

THE RPS

ROYAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

TRAVEL LOG

The Journal of the RPS Travel Group

Issue 72, March 2016



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Liz Rhodes

It is still January as I write this and so far my new year resolutions to get out more and take photographs have been stymied by the rather strange weather conditions we have been having – lots of rain, cloudy days and very little sunshine to restore the spirits. But it is a good time of year to take stock and review the past twelve months in order to work out how to

move forward. And that is what the Travel Group committee have been doing recently.

During 2015 an exercise was carried out that looked at what we should be offering members by way of a variety of events. In the spirit of new year resolutions my own view is that we need to develop attractive new ideas that will appeal to our growing membership.

If we do not, then why be a member of this Group? So we are looking to put on practical workshops in this country, develop a mentoring scheme for new members and communicate more comprehensively through electronic means. Younger members than I are much more savvy about the brave new world of social media but if we are to attract and retain younger people we need to embrace this. The same goes for photography itself, where smartphones seem to be the photographic tools of choice among younger generations.

So a fresh approach is what we are thinking about and as a start we have decided not to have our traditional Spring Weekend, but to have a day event on April 16th at which David Noton will be one of the speakers, giving a presentation on his work that includes his travel photography as well as his landscape work. Also on the programme is a presentation on Smartphone photography, from which I am sure everyone will be able to learn. Further details are on our section of the RPS website.

I hope you will participate in some of the new events we are planning – information about them will be sent out via the e-newsletter – and which we hope will encourage you to develop your photography. In the meantime, Happy Travelling.

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Travel Log Issue 72 Contents

- 2 Editorial
- 4 Falmouth Travel Group Weekend
Margaret Hocking
- 8 Fairtrade in action in South Africa
Dennis Rigg
- 12 Peru- more than Macchu Picchu
Michael Cook
- 16 Rwanda
Margaret Johnson
- 22 Around the world in 80 days, part 2
Aline Hopkins, LRPS
- 30 Events diary
Improve your travel photographs
- 31 Digital Forum runner up
Rob Morgan, ARPS
- 32 Digital Forum winner
Hazel Mason, FRPS

Cover picture: Autumn Foliage by Cindy Eccles

If earth is the canvas, then autumn in Utah embodies that splash of color from nature's pallet! One of my favorite places to experience the almost overwhelming visualization of nature's process is the Wasatch Range in my home state of Utah. This view is from a narrow paved road. For this shot, I perched my tripod on the very edge of the drop-off with the middle leg braced against the trunk of the bush in the foreground. Morning light in the heart of high-peak mountain ranges can be challenging, especially when attempting to highlight the color yet preserve the highlights. My preference would have been to have some of the fabulous English mist to add a bit more mood, but we don't get much fog in the high desert!



RPS Travel Group
“Springboard to Success”
Spring Event and AGM - April 16th 2016
Booking Form



Contact Details:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel. No.:

Tickets per person:

	Price	Number	Cost
RPS Travel Group Members	£20		
Non RPS Travel Group Members	£25		
Total Cost	-	-	

Preferred name(s) for name badge(s):

1) 2)

3) 4)

Special dietary needs for luncheon

Payment Instructions:

Payments for the total due should be made to RPS Travel Group either by cheque or by BACS payment to 20-05-06, account number 70789453.

In either case please send completed booking form to:

Robert Akester LRPS, RPS Travel Group, The Lodge, The Bourne, Salisbury Avenue, Harpenden, Herts., AL5 2PS or Email: bob.akester@btinternet.com

Tickets will not be issued this year, so SAEs are not required. I plan to email confirmations as soon as possible after receipt, starting after mid March.

TRAVEL GROUP WEEKEND IN FALMOUTH

A report by Margaret Hocking ARPS

Twenty one people gathered in Falmouth for the weekend of Friday October 9th and were joined by four local RPS members at various times. Luckily the weather was dry throughout although the lighting was not as good as we would have liked. The weekend was based at the Falmouth Hotel, beautifully situated above Castle Beach and with views stretching from Pendennis Point and Castle (built by Henry VIII) to the west coast of the Lizard Peninsula.

Those who arrived early were taken on a short tour of Falmouth on Friday afternoon. Highlights included the views over the harbour to Flushing and the old streets and quays. A procession of schoolchildren came by as part of the annual Oyster Festival which celebrates the opening of the oyster fishing season. One girl managed to keep a hula hoop going while walking on stilts!! Traditional oyster boats go out working the oyster beds; the only place this still happens in the UK. And the oysters on sale were delicious!

