

# 2025 Committee Report

## Chair Summary – Colin Balfour

The past year has been one of steady growth for the Landscape Special Interest Group. Across finance, membership, events, exhibitions and creative development, the Group remains in good health, sustained by an engaged membership and an exceptional level of volunteer commitment.

From a financial perspective, the Group is in a strong and reassuring position. Income for 2025 was well ahead of budget, primarily as a result of the success of the Residential Conference and the reclaiming of VAT. While expenditure was also higher than forecast, this reflected increased activity rather than inefficiency, with spending efficiencies evident across the year. The Group closed the year with a surplus and a strengthened bank balance, providing a sound platform as we move into our tenth anniversary year and plan future conferences, exhibitions and events.

Membership growth continues on a positive trajectory. Numbers now stand at 1,209, representing a further year-on-year increase, albeit at a more moderate rate than the exceptional growth seen in 2024. The Group maintains strong representation across all UK regions and a stable international membership drawn from 31 countries. Analysis of leavers suggests that most departures are from the RPS as a whole rather than from the Landscape Group specifically, with changing interests and time pressures cited most often—an encouraging indication of ongoing satisfaction among members.

The events programme remains central to the Group's activity. Professionally led events in 2025 were geographically wide-ranging and, in most cases, fully booked, with highlights including a successful residential event in Cornwall and an innovative multi-session format in Wales. Online talks continue to broaden access and reach. Inevitably, a small number of events were cancelled due to insufficient bookings, reflecting the need for events to break even, but overall demand for high-quality professional input remains strong. Alongside this, member-led events reached record levels, with 33 events launched and the majority selling out. These events exemplify the collaborative ethos of the Group, though their continued success depends on more members being willing to step forward as leaders.

The Members' Exhibition stands as one of the year's most visible achievements. Expanded significantly in scale, the 2025/26 exhibition features 80 images across multiple outdoor venues, engaging tens of thousands of viewers in public spaces. Extensive national and regional media coverage, strong social media promotion and a well-received exhibition video have all contributed to its impact. This ambitious project has relied on the dedication of over 40 volunteers, whose efforts in curation, logistics and local promotion deserve particular recognition.

Creative development within the Group continues to flourish through Landscape Circles, which have grown to 17 circles with 130 participants. New circles focusing on intimate landscapes, experimental techniques and project-based work reflect the evolving interests of members and an increasing emphasis on reflective practice. Distinction successes further

underline the quality of work being produced, with 34 members achieving Licentiate, Associate or Fellowship distinctions during the year. The launch of the new *Ovation* e-zine provides a timely and welcome platform to celebrate these achievements.

The Talk–Walk–Talk programme continues to offer a distinctive form of engagement, combining online talks with local walks and shared reflection, and remains inclusive of island-based and international members. Publications and digital engagement have also matured, with the Landscape Magazine firmly established, newsletters now issued regularly, and significant growth in website traffic and online participation.

The Calendar project successfully ran for a second year and we are looking to repeat this in 2026.

A major highlight of the year was the highly successful Residential Conference in North Queensferry, praised for its location, speakers and atmosphere. Planning for the 2027 Conference is already well advanced.

In summary, the Landscape Group enters the coming year financially secure, creatively active and well supported by its members. As Chair, I am continually grateful for the generosity of those who give their time and expertise; it is this collective commitment that underpins the Group's continuing success and gives real confidence as we look ahead. There are always opportunities to get involved so if you fancy contributing some time and expertise to help out, it will be most welcome. Drop an email to me at [landscape@rps.org](mailto:landscape@rps.org) to discuss.

Finance Officer Trevor Judd

### Role description

Sound financial management of the group including arranging payments of expenses and invoices, liaison with RPS finance, production of annual accounts.

### Report

I present, below, the Income and Expenditure account for 2025.

Income was well ahead of budget for the year. This surplus is as a result of the unbudgeted Conference income, plus reclaimed VAT, which we never budget.

