



Marloes Sands © Sandra Basham

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Submissions

The copy date for submissions to the next newsletter is **Friday, 14 February 2020**. Please note that it may be necessary to hold some submissions for a future newsletter.

If you have an idea for an article, please send a brief synopsis of the purpose and content of the piece.

Please submit your images as jpeg attachments, sized to 72 dpi with 1200 pixels along the longest edge and borderless. Do not embed the images in the email.

Please send all submissions by email to:
landscapenews@rps.org

Editorial

Happy new year to you all and to the beginning of a new decade. It does seem amazing that the Landscape SIG is entering its fifth year as a SIG in the RPS. A lot has been achieved in this time, 2 fabulous conferences, a multitude of field trips and workshops, critique circles, the publication of our magazine, a continued web presence and of course these newsletters. It was particularly heartening then to see that we will now have our own distinctions category under the leadership of Joe Cornish. An initial article in the Journal set out the rationale for the new category and much more communication is planned so please look out for it.

The committee has an exciting programme planned for 2020 and beyond. Further on in the newsletter you will find details of up and coming events and our speakers' day and AGM still has spaces. This promises to be a very interesting day so if you are free on 21st March please come along.

As many of you will be aware, Mick Rawcliffe stepped down as newsletter editor at the end of 2019. Mick did a great job during his time as editor and I would like to thank him for his excellent contribution. His departure leaves a vacancy for the role so if you have always fancied yourself as an editor now is your chance. Please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are still looking for a secretary also so please step forward if you think you could help with this role.

A significant amount of space in this issue has been devoted to the documentation for the forthcoming AGM and to the results of the survey. I hope you will spend some of your time reading these documents.

It just remains for me to wish you all a happy and prosperous 2020 and every success with your photography. Hope to see you in March.

Best wishes

Richard Ellis
Acting Newsletter Editor
Chair Landscape SIG

Committee vacancies and help needed

Currently the committee has a vacancy for

Secretary

Newsletter editor

And requires help with

Layouts for the magazine – knowledge of Adobe is needed for this role.

If you feel you could help with any of this please get in touch – landscape@rps.org

YOUR SIG NEEDS YOU

RPS Landscape Group Questionnaire Feedback Autumn 2019

Fiona McCowan LRPS

Firstly, thank you to the 300 members who took the time to respond to the questionnaire in September/October 2019. Your answers and comments are helping the committee to plan our activities for 2020/21.

Secondly, thank you to the members who kindly offered to get involved in assisting the group by organising a local sub-group, running a member led workshop, etc. All volunteers are very welcome!

Congratulations to Sheelagh Davidson, the winner of the prize draw for a one day workshop of her choice.

An overview of the questionnaire findings:

- see graphs on the following pages for the results on age profile; geographical spread; distinctions; social media use; Landscape Group events attended; your style of landscape photography and willingness to get involved in the running of the Group
- 79% rated the magazine as excellent or very good
- 78% rated the eNewsletter as excellent or very good
- local meetings and member led workshops were the most popular events people would attend over the next 12 – 18 months
- there is little awareness amongst the members of the various Landscape Group Circles eg print
- requests for events for those with restricted mobility and also workshops with a focus on creative landscape photography

Actions agreed by the Committee as a result of the questionnaire:

- follow up with all those who offered to run a member led workshop and also those who expressed an interest in setting up a local sub-group
- feedback to the Distinctions Department outlining the demand from the Landscape Group

- series of articles for the newsletter on the print, eCritique and processing circles over the next year
- investigate providing workshops for members with restricted mobility, more creative workshops and a workshop on focus stacking and tilt/shift
- undertake research on having an Landscape Group Instagram presence

I would like to finish with some individual responses to the final question in the survey – Any comments you have regarding the Landscape Group?

