared!!
Geoff's panel images can be seen [here](#) along with much more of his work.

Travel Group Trips 2020



Royal Photographic Society Travel Group
And
Create Away Photographic Workshops

Ultimate Camargue Festival

5 – 11 October 2020



Don't miss out on the second of our Camargue trips, this time, during the exhilarating Annual October Festival. Capture the imposing Camargue Black Bulls thundering through the marshland and as they gallop through the streets of the mediaeval walled town of Aigues-Mortes, herded by the Guardians on horseback. We also have 5 different horses photo shoots in the marsh, on the beach and with sparring stallions as well as a Birdlife/Flamingo shooting day at a nature reserve with exclusive access before it opens to the public.

The tour is a private trip, designed for photographers of all levels and the itinerary is a mixture of festival photography and organized photo shoots of the Camargue Wildlife.

The tour cost is £2880 for this week long (6 nights) photo experience. Return flights to Montpellier are extra (Easyjet flies from Gatwick daily where you will be picked up).

For further details contact Keith Pointon at:

Temple Cottage, Whitcott Keysett, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8QE
Or bagpoint@aol.com

All photographs courtesy of Serge Krouglikoff and Keith Pointon



Summer in Helsinki 2020

Members of the Travel Group will be visiting Helsinki from July 5 – 11 this year.

The plan is for an informal event – one with a core itinerary covering this very photogenic city and its islands, surrounding locations and even the historic centre of Tallinn in neighbouring Estonia. Participants will make their own travel and accommodation reservations and can choose to spend as many or as few days engaged in the trip as they wish, following the itinerary or enjoying their own self-led travel/exploration. The aim is to provide a framework of activities that enables like-minded enthusiasts of travel photography to meet together and share photographic experiences.

The itinerary will include Suomenlinna Island, an old naval fortress spread over several islands just outside Helsinki's East harbour, and now an UNESCO World Heritage Site; Helsinki's diverse and rich diverse city architecture as well as its canals and harbours; the National Museum of Photography; a day trip to Tallinn; Seurasaari Island and Open Air Museum; and Old Porvoo wooden city.



For more information and to make a reservation, please visit the website <https://rps.org/events/groups/travel/2020/july/summer-in-helsinki/>

Travel Image of the Month

December 2019



CONGRATULATIONS to Ian Wright for his image 'Orchha Sunset'

"This was a difficult decision as several images were strong candidates to win. However Orchha Sunset came through as an interesting image that strongly conveys a sense of place as well as capturing human interest and activity. The industry of the clothes being washed contrasts with the bored look of the accompanying but detached child. Also, I liked the balance leading from the foreground, through the figure in the water, to the rather grand building in the background."

We believe that the number of entries and the standard of those entries is a strong indicator that this competition is an important part of the Group's activity. You have just a couple more days to enter for January - go on!!!