Similarly, expenses were ahead of budget. This has been achieved by across-the-board spending efficiencies.

The bank balance at the start of the year was £53,365. At the end of the year, this now stands at £55,555.

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>December 25 YTD</u>	<u>Budget Remaining</u>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Subscriptions</b>	19,833	19,667	0.8%
	(3,840)	(3,631)	5.4%
	15,993	16,036	-0.3%
<b>Events</b>			
	12,284	11,653	5.1%
<b>Professional Led</b>	2,180	2,886	-32.4%
<b>Member Led</b>	0	189	0.0%
<b>T-W-T</b>	2,400	2,370	1.3%
<b>Exhibition</b>	16,864	17,098	-1.4%
<b>Other</b>			
	850	66	92.2%
<b>2025 Calendar</b>	0	917	0.0%
<b>2026 Calendar</b>	850	983	-15.7%
<b>Conference 2025</b>	0	9,845	0.0%
<b>VAT Reclaimed</b>	0	1,658	0.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	33,707	45,620	-35.3%
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Events</b>			
	10,723	8,932	16.7%
<b>Professional Led</b>	2,300	835	63.7%
<b>Member Led</b>	0	163	0.0%
<b>T-W-T</b>	5,730	4,885	14.7%
<b>Exhibition</b>	0	0	0.0%
<b>Other</b>	18,753	14,814	21.0%
<b>Committee costs</b>	1,610	1,482	7.9%
<b>Magazine</b>	12,668	10,877	14.1%
<b>Other</b>			
	0	0	0.0%
<b>Website, social media and competition</b>	199	175	12.1%
<b>Software</b>	1,000	0	100.0%
<b>10th Anniversary</b>	0	4	0.0%
<b>2025 Calendar</b>	920	962	-4.6%
<b>2026 Calendar</b>	2,119	1,141	46.2%
<b>Conference 2025</b>	22,763	15,080	33.7%
<b>Conference 2027</b>	0	35	0.0%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	57,913	43,430	25%
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	(24,206)	2,190	

Secretary Viv Cotton

### Role description

Ensure the efficient administration of the group

Facebook & You Tube admin

New start emails and leavers feedback (assisted by Lou Mason-Wright)

### Membership Information

The membership numbers currently stand at 1209 (*as at 4/1/26*), a 2.5% increase since last year. This is a lower increase than the previous year (2024: 10.8%) however it is still an upward trend.

International membership has remained at approx. the same % as last year (90% UK based; 10% International members) spread across 31 countries.

We continue to have members in all 15 UK regions.

Region	Members
(not allocated)	2
Central	64
East Anglia	99
East Midlands	57
London	111
North West	85
Northern	54
Northern Ireland	6
Scotland	122
South East	100
South West	59
Southern	88
Thames Valley	71
Wales	37
Western	71
Yorkshire	63
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1089</b>

Of the leavers, analysis shows that 78% of leavers, have left the RPS entirely, only 22% (52 people) chose to leave the Landscape group but remain members of the RPS. A feedback survey is sent to all leavers and of those who responded (not many chose to) the key reasons given are related to changing interest or lack of time.

Year	Member Stats
2020	915
2021	1028
2022	1030
2023	1065
2024	1180
2025	1209



Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the chair via [landscape@rps.org](mailto:landscape@rps.org) to discuss the roles more.

## Social Media

**Facebook** (a closed page for landscape group members only) is currently at 578 members. The banner image has been changed 28 times in 2025 using images members had posted in the group. The group page sees regular postings from members showcasing their latest work.

**YouTube** subscribers' numbers have seen a significant increase to 282. This is largely based on the Soundscapes project videos, shipping forecast videos and exhibition videos which were published during 2025. Prior to 2025 very little use was made of YouTube except for online talk recordings (only available to those who booked the talk).

**Instagram** followers (The Landscape Group's public facing channel) has 2,483 followers.

## Distinctions

RPS HQ have made a new report available, providing information on landscape group members who have been awarded an RPS distinction in any genre. This will allow us to share in celebrating our member's work, via a new e-Zine "Ovations". This will hopefully provide a source of inspiration, perhaps motivation or even support for others on their own distinctions Journey.

