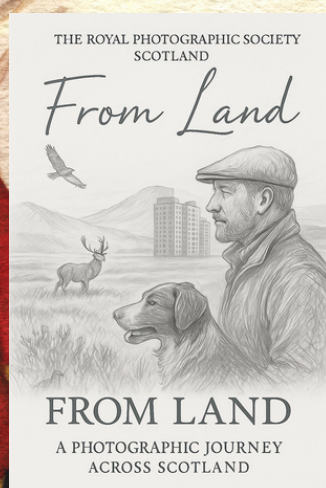




BUMPER FESTIVE EDITION

Wishing you a
happy festive
season filled with
warmth,
memorable
moments, and
reasons to smile.



Neil Goodwin ARPS
Glen Etive

Image on RPS Scotland Group
Facebook page



Dear Members

It has been another eventful month for RPS Scotland. We started off with a Northern Photoforum in Nairn which was very well attended, and as befits the RPS charitable status, it included participation by some non-members from the local area. Over 15 members brought work along to show and discuss, with a good mix of both digital and print images. Feedback from participants was very encouraging with agreement that the event had met its purpose of opening up discussions about images and providing different insights into the work that was shown. Many thanks to the Northern Team, especially Trish Roberts, for another very successful event.

Mid-month, our webmaster, Neil Hutton, hosted a light-painting evening at Camperdown House, Dundee, with Gordon Baird. Fortunately the weather stayed dry, and some stunning images were produced by participants, a selection of which may be seen on the RPS Scotland web-site. We have plans to do another workshop in Northern Scotland next year so please keep an eye out on the events pages and in the Newsletter for details. Another successful event for the Scotland members, with thanks to Neil for organising and mentoring.

We held our first on-line 'Town Hall' event towards the end of the month. The committee presented a summary of what has taken place so far this year and outlined our thoughts for next year's programme. There was a very interesting discussion about reaching out to members in the more remote areas, and recruiting more area representatives to arrange local events, such as those being run in the Northern and Aberdeen areas. We also touched on the situation regarding Distinctions. Overall the message from the Town Hall is that the Committee will continue to act as a facilitator and catalyst for events that members wish to lead-on, whilst continuing to develop a series of events across Scotland. The next opportunity to engage as a group will be at the Region AGM.



We are social! On Facebook as RPS Scotland Group, you will need your membership number to join!

Region Events News Contd...

Myself, Sam and Neil gave a presentation about the RPS at Glenrothes Camera Club during the last week of November, which was very well received and initiated some very interesting discussions about photography in general. As a result we have two prospective new members, with another two photographers who are going to look further into what the RPS, and particularly the Scotland Region, can offer them on their photographic journey.

As I mentioned earlier, there has been no further update from HQ on the progress towards a new Distinctions framework. The next activity should be a consultation questionnaire to recent Distinctions recipients, and the opening up of a feedback channel for all other members. We are holding off on scheduling any Advisory Days for Associate and Fellowship panels until there is more information on any new proposals.

You will all have received an RPS Community Newsletter mid-month from the new Membership and Marketing Team. The intent is 'to offer a more relaxed, personal way to stay connected, and to celebrate members' stories, volunteer groups, regional activities and collaborations'. The new Team is slowly developing their new way of working with the membership and volunteer community, so please engage with them if you have positive suggestions as to what you would like to see coming from HQ to support you on your photographic journey.

Finally, but most significantly, we have had the launch of the book project; more will be revealed in this issue and through the usual media channels. This is a far-reaching, high profile and exciting project for the Region in which we all have the opportunity to participate.



Loxley Colour

Have generously given a 10% discount code for Photographic and Fine Art Prints specifically for RPS Scotland members, single use code

Please note that other Print companies are available and Loxley is not endorsed by The Royal Photographic Society.

Lightpainting at Camperdown House

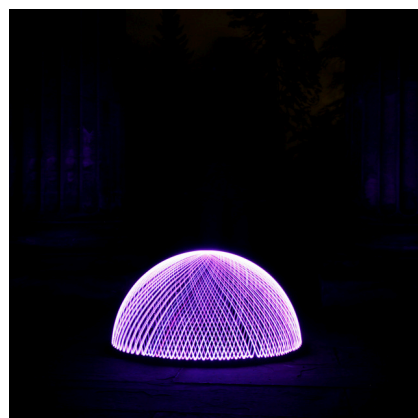
Our introduction to light painting at Camperdown House proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable event. The weather stayed dry, allowing everyone to make the most of the session, and it was a pleasure to meet and work with so many members in such a creative setting. Our sincere thanks go to Gordon Baird from Dundee for generously sharing his time, expertise, and enthusiasm, and to Neil Hutton for his valuable support—both of whom helped make the evening informative and inspiring.



