

DI News June 2021



'Westcliffe Lift and Trees' by Cherry Larcombe ARPS

Winner of the Digital Imaging monthly competition for May

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As I hope you noticed from the email message announcing this newsletter, our Chair, Ian Race has had to step down. Until we find a new one, Rex Waygood and I have agreed to act as Co-Chairs. There is more information later in this newsletter about ways members can get involved and lend a hand.

As we're heading into the summer with on-again, off-again lockdown restrictions and travel opportunities, it can seem as though RPS activities are slowing down. Just to remind you, though, that entry for our Annual Projected Image Competition will open mid-summer. Watch your email and this newsletter for more information.

The programme of online events we initiated last spring continues. There are two events ready now for booking, and some very exciting speakers lined up going forward. Later this month we have the thought-provoking [Guy Tal on 'Creativity and Expression in Photography'](#) and in July the legendary and entertaining [Leigh Preston with 'IS THIS IT? Beyond Street Photography.'](#) As usual, these are free for Digital Imaging members.

In the meantime, stay safe!



Deborah Loth
DI News Editor
digchair@rps.org

Celebrating the surreal in the 2021 Creative Photo Awards



The 2021 Siena Creative Photo Awards proudly sits at the inventive and experimental end of the photography competition spectrum. This year's winning selections showcase evocative visions spanning plastic waves, chic chameleons, and freaky forks. [Read more](#)

To view the gallery and not the ads, click where it says 'VIEW 21 IMAGES' in the upper righthand corner of the first image.

MONTHLY ONLINE COMPETITION

The winner of our May monthly online competition 'Westcliffe Lift and Trees' by Cherry Larcombe ARPS, featured on the cover. (For more information about the friendly monthly competition, including how to enter, visit www.rps.org/DIGMonComp.)



Cherry Larcombe ARPS

A lovely surprise to have won this month's competition! Thank you to everyone who voted for my image.

Until a few weeks ago I had lived in Ramsgate in East Kent for ten years and within a short walk from my house was the top of Westcliffe overlooking the sea. I have taken many shots of this place over the years as the elements within this view are very attractive.

I was drawn by the shape of the line of trees with the sea behind. You can also see the top of a now-derelict lift and the trick is to get into the position where the lift is singled out within the line of trees. There is also a rather ugly building to the left of the lift which took me quite a while to take out in Photoshop but this ensured the lift was the only building within the image and gave it prominence.

The original image was taken on my iPhone and heavily edited in Photoshop. I used two layers of texture which were taken using the iPhone and originated from pages of an old book and then different colour tones added to brighten the scene. Finally the image was cropped and squashed to a square shape which gives a 'Lowry' look and feel to the trees and lift.

Members Annual Projected Image Competition



Free to enter

Digital Imaging members only

Full information in next month's newsletter and online, so keep your eye on your email.

Joint second place was 'Feather Swirl' by Mike Cowdrey ARPS.



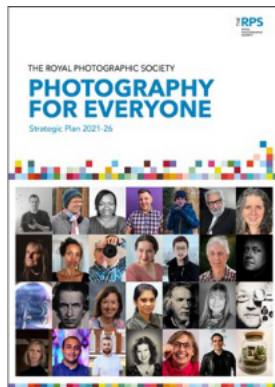
Also in joint second place was 'Book Ends' by Catherine Fowler.



PHOTOGRAPHY FOR EVERYONE

Last month the RPS announced its Strategic Plan for the next five years. Here's what it says:

"Throughout our 168-year history, the Royal Photographic Society has grown and evolved alongside the practice of photography. This evolution has been driven by the ambitions of our members, by leaps in technology, and by changes in society.



Today, we recognise there are many new challenges and opportunities, and that photography is as important now as it has ever been.

We are therefore delighted to publish Photography for Everyone, our new strategic plan for the next five years. It has been created over many months in consultation with members, staff, trustees, and volunteers throughout the RPS."

Details are in the May Journal, but you can find out more [HERE](#).

AN OVERSEAS MEMBER

Dave Watson ARPS shares some images of the night sky taken from his home in Andalucia, Spain. To see more of Dave's images visit his website www.qdigital-astro.com.



Dave Watson ARPS

I have always held a deep fascination with the night sky, as a young boy I would look up at the stars and gaze in sheer wonder. So naturally, when I first began in photography, astrophotography was high on my list to learn and take images of the night sky, however it never happened. It wasn't until I retired and moved to Spain that my location up in the mountains was ideal for astrophotography being very dry with extremely clear skies and no light pollution.



