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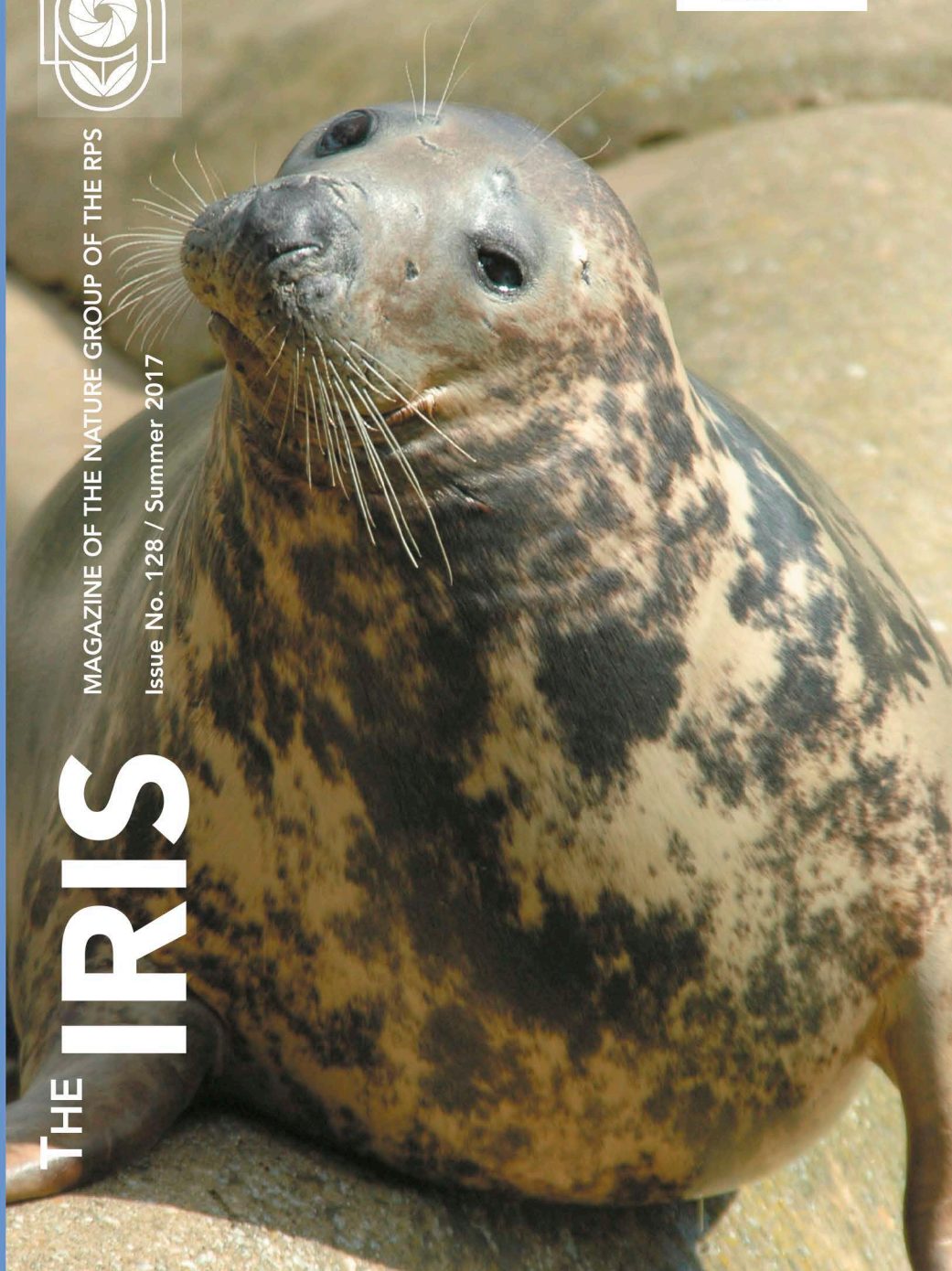


THE RPS
ROYAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

MAGAZINE OF THE NATURE GROUP OF THE RPS

Issue No. 128 / Summer 2017

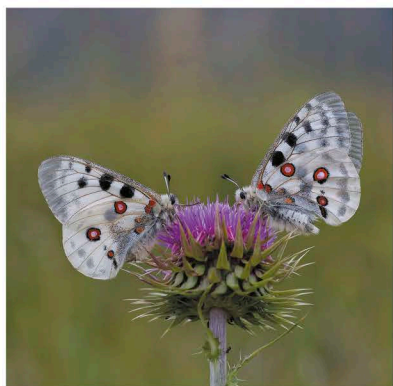
THE IRIS



RPS: Gold medal
Awarded Print
by Liz Cutting ARPS
Mountain Hare Scratching



Bronze Medal
Awarded Prints
Banded Demoiselle on Goatsbeard
by Trevor Davenport &
Lady Slipper Orchids
Roger Hance FRPS



RPS: Gold medal - Awarded Digital
by Chris Ellison ARPS
Two Apollos



Bronze Medal
Awarded Digital
Lichen, Cladonia Floerkeana, with Fruiting Bodie
Richard Revels FRPS &
Common Loon Parent Offering Food to Chick
by Dawn Osborn FRPS

Publication information

'The Iris' is published by the RPS Nature Group three times a year. Copy and publication dates are as follows:

Spring Copy deadline 8th December
Published mid March.

Summer Copy deadline 30th April
Published early July.

Winter Copy deadline 31st August
Published early November.

All contributions should be submitted to the Editor. Items covering any aspect of nature photography and/or natural history are welcomed, including reviews on equipment and relevant books. The Editor can be contacted at: editor-iris-rps@virginmedia.com

Copy should be sent as .txt or .doc files by email or on CD. Please do not send hand written copy.

Digitally captured photographic images are preferred but scanned transparencies are also acceptable. Images (whether vertical or horizontal) should be supplied on CD as flattened 8bit sRGB Tiff files, 6" x 4" at 300 pixels per inch (1800 x 1200 pixels, file size approx 6.17MB). Please do not send larger images. If your image is selected for use on the cover of *The Iris* you will be asked to supply a larger file.

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The views expressed within *The Iris* are solely those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nature Group Committee or the Editor.

Distribution:

'The Iris' is forwarded to members using address labels produced by the RPS Membership Dept in Bath. Any member not receiving their copy should contact that department so that their name appears on a label in the future. The Secretary will be pleased to post single copies to members who have failed to receive them.

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Printed by

Partridges Limited
6-8 Bradfield Road, Wellingborough, NN8 4HB

Design & layout

by Kevin Booth

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Nature Group Exhibitions

CDs/DVDs of Nature Group Exhibitions are available for purchase by camera clubs/photographic societies for use in their programme. Please contact the Exhibition Secretary, details above.

Editorial

Hi there and welcome to this my first edition as Editor of The Iris. Firstly I would like to thank Dawn Osborn FRPS for all her hard work and dedication to The Iris over these past years, Dawn has raised the bar in my opinion in creating this amazing publication for the Nature Group. I hope I can follow in her foot-steps and continue producing this terrific magazine to her very high standard. I do wish Dawn all the very best in her new role as Editor of the new upcoming eNewsletter OK here goes, a little about myself, I've been taking photographs for nearly 40 years, covering a wide and varied subject base, however my passion has always been in Nature and wildlife. Very often finding me in a Seal Sanctuary, a local Zoo, or a wildlife or bird centre somewhere, or even my very local Bradgate park. I admit I'm a tad old fashioned in many ways a 'what you see is what you get' photographer,

I was hoping that in future editions, if at all possible, perhaps supply information on photographs supplied for The Iris, why an ISO was used, the f-stop, did the conditions affect the shot, and why this may have been important for the image? This very helpful advice may help new photographers get involved more, by getting and keeping the interest growing, with great help and advice, involving the reader to the point of saying 'wow' I can do that, and helping them achieve it. Yes it can be said we should know how, but lets be honest, we may not, so it's terrific to read the story of why an image is set on a particular f-stop, why a particular speed was used etc - that human touch to an image. I know this will help others to follow in the field of nature conservation, and be more helpful to new and up coming photographers. If we can help others, improve, help and assist in any way we can, It can only be a good for photography. More importantly if we can get the younger generation out there and interested in Nature and taking photographs, through the Royal Photographic Society, and yes joining the Nature group, this can only be a good for photography as a whole. Hopefully you like my first edition, please do feel free to submit any Nature related copy and images on or before the 31st August 2017 - Thank you.

All the very best everyone

Editor

From the chair

Welcome to this edition of the Iris, my first as chairman of the Nature Group. The first thing I would like to do as Chairman is to thank my immediate predecessor Richard Revels for all his hard work on behalf of the Nature Group, during his two-year stint as Chairman. Several members of the committee of the nature group have also stepped down from their roles as well.

I would like to record here that it has been a pleasure to work with them over the last period of time whilst I've been on the committee. Like Richard, their enthusiasm and dedication to the Nature Group has been first class. In their place, several new members have joined the committee and I look forward to working with all committee members over the course of my tenure as Chairman for the next two years. The make-up of the current committee of the Nature Group can be found on the page opposite.

It would also be remiss of me at this point not to say a personal thank you on behalf of all members for the giant contribution Dawn Osborn has made to the Nature Group in her role as editor for the last 13 years. Dawn is moving on to produce an e-Newsletter for the Nature Group. We look forward to the production of the first edition which should be in September of this year. This will be a publication three times a year, and I for one look forward to reading the articles sent in by members, in the same way that I look forward to reading the articles in the Iris.