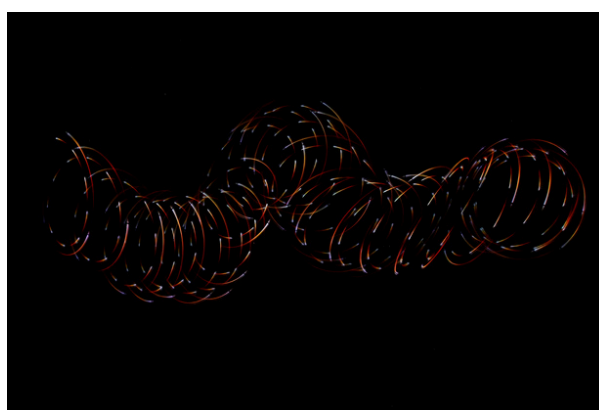
Brian Stewart



Brian Stewart



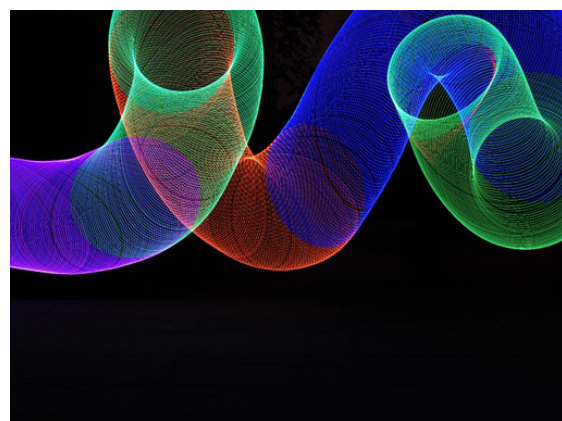
Viv Cotton ARPS



Viv Cotton ARPS



Kit Martin



Kit Martin

MONTHLY COMPETITION INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

Dear Members,

Monthly Competition – December and January

Hi everyone, this month I feel I need to start with an apology and explanation.

Regrettably, despite submitting the email request to head office on time for voting, we are experiencing problems getting this sent out to members in a timely manner and for this I apologise.

You may be aware that any membership emailing, must be sent from Head office to comply with GPDR.

I understand there are ongoing staffing problems at head office, and this has resulted in a recent communique to volunteers outlining new head office time scales for mailings. Unfortunately for November even this new deadline was missed.

The new timescales do not work with our competition and voting deadlines.

We are trying to work with HO to find a solution. Until such time as a solution is found, can I ask that you consider joining the “RPS Scotland Group” on Facebook.

This is a closed group that is managed within Scotland by Peter (Regional Officer) and Sam (Events) and the competition voting survey is posted there each month at the start of the voting window.

It is also a great way to engage, stay in contact with your fellow members, ask questions and post your images.

VOTING

To further complicate things, this month the festive holidays fall within the voting window making membership emailing impossible. To overcome this, the December and January competitions will run with the usual submission dates however voting – for both, will be conducted at the end of January.

December 2025 Competition
1 December - 23rd December

January 2026 Competition
1 January - 23 January

Entries to
scotlandweb@rps.org



The December competition is to demonstrate your Black and White skills, and the topic is “open”

You can interpret this in whatever way you choose. An open door, an open bottle, open fire - or anything you choose – festive or not. There is no right or wrong interpretation. The only restriction is your imagination and with the stipulation that your images are sent as Black and White.

January’s competition, by way of contrast, is vivid/bold use of colour with the topic being “Something Uniquely Scottish”.

January is the month that Rabbe Burns is celebrated but Scotland is so much more than Tartan and Shortbread. Let your imagination run riot.