M42 Orion Nebula is a diffuse nebula situated south of Orion's Belt, is one of the brightest nebulae and is visible to the naked eye. Located at a distance of 1,344 light years it is the closest region of massive star formation to Earth. Photo Dave Watson ARPS.



M31 Andromeda Galaxy is a spiral galaxy approximately 2.5 million light years away in the Andromeda constellation and is the nearest spiral galaxy to our Milky Way galaxy (where 1 light year is approximately 5.89 trillion miles). Photo Dave Watson ARPS.

So I decided it was now or never...and the very steep learning curve began! I did my research work, read everything I could about the subject, and finally bought the necessary telescope, telescope mount, software and associated kit. The basic elements of this new hobby include the understanding of long exposure images, focus, and image processing which was exactly the same as to the photography I was used to, wrong! From this point on it was almost 2 years before I produced my first image that I could be proud of, in fact M42 Orion Nebula was only the

second image I took...it's one of the most infuriating and mind-bending hobbies I have ever undertaken...but I got there in the end.

It's not as simple as one would imagine, point the telescope at an area of the sky and press the trigger, done. Not quite, for example, the image of M31 Andromeda Galaxy is processed from more than 300 separate images with a total exposure time of 18 hours with a mixture of 30s, 300s and 600s individual exposures. You need this amount of images to maximise the signal while keeping the noise to a minimum, very important in astro-images otherwise they can be ruined. This image took about a month to produce from start to finish.

There are many different types of astrophotography, from wide-angle Milky Way photography to imaging more distant objects through an astronomical telescope, with photographers tending to specialise on either imaging the planets, the moon or deep sky, with each requiring their own specific type of equipment, set up and processing techniques to capture the image.

Deep sky imaging is where I spend a lot of my time with my own telescope and, more recently, using a remote telescope in Siding Springs, Australia. Capturing deep space astro-photography images can produce some of the most spectacular photos you will see. Here you are capturing images of objects like red and blue nebulae, and galaxies.

Just on a technical note, all these images have been taken with a monochrome camera with the sensor cooled to -20°C, the colour images being created by imaging the object with red, green, blue and UV filters and colour combining the channels in the processing software.

SUPPORT THE RPS WHILE SHOPPING ON AMAZON

smile.amazon.co.uk

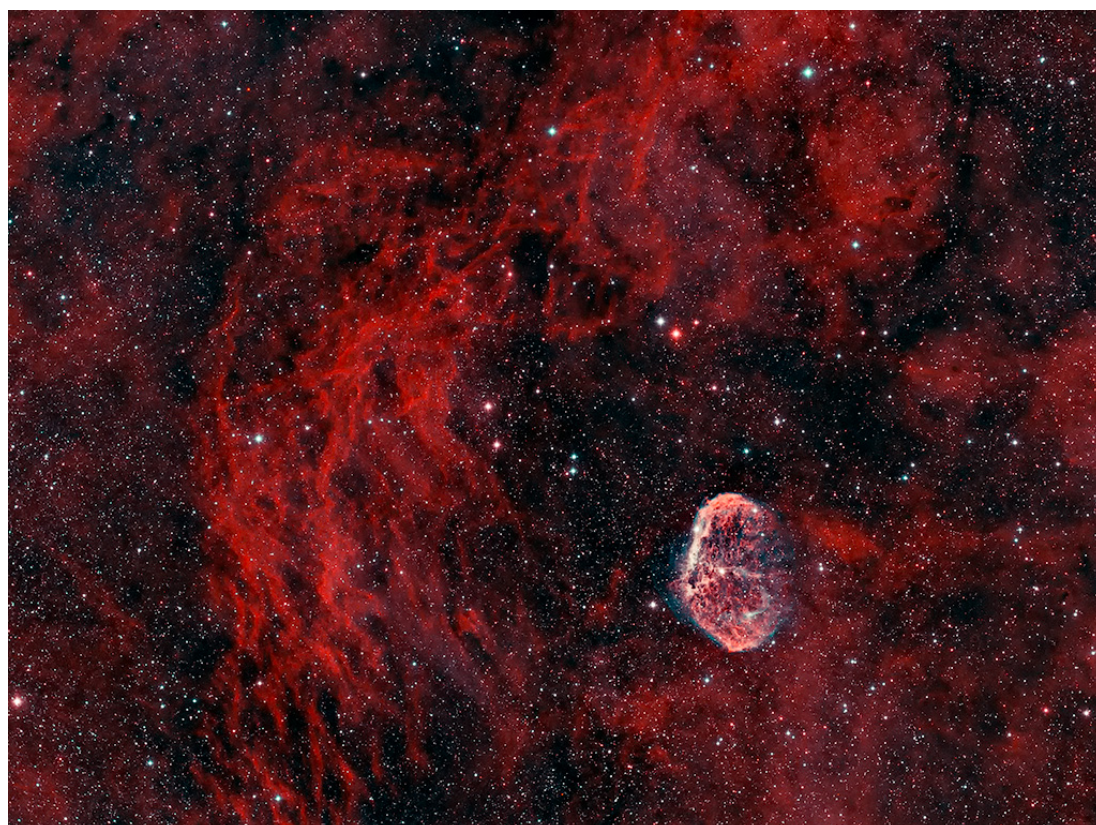
The RPS has registered with Amazon Smile. If you're buying anything on Amazon, please do so through Amazon Smile and nominate the Royal Photographic Society - it will receive a donation of 0.5% of your net purchase price every time, and it won't cost you anything! Details [here](#).