The weather in the UK so far this spring has in the main been disappointing, with cooler temperatures than average in many parts. In addition, rainfall amounts have been much lower than normal, to the point that warnings of hosepipe bans are already rife in the media on a regular basis. As I write this article (25th of May) we are enjoying a turn to more summer like conditions in the temperature stakes, currently reaching the upper 20s°C. Butterflies and dragonflies are already out in good numbers. Although most spring migrant birds are here now, once again numbers of those formerly widespread and common species such as Turtle Dove, Spotted Flycatcher and Garden Warbler are all much down, particularly in the area where I live in East Anglia. I have yet to see either of these species this year. At the recently held

AGM of the Nature Group and exhibition at Smethwick, the previous committee proposed the idea of introducing video submissions as part of the exhibition in future years, commencing in 2018. This is a bold step, but one which is in line with many photographic organisations and clubs, and I feel it is one we need to embrace. The principle of video recording is simple enough. Many of us now have cameras which can record moving images as well as stills. If you have not tried this aspect of your camera, I would encourage you to do so. However close perusal of your camera instruction manual is essential. One of the problems I have found when I've been using the video aspect of my digital camera has been focusing. I have had to use manual focus most of the time which can be difficult with a moving subject, though with practice you can be successful. We will need to see how such a venture will evolve but initially the idea would be to send movie clips of up to 2 minutes per entrant, to view at the exhibition. There will be no awards or prizes for the first year, but if all goes well then it is possible that we will incorporate it into the exhibitions from 2019. Over the last few years, there has been a regrettable decline in the number of field meetings offered to members of the Nature Group by fellow members. I am sure there are plenty of reasons as to why this should be, not least perhaps some of the red tape in terms of health and safety legislation. In addition some people may prefer to work alone as far as their photography is concerned. I would ask that you consider either attending or, better still, proposing a field meeting yourself, which would be of benefit to all members of the Nature Group.

Finally for this article, the nature group needs to do all it can to attract younger members. This was an item discussed at length at the recent AGM. Various thoughts and ideas came to the fore, and it is vital to encourage nature photographers of all ages to the group. The committee will be looking into any ways to try and bring this about, which can only be to the benefit of the nature group in years to come. I wish you a very enjoyable summer on wildlife photography, with good weather, and excellent encounters.

Kevin

Nature Group Notice Board

Yes I know, this is new.

I wanted to have a place where any main/fun wildlife/nature meetings could be shown. Its no secret that I'm a great believer in Charity based sanctuaries, and that made me think perhaps you have a local Sanctuary, reserve or park which is supported only by donations, or is charity based..

Perhaps like the Seals sanctuaries you may want to promote it, or even get an arrangement where as photographers we could go as a group or on our own, with maybe a discount for images supplied??

Most of these places run on a shoe-string and struggle to met the costs of food and welfare.

In my opinion its the least we can do to help.

We are in that unique position where our work helps them survive, with no more extra cost than admission. In turn they have superb imagery from us for promotional items, and we have a terrific day out, and maybe a discount on entry.

In April I did my usual trip to the sanctuaries in Lincolnshire. (I go up there at least three times a year) and had a very helpful chat to the staff at Natureland and Mablethorpe seal sanctuary. (unfortunately I missed chatting to the owners at Mablethorpe whilst enjoying the centre, so this was all discussed via facebook chat)

Natureland

Richard was very kind and helpful, offering 20% of the admission price, in return we would supply him with wonderful images that could be used to help the sanctuary.

His only real concern was imagery of children and permissions. So his request was to show our RPS membership cards and a letter or business card to confirm permission - I thought this was very fair. It covers any issues that may occur, with copyright etc.

Mablethorpe Seal Sanctuary and Wildlife Centre,

are very happy to work with us and are offering a discount, at the time of going to press the details are yet to be confirmed. However I'm sure the same safe guards in regards to images of children etc would be the same

Nature group - The Iris.

Please dont forget that any copy or imagery and items of interest you wish to be included in the next issue of the Iris, should reach me hopefully by the 31st August 2017 Please send your copy to myself at the editor-iris-rps@virginmedia.com

Thank you

Nature Group eNewsletter

Also please don't forget that Dawn Osborn FRPS Editor of the new Nature Group eNewsletter also needs items of interest for the new Nature photographers eNewsletter.

Dawn's new email address is naturegroup_ewsletter_editor@btinternet.com

Nature Group Residential Weekend 2018

Next year's Residential Field Meeting organised for members of the RPS Nature Group will take place on Friday 1st June – Monday 4th June 2018 at Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6DA. Situated on the North Downs near Box Hill, Juniper Hall has much to offer the nature photographer. The surrounding chalk downland has a high species diversity of flowers and insects, while farther afield the BNR Thursley Common and the Wey and Arun Canal, provide more specialised habitats for the larger aquatic dragonflies and damselflies.

We shall be able to take advantage of the centre's other facilities including the use of a moth traps and library with a wide range of field guides, and the use of the Centre's own minibus.

Cost is £200 (with a small additional charge for transport) Includes three nights' accommodation, full board, packed lunches, afternoon tea and use of the Centre's facilities. If you would like to join the group and or be added to the waiting list, please contact

Julia Andrew LRPS andrew.julia@gmail.com.

Yellowstone in Winter

By Trevor Davenport ARPS

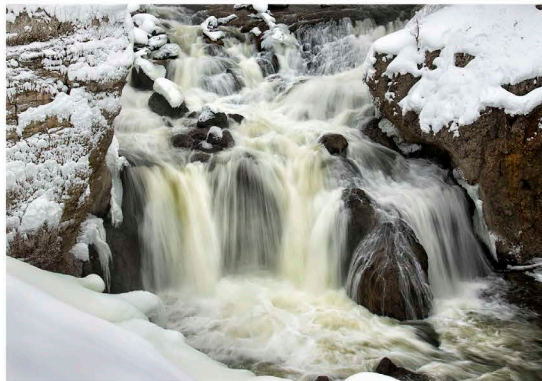
The world is big and I want to have a good look at it before it gets dark. - John Muir

Yellowstone National park is a remarkable place at any time of the year, as 3.5 million annual visitors will testify; but in winter it is a magical place - a place of quiet solitude, of snow and steam; of ice and frigid diamond-dusted air; of tenacious animals seeking food and respite in the coldest area of all the lower forty-eight states of America. It is a place of cruel beauty, held fast in a six-month long season that is visited by just a tiny percentage of the annual total.

Yellowstone - the world's first national park - is a high altitude plateau sitting on top of a super volcano, in a mountainous cul-de-sac in North-west Wyoming. Despite the many thousands of thermal features pumping steam, boiling water and mud, its isolated location produces winter climatic conditions of Arctic ferocity and intense cold. The average daytime temperature in January is -12°C and temperatures can fall to -50°C . These are ambient air temperatures; when winter winds funnel through the park the resulting windchill can feel off the scale. Wilderness doesn't come any wilder than this; and yet - on windless days beneath a distant sun - it is a world of majestic serenity and outstanding scenic beauty.

Yellowstone is huge: almost 3,500 square miles and bigger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware. The entire National Park has an altitude higher than Ben Nevis in Scotland, and exceeds 8,500 feet in places. It has rivers, lakes, mountains, waterfalls, forests and, of course, the greatest number of thermal features in the world.

West Yellowstone, Montana, which receives an average winter snowfall of 15 feet (4.6 metres), is an ideal location for entering the western part of the park. Vehicular entrance is restricted to snow coaches and snow mobiles and speed limits are strictly enforced. The park and its wildlife are particularly vulnerable at this time of year so careful control of access and movement of visitors is essential.



For my visit in January 2017 I was accompanied by seven other photographers on an organised photo trip arranged by David Osborn Tours with David as the experienced leader. Prior to our arrival they had had two months of extreme cold. We were most fortunate to arrive during a period of very cold but calm weather following a huge snowstorm that had deposited a thick blanket of soft powder snow across the park. Snow hung from the forests of Lodgepole Pines - which make up about 80% of the trees here - in heavy layers reminiscent of paintings on a Christmas card.

Hills, valleys and the distant Gallatin mountain range



lay hushed and transformed beneath a clearing sky. It was cold, very cold. During our stay the lowest daytime temperature was -25°C with the highest reaching -8°C . In these conditions it is essential to wear appropriate layered clothing with wind and waterproof outer layers. Gloves, hats and snow boots are also essential and we found hand warming sachets to be very useful indeed. At times - especially when photographing animal wildlife - the need to be out in the snow for lengthy periods means that keeping warm is critically important. Tripods and camera equipment becomes very cold, requiring that the snow-coaches are kept cool to ensure that equipment didn't "fog-up" with condensation when getting back in. Remarkably, and to our pleasant surprise, all our equipment worked beautifully; the concern that batteries would fade and die in these very low temperatures never proved to be a problem. I kept spare batteries warm in my pockets but never needed to use them - even after a day of extensive shooting. At one point I dropped my camera and telephoto lens into a deep snow drift - which isn't to be recommended - but with careful cleaning and wiping they went on to perform beautifully. A credit to modern camera equipment.