During 2025 – 34 members succeeded in gaining either an “L”, and “A” or an “F”. For the “A” and “F” there are specific genre categories.

Distinction Level	
<b>Licentiate</b>	17
<b>Associate</b>	15
<b>Fellowship</b>	2
<b>Total</b>	34

Genre “A” & “F” only	Associate	Fellowship
<b>Contemporary</b>	1	
<b>Exemption</b>	3	
<b>Landscape</b>	4	
<b>Natural History</b>	3	
<b>Photobooks</b>		1
<b>Visual Art</b>	4	1
<b>Total</b>	15	2

## Professional Events Manager Chris McIntosh

### Role description

Organise and publish field trips to be led by Professional Photographers rather than members of the Landscape Group.

### Report

18 in-person events took place in 2025 stretching from Cornwall to Dorset, Wiltshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Yorkshire and Wales. Unfortunately, there were no pro-led events in Scotland this year. Most of these events were fully booked with a number also having a waiting list. The event in Cornwall was a residential event focusing of bookmaking and proved very successful. The event in Wales was a multi-session event with a new interesting format and is being run again in 2026 with a slightly different format to overcome the problem of participants having to travel significant distances to West Wales. We had five online talks including one from Denis Smith in Australia. Our plan is to increase the number of talks in 2026 especially given that 2026 is the 10th anniversary of the Landscape Group and we are hoping to provide a range of high-quality speakers. Unfortunately, several events had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Cancelling any event is very disappointing but we have no financial reserve for our events which need to break even over the course of the year, or at least nearly. Therefore in-person events with less than 4/6 bookings are at risk of cancellation although sometimes we can avoid this, and certainly try to. We are dependent on, and grateful for, the professional photographers who lead our events and provide high quality, interesting and sometimes challenging events which help us participants develop our skills and our photographic art, as well as having an enjoyable time.

I am happy to receive suggestions about new in-person or online events or talks and any professional who may be interested is very welcome to contact me at [landscapebookings@rps.org](mailto:landscapebookings@rps.org).

## Role description

Organise and publish field trips to be led by members of the Landscape Group, and organisation of the Landscape Group Outdoor Exhibition.

### LSIG Members' Exhibition

Our 2025/26 exhibition comprises 80 images on 26 panels in a run of almost 30 metres. Compared to 2022/23, it's 30% bigger, with double the number of locations and broader range of images. Being outdoors, effectively 24/7, we are engaging a much wider audience than a traditional gallery setting - tens of thousands have seen the exhibition.



Our exhibition was shown in 6 locations in 2025, with a further 2 scheduled for 2026.

- 17 May - 8 June 2025: Southwark Cathedral, London
- 21 June - 13 July 2025: Central Library, Bristol
- 2 - 18 August 2025: Bridge Field, by Trent Bridge, Nottingham (with Rushcliffe BC)
- 6 - 21 September 2025: York Museum / Dame Judi Dench Walk, York
- 4 - 26 October 2025: Chester Cathedral, Chester
- 8 - 23 November 2025: Crow Park, Keswick (National Trust)
- **4 - 19 April 2026: ..... Awaiting Confirmation**
- 2 - 17 May 2026: WASPS, Inverness

We secured increased levels of publicity for 2025/26, including:

- RPS Journal and RPS Journal Extra
- Outdoor Photography – launch listing, 1 image; (e.g. Keswick)
- Black & White Photography – listing for each location
- Amateur Photography – front cover + 2 page spread, 3 images
  - Separately, AP listed it in their “Best Exhibitions to see in 2025”
- On-Landscape – full article, 10 images
- The People’s Friend – 3-page spread, 10 images
- BBC Radio Lancashire/Cumbria – Live interview for Keswick. Also, local Cumbria newspapers, Visit Keswick & others.

