



## August 2024 Newsletter

Why?

It's a big question, a philosophical conundrum. In this case, it's why RPS, why RPS Scotland? I guess the second question is easy enough to answer...it's because you live here. But the first question - why do people join the RPS, and stay members? There are many potential answers I guess...the magazines, the craic, the camaraderie, the photographic opportunities. For many folks it's the photographic distinctions journey, and the chance to progress through those elusive and special letters L, A and F.

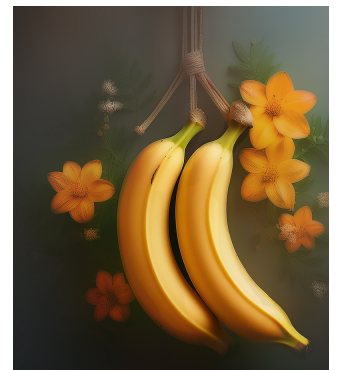
The new Terms of Reference that RPS HQ introduced make specific reference to that, and the roles of Regions and SIGS in helping people along that journey. We have two established Photoforums, and are planning on adding another two, giving the whole membership reasonably local access to that part of the journey. We are also hoping to have 2 regular Advisory Days each year. You will have recently received a separate email about all that, and in that email was a link to a questionnaire / poll in order to help us plan that. Page 5 has an overview of the various stages and options.

We've had over 60 replies already, but here's the link again, so go...fill it in.

<https://forms.gle/91tucSAfCxdLoi8y8>

## Monthly Competition

No results for July as it is a two month competition to allow for everyone's holidays. I'll still post a picture to spur you on, and it was going to be my entry, but I've decided against it. I'll let you make up your own mind why, and tell you the real reason next month.



Littoral Concretion  
- Mairi MacAulay ARPS

**RPS Scotland**



**24 Exhibition**



<https://rps.org/regions/scotland/scotland-monthly-competition/>

Send entries to Ken, sized at 1000px wide, by as many pixels as you want tall, via [scotlandweb@rps.org](mailto:scotlandweb@rps.org)

## Fa's Fa

This month is a wee bit different, a wee bit special, as it's also an announcement. We've been focussing on Committee Members, so that everyone had a handle on the people behind the names. Our Regional Organiser David Ferguson LRPS has extended the RPS Scotland reach by encouraging local representatives who come to Committee meetings, and pitch in the views on behalf of all our arts and pairs. The Big Plan behind this was to encourage natural progression and succession planning of the Office Bearers.

This month's Fa's Fa features Jean Robson FRPS, who is "just" the local representative for Dumfries / South West. However, she is also Membership bod for the Digital Imaging SIG, and is one of the prime movers for the growingly popular Talk-Walk-Talk events. She's also more than that though, as she is our Regional Organiser in-waiting, and will take up her post at the next AGM. Jean's journey through the distinctions to her recent fabulous F, and through the ranks of RPS Scotland's regional network is a classic example to us all



### Jean Robson FRPS

I have always enjoyed taking photographs to share with others but it was only when my children left home, and paid employment was left behind me that I have had time to throw myself into learning about photography. I started with the RPS/OU TG089 course, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Having to post 10 images on a theme and critique those posted by others every week was a great way to practice discussing the attributes of images.

I have worked through the Distinction levels and found that this, for my style of learning, was an ideal way to progress - it is a great way to follow Richard Ellis' advice: "The only photographer that you should compare yourself with is the one you used to be".

I am an active member of the Digital Imaging committee, and RPS Scotland committee as the Dumfries and Galloway representative; and have found volunteering a great way to ensure that your group delivers what you want it to! I am looking forward to a new role with RPS Scotland and hope to build on the good work that is already going on.

Steve asked me to send 'my favourite image', well that is usually the last one that I was happy with, but as I like working in projects it is often overtaken by the next as my understanding of my project develops.

However, I do love this image of a penguin gazing up the statue of Captain Pardo at Point Wild on Elephant Island. We were incredibly lucky to achieve a landing on Elephant Island, and got 2 minutes on land to grab a picture, I got a real thrill from standing where Shackleton's men had survived under the upturned boat. The image is definitely not a great image, but it always sends a shiver down my spine, and is one of the images that made me really want to be able to produce images that convey feelings as well as facts.



Contemporary / Documentary Scottish Group had a recent Day Out in Glasgow, and 10 like-minded souls turned up and took a whole load of very different photos. We also met up with Karen Gordon, one of the stars of the recent PhotoFest 24, and she gave us a guided tour of her Migrants Voice Exhibition in the Kelvingrove. Here's the e-zine:

[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/weegee\\_day\\_out\\_07.24?cta=post-publish-view-live](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/weegee_day_out_07.24?cta=post-publish-view-live)

### **Documentary Photography Awards Exhibition**

That's the DPA Exhibition left Scotland now, and heading for Wales.

