



February 2025 Newsletter

I guess the hot RPS topic is Simon Hill being asked to stay on as RPS President, beyond the maximum 6 years. He has been asked to do so by the current Board, to allow his successor to shadow him and then ease into position, and this move has been approved by the Board and Trustees, and by Privy Council. There is to be a general discussion meeting about this on Wednesday 12th February:

https://rps.org/egm2025/?utm_source=Solus&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Town_Hall_Email&utm_content=

And then an EGM on Thursday 24th April.

Simon is keen that everyone exercises their right to vote, whichever way they intend voting. The bigger the vote the more democratic and the more reflective the final result will be. If you're unsure of the why's and wherefores, or of Simon's suitability to continue in this role, then can I point you in this direction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEXfH6i9CIA>

This was a chat night that Simon had with the Scottish Contemporary / Documentary Group, telling his story and journey.

If you watch that, you'll get a very much more idea of the Man himself, and can then make your informed vote count.

Monthly Competition

Blue...who knew that would be so popular and such high quality? The creamy blues, rising to the top are: Under the Waves - Eric Begbie LRPS



Blue Allium - Alan O'Brien ARPS



RPS Scotland

Littoral Concretion
- Mairi MacAulay ARPS



24 Exhibition



February's theme is Dots, Dashes and Diagonals.

Go, do it.

Send entries to Ken, sized at 1000px wide, by as many pixels as you want tall, via scotlandweb@rps.org

RPS Scotland Travelling Exhibition...It's at Aberdeen Arts Centre now, thanks to Nigel, Dave, Derek and Kevin for getting that hung. There will be an open event, pay what you can entry on 11th February:

<https://www.aberdeenartscentre.com/whats-on/royal-photographic-society-print-exhibition-2024-25-launch-event-25>

Grampian have been pretty active recently and Nigel has had a good response to his days out, so hopefully that night, and the Exhibition in general, will be a good success.

This is the last venue before we all head back to Bridge of Allan for the Distinctions Celebration / Exhibition Selection day, and then we start all over again.

AGM

This year's AGM will be online, and fully separate from any other event.

March 2nd at 19.00. This will be the first AGM since the new RPS Terms of Reference, and we will be having 5 Committee members - Regional Organiser, Secretary, Treasurer, Events and Engagement, and Communication.

The current RO, Dave Ferguson LRPS will have completed his 3 year post, and Jean Robson FRPS has been nominated to the Board of Trustees as his replacement. Clive Watkins ARPS will begin his second year as Secretary, Kristen Bax LRPS will start her 3rd year as Treasurer, Ken Ness FRPS will be in post as Communication, and so there is one vacancy - Events and Engagement. Steven Whittaker ARPS has filled this role unofficially for the past year, and it includes the monthly newsletter, facilitating Photoforums / Advisory Days / Scottish events - face to face and online talks / the travelling Exhibition. A full job spec will be published on the website, so that anyone who is keen can be nominated. Steven will take on this role officially if there are no other nominations, but if there is and a new E&E is elected he will help the new committee member into their role. Alongside the official Committee there are currently 16 local volunteers spread around Scotland serving as local contacts, and helping run local events, like the Scotland Photobook project. These local volunteers also offer good continuity for rotation of the official Committee. There are some gaps around Scotland...are they YOU shaped? Get in touch.

Please support your Committee by attending the AGM, and here's the link for that:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86360484180?pwd=btHelqUoqvPfQqyisfq3lREbXZZCou.1>

For Sale

Anything? Anybody? Get it in there.

What else is in the pipeline?

RPS Scotland Photobook project...we're planning a Scotland annual book, with local volunteers hosting days out, showcasing their locale, and then each group choosing a selection of images that reflect their area, with the ultimate aim being a book, and an e-zine. The local volunteers have now virtually all been identified, and the process will start after the AGM, with the resultant book being ready and published for the next AGM. If there are no events near you, why not organise one? Wherever you are in Scotland there will be the opportunity to be involved.

The RPS Scotland monthly competition is now a points based event, with the year's overall winner winning £100 of Amazon vouchers, and one other lucky member getting a day ticket to PhotoFest '26. January was huge, and brow.

The RPS Distinctions process has now been clarified / actioned and the big change is for Licentiate'ship. Obviously the L assessments are now done on DPLs, and so the whole process is an online one. To this end the RPS have started monthly L Assessment sessions, run online, and hosted by our very own James and Hazel Frost. This is a great initiative, and will hopefully lead to an increase in members successfully attaining their Ls.

https://events.rps.org/en/g/z9tTjH8xvF?fbclid=IwY2xjawLIwXleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHQ2HdkjHvYC08F_b3AR0olpx0WWt9AcfaK7HC9sOyW-ptKYAtsseCvDjNw_aem_dOGqdK20gzJsmu_FSKwdng

For A's and F's the One-One's seem almost mandatory these days, but each Region is now also required to run Advisory Days, and we have our first one on 5th April at Bridge of Allan.

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

We do hope to run two days a year, covering as many of the genres as is possible, but your support and attendance is needed so sign up to come to present or observe. These days are hugely useful in developing the required skills and attaining the standards of Associateship and Fellowship.

For everything else, there is the Photofroups, and they will be moving away from being distinctions based, and easing towards a general forum, where members and non-members can bring work or projects that may be for a book, or for a personal goal, or maybe eventually towards a distinction. This year we have Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dumfries and Nairn, and into '26 we hope to have more, probably smaller and more personal days, in more areas...Grampian, Tayside, Fife, Central.

What's on:

February - RPS Scotland Exhibition - Aberdeen Arts Centre. Members event 11th February :

<https://www.aberdeenartscentre.com/whats-on/royal-photographic-society-print-exhibition-2024-25-launch-event>

February 7th Contemporary / Documentary Book Club zoom contact contemporarysco@rps.org for details.

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

Further ahead:

AGM - will be online, Sunday 2nd March 2025, 19.00.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86360484180?pwd=btHelqUoqvPfQqyisfq3IREbXZZCou.1>

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>

May 10th - Celebration Day / Exhibition Print Selection - Bridge of Allan,
June 2nd Edinburgh Photoforum, at EPS

Landscape SIG Member Led Events, but open to all:

<https://rps.org/groups/landscape/>

April 25th Roslin Glen Country Park, led by Colin Balfour LRPS

May 2nd Linlithgow, led by Viv Cotton ARPS

May 3rd Beech Woods In Spring - Edzell Woods, led by Andrew Leonard LRPS

TWT 25...Gardens and Blooms, the initial talk by Molly Holman is on April 10th, and the walks will be spread out after that. Booking for this will open in March.

RPS Scotland Committee

RPS Regional Organiser:

Dave Ferguson LRPS scotland@rps.org

Committee:

Ken Ness FRPS scotlandweb@rps.org

Kirsten Bax LRPS scotlandtreasurer@rps.org

Clive Watkins ARPS scotlandsec@rps.org

Local Volunteers:

Northern

Trish Roberts ARPS

Grampian

Nigel Corby FRPS

Tayside

Robin Millar

Steven Whittaker ARPS

Fife

Monica Vella

Ken Goodfellow LRPS

Central

Bob Black

Lanarkshire

Douglas Thompson FRPS

Paul Skehan ARPS

Edinburgh

Filipe Teixeira-Dias

Colin Balfour LRPS

Ayrshire

Tracy Ross LRPS

South West

Jean Robson FRPS

Orkney

Jamie Bodley-Scott ARPS