



## January 2025 Newsletter

It's another year already, although the last one only lasted 6 months, which is due to my advancing years it seems. There's probably an obscure Sci-Fi explanation as to why when your time on Earth is low, that time hurtles past...an inverse temporal anomaly. Ah well.

The year ahead looks like a good one on many fronts though, and as you can see from the What's On pages there are a steady stream of events planned already. The new HQ model obligates Regions to lay on zoom and face to face events, advisory days, produce newsletters etc. We're way ahead of what is required, and we hope to offer such a variety of types of events that there will be something there for everyone, no matter where they are. It's not all about distinctions, but it is all about photography. It is also about budgets.

The Committee is meeting to discuss more local, informal events, and we're hoping to have a calendar of diversity for the years ahead, including PhotoFest '26, and reinstating that as a biennial event. If there is something or someone you'd like to see or hear let me know and I'll see what I can do.

As well as the Regional events, Landscape, Contemporary and Documentary are pretty active in Scotland, and although their events are obviously geared towards members of those SIGs, they are open to non SIG members, and who knows it might ignite a new passion, illuminate a new path.

Fill your boots.

Littoral Concretion  
- Mairi MacAulay ARPS

**RPS Scotland**



**24 Exhibition**



## Monthly Competition

Reflections:

Andy Kirby LRPS and  
Boyd Wild are the  
worthy joint winners...  
with the clever  
Old and New, and On  
Reflection...

Congratulations for  
your wins, and thank  
you to everyone for  
entering



This year there will be  
points and prizes up for  
grabs! And it starts off  
with "Blue" in January.  
Anything then, as long  
as it's blue.

Send entries to Ken,  
sized at 1000px wide,  
by as many pixels as  
you want tall, via  
[scotlandweb@rps.org](mailto:scotlandweb@rps.org)

**RPS Scotland Travelling Exhibition**...Eden Court Theatre in Inverness. The exhibition is now hung, and looking fabulous with their new hanging mechanism. There is a Members (and any non-Members that you know can go along too) open event on Saturday 11th at 11.30. If you're around then go support Trish and her team, and enjoy the craic.



The Exhibition moves on to Aberdeen at the end of January for a spell at the Aberdeen Arts Centre, organised by local volunteer Nigel Corby FRPS. Like the Northern Bunch, Nigel organises local days and events for the Aberdeen area, as does Jean in the deep South West, Douglas in Lanarkshire and Robin in Tayside. Other local events in other areas could easily happen... just say what you fancy, and we can liaise with your local volunteer to make it happen. Or, volunteer yourself if there is a gap in your area.

### **For Sale**

I thought that there may be photographic "stuff" lying on your shelf that you'd maybe like to sell on? There's 700ish readers (theoretically at least) of this newsletter, and all involved to some degree or another in photography, so potentially someone out there just perfectly matched to your excess gear. Send your lists to me on [contemporarySCO@rps.org](mailto:contemporarySCO@rps.org)

**Canon Pro-1** A3+ printer, with a full set of Canon inks, and a few spares too. Works great, but long story...my Mac wouldn't take the newest LR, and struggled with the newest PS, so I upgraded to a new M4 Mac, and the Canon Pro-1 doesn't have a driver for that new Mac. It's huge, heavy and immaculate, so we'd need to meet to conclude the deal...£250 (the inks are £270 a set)  
Steve: [squarehole@btinternet.com](mailto:squarehole@btinternet.com)

## What else is in the pipeline?

HQ continues to battle within itself as to how best organise the RPS, and there is a fair spread of sub-groups meeting regularly to discuss service level agreements with respect to finances, member benefits, admin support, etc. Paintworks (the physical HQ building) is up for sale, and the vibe is hopeful that it will be sold reasonably quickly, allowing the RPS to lease smaller premises for its admin staff, but to also de-locate and de-centralise, becoming a much more peripatetic organisation. These underlying currents shape every Region and SIG, and so many of the changes that will happen over the next months and years will be because of these discussions. Change happens, like it or not.

There is a suggestion that HQ will start offering L Advisories on-line on a regular basis, maybe even a couple every month. This follows from L Assessments being only via digital images nowadays, and the arguments for online Advisory sessions is that it replicates what the Assessors see on the Assessments, and also that it allows for Assessors to be "available" wherever potential L delegates are, all around the World. The overarching push for the RPS is to grow and retain membership, and their research has shown that members who attain a Distinction are more likely to remain as members, so anything that encourages Distinction achievement is being chased.

In Scotland we've run Photoforums in the past, which kind of morphed into quasi-advisories...even though that wasn't fully fair on the Assessors who attended. In 2025 we have three firmly planned...Glasgow, Dumfries and Nairn, and are very hopeful of adding Edinburgh in there too. Photoforums are face to face, generally print based, and so don't actually lend themselves to L discussions as well nowadays. So, we're discussing how they can change, and maybe be less focussed on Distinctions, and more on projects or panels, or ideas, less formal, and therefore easier (and cheaper) to host, and so could be delivered even more locally. Micro and Macro is the techy terminology I believe.

The Landscape / Digital Imaging T-W-T events have shown that there is a good market for small local days out, focussed on a variety of topics, and so we're also thinking about a Scotland version, 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...preferably a physical book, but an e-zine is also a possibility.

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.

## What's On in January?

January - RPS Scotland Exhibition - Eden Court Theatre Inverness. Members event Saturday 11th January @11.30. All welcome.

January 11th South-West Critique Group, 2-5pm - Jean: [digmem@rps.org](mailto:digmem@rps.org)  
<https://rps.org/regions/scotland/regional-news-events/>

January 15th A Chat with Simon Hill Hon FRPS - [contemporarysco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarysco@rps.org)  
<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/a-chat-with-simon-hill-honfrps-5a2NN26RY3I/overview>

Further ahead:

February - RPS Scotland Exhibition - Aberdeen Arts Centre. Members event to be confirmed.

February 7th Contemporary / Documentary Book Club zoom

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

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>

AGM - will be online, 2nd March 2025.

May 10th - Celebration Day / Print Selection - Bridge of Allan,

June 2025 Edinburgh Photoforum, at EPS...date to be confirmed

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, after Easter, details to follow.

## **RPS Scotland Committee**

### **RPS Regional Organiser:**

Dave Ferguson LRPS [scotland@rps.org](mailto:scotland@rps.org)

### **Committee:**

Ken Ness FRPS [scotlandweb@rps.org](mailto:scotlandweb@rps.org)

Kirsten Bax LRPS [scotlandtreasurer@rps.org](mailto:scotlandtreasurer@rps.org)

Clive Watkins ARPS [scotlandsec@rps.org](mailto:scotlandsec@rps.org)

### **Local contacts:**

#### **Northern**

Trish Roberts ARPS

#### **Grampian**

Nigel Corby FRPS

#### **Tayside**

Robin Millar

Steven Whittaker ARPS

#### **Fife**

Monica Vella

Ken Goodfellow LRPS

Mark Reeves FRPS

#### **Central**

Bob Black

#### **Lanarkshire**

Douglas Thompson FRPS

Paul Skehan ARPS

#### **Edinburgh**

Filipe Teixeira-Dias

#### **Glasgow**

Anne McKelvie

#### **Borders**

Fiona Cadger ARPS

Tracey Largue

#### **Ayrshire**

Tracy Ross LRPS

#### **South West**

Jean Robson FRPS

#### **Orkney**

Jamie Bodley-Scott ARPS