Speaking of equipment: for a trip of this nature I took what would probably be considered a very basic outfit. Due to constraints of air travel (we had been advised one of our aircraft may have limited overhead luggage space, which, in the event, turned out to be no problem - in the States they take on large portmanteaus - or so it seems). I took two Nikon camera bodies, a Nikkor 200-500mm telephoto, a 70-200mm f2.8 which was seldom used, and a 24-120 f4. In addition I had a Nikon D5500 with two kit lenses which I found useful to keep in a coat pocket. (The image quality from this tiny, lightweight camera with a CMOS sensor is astonishing.) This outfit worked very well for me under almost all conditions. At times I would have loved to have had a 500 or 600mm prime with a 1.4 teleconverter in order to get closer to distant subjects; however, there were times when animals were approaching on roads and those with the huge lenses needed to keep backing off in order to frame them properly. Overall I am pleased with the results obtained from the equipment I took. Taking pictures in bright light with snow glistening everywhere can easily lead to exposure problems.

These conditions can cause camera meters to underexpose leading to dull, grey images. Similarly, using centre-weighted metering on large, dark animals can produce burnt-out highlights. I found that paying attention to the histogram was essential. By ensuring that my histogram edged more to the right, (ETTR - expose to the right - a controversial subject but worth understanding for obtaining optimal exposure), I was able to retain and recall all highlights from my RAW files I and didn't have blocked up dark areas. The emphasis here has to be on edged to the right; too much will result in blown out highlights. A similar problem can occur when taking pictures of the steam and geysers at thermal areas where white mists and water can fool the camera meter into underexposing.

The thermal areas are one of the wonders of Yellowstone, and there are about 10,000 of them. In winter the steam and spray quickly freezes to coat surrounding trees with a blanket of ice. The colourful run-off areas are more muted in winter but what colour there is stands out against the ice and snow. Hot gasses billow out from thermal vents to produce rising clouds of condensing steam. This atmospheric moisture then freezes to fill the air with magical motes of diamond dust. The frozen snow surfaces glisten and twinkle as the sun catches the diamond dusted surface.

At this time of year all wildlife is locked in a survival battle. The larger ungulates such as Bison and Elk need to spend a lot of time foraging for fodder - often beneath layers of deep snow. Bison are numerous in a number of locations and can often be seen on the roads as they move to new pastures. In times of extreme cold they relocate to the thermal areas or river edges where they can obtain food. Bison appear slow and lumbering - they move slowly in order to retain energy - but they can, and do, move at speed when required to do so. They can be dangerous animals so it is essential to keep the required distance of at least 25 yards from them. In the intense cold their superb insulation holds snow and ice frozen to their heads and hides. Male Elk retain their antlers until Spring as a defense against Wolves.

Wolves were re-introduced to Yellowstone in 1995 and they are doing well.

Their presence has already changed several aspects of the Park's natural history. But these iconic animals are true creatures of the wilderness and are seldom seen on snowcoach visits. In West Yellowstone there is an Education Centre which has both Wolves and Grizzly Bears in large compounds.



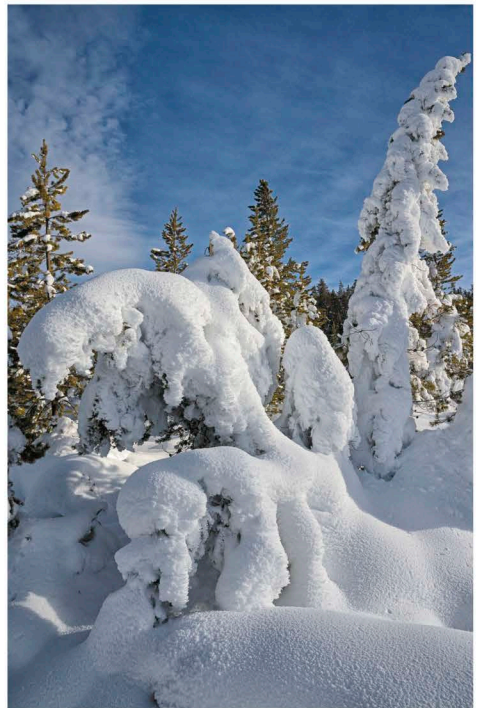


This is not a “pay for your picture” place; the animals are captive but not controlled and they do not ‘perform’. Obtaining good images can be very frustrating, requiring time and patience, especially in flesh numbing temperatures.



Other wildlife is evident from the many footprints seen in fresh snowfall, and with luck they can be seen and photographed. On this trip we were blessed by a mother Otter with two kits feeding on the frozen Yellowstone River. The mother had caught a large gravid Cutthroat Trout and busily ate the eggs and flesh as some forty photographers snapped away from the bridge above them. It was here that a prime 600mm would have been so useful. But hey: it was one of those life enhancing experiences that I shall never forget and when asked which is my favourite lens I am tempted to say “ the one I have with me at the time”!

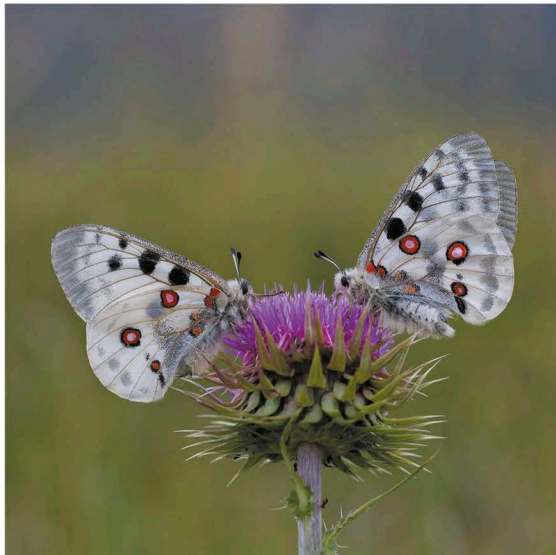
I started this piece with a quotation from John Muir - the founder of Sierra Club: let me finish with a quote of my own: being there is what it’s all about; coming home with a good photograph is a bonus.



GOLD MEDAL PRINT - Mountain Hare Scratching by Liz Cutting ARPS



The RPS Nature Group Annual Exhibition 2017



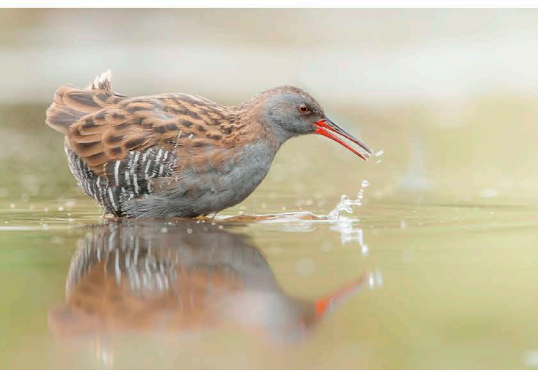
GOLD MEDAL DIGITAL - Two Apollos by Chris Ellison ARPS



Bronze medal Prints

1 Banded Demoiselle on Goatsbeard

2 Lady Slipper Orchids



Selectors Choice

1 Water Rail Fishing

2 Pasque Flowers

- Therfield Heath

3 Velvet Shank Fungi

4 Female Field Grasshopper





Selectors Choice Prints

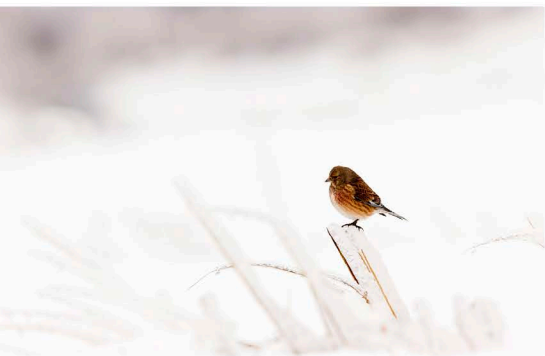
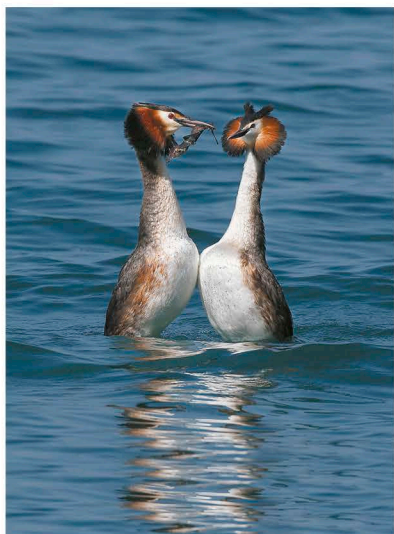
- 1 Green-Winged Orchids
- 2 Ringed Seal on Iceberg - Svalbard



Highly Commended Prints

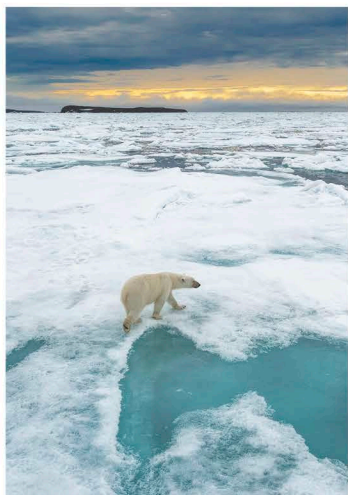
- 1 Eastern Skunk Anemonefish
- 2 Eastern Meadowlark
- 3 Man Orchid
- 4 Triplefin on Hard Coral





Highly Commended Prints

- 1 Great Crested Grebe Weed Dance
- 2 Skylark with Caterpillars
- 3 Linnet on a Frozen Grass Stalk
- 4 Polar Bear Landscape
- 5 Beach Daisy in Habitat