NGC6188 Fighting Dragons Of Ara is an emission nebula located about 4,000 light years away in the constellation Ara and a visible bright open cluster is responsible for a region of reflection nebulosity. Photo Dave Watson ARPS.



NGC7000 American Nebula is an emission nebula in the constellation Cygnus. It resembles that of the continent of North America, complete with a prominent Gulf of Mexico and covers an area of more than four times the size of the full moon. Photo Dave Watson ARPS.



NGC6888 Crescent Nebula is an emission nebula in the constellation Cygnus, about 5,000 light years away. It is formed by the fast stellar winds colliding with and energizing the slower moving wind ejected from a dying star. Photo Dave Watson ARPS.



NGC3576 Statue Of Liberty Nebula, located about 9,000 light years away, is a region of glowing gas in the Sagittarius arm of our Milky Way galaxy. The radiation from the formation and death of stars is responsible for the intriguing & complex shapes. Photo Dave Watson ARPS.

A UK MEMBER

In addition to his LRPS distinction, Ray Bridges has picked up CPAGB, ADPS and BPE3. Given his service with his camera clubs and as a judge and lecturer, we'd like to know how he finds the time.*



Ray Bridges LRPS

A 21st birthday gift of a Praktica VLC opened the door on a lifetime of photography. I joined Maidstone Camera Club in 1978 (I am an Honorary Vice-President for Life) and Tenterden Camera Club when it was founded 5 years ago. Beginning with shots of steam locomotives, fuelled by my enthusiasm for all things railway, my image-making became eclectic in the extreme.

My biggest passion however is making images of the landscape, particularly the Lake District, local woodlands around my home town of Tenterden and the Romney Marsh. Enforced retirement at the age of 44 and my increased physical disability means my fell walking days ended and this meant that my landscape work became confined to views from car parks, lay-bys, the roadside and anywhere I can use my mobility scooter.

I have recently retired from being a Premier Judge and Lecturer for the KCPA, but my passion for image making is undimmed. Photography drives me to explore the great outdoors and is a great form of therapy. I enjoy entering competitions and exhibitions in my club, nationally and internationally.



'Winter Sunlight, Hemsted Forest' by Ray Bridges LRPS



'Last Light on the Fells' by Ray Bridges LRPS

As carrying lots of camera gear has become more difficult I recently switched from Canon full frame to the Olympus micro four thirds system. This has freed me up considerably and I now enjoy my image making without the burden of hernia inducing equipment. I am currently doing a fairly long term project on the Hemsted Forest near Cranbrook (about 5 miles from home), maybe with a view to producing a panel of work for an Associateship submission. Using my Olympus OMD EM5 mark 3 and the 12-100mm f4 Pro lens means I rarely need to carry any other kit on my expeditions. This combination fulfils 80% of my needs.

I have a simple ambition, just to enjoy being in the great outdoors and taking pictures that I enjoy and hopefully, on the odd occasion, others may also appreciate.