On Saturday there was a trip to West Penwith; in particular to Porth Nanven near St Just. This beach is beloved by

the cliffs, are frequent photographic subjects. In addition there was a wealth of other mining remains begging to be photographed. The group returned to Falmouth by different routes seeing more of the moors and prehistoric remains. In the evening a dinner was held in the hotel, followed by an excellent talk by local wildlife and landscape photographer David Chapman. He also modelled his latest tank top, knitted by his wife and featuring pop groups with bird or wildlife names and a capercaillie hat!

Most people stayed on for Sunday when a visit was made to Kynance Cove on the Lizard. Unfortunately the sea had cut a channel in the sand which precluded access to part of the beach but it was still possible to appreciate the spectacular rock formations and the green and red colours of the serpentine. After lunch the group crossed the peninsula to the little village of Cadgwith where colourful fishing boats were pulled up on the beach. There is a lovely little church and picturesque thatched

Traditional oyster boats go out working the oyster beds...the oysters on sale were delicious!

photographers and was cited in a recent RPS Journal article on landscape photography. It is characterised by huge round boulders that have fallen out of the adjacent cliff. In the distance are the Brisons, rocks which look a bit like De Gaulle in his bath! After lunch in St Just, the party moved on to Botallack. This is an old mining area where the Crowns, two engine houses at the bottom of



cottages in the village, as well as a good ice cream shop! Finally a few made the trip to Lizard Point, the most southerly point of mainland UK. The scenery was magnificent and the most southerly rabbits were very much in evidence too, as well as some seals. Sadly the famous choughs kept away.

A number of folk stayed on for a few days longer to experience more of the magic of Cornwall, but it seems everyone enjoyed their week-end in the far south-west.

Opposite

Pink Rock- Kynace-Jenny Esse

This page

Lanyon Quoit- Jane Murphy

Street Artist, Falmouth-

Andrew Barrow







Opposite

The Brisons- Philip Pound
The Group- Margaret Hocking

This page

Peeling Paint- Dennis Anguige
Cadwith- Margaret Hocking





A Photo Assignment with a Difference

The story of a visit to South Africa by Dennis

Rigg and his wife to see Fairtrade in action.



My wife's involvement with the Fairtrade campaign in our home town led to an interesting opportunity this year, but one that is available to anyone prepared to try something a little different. Traidcraft, a company which sells Fairtrade products from Africa, Asia and South America, also arranges tours which combine meeting some of the producers with visits to more traditional tourist attractions. This year we joined a small group heading for South Africa to meet raisin growers, rooibos tea growers and wine producers. My assignment was to make a photographic record to show people back home something of life in the those communities and in other communities we encountered along the way. My bonus was to have a little time to photograph some of the stunning scenery and wildlife in that vast country.

At various stages on the tour we stopped to enjoy the magnificent scenery and of course to take photographs. Travelling with a group whose primary purpose was not photography meant that shots had to be taken as and when possible, rather than being able to wait for the ideal moment. I was very glad not to have to worry about the

cost of film and processing in a digital age. When trying to photograph the projects we visited there were problems of rooms lit by just a small window or by windows along just one side. Use of a flash produced unacceptable shadows and high ISO ratings led to noisy images. Finding the acceptable compromise had to be done quickly each time as there's no opportunity for a second try. We travelled with a small, lightweight laptop and a portable hard drive so that each evening we could back up that day's photographs. Carrying two spare sets of memory cards meant never running out of space during the day, and transferring them to the hard drive meant that if the cards did all fill up some shots could be deleted from them.

We also visited the township of Langa where some people still live in horrifically overcrowded housing but where there is optimism and hope too.

Lunch in a restaurant improbably situated in a street of houses was accompanied by musicians who were keen to teach us to play with them. Artists and craftspeople work in cramped conditions to produce beautiful items for sale.

Seeing the raisin producers working to grow grapes on the edge of the Kalahari desert brought home the importance of the river, not just for irrigation but for cooking, washing and as a source of drinking water. We spent some time hearing about their hopes for the future, their problems with government bureaucracy and the importance of the Fairtrade contracts. Sitting in comfort in the UK it's hard to imagine that children fall behind at school because they can't bring their homework home in the rainy season as there's no way to keep it dry. Having the Fairtrade premium meant that the raisin cooperative had been able to buy school bags for the children of their members, enabling them to keep up with their better-off school-mates. Everywhere we went, the emphasis was very much on the work being done to improve the chances of the children for the future. We were able to share a meal with some of the growers and to leave them with some samples of the Geobars we'd brought containing the raisins they grow.