- Plus, each location venue also promoted the exhibition locally – a mix of social media, websites & press releases.
- Some of these publications may run additional promotion/listing pieces in 2026.



Our exhibition video produced in conjunction with the RPS Audio Visual Group (with our thanks) was well-received, with 500 visits. More generally, the exhibition is being promoted across LSIG's Instagram and Facebook (a little on X/Twitter) social media; in addition, RPS HQ posted each outing on their social media, reaching 71k followers.

Our exhibition website had a strong number of visits to-date: 1628, vs 1354 for the entire 2022/23 Exhibition; also 1600 Gallery hits, vs 2575 2022/23.

We must thank the 40+ members who have been involved with the exhibition, from image collection; selection & curation; plus set-up/take-down, transportation & storage and local promotion in each location.

The forecast cost of the exhibition is £5900 for the increased 8 venues (before VAT claims); while most was incurred in 2025, initial costs were incurred in 2024 and some costs accrued for 2026 for the final locations. The cost included the printing and distribution of an exhibition catalogue. Income from exhibiting members was £2370.

## LSIG Member Led Events

### Summary for 2025

- 33 events launched (2024:27) / 23 being sold-out / 253 bookings - before 1 MLE cancellation & 1 postponement into 2026.
- Good feedback, no negatives - all anecdotal. We don't do post-event surveys - due to workload.
- LSIG members still account for 90+% of bookings with the rest evenly split between RPS and non-RPS members (mainly LSIG friends). We do not promote on Instagram given that we have little capacity for non-RPS members.
- Billetto continued to work well in 2025 and for the 2026 set-up.

## Plans for 2026

- We have launched 24 events to-date (22 open for bookings), lower than this time last year, but we are hopeful to reach the 2025 record level.
- The limiting factor remains the number of members willing to lead – we need more potential leaders!
- The MLE programme is budgeted to generate a surplus in 2026; HK will have a better idea in April.
- Bookings at 31<sup>st</sup> December were 73, down on the 100 at the same time in 2024; mostly this reflects the current bookable capacity of 170.
- Once again, the dedicated mailer concept proved successful in generating a good tranche of bookings. Facebook posts generate a few bookings, with more coming from Billetto's occasional individual mailers (we do not pay for this advertising).

## Talk Walk Talk – Report by Jean Robson

### 2025

The Talk Walk Talk collaborative with Digital Imaging SIG is now entering its 6th full iteration (following a pilot in 2 regions). The aim of providing constructive face-to-face activity close to the members is achieved in mainland UK. For members on UK Islands where the numbers make delivery of local group walks unachievable, and for international members we offer the option of walking alone and meeting other members for a final discussion on Zoom.

‘Parks and Gardens’ ran in Spring 2025 with a Zoom talk by Molly Hollman followed by 48 walks; and “Inland Water” with a talk by Vanda Ralevska followed by 39 walks in Autumn 2025. E-Zines produced can be found at the following links

<https://talkwalktalk.org/node/472> and <https://talkwalktalk.org/zine/inland-water>.

Bookings remain healthy, with slightly fewer in Autumn than Spring reflecting the slight reduction in the number of walks. Many of our walk leaders have contributed one or more walks to every phase of the TWT, for which we are grateful; however, leader recruitment in some areas of the country is challenging,

Having collected walker and leader feedback over 4 cycles, studied the results and implemented some of the suggestions it was felt that there was little more to be learned during 2025 by repeating these.

### The future

We are pleased that the Creative Eye SIG is joining the collaborative.

A ‘Sites of Religious Significance’ TWT is planned for Spring 2026, for Autumn 2026 the topic is to be agreed.

Our main challenge is recruiting leaders for each cycle, if any members would be interested in helping that would be welcome!