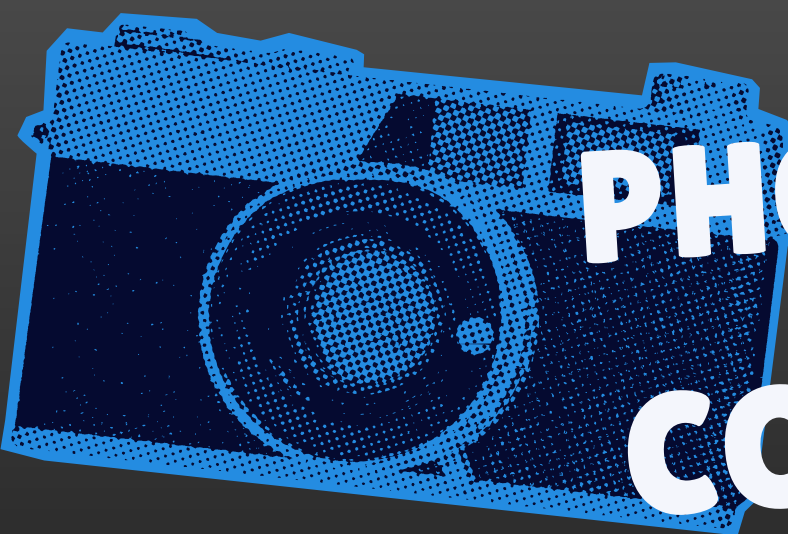
That’s all from me for now other than to wish you all a happy and peaceful festive season and I hope that 2026 is kind to us all.

With best wishes,
Neil Hutton
Scotland Web Officer- Volunteer

THE **RPS**

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

SCOTLAND



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

****LIVE ****

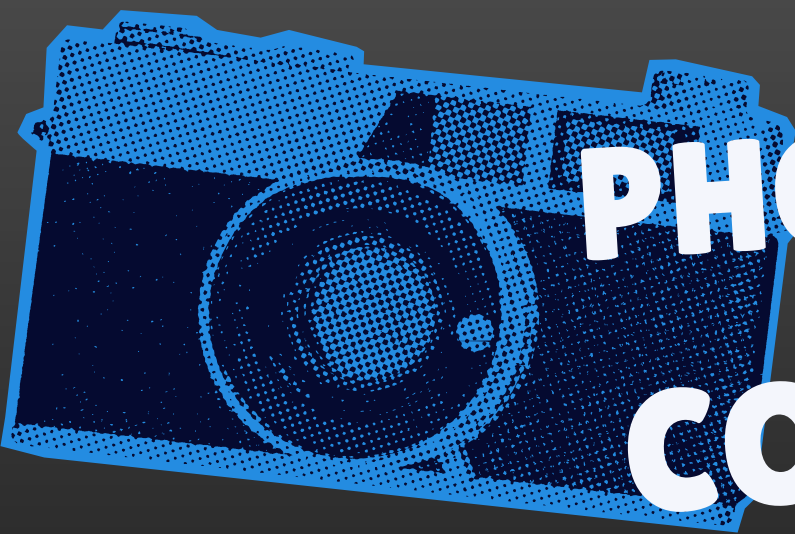
1st December – Rules apply

BLACK AND WHITE – OPEN

THE **RPS**

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

SCOTLAND



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

****LIVE ****

1st January – Rules apply

SOMETHING UNIQUELY SCOTTISH

Winners and placements November 2025 Competition - Lit Long Exposure



Cinderella by Neil Milne ARPS



Harbour Lights by
Roger Hinton LRPS



The Night Train by Steve
McDonald



2026 PROGRAMME

Jennifer Charlton - Portraiture - Wednesday 14 January 2026 7PM



Jennifer Charlton graduated from Robert Gordon University/ Edinburgh College with a BA in Professional Photography in 2023 and went on to be awarded a first-class honours degree through Kingston University and Edinburgh College in 2024. In September she made history becoming the first female and first digital photographer to win the Scottish Portrait Award (Colour) with a portrait of John from her mental health project 'A Hidden Community'. This ongoing personal project was also placed in the finals of the prestigious AOP student awards and runner up at the Photo North Student Photography competition and garnered attention from ITV, the BBC and Broadsheets. She was awarded an "Outstanding Achievement in Photography" award at her graduation at Edinburgh College is currently Artist in Residence there and has just had her solo exhibition in Stirling.

The most recent recognitions came from The Royal Photographic Society when the single mum of three was awarded Associate Photographer and Chartered Photographer status which is the terminal qualification in photography. Jennifer has experienced four generations of her family being affected by mental health issues and has recently been diagnosed with FND as well as suffering from long covid since 2019. Working as a photographer is, however, essential for her mental health and she is determined to navigate these new challenges and continue to earn a living with her work.