From the edge of the Kalahari we headed up to the Cederberg region to find out about Rooibos tea production. There we were being taken for a hike through the bush to find some shrubs ready for harvesting and then to see the tea being chopped and fermented ready for brewing (Image of Marie & Tempi chopping & fermenting rooibos). Small scale projects were everywhere, providing solar power for a light in the evening, pumping water to where it's needed, an eco lodge for real "away from it all" holiday breaks for tourists coming to see the wild flowers in spring, and providing dentures for the elderly in their community. All were helped and supported by being part of a larger

cooperative so that even those who only produce a couple of sacks of rooibos a year can share in the benefits of a sustainable income.

By far the largest project we visited was the Fairhills wine cooperative. This was started with support from a commercial wine grower and benefits from their expertise and knowledge. They have been producing Fairtrade wine for some years now, and have a school, a library and an IT facility to show for their increased income. A library bus to reach the outlying farms is the latest of their investments. The families of the Fairhills cooperative are keen to invest in their children's future. The small children no longer accompany their parents to the fields but go to a proper day nursery where they are cared for and given a decent meal in the middle of the day.

The trip finished with a photo safari to the Kruger National Park, home to many of Africa's native animals, both large and small. We were very fortunate indeed to see the "big 5" in one day, only to repeat many of them the next. Challenges for the photographer here included holding a camera with long lens in a safari vehicle which moved every time one of the other occupants moved, but perhaps the biggest challenge was the natural camouflage of the animals themselves. Spotting leopards lying still in the dappled shade under a tree was not easy. Not being allowed to get out of the vehicle has its own problems, though being attacked by a buffalo or an elephant would have been worse!

All in all, it was a challenging project; whilst not yielding many portfolio quality images it was one which expanded my photographic experience and I am glad to have undertaken.

These pages
Augrabies Falls
Lions in Kruger
Lisbon Falls







Opposite page
Elephants in the game reserve
Langa Township Artist

This page
Fishing
An orphan boy
Chopping and fermenting



Peru

- more than Machu Picchu

Michael Cook explores the World Heritage site of Machu Picchu as well as many other wonderful places in Peru.



Whilst no trip to Peru would be complete without a visit to the World Heritage archaeological site at Machu Picchu, the country has much else to offer both scenically and culturally. Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world with its inhabited floating reed islands is unique, and the train journey on the Andean Explorer from Puno to Cuzco must rank as one of the great railway journeys. Watching Condors with a 3-metre wingspan soaring on thermals in the Colca Canyon is a must for any wildlife enthusiast. The interesting cities, colourful markets and reminders of the Inca civilisation offer

something for everyone.

Anyone contemplating a visit to Peru has to factor in one important component – altitude. An exploration of the country will involve spending time at altitudes up to 4,900 metres. How the body reacts may vary from person to person and from day to day for any individual. A gradual ascent, starting at sea level in Lima is probably the best way to achieve a degree of acclimatisation. The effects of altitude are widely recognised in the tourist areas; drinking coca tea is the recommended simple remedy which better hotels have freely available to guests and many have

oxygen available if needed.

Our two-week tour took us to Lima – Arequipa – Colca Canyon – Lake Titicaca – Cuzco – the Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Cuzco – Lima, by air, road and rail.

Lima and Arequipa are interesting cities with markets, grand buildings, churches, former monasteries and convents, leafy squares and much more (the tour itinerary described Arequipa as perhaps the most strikingly beautiful city in Peru). As with any escorted tour not specifically geared for photographers, pictures have to be taken on the hoof, making the best of the opportunities

presented, regardless of weather conditions and the time of day.

The visit to the Colca Canyon involved an early start in order to arrive at Condors Cross as the rising sun generated thermals. On the drive to the canyon the scenery was spectacular in the early morning light, throwing the pre-Inca terraces into sharp relief. At our destination we were rewarded with numerous sightings of magnificent condors and other large birds riding the thermals. On the return trip there were several stops to photograph the scenery.