The Nature Group Annual Exhibition 2017

Print Awards

Award	Author	Title	
RPS: Gold medal	Liz Cutting ARPS	Mountain Hare Scratching	
RPS: Bronze medal	Trevor Davenport	Banded Demoiselle on Goatsbeard	
RPS: Bronze medal	Roger Hance FRPS	Lady Slipper Orchids	
Selectors Choice	Trevor Davenport ARPS	Female Field Grasshopper	
	Roger Hance FRPS	Pasque Flowers - Therfield Heath	
	Sarah Kelman ARPS	Water Rail Fishing	
	Kay Reeve FRPS	Velvet Shank Fungi	
	Richard Revels FRPS	Green-Winged Orchids	
	Helena Spinks LRPS	Ringed Seal on Iceberg - Svalbard	
Highly commended	Kevin Elsby FRPS	Eastern Meadowlark	
	Kevin Elsby FRPS	Man Orchid	
	Wendy Eve ARPS	Eastern Skunk Anemonefish	
	Wendy Eve ARPS	Triplefin on Hard Coral	
	Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Beach Daisy in Habitat	
	Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Great Crested Grebe Weed Dance	
	Thomas Hanahoe FRPS	Linnet on a Frozen Grass Stalk	
	Bryan Knox ARPS	Bear About to Climb a Tree	
	Duncan Locke	Forest Elephants	
	Duncan Locke	Monkey Orchid	
	Margery Maskell ARPS	Common Puffballs	
	Ian Mitchell ARPS	Red Squirrel	
	Ian Mitchell ARPS	Skylark with Caterpillars	
	Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Yellow Alpine Pasque Flower in Habitat	
	Richard Revels FRPS	Hazel Catkins Shedding Pollen	
	David Robinson ARPS	Cuckoo Wing Stretching	
	Steve Rogala-Kaluski ARPS	Polar Bear Landscape	
	Ralph Snook ARPS	Nemoptera Sinuata	
Author	Title	Award	
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Green Hooktail		
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Egret Catching Dragonflies		
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Dock Bug Coreus Marginatus		
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Spring Gentians under Eiger Wall		
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Alpine Moon Daisy		
Brian Ferry LRPS	Garden Spider Feeding on Crane Fly		
Bryan Knox ARPS	Bear About to Climb a Tree	Highly commended	
Bryan Knox ARPS	Pyramidal Orchid Var Emarginata		
Bryan Knox ARPS	D Fuchsii Var Rhodochila		
David Robinson ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	Cuckoo Wing Stretching	Highly commended	
David Robinson ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	French Cranesbill		
David Robinson ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	European Bee Eater with Dragonfly		
David Robinson ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	Black Bellied Plover Feeding		

Author	Title	Award
Duncan Locke	Forest Elephants	Highly commended
Duncan Locke	Monkey Orchid	Highly commended
Duncan Locke	Steller's Sea Eagle	
Duncan Locke	Leopard Seal with Penguin	
Duncan Locke	Forest Aurora	
Duncan Locke	Lady Orchid	
Eddy Lane ARPS DPAGB EFIAP	Olive Ridley Turtle	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Great Crested Grebe Weed Dance	Highly commended
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Beach Daisy in Habitat	Highly commended
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Peacock and Bluebells	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Orange Tip on Cuckoo Flowers	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Southern Bird's-Foot Trefoil	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Common Butterwort	
Gill Cardy FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Capercaillie Attacking Intruder	
Gordon Follows ARPS MPAGB	Bar-Tailed Godwit Feeding	
Gordon Follows ARPS MPAGB	Ruff Taking Flight	
Gordon Follows ARPS MPAGB	Whitethroat Singing	
Helena Spinks LRPS	Ringed Seal on Iceberg - Svalbard	Selectors Choice
Helena Spinks LRPS	Fulmar in Front of Skogafoss Waterfall, Iceland	
Ian McLean ARPS CPAGB	Ophrys Kotschyi	
Ian McLean ARPS CPAGB	Garden Spider with Prey	
Ian Mitchell ARPS DPAGB	Skylark with Caterpillars	Highly commended
Ian Mitchell ARPS DPAGB	Red Squirrel	Highly commended
Ian Mitchell ARPS DPAGB	Pine Marten Kit	
Jean Manson	Polar Bear	
Jean Manson	Brown Hare	
Jeny Cottingham	Chiffchaff Fledging	
Jeny Cottingham	Wild Little Owl	
John Jones ARPS	Dactylorhiza Hybrid Orchid	
Kay Reeve FRPS DPAGB	Velvet Shank Fungi	Selectors Choice
Kay Reeve FRPS DPAGB	Burnished Brass Moth	
Kay Reeve FRPS DPAGB	Male Catkins of Goat Willow	
Kay Reeve FRPS DPAGB	Mycena Praecox	
Kay Reeve FRPS DPAGB	Parasitic Boletes on Common Earthball	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Yellow Alpine Pasque Flower in Habitat	Highly commended
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Grass Wren Singing	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Sulphur Tuft	
Kevin Elsby FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Eastern Meadowlark	Highly commended
Kevin Elsby FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Man Orchid	Highly commended
Kevin Elsby FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Golden Plover Calling	
Kevin Elsby FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Man X Monkey Orchid Hybrid	
Liz Cutting ARPS DPAGB	Mountain Hare Scratching	RPS: Gold medal
Liz Cutting ARPS DPAGB	Gentoo Bursts Ashore	
Liz Cutting ARPS DPAGB	Injured Polar Bear and Ivory Gull	
Liz Cutting ARPS DPAGB	Shetland Wren and Thrift	
Maggie Manson ARPS	Wildebeest Kill	
Maggie Manson ARPS	Black-Chested Snake Eagle	
Maggie Manson ARPS	King Penguin Creche	

Author	Title	Award
Margery Maskell ARPS	Common Puffballs	Highly commended
Mike Rowe FRPS BPE4*	Blackfoot Anemonefish	
Mike Rowe FRPS BPE4*	Squabbling Snowy Egrets	Highly commended
Pamela Lane ARPS DPAGB EFIAP	Sally Lightfoot	
Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	Nemoptera Sinuata	
Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	Demoiselle at Dawn	
Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	Hoopoe at Nest Hole	
Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	Zebra Patterns	Selectors Choice
Richard Hall LRPS CPAGB	Zebra Play	
Richard Hall LRPS CPAGB	Lilac-Breasted Roller Mobbed by Sparrow	
Richard Nicoll ARPS	Hen Harrier Interaction	
Richard Nicoll ARPS	Four-Spotted Chaser with Exuvia	
Richard Nicoll ARPS	Short-Eared Owl Winking	Highly commended
Richard Revels FRPS	Green-Winged Orchids	
Richard Revels FRPS	Hazel Catkins Shedding Pollen	Selectors Choice
Richard Revels FRPS	Elephant Hawk Moth at Honeysuckle	
Richard Revels FRPS	Spoonbills Preening	
Richard Revels FRPS	Gladiolus Italicus in Cyprus	
Richard Revels FRPS	Alpine Pansy's in Swiss Valley	
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Pasque Flowers - Therfield Heath	Selectors Choice
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Lady Slipper Orchids	
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Badger	RPS: Bronze medal
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Herring Gull with Guillemot Chick	
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Puffin in Flight with Sand Eels	
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Violet Helleborine	
Roy Dorkins	Dolphin	
Sandie Cox ARPS DPAGB	Cheetah at Sunrise	Selectors Choice
Sandie Cox ARPS DPAGB	Jackal	
Sandie Cox ARPS DPAGB	Snow Monkey	
Sandy Cleland FRPS	Dipper with Grubs	
Sandy Cleland FRPS	Short-Eared Owl Conflict	
Sarah Kelman ARPS DPAGB	Water Rail Fishing	Selectors Choice
Sarah Kelman ARPS DPAGB	Coral Patterns	
Sarah Kelman ARPS DPAGB	Christmas Tree Worms	
Sarah Kelman ARPS DPAGB	Mountain Hare in Blizzard	
Sonja Thompson FRPS	Wild Strawberry in Quarry Rock	
Sonja Thompson FRPS	Wolverine Suckling Twin Kits	Highly commended
Stan Saunders ARPS	Burnt Orchid	
Steve Rogala-Kaluski ARPS	Polar Bear Landscape	
Steve Rogala-Kaluski ARPS	Polar Bear	
Steve Rogala-Kaluski ARPS	Bearded Seal	
Thomas Hanahoe FRPS	Linnet on a Frozen Grass Stalk	Highly commended
Trevor Davenport ARPS DPAGB BPE4*	Female Field Grasshopper	
Trevor Davenport ARPS DPAGB BPE4*	Banded Demoiselle on Goatsbeard	Selectors Choice
Trevor Davenport ARPS DPAGB BPE4*	Angel Wings	
Wendy Eve ARPS	Eastern Skunk Anemonefish	Highly commended
Wendy Eve ARPS	Triplefin on Hard Coral	
Wendy Eve ARPS	Coconut Octopus	Highly commended

