

February/March
2026



SCOTLAND REGION

NEWSLETTER

Alexander Cargill
Arbroath Signal Tower Museum

Image on RPS Scotland Group Facebook page



Dear Members

A slightly later newsletter this month. We have just had the Region AGM and I would like to thank all members who participated. There was a productive discussion around finances, and also it was noted that we need to replace the acrylic in the frames used for the print exhibition. The RPS CEO, Victoria Humphries took the time to join towards the end of the AGM which was followed by a question and answer session. Points discussed with Victoria included regional organisation, membership, volunteers, finances and distinctions and Victoria engaged openly, answering questions where she could and taking on board points that were raised.

During February we had an inspiring on-line talk by David Gilliver on light painting, where he talked about equipment, techniques and presented a range of very different images which showed the versatility of using light painting in different situations. Particularly noteworthy were images that he had taken as commercial work, showing that light painting has a definite value going beyond artistic interpretation.

So far this year, Sam has run two Camera and Coffee events, with more to come, and feedback has been very positive. Coming up next in the local events schedule we have the Aberdeen Photoforum on 22 March, with an accompanied visit to Troup Head on 27 March.



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

During the month we held an on-line session about the book project - From Land - where Sam and John Post discussed the concept, practicalities and scope of the project. Significantly, RPS HQ have agreed that we can seek sponsorship towards the production of the book, and this is something we will be taking forwards. If you haven't done so already then please do look at the launch material and information on the RPS Scotland web-site and start to submit your images for the first round of selection in April.

The 2025 Print Exhibition finished its tour at Aberdeen Arts Centre on 27 February, exhibited prints will be available for collection at the Celebration and Exhibition Selection event at Bridge of Allan on 11 April, just over a month away. We have three venues lined up for 2026 - Edinburgh Photo Society premises during the Fringe, which always attracts a good number of visitors, Inverness and Aberdeen.

For anyone working towards Distinctions, we anticipate the new framework to be available around July/August. The dates for the assessments under the current framework for the second half of 2026 have almost been finalised and should be available soon. However, guidance from assessors is that if you are working on a panel which is likely to be ready under the new framework then do not feel that you need to stop and wait for details of the new framework; in essence the quality and standard of successful work should not change from that currently expected. We still have spaces on our Advisory Day on 2 May, at Bridge of Allan, and if things run to schedule we may try to organise another date later in the year for members considering applying in early 2027.

We are still looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Regional Secretary so if you have any interest then please get in touch. If things do not always run smoothly then please bear with us as we are a small team working hard to deliver a wide ranging and varied programme.

Neil has recently stepped down from his roles as Web Officer and Competition Setter. We thank him for the work he has done in supporting the region in these roles and for the time he has given to the team, and we are therefore looking for a Web and Communications officer. See more inside about the monthly competition.

I would like to finish by thanking the Scotland Region team, Sam, Trish, Neil and John (not forgetting Nigel in Grampian) for their hard work and support in putting on a strong and varied programme in the last 12 months. Victoria did mention after the AGM that the region is one of the more active in terms of offerings, and she acknowledges the problems we have with geography and reaching our more remote members. I encourage everyone to make the most of what we have to offer and look forward to meeting more of you at events during the coming 12 months.

Peter

Loxley Colour

Have generously given a 10% discount code for Photographic and Fine Art Prints specifically for RPS Scotland members, single use code LOXLEYRPS10

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



**1 SPACE
LEFT**

To provide constructive feedback on portfolios of work during a relaxed and informal day, this is NOT a formal advisory day.

ABERDEEN PHOTOFORUM SUNDAY 22 March 2026

Conference Room at the Aberdeen
Arts Centre, 33 King St.

Meet at 10.00am to start promptly
at 10.30am There will be a break for
lunch and the event will finish
around 4pm

This event is open to all RPS Members and Non-Members
RPS members £12.00 and guests/non members £15.00

* Please advise the organiser if you are bringing work. The number of available slots to present work will be limited by the duration of the event. We will endeavour to show and discuss work by all who indicate that they will be bringing images, however if we do need to limit the available slots then they will be allocated in order of bookings.