Onward to Puno and Lake Titicaca. The hotel was situated on the shore of the lake with distant views of the floating reed islands and dramatic sunrises. A full day tour of the floating islands introduced us to how the Uros people construct the islands from totora reed and also build their houses and boats from the same material. Tourism helps to sustain this way of life; visits are regulated to ensure that all islanders receive a fair share of the tourist trade and the chance to sell items of native craftwork, whilst

continuing to pursue their traditional livelihoods of fishing and raising domestic fowl.

Next was the train journey on the Andean Explorer which is in the tradition of the Orient Express/Pullman. The journey began in Puno, passing through the market. Densely populated with stalls and with goods displayed between the rails of the track, the train proceeds at walking pace warning of its approach with an almost continuous hooting. The tide of humanity parts to let the train pass, and immediately closes behind it. Alongside the line goods on sale were arranged in groups - used car parts, bicycles, mobile phones, books, and every other commodity imaginable. Leaving the city behind the train traversed the Andean plains then climbed to over 4,200 metres with dramatic views of snow-capped mountains. Throughout the ten hour journey there was not a dull moment and the open viewing platform at the rear of the observation car was ideal for photography.

And so to Cuzco, an impressive

city once the capital of the Inca Empire. The conquistadors attempted to remodel it in the colonial style, but it retains many Inca walls, arches and doorways. Situated at 3,310 metres a walking tour is best taken as a gentle amble admiring the many fine buildings, narrow streets, colourful textiles for sale, and to linger in the main square or one of its overlooking café balconies.

Nearing the end of the trip we travelled through the Sacred Valley visiting a weaving demonstration en-route, to reach our final destination, Machu Picchu. Much photographed and familiar as it is through travel brochures, Machu Picchu does not disappoint. The location, the scale, and the quality of the ruins are truly memorable.

Opposite
Machu Picchu

Below
Colca Canyon



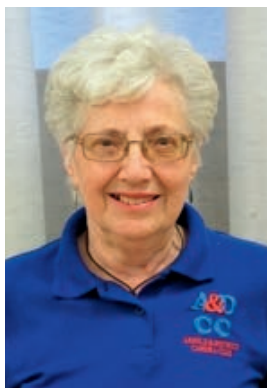




Opposite page
Arequipa Convent
Andean Explorer
Condor

This page
Women in traditional dress
Floating village on Lake Titicaca





Rwanda

Margaret Johnson LRPS



In March 2015, I and three other Oxfam volunteers from various parts of the country went to Rwanda on an Oxfam Communications & Exposure tour. Rwanda is a land-locked country in east-central Africa and its lowest point is 3,117ft above sea level. It is called “the land of a thousand hills”. We went to the Virunga mountains and visited ten projects that were supported by Oxfam together with its local partners Duterimbere, AMIR and Kigali Farms. All are concerned with empowering women by providing access to finance, knowledge and training. We were based in Kigali and travelled out daily to see these projects. Kigali itself was a very modern city, and extremely clean with no litter. This was no doubt due to the fact that plastic is banned in the country and you can be arrested and fined if you are seen carrying a plastic bag! We had one free day spent walking in Kigali. We visited two interesting art projects and then a small local restaurant; a

two course meal with drinks cost us the equivalent of about £4 for the four of us. The lady owner is putting herself through university by financing herself on the earnings from the restaurant. She was one of the few people we met, apart from in the hotels, who spoke English.

Our guides, Dieudonne and Frederic, took us to the Genocide Museum. We all found this an extremely hard visit. The museum is in a very beautiful place on a hill. Inside were all the details of the genocide, with photographs and writings about the actual event. There were landscaped gardens and a wall covered in the names of those known to have died in 1994. They are still finding bodies and bringing them here for burial. It was a place of great sadness, yet also of hope. As we were told many times “there are no tribes here, we are all Rwandans.”

We visited some remote parts of this beautiful country

to look at pineapple propagation, growing and juice making, a tree tomato farm and nursery, cassava leaf collecting and processing, passion fruit grafting and oyster mushroom growing. It was all absolutely fascinating and we met and talked (through our interpreters) to some very interesting people.

