



## January 2024 Newsletter

Bliadhna Mhàth Ùr

A New Year, a new start, and I hope that 2024 delivers all that you wish for yourself, photographically and personally. It's a chance to review old works, sort out the good and the bad, and move your journey forward. The RPS can help the Photographic You...it's Distinctions programme guides your progress, there are curated online talks and workshops, face to face meetings, Photoforums, Advisory Days, exhibitions, 1:1 sessions, day and weekend events. It all starts with the RPS Scotland website (scan the QR code below), and it ends wherever you want it to.

The Annual Exhibition is now in it's penultimate location, the Eden Court Theatre in Inverness, and it will be there until the end of January, before it moves on to Aberdeen.

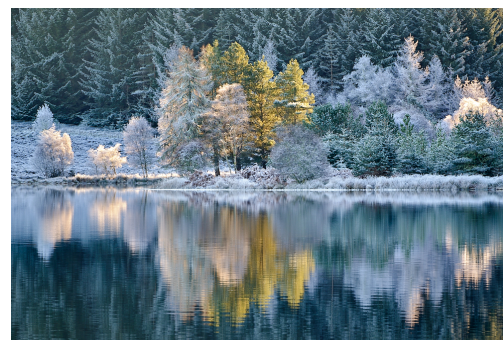
After that it's time to start all over again, and the AGM and exhibition selection will be held in Stirling, on the afternoon of the second day of PhotoFest 24...which in itself is a welcome return to RPS Scotland's biennial weekend event. It's a great chance to meet up with old and new friends, to listen to some of Scotland's most amazing photographers, and to really encourage those photographic juices.

<https://billetto.co.uk/e/photofest-24-tickets-896441>

## Monthly Competition

Drum Roll, December's winner is:

In the Midst of  
Darkness, Light Persists



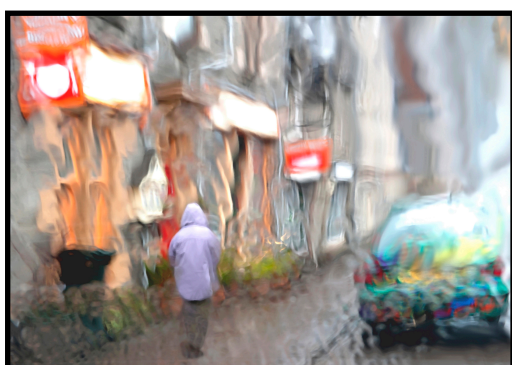
Kevin Arrowsmith LRPS

Well done Kevin, in what was a strong month where most of the entries made me shiver, yours was especially chilly.

January's theme is Your Best Image of '23, and even if you just took one image, that means you have a potential winner, so entries to Ken, sized at 1000px wide, by as many pixels as you want tall, via [Scotlandweb@rps.org](mailto:Scotlandweb@rps.org).

Down Came The Rain Mike Tibbs ARPS

RPS  
Scotland



Exhibition



## PhotoFest 24

Last month we had our first two speakers profiled, and we continue that high high standard with our next two. The weekend is booking up well, and from all over the UK too. Get your tickets booked!

### Karen Gordon



My practise centres on the inclusion of otherwise excluded groups of people in society. My core motivation is that photography at its best can be transformative, allowing those who feel marginalised and vulnerable to gain an invaluable sense of representation and belonging. This may seem idealistic but by working with organisations involved in trying to shift the status quo for the better, I hope to inspire (and be inspired by) further positive change, both on the frontline and at policy making levels. My optimism is backed up by a constructive and methodical approach, where respect towards those in my work is of equal importance to achieving outcomes and results

<https://karengordonphotography...>

<http://www.facebook.com/kareng...>

<http://www.instagram.com/togka...>

Catch Karen's permanent exhibition at the Kelvingrove Museum, it's brilliant.