Magazine Editor & Acting Newsletter Editor Candia Peterson

## Role description

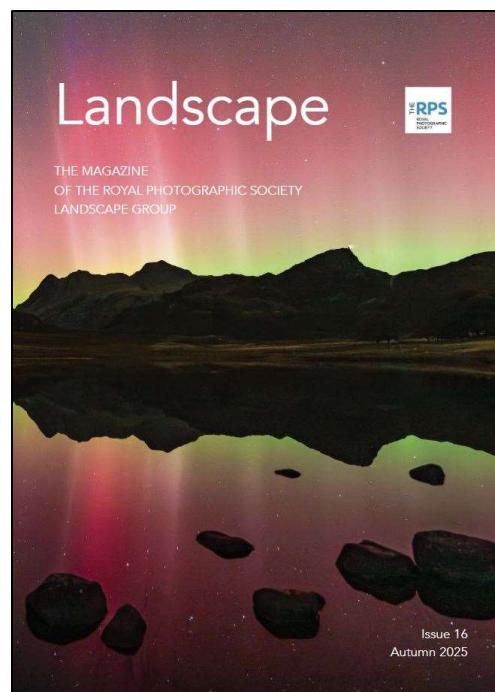
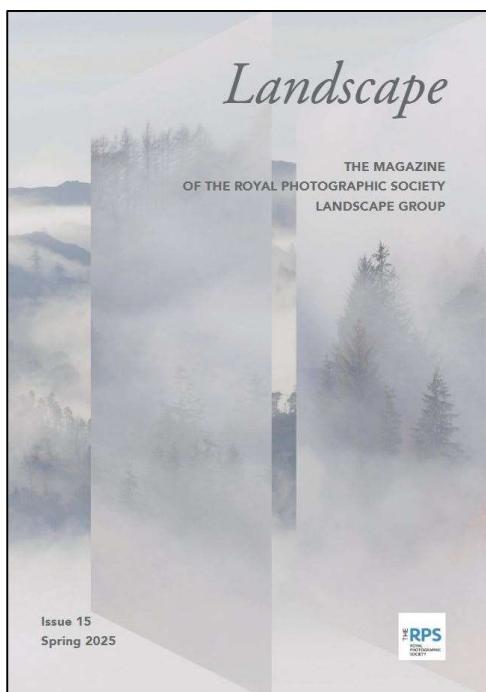
Co-ordinate, edit and publish the Magazine (assisted by Paul Cayton, Gaynor Davies)

Acting newsletter editor (assisted by Lou Mason-Wright)

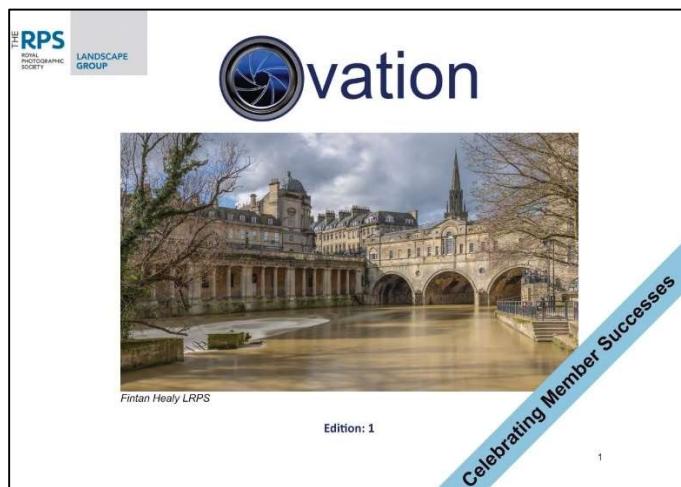
## Report

### Landscape Magazine

With the consistency of the magazine from issue to issue twice a year now firmly established, we are in the throes of producing a third issue this year in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Landscape Group. This will be part of the same mailing as the Spring edition (currently nearing completion) and will have a distinct look and feel while celebrating ten popular articles from back copies. Joe Cornish's long running series on the landscape came to an end last year and has now been replaced with a series by different photographers, starting with New Zealander Michael Hall, on the impact of human activity on the landscape and environment. The magazine continues to feature a mix of member and professional contributors and aims to provide a balanced mix of rural and urban, representative and creative and home and abroad. Our series Webb Watch will come to an end with the Spring edition and we are currently discussing what we should replace it with.