Light Through The Shadows: A life In Focus

Jennifer will share her journey as a photographer, talk about her award-winning project 'A Hidden Community' and share her top ten tips she wished someone had told her when she was starting out.



David Gilliver - Lightpainting 24 February 2026 7PM

THE MAGICAL ART OF LIGHT PAINTING

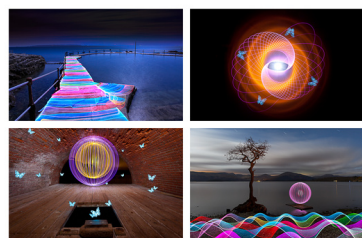
Prepare to enter a world where surreal light-sculptures inhabit familiar landscapes. David's colourful imagination will be on full display during this presentation. He will be discussing in detail both his inspirations and the technical considerations he makes when creating this style of work.

Over the last 15 years David has amassed one of the largest collections of Light Painting tools on the planet and he will be discussing what camera settings he uses, as well as covering what tools can be used for creating different effects on different shoots.

Forget photoshop and the editing process in general for the night – this is all about what a photographer can accomplish through the magic of long exposure photography when combined with a sprinkling of imagination (and a little patience).

I graduated from the Glasgow School of Art in 2001 with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art Photography and have been building my career as a professional photographer and artist ever since. Early on I became captivated by macro photography, inspired by the work of David Levinthal, and spent several years of my degree creating images of toys and figurines—a body of work that earned me a reputation as one of the school's most prolific students. After graduating, I moved to Guernsey for work in offshore finance but stayed creatively active, eventually becoming deeply immersed in long-exposure and light-painting photography. From 2008–2014 I produced a vast nocturnal portfolio and amassed one of the world's largest collections of Light Painting tools. When my daughter was born in 2014, I shifted my focus back to macro photography, finding ways to create whenever time allowed.

Returning to Scotland in 2015 with my wife Melissa and daughter Lea marked a turning point, and in 2018 I made the leap to becoming a full-time artist. Since then my work has gained international attention through exhibitions, workshops, and commissions for clients such as John Lewis, Sony, Adobe, Samsung, Lexus, Honda, ThreeUK, the Noor Riyadh Festival of Light, and AIDA Cruises. Alongside creating bespoke artworks—my greatest passion—I now regularly teach Creative Photography Workshops across the UK, present to schools, colleges, universities, and camera clubs, and continue to share the magical techniques of Light Painting and Macro Photography. Despite the ups and downs, being a full-time artist feels entirely natural, and I'm continually grateful for every opportunity that comes my way.






Meet. Shoot. Sip. – Camera & Coffee!

NOW BOOKABLE ONLINE AT RPS SCOTLAND EVENTS BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

It's a relaxed, informal, and a short event all about connecting with fellow photographers

 One meet-up per month (weather permitting!)

 17 Weekends and weekdays available

 Suggestions welcome! – If you'd like us to bring Camera & Coffee to your area, get in touch.
Even better, volunteer to host one!

 **St Andrews – Friday 12 December 10am - 1pm meet at St Andrews Cathedral**

 **Kelso – Friday 30 January 10am - 1pm meet at TBC**

 **Glasgow Riverside Transport Museum – Friday 20 February 2026 10am - 1pm**

Why join us?

Meet fellow members and enthusiasts in a relaxed setting

Share stories, ideas, and inspiration

Explore new areas with your camera in hand

Enjoy coffee, food, and a welcoming atmosphere

 We'd love your suggestions!