- Events/conferences I have attended have been excellent.
- I have enjoyed several member led outings, all of which were very welcoming and friendly.
- I enjoy being a member and plan to continue.
- It is a significant benefit of RPS membership.
- It's great to see such a lot of activity and choice of events.
- The Group is unbelievably active and stimulating. The excellent Malvern Conference made me wish to 'do my bit' so I wrote an article for the newsletter which then developed into a field trip which I led, with 3 more planned. It is a pleasure to work with the other volunteers and to contribute and learn at the same time.
- I am looking forward to participating more in 2020.

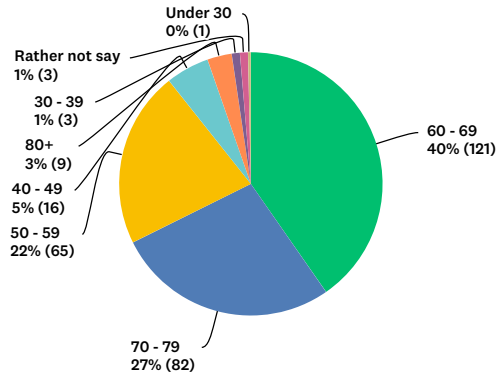
If anyone has any questions on the survey please contact me by email fiona.rps@icloud.com

Fiona McCowan
RPS Landscape Group
Member without portfolio

RPS Landscape Group

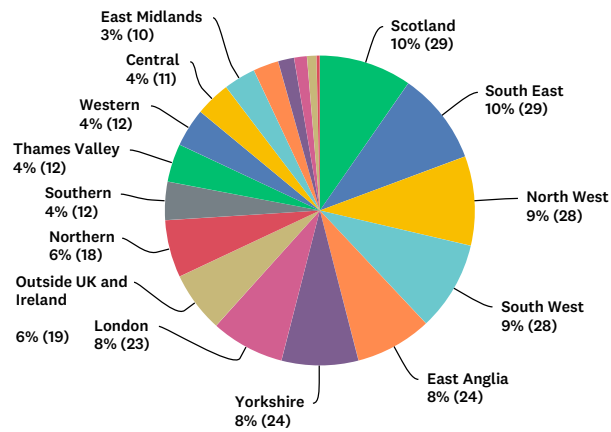
Q1 Please indicate your age group

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



Q2 In which RPS Region do you live?

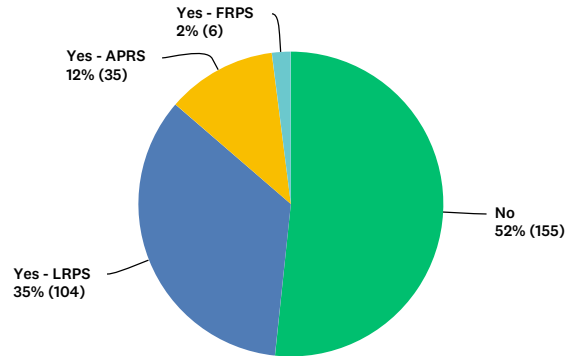
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



RPS Landscape Group

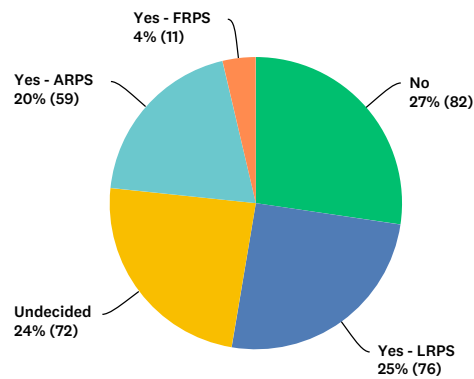
Q3 Do you have a RPS Distinction?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



Q4 Are you planning to apply for a RPS Distinction in the next 12 - 18 months?