Prints. Preferably card mounted, ideally no larger than 50cm x 40cm.

Digital images sRGB colour space, on USB stick (may be sent digitally beforehand if necessary - please contact organiser to arrange).



**Further Details and
to Book**



Email Sam at Scotlandevents@rps.org

LENS &

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026

MEET 10AM RSPB TROUP HEAD

THEN LATE LUNCH IN CULLEN

FINISHING AT BOW FIDDLE ROCK

FULL DETAILS & TO BOOK ONLINE

NEW

**David Leslie of Aberdeenshire
Bird Tours will be joining us at
RSPB Troup Head.**

www.aberdeenshirebirdtours.com



FREE

CELEBRATION OF DISTINCTIONS & EXHIBITION SELECTION

THE RPS
ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
SCOTLAND

This annual event is to give members the opportunity to Celebrate recent Distinction successes by Scotland members and to select the images that will form the 2026 Print Exhibition.

In the morning, attendees will be able to view successful Distinction panels and talk to the photographer about their images. This is an occasion both to acknowledge their achievement and to learn more about successful submissions.

After lunch, attendees will take part in selecting the 40 printed images that will form the RPS Scotland 2026 travelling exhibition.

Morning session - View recent successful Distinctions panels by Scotland members

Afternoon session - Selection of the 40 prints to constitute the 2026 Travelling Exhibition

BRIDGE OF ALLAN PARISH HALL

SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026

10.00 - 16.00



RPS Members - £12

RPS Members Showing Panels - Free

Non-Members - £16

Exhibition Image submission - £5

Tickets will be available on the door

Food

Please bring a packed lunch.

Tea / Coffee / Biscuits will be available.

There are local shops within 5 minutes walking distance for food purchase, if required

Transport

Rail

There are stations at Bridge of Allan and Stirling

Parking

There is a small car park opposite the hall, also on street parking nearby.

Access

All the rooms which we will be using are on the ground floor and accessible by wheelchairs.

Organiser Peter Roberts = scotland@rps.org



ADVISORY DAY A & F PANELS

Elevating Panels. Strengthening Submissions.

Get your panel ready for Assessment in the Autumn! Bring it along for Formal Advice to an RPS Scotland Advisory Day for Associate and Fellowship candidates.

 **17 Saturday 2 May 2026**

 **Bridge of Allan**

 **Advice £25 Observing - £8 Members, £12 Non Members**

-  Genres Covered (Print Only)
- Applied
- Contemporary
- Doc
- Travel
- Photobooks

Photobook formats for advice include completed books, dummy or mock-up books or a series of small prints together with the statement of Intent

Your Advisers

- James Frost FRPS
- Hazel Frost FRPS
- Richard Hall FRPS

Each adviser brings extensive assessment experience and constructive, honest feedback to help you refine both images and intent.

Key Details

- 16 places only
- Booking opens: 09.00am 31 January 2026
- Early booking strongly advised
-  [Find Out More / Book RPS Scotland Webpage](#)

If you're serious about submitting this year, this Advisory Day could make all the difference.



scotland@rps.org

Hi all,
It's been great to see members getting out with their cameras at the recent Camera & Coffee meet-ups. These informal gatherings are all about connecting with fellow photographers, exploring new places and sharing ideas in a relaxed setting. The feedback so far has been positive and it has been lovely meeting both familiar faces and members attending their first regional event.

Planning is already underway for the next series of Camera & Coffee events from July through to December, which will be published in the June/July newsletter. As always, suggestions for locations are very welcome, particularly if you feel there is somewhere in your area that would make a good photographic meet-up.

I would also like to thank Dr John Post for kindly stepping in to take over the running of the monthly competition. John will be setting the themes and receiving entries going forward, ensuring the competition continues to run smoothly for members.

