



Hello again,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe.

This newsletter is a little more comprehensive than those circulated previously – with news of coming Zoom presentations in the region, alongside reviews of some past events and the latest news from the Visual Arts, Contemporary and West Cornwall Groups.

In the meantime, we are looking to next year hopeful that there will be a massive improvement in the Coronavirus situation and we will be planning some field trips on that basis. News of these will be covered in future newsletters.

I do hope you will be able to join and enjoy some of the events in the programme and as always, I am happy to receive your comments and suggestions for the region.

Fran Botwood – many of you will have noticed that Fran has not been apparent on social media of late, I am sorry to say this has been caused by her suffering a massive stroke. She suffered a mini-stroke a couple of years ago and was pleased to attend our last AGM and was looking forward to booking on future events. Unfortunately, this stroke has afflicted her badly and robbed her speech which is a massive blow for someone as sociable as Fran. She is being very well cared for at home by her family and I sure you will join me in sending out best wishes.

Forthcoming Events

Chris Porsz

Date: Wednesday 9th September 2020

Venue: Zoom Presentation Event: 17.50 for 18.00 start Cost – Free



Chris is a street photographer and has gained notoriety particularly for his 40-year project documenting the streets of his native Peterborough. His exhibition at the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery drew over fifteen thousand visitors.

From modest beginnings using a Kodak Instamatic, through Zenith and Praktica to Canon – many photographers of a certain age will recognise his journey. Chris's practice has also changed along with his cameras over the years from the shy use of a telephoto in the early years to the up close and personal use of a wide-angle lens today.

Chris has had a number of notable achievements not least the use of a number of his images in a five-year installation at Luton Airport from 2015.

He has published several books, his first being "New England" in 2012 with 170 pictures from his work from the 1970s and 1980s. His popular book "Reunions" (2016) was spawned after publication of some of his early pictures in the "Peterborough Evening Telegraph" and resulted in him contacting some of those early subjects to arrange to photograph them again in the same locations.

Chris is taking time-off from his latest projects documenting his 45 years in the NHS and also photographing a new set of reunions pictures to join us for this talk.



Chris Porsz from his book “Barking” (2019)

You can see more of Chris’s work on his website at: - <http://www.chrisporsz.com/>

Margaret Salisbury FRPS, MFIAP, FIPF, APAGB, SWPP, SITTP, SINWP

October 28th 2020

Venue: Zoom Presentation Event: 17.50 for 18.00 start Cost – Free

Margaret Salisbury needs little introduction to RPS members and those making up the committed photographic community. Holding a plethora of photographic distinctions and awards including FRPS, MFIAP, FIPF, FSITTP, FSINWP, AWPf and APAGB to mention just a few, her career is littered with one-women exhibitions and she has travelled world-wide to lecture, judge and select exhibitions.

She has for many years been the acknowledged go-to person for advice on obtaining photographic distinctions and qualifications from many organisations.

Margaret estimates she has assisted well over one thousand people obtain distinctions and thousands more to improve their photography.

We are very pleased she has found time to visit us in the South West via the Zoom platform to deliver her latest lecture **The Dragon in Monochrome** This will cover - what it suits and what is good about monochrome pictures etc.

and illustrated with examples of many Genres including:- Land, Sea, City Scapes -Travel - Pictorial - Creative - People, Environmental Portraiture - Nature and Natural History.

The lecture will be formed of two 40-minute presentations with a comfort break in between.

News from the Groups

South West Visual Art Group during Lockdown

Diana Wilkins ARPS reports –

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During Lockdown we have managed to maintain events for the South West Visual Arts Group.

Further to our earlier presentation by Paul Sanders back in April via Zoom we have been entertained by Polina Plotnikova at the end of July, who covered her journey of how her photography evolved and the artists who inspired her. She then showed us her wonderful still life and flower images of different styles and shared some of her processes.

Polina is an Ambassador for “Lensbaby” specialist lenses and she has a presentation discussing these wonderful lenses and how to use them. If there is enough interest in booking her for this presentation, we will organise it. If you are interested please let either Tim or Di know.

We have looked into holding a members’ day type event on Zoom but I am afraid the take-up was rather dismal (2 people) so I am afraid this will not go ahead.

If there is anyone you would like us to endeavour to get as a guest please let Di know. One advantage of the Lockdown is that it enables us to have presentations by photographers from much further afield so any suggestions are most welcome.

Some of the comments on the Polina presentation.

“She was brilliant.”

“absolutely fascinating”.

“A really good presentation and great images.”

“I would just like to say thank you for opening up Polina's talk to other areas. I really enjoyed it, and found it one of the most professional presentations I have seen in recent months.”

“Polina was absolutely amazing”

“I made copious notes last night, the session was easy to follow, incredibly well explained, it was really good to see the area where Polina worked, and the fact that she shared her set up and her kit.”