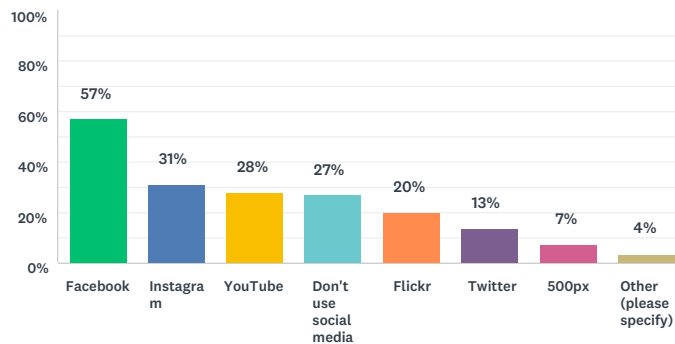
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



RPS Landscape Group

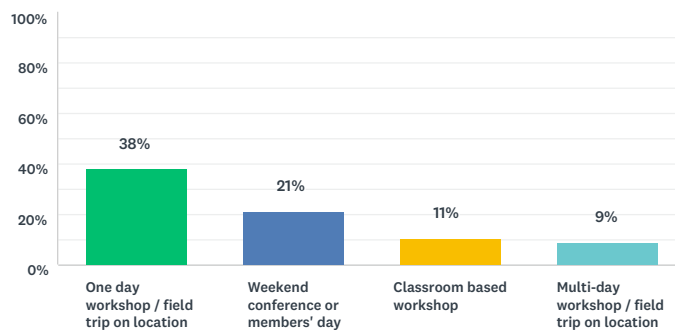
Q7 Which social media platforms do you regularly use?

Answered: 299 Skipped: 1



Q8 Have you attended any of the following Landscape Group events in the past (tick as many as apply)?

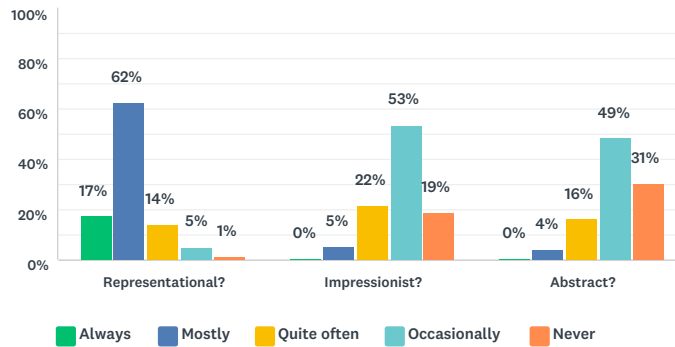
Answered: 285 Skipped: 15



RPS Landscape Group

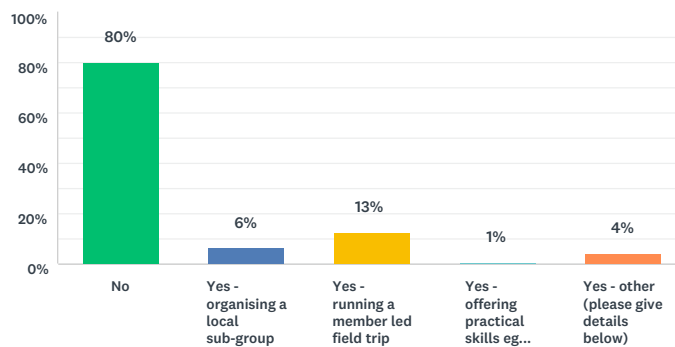
Q11 Which style(s) of landscape photography do you shoot or create in post processing?

Answered: 299 Skipped: 1



Q12 Would you like to get involved? Can you help organise something for the group? We are very keen to get more members to help. For example, could you run a one day field trip at one of your favourite locations?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



Trip Report to Pembrokeshire

By
Peter Douglas-Jones

Our weekend was 25th to 27th October; the weather forecast was poor. After torrid journeys in driving rain we were in Pembrokeshire and met for a meal at a pub in Little Haven. Five amongst us were veterans of these South Wales meetings.



© Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell

On Saturday we met at the NT carpark for Marloes Sands, and took refuge in a built hide at Marloes Meer nature reserve. The birdwatching was some small compensation for being confined by rain – we saw shovelers, teal, grebe, coots and a hunting peregrine. When the rain relented, we went down to the famous beach and found near-perfect conditions under a lowering sky, with the northerly wind whipping the crests away from the waves. The absence of direct sunlight was a bonus in controlling contrast. Lunch was warm and friendly at Runwayskiln Café.



© Mike Basham

In the afternoon we stayed high at Wooltack Point (with views over Jack's Sound to Skomer), save for those who walked down to Martin's Haven and saw a seal hauled out at their feet. Two went to St Anne's Head, the approach to Milford Haven from the sea. We ate that evening at a (name redacted) gastro pub, where the food was good but expensive. In lieu of a pudding we asked for coffee. 'I'm sorry, it's just instant.' We settled for instant, but were then told that the last of the Nescafé had gone. Our generous conclusion was that coffee had arrived in Europe too recently (16th century) for Pembrokeshire to keep up. (Or that their coffee is so grim, no customer has been known to pay a tip after a sip of the stuff.)

On Sunday the sky was clear and conditions warm. We started at Solva and were kept up to date on Wales's score in Japan by the carpark attendant. Solva is an L-shaped inlet and anchorage favoured by yachties: and presumably satisfactory to them only at high tide. We managed shots at sea level and from the top of a promontory. A team photo near Mamgu's (Welsh: Grandma's) Café is distinguished by its being odd.

Then we went to a hilltop village, Mathry, where we had decided on a competition amongst ourselves – each to submit one jpg taken in the village. One amongst us was a Pembrokeshire resident and he helped with local knowledge both at Solva and Mathry.

Judgment on the weekend – where next? Bring it on. Bring own coffee.



© Nigel Goode



© Sandra Basham



© Peter Douglas-Jones



© Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell

The Royal Photographic Society
Landscape Special Interest Group
invites you to a

Speaker Day

and AGM

Saturday 21 March 2020 9:30 am at
The RPS HQ, 337 The Paintworks, Bristol BS4 3AR



Spurn Head © Tony Worobiec FRPS

Come and join us for an exciting day of landscape photography talks by Paul Sanders, Linda Wevill FRPS, Tony Worobiec FRPS and Sam Gregory. Talks will cover creativity, experimentation, composition and storytelling in landscape photography.

Tickets and full details from

<https://tinyurl.com/vlxgqow>

or

<https://rps.org/what-s-on/>

RPS SIG members £10, RPS £40, Public £50
Lunch included

All welcome

Contact: landscape@rps.org

AGM Committee Reports

Chair – Richard Ellis

Role description

Provide leadership and support to the Landscape SIG ensuring a vibrant and dynamic programme.

Achievements 2019

2019 has been another year of continued progress for the SIG. We held a very successful conference in Malvern with a range of top-quality speakers and workshops. We continue to deliver a wide range of member and professionally led events with over 50 activities in 2019. These are well received and overall get very good feedback. If you have not been on an event I would encourage you to try to get out in 2020. The committee continues to communicate with the membership via our magazine, regular newsletters and the website. We completed the migration of the landscape section of the RPS website to the new platform and took the opportunity to update our content.

Additionally, we undertook a survey of members which was completed by 300 members and produced results which will guide our future actions. We used 2019 to bring our finances more in line with the RPS guidelines in terms of reserves and as a result of this the subsidies for events will end in 2020. Events will still be priced to give a benefit to SIG members and early indications are that this has not affected bookings.

None of the above would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the committee and to the present and former members of the committee I am truly grateful for their contributions.

Plans for 2020

The focus for the committee will be to deliver an interesting and dynamic programme. We will host our first one day Speakers' event and AGM at HQ in Bristol. Additionally, we plan to continue with the member and professionally led events programme. We aim to continue to communicate with members and showcase their work via the magazine, newsletters and website.

A key focus will be to try and encourage more of you to volunteer to help and to fill the committee vacancies.