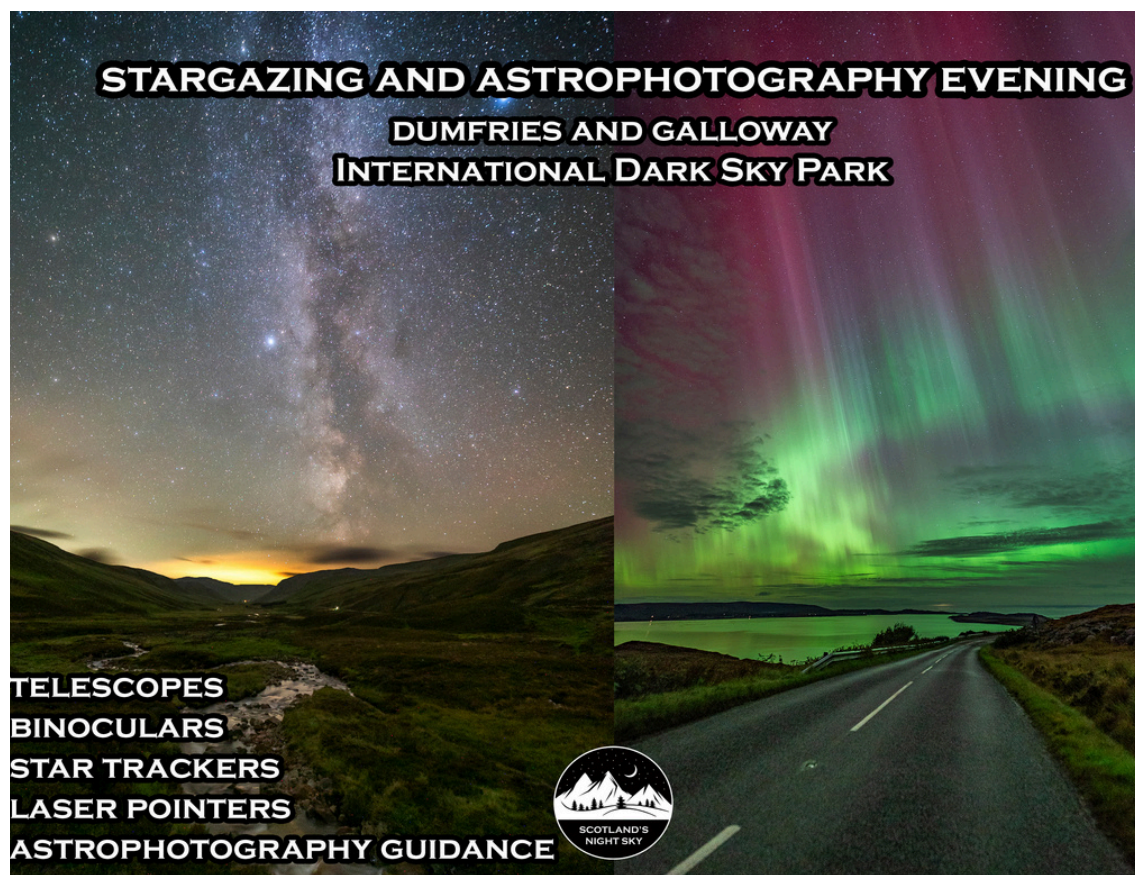
Email Sam at scotlandevents@rps.org if you'd like Camera & Coffee to come to your area, or if you're happy to help host.

**ANDREW ALLAN -
SCOTLANDS NIGHTSKY**

£25 PER PERSON

FULL

- Location = Loch Doon Castle Car Park
- What 3 words = [triathlon.down.sugar](https://www.triathlon.down.sugar)
- Time = 6pm



Come along for a relaxed and inspiring evening under the stars with professional astrophotographer Andrew Allan, where you'll explore the night sky like never before. Using telescopes, binoculars, a laser pointer, and astrophotography gear such as star trackers and filters. Andrew will guide you through the constellations, planets, and other celestial sights visible on the night.

You'll learn how to spot key features in the sky and get hands-on experience looking through telescopes. For anyone curious about astrophotography, there'll be friendly tips on how to capture the night sky with your own camera.

Whether you're a stargazer or photographer Andrew will help you enjoy the beauty of the dark skies of Scotland.

Bring your own refreshments, soup and a roll recommended.



A Walk in the Woods
by
Pat Ness LRPS

The Scotland Region of the Royal Photographic Society will be presenting an exhibition of photographic prints that show the variety of work undertaken by members. It includes images of wildlife, landscapes, people and places taken both in Scotland and around the world and demonstrates a range of photographic techniques to present these subjects.

Eden Court Gallery - Inverness January 2026

Aberdeen Art Centre - Aberdeen February 2026

Royal Photographic Society Landscape Group Members' Exhibition 2025/26



[See the Exhibition](#)

The RPS Landscape Group is holding its second exhibition of members' work across 8+ locations, starting in May 2025 at Southwark Cathedral, before moving to Bristol Central Library, eventually ending in Scotland in Spring 2026. 80 beautiful prints; from London to Antarctica; land & sea; rural & urban; from big scenes to intimate abstracts.

