



The
Royal
Photographic
Society

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Travel Log

Newsletter of the Travel Group



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Travel Log – Your Newsletter!

Do you have images languishing in your computer, never to be seen by others save friends and family, or perhaps your camera club? Now is a good time to think about putting together an article for *Travel Log*! There is nothing quite like the sense of achievement of seeing your work in print, and knowing that others in the Travel Group can also enjoy the fruits of your efforts.

All articles on travel photography, long or short, are welcome. Instructions for submissions are to be found below.

Travel Log is published by the Travel Group of the Royal Photographic Society three times a year: in January, May and September.

Contributions are welcome on all aspects of travel and travel photography. Full articles typically contain five to six images selected from those submitted, plus an accompanying text describing aspects of the journey and any technical issues encountered. It is worth noting that a mix of landscape and portrait images is useful. The layout of the text and images in the publishing software often means that it is necessary to crop pictures in order to balance the layout so images with a fair amount of open space surrounding the main subject work particularly well. It is also worth bearing in mind that images with much detail lose impact on the printed page as the final printed version is inevitably smaller than a print.

Many members are not comfortable with writing lengthy text: if this is the case, please contact the Editor who will be glad to assist. All text is copy edited and proof-read by another member of the Travel Group committee.

Shorter submissions are also welcome as well as articles describing photographic exhibitions with a strong travel theme or reviews of techniques, etc. of particular value to fellow travel photographers. Both colour and monochrome images are acceptable.

There is always a need for strong images

for the **front cover**. It is not necessary to submit an article for an image to be considered for the cover, although it should be borne in mind that the cover image must have impact and be technically perfect.

Copy for articles can be sent on CD or by email in Word, RTF or TXT format. Digital image files are preferred.

Digital files should be in JPEG format, minimum resolution 300dpi, and adjusted to produce an image file of not more than 5 megabyte (5mB). Many cameras produce files of a lower resolution, adequate for many purposes including projection, but much lower than the resolution required for printing.

Users of Photoshop can find the necessary option under the Image/Image Size menu. If you are uncertain how to adjust image properties, please contact the Editor for advice. If you wish to submit prints, please contact the Editor before dispatch.

Travel Log accepts **advertisements**. Advertisers should contact the Editor by email at the address opposite.

Receipt of all submissions will be sent by email. Unless specifically requested material will not be returned.

Please send all material to the Editor.

The **deadlines** are 1st March (May issue), 1st July (September issue) and 1st November (January issue).

The small printNo payment is made for articles used and whilst every care is taken the Editor, Production or the Travel Group do not accept liability for any damage to photographic material submitted. The views expressed in articles are those of the contributor, and not of the Travel Group or Editor. The Travel Group and the Royal Photographic Society do not recommend any tours or services nor accept any liability whatsoever for members who may make bookings with, or purchases from, any companies or individuals who advertise in *Travel Log* or are mentioned in published articles.



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Note from the Editor

Members may note that the publication schedule for *Travel Log's* three issues a year is now January, May and September.

The deadline for the September 2014 issue is 1st July 2014.