Secretary – Vacancy

No report

Treasurer – Diana Wynn

The treasurer's report will be published nearer to the AGM once the accounts have been verified by HQ

Events Manager Professional – Mark Reeves

I am the organiser of the group's events that are led by professional tutors and workshop leaders.

2019 was our fullest programme yet with over 40 events organised during the year. The main challenge is meeting demand as the vast majority of events were fully booked.

Looking to 2020 my main aims are to continue as at present but also to reflect some of the findings from the member survey that we conducted in 2019:

- to offer a similar number of events as last year (or more if possible)
- to increase the variety of events so as to include more events with a more creative focus
- to offer more events that are suitable to people with limited mobility.

Events Manager – Member led – Dave Glenn

Role description

Organise and publish field trips to be led by members of the Landscape Group, rather than professional photographers.

Plan and implement the 2021 annual Landscape Group conference.

Achievements up to 2020

The role was created at the Landscape Group conference in March 2019. Since then, 8 member-led field trips have been published by me and run by 6 different members. The events have been mostly fully booked. Of those booking, 66% have been Landscape Group members, 23% have been RPS members and 11% have not been members of the RPS. I am extremely grateful for the help and support from the members who have led these events – nothing would have been possible without them!

The 2021 conference is now planned; a hotel has been selected, 8 speakers booked and a draft programme created. The detailed arrangements will be approved by the committee in March 2020 and the conference will be published on the RPS website in Spring 2020.

Future plans

Spread next year's field trips over a wider part of the year and also fill some gaps in those regions that have not been represented this year. Continue planning the 2021 Landscape Group conference (to be held in Harrogate 5-7 March, 2021).

Newsletter Editor – Vacancy

No report

Magazine Editor – Robert Brittle

Role description

Editor of the group's magazine has evolved to cover the periodical production a printed magazine, that includes members content and also content related to the genre of Landscape Photography, that the members may find of interest.

Achievements up to March 2020

Progress since the last AGM has seen the successful production and distribution of Issue 1 and 2 of the group's magazine to all members in 2019. The role of assistant editor has

also been confirmed and the editors have worked together to produce Issue 3 which has been distributed to members prior to this AGM.

Future plans

Due to the increased time required to produce the groups magazine, the continued issues around members provision of content and the group's financial position, the magazine will be produced roughly every eight months from 2020.

The magazine will only continue to thrive with the input of the membership, content will always welcome. Please get in touch

landscapemagazine@rps.org

Website manager – Jim Souper

Role description

- Maintain all aspects, other than events, of the SIG's microsite on the RPS website
- Ensure that the group's content on the society website is relevant, engaging, up to date and functioning correctly
- Act as an administrator and moderator of the group's Facebook page

Achievements up to 2020

In addition to the general maintenance, the main achievement in 2020 has been the building of the microsite on the new RPS website.

This was a substantial task piece of work, taking place from August to the end of November. It required the copying of content from the old site and the design and build of pages on the new site within a tight time frame. The new site went live on 26th November.

In addition to the above, an exercise to remove lapsed members from the Facebook group was completed during October. Lapsed members are now removed on a monthly basis.

Future plans

To review the design and content of the new web pages once the new site has settled in. If anyone has feedback on the Landscape Group pages, please email landscapeweb@rps.org.

Member without portfolio – Fiona McCowan

Member without Portfolio

A mainly project focused role, eg organising the Membership Survey and assisting other Committee Members as and when required.

Achievements up to 2020

- Autumn 2019 – organised the Membership Survey – sent to all members. 300 responses received, analysed and results reported back to SIG committee.
- Following up with members who expressed an interest in running a local SIG sub-group.

- Volunteered to be SIG Circle Co-Ordinator – the main point of contact on the committee for members leading the Print, eCritique and Processing Circles.

Future plans

- Raising awareness of the Print, eCritique and Processing Circles.
- To investigate if the Landscape SIG should have a presence on Instagram and report back to the committee.
- Provide assistance, as and when required, to other committee members eg at AGM & biennial conference.