All venues are outdoors, open 24/7

WASPS, Inverness

2 - 17 May 2026

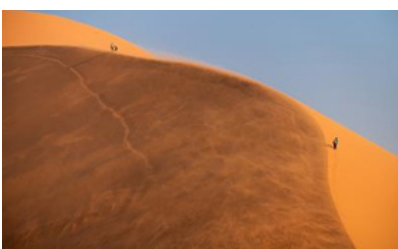
More 2026 dates to be announced



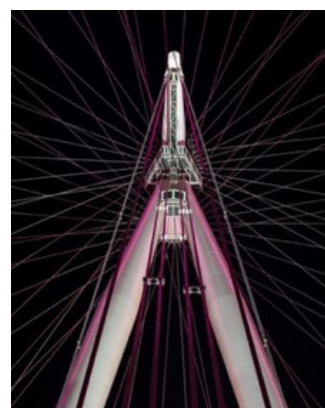
Peter Stott ARPS



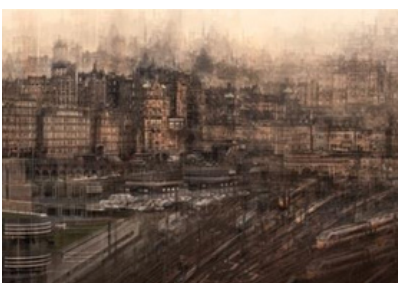
Phillip Dove LRPS



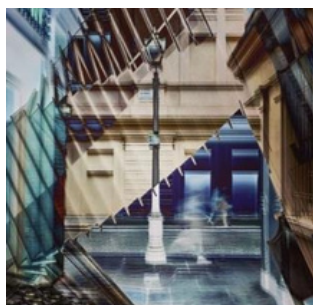
Mark Sims ARPS



Howard Klein LRPS



Morag Forbes LRPS



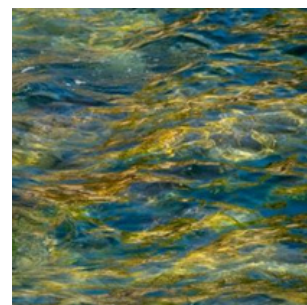
Lesley Peatfield ARPS



Rosemary Wilman HonFRPS



Lindsay Southgate ARPS



Sue Searle LRPS

Founded in 1853, current patron HRH The Princess of Wales, the RPS mission is to bring inspiration, creativity and connection through photography to people of all ages and backgrounds. The Landscape Group has 1200 members and is one of 16 special interest groups.

Website: <https://rps.org/Landscape-EXPO25/> Instagram: [rpslandscape](#) X/Twitter: [@RPSLandscapeExh](#)

Contact: landscapeexhibitionmemberevents@rps.org



Just wanted to say, thank you for getting on board with all the events in 2025, it's been lovely to meet you, zoom and interact!

As those of you who I've spoken with will know, I'm motivated, proactive, creative and quite honestly a bit like the energiser bunny, or so I'm told! 🐰

Looking ahead, we are keen to increase member participation across the RPS Scotland events to help build a stronger photographic community through inclusion, shared learning and enjoyment. By getting involved, you'll help strengthen our community.

Events will be coming in 2026, please continue to check RPS Scotland webpage, and Facebook.

Due to the short notice that sometimes comes from HO, I like to offer spaces and events quickly when cancellations arise and also post reminders, or offers. If you use Facebook, please consider joining our group so you can hear about these opportunities as soon as they appear.

Facebook is also a great way to interact with other members, share your images, and stay connected with what's happening across the group. Whilst I appreciate that not everyone has or likes Facebook, I do need to find an outlet that allows me to communicate with members at scale so that activities and updates reach as many of you as possible.

I'm very keen to make the most of our wonderful membership and the fantastic photographers we have among us. I'd love to invite you to put yourself forward to lead a visit to one of your favourite locations. It doesn't need to be formal or complicated — just a chance for us to get together, share ideas, and learn from one another.

Equally, if there's something specific you've always wanted to photograph but feel you need help with, or if it's a bit tricky to tackle on your own, please do let me know — I may well be able to help.

If you'd be happy to host, suggest a spot, or explore a new idea, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

I look forward to meeting more of you in 2026 and collaborating on new photographic adventures together.