We were extremely impressed with the projects we visited, the methods involved, and the people working to make a huge social impact in the lives of Rwandans. These co-operatives are all about sharing and inclusivity, with women the major targeted beneficiaries, men are not excluded and all are included in community discussions

We felt extremely privileged to be given the opportunity to see the work Oxfam, along with its partners, is doing in Rwanda

and decision-making. Oxfam is deliberately providing part time work for women so they can still look after both households and children. We saw how a small amount of money can go a long way. It was particularly so with Seraphina who was part of the cassava leaves project. With the 3,000 RWf she earns each week from the leaves she has been able to buy pens and books for her children and other items for the household; she said that her older children might not have dropped out of school if she had had the income she has now. We were impressed with the science behind the methods implemented in each project. It demonstrated the organisations such as Oxfam and Duterimbere play an important role in providing technical expertise so that projects are successful and sustainable. The tour also gave us a better and even new understanding of Oxfam's role as a facilitator; it is not simply acting as a donor. We felt extremely privileged to be given the opportunity to see the work Oxfam, along with its partners, is doing in Rwanda and the ways in which it is putting theory into practice. It was a hard but rewarding ten days in which we had a lot of fun, made lifelong friends and would all love to go back again. It was in many ways a life changing experience.



These pages
Rwandan countryside
Seraphina



These pages, clockwise,
Keeping the accounts
Mother and child
Kigali roundabout
Welcome by villagers
Ladies of the passion fruit grafting project







These pages, clockwise
In the office
Looking on
Irrigation scheme
Kigali motor scooters
Kigali restaurant



My Around the World in 80 Days

Part 2

Aline Hopkins LRPS

Aline continues her travels and completes her tour in New Zealand, Australia and Singapore

Below
Christchurch

Opposite
Lake Tekapo, New Zealand

My next stop was Christchurch, New Zealand. The flight from Auckland was over range after range of snow-capped mountains. I knew that Christchurch had had an earthquake in 2011, but nothing had prepared me for the devastation, the total absence of any habitable buildings in the centre of the city.

People are resilient, however, and businesses had created a shopping

area constructed entirely from shipping containers where once there had been streets and shops.

It was spring here, and the cherry trees were in full, resplendent bloom. Hiring a car, I headed south down the coast and then turned inland to Lake Tekapo, which is the most unbelievable shade of turquoise-blue-green. Flanked by snow-covered mountain ranges, this place was truly picturesque. The

small Church of the Good Shepherd has an enviable position right on the shore, with a window behind the altar looking directly down the lake.

Further south, there were more lakes of unbelievable hues and incredible views of Mount Cook rising massively in the hazy distance.

From Queenstown, I took a trip to Milford Sound, on a very rainy day, on roads where avalanches



had occurred and been cleared, but more looked likely. Visibility in the Sound was intermittent, but the rainfall produced numerous waterfalls, gushing down from the steep-sided, incredibly high walls of this fjord. Boats appeared tiny by comparison, going as close to the waterfalls as they dared in an attempt to get the tourists they carried thoroughly soaked. Sorry, I take that back: to provide them with good photo opportunities.

Heading north again, I stopped at Lake Wanaka, where I discovered that the Haast Pass, which I was due to cross next morning to reach the west coast, was closed – blocked by landslides.

Fortunately, next morning it had re-opened. I drove up with some trepidation and had to stop where a man in work clothes was holding up traffic. “Go when I tell you to, drive slowly, keep going and do as the men over there say” were his instructions. I set off along the track the men had cleared through the massive mudslide, weaving around boulders until I reached the far side. I breathed a sigh of relief. The rest of the pass had other mudslides, but none as big as that one. I later discovered that two people had been washed away, and found dead, a week earlier.

On the west coast, I saw the unusual formations of the Pancake Rocks, visited the Franz Josef glacier and saw kiwis – in captivity, I’m sorry to say. As with all of south island, the scenery as I drove north was fantastic and, at times, utterly



breath-taking. When I reached Nelson, on the north coast, the beautiful weather which had been with me since Queenstown finally broke, so I had a rest day before heading south to Kaikura – the place to go whale watching in New Zealand. I was not disappointed.

After half an hour in a catamaran on fairly choppy seas, which, unfortunately, some of my fellow passengers found nauseating, the boat stopped when the sounds of a sperm whale were heard over a microphone lowered into the sea. It surfaced close to the boat