New - Members Group

ICM/Multiple exposure/Abstract Photography, London

Saturday 14th March, 2pm

Level 1 Cafe, Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG

(Meet up inside the entrance to the Turbine Hall) This will be an informal, initial meeting for anyone interested in ICM, multiple exposure and abstract landscape photography to gauge interest in setting up a London based group for sharing/discussing images and techniques and possible photo events.

Please contact Kathryn Alkins LRPS, 07960016346, email:
kathrynandroy@gmail.com

A Trek Down Memory Lane
Chris West ARPS

When Mick Rawcliffe asked for contributions to the Newsletter I volunteered to write an article on Scotland's "North Coast 500". I looked out some pictures but then joined the RPS Landscape Facebook group. It was immediately obvious that my pictures from Scotland wouldn't impress anyone compared with what's posted on there. So I put the idea in the "too difficult" folder and hoped it might go away. It hasn't and today I received the memory jogging email from Mick.

So back to the drawing board or rather to the photo archive. And I asked myself "when and where had I taken favourite landscape photographs?" Easy question - that would be in 2008 in Nepal and not just because of the grandeur of the landscape.

Approaching my 60th birthday, and on a whim, I emailed many of my friends inviting them to join me on a celebratory Himalayan Trek. To my delight seven of them accepted. My sixtieth arrived and with it the best present imaginable, a granddaughter born on the day itself. A few days later the trekkers all met up at Heathrow to fly to Kathmandu. I knew everyone, but other than that it was pretty well new acquaintances all round. We were a "League of Gentlemen" as only male friends had accepted the invitation - a friend from school, a couple of blokes I'd worked with, a chap from the village, my daughter's father-in-law - a real mixed group - but it worked.

We trekked to the Annapurna Sanctuary, one of the classic Himalayan treks - and of necessity one of the shortest - back then most of us had jobs to return to. The Sanctuary is a "cwm", a bowl, ringed by mountains and under the huge South Face of Annapurna. It is the site of the base camp for the original ascent of Annapurna (by a French party in 1950 - the first 8000 metre peak to be climbed). The same site was used for Chris Bonnington's 1970 expedition to the South Face - the dawn of Himalayan Big Wall climbing. So the Sanctuary has an important place in mountaineering history.

It takes about 7 days to trek from Pokhara to the Sanctuary and a similar time to return via a different route. Along the way there are plenty of lodging houses in which to stay offering adequate, but not luxurious, accommodation and basic meals - which were wolfed down of course.

Paths are good and there are steps. My goodness are there steps - someone could make a fortune installing stair lifts out there!

We trekked in the prime trekking month of November - even so the porters said we had an unusually long spell of really good weather. I'm not just a fair-weather photographer - but if you only have fair weather what can you do?

Trekking is hard work, very hard work and taking a photograph is often as much an excuse for a breather as a major photo-opportunity – although there are, of course, many of those. But you'd have to be a hardier and more enthusiastic photographer than me to bother with tripods, ND filters etc. on a trek like this – at one stage it was all I could do to press the shutter as I staggered up to the penultimate lodging house.

I'd bought my first DSLR, a Nikon D50, for the trip. I had 2 lenses – the standard 18-55 zoom and a Tamron 28-300 one size fits all – I used the Tamron a lot then, but not in Nepal – the porter lugged it around for me – not needed on voyage (the lens – not the porter!). Wisely, for a novice, I left the camera on Auto the whole time and what a good job it did. These days I'd take raw files on such an expedition but then I wouldn't have known one had I tripped over it. There are issues of dynamic range in the pictures with such glaringly white peaks and, of course, cameras were not as good then as now – even so I regret not having the raw files, knowing what I know now.