The hanging at Stirling was incredibly accurate and regimented, the open night was incredibly busy and chaotic, and the whole month saw a good turn out.

Success. Braw.



# Dalkeith PHOTO2024

DalkeithPhoto will present its inaugural Month of Photography:

**September 8th – October 6th 2024**

An exciting programme of exhibitions of The Buccleuch Family Album Collection (*first showing*), Calum Colvin, The RPS exhibition Squaring the Circles including Tom Hunter, David George, Joy Gregory, Susan Derges and Studies in Photography.

Film screenings at weekends.

All of these can be booked through the Dalkeith Country Park website,

[www.dalkeithcountrypark.co.uk](http://www.dalkeithcountrypark.co.uk)

As spaces for the [symposium](#) on 7th September are limited, we recommend early booking.



Buccleuch Collection



Buccleuch Collection



Tom Hunter



Buccleuch collection



Calum Colvin



Hill and Adamson



David George



Tom Hunter



Ian Philips McLare

**DalkeithPhoto Symposium Saturday 7th September**

**Introduction:**  
Zelda Cheatle, photography curator and author.

**Keynote lecture:**  
Changing Ideals in Pictorial Photography. Pictorialism and the Royal Photographic Society. Michael Pritchard, Photo historian, Consultant to the Royal Photographic Society.

**Constructed Photography.**  
Exhibiting Scottish artist Calum Colvin in conversation with Squaring the Circle artists Tom Hunter and Spencer Rowell.

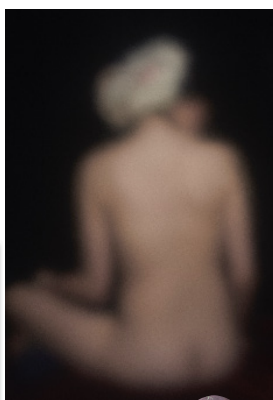
**Cameraless Imagery and early printing techniques.**  
Artist Alex Hamilton in conversation with artists Susan Derges, Angela Chalmers, Joy Gregory.

**Scottish archives,** photographic albums, aristocracy and collections. A conversation with Walter Dalkeith, Luke Gartlan and Alex Lindsay.

**Keynote lecture:**  
The Two-way Gaze: Scotland and the invention of social documentary photography. Sara Stevenson, photographic historian, writer and expert on early Scottish photography.

**The Art and Application of the Daguerreotype.**  
Takashi Arai, artist.

**Tour of the exhibition,** the interaction of Painting & Photography. Pictorialism and Neo Pictorialism with exhibiting Squaring the Circles artists David George, Celine Bodin and David Chalmers.



Celine Bodin



Joy Gregory



Susan Derges

The number of photographic events being held continues to grow, and here's the latest, especially for those of you in the Edinburgh and Borders area...Dalkeith Photo2024.

The event is on from 8th September - 6th October, and starts with a Symposium on Saturday 7th (£55 including a light lunch), and bookable at:

<https://www.dalkeithcountrypark.co.uk/event/dalkeithphoto-symposium/>

Introduction Zelda Cheatle, photography curator and author

Keynote lecture:

Changing Ideals in Pictorial Photography.

Pictorialism and the Royal Photographic Society.

Michael Pritchard, Photo historian,

Consultant to the Royal Photographic Society.

Constructed Photography. Exhibiting Scottish

artist Calum Colvin in conversation with

Squaring the Circle artists Tom Hunter and

Spencer Rowell.

Cameraless Imagery and Early Printing

Techniques. Artist Alex Hamilton in

conversation with artists Susan Derges,

Angela Chalmers and Joy Gregory.

Scottish Archives, Photographic Albums,

Aristocracy and Collections. A conversation

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Invention of Social Documentary

Photography. Sara Stevenson, photographic

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Painting & Photography, Pictorialism and Neo

Pictorialism with exhibiting Squaring the

Circles artists Tom Hunter, David George and

Celine Bodin.

## **RPS Scotland**

### Photoforums and Advisory Days (and 1:1s)

There has long been talk of the “journey”, that mythical pathway from happy snapper to contented F'er. As a result of COVID 1:1s were introduced and quickly became the main route that members used in completing their journey. As an unintended by-product of that Photoforums and Advisory Days have become harder to fill. However, the vibe from senior members is that that switch in emphasis isn't helpful for everyone, so we're hoping to expand our Scottish offerings again for 2025 and future years. You all got the broadcast with the questionnaire / poll, and I've mentioned that on Page 1 of this Newsletter, so maybe it would be appropriate to flesh out what each option offers.

Photoforum - a fun, light and entertaining, audience participation day. An opportunity to bring images that are maybe a putative start to a panel, or a project, or even a fully formed panel, and get informal advice and peer opinion. We hope to have 4 a year, spread throughout the Country.

