



## Contents

- 2 Announcements:**  
**Forthcoming Events**  
Nature Photography Techniques  
and  
2018 Members Exhibition News
- 3 Members' News**  
News of this summer's  
Residential Field Meeting -  
Reported by Len Shepherd
- 7 Dates for your diaries**  
Exhibitions open for  
Nature Entries
- 8 For Sale by Members**
- 9 Wildlife Photography Event**  
WWT Martin Mere  
18-19 November 2017
- 10 Information**  
Publication details  
Committee Members  
The Iris

The front image for this issue is a Merveille du Jour (Marvel of the Day) *Dichonia aprilina* Moth. These attractive Moths can only be found at this time of year, and can sometimes be seen feeding on the flowers of Ivy or on berries that are overripe. They are easily attracted to light and their habitat is broad-leaved woodland.

Equipment used as follows:  
Canon EOS 5D, Sigma 180mm  
macro. 1/6 sec, f/22, aperture  
priority. Tripod and Lastolite.

Welcome to the first issue of the Nature Group eNews. As its name suggests, eNews will be emailed to all Nature Group members whose email address is registered with RPS HQ. It will also be available as a download from the Nature Group 'Members area' of the RPS website.

The Nature Group Committee decided to introduce 'eNews' to improve communication with members. eNews will also allow members to share items of interest with their fellow members. Initially, eNews will appear in your 'in-box' during the months of September, January and May - between publications of *The Iris*.

eNews can only be successful if you, the members, give it your support and share items of interest - these can be short reviews of books or kit you have acquired, photo kit you have for sale, field meetings arranged at short notice, talks you are giving or nature/wildlife talks that are part of your camera club or photo society's programme, indeed anything that would be of interest to nature photographers.

You may contact me by clicking on the following email address:  
naturegroup\_eneews\_editor@btinternet.com

My apologies to any of you who may have tried to email me at the address printed in the Summer issue of *The Iris*. Unfortunately it was not until *The Iris* had been printed that I discovered that the new address was not working. My attempts at fixing the problem have proved frustrating and unsuccessful.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Dawn*

eNews Editor

# Announcements

## Nature Photography Techniques

**Date:** Saturday, 25th November, 2017  
**Time:** 10.00hrs - 16.00 hrs  
**Venue:** Smethwick Photographic Society  
The Old Schoolhouse  
Churchbridge  
Oldbury  
B69 2AS

Nature Photographers, do you want to know more about

- Underwater Photography,
- Insect Macro Photography,
- Focus Stacking,
- Video using a DSLR or CSC camera?

Four photographers, all very experienced in these fields, will talk about the equipment and techniques necessary to produce successful images. Time will be available to look at the equipment required and discuss the various techniques used.

**Adventures in UK  
Underwater Photography  
by Charles Erb**

**Small is Beautiful  
Insects and Flowers, Close-up and Macro  
by John Bebbington FRPS**

**Focus Stacking Techniques  
by Duncan Locke LRPS**

**Introduction to Video Shorts  
by Paul Cutland**

**Admission by ticket only.**

**Ticket Prices:**  
**RPS Members: £10.00**  
**Non Members: £12.50**

**Tickets and Programme available from  
1st October, 2017**

**For tickets and further information  
please contact:**

**[rpsngprog@talktalk.net](mailto:rpsngprog@talktalk.net)**

**Event organiser:  
Barbara E Lawton, FRPS, DPAGB**

## Nature Group Members Exhibition of Prints and Digital Images 2018

The 2018 Members Exhibition will be open for entries shortly after the next edition of *The Iris* is published and will remain open until 31st January 2018. An email will be sent to each member of the Group inviting them to enter. The email will contain a link to the on-line entry system. Details will also be available on the Members Exhibition page of the Nature Group section of the RPS Website

**The selectors for the 2018 Exhibition will be:**

**Rosemary Wilman Hon FRPS  
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS and  
Mike Lane FRPS**

As in previous years there will be 2 print and 2 digital sections, allowing a wide range of subjects to be covered. Gold, and Bronze medals along with Selector, Highly Commended and Commended certificates will be awarded.

An exhibition of the accepted images will be shown at the opening of Exhibition which follows the 2018 AGM at Smethwick Photographic Society and at other venues later in 2018.