'Farming Under the Fells' by Ray Bridges LRPS



'Dawn at Monk Coniston' by Ray Bridges ARPS



'Snow in the Forest' by Ray Bridges LRPS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Neil Atkinson	Tyne and Wear
Eric Begbie LRPS	Stirlingshire
Jill Bewley LRPS	Wiltshire
Samantha Buchanan	Cambridgeshire
Christian Cherlea	Switzerland
Linda Cooke	London
John Curgenvin LRPS	Hampshire
Margaret Dane LRPS	Surrey
Isabella Hillhouse LRPS	Argyll and Bute
Anita Kirkpatrick LRPS	County Fermanagh
Susan Lamerton	Herefordshire
Su Liu	China
Greg Lovett	Avon
Calum McDonald	County Tyrone
Chrissi Newall	Devon
Susi Petherick ARPS	London
Sharon Prenton Jones ARPS	Conwy
Rachael Salisbury	Oxfordshire
Chris Santavy	Mid Glamorgan
Evan Siegel	USA
Kate Somervell	North Yorkshire
Steven Thomas	West Glamorgan
Teri Walker	Somerset
Mark Wardle	Gloucestershire
Ian White	Berkshire
Susan Williams ARPS	Mid Glamorgan
Valerie Williams	Dorset
Ka Chun Wong	Hong Kong

ANOTHER UK MEMBER

Alison Buchanan ARPS describes her journey from professional photography to the pleasure of personal projects.



Alison Buchanan ARPS

After eight years as a wedding and portrait photography photographer, I retired two years ago and have spent the time since exploring personal projects. It is a change in gear when you start making images for yourself rather than clients. I have found myself gravitating towards more abstract photography and in March I was delighted to pass my ARPS with a monochrome panel made up of abstract images of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

I have also watched many of the RPS lectures online and I do hope they continue long after COVID is a memory in that it has given us access to some amazing photographers and workshops. I love finding interest in the less obvious – from my ‘Under the Pier’ project which I then completed with a concertina book under the instruction of Alex Hare on an RPS workshop in January, to patterns in the rivers and sea.



‘Under the Pier Concertina Book’ by Alison Buchanan ARPS

of art and the influence it can have on one’s own thoughts and images. I am experimenting with ICM and ME and the use of colours. I have kept the same camera system I used for weddings but downsized to the mirrorless option of the Canon Eos R which has the functions for in camera multiple exposures.

This past year I have been lucky enough to get onto an online course with Doug Chinnery and Valda Bailey, which has opened my eyes to the world



‘Under the Pier - Entangled’ by Alison Buchanan ARPS

One of my resolutions this year was to do something with my photos rather than let them linger on my computer – I have printed cards, created concertina books and I am now working towards exhibiting with a group of fellow photographers next spring. This has also been a huge learning curve in printing as I have started printing all my own images.

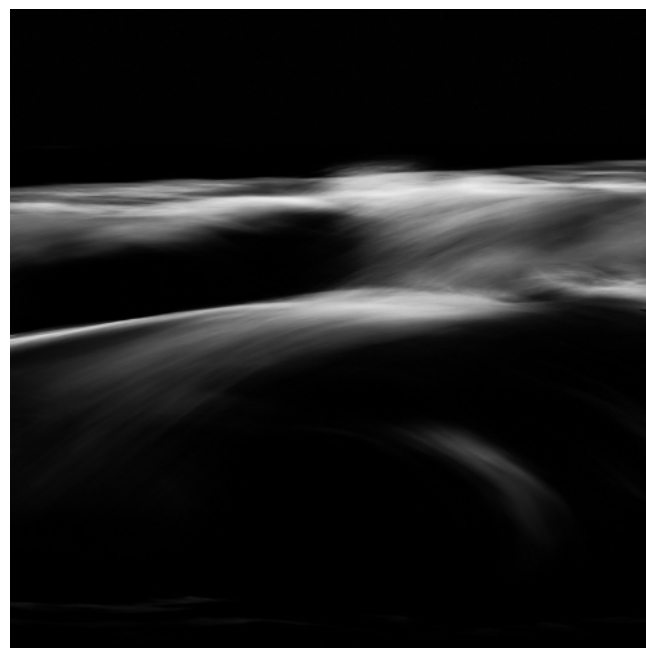
I will look forward to travelling again but I have to say that I think that the lockdown year has been an extraordinary time of opportunity for many photographers.