Many of you will know that the From Land book project is exploring Scotland's managed landscapes and the stories connected to them. Recently I came across an interesting opportunity shared by the Southern Uplands Moorland Group (see image), where guided walks are being organised across several Scottish grouse moors in April. These walks aim to give people an insight into upland land management and biodiversity on managed moorland. For photographers interested in documenting Scotland's landscapes and land use, this could be a very interesting opportunity to capture images that align closely with the themes of the From Land project.

Like many organisations, we are also keeping an eye on the wider global situation. The current tensions between Iran and the United States may have an impact on fuel prices, which in turn could affect travel costs across Scotland. While I will continue organising events where possible, it may influence how far I travel for some future Camera & Coffee meet-ups. Finally, I will be travelling from mid-April until the end of May (all being well with the world), so responses to emails may occasionally take a little longer during that time. As a result, there will be **no** Zoom speaker in May, but the programme will resume again afterwards. Thank you to everyone who continues to support events across the region. It's always encouraging to see members getting out, meeting each other and enjoying photography together.

I look forward to seeing many of you at events over the coming months.



Sam



Southern Uplands Moorland Group

24m · 🌐

Ever wondered about what happens up close and personal on areas of managed moorland..why? and how?... See more



GWCT Scotland · Follow

1d · 🌐

We are inviting GWCT members and interested members of the public to join us for guided walks over a select number of Scottish grouse moors in April 2026. This is a unique opportunity to learn about upland land management, including legal predator control and muirburn, on site from practitioners and landowners and to witness the breath-taking biodiversity found on managed moorland.

The walks will be followed by a barbecue and drinks with all the food being provided and cooked by Castle Game Scotland.

The walks will start at 10am and run until around 1pm. Attendance (including food and drink): £10 pp. To book a place, please visit <https://uk.emma-live.com/moorwalks> or tel: 0131 202 7670

THE DATES ARE:

SATURDAY 18 APRIL – Glenogil Estate, Angus

SUNDAY 19 APRIL – Garrows Estate, Perthshire

SATURDAY 25 APRIL – Burncastle Estate, Scottish Borders

SUNDAY 26 APRIL – Moy Estate, Inverness-shire

[#MoorlandEducation](#) [#MoorlandWalks](#) [#GetOutdoors](#)
[#Uplands Castle Game - Scotland - Ltd](#)





PHOTOGRAPHING TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH CRAFT

**JANET EAGLETON MBE & SON – KILTMAKERS, PERTH
SUNDAY 31 MAY 2026 – 11:00AM**

Want to know how kilts, sporrans and sgian dubh sheaths are handcrafted? We have been invited to visit the workshop of Janet Eagleton MBE & Son, where members will have the opportunity to observe and photograph aspects of traditional Scottish kiltmaking in a working environment.

Depending on the activity taking place in the workshop on the day, members may have the opportunity to photograph elements of the process, including tartan cloth preparation, stitching, pressing, tools of the trade and the small details that make up this historic craft.

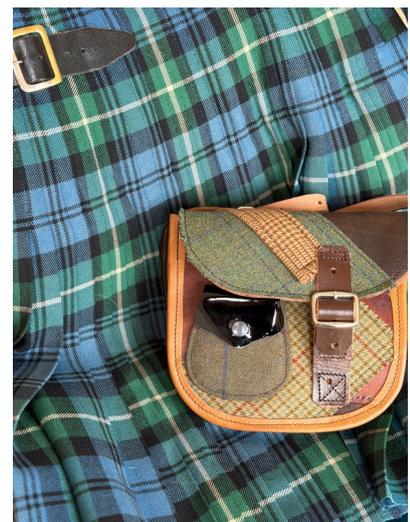
The workshop environment provides excellent opportunities for documentary, detail and storytelling photography, capturing textures, fabrics, tools and craftsmanship.