As a member of the RPS and Nature Group, you clearly have an interest in many or all aspects of Flora and Fauna and photography, so why not submit an entry to the exhibition to have the opportunity of allowing other members to see examples of your work.

### Video in the Members Exhibition

The Nature Group Committee are reviewing whether to include a video section in the Members Exhibition in 2019. Details such as format, maximum length, and sound must be determined as well as the technicalities of the selection process. It is hoped that we will contact members later in the year asking for pilot submissions and that, subject to timings and technical factors, we could show some examples at the 2018 AGM.

# Members' News

## Nature Group Residential Week-end

June 2017, Cloughton, North Yorkshire.

The Joseph Rowntree Trust Cober Hill Hotel, six miles north of Scarborough, specialises in group bookings such as ours at reasonable cost, and is close to the North Yorkshire Coast and Moors. This was the centre for our 2017 event.

During the evening sessions at the hotel participants made new friends, showed their photographic work and Duncan Locke the Nature Group secretary led a very useful interactive session on what the members present would like from the Nature Group.

## *"You have to be quick!"*

Prior to the start of the weekend several members took an early morning sea trip for a new photographic challenge, Gannets diving for fish. Afterwards Duncan Locke remarked *"You have to be quick!"*



Gannets diving by Duncan Locke LRPS



Herring Gull and Gannet with fish by James Foad LRPS

Friday afternoon saw us looking for flowers and insects on Scalby Mills headland in conditions a little too cloudy for butterflies in flight. One participant was disabled and another, aged 89, had travelled 250 miles by bus and train, but all managed the steps with help from others in the group. With low tide in late afternoon we went rock-pooling utilising black umbrellas to remove reflections from the water so that we could see pristine detail in the pools.



Rock pool using black umbrella technique  
by Margaret Beardsmore LRPS



Gannet collecting nest material by John Hunt ARPS

# Members' News

Nature Group Residential Weekend  
continued



*Gannet landing by Ernest Eaton*



*Gannet in flight by Maggie Finney*

On Saturday morning we took a car-share convoy to the RSPB centre at Bempton to concentrate on Gannets in flight, Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Guillemots, some few Puffin, and even a distant Barn Owl.



*Gannets bonding on return by Jon Allanson*

# Members' News

## Nature Group Residential Weekend continued

In the afternoon we moved 5 miles to a little known reserve 200 yards south of Flamborough Head lighthouse. We quickly located hundreds of Northern Marsh and other orchids in bloom.

Sunday turned out to be a gem of a photographic day with low wind during our morning visit to Ellerburn Bank Yorkshire Wildlife Trust reserve. The rare Fly Orchids were in pristine condition for photographs, along with other orchids and plenty of insects.



*Common Spotted Orchid and Yellow Rattle by Margaret Beardsmore LRPS*



*Fly Orchid by Len Shepherd*



*Heath Spotted Orchid by Julia Andrew*



*Northern Marsh Orchid by Julia Andrew*



*Ladybird Larva by James Foad LRPS*



*Soldier Beetles by Duncan Locke LRPS*

# Members' News

## Nature Group Residential Weekend continued

Lunch was taken in the picture postcard village of Thornton-le-Dale before travelling back with a Plan A to visit the well publicised National Trust wild-life areas north of Ravenscar. One member knew of a wild-flower meadow just to the south which the NT keeps absolutely quiet about. With good knowledge of the Yorkshire Dales hay meadows I rate this one, as overall outstanding. Guess where we went!

On Monday morning the weather took a turn for worse not for better when we visited Jagger Howe. Conditions were cold and windy and offered little hope of locating Adders, so we concentrated on lichens instead.



*Cladonia Lichen by Duncan Locke LRPS*

Those members staying an extra night at the hotel tested their water-proof clothing when they made a return trip to Bempton in the afternoon. Others began their journey home having spent an enjoyable week-end photographing species and landscapes new to many of them.

Len Shepherd.  
2017 Leader.