Dates for Your Diary

7th - 14th June 2014 Trip to Northumbria, based in Alnmouth

10th - 11th May 2015 Travel Group Spring Weekend, Ludlow, Shropshire



Chairman's Chatter

Liz Rhodes

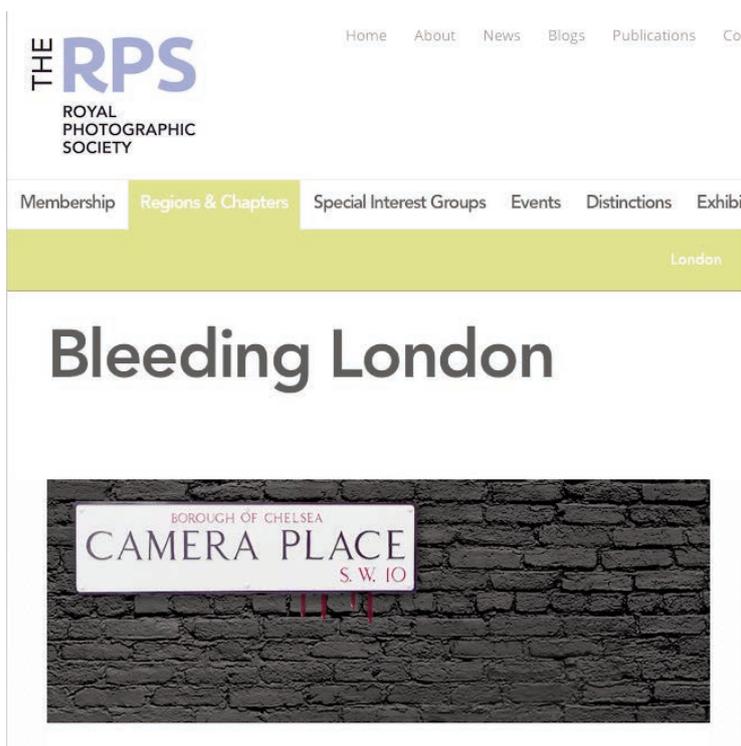
By the time you read this the very wet, damp winter we experienced this year should be well and truly a thing of the past. Unless you were keen to capture images of water and floods, particularly in the south and west, the past few months have not been kind to the travel photographer, though perhaps many of you escaped to warmer climes and returned with images to make those of us who stayed at home green with envy! Unable to do much myself I have instead been mulling over what it is that members of the Travel Group would like us to organise on their behalf that would make membership of the Group worthwhile. And why is it that though we have a Group membership of around 300, only a small percentage attend the events and trips we organise? It's not something that keeps me awake at night but nevertheless I cannot help feeling that there must be something else we should be doing that is of interest to members. This is not something that is unique to the Travel Group: I recently attended the RPS Advisory Board meeting and learnt

that finding ways of engaging with the membership more is one of their priorities. So, if you have any ideas on any new activities that might be attractive and engage more members, please let me know.

In the meantime, one idea being developed by the RPS London Region is a project that will photograph the streets of the Capital. You can find details of this on bleedinglondon.co.uk or the RPS website and I would encourage members close enough to London to get involved in this exciting project. It is an ambitious project and I am thinking about how the Travel Group might contribute to it in some way. Again, if you have any ideas, let me know.

Finally by the time you receive this we will have had our annual Spring Meeting in Ludlow. For those not able to make it this year, your committee has decided to have next year's meeting again in Ludlow, so make a note of the dates in your diary now!

Below: One of Colin Howard's successful "A" panel submission - more in the May issue!



Keeping up to date

John Cucksey ARPS

I had known for some time that I needed to update my computer. The process was kick-started when I went to an RPS regional event – a talk by an Adobe representative on Photoshop/Lightroom. I learnt that their flagship product, Photoshop CS, would in future only be available on the cloud at a monthly rental and not as a standalone product; also a new edition of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom – version 5 was about to become available and that together with Photoshop Elements (latest version 11) both would remain available as standalone products.

For many years we have become used to most leading photographers talking about processing photographs with Photoshop CS. To me this Adobe talk heralded the end of the majority of the photographic community using CS. One knowledgeable photographer I consulted said “Lightroom 5 has, in my opinion, the very best RAW converter on the market a superb image organiser and all the enhancement tools you will need for your photographic style but if you want the bells and whistles from Photoshop then Elements has the answer to work alongside Lightroom”. I believe also that some of the algorithms used in Lightroom are more up to date than those in the full Photoshop version. Lightroom/Elements is also vastly cheaper than the monthly rental for the full version. It may well make sense for commercial graphic users to be in a permanent update position but it is also no doubt an Adobe commercial decision to preserve their future income.

Updating one’s computer is no simple matter. Before attending the Adobe talk I had learnt of one problem I had. My operating system was Windows XP and the processing software Elements 10.

Our club had done very well in the PAGB Great British Cup nature section coming third one

point behind the joint winners and three ahead of the 4th placed club. So we decided to include our entry as part of the clubs annual exhibition. However the original entry was projected images and the club exhibition is prints. My camera gives me an image of 4368 X 2912 pixels (at 300ppi this gives a print of just about 15 X 10). For the PAGB projected image I had cropped one of my images to 1400 X 1050 pixels and it still projected at 100% or actual. I now required a 15 X 10 print. Elements would not enlarge it to anything like an acceptable quality. I found onOne Perfect Resize, to use old fashioned terminology this is enlarging software, the problem with it was the latest version does not work on XP. (I rang the people at onOne and they were very helpful and rummaged in their cupboards and sent me Perfect Resize 7 Pro edition which does). It is simple to use and produced a perfectly acceptable 15 X 10 print from 1400 x 1050 pixels. It plugs into Elements and I have used it several times since. The quality of this print was enhanced by another Elements plug in called Neat Images, a noise reduction software. This can also be a useful tool but needs to be used with care. It reduces noise (grain in old terminology) but it can also reduce detail in, for instance, the plumage of birds. I gather that Lightroom 5 has a greatly improved noise reduction tool compared with that in earlier versions, I have not yet tried it but it may well be the answer in future.