The Nature Group Annual Exhibition 2017

Digital Awards

Award	Author	Title
RPS: Gold medal	Chris Ellison ARPS	Two Apollos
RPS: Bronze medal	Dawn Osborn FRPS	Common Loon Parent Offering Food to Chick
RPS: Bronze medal	Richard Revels FRPS	Lichen, Cladonia Floerkeana, with Fruiting Bodies
Selectors Choice	Trevor Davenport ARPS	Black-Veined White Butterflies
	Tim Downton ARPS	Squacco Heron with Fish
	Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Dark Green Fritillary on Betony
	Yealand Kalfayan	Meadow Cranesbill
	Darron Matthews ARPS	Milking Bonnet
	John Simpson ARPS	Back-Lit White Campion
Highly commended	John Bulpitt FRPS	Globe Flowers in Habitat
	Sandy Cleland FRPS	Bryum Capillare
	Sandie Cox ARPS	Cheetah Mum and Cubs
	Tim Downton ARPS	Night Heron with Frog
	Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Barbary Nut
	Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Crown Daisy
	Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Winter Greenfinch
	Pamela Lane ARPS	Crossing a Swollen Mara
	Duncan Locke	Beautiful Demoiselle
	Jean Manson	Northern Lights over Hudson Bay
	Kevin Murphy ARPS	Oystercatchers & Sanderling
	Richard Nicoll ARPS	Barn Owl with Prey
	Richard Nicoll ARPS	Common Tern Courtship
	Mike Rowe FRPS	Schooling Convict Surgeonfish
	Stan Saunders	Candle-Snuff Fungus (Xylaria Hypoxylon)
	John Simpson ARPS	Orchis Troodi
Author	Title	Award
Andrew C M Chu ARPS	Glistening Inkcup (Coprinus Micaceus)	
Andrew Stuart Hayes ARPS	Leopard with Monitor Lizard Kill	
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Mountain Pansies	
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Fighting Coots	
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Northern Lights Norway	
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS MPAGB EFIAP	Amanita Phalloides	
Bob Breach BPE1*	Vapourer Moth Larvae -Orgyia Antiqua	
Brian Chivers LRPS ADPS	Hoverfly	
Caron Steele	Running Dalmatian Pelican on Ice	
Caron Steele	Polar Bear & Cubs in the Arctic	
Caron Steele	Displaying Cock Pheasant at Dawn	
Charlotte Eades-Willis ARPS	Shaggy Ink Cap Group	
Chris Ellison ARPS DPAGB	Two Apollos	RPS: Gold medal
Chris Ellison ARPS DPAGB	Pyramidal Orchid	
Chris Ellison ARPS DPAGB	Chestnut Heath Fritillary	

Author	Title	Award
Claire Louise Carroll	Newborn Grey Seal Pup	
Conor Molloy ARPS CPAGB	Redshank Calling	
Conor Molloy ARPS CPAGB	Collared Pratincole Drinking	
Conor Molloy ARPS CPAGB	Ptarmigan on Ice	
Darron Matthews ARPS	Milking Bonnet	Selectors Choice
Darron Matthews ARPS	Large Skipper and Broad Bodied Chaser	
Darron Matthews ARPS	Common Blue and Bug	
Darron Matthews ARPS	German Wasp and Mites	
David Cantrille FRPS MFIAP MPAGB	Wilson's Plover with Large Crab	
David Cantrille FRPS MFIAP MPAGB	Osprey 7	
David Cantrille FRPS MFIAP MPAGB	Sandhill Crane	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Common Loon Parent Offering Food	RPS: Bronze medal
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Crimson Waxcaps	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Bald Eagle in Flight	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Magellanic Penguin in a Sandstorm	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Marsh Wren Displaying	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Dog Stinkhorn	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Common Stump Brittlestem	
Diane Jackson CPAGB BPE3*	Buffalo Drinking at Night	
Diane Jackson CPAGB BPE3*	African Wild Dogs Confront Young Rhino	
Dickie Duckett FRPS	European Roller in Flight	
Dickie Duckett FRPS	Common Pochard in Flight	
Dickie Duckett FRPS	Northern Shoveler in Flight	
Duncan Locke	Beautiful Demoiselle	Highly commended
Duncan Locke	King Penguins with Chicks	
Duncan Locke	Puffin with Eels	
Ernest Eaton LRPS	Brimstone Feeding on Scabious	
Ernest Eaton LRPS	Golden Bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Dark Green Fritillary on Betony	Selectors Choice
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Winter Greenfinch	Highly commended
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Crown Daisy	Highly commended
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Barbary Nut	Highly commended
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Spring Pasque Flowers	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Red-Vented Bulbul	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Peppered Moth Caterpillar	
Gill Cardy FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Military Orchid	
Gill Cardy FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Magpie Fungus	
Gill Peachey LRPS	Crepuscular Burnet (<i>Zygana Carniolica</i>) on <i>Erysimum</i>	
Gill Peachey LRPS	Chestnut Heath (<i>Coenonympha Glycerion</i>)	
Gordon Bramham ARPS MPAGB EFIAP/P	Dalmation Pelican	
Gordon Bramham ARPS MPAGB EFIAP/P	Black Buck Resting	
Gordon Follows ARPS MPAGB	Razorbills Alloprenning	
Gordon Follows ARPS MPAGB	Limpkin with Chick Feeding on Apple Snail	
Gordon Wilcock LRPS	Male Sparrowhawk with Prey	
Helena Spinks LRPS	Herring Gull - Norway	
Helena Spinks LRPS	Puffin with Fish - Skomer Island	
Jack Malins	Fairy Foxglove	
Jack Malins	Spotted Chaser	

Author	Title	Award
Jack Malins	Purpuricenus Budensis	
Jack Malins	Pintail Drake	
Jack Malins	Boreal Jacobs Ladder	
Jack Malins	Early Marsh Orchid Var Coccinea	
Jack Malins	Northern Marsh Orchid	
Jan Jerome ARPS	Mountain Hair	
Jane Rees	Shaggy Scalycap	
Jane Rees	Coyote Howling	
Jane Rees	Coyote Hunting	
Jane Rees	Fasciated Saguaro Cactus	
Jean Manson	Northern Lights over Hudson Bay	Highly commended
Jean Manson	Brown Bear	
Jean Manson	Polar Bear and Cubs	
Jean Manson	Red Fox	
Jean Manson	Arctic Fox	
Jean Manson	Sun Halo over Hudson Bay	
Jeremy Lintott LRPS	Bark and Lichen	
Jeremy Lintott LRPS	Fly Orchid	
John Boyd LRPS DPAGB	Female Kestrel	
John Boyd LRPS DPAGB	Leaping Squirrel	
John Bulpitt FRPS	Globe Flowers in Habitat	Highly commended
John Bulpitt FRPS	Chalkhill Blues with Longhorn Moth	
John Bulpitt FRPS	Alpine Heaths	
John Cucksey ARPS	Spotted Hyaena Pups	
John Cucksey ARPS	Leopard and Cub	
John Haigh LRPS	King Penguin Colony - Salisbury Plain	
John Hunt ARPS DPAGB	Tawny Eagle Confrontation	
John Simpson ARPS DPAGB	Back-Lit White Campion	Selectors Choice
John Simpson ARPS DPAGB	Orchis Troodi	Highly commended
John Simpson ARPS DPAGB	Ophrys Sicula	
John Simpson ARPS DPAGB	Angle Shades Moth	
John Simpson ARPS DPAGB	Aestivating Snails	
John Simpson ARPS DPAGB	Starry Clover	
Judy Smith LRPS DPAGB	Wolf in the Snow	
Judy Smith LRPS DPAGB	Brown Bear Family Finland	
Judy Smith LRPS DPAGB	Bison in the Snow No1	
Keith Polwin ARPS	Wasp Spider with Small Red Damselfly Prey	
Keith Polwin ARPS	Female Mallard Taking Off	
Keith Polwin ARPS	Small Red Damselfly Female	
Ken Plumb ARPS	Dragonfly	
Ken Plumb ARPS	Hermit Crab	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Little Grebe with Prey	
Kevin Elsby FRPS DPAGB AFIAP	Common Quaking Grass	
Kevin Murphy ARPS	Oystercatchers & Sanderling	Highly commended
Kevin Murphy ARPS	Dingy Skipper	
Liz Cutting ARPS DPAGB	Male Hen Harrier	
Liz Cutting ARPS DPAGB	Mountain Hare Running	
Maggie Manson ARPS	King Vultures	