Photographic opportunities may include

- Textures and patterns of tartan fabrics
- Tools and work surfaces used in traditional craft
- Hands at work and craft details
- Storytelling images of heritage skills
- Observational documentary photography within a working workshop

Traditional crafts such as kiltmaking form an important part of Scotland's cultural landscape. The materials, patterns and heritage associated with tartan and Highland dress are closely linked to place, identity and land. For members considering submissions to the RPS Scotland From Land book project, this visit may provide an opportunity to create images that explore the connection between craft, culture and landscape.

Places will be limited to 6 and advance registration will be required. The workshop address will be shared with registered participants approximately one week before the event.



☀️ Members' Spotlight: Stephen McGibbon
📍 Ayrshire

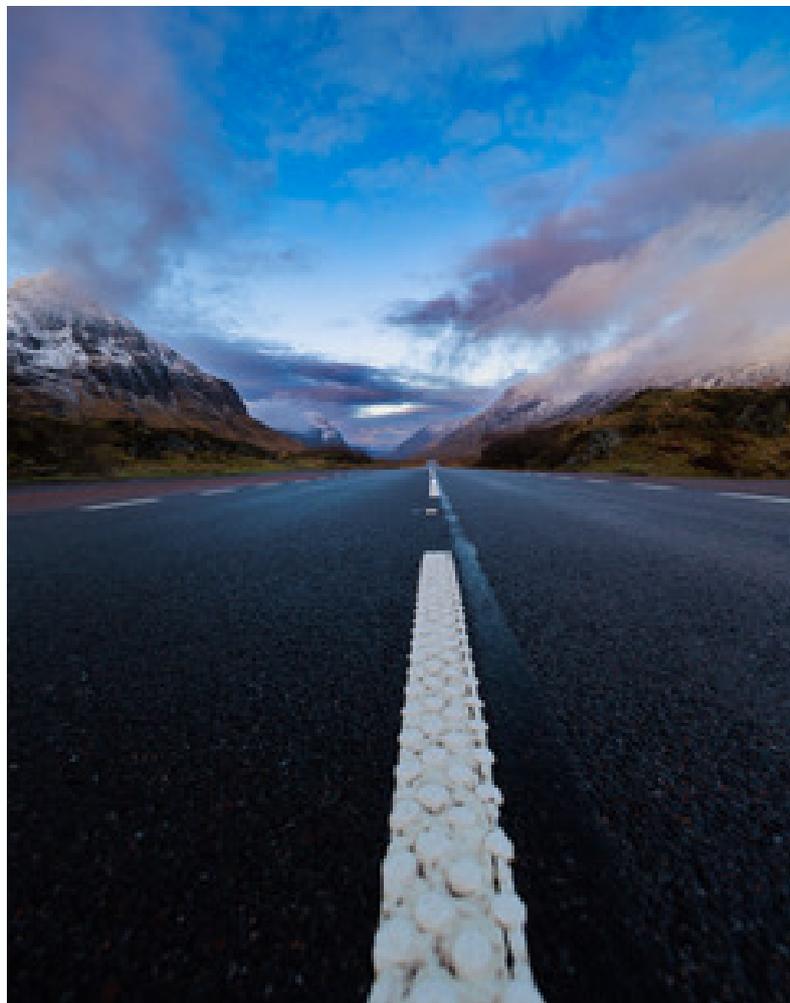
Steve McGibbon is an Ayrshire-based photographer who returned to education to pursue his passion for photography following a career in nursing. Demonstrating a strong commitment to developing his craft, he completed both an HNC and HND in Photography before progressing to his current BA (Hons) Photography studies at City of Glasgow College.

Steve enjoys exploring many aspects of the photographic medium and is particularly drawn to capturing moments and atmosphere through his images. His work continues to evolve as he develops his visual voice through study, practice and new creative opportunities.

Recently Steve had the opportunity to photograph for Scottish Opera, gaining valuable experience working within a live performance environment and capturing the energy and drama of the stage.