I now come to the updating of my computer; it is not a simple matter of replacement. As I have said I had a windows XP operating system. Lightroom 5 does not work on this nor do a number of other current programmes e.g. the current version Perfect Resize referred to above. I also have a Nikon 35mm scanner which I still use and an Epson perfection 2480 flatbed scanner. These do not work on Windows 7 which I have chosen for my new operating system and apparently

..... continued on Page 14



Ancient Persia in Depth

Andy Pinch

Ancient Persia conjures up tales and visions of Marco Polo, Omar Khayyam and Ibn Battuta together with stories of Aladdin, Ali Baba and Sinbad.

It was these tales and visions that sparked my interest in a trip to Ancient Persia, or Iran as it is now known. The mystique, culture, cuisine and architecture were some of the reasons why I looked into it further and decided that I wanted to go.

The British Airways flight arrived in Tehran at approx. 07:30. There were only four people at the Foreigners Gate at immigration and I was feeling slightly nervous and slightly conspicuous. The Immigration Staff at the gate were very friendly, one of the friendliest immigrations that I have been through, and nothing like the questioning that I was expecting.

Arrived at hotel and freshened up. I was just about to go for a wander when the local tour company phoned up and said that I should not go outside as there were 'angry people' who start demonstrations at

3pm – 4pm and the hotel is in the centre. So, I had lunch in the hotel and sat in the hotel lobby watching people and traffic going by.

In the early evening a couple of us wandered out looking for somewhere to eat. We were advised that we should be back in hotel before 9pm. There were a lot of riot police around dressed in military uniforms carrying plastic shields, batons and rifles. Some of them sat in cars with doors open or on the low walls, smoking and drinking tea. They didn't look very aggressive, but was in no rush to find out if they were. Found a local kebab shop and ordered kebab with non-existent Persian language skills but a fair amount of sign language.

The next day we visited Golesten Palace in central Tehran. The museum was interesting with many photographs and pencil drawings. Then a short walk brought us to the Treasury of the National Jewels that supposedly contains the largest collection of jewels in the world. It also contains the Darya-e-Noor diamond, the sister diamond to the Koh-e-Noor diamond. There were lots of headdress, boxes and swords covered in diamonds and emeralds.

Below: Esfahan Naghah-I Jahan Square and Imam Mosque



Then it was on to the train station for the overnight sleeper train from Tehran to Kerman.

After arrival and checking into our hotel in Kerman we had a short coach ride to Mahan, which is in the desert, and a visit to see Shazdeh's Garden or Prince's Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The garden is rectangular in shape contained within a wall.

Returning to Kerman we had a trip to the Bazaar in the centre of town that in olden times held the water reservoir and public baths. We visited the Ganjali Khan Complex which comprises a school, square, caravanserai, bathhouse, water reservoir, mint, mosque and bazaar, and had a look around the public baths and the 17th century Bath House which is now a waxwork museum.

Then we visited the Jameh Mosque – the Friday Mosque - followed by a visit to a tea house in the Bazaar where we were entertained by two locals playing a santur (a sort of string xylophone) and a drum/ tambourine.

The following day we carried on to Yazd, a remote desert city and the driest major city in Iran. Because of its climate, it has one of the largest networks of qanats in the world. A qanat is one of a series of well-like vertical shafts connected by gently sloping tunnels, thus providing a reliable supply of water and irrigation. Workmen digging the water tunnels often find fossilised fish and sometimes coral fossils.

Many old buildings have windcatchers, which create natural ventilation in buildings, and large underground areas to deal with the climate. These windcatchers feature in most buildings in the old city and are designed to trap even the smallest of draughts and direct them into the dwellings below for cooling.

Yazd is home to many followers of the ancient Persian religion of Zoroastrianism. Outside of the city are the Towers of Silence, an old Zoroastrian burial

ground where the dead bodies of the believers were left to be devoured by vultures before burying the remaining bones.

We visited Artashkadeh, the Fire Temple of the Zoroastrian community, which is said to have been burning for more than 1500 years.

In the early evening we visited a sporting club to see a performance by local men of club and dervish twirling. The arena is in a circular pit on top of what used to be a reservoir. The dervish twirling was very impressive, and if it had been for real and the clubs had been swords, the 'whirling dervish' would have been a fairly effective mobile blending machine to make mincemeat of any opposition!!