I still use Nikon and have a D5500, just about the smallest DSLR available – cropped sensor 24m pixels (the D50 was similar but only 6m pixels). I also have a Fuji X100F, same size sensor and 24m pixels but a fixed 23mm lens and, effectively, a mirrorless camera in terms of battery usage. Which would I take on a trek like this now? I'm rarely without the Fuji day to day but I'd take the Nikon and just with the standard 18-55mm lens. There is little weight difference between the 2 cameras but the critical thing is battery life when there are so few charging opportunities. Solar charging is a possibility I suppose but give me the most straightforward (and least weight) option every time. And if my lightweight (in both senses!) approach seems heresy remember we're talking about a trekking expedition to see the mountains, not a photographic trip per se.



7 of the 8 of us made it to the Sanctuary – the other poor soul struck down with that travellers' illness against which you cannot be inoculated (and one that's nothing to do with altitude) – happily he was back to full health when we caught back up with him on the return leg.

We've never had a full reunion of the trekkers and regrettably never will. Two of the party are no longer with us - inevitable I suppose as most of us are now in our seventies, but very sad nevertheless. It was, though, an experience none of us will forget. I can only share with you a few photographs – only the remaining 6 of us can share memories of the laughs and camaraderie we enjoyed along the way. That invitation email was among the most significant I've ever sent.







All images © Chris West ARPS

EVENTS

Below is a list of events with vacancies. Full details can be found on the website www.rps.org

New year... new events! We are pleased to announce that several new events have been added to our programme in recent weeks and so there are plenty of places available for booking.

Firstly, winter mountain photography in the Lake District with local guide Carmen Norman ARPS 11-13 February. This 3-day event includes two guided walks and a post-processing workshop.

Please note, **bookings will close on 20th January** so please book promptly if you wish to attend.

<https://rps.org/events/groups/landscape/2020/february/walking-photographing-and-processing-in-the-lake-district/>

Other upcoming events include:

Arundel Castle and the River Arun on 7th February

<https://rps.org/events/groups/landscape/2020/february/arundel-castle-and-the-river-arun/>

Manchester architecture and abstracts on 16th February

<https://rps.org/events/groups/landscape/2020/february/architecture-and-abstracts/>

Waterfalls in the Yorkshire Dales on 22nd February

<https://rps.org/events/groups/landscape/2020/february/waterfalls-in-the-dailes/>

Coastal long exposures on the Essex coast on 12th March

<https://rps.org/events/groups/landscape/2020/march/coastal-long-exposures/>

Firle Beacon and the Ouse Valley (Sussex) on 30th April

<https://rps.org/events/groups/landscape/2020/april/firle-beacon-and-the-ouse-valley/>

Event Categories

Group A - Events where the event leader has a good knowledge of the location (e.g. good viewpoints, good subjects, good times of day, tides if relevant etc.) and will have ideas about what to do in case of unhelpful weather or light conditions, but does not wish to offer any advice on photography skills or techniques. These events are usually led by volunteer members of the landscape group.

Group B - Events where the event leader has a good knowledge of the location (as in Group A) but is also willing to offer general technical support and advice to inexperienced photographers. The event leader is NOT expected to be an expert but should be sufficiently experienced to pass on knowledge of the basics. These events are usually led by volunteer members of the landscape group.

Group C - Events that focus on a particular skill or technique (such as long exposures, composition or night photography) and/or on getting the best from a particular location. The event leader will have good location knowledge to ensure that the best is made of the prevailing conditions and will be a skilled landscape photographer able to offer tuition at all levels. These events are usually led by professionals but sometimes by volunteer members of the landscape group.

Group D - Workshops that primarily focus on technique where location is a secondary consideration. These may take place indoors or outdoors. The event leader may have limited knowledge of the location but will be experienced and skilled in the topic of the workshop.

Booking Confirmations

A few members have contacted us because they were unsure as to whether or not they were booked on an event. Here is a brief guide to how you can check this for yourselves.

When you book a landscape event through the RPS website, the system should send you a confirmation email.

If you have not received it and want to check if you are booked on an event, then login to your account on the RPS website, select the tab labelled events and tick the box for events you are booked on.

Any events you have booked will show up in orange.