Through both academic study and practical experience, Steve continues to refine his photography and expand his portfolio while embracing the ongoing process of learning and creative exploration. For Steve, photography is very much a continuing journey of discovery – as he puts it, “learning every day is always good.”







ISLE OF SKYE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND WITH SIMON DODSWORTH

Friday 26th June to Sunday 28 June 2026

Simon Dodsworth ARPS: Growing up in the austere landscape of the Pennines gave Simon an affinity with simple, graphic, composition which has been a major influence on his image making, in both his personal photographic work and art, and he gained his ARPS in 1992 after being encouraged to apply at an RPS workshop by past president of the Society, John Barsdley.

He is interested in capturing a range of subjects but especially landscape, portraits and architecture. His recent move with his partner to the Isle of Skye was driven largely by the inspiration provided by the mountains and coastline of the island.

A highlight of his photographic practice was having Sir Don McCullin selecting 3 of his landscape photographs, making Simon a finalist in the 2023 Marshwood Arts Awards.

Instagram: @dodsworthsimon

Website: simondodsworth.pictures

A relaxed, inspiring experience for RPS Members. Join us for a two-day photographic journey across the Isle of Skye – one of Scotland's most dramatic and rewarding landscapes. Designed especially for RPS members, this weekend offers a carefully planned route that makes the most of each day while allowing time at key locations to photograph, explore, and enjoy being on Skye.

Whether you're travelling from afar or closer to home, the itinerary is thoughtfully paced, flexible, and accessible, with locations chosen for their photographic potential in a wide range of conditions. Google Maps links will be provided, and closer to the event we'll also share What3Words locations and a few practical tips to make getting around as straightforward as possible.

Why Skye?

Skye offers an extraordinary concentration of photographic opportunities – from reed-fringed lochs and dramatic mountain backdrops to moody coastlines and surreal, otherworldly landforms. It's a place where grand landscapes meet quieter details, and where even challenging weather can lead to truly compelling images.

The starting point on Day 1 is less than 20 minutes / 10 miles from the Skye Bridge, meaning that once you're on the island, the experience truly begins. The overall structure allows for a relaxed arrival and an easy transition into photographing, rather than feeling hurried from the outset.

FRIDAY Day 1 – South Skye: Lochs, Mountains & Coast

The first day explores the southern half of Skye, an area rich in contrast and variety. While there is some driving between locations, each stop is close to the road, allowing everyone to choose how much (or how little) walking they'd like to do.

We begin beside Loch Cill Chrìosd, sometimes called “The Hairy Loch” due to the dense reedbeds that fringe much of its shoreline. These reeds make wonderful photographic subjects in their own right, particularly in softer light or breezier conditions, and offer strong opportunities even if wider views are muted by weather.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CXvmvT6GizA2Fffr7>

From here we move towards Torrin, where the unmistakable bulk of Blà Bheinn (Blaven) rises dramatically above Loch Slapin. The views here are superb straight from the roadside, with optional nearby viewpoints for those wishing to explore further towards the saltmarsh at the head of the loch.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/mjnKusaxR5dkDqN76>

Continuing south, we arrive at Elgol, one of Skye's most celebrated coastal locations. From the beach, the jagged Cuillin dominate the skyline, while looking west opens views towards Soay, Rum and Canna. A short walk along the shore leads to the well-known Joe Cornish boulder, though remaining closer to the beach still offers plenty of rewarding compositions.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/s8EU2mz85gGodZ3u9>

Midway through the afternoon, the pace softens with a visit to Talisker Distillery in Carbost. As well as being an iconic Skye location, the distillery tour provides a fascinating insight into whisky production. Photography is permitted throughout most of the tour, with Driver's Packs available so those driving don't miss out on the tasting. Nearby cafés and pubs offer options for coffee, food, or a short rest before heading back out.

(Distillery tours are optional and subject to availability)

The day draws to a close at Sligachan, a classic Skye location where mountains, river, and moorland come together. Some may choose to photograph the famous bridge, while others might wander further along the river or towards the loch for quieter viewpoints. There's no pressure to do everything – this is a place to slow down, explore, and respond to the light. Food and refreshments are available nearby for those who wish to stay longer.