From Perth

- Travels to Scotland's dark skies and specialises in astrophotography
- Astrophotographer for 5 years
- Keen aurora hunter, traveled to Iceland and Arctic Norway many times to capture aurora
- Filmed content for BBC showcasing Scotland's night sky and collaborated with Martin Compston
- Passion for spreading awareness of Scotland's dark skies
- Recently produced a guide book about everything that Scotland's night skies offers

<https://scotlandsnightsky.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/scotl...>

<https://www.instagram.com/andr...>

<https://www.youtube.com/channe...>



## Fa's Fa

This month it is your current RPS Scotland Secretary, Steven Whittaker.

He's an optometrist, semi-retired having sold his practices and now does locum work for his old Carnoustie practice, some hospital glaucoma clinics, helps cover the Western Isles for drugs and glaucoma, and does a fair bit of education work for NHS Scotland. Married to Audrey for 37 years, with two kids, who are not kids any more, and lives in Arbroath.

Photography wise he was a keen snapper, but the kids and work and a growing dissatisfaction with the Salon / Competition scene meant he took a break for 10+ years, before he bought a DSLR, and got the bug again, rejoining the RPS and getting his L, and A. As well as RPS Scotland, he helps in Contemporary / Documentary by organising the Scottish sub-groups of those SIGs.

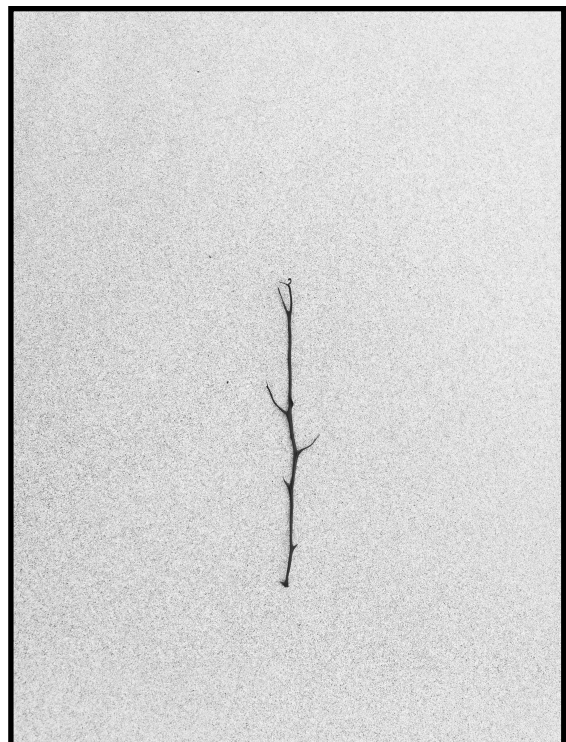
Away from cameras, he is a keen golfer, long term motorcyclist, cyclist, cook / baker and DIYer. Dodgy knees means he has given up the karate, and eased towards yoga instead.



## Strand, on a strand, after Strand

His current favourite image is the one that is in the 22-23 RPS Scotland Exhibition. He has gone all minimalist in his gear...one body, one lens, and is also favouring a "less is more" imagery style. Why make Life, or anything, complicated?

Being originally from Arran he has a strong affinity for Scotland's islands, so doing his qualification years in Lewis / Harris after Uni, and still helping out up there means he can channel his inner Paul Strand on a fairly regular basis.





## Special Interest Groups

Those of you who actually read the Newsletter will have noticed that I've been banging on about the RPS SIGs over the past few months. I do believe quite strongly that it is the SIGs that give us the best value from the RPS, as for their meagre extra sub you can access a whole bunch of fellow photographers who are interested in whichever genre their SIG represents - online and physical magazines, workshops, talks, exhibitions, critical appraisal groups and much more. In Scotland we are very strong in Landscape, Digital Imaging, Creative Eye, and have a Scottish Contemporary / Documentary sub group, and so far I've focussed on those SIGs. But, there are more, and each has a great range of options and offerings, at incredibly low prices:

Visual Art  
Travel  
Medical  
Imaging Science  
Women  
Nature  
Historical  
Audio-visual  
Archaeology and Heritage  
Analogue

Full details of all these SIGs and their respective costings can be found on the main website: <https://rps.org/groups/>

The SIGs are all run by volunteers, and whilst they do get a per capita fee from RPS HQ they run their events and offerings from self generated funds and the goodwill of those volunteers. The Regional groups are all run along the same basis, and RPS HQ is looking to streamline the various Regional / SIG constitutions, to make it easier for each group to be run by these volunteers... saves redesigning the wheel each time. RPS Scotland's AGM will be held on the 2nd day of PhotoFest 24, so anyone who might be keen on helping out in any capacity should get in touch with me. The same applies to all the SIGs I guess, as volunteers are generally thin on the ground...unlike the armchair commando critics. The other way to help out is simply to be active - go to the walks, enter the monthly competition, sign up for Photoforums, join the FB page...you'll get more out of the RPS that way, and your photography will improve too.

Check out what's on in the next page, sign up for the online PhotoForum, either to show or observe, get tickets for the talks, come to PhotoFest.

## What's On in January?

Making Space: Photographs of Architecture. Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh 07/10/23-03/03/24. <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit/scottish-national-portrait-gallery>

18th January 2024 In Conversation with Marc Wilson: Contemporary SIG, <https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/in-conversation-with-marc-wilson-3a2NN2o01/overview>

21st January 2024 Scotland Online Photoforum:, invigilated by Douglas J May FRPS <https://rps.org/regions/scotland/photoforum/>

Further Ahead:

29th February 2024: Documentary SIG: I Burn But I Am Not Consumed, Alicia Bruce

[https://rps.org/events-listing/?\\_cl=MTswOzE7bmhxYUU1YmZ5YUhNcHdWdHdON3dhSHhvZkpuNUE1WVJPVXJhVjh\\_oUllKQmQ3dmlrWnd0Y0c1aGdLM0c2aGxSVjsxLDMsNA==](https://rps.org/events-listing/?_cl=MTswOzE7bmhxYUU1YmZ5YUhNcHdWdHdON3dhSHhvZkpuNUE1WVJPVXJhVjh_oUllKQmQ3dmlrWnd0Y0c1aGdLM0c2aGxSVjsxLDMsNA==)

6th/7th April 2024: PhotoFest '24 and AGM and Exhibition Selection, Stirling University. AGM / Exhibition Selection details will go live on our website nearer the time.

<https://billetto.co.uk/e/photofest-24-tickets-896441>

Ongoing?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000v4db> Dealbh is Slighe - Image and Path, a wonderful series of photography programmes, hosted by Calum McLean. It is in Gaelic, but there are subtitles, and each episode is short but very sweet. Recommended.

'Zines - not been so many Days Out in December, which is understandable, but the recent Talk-Walk-Talk events run by Landscape / Digital Imaging SIGs did produce a fine zine featuring one image from each coastal location that was used by the TWT Volunteers.

[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/t-w-t\\_coastal\\_photography\\_group\\_images](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/t-w-t_coastal_photography_group_images)

The next T-W-T event is Architecture and the Built Environment, and can be booked from 8th January at: <https://talkwalktalk.org/>

There are currently 4 walks organised in Scotland.

## **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)

Steven Whittaker ARPS [scotlandsec@rps.org](mailto:scotlandsec@rps.org)

### **Local contacts:**

#### **Northern**

Dave Shillabeer ARPS

#### **Grampian**

Nigel Corby FRPS

#### **Tayside**

Robin Millar

#### **Fife**

Monica Vella

Ken Goodfellow LRPS

Mark Reeves FRPS

#### **Central**

Bob Black

#### **Lanarkshire**

Douglas Thompson FRPS

#### **Glasgow**

Anne McKelvie

#### **Borders**

Fiona Cadger ARPS

Tracey Largue

#### **Ayrshire**

Clive Watkins LRPS

#### **South West**

Jean Robson FRPS