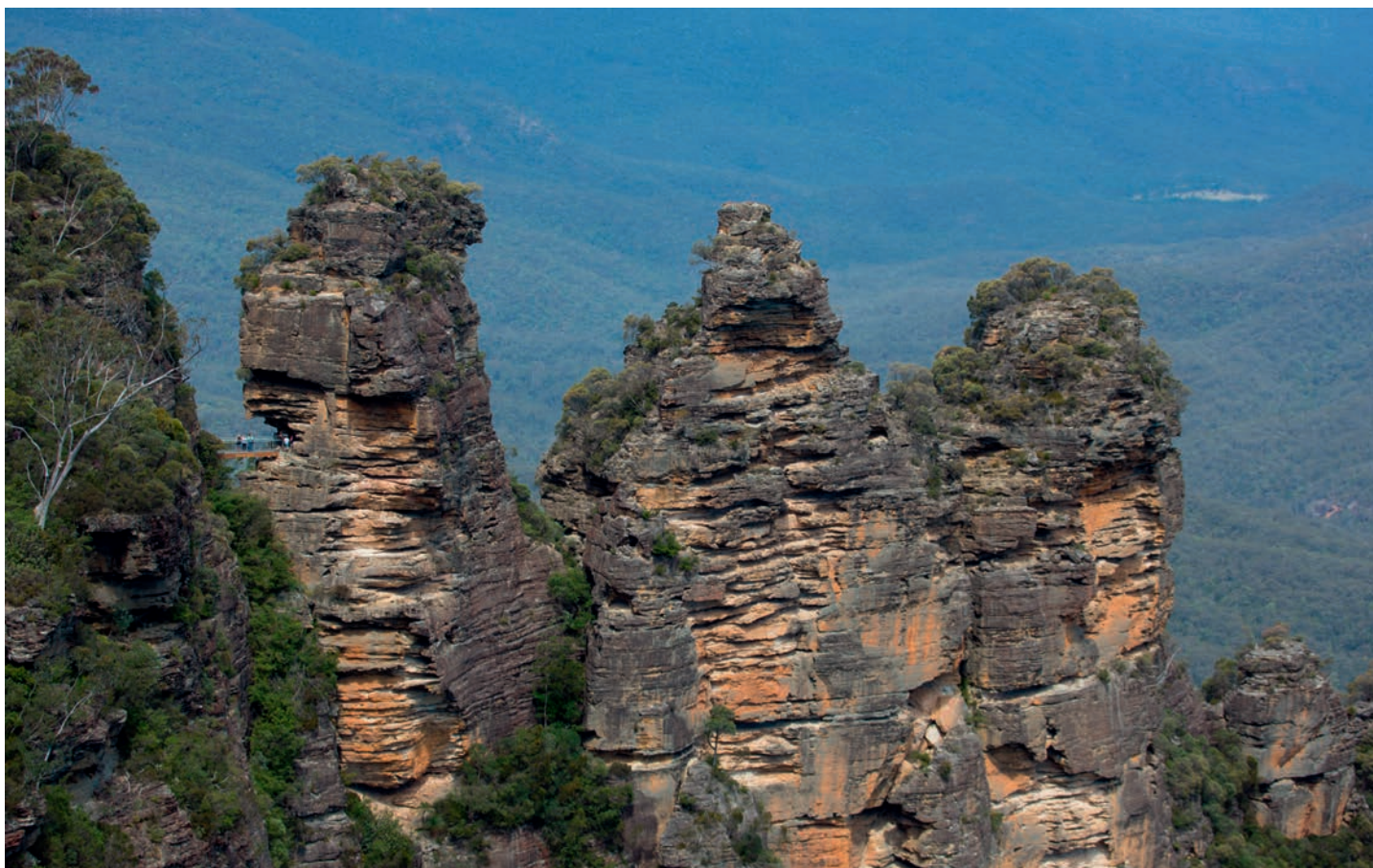
and did a few shallow dives, swimming not too far away from us before doing a final big dive, tail flukes full in the air, and that was it. Show over. The captain informed us that the whale then stays underwater for up to forty minutes and that there was no point hanging around waiting for it to surface





Opposite
South Island, New Zealand
Sperm Whale, New Zealand

Above
Don't drop the baby!



Above
The Three Sisters, Australia

Below
Humpback Whale, Australia



again. On the way back to the harbour, the boat took a small diversion for people to see seals on the rocks near the shore.

South island appears, in some places, to be over-run with seals. On my way up the west coast, I had seen several colonies, and more on the way south from Nelson. A car park near Kaikoura's south bay had seals lounging around all over the place, with signs everywhere warning people not to get too close. The seals didn't seem too bothered; I didn't see any that weren't fast asleep!

Returning to Christchurch, I noticed that the cherry blossom had faded; it had been a glorious riot of colour flanking the roads when I arrived; now it had gone.