January 2026 saw the first on-line publication of our e-Zine "Ovation" in which the group celebrates the distinction successes of our members. Viv Cotton was the driving force behind this good-looking and packed publication and I think it will become a great addition to our offering. As the first edition was timed to coincide with the beginning of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we included panels going back several years. Moving forward, we will make it an annual event looking at the distinctions gained by members during the preceding year but we will also welcome older panels from new joiners to the group as appropriate.



### **Newsletter Editor (acting interim)**

The newsletter has developed in 2025 to two regular issues every month. The first is a rundown of forthcoming events - professional and member-led - and the second is more of a round up of news within the LG SIG. We have introduced a feature - "Member of the Month" - which we frequently tie in to upcoming or relevant events. The newsletters are produced by Lou Mason-Walsh and have been under the pro-tem editorship of Candia Peterson. This role is in the process of being handed over to Irene del Piero but will remain under the overall auspices of Candia as Communications Officer.

### **Website and Digital Engagement – Jacky Lee**

#### **Role description**

Management of the landscape SIG website, co-ordination of monthly and themed competitions.

#### **Report**

During the 2025 reporting period, the Landscape Group continued to see strong engagement across its web presence, reflecting sustained member interest in competitions, exhibitions, and events. According to the RPS web analytics dashboard, the Landscape Group recorded approximately 9,400 sessions across its group pages between 1 January and 31

December 2025, with the majority of traffic coming from desktop (69.5%), followed by mobile (26.7%) and tablet users.

The most visited pages were competition- and exhibition-related content, demonstrating strong engagement with core group activities. The Monthly Competition page received 2,894 views, while the Landscape Competitions hub attracted 2,034 views, and the main Landscape Group page recorded 2,018 views. The Members' EXPO25 Gallery also performed strongly with 1,359 views, and the Landscape Events page received 1,091 views, indicating healthy interest in both exhibitions and events.

Overall trends show a substantial year-on-year increase in engagement across most Landscape Group pages, with several sections recording growth of over 400–600% compared with the previous year. These figures suggest that the Landscape Group's online presence continues to play an important role in supporting member engagement, visibility of activities, and wider outreach within the Society.

# Landscape Group - Web Stats Dashboard

1 Jan 2

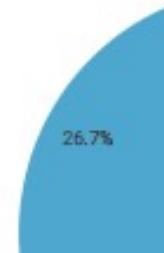


Top Pages	
Page title	Page path
RPS Landscape Group Monthly Competition	/groups/landscape/competitions/monthly-competition/
Landscape Competitions	/groups/landscape/competitions/
Landscape	/groups/landscape/
Members' EXPO25 Gallery	/groups/landscape/projects/members-outdoor-exhibition/gallery-2025/
RPS Landscape Group - Events	/groups/landscape/events/
Landscape Group Members' Outdoor Exhibition	/groups/landscape/projects/members-outdoor-exhibition/
Projects	/groups/landscape/projects/
Themed Competition - Structures in the Landscape	/groups/landscape/competitions/themed-landscape-competition/
Landscape Group Members' Outdoor Exhibition	/groups/landscape/projects/members-outdoor-exhibition//

## Page views over period (compared with last year)



## Device



Page titlePage path

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Page title	Page path
Judging	/judge/161/
The Royal Photographic Society - Home - RPS	/
Home	/s/
New Membership Page	/new-membership-page/
Default Event Group : Royal Photographic Society : Events	/en/
Qualifications	/qualifications/
Royal Photographic Society : Events	/en/
The Royal Photographic Society	/s/
Judging	/judge/162/
Default Event Group : Royal Photographic Society : Events	/en-GB/4LrdQ66/g/z9tTJH8xvF
Login	/s/login/
What's on	/what-s-on/
Opportunities	/opportunities/
Search	/search/
Join the RPS	/membership/join-the-rps/
Login Template Title	/s/login/
RPS Workshops	/rpsworkshops/

## Landscape Circles- David Travis

### Role description

Co-ordinator for print, processing and critique circles which now number 17. Each circle has their own leader to facilitate and co-ordinate the meetings with the circle members. Some groups meet via Zoom, others work by email.