SATURDAY Day 2 – Trotternish Peninsula: Icons & Hidden Corners

Day 2 focuses on the Trotternish Peninsula, forming a natural loop that works particularly well for those staying in or near Portree.

We begin at Loch Fada, with views across the water towards the iconic Old Man of Storr. While the full walk to the Old Man is fairly strenuous and time-consuming, excellent photographic opportunities are available from lower viewpoints, allowing everyone to choose what suits them best.

📍 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/p4nF6EGQQUBaJr8f6>

From here we head to Brothers Point, a lesser-known coastal location that rewards a relatively easy walk with striking views and a sense of space away from the busiest areas of the island. It's a wonderful location for those who enjoy coastal landscapes without heavy footfall.

📍 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/k2eGs7ZZs9Kega598>

Next is one of Skye's most extraordinary and recognisable landscapes: the Quiraing. Vast, sculpted, and constantly changing with light and weather, it's a place that feels almost unreal. Classic viewpoints are easily accessible from the car park, with no need for strenuous climbing to achieve strong images.

While the main car park can fill up, a lower-level alternative is always available.

📍 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/L2zKrn5PDjMZMo5m8>

For those who wish to continue, the weekend can conclude at the Fairy Glen – a compact, magical landscape of grassy mounds and winding paths that feels like Skye distilled into miniature. It's an ideal final location to explore at a relaxed pace and reflect on the weekend's experiences.

📍 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/BDeqhhhuV7ZLJBkp8>

Accommodation

Participants are encouraged to look for accommodation in or near Portree, which is ideally located close to the end of Day 1 and the start of Day 2 on the Trotternish Peninsula, helping to minimise driving and keep the weekend relaxed.

There is also a campervan and campsite at Sligachan for those travelling by van.

Simon & his partner have a B&B and currently have availability although they only have one double room available. picturemaker100@gmail.com

March 2026 Competition

1 March - 23 March

Entries to

scotlandproject@rps.org

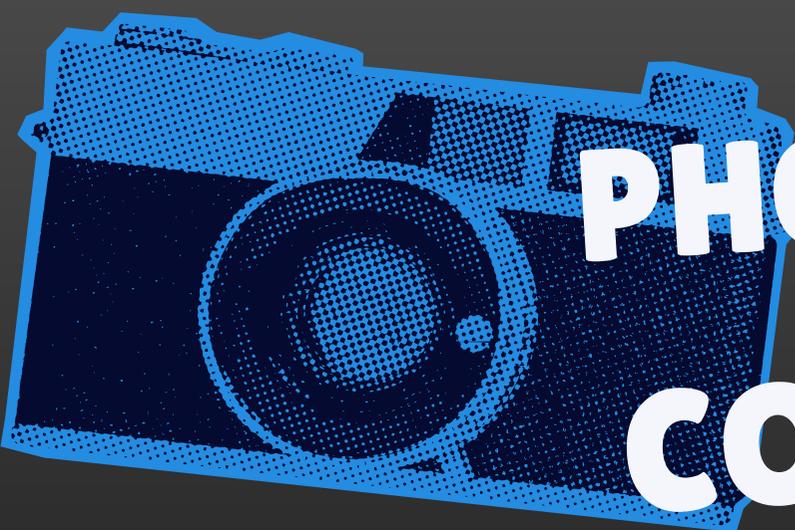


Dr John Post has kindly agreed to take on the role of setting the monthly competition themes and receiving entries going forward. John would also like to thank Neil for the work he has done in organising and running the competition. In the meantime, Peter will continue to update the website until Sam has access and is able to manage this directly. The competition rules and voting arrangements remain unchanged and can be found on the RPS Scotland website, and we look forward to seeing the wide range of creative interpretations members bring to the monthly themes.

This Month's Theme – Graffiti or Is It Art?