*Group Photography by Margaret Beardsmore LRPS*



*Burnet Moth Larva by Peter Hearson*



*Feather on seaweed by Margaret Beardsmore LRPS*

# Dates for your diary

## Entries Invited

*The following National and International Exhibitions with Nature sections are now open for entries:*

### **9th Finland International Digital Circuit 2017**

5 Salon Circuit. Closing date: 25.09.2017  
[www.finlandcircuit.fi](http://www.finlandcircuit.fi)

### **Dingwall National Projected Image Exhibition 2017.**

Closing date: 30.09.2017  
[www.dingwallcameraclub.com](http://www.dingwallcameraclub.com)

### **Shropshire Open Photography Exhibition 2017.**

Closing date: 30.09.2017.  
[www.ShropshireOpenPhotographyExhibition](http://www.ShropshireOpenPhotographyExhibition)

### **Frome Wessex Salon of Photography 2017**

Closing date: 29.10.2017  
[www.fromewessexsalon2017.co.uk](http://www.fromewessexsalon2017.co.uk)

### **Bebington Salon of Photography**

Closing date: November 2017 (check website)  
[www.bebingtonps.org.uk/BebingtonSalon.html](http://www.bebingtonps.org.uk/BebingtonSalon.html)

### **Balkan Circuit 2017**

5 Salon Circuit. Closing date: 01.10.2017  
[www.fkk.rs](http://www.fkk.rs)

### **5th Olympic Circuit 2017**

4 Salon Circuit. Closing date: 08.10.2017.  
[www.olympicphotocircuit.com](http://www.olympicphotocircuit.com)

### **4th German Open Circuit**

4 Salon Circuit. Closing date: 10.10.2017.  
<http://german-mega-circuit.de/>

### **43rd Smethwick International**

Closing date for entries: 03.11.2017  
[www.smethwickinternational.com](http://www.smethwickinternational.com)

### **124th Toronto International Salon of Photography**

Closing date for entries: 04.11.2017.  
[salon.torontocameraclub.com](http://salon.torontocameraclub.com)

### **Yorkshire International Salon of Photography 2017**

Closing date for entries: 04.12.2017.  
[www.yorkshiresalon.co.uk](http://www.yorkshiresalon.co.uk)

## Nature Group Members' Annual Exhibition 2017

This showing is organised jointly with the

**RPS East Anglia Region**

at

**Wingfield Barns**

**Church Road**

**Wingfield,**

**Diss**

**IP21 5RA.**

**Saturday 30th September**

to

**Sunday 15th October**

**11:00hrs to 16:00hrs**

**Open Wednesday to Sunday**

**(closed Mondays and Tuesdays)**

Details can also be found on the RPS website:

<http://www.rps.org/events/2017/september/30/rps-nature-exhibition>

**The Exhibition is free to view.**

**Coffee, tea and biscuits  
are offered in the gallery.**

**Moira Ellice**

**East Anglia Region Exhibition Co-ordinator.**

**Email: [moira.ellice2011@btinternet.com](mailto:moira.ellice2011@btinternet.com)**

# For Sale

## 1. Wimberley Sidekick

**£70 + p&p.**

Current price £252.

Converts an Arca type Ball head into a Gimbal head (as illustrated).

Good condition



## 2. Benro Aluminium

**Gimbal head - £89 + p&p**

Currently £189.

Screws directly to the top of a tripod.



## 3. Manfrotto 441 Tripod - £75 + p&p

Carbon Fibre, good condition

Cost £230 new.

## 4. Lowepro Nature Trekker A/W Photo Back-pack

**£50 + p&p**

Black. Cost £150 approx.

A very robust bag, rarely used and in good condition.

Enquiries to Dawn Osborn:

Email: [naturegroup\\_enews\\_editor@btinternet.com](mailto:naturegroup_enews_editor@btinternet.com)

## 1. Benbo Trekker - £45 +

**p&p.**

Currently £105 new.

Purchased as a spare and never used.



## 2. Arca monoball Z1 Classic.

**£150 plus p&p.**

Currently £350 new.

Very good condition with light signs of use.



Enquiries to David Osborn FRPS:

Email: [poppyland3@btinternet.com](mailto:poppyland3@btinternet.com)



## Expect the unexpected

Autumn is a time that sees many of us out and about looking for fungus to photograph. If you find yourself on heathland, keep your eyes peeled for Adders sheltered from the wind by low growing gorse and taking advantage of the warm autumn sunshine, before hibernating for the winter.

This juvenile was photographed in just such a location last October while out walking on heathland in Norfolk.

Olympus EMI, Olympus 60mm macro lens. f8, 1/1000 sec. ISO 640 Handheld. 26.10.16.