Then it was on to Pasargadae located in the vast desert plain between Shiraz and Esfahan and contains the remains of the first capital of the Achaemenian (Persian) Empire. Pasargadae was established by King Cyrus the Great in the early 6th Century BC as the empire's seat of government and military base. The Pasargadae site is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with ruins of 2500 years old. The site contains the tomb of Cyrus the Great.

From there we went on to Shiraz which is also a former capital and home of famous Persian poets and is known for gardens, especially roses. Shiraz has always been a renowned centre of learning and is known as Iran's 'Poetic Capital'.

Next stop Esfahan, a former capital of Persia famous for its stunning architecture, covered bridges, bazaar and tree lined boulevards. The Naghsh-e Jahan Square is one of the largest city squares in the world. There is a Persian proverb that says "Isfahan is half the world"

Below left: Restoration in Esfahan

Below right: Kermanshah Bahistun inscription



Ali Qapu Palace is a seven storey palace situated on the western side of the square and was principally the centre of government during the safavid period. The interior is decorated with fine carving, murals and mosaics and the main balcony gave the shah and his family a view of the polo matches held in the square and daily life in the city

The Imam Mosque and Sheik Lotfullah Mosque situated on the eastern side of the square are lavishly adorned with exquisite tile work in hues of blue, turquoise and green, represent the culmination of over 1,000 years of Islamic art and architecture.

The Behistun inscription, near Kermanshah, includes three versions of the same text written in three different languages, Old Persian, Elamite and Babylonian. In 1835 and 1843, Henry Rawlinson, a British Army officer had the inscription transcribed in two parts. The inscription is approximately 15 metres high and 25 metres wide and is 100 metres up a limestone cliff.

The trip ended back in Tehran with the group dinner and then a morning flight back to the UK. The kind BA Stewardess was obviously aware that Iran is a 'dry' country, so I got a few cans of beer rather than the usual one, which were very cool, refreshing and welcome!



Above: Shiraz Market

Far Left: Zanjan Barbari bread making

Near Left: Yazd

Below: Yazd Amir Chakhmaq Complex





How I achieved my Associateship in Travel Photography

Colin Howard ARPS

It was a long held ambition to achieve my Associateship, having achieved my LRPS so long ago I cannot now remember when. As a scientist I found it hard to adopt a more artistic approach to my photography rather than following a prescriptive path dictated by looking at the efforts of others and attending advisory days. Perhaps the hardest lesson was to put together a panel about which I am passionate: Venice is a place that stirs the emotions, no matter how many times I go. Several know-alls tried to steer me away from this subject as Venice has been the subject of panels so many times but I persisted, proving there is always something new to be said about any place, no matter how often it is photographed.

Statement of Intent

Venice is a visually seductive destination. Although often photographed from the viewpoint of a tourist, it is a vibrant, lived-in city mellowed by time. I have tried in this panel to capture the unique atmosphere of this city with no comparison to elsewhere; the feeling is of a city much-loved by its inhabitants where the visitors are but a veneer on a place inhabited by generations and molded by the obvious association with the lagoon on which the city sits. Venetians manifest a lifestyle with occasional quirkiness and an innate resilience to floods of water and tourists alike.

Below: Colin's Hanging Plan

Colin Howard - Hanging Plan



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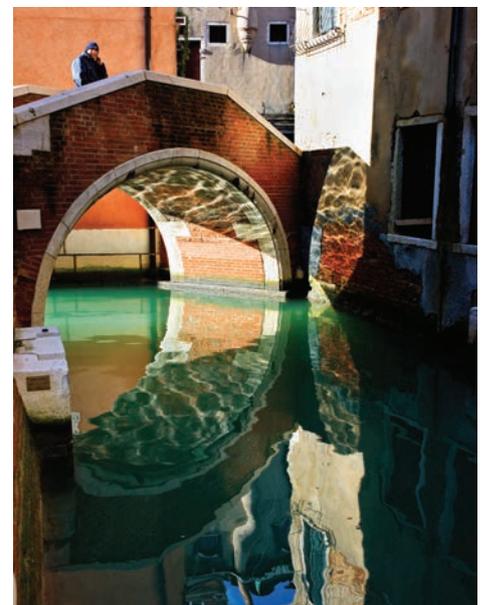


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All Photos by Colin Howard, ARPS







Baja To Churchill in Search of Polar Bears

Michael Cook

A visit to the Canadian town of Churchill on the shores of the Hudson Bay in search of polar bears reached the top of the travel 'to do' list in 2013.

Churchill is where the bears congregate, waiting for the waters of the Bay to freeze so that they can walk out onto the ice to hunt seals.