Sam

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
SCOTLAND

From Land



FROM LAND

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY
ACROSS SCOTLAND

From Land, the RPS Scotland book project for 2026, has officially launched, and we are delighted to invite you to be part of this significant creative undertaking. The full presentation behind this page outlines the aims and opportunities of the project, which we hope will become a meaningful celebration of Scotland, its landscapes, its people, and the stories that connect us. We extend our sincere thanks to the selection panel for their time and expertise in supporting this ambitious venture.

Throughout 2026, we will deliver a year-long programme of events, workshops, talks, and photographic opportunities. These activities are designed not only to help you create work for From Land but also to develop your own photographic practice—building your portfolio, exploring new directions, and creating images that may support future distinctions submissions. And importantly, you do not need to travel far to participate: your local area, nearby green spaces, or even your own garden can be a perfect source of inspiration. The project is intentionally limited to images made only in 2026. This deliberate choice will create a visual time capsule of Scotland—a record of a single year that future generations can look back on.

From Land will be a high-quality, hard-cover coffee table book, produced to give Scottish photography the presence it deserves. We are also exploring potential distribution routes, with Sam Events progressing discussions to broaden its reach. To move the project forward, we need your entries, as your participation directly influences the final publication and exhibition. To be transparent:

- The image entry fee will contribute to publication and exhibition costs.
- A final purchase cost for the book will apply, with the exact amount confirmed after production costs are established.
- Should overall interest be too low, the project may need to be adapted.

The exhibitions planned for 2027 will require selected images to be printed. Depending on funding, these prints may need to be paid for separately. Exhibition selections will not be limited to work chosen for the book, allowing the exhibition to stand independently and reflect the full breadth of creativity across the project.

No spoilers regarding selected images will be released during the year; all announcements will be made at the appropriate time.

To ensure a timeless and inclusive design, the final book will feature a contemporary embossed cover rather than a single image. The current working cover is used only for media and visualisation purposes.

Sam is actively exploring suitable gallery venues and will pursue options that help keep exhibition costs as low as possible.

Full submission details—including the entry process—are planned to go online around Christmas. Sam will be travelling in Europe at that time, so we kindly ask for patience should there be any small delays. In the first week of January 2026, the Events page will go live with a range of activities available to book. For those who missed it, the Annandale event was recorded and will be available soon.

Beyond the visual elements, we hope to present a sensory exhibition incorporating materials such as heather, natural sheep's wool, deer hide, and feathers, enabling audiences to connect physically with aspects of the Scottish landscape.

From Land offers a rare, year-long creative journey leading to a major publication and a multi-sensory exhibition reflecting Scotland as it is in 2026—no earlier, no later. We hope you'll join us in creating a record of Scotland that future generations can explore with pride and curiosity.

If you have any questions please contact scotlandevents@rps.org

From Land Presentation

Good afternoon everyone – and thank you for coming along today.

I'm looking forward to taking you through the RPS Scotland project and what it means for the year ahead.

Today marks the launch of From Land – a year-long photographic project running throughout 2026, designed to capture Scotland's landscapes, communities, working lives, and the many ways we connect with the places around us.

We're launching here at Annandale Distillery for a very deliberate reason. The ethos of this distillery aligns beautifully with the heart of From Land. Annandale works in a full-circle relationship with the landscape – taking from local farms and giving back to them, sustaining the very ground that sustains the whisky. Professor David Thomson and his wife, Theresa, have invested deeply in this region, not only through the restoration of Annandale Distillery, but also through their stewardship of The Globe Inn in Dumfries – Robert Burns's own favourite tavern and an important cultural landmark. Their commitment to preserving heritage, supporting local employment, and strengthening community identity makes this an ideal place to begin. Starting our journey here, in the Borders, feels symbolically meaningful; it marks the beginning of a natural progression through Scotland's landscapes, communities, and ultimately to the isles as the project unfolds.

From Land is more than a theme or an exhibition. It's a collective record – a visual time capsule of Scotland in 2026, created through the eyes and everyday experiences of our members.

What From Land Is About

At its core, From Land asks a simple but powerful question:

How does Scotland's land shape us – and how do we, in turn, shape it?

This question opens the door to so many stories – environmental, cultural, personal, social, and industrial. It encourages us to photograph the Scotland we know, not just the dramatic scenes we might normally seek out.