# Wildlife Photography Event

## Enjoy a great day out at the North West Bird Watching Festival

**WWT Martin Mere, Lancashire.  
Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 November 2017**

Meet wildlife and photography experts including TV presenter Nick Baker, wildlife cameraman Doug Allan and Flight of the Swans' Sacha Dench and many more specialist speakers at the fantastic North West Bird Watching Festival, at WWT Martin Mere in Lancashire.

Photograph wildlife up close, including hundreds of Whooper Swans feeding alongside Shelduck, Teal, Wigeon and thousands of Pink-footed Geese; pick up tips from photography workshops; see demonstrations; network with bird and photography experts; browse through photography and bird watching goodies, join wildlife talks and round the day off with some delicious homemade cake at the Mere Side Cafe.



Highlights include:

- Access to the reserve from 8am, offering photographers the chance to watch and photograph tens of thousands of Pink-footed Geese and Whooper Swans as they wake and leave their roost
- Capturing the spectacle of up to a thousand Whooper Swans feeding right in front on the Mere, plus thousands of Shelduck, Wigeon and Teal, at 3pm, from the new Discovery hide, (includes a warden's talk).
- Access to free ringing demonstration workshops - opportunities to get up close to some wonderful species
- Attending 4K and digi-scoping seminars with award winning photographer, Pro Lumix Ambassador and one of the best known digi-scopers in the birding world, Paul Hackett
- Walks with Reserve Manager Tom Clare and Nick Baker to find the top ten bird species at Martin Mere at this time of year
- Testing birdwatching skills by seeing who can spot the most species at Martin Mere between 09.30 - 15.30 on Saturday 18 November to win prizes.

For further event information, workshop bookings and a detailed list of exhibitors, please visit: [www.wwt.org.uk/nwbf](http://www.wwt.org.uk/nwbf).

Discounted admission for groups of 12 or more fellow photography enthusiasts.

Find out more at [www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/martin-mere/plan-your-visit/group-visits/](http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/martin-mere/plan-your-visit/group-visits/)

WWT Martin Mere, Lancashire, is open for this event from 9.30am to 4.30pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site <http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/> to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

*The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) is one of the world's largest and most respected wetland conservation organisations working globally to safeguard and improve wetlands for wildlife and people*

- Founded in the UK in 1946 by the late Sir Peter Scott, today we complement wetland conservation work carried out worldwide with a network of nine UK visitor centres
- Wetland Centres are where people can have close encounters with awe-inspiring nature – wildlife clusters near water so there is always something to see at a Wetland Centre, every day of the year
- All WWT Wetland Centres have comfortable hides, easy pathways, fully stocked cafes and gift shops and lots of interactive ways to get close to wildlife

## Publication information

Nature Group eNews is published by the RPS  
Nature Group three times a year.  
Copy and publication dates are as follows:

Late Winter	Copy deadline 30th December Published mid January.
Late Spring	Copy deadline 30th April Published mid May.
Late Summer	Copy deadline 31st August Published mid September.

All contributions should be submitted to the Editor at: [naturegroup\\_eneews\\_editor@btinternet.com](mailto:naturegroup_eneews_editor@btinternet.com). Any item of interest to nature photographers is welcomed, including reviews on equipment and relevant books. Copy should be submitted as .txt or .doc files by email. Please do not send hand written copy.

Digitally captured photographic images should be supplied as flattened 8bit sRGB tif or jpg files, 6" x 4" at 300 pixels per inch. Please do not email larger images.

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## Distribution:

Nature Group eNews is forwarded to members using email addresses supplied by them to the RPS Membership Department in Bath. Please remember to inform them if you change your email address. eNews will also be available as a download from the members only pages of the Nature Group section on the RPS website.

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President of the Society;  
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Director General of the Society;  
Hon. Treasurer of the Society;  
Chairman of the Nature A & F Distinctions Panel

## Nature Group Exhibitions:

CDs/DVDs of Nature Group Exhibitions are available for purchase by camera clubs/photographic societies for use in their programme. Please contact the Exhibition Secretary, details opposite.

## The Iris: Publication Dates

The 'The Iris' is published by the RPS Nature Group three times a year. Copy and publication dates are as follows:

Spring Copy deadline 8th December  
Published mid March.

Summer Copy deadline 30th April  
Published early July.

Winter Copy deadline 31st August  
Published early November.

All contributions should be submitted to the Editor. Items covering any aspect of nature photography and/or natural history are welcomed, including reviews on equipment and relevant books. The Editor can be contacted at:  
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