Our itinerary was to fly to Winnipeg (via Toronto), the next day fly on to Churchill for three full days (two days in a purpose-built tundra buggy searching for polar bears, interspersed with a day 'at leisure' for dog sledding and other activities), and then returning to Winnipeg. The trip was categorised as 'enthusiast'; for the dedicated there are specialist photography tours.

Following our arrival in Winnipeg we had an evening briefing with our tour leader and at 7.00am next morning we left our hotel for the two hour flight to Churchill.

The flight was on a 50-seat Convair 580, a twin turbo-prop aircraft – a rather different experience from flying on a wide bodied jet.

We approached Churchill in a blizzard and after circling for twenty minutes, unable to land due to poor visibility, diverted to Thompson to refuel and await a break in the weather. The break never came, so after three hours we returned to Winnipeg, somewhat disappointed with the turn of events.

The following morning we repeated the process

and joyfully landed in Churchill, to a temperature of minus 24°C, and a wind-chill that made it feel like minus 37. We piled on to an ancient coach (complete with rifle within arms reach of the driver), which took us to the tundra buggy departure area. A briefing by our knowledgeable and entertaining buggy driver about respect for the wildlife, the environment and safety, both when on the move and when photographing the wildlife (e.g. anything you're going to poke through an open window must be connected to you by a strap), and we were off. The tundra around Churchill is a former military area and the buggies follow a designated network of tracks in search of bears. It is worth noting that the tundra buggies have a seating capacity of forty-four, but some operators run at half capacity so that everyone has a window seat, with an opening window for those all important photo opportunities.

It wasn't that long before we had our first sighting and then a second – a bear exploring the condition of the ice but, thinking better of it, returned to the land quite close to the buggy. After a while we moved on and in due course came upon two young male bears apparently dozing in the snow. After a short time one of them decided it was time to indulge in some sparing with his companion – an activity which helps to tone muscles for the hunting season ahead of them. We then witnessed an amazing spectacle of the two bears in playful combat, which held us captivated for almost an hour (and which left our guide, who has been leading trips for many years, lost for words). And so ended our first day on the buggy.



The next day was spent exploring Churchill and dog sledding, including an informative talk on how the dogs are cared for.

Our final day in Churchill, and we were keen to be on the buggy again.

We had not been going for long when an arctic fox appeared and made its way nonchalantly past the buggy, and a while after that a flock of ptarmigan, well camou-

Left: The Tndra Buggy

flaged in their white plumage, were spotted and which we watched for some time.

But no bears!

We moved on and after some time chanced upon a mother and year-old cub. Initially the two were dug into the snow and were not particularly active, but after sensing something on the wind (possibly a large male bear we saw passing some distance away), moved position a short distance and again dug themselves into a snow bank up against some willow shrubs. The mother bear was content to settle down, but the cub had other ideas. The mother suckled the cub briefly and energised by this meal the cub set about nudging and nuzzling its mother for some play action, but to no avail. The cub then decided to take matters into its own hands and after a preliminary skirmish with some soft vegetation decided it was time to break off a branch of the willow. This was soon accomplished and the cub then entertained us for half an hour, rolling around with the willow branch, striking all sorts of poses, practising pouncing with front paws as if to break through a seal hole and other antics. Our buggy driver had witnessed this only a couple of times previously in seven years. A truly amazing sight which we were privileged to observe.

Quality rather than quantity was definitely the hallmark of our encounters with the bears, and all the more memorable for that.



Above: It's a long way from anywhere in Churchill!

Right: Polar bears at play



Above: An Arctic Fox



Right: Warning sign in Churchill

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there is no update for the software available. My computer firm and others to whom I have spoken advised me to get Windows 7 rather than Windows 8 which seems to have considerable problems. My solution has been to keep my old computer, remove broadband and have it on the new computer together with the other programmes which will work on it, in particular Lightroom 5 and Elements (including Perfect resize) and continue to use the old one for those pieces of equipment that will only work on XP.

The most important point with a new computer is to ensure you have enough RAM capacity to meet your processing requirements. For instance some people montage many layers together creating huge multi hundred megabyte files that they save as such. However, if your work is mainly classified as travel photography you will not be doing this as composite photos cannot be classified as travel photos. I opted for 16GB of RAM.