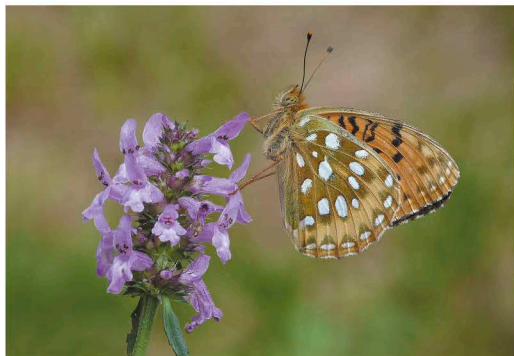
Author	Title	Award
Maggie Manson ARPS	Breeding Herd of Elephants	
Malcolm Blackburn	Yellow-Billed Stork 2	
Malcolm Blackburn	Zebras at Dawn	
Malcolm Blackburn	Annas Hummingbirds Nest	
Malcolm Blackburn	Yellow-Billed Stork	
Margaret Hocking ARPS	Black Rhino at Sunset	
Margaret Hocking ARPS	Springbok Mother and Calf	
Margery Maskell ARPS	Maidehair Spleenwort	
Mark Monckton ARPS	Cinnabar Moth	
Mark Monckton ARPS	Red Deer Stags in the Snow	
Michael Feeney ARPS AFIAP AIPF	European Rollers	
Michael Feeney ARPS AFIAP AIPF	Black Headed Gull	
Mike Lane FRPS	Goshawk	
Mike Lane FRPS	Cuckoo	
Mike Lane FRPS	Dunlin	
Mike Rowe FRPS BPE4*	Schooling Convict Surgeonfish	Highly commended
Mike Rowe FRPS BPE4*	Checkerboard Wrasse Courtship	
Moiria Ellice ARPS	Rock Strata	
Nigel Symington LRPS	Bee Orchid Var Flavescens	
Nigel Symington LRPS	Duke of Burgundy	
Nigel Symington LRPS	Porcelain Fungus	
Nigel Symington LRPS	Early Spider-Orchid	
Paddy Beck	Rock Kestrel with Lizard	
Paddy Beck	Little Bee-Eater	
Pamela Lane ARPS DPAGB EFIAP	Crossing a Swollen Mara	Highly commended
Pamela Lane ARPS DPAGB EFIAP	Overtuned Ice Berg	
Pamela Lane ARPS DPAGB EFIAP	Polar Bear Leap	
Patricia Kearton LRPS	Red Fox	
Patricia Kearton LRPS	Red Crowned Crane Dancing	
Patricia Kearton LRPS	Cheetah with Six Cubs	
Paul Carter LRPS	Lions Greeting	
Paul Carter LRPS	Kestrel with Prey	
Paul Carter LRPS	Bee Eater Food Pass	
Paul Carter LRPS	Cheetah Pair	
Paul Sievers ARPS	Spindlestone Surprise Snowdrops	
Paul Sievers ARPS	Sulphur Tuft Fungi	
Peter Farmer ARPS	Kittiwakes	
Peter Farmer ARPS	King Penguins	
Peter Farmer ARPS	Fish Eagle with Impala	
Prashant Meswani LRPS CPAGB	Short Eared Owl (Asio Flammeus)	
Prashant Meswani LRPS CPAGB	Little Owls (Athene Noctuas)	
Rachel Jean Carter LRPS	Hunting Cheetah	
Rachel Jean Carter LRPS	Gannet (Morus Bassanus)	
Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	Hoopoe Returning to Nest	
Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	Brown Bears Running at Low Tide	
Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP DPAGB	European Bee Eater Dispute	
Ray Cooper ARPS	Squabbling Goldfinch	
Ray Cooper ARPS	Juvenile Male Sparrowhawk	
Richard Hall LRPS CPAGB	Cape Buffalo and Red-Billed Oxpecker	

Author	Title	Award
Richard Hall LRPS CPAGB	Thompson Gazelle	
Richard Hall LRPS CPAGB	Angry Hippo Serengeti	
Richard Nicoll ARPS	Common Tern Courtship	Highly commended
Richard Nicoll ARPS	Barn Owl with Prey	Highly commended
Richard Revels FRPS	Lichen Cladonia Floeareana With Fruiting Bodies	RPS Bronze medal
Richard Revels FRPS	Frost on Hawthorn Leaf	
Roger Barnes ARPS	Fairy Clubs	
Roger Barnes ARPS	Poplar Hawmoth	
Roger Clark ARPS	Emperor Penguin Chick	
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Monkey Orchid	
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Elephant Hawk Moth on Yellow Flag Iris	
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Male Stag Beetle	
Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP BPE5*	Bee Orchid	
Rosemary Gillies ARPS Whip	Coral Goby	
Rosemary Gillies ARPS	Anemone Fish on Anemone	
Rosemary Gillies ARPS	Cube Trunkfish	
Rosemary Gillies ARPS	Porcelain Crab on Anemone	
Sandie Cox ARPS DPAGB	Cheetah Mum and Cubs	Highly commended
Sandie Cox ARPS DPAGB	White Saxifrage	
Sandie Cox ARPS DPAGB	Polar Bear	
Sandie Cox ARPS DPAGB	The Ice Wall with Kittiwake	
Sandy Cleland FRP	Red Grouse in Flight	
Sandy Cleland FRPS	Bryum Capillare	Highly commended
Sandy Cleland FRPS	Spring Sedge	
Sandy Cleland FRPS	Brown Hare Scenting with Tongue	
Sandy Cleland FRPS	Empid Fly with Prey	
Sandy Cleland FRPS	Nettle Rust Fungus	
Sarah Kelman ARPS DPAGB	Coral Patterns	
Sarah Newton	Amanita Muscaria	
Stan Saunders ARPS	Candle-Snuff Fungus (Xylaria Hypoxylon)	Highly commended
Stan Saunders ARPS	Bee Wolf Wasp Dragging Bee from Burrow	
Stan Saunders ARPS	Oyster Mushroom	
Subramanian Sridharan	Zebra's Head in Crocodiles Mouth	
Subramanian Sridharan	Gannet in Mid-Air	
Susan Flood	Impala Stampede	
Terry Wall ARPS MPAGB EFIAP	Bee-Eater Landing	
Tim Downton ARPS DPAGB	Squacco Heron with Fish	Selectors Choice
Tim Downton ARPS DPAGB	Night Heron with Frog	Highly commended
Tim Downton ARPS DPAGB	Great Crested Grebes	
Trevor Davenport ARPS DPAGB BPE4*	Black-Veined White Butterflies	Selectors Choice
Trevor Davenport ARPS DPAGB BPE4*	Leopard Moth	
Trevor Davenport ARPS DPAGB BPE4*	Canary-Shouldered Thorn Moths	
Wendy Eve ARPS	Fern Coral	
Wendy Eve ARPS	Picasso Fish	
Yealand Kalfayan	Meadow Cranesbill	Selectors Choice
Yealand Kalfayan	Ladys Slipper Orchid	
Yealand Kalfayan	Woodcock Orchid	
Yealand Kalfayan	Early Spider Orchid	



Selectors Choice

- 1 Black-Veined White Butterflies
- 2 Squacco Heron with Fish
- 3 Dark Green Fritillary on Betony
- 4 Meadow Cranesbill



Bronze medal Digital

- 1 Common Loon Parent Offering Food to Chick
- 2 Lichen, Cladonia floerkeana, with Fruiting Bodies



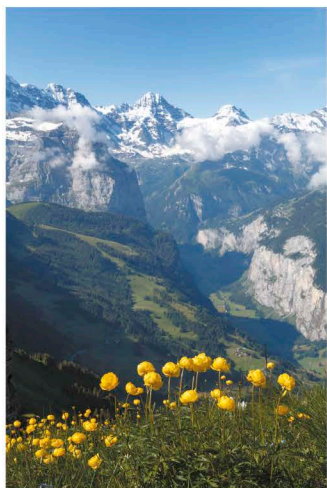


Selectors Choice

Digital

1 Milking Bonnet

2 Back-Lit White Campion



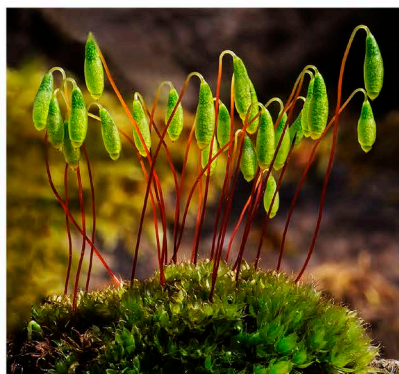
Highly Commended Digital

1 Globe Flowers in Habitat

2 Night Heron with Frog

3 Cheetah Mum and Cubs

4 Bryum Capillare





Highly Commended Digital

1 Barbary Nut

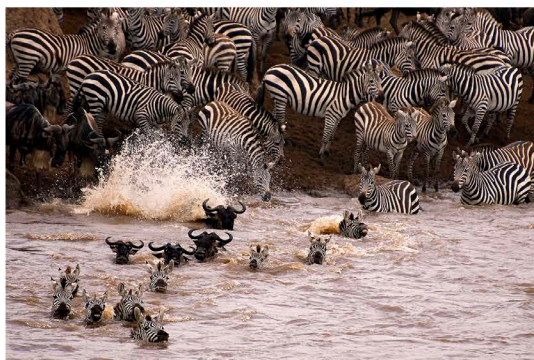
2 Winter Greenfinch

3 Crown Daisy

4 Crossing a Swollen Mara

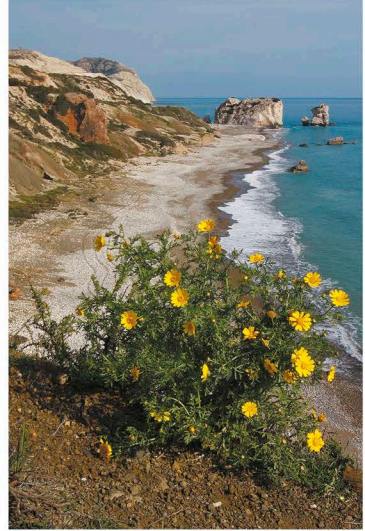
5 Beautiful Demoiselle

6 Northern Lights over Hudson Bay



Highly Commended Digital

- 1 Oystercatchers & Sanderling
- 2 Barn Owl with Prey
- 3 Crown Daisy
- 4 Common Tern Courtship
- 5 Candle-Snuff Fungus (*Xylaria Hypoxylon*)



Ultraviolet Photography

By Adrian Davies ARPS

The light that we can see is only one part of huge range of electromagnetic radiations, including X rays and radio waves. The human eye can see the "visible parts" composed of a spectrum of colours from violet and blue, through green to red. But it is possible to record other wavelengths, and nature photographers have long used infrared (IR) cameras for example to photograph wildlife at night. At the other end of the visible spectrum, beyond the violet, is ultraviolet (UV), a much more challenging region to photograph. Insects birds and other animals can see UV, and many subjects that appear one colour to us may appear very different when photographed in UV. Flowers for example, often display hidden patterns when recorded in UV, pointing insects to the source of nectar.