A night flight took me to Sydney, where I was to spend the next week. I was surprised to discover that it was the week of celebrations – 'the International Fleet Review' – to mark the 100th anniversary of the entry of the first Royal Australian Navy Fleet into Sydney harbour. Consequently, ships of all shapes and sizes from various navies of the world were converging on Sydney, and so were the tall ships – an unexpected bonus. I booked to go on a whale-watching excursion, and, as my boat sailed out of the harbour, the tall ships were lining up to sail in.

It was October, and, at this time of year, humpback whales pass the entrance to Sydney harbour on their annual migration. Luckily,

there were several humpback whales passing by that day, and they put on quite a show of breaching, head slapping and tail waving. It was raining, and the guide on the boat said that he thought they liked the feel of the rain on their skin, adding, "You should see them when it's hailing!"

Next day, I took a tour to the Blue Mountains. On a previous visit some years ago, the Three Sisters were hidden by fog, but, on this occasion, the skies were clear, the Sisters were visible, and tourists were everywhere. The area has been developed substantially since my last visit, and now there are viewing platforms, shops and restaurants, and a cable car.

The following day was gloriously sunny, so I decided to go on another whale-watching trip. As we sailed out of the harbour, battleships from Australia, France, Japan and the USA sailed in, with sailors lined up along the decks in true ceremonial fashion. As the boat left the shelter of Sydney harbour, it became clear that the swell was a real problem. People started getting sea-sick, and the Captain announced he was returning to the harbour. At that point, someone announced they had seen a whale blow, so we headed in that direction instead, and even more people got sea-sick. It wasn't long before the Captain took the boat back to the harbour, where we sailed around for a while watching the battleships sail in, greeted by innumerable

small sailing boats. Sydney Harbour soon resembled the maritime equivalent of Piccadilly Circus.

The following day, Prince Harry arrived to take part in the official ceremonies. To escape it all, I took a trip to Port Stephens, where I went on a dolphin-spotting cruise and was rewarded with good views of several groups of dolphins. Even better viewing was to be had at the harbour side, where baby swallows were being fed at regular intervals by their parents, on the wing.

That evening, the celebrations were brought to a close with a magnificent display of fireworks, typically Sydney. What was a surprise was the further firework display at Darling Harbour, apparently a regular Saturday-night event and something I thought we should adopt back home.

A hot and steamy Singapore awaited. This island seems to be in a state of constant redevelopment and construction, and sometimes it's difficult to tell whether a building is being put up or taken down.

For a relatively small island, Singapore offers a great deal to see. Little India and Chinatown are both fascinating and have managed to keep some of the traditional shops and dwellings despite all the work going on around them. Reclaimed land to the south now houses the 'Gardens by the Bay', where man-made tree structures make for an interesting landscape. The Singapore

Humpback whales passed by that day, and they put on quite a show of breaching, head slapping and tail waving.

Flyer (like the London Eye) is a new addition since my last visit, and the Marina Bay Sands hotel, with a boat-shaped structure atop its three towers, really dominates the skyline. One place to go to escape the hustle and bustle is the Botanic Gardens, which houses a superb orchid garden. The hot and humid climate offers perfect

conditions for orchids to thrive, and they grow here in abundance. I, on the other hand, don't fare so well in the heat and humidity and was pleased to rest with a cool drink and an ice cream beside a pond covered in giant water lilies.

The metro system in Singapore is one of the cleanest in the world, and I

rode on it to the western suburb of Jurong, where there is a very large bird park, housing many of Asia's colourful bird species.

Sadly, I couldn't stay there very long, as I had an evening flight to Frankfurt, where I caught a flight to Manchester, and, from there, a train home.

I had kept a journal on

my trip and, writing up my final day, realised that it was day 80 of my trip. I had been around the world in 80 days, admittedly not overland in the style of Verne's Phileas Fogg and of Michael Palin, but it had still been an amazing adventure.

Was it the trip of a lifetime? Perhaps – until the next one!



Left
Sri Mariamman Temple

Opposite
Gardens by the Bay, Singapore
Singapore



Travel Log – Events/Tours Update – February 2016

Happy New Year everyone. The Travel Group has another busy year coming up and your committee hopes to meet some of you at one or more of the events lined up this year.

By the time you read this it will be too late to book on the Japan trip but you will be able to read the trip report in a forthcoming issue of Travel Log.

There are still places available on the two trips to Cambodia, the first from the 21st May to the 2nd June, and the second from the 12th to the 24th of November. If you have dreamed of visiting the famous Angkor Wat complex, now is your chance.