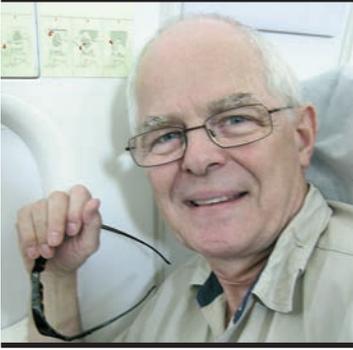
I have plugged my Epson 2400 A3+ printer into my new computer and it continues to work, but I am aware that it may not last long and I shall replace it with an Epson 3000 A3+ printer from Fotospeed with their ink flow system which I hope will reduce the cost of ink considerably; Fotospeed claim it reduces it by 80%

It is worth mentioning something else which is currently coming to the fore - Photo books. Put simply to produce one all you have to do is process your photo and then dial up one of the

photo book suppliers, download their free software, then download you pictures into it, add your titles and narrative, decide on the quality of photographic paper and whether hard back or paper backed, etc. and a few days later a very nice book of your photographs will arrive. It is extraordinarily simple. Lightroom 5 has a book module integrated with Adobe's partner in book building Blurb. (www.blurb.co.uk).

There are a number of firms other than Blurb producing photo books with prints of even better quality than Blurb, indeed they are near exhibition quality. Next time I shall try www.bobbooks.co.uk , another firm is www.vanillaphotobooks.co.uk . Whilst the capital cost of digital photography is vastly greater than in the old film days, the running costs are minimal and producing one of these books costs no more than buying and processing-film. A question mark also hangs over for how much longer we shall be able to view photos stored on current computer media. CDs are already going. How much longer will memory sticks be around? Will future operating systems be able to read them? A book will be around for a long time and is much more accessible.

I am now on the considerable learning curve for using Lightroom, particularly the Library module which is new to me. Although there are many 'bells and whistles' I shall never use, I like what I have found and believe I shall be able to produce better prints and projectable images using the improved RAW converter and other processing procedures many of which are an advance on Elements.



The Spirit of Bali

or How to have the best time somewhere you never wanted to go

Rob Morgan ARPS

Bali - who'd want to go there? Thousands of beer-swilling tourists in Kuta, overpriced resorts in Seminyak, the risk of 'Bali belly'. Not me. Except, oops, I went there last year and had the greatest time. (I did keep away from Kuta and Seminyak).

Thinking I'd like to photograph Borobudur on Java, I searched the internet for photography workshops in Indonesia and came across one in Bali instead, run by professional photographers Mark Rayner (based in Brisbane) and David Metcalf (based in Bali). Timed to coincide with the Galungan festival (an event held on the full moon, every 210 days at the start of the Balinese calendar), the seven day workshop was over Easter. I've been on a few good workshops (and one utterly hopeless one in the USA in 2007), but bang-for-buck (or is that punch-for-pound?) this was far and away the best workshop I've been on. The events and

locations were great and the leaders' knowledge and keenness were inspiring.

Bali is unique amongst Indonesia's islands, being predominantly Hindu. Once you get away from the Western tourist haunts in the south you are in rural Bali; life suddenly gets quieter and the strength of the Balinese Hindu culture is evident. Every village has one or more temples and there are little shrines throughout the rice fields. Houses have their own impressive shrines in traditional three-part walled gardens. Even in busy Ubud town, the 'cultural centre' of Bali with its excess of tourists, it is definitely a Balinese experience.

We were based in a resort hotel in a rural setting, next to a village ten minutes drive from Ubud. It was very quiet, unlike our photographic schedule: up early most mornings to catch the sunrise or to beat the tourists to a couple of major temples. On the way to our first temple we made an unscheduled stop where