There are two types of UV photography: UV reflectance, and UV fluorescence, which will be dealt with in part 2 of this series.

UV Reflectance photography involved excluding all visible light from the camera, and recording only the UV reflected from a subject. It is invisible to the human eye, though many animals e.g. insects and birds, can see UV. The sensors in modern digital cameras are generally sensitive to UV, IR and visible light, but the manufacturers install a filter over the sensor to block the UV and IR, to record "correct" visible colours. By removing this filter, the camera can record UV (and IR).

I would recommend that this process be carried out by a specialist company such as Advanced Camera Services in the UK.

Some DSLRs have been found to be highly sensitive to UV without conversion. These include the Nikon D40 and D70 models. No one quite knows why!

Secondly, you will need a lens which transmits useful amounts of UV (most modern lenses do not, due to the type of glass used, and the layers of coatings on the exterior elements.)

One good type of lens for UV work are old (the older the better!) metal bodied enlarging lenses, of which the El Nikkor range are reckoned to be the best.



I mainly use the 80mm and 105mm lengths, which I found on eBay for around £40 each. You will need to mount them onto the camera using extension tubes to enable focussing (there is a particularly useful type of tube with a built in helicoid focusing system which can be found on eBay).

If you have opted for a full spectrum conversion, ie. the camera is sensitive to both UV and IR you will need a filter to block visible light and IR, and just transmit UV. The most popular one today is one used by astronomers, called the Baader U. This is not cheap (around £200 at the time of writing) but is very good for the job. You will need a suitable adapter to fit it onto the front of the lens.

Finally you will need a light source rich in UV. Daylight is not particularly good or reliable so flash is a good idea, and Xenon tubes in flash guns emit good quantities of UV. However, most flash guns have a plastic UV absorbing window over the front of the tube which needs to be removed. I use two old Metz 45 CL5 guns, and have removed the plastic window from the front of the head.

NB take great care when modifying flash guns, as they can hold large voltages in the capacitor, even after long periods of inactivity. Also, note that some flash tubes have a yellow coating on them to absorb UV, and these are best avoided.

Having assembled the kit, the photography can start. I generally try to use 400 ISO on my modified Nikon D300S to keep the noise to a minimum. This allows me an aperture of around f/8 or f/11 with the two flashes on full power at around 150cm from the subject. The Baader U filter is opaque, so you will need to focus and compose the shot before placing the filter on the lens.

Images from the camera will come out with a strong red/magenta cast. They can be converted to greyscale, or "white balanced" using a UV compatible substance such as grey PTFE.

Most animal species that are sensitive to UV also perceive other wavelengths. Honey Bees for example can see UV blue and green.

By using a suitable filter combination that blocks red and IR, but transmits UV blue and green, it is possible to simulate how honey bees see flowers in colour. Of course, we will never know for certain if this is indeed how they see them, but it does give us a good idea!

Images

1. Many flowers exhibit hidden patterns when photographed in UV. Here, Beggarticks - a hanging basket favourite (*Bidens ferulifolia*)
2. The camera with lens and filter
3. Butterflies also may appear different when photographed in UV – here a male Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamnii*)
4. Insect do not just see in UV, but are also sensitive to varying amounts of blue and green (depending on the species). By using the filter combination which absorb red and IR, but transmits UV, green and blue we can get an idea of how flowers appear to insects in colour. Here, a cultivated Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* "Toto Lemon") is seen in visible light, UV and "bee vision".
5. A carnivorous pitcher plant: *Sarracenia* sp. Note how the veining, visible to them human eye, disappears in UV, and instead the insect attracting liquid appears very dark.

More examples of UV images, together with some more technical information can be found in my new web site: www.imagingtheinvisible.com, and a new book to be published by Focal Press later this year called Digital Ultraviolet and Infrared Photography.



Natureland - Skegness

Images by Kevin Booth

Natureland has become known world wide for its rescue of orphaned baby seal pups that become stranded on beaches around the Wash and has been successful in rearing and returning to their natural environment a large number of these beautiful creatures. When they first arrive, the pups need very careful nursing and treatment that is carried out in the Seal Hospital by the dedicated staff.

Natureland is well known for rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned and injured seals that become stranded on Lincolnshire beaches. Visitors can see the various stages of their rehabilitation and hear about the rescue work at feeding times.

First and foremost – they are a Sanctuary dedicated to treating and returning seals to their natural habitat, however since opening, Natureland has dealt with, and returned to the wild whenever possible, many unusual animal visitors including dolphins and whales, a “lost” walrus and pelican, plus numerous oiled seabirds and injured birds of prey.

Every year, particularly during the breeding season, seal pups are washed up on the beaches around Skegness, abandoned or separated from their mothers by the treacherous tides. The lucky ones are brought to Natureland’s Seal Hospital where they are cared for by dedicated staff members.

The real problem is persuading the pup to eat, the pup suckles differently from other animals (such as cats and dogs) and they cannot be taught to suck from a bottle. With a little help for a week or two they can swallow a few whole fish (known as sprats) which are about 3 inches long. At first their mouths must be opened but they soon get the idea and queue up for their two hourly feeds!

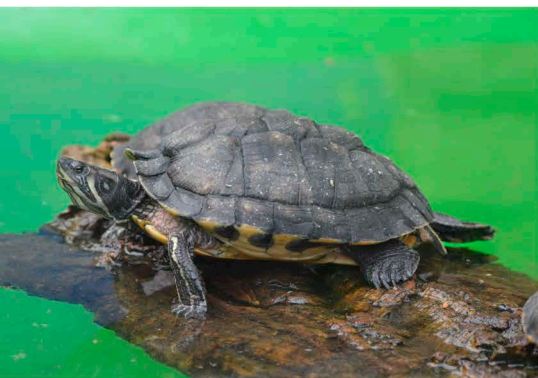
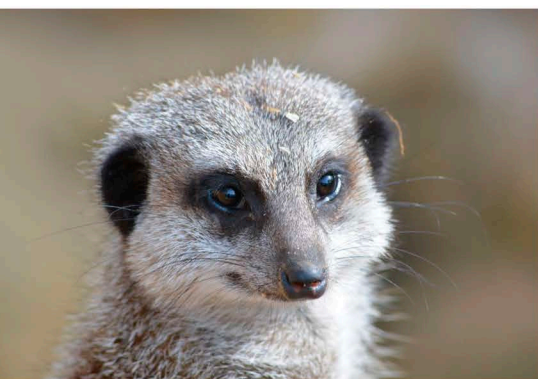
To help keep them healthy we give them vitamins and other medicines – just slipping each pill inside a small fish. If all goes well the pups are moved into the Rearing Pool where they are taught to feed on fish in the water and gain the body weight they need to survive in the wild. Some months after joining us when the pup is fit, fat and healthy, it is returned home to the sea.

Copy from the Natureland website.



The Mablethorpe Seal Sanctuary and Wildlife Centre

Images by Kevin Booth



The Sanctuary started life as the 'Animal and Bird Garden' but rescued seals soon started arriving requiring us to acquire the knowledge and equipment to look after them. By the mid eighties they had constructed the first 'big' seal pool, in 1990 the Seal Hospital was completed and in 2000 a series of interlinked seal pools were built to provide the seals with a stimulating place to live.

All the while new and different animals were arriving, emus, birds of prey, lynx, and more recently meerkats, reptiles and primates. In 2012 the 'Seal Sanctuary' name was no longer sufficient to describe all that they did and so was re-branded as 'The Mablethorpe Seal Sanctuary and Wildlife Centre'.

By the mid-eighties seal numbers were gradually increasing and for those needing long-term care we constructed our first 'big' pool. In reality it was only 1,000 gallons but it seemed enormous at the time. Meanwhile wooden crates and tin baths were the extent of the facilities for the pups. Common seals in the summer were not too much of a problem but grey seals in the winter were another matter. It was during a blizzard while we were trying to make a shelter for some newly arrived pups that we knew something had to be done.

By early 1988 having saved about £5,000 for building a seal hospital. Then disaster struck: seals began dying in their thousands from Phocine Distemper Virus. The sanctuary realised that even the new hospital would have been inadequate so again fund-raising with renewed vigour. As well as support from businesses, building materials were also donated and there was a massive boost when they received £20,000 from readers of the Daily Mail. At last we were able to construct a wildlife hospital that would stand the test of time.

Looking after wildlife takes up most of the resources and with so many generous donations it seemed obvious to seek charitable status for the rescue work. This was granted in 1990 at about the same time as the seal hospital was finished but after all the emphasis on seals the first admission was a moorhen!

Copy from the Mablethorpe seal sanctuary website

RPS Nature Group 2017 AGM - 8th April 2017

The 35th Annual general Meeting of the Royal Photographic Nature Group was held at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, on Saturday 8th April 2017 at 2pm. It was chaired by Richard Revels FRPS and attended by 31 members.

APOLOGIES

These were received from Duncan Locke, Andrew Parsons, Ludi Lochner, Gianpiero Ferrari, Tony Bond, Roger Hance, Eddie and Pam Lane, Ann Miles, John Jones, Tony Wharton

MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were taken as a true and correct record of what took place. It was proposed that they be accepted by Thomas Hanahoe and seconded by Barbara Lawton. They were signed by Richard Revels.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

My two year term as the Nature Group Chairman is now coming to an end and shortly I will be handing over the Chairmanship to Kevin Elsby FRPS, who I am sure will serve the Nature Group well during the next two years.