Advisory Day - a structured and more formal day, where photographers present finished panels at L, A, or F level, and are given official advice and assessment from Panel members. As well as receiving advice on their own images, photographers will be able to see other photographers work, and hear what the advisors say about that, enhancing everyone's knowledge and understanding, and widening everyone's experience. This a key element of an Advisory day. We hope to have two Advisory days a year, covering Ls, and a variety of genres for A and Fs, and they will be centrally based. We also hope to host Assessment sessions at all levels, as the RPS moves out of it's current HQ in Bristol, and takes these events around the Country.

1:1s - very much like Advisory Days, but held online and solely between one photographer and one advisor. Can be direct and precise, and you can have more than one...but, photographers then miss out on the range of views and suggestions that you can get at an Advisory Day, and miss out on seeing other photographer's work, and how they meet or don't meet the standards required.

So, all of the options are slightly different, but they are all equally valid. Some will suit some folks more than others, and some may not suit some folks at all. The main thing is that we hope to offer more choice and variety for RPS members in Scotland next year, and going forward.

## What's On in August?

29th March onwards: Photo Cities - how images shape the Urban World, V&A Dundee. <https://www.vam.ac.uk/dundee/whatson/exhibitions/photo-city>

29th March - 27th October Diorama Map, Dundee, Sohei Nishino V&A Dundee

5th April - 28th August: International Garden Photographer of the Year Verdant Works Dundee, <https://www.dundeeheritagetrust.co.uk/event/exhibition-international-garden-photographer-of-the-year-exhibition-17/>

3rd August, and for the month: Edinburgh Photographic Society - Edinburgh Salon, RPS Scotland Exhibition...a Fringe venue

7th August: RPS Documentary / Contemporary Scotland - Day Out, starting at EPS for the Fringe shows, and then wandering on, contact [contemporarysco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarysco@rps.org) for details.

Further ahead:

September 21st South West Members Afternoon, Haugh of Urr

September 23rd Talk-Walk-Talk Woodlands Talk by Paul Mitchell FRPS, followed by a month of TWT events around the country, including Scotland.

<https://talkwalktalk.org/walk-and-talk-map/219>

October: RPS Scotland Exhibition at the Hub, Eskdalemuir, with an Open Night on 1st October 18.30, including 4 small talks on "What the RPS does for me"

October 27th Northern Photoforum Nairn Community Centre

[roberts.trish@btinternet.com](mailto:roberts.trish@btinternet.com)

<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/rps-scotland-northern-photoforum-2024-5a2NN25N6rR/overview>

November: RPS Scotland Exhibition at the Hub, Eskdalemuir, with an Open Night on 2nd November 18.30, including 4 different small talks on "What the RPS does for me"

November 16th South West PhotoForum Shambellie House

Contact for all SW events: Jean Robson - [digmem@rps.org](mailto:digmem@rps.org)

<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/rps-sw-scotland-photoforum-and-exhibition-5a2NN23WWj2/overview>

March 7-9th 2025 Landscape SIG DoubleTree North Queensferry

<https://billetto.co.uk/e/landscape-group-conference-2025-full-price-tickets-tickets-902441?rr=aHR0cHM6Ly9ychMub3JnLw==>

April 5th 2025 Advisory Day / Annual Exhibition Selection Bridge of Allan

No details on the website yet, and still to fully confirmed but plenty of advance notice so get it in your calendar.

## **RPS Scotland Committee**

### **RPS Regional Organiser:**

Dave Ferguson LRPS [scotland@rps.org](mailto:scotland@rps.org)

### **Committee:**

Ken Ness FRPS [scotlandweb@rps.org](mailto:scotlandweb@rps.org)

Kirsten Bax LRPS [scotlandtreasurer@rps.org](mailto:scotlandtreasurer@rps.org)

Clive Watkins LRPS [scotlandsec@rps.org](mailto:scotlandsec@rps.org)

### **Local contacts:**

#### **Northern**

Trish Roberts ARPS

#### **Grampian**

Nigel Corby FRPS

#### **Tayside**

Robin Millar

Steven Whittaker ARPS

#### **Fife**

Monica Vella

Ken Goodfellow LRPS

Mark Reeves FRPS

#### **Central**

Bob Black

#### **Lanarkshire**

Douglas Thompson FRPS

#### **Edinburgh**

Filipe Teixeira-Dias

#### **Glasgow**

Anne McKelvie

#### **Borders**

Fiona Cadger ARPS

Tracey Largue

#### **Ayrshire**

Tracy Ross LRPS

#### **South West**

Jean Robson FRPS

#### **Orkney**

Jamie Bodley-Scott ARPS