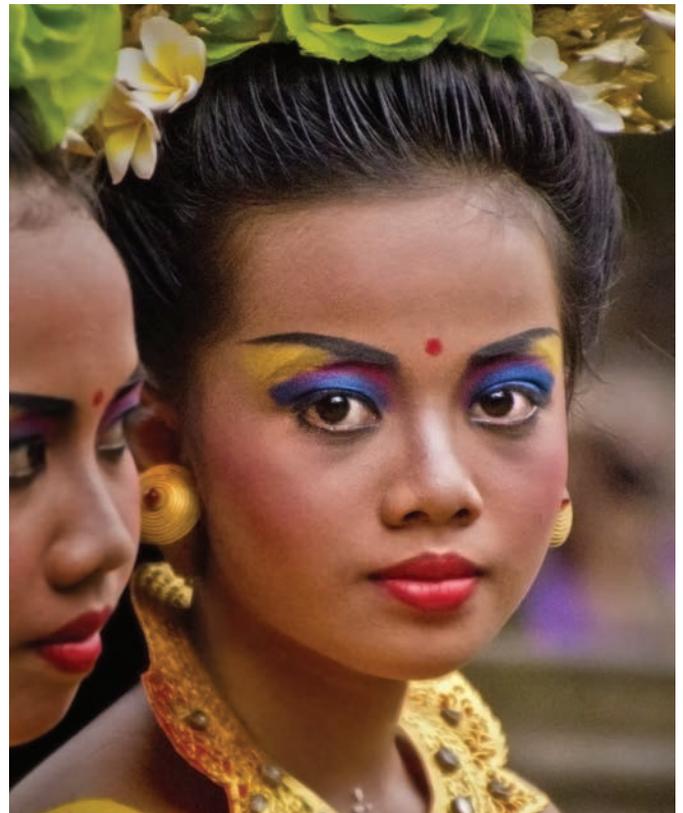
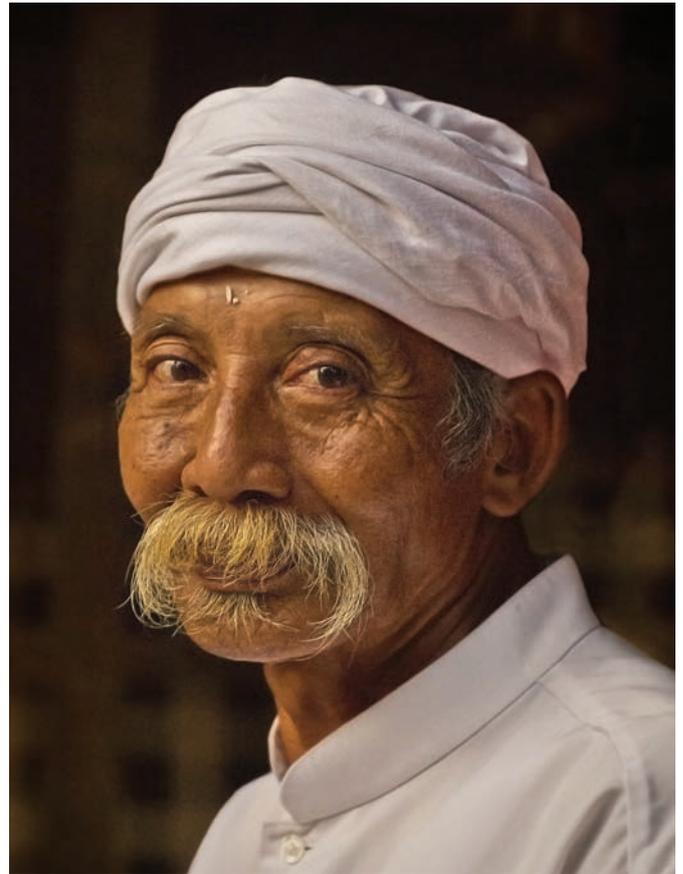
Below: Rice paddies



dawn rays were filtering through the palm trees in the adjacent ravine. But if that wasn't special enough, on our dawn shoot from the Kintamani ridge towards the Batur valley and the three major mountains on our last morning, we were met by the valleys below full of fog and the pre-dawn sun piercing holy rays through the clouds from behind one of the peaks at one stage. This was followed by a visit to the nearby Pura Batur temple, where there was an unexpected major colourful ceremony happening. The workshop was full of unscheduled rewards like these. While we went to numerous locations together, we were left to find our own images once there. There was none of that typical workshop routine of standing in a line, shooting the same view (thank goodness). The opportunities were too varied and numerous for that.



Balinese people are very happy to have their photo taken and invariably thank you for doing it. One highlight was a dance and music show put on by the villagers where David lives. Apparently it started as a small event but everyone wanted to be involved. In the late afternoon women and men villagers played gamelan music and the girls and young women performed traditional dances. After we were handsomely fed with a local dinner, the young boys performed a dramatic fire dance, happy in the knowledge that OH&S has not yet infiltrated traditional Bali life.



Top: "I am a walrus!"

Left: Boys at Barong Ngelewang

Above: Mesmerising girl



Above: Gamelan players

Right: Batur Valley

Below: Unloading a fishing boat on Kusamba Beach





Welcome to The Book Box - a volunteering opportunity combined with photography

Julie Calvert, ARPS

I can offer members of the Travel Group very interesting and affordable travel opportunities that combine volunteering with your photography. I run Shutterspeed Travel which doesn't make any money from these trips, being part of our not-for profit work. The projects are held by The Book Bus charity (supported by Quentin Blake) in Malawi, Zambia, Ranthambore, India and the Galapagos.