Southwest Contemporary Group

July 2020 - Adrian Hough LRPS Reports -

Contact adrian.amhough@btinternet.com

The Group was due to meet on 12th July at the usual venue in Dartington but due to the Covid-19 pandemic met instead via Zoom with eight members participating. After a few teething troubles and the convenor forgetting that he had to enable screen-sharing before anyone else could share their screen, the meeting settled down to be surprisingly effective.

Sadly, web-based communication does not lend itself to admiring the products of the darkroom which several of our members usually share and we very much missed this rich visual experience.

Adrian Hough began with a presentation about the comparison between the ways in which Geographers and Photographers think about Landscape and the parallels which exist between their categorisations

Graham Hodgson presented a series of images of Wuhan, which he had culled from Street-view, which interestingly only shows the inside of a museum with no views of any street.

When lockdown began, Nigel West found himself locked down in Adelaide, Australia and as we were meeting by Zoom could still have been there as far as everyone else could actually tell! He presented a series of monochrome images which showed open shops but deserted streets.

Carol Ballinger spends her allotted daily session of exercise during the early days of lockdown in the local wood where she photographed the trees and recorded the birdsong, producing an AV display. We were also treated to a concert by her violin pupils, with each musician recorded separately and then mixed together by Carol.

Vivian Howse had been in the process of producing a display of re-printed vintage photographs of her village when Lockdown came and, realising the value of such images as a visual archive, set out to photograph as many people as possible on their doorsteps or in other socially distanced settings. There was a great willingness on the part of almost everyone to be photographed and in some cases the images were sent to distant relatives enabling them to see an elderly parent. So popular was the project that Viv. Started receiving requests for visits. At the local boatyard, the residents had to be photographed outside the yard as visitors were prohibited. Two variations on the theme were the celebrations of VE day (socially distanced, of course) and the clapping for the NHS.



Vivien Howse – Covid Project

Finally, John Evans-Jones showed two sets of images both of which were instantly recognisable as the product of his imagination by anyone familiar with his work. The first were images from three books which show similar but different images in multiples of four or eight images. One book covered People, one Art and the third book concerned itself with Things. Examples included sets of images of cross-roads from above, the washing hanging on a nearby line on successive days of the week and a set of trees photographed month by month. The second set were panels: 3 by 3; 5 by 5; and 7 by 7 of parts left over after building furniture from a well-known Swedish manufacturer. We were torn between the fascinating way in which the images had been produced and his photo-shopped use of them in IKEA stores and our worries that everything in his house is in danger of imminent collapse.



John Evans-Jones

West Cornwall Group.

Firstly, an enormous vote of thanks to Vivien Howse who has done a sterling job in organising this group for some time. Vivien has now decided to stand down and despite considerable efforts on her part to recruit a new organiser no-one has come forward.

Vivien Howse ARPS reports -

The West Cornwall Group seems to have fizzled out really. I tried to get someone else to take on the organising of it but had no takers. I set up a FB page for us to keep in contact but no-one has really taken to it. The last post was on 23rd May. Martin and I feel that it has run its course and as so much is online now, we feel it is no longer needed.

And thank you to Muriel Somerfield ARPS for writing in with her thanks.

I think Viv is right. The group has contributed a lot to our understanding of photography and I for one have appreciated meeting new people and looking at their contributions but times have changed and our ways of life have also changed. We have access to so many groups and ways of learning now but the SW group was a good stepping stone to appreciate what is now on offer. Thanks to Dave for starting the group, to Viv for continuing to run it so efficiently, to Margaret for providing her projector and to everyone who contributed. Continue to enjoy your photography. Best wishes Muriel.

Obviously, nothing is forever and if in the future someone comes forward and feels there is support and need for the group to be reformed and is prepared to organise it, then I will be happy to consider the situation and assist as appropriate. – Tim

We were very fortunate that Sue Brown FRPS found time in her busy schedule to give us a presentation and personally I found it really thought provoking and I was not alone – some of the other comments –

“Very inspirational please pass on my thanks to Sue”

“I am definitely in awe of her I thought the pictures were wonderful.”

Distinctions – For those working towards or interested in obtaining a Distinction there are obviously no advisory days at present but there are available 1:1 consultation via Zoom. You can find details here: <https://rps.org/events/bristol/2020/april/distinctions-1-1-portfolio-reviews/> you can also find guidance notes from this page.

It is also well worth mentioning the excellent “Distinctions Live” talks which have certainly provided entertainment and inspiration. Many are free and others may incur a very modest cost. These along with other talks can be found here: <https://rps.org/what-s-on/> Do not worry if you have missed some as there is also a link so you can catch-up with previous talks.

Please keep an eye on the website and in particular our South West Region pages

<https://rps.org/regions/south-west/>

Best wishes and stay safe.

Tim

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