### Report

Membership of the circles is healthy. In my last report to the AGM we had 106 members across 13 circles. We now have 130 members across 17 circles (23% growth in membership and 31% growth in circles). Some people are in more than one circle, so this does not represent unique members. Since my last report we have created four new circles: two critique circles with a focus on intimate landscapes (led by Jill Taylor and David Travis); a critique circle with a focus on ICM and ME (led by Lesley Peatfield); and a circle that specialises in project-based work (led by Jean Robson).

Jim and Irene Stupple have both stepped down from leading Processing Circles. I would like to thank them for their many years of service to the RPS Landscape group. Leadership of their groups has been taken over by Steve Miles and Suzy Braye.

### Critique Circles

Circle Leader	Availability	Members	Established
David Travis	Full	10	2019
Martyn Bennett	Full	8	2018
Chris Burgess	Full	9	2022
Mark Sims	3 spaces	7	2022
Suzy Braye	Full	6	2023
Steve Hartley	Full	10	2023
David Fender	Full	9	2023
Candia Peterson (Arch.)	Full	9	2023
David Travis (Intimate)	3 spaces	7	2025
Jill Taylor (Intimate)	3 spaces	7	2025
Lesley Peatfield (ICM)	1 pace	9	2025

### Processing Circles

Circle Leader	Availability	Members	Established
Steve Miles	2 spaces	4	2019
Suzy Braye	1 space	6	2019
Leigh Foster	1 space	5	2023

### Print Circles

Circle Leader	Availability	Members	Established
Adrian Gidney	Full	8	2024
Doug Lodge	2 spaces	8	2017

### Project Circle

Circle Leader	Availability	Members	Established
Jean Robson	Full	8	2025

We welcome new members at any time and we always need volunteers to run a circle. If you would like to volunteer, please contact [landscapecircle@rps.org](mailto:landscapecircle@rps.org).

## 2025 Residential Conference

The 2025 conference, organised by Mark Reeves, was held in North Queensferry, on the banks of the Firth of Forth, not far from Edinburgh. The hotel was chosen largely for its location, a choice which was rewarded by beautiful misty light throughout the weekend... we couldn't have wished for better.

The event was attended by 64 delegates and nine speakers; five of whom helped to give the weekend a definite Scottish flavour; Bruce Percy from Edinburgh, Shahbaz Majeed from Dundee, David Gilliver from near Glasgow and Alister Benn and John Maher from the Outer Hebrides. The others had further to travel; Tracy Calder from the south coast of England, Tony Worobiec from Wiltshire, Mark Banks from Yorkshire and Lesley MacGregor all the way from Vancouver!

There's always a risk when choosing speakers for events because there's no guarantee that great photographers make great presenters... but, again, luck was on our side and every one turned out to be a winner.

Feedback from the attendees was extremely positive on the entire event.



A certain Colin Balfour fails to spot the main attraction. Photo Credit: Mark Reeves

## 2027 Residential Conference

Martyn Bennett has kindly taken on the role of PM'ing our next Conference, scheduled for March 2027, and preparations are already underway.

**Budget and pricing:** In the final stages of discussion - the principles have been agreed, just some details to sort out.

**Hotel.** The contract has now been finalised and signed, just waiting for a counter-signature. The pricing has been based on a minimum commitment of 70 rooms (full 2-day delegates). A deposit invoice has been issued for payment in January.

**Billetto.** We are aiming for mid-March 2026 for an early bird launch and Howard has been working on the Billetto content.

**Speakers.** An itinerary for the conference has been drafted. Speakers have been approached and all have confirmed their attendance at the conference. Unfortunately, one recently dropped out due to travel distances involved so alternatives are being looked into.