This month's theme invites members to explore the creative and often controversial world of urban expression. Graffiti can be viewed in many ways – from spontaneous street markings to highly skilled mural work that transforms public spaces. For some it is vandalism, for others it is a powerful form of artistic expression and social commentary. We invite members to photograph graffiti in all its forms, looking for colour, texture, message and context within the urban environment. Whether focusing on bold street murals, abstract tags, or the interaction between graffiti and the surrounding architecture, the theme offers plenty of opportunities for creative interpretation.

Dr John Post



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

****LIVE****

1st March – Rules apply

GRAFFITI

Winners and placements February 2026 Competition - Weather



Rainbow by Alan Sinclair



Catching the Backwash at
Burghead by David Shillabeer
ARPS

Red Sky in Nairn by
Stephen McDonald





Wednesday 25 March 7pm

Book Online

Karen Miller is a wildlife photographer based near Inverness in the Scottish Highlands. After a career in radio, she left BBC Radio Scotland in 2019 and moved from Glasgow to the Highlands to pursue her love of wildlife and photography – a decision she has never looked back from.

Karen describes herself as a wildlife lover first and a photographer second.

She believes it is a privilege to spend time in the company of our native birds and animals, observing them at ease in their natural environment and learning from their behaviour.

Her photography is guided by patience and respect, with an emphasis on capturing emotive, authentic moments that reflect the essence of the animal rather than staged or stressful encounters.

Mountain hares were one of the key reasons Karen moved to the Highlands, and her deep connection with them led to her being featured in the 2024 short film *Finding Bo*, which explores her relationship with a special mountain hare and her wider love of wildlife. Through her work, Karen hopes to encourage a deeper appreciation of Scotland's wildlife and the importance of ethical, compassionate photography.



Thursday 9 April 2026 7PM

MARK BANKS

Title: The Art of Choosing Paper

Subtitle: Understanding How Paper Influences the Final Print

Talk Description: Mark's talk explores how paper choice hugely influences the final printed image and why it plays such an important role in the printing process.

Talk Purpose: By developing an understanding of how different papers behave - rather than relying on formulaic or habitual choices - you will be better equipped to select papers that support your creative intent and help your images translate more successfully from screen to print.

Mark's Bio: Mark is a professional landscape photographer based in the north east of England. His passion for the subject comes from the love of travel and being outdoors in remote places.

Mark has been teaching landscape photography, post-processing and printing for over 20 years and runs photography workshops around the UK and abroad. Further details about Mark's workshops can be found at www.markbanksphotography.com.



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!

 **RSPB Troup Head with David Leslie, Cullen for Lunch and then Bow Fiddle
Rock– Friday 27 March 2026 10am - 5pm**

 **Omar Shamma will be hosting Camera & Coffee in Aberfeldy Saturday 9 May
details and to book available online**

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.

weekend

THE RPS
ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
SCOTLAND

Nocturne

WHERE DARKNESS GLOWS: NIGHT SKY
PHOTOGRAPHY AT GARVAULT HOUSE

Andrew Allan - Scotland's Nightsky

FRIDAY 2ND AND
SATURDAY 3RD
OCTOBER

Garvault House
Hotel

Accommodation & Catering – Garvault House
Exclusive use of Garvault House for workshop attendees

Photographic Opportunities

- Chance to photograph the Milky Way under exceptionally dark Highland skies
- Potential for Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) during the stay
- Night sky photography guidance throughout the event
- Daytime photography opportunities including:
 - Local landscape
 - Flora and fauna
 - Wildlife

Room Options

- 2 x single rooms £255 per person for 2 nights
- 3 x double rooms £215 per person for 2 nights

The Stables: Has one shared bathroom
1x double room £215 per person for 2 nights
1 x twin room (partitioned) £255 per person for 2 nights

What's Included

- Dinner, bed & breakfast
- Afternoon tea
- Light lunch on Saturday

Extras

Dog-friendly accommodation 🐾

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