The committee decided to instigate a change to the 'traditional' Spring Weekend this year in response to a decline in the number of members attending. As the majority of Travel Group members live in the south of England, it was decided to hold a one day symposium close to London this year with a renowned professional photographer as keynote speaker. So, on the 16th of April David Noton will be giving two separate presentations at our event at the Runnymede Hotel in Surrey. There will also be a talk on smartphone photography by Tony Smith, and RPS President Walter Benzie will be presenting his vision for the future of the Society. The Travel Group Annual General Meeting will also be held during the day. Booking for this event can be done via the Travel Group section of the RPS website.

We are very keen to hear from you – Travel Group members – as to whether this new-style Spring Event is the format you would like to see in the future, or whether you prefer the 'traditional' Spring Weekend.

Coming up in September is a trip to Soria and Old

Castile in north-eastern Spain. This is from 27th September to 3rd October and will offer opportunities to capture images of traditional village life, architecture and landscapes.

We are pleased that Andrew Barrow, award-winning wine writer, has organised a weekend in Wallingford for Travel Group members. This will take place from the 7th to the 9th of October and will feature Jeanne Horak-Druiff as guest speaker, and local photographer Damian Ward will lead a workshop and some walks around the local area. Wallingford in an historic market town with many interesting attractions in the surrounding area, including Brightwell Vineyard.

We have plans for some exciting tours in 2017, including Yellowstone, southern Africa, Cuba and the Channel Islands, plus a number of weekend workshops – watch this space! If you are wondering why some potential trips which I have mentioned in this column previously have fallen off the agenda, it is due to the lack of positive responses from members. So, if you are interested in any of these planned trips, do let me know.

Details of the above are on the Travel Group website – rps.org/special-interest-groups/travel/events. It is well worth looking at this on a regular basis as other events may be slotted into the programme as they are arranged.

Our events only happen because people volunteer to make them happen. If you would be willing to organise a week or weekend event in the UK, or a tour further afield, for the Travel Group, we would love to hear from you.

Or, if you have suggestions for tours or events you would like to see organised by the Travel Group, do contact me – alinehopkins@btinternet.com

Springboard to Success – The Annual Travel Group Spring Event

"An opportunity to improve your travel photographs in 2016"

As announced in December, we are holding a special one-day event in the London area on 16th April at which the internationally renowned Travel and Landscape Photographer, David Noton will be our main speaker. David's new 2016 audio/visual show is a must for anyone seeking inspiration and wishing to learn how to improve. We also have a talk on the use of Smartphones in travel photography by a much-travelled photographer, Tony Smith. Our President, Walter Benzie Hon FRPS will be describing his vision for the Society and presenting the awards for our Annual Projected Image Competition. Our AGM will also be held at the same location on that day.

Our venue is the Runnymede Hotel (<http://www.runnymedehotel.com>) which is easily accessible from the M25, has bedrooms for those

travelling from afar, and is close to alternative accommodation if preferred.

The hotel is near to several photo opportunities including Windsor Castle, Magna Carta Memorial, the River Thames (beside the hotel) and of course, London itself.

Registration is £20 for Travel Group members, £25 for other RPS members and guests. The price includes attendance at all sessions, morning coffee, lunchtime buffet and afternoon tea. The booking form is on our website or can be emailed to you - contact: bob.akester@btinternet.com

The Annual general meeting will be held during the day and registration is not required for members who wish to attend the AGM only.

Digital Forum, Round 35 Runner up Rob Morgan ARPS



Walking the Dog in Sidmouth by Rob Morgan ARPS

I travelled half way around the world to capture this image, though I accept that it may be just a 4d bus ride away for some others on our quarterly Travel blog. I was standing near this fruit shop hoping to get an image of people buying produce when I spotted this couple

approaching. Fortunately they didn't see me (I made out I was photographing something else until the last minute) and then the lady on the left was good enough to add her reaction to them.

North Chin State Burma by Hazel Mason FRPS (Winner see overleaf)

This image was taken in Hakka in the Chin State- an area recently affected by flooding and bordering India. Hakka is the main town, despite that, as foreigners we were only

accepted in one hotel and they initially said there was no room. It is a mountainous state. This little girl and her dog were sitting at the doorway to the family shop. Taken on a Canon EOS 1DX, 70-200mm lens ISO 400 1/250 f3.5

Digital Forum, Round 35 Winner Hazel Mason FRPS



Details on previous page.