From Land recognises that land isn't only wilderness. It's worked land, lived-in land, shared land, and land shaped by generations of people whose lives are woven into it – gamekeepers, crofters, ghillies, gundog handlers, shepherds, farmers, foresters, conservation teams, rural workers, and community volunteers.

That might be:

- a community allotment waking up in spring
- a harbour in winter rain
- a moorland gamekeeper and his gundog at first light
- a crofter repairing a wall that's stood for generations
- weavers producing Harris Tweed
- a farmer checking fields after heavy weather
- a community project in the middle of the city
- or a familiar hill, seen in a new season

Just as importantly, From Land embraces Scotland's wildlife, flora, and fauna – from red deer on the hillside to seabirds along our coasts; from ancient Caledonian pine forests to machair meadows, heather moorlands, peatlands, and wildflowers that signal the turning of the seasons. Whether it's otters slipping through seaweed, mountain hares in winter coat, or the quiet biodiversity hidden in our city parks, Scotland's natural world is a vital part of our national identity.

This project welcomes every approach: landscape, portraiture, street, documentary, wildlife, drone, environmental, abstract – whatever reveals something unique about Scotland in this moment.

How the Project Works

From Land runs across the entire calendar year of 2026:

Winter – 1 January to 31 March 2026

Spring – 1 April to 30 June 2026

Summer – 1 July to 30 September 2026

Autumn – 1 October to 31 December 2026

Online submissions open on 1 February 2026.

The first image submission is free. Additional entries cost £4 each, or five for £18, and you may enter as many times as you wish.

All images must be taken in 2026, and Exif data must be included. After each season, a selection will be made by a panel and successful contributors will be notified.

All funds raised support the exhibition and photobook.

Accessibility & Opportunities

The project is built to be accessible. You don't need to travel far — meaningful images can come from your street, your workplace, or the landscape outside your home.

We will be running a series of Camera and Coffee outings which will begin in January, running across Scotland from the Borders to the Shetlands. Workshops will also take place throughout the year, focusing on documentary storytelling, photographing people and place, wildlife, drone work, and more.

The Panel

Your images will be selected by a panel that collectively brings together artistic, technical and academic expertise. We are delighted to have:

Trevor Yerbury, FRPS — a renowned fine-art photographer with decades of experience in monochrome portraiture.

Shahbaz Majeed — an award-winning landscape and aerial photographer whose work is recognised internationally.

and

Dr John Post — a photographic practitioner with a PhD, bringing academic depth and narrative understanding.

Their combined experience will help shape the project with insight and integrity, and we thank them for their involvement.

Exhibitions & Photobook

From Land will culminate in:

- a photobook to be published in 2027
- an exhibition with sensory interpretation panels
- regional showcases
- and online galleries

Partnerships and outreach include HRH The Princess of Wales, Scottish Field, Amateur Photographer magazine, and the Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

Why It Matters

From Land documents a defining moment in Scotland's story — capturing environmental change, heritage, working lives, wildlife, and the people whose connection to land runs deep.

This includes gamekeepers, crofters, ghillies, shepherds, farmers, conservationists, and rural workers whose stories are often overlooked but form a vital part of Scotland's identity.

Your images will help create a historical record that future generations can look back on.

Looking Ahead

In late 2027, the companion project To Water will launch, exploring Scotland's relationship with water such as canals, coasts, rivers, lochs, tides, and maritime communities.

Closing

Today marks the beginning of something meaningful. I hope From Land inspires you to look closely, photograph thoughtfully, and see Scotland with fresh eyes. You can keep up to date and make bookings with events happening in 2026 on the RPS Scotland website and on the RPS Scotland Facebook page

Thank you for being here — and thank you again to Trevor Yerbury, Shahbaz Majeed, and Dr John Post for supporting this journey.

The last word.....

If you would like something included please email Peter or Sam before the 20th of each month.

Coming soon

Zoom Talks with

Stewart Wall - Photobook and Zines Wednesday 4 **March** 2026

Karen Miller - Wildlife - Wednesday 25 **March** 2026

Mark Banks - Printing and Paper Choices Thursday 9 **April** 2026

Adventures.....

David Gilliver 2026 - After lightpainting zoom, date to be confirmed

There are other things in the pipeline stay tuned!

**If you want Sam to look at any other in person events drop her a message.
scotlandevents@rps.org**