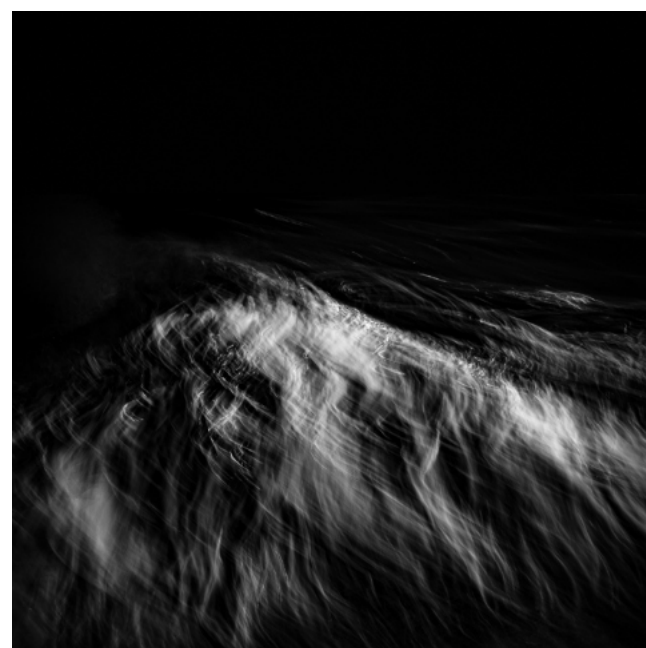
‘Memories of Far Off Places’ by Alison Buchanan ARPS



‘Water Lilies’ by Alison Buchanan ARPS



'Water Studies - Serenity' by Alison Buchanan ARPS



'Water Studies - Mountain Ridge' by Alison Buchanan ARPS

MEMBER DISTINCTIONS

Congratulations to members who were recently awarded Distinctions. All will be invited by Holly to submit their work and story to *Accolade*.

		Paul Reiffer Simon Street Jayne Winter	FRPS Applied FRPS Applied FRPS Landscape
		Janet Brown Colin Yelland	ARPS Applied ARPS Applied
		Thomas Byrne Louise Knaresborough Margaret Powley	LRPS LRPS LRPS

RPS DISTINCTIONS

The new season of Distinctions assessments is underway, with an opportunity to book a place as an observer. This year has ushered in exciting changes to the RPS Distinctions programme, including advice on Statements of Intent, a new Portraiture genre and observer places at Fellowship Assessments. There are new [1:1 statement of intent review](#) sessions. [Bookings for 1:1 portfolio reviews](#) are now open again. These are all covered on the [Distinctions Update](#) page of the RPS website. If you missed any of the excellent Distinctions Live talks, you can catch up [HERE](#).

From Natural History to Visual Arts, you can [now book](#) your Distinction assessment for each level and every genre. As there is a lot of demand, RPS members are being offered priority booking until 9 July 2021. Observer tickets for all assessments are also available to [book now](#).

To see the most up-to-date information on availability on Distinction Assessment Days please choose from the following links:

- [Licentiate \(LRPS\)](#)
- [Associate \(ARPS\)](#)
- [Fellowship \(FRPS\)](#)

For Digital Imaging members, issue 8 of *Accolade*, which delves into members' Distinctions successes, is now available. See the email message which announced this newsletter for a members-only link to it. The RPS has a FAQ page where you can find out more about the status of the assessment programme [HERE](#). In addition, a number of Chapters and Regions have begun to offer online Distinctions Study Groups. You can find these by searching the RPS website [HERE](#). And don't forget the closed Facebook Group: [RPS Distinctions **Official Group**](#).




DIGITAL IMAGING EVENTS & LISTINGS

Although some real-life (as opposed to online) events have been organised, they still may be disrupted by the COVID pandemic. So check on the [events page](#) or with the event organiser for the latest status of any event. There are more events in the pipeline. You can sign up to receive our events listing email at bit.ly/RPSDIEvents. And if you'd like to lend a hand, Centres need volunteers to help with Zoom events, so contact Lyn Phillips (digsecretary@rps.org) to get involved. The Digital Imaging online event programme we've been running since April 2020 will continue indefinitely.

Click on any of these ads to visit the event page:


Digital Imaging: Online
Saturday 26 June 2021
Online



Guy Tal
Creativity & Expression
in Photography

www.rps.org/DIGONLINE21


Digital Imaging: Online
Saturday 17 July 2021
Online



Leigh Preston
IS THIS IT?
Beyond Street Photography

www.rps.org/DIGONLINE22


Digital Imaging: North West
Sunday 26 September 2021
Frodsham WA6 7QN



Tony North DPAGB
The Art of Macro

www.rps.org/dignw-sept21

Digital Imaging: Yorks & NE
Saturday 2 October 2021
York YO23 1BW




Brian McCarthy FRPS
Images from a Small Shed

www.rps.org/events/groups/digital-imaging/2021/october/talk-by-brian-mccarthy/

SIG & REGION LINK

Clicking on any of these ads will take you to its RPS Events page where you can find more information:

DEBORAH WILLIS



RPS Awardees in conversation... Deborah Willis HonFRPS

DATE AND TIME
Tuesday 14 June 2021
18.00 - 19.00 (BST)

VENUE ADDRESS
Online
Join from your location
Link will be supplied

[Book Online](#)
£1



Keron Psillas

DATE AND TIME
22nd June 2021 at 8pm (BST)

VENUE ADDRESS
Online
Join from your location
Link will be supplied

[Book Online](#)
£0 - £4



The Airpano Show

DATE AND TIME
Saturday 26th June 2021
17.00 India time (12.30 UK Time)
Overseas participants
Please check the time of the workshop if you are outside the UK. This link will help you to calculate the timing of the online workshop:
<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/custom.html>

VENUE ADDRESS
Online
Join from your location
Link will be supplied



Talk: Stumbling around in the dark

DATE AND TIME
12 July 2021
20.00 - 21.30 (approx)
Event times are stated in UK time.

VENUE ADDRESS
Online
Join from your location
Link will be supplied

[Book Online](#)
£2 - £8

DIGITAL IMAGING COMMITTEE

The Digital Imaging Committee is busier than ever, and with several of its members doing more than one job it can, in the words of Bilbo Baggins, feel 'thin, like too little butter scraped over too much bread'. One eminent management consultant's recommendation, when it feels like there is too little butter, is to try to cover less bread. Although we do hope to give more thought to the scope of our activities with help from a survey of members in the autumn, we'd like to recruit a bit more butter for the team. (No disrespect to Seth Godin.)

Ideally, we would love someone to put themselves forward to be the new **Digital Imaging Chair** and the sooner the better. Especially if you have experience volunteering with photographic organisations, please consider helping Digital Imaging take advantage of the new opportunities before us in the post-pandemic world. If you want to know more about the role before making a firm commitment then do get in touch with digsecretary@rps.org. We are happy to chat with you, share the role description and co-opt you to the Committee for a trial run-in. The role is a great volunteer opportunity, supported by a strong, hard-working team.



We are also looking for help with other roles:

- Deputy Chair
- Online Event Programme (Secretary or Assistant)
- Centre Organiser for our Eastern Centre
- Centres Liaison
- Social Media Manager

For some of the roles, if you don't have the time to take over the whole job, assisting someone who is already juggling the role would also be helpful.

In addition, we could use people to help others run online events, and can provide any training you might need.

So please contact Lyn Phillips (digsecretary@rps.org) if you are interested.

DIGITAL IMAGING DISCUSSION GROUP

If you're feeling a bit isolated and would like to hang out and chat about photography, please drop by [Digital Imaging](#) on Facebook where you can also ask – and answer - questions. You'll need to join it before you can participate, but the advantage is that it's a closed group open only to Digital Imaging members. It's especially useful if you are experiencing FOMO - Fear Of Missing Out - as a number of useful things often show up there first.

THE RPS WEBSITE

For guidance from the RPS on its website basics, visit <https://rps.org/new-website>. For detailed information on setting up your profile and how to set up a gallery, visit <https://rps.org/media/i3aaf51z/myrps-editing.pdf>.

The RPS maintains a page with updates to COVID-19 issues here: <https://rps.org/covid-19>.

For everyone's convenience, we include this list of shortcuts to the main Digital Imaging pages at the end of each newsletter.

Digital Imaging website shortcuts:

Digital Imaging Home page www.rps.org/DIG
Membership www.rps.org/DIMembership
Committee www.rps.org/DIGCommittee
News www.rps.org/DIGNews
Monthly Competition www.rps.org/DIGMonComp
Print Circle www.rps.org/DIGCircle
AGM www.rps.org/DIGAGM
Print Exhibition www.rps.org/DIGExhibition
Projected Image Competition www.rps.org/DIGPDI
Tutorials www.rps.org/DIGTutorials
Publications www.rps.org/digpubs

There are links to all the Centres from the Digital Imaging Home Page.

The three members-only links (DIGIT Archive, Accolade and Welcome Page) are to be found in the email message announcing this newsletter.

The RPS Digital Imaging constitution can be downloaded [HERE](#).

You can subscribe to our events listing email here: bit.ly/RPSDIEvents.