The main event since last year's AGM has been the 40th anniversary meeting held in mid-October 2016. This was a 'sell out', with several late applicants leaving it too late to obtain a ticket. The event seems to have been well received from feed-back that I have had.

The speakers covered a wide range of different nature subjects, with Heather Angel Hon FRPS starting the proceedings by giving us a talk about the early years of the Nature Group, which was followed by Bob Gibbons FRPS showing us a feast of wild flowers pictures from around the World. After a short break there were five mini shows with John Bebbington FRPS, showing everyone how useful photo stacking can be when photographing subjects like spiders that have a wide leg span, which are

impossible to get sharp by just stopping the lens down.

Many thanks go to all the other speakers on the day, and especially Dawn, who stepped in to be our main speaker in the afternoon with an excellent show about the wildlife of the Falklands Islands, stepping in at the last minute for her brother David, who could not attend and give us his show due to minor surgery at hospital 2 days before the event.

I should also like to thank Smethwick PS for letting us hold the meeting at their club house, and to Barbara Lawton FRPS who did a great job handling things for us at Smethwick.

In January 2016 Tony Bond FRPS suggested that I put forward John Bebbington FRPS to receive the RPS Fenton Medal. With the help of several Nature Group committee members information was gathered about his contribution to nature photography, and the form was filled in and sent off to Bath, and I am pleased to report that John was awarded the Fenton Medal in early October.

Also last autumn the Nature Group had several pages in the RPS Journal that featured 6 prominent Nature Group members and their photographs. Membership of the Nature Group during the past two years has hovered around 1000, and yesterday it stood at 992.

Our appeal in last summer's *Iris* asking for someone to take on the positions of Editor of the Nature Groups magazine *The Iris*, has I am pleased to report produced a suitable candidate, Kevin Booth ARPS, who will shortly be taking over as editor from Dawn Osborn FRPS. Dawn will then become the editor of our new NG e-Newsletter that will be sent to all members with e-mail addresses, and will be sent out between issues of *The Iris*.

Kevin has been co-opted onto the committee in place of Sue McGarrigle who has stepped down from the committee due to personal reasons. These are important positions.

RPS Nature Group 2017 AGM - 8th April 2017

During the past months our new Secretary Duncan Locke has been working with Margret, and Kevin working with Dawn to ensure a smooth take-over of these important positions

Dawn has been Editor of The Iris since 2003, and has done outstanding work for the Nature Group during that time, and I am pleased to say that the committee all agreed that we should award Dawn a second Nature Group Silver Medal, for all the work she has done editing The Iris, and for taking on the editorship of the new NG new e-Newsletter. Dawn is the only person to receive 2 NG Silver Medals.

Next year we plan to introduce a slot into our annual exhibition for members movies, the exact details have not been finalised yet, and will be published later in the year.

Your committee is considering staging some one day workshop's, and maybe field meetings over two or three days at suitable locations, that may include photo workshops.

My last act as your Chairman is to thank all the committee members for their help, suggestions, and time that they have given over the last two years in helping to run the Nature Group, and especially Ralph Snook and the team who oversaw all that's involved in staging the annual exhibition. Running the Nature Group is very much a team effort.

Also I should like to thank Smethwick P.S. for allowing us to hold this and other meeting at their clubhouse.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY – 31ST DECEMBER 2016

General Comments

The Balance Sheet is an overall summary of Receipts and Payments for the year. As some items 'straddle' year ends, it cannot be a detailed Balance Sheet for each item.

Group Cash Book Balance

The Balance Sheet shows an excess of Income over Expenditure, giving a Cash Book balance of £17,968.62 .

Subscriptions

The income is that credited monthly to our Cash Book Account during the current Financial year - (Subscriptions paid to the RPS for December 2015 quarters of 2016 The VAT refunded/paid details show the last quarter of 2015 and the first three quarter of 2016.

VAT Returns

Detailed VAT Returns were produced for the first three quarters of 2016 The VAT refunded/paid details show the last quarter of 2015 and the first three quarter of 2016.

The Iris

Three editions of The Iris were published this year - #124, #125 and #126. The cost of production, and particularly postage, continues to rise, though subscriptions and adverts have helped to offset some of the costs.

Events

Only one event held this year - the 40th Anniversary Day on the 16th October.

Annual Exhibition

The 'Annual Exhibition' cash book included sales from the 2015 CD.

General Administration

This includes all running costs of the Nature Group (general postage, telephone, stationery and travel to committee meetings).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As Richard has said our numbers stand at 992 so we are still one of the largest groups in the RPS. I have been secretary since 2003 when Robert Hawkesworth cajoled me into doing the job. I have enjoyed my time in the role but now feel the time has come to step down and let someone else have a chance to take over.

RPS Nature Group 2017 AGM - 8th April 2017

Duncan Locke is going to be the new secretary but unfortunately he is not able to be here today. So I am taking the minutes for the last time!! I hope that you will give him the same support as you have given to me. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and having email communication with many members worldwide.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

All the present officers were willing to stand for re-election and there were also some nominations They are:

Chairman:	Kevin Elsby FRPS
Secretary:	Duncan Locke
Treasurer:	Margery Maskell ARPS
Vice Chairman:	David O'Neill LRPS
Immediate Past Chairman:	Richard Revels FRPS
Editor of The Iris:	Kevin Booth
Exhibition Secretary:	Ralph Snook ARPS
Programme Co-ordinator:	Barbara Lawton FRPS
NG Rep to Advisory Panel:	David O'Neill LRPS
Webmaster:	Margery Maskell ARPS
Electronic newsletter:	Dawn Osborn FRPS Stan Saunders ARPS John Jones ARPS Thomas Hanahoe FRPS Gordon Follows ARPS

As there were places to spare all were elected without opposition.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Although we have a buoyant membership there was much discussion about why there were not many younger members. Thomas Hanahoe wondered if Bath could contact Universities and give information about RPS membership. Nicola, from RPS Headquarters said that they were aware of the problem and are trying to do something about it. Sonja Thompson said that if parents and grandparents get into the NG would encourage the children more.

Thomas Hanahoe said another problem was that you had to be a member of the RPS to get into the NG. Would it be possible for children to have free membership up to a certain age and then perhaps a reduced fee for a while? The main bottle neck is cost.

Dawn Osborn asked what was the average age of NG members? Nicola said that it was 67 and mainly male. Sonja said that she was a member of Gloucestershire CC and they run a yearly competition for schools and this year they had 900 entries and is a great showcase for young people. Kevin said that it would be expensive to run. Could the NG perhaps offer a bursary? Paul Charie asked if we were aware of who achieved an ARPS or LRPS by exemption. Schools need to be targeted.

Dawn asked if some of our funds could be used to promote and organise things regionally and also get PAGB involved. Stan wondered if there could be a section in the annual exhibition for children and grandchildren of members.

There was also some discussion about how the Irish Federation worked with the RPS.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE 42 AGM 2018

21st April 2018 at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury.

The meeting closed at 1.50pm

THE NATURE GROUP OF THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Receipts and Payments Account for 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016

Nature Group 'Cash Book' at RPS Bath		
<u>Year 2015</u>		<u>Year 2016</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
14,923.38	Subscriptions	14,191.27
612.00	Lectures & workshops	760.00
1,358.03	Annual Exhibition	1,941.00
21.71	VAT refunded	30.29
119.00	Miscellaneous	60.00
174..00	IRIS Subs., Adverts, etc.	174..00
£17,208.12	sub totals	£17,156.56
<u>Payments</u>		
8,137.07	Printing The Iris, incl. postage	8,210.13
199.20	Lectures & Workshops	1,152.51
1,008.76	Annual Exhibition	1,355.70
16.91	VAT paid	306.70
2,529.33	General Administration	2,376.06
£11,891.27	sub totals	£13,401.10
£5,316.85	<u>Receipts minus Payments</u>	£3,755.46

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2016

Nature Group Cash Book	£
Balance brought forward from 2015	14,213.16
Cleared Cheques from 2015	0.00
Uncleared Cheques from 2016	0.00
Receipts minus Payments 2016	3,755.46
Total	17,968.62
<u>Total Carried Forward to Financial Year 2016</u>	17,968.62

M. Maskell

3rd January 2017

Margery J Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)



Highly Commended Prints

- 1 Hazel Catkins Shedding Pollen
- 2 Forest Elephants
- 3 Yellow Alpine Pasque Flower in Habitat
- 4 Bear About to Climb a Tree



Highly Commended Digital

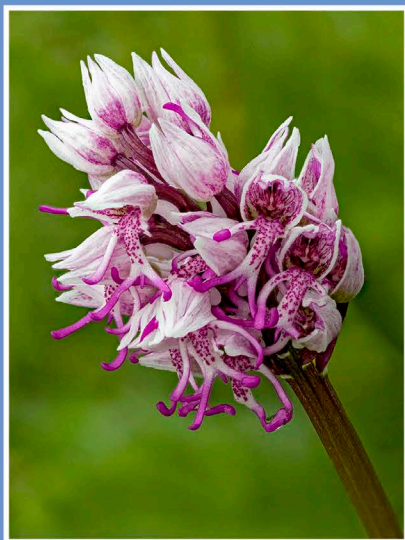
- 1 Orchis Troodi



Highly Commended Prints

TOP

- 1 Common Puffballs
- 2 Red Squirrel



MIDDLE

- 3 Monkey Orchid

BOTTOM

- 4 Cuckoo Wing Stretching
- 5 Nemoptera Sinuata