The volunteering projects involve working for a long established and recognised grass roots literacy charity which believes basic education can help lift children and families out of the poverty cycle. You will be involved in coaching and leading fun activities with children to help them with their literacy skills. The children often have a reading age of say 5 despite their being up to 12 years of age. It's very basic stuff and you don't need any language skills yourself apart from English. You will change the lives of these children as well as your own. You need to be able to commit 2 weeks of your time to working with the children and then your weekends and even some time after the classes during the week you are free to explore and pursue your photographic and other interests. (Photography is not allowed during the volunteering activities as the kids find the cameras exciting and they become distracted rather than getting on with their learning.) It is possible to volunteer for additional weeks and these projects run throughout the year so you can choose dates that suit you, you can go by yourself and then join up with other volunteers at the project, or you can put your own group together of any size. Accommodation tends to be basic but comfortable with often disproportionately great local food.. Sometimes, depending on the location it is possible to upgrade. The trips are very affordable. You can add on your own separate travel extensions either side of your volunteering of course.

Do get in touch if you are potentially interested: Julie Calvert 07769 706631/shutterspeedtravel@mac.com





Forthcoming Trips

Aline Hopkins

Since the last issue of *Travel Log* some changes have been made to forthcoming plans in response to feedback. The trip to Northumbria will still take place during the week 7th to 14th June but the location has been changed to Alnmouth. We have chosen to base ourselves at Bilton Barns, which offers a mixture of bed and breakfast in the farmhouse, plus self catering accommodation in cottages close to the farmhouse. If anyone else wishes to come along please check www.biltonbarns.com for availability and to book, and please then let me know so that I can stay in touch with you about meetings and outings.

After various discussions, it has been decided to shelve the Yellowstone trip until 2015. There is also the possibility of a trip to China next year (in conjunction with Light and Land). Much depends on how many people are interested, so if you are interested in going to either Yellowstone or China please let me know. As for this year, we are looking instead at running a trip to Western Canada in the Autumn of 2014. I'm sorry if this sounds vague at present as I am still looking at various options. Several people have expressed an interest and it looks likely this trip will run, even if

numbers are small, so if you are interested in this trip please let me know so that I can keep in touch with you as things progress.

I am also looking at the possibility of a tour to Madagascar in early 2015, again I have several expressions of interest, if anyone else is interested in hearing more about this trip please get in touch with me at alinehopkins@btinternet.com.

Plans for 2015 are also in hand to run a weekend in Conwy in Wales, a weekend in Cornwall: and the possibility of a week in Scotland is also under discussion. I can't give any more details at this stage but again if you are interested in any of these please let me know. And of course, we have the Spring Weekend coming up in May in Ludlow, where I hope to see many of you and hear about your travels and travel suggestions.

In Summary:

2014 Burma - Ludlow - Northumbria - Western Canada

2015 Conwy - Scotland - Madagascar - Yellowstone or China?

Digital Forum - Round 27 Result

The winner of Round 27 is Hazel Mason with her picture of "Sandstorm, Chad"

"Just before Christmas we were in Chad for 2 weeks driving by 4WD through the Sahara and Sahel- over 3400km. We were camping. The trip started hot and clear blue sky but in the second week there were many sandstorms and it was considerably colder at night. We were driving through the Bahr el Gazel which is a very flat area which was previously a river. There are wells along this route as the water table is slightly nearer the surface and hence villages are established. The Tubu tribe inhabit this area and this is a typical Tubu village. Life is extremely hard in this harsh climate. Here the wind was a little less and so there was some definition in the houses and the blue sky above rather than the complete white out it was at other times. Taken on Canon EOS, Canon 70-200mm f2.8/L lens at 1/1000s f16".



Would you like to join the Digital Forum?

The Digital Forum consists of a group of like-minded photographers who are also members of the Travel Group. The aim is to be a forum for its members to upload their images, and then receive constructive criticism on that image. The Forum is only accessible by those who are a member of the group and as such it takes the form of a digital blog.

Once a quarter an image is uploaded by each member on to the digital blog. Everyone then comments on the images on the blog, and scores awarded. The image with the highest marks is then published in *Travel Log*. Currently, there approximately 10 members who contribute on a regular basis. The only criterion is that each image must be on a travel related theme. All members of the RPS travel group are welcome to join the group and Hazel Mason is happy to answer any questions: if you would like to join, please send an email to: hazel.mason39@btinternet.com

The Travel Group Website? This is now located at <http://www.rps.org/travel>

Back copies of *Travel Log* in pdf format can be obtained from the Editor. You will find details of events and Travel Group activities on the RPS website. There is also the opportunity to display your own portfolio of travel photographs.

