



THE IRIS

MAGAZINE OF THE NATURE GROUP OF THE RPS

Issue No. 86
Summer 2003



RPS 
THE ROYAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY



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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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CONTRIBUTIONS on all aspects of
Nature Photography and Natural
History are welcomed, including
reviews on equipment and relevant
books. Copy can be accepted on flop-
py disc (RTF or Microsoft 'Word')
accompanied by printed copy. As an
E-mail (**please not as an attach-
ment**) or simply typed, double
spaced, on one side of the paper only.
Please send submissions to The
Editor.

*No payment is made for material used
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*The views expressed are solely those
of the contributor.*

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member not receiving their copy
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their name appears on a label in the
future. However the Editor will be
pleased to post single copies to those
who have failed to receive them.

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Details of Photographs appearing in this issue
can be found on page 16.

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EDITORIAL

Fate has decreed that this, my last issue as Editor, is very much an 'information' issue. Besides carrying the minutes of our recent AGM there is a full list of addresses for Wildlife Trusts. Also, as an experiment, the catalogue of accepted entries for our annual exhibition is reproduced and all picture space has been dedicated to award winning prints and slides. *I'm sure your new editor would welcome feedback on whether this should be repeated in future years.*

And now, goodbye. A while ago I advised our Committee that I would be standing down as Editor after this issue. It was a decision that I had been considering for some time, and was not lightly reached. Producing the magazine is something that I have always enjoyed doing immensely but there is no denying that it can consume a fair amount of time. After eight years and twenty four issues I felt the need for a break.

I say 'always enjoyed' but this perhaps is not quite accurate in respect of our first effort, Issue No. 63, Winter 1995 which was the start of a steep learning curve! Since then we tackled successive issues with growing confidence, which led to experimentation. This proved to be like the 'curates egg'. I still squirm with embarrassment when I look back at issues containing pictures with drop shadows or 'artistic' (?) frames.

A brief run down of how the magazine has been produced. Well, the brief run down is that the editorial team starts off each issue by being totally relaxed and ends up totally fraught.

Seriously, as each item comes in it is formatted into The Iris style, i.e. A5 page size using Times New Roman font etc. This saves time later and, more importantly, enables the space it requires to be checked. A week or so before the copy deadline the magazine starts to be built on the computer using QuarkXPress. (For those not familiar with it QuarkXPress is the desktop publishing software that is used predominantly throughout the printing industry.) We made rough scans of the photographs for placing in the magazine and to show the printers any cropping etc. that may be required.

The aim is to send all the material to our printers within a week, at the latest, of the copy deadline. A CD containing all the computer files is sent accompanied by a rough print out of the magazine and the original photographs for scanning by the printers. The number of copies, delivery date to us for the printed magazine etc. are agreed with the printers.

In due course the printers' colour proofs and then the magazine proofs are received for checking. In the meantime address labels are ordered from the RPS Membership Department, stuck onto envelopes which are then sorted into UK and the different overseas countries. Any enclosures are prepared.

When the magazine is delivered the editorial team has a jolly time stuffing it into envelopes, with any enclosures. Then it is off to the Post Office praying you have a helpful assistant to arrange the forms for franking the UK mail and who will take your word for overseas mail, and not insist on weighing every envelope before handing over the stamps.

Some statistics. A few facts and approximate figures for the 24 issues. Some 16,800 copies have been put into envelopes and a further 800 odd copies sent to the RPS for distribution to Council Members etc. There have been some 13,000 enclosures.

Total weight 1½ tons, printing costs £36,300 and postage costs £7700. Advertising income approximately £2000.

Over the 8 years the magazine has been sent to members in 40 different countries, although it is usually around 25 countries for each issue.

There have been some 430 colour pictures and 300,000 words. The main font used is Times New Roman with headings in 14 pt Baskerville.

Including telephone calls and correspondence before and after, an issue can take some 600 hours. Admittedly that is spread over three months, but it is the equivalent of a full five day week for four weeks.

My thanks to: To far too many people to name individually. To all those who have spent time and money in providing material for *The Iris*, taking up their pen / camera either voluntarily, or following my request. *Without such members there would be no magazine!*

To current and past committees who have allowed me free rein; who have been very forbearing when something has gone wrong and complimentary when things have gone well. To members, both home and overseas, who have encouraged me and to those of you who have stoically accepted that their work was not shown to the best advantage when we had colour problems with our previous printers.

To Mel Frost, Mark Partridge and all the staff at Stanley Hunt Printers Limited. The excellent quality of their work is self evident from recent issues. What is not obvious is the helpfulness, patience and co-operation they have given me irrespective of problems I have presented them with.

Lastly, but certainly not least, to your sub-editor, my wife Margaret. She is not a member of the Nature Group, nor the RPS, but has put in many, many, hours over the years. As a result she can now decipher virtually illegible handwriting whilst her vocabulary has vastly increased. Not only in respect of names of flora and fauna (both common and Latin) but also in respect of language emanating from your editor when he and the computer had a difference of opinion. She has accepted, without demur, many of our personal outings being postponed / cancelled as deadlines have loomed. For all of this and much, much, else thank you.

Your New Editor. Dawn Osborn ARPS is your new Editor commencing with the next issue, No. 87, Winter 2003. As Dawn produces a magazine as part of her job she will be bringing a professionalism to *The Iris* which it has previously lacked. I hope she will derive as much pleasure and enjoyment producing it as Margaret and I have ❀

My e-mail address - EdTheIris@aol.com - will close down on 30th July 2003.

Update on 'The Experts Panel'

See Issue No. 84, page 11 and Editorial in Issue No. 85. Our committee have again discussed the concept of a directory of 'experts' that members could contact with queries. Bearing in mind the apparent lack of interest shown it was felt that there was little point in forming a separate 'Experts Panel' and publishing a directory in *The Iris*. There was concern though that members, especially newer ones, should not feel they had no one to ask for advice.

In these circumstances would members please note that they can approach any of the current committee (contact details at front of every magazine) with any queries they have on natural history / nature photography. Should the person contacted not be able to provide appropriate advice they would contact others on the committee who, between them, would either be able to provide the answer; or know of a member who could ❀

FROM THE CHAIR

ROBERT HAWKESWORTH FRPS

memorable events during her two-year term of office. The Twenty-fifth Anniversary Convention, field meetings and of course the very successful (and oversubscribed) Chairman's Day. Dawn of course will still be there to lend a hand since she serves as Immediate Past Chairman. Thanks are also due to a number of friends who leave the Committee this time. John Bebbington FRPS our Representative on the Advisory Board of the RPS has found that far from decreasing, his work at Juniper Hall has significantly increased, consequently his Nature Group commitments have had to take a back seat for a while. It is pressure of work that has meant that Sue Goody LRPS has had to stand down, Sue is one of our younger members and I am sure that potentially she would have had a long future with the Committee. Barbara Lawton FRPS has certainly had a long innings with a Chairmanship under her belt and has decided to retire not out, her wisdom and experience will be missed. Finally we must say good bye to Tony Wharton FRPS, Tony is part of the fabric of the Nature Group, a Committee Member for more years than most of us care to remember, a Chairman, someone who was always willing to step in to fill a sudden gap, he has always been there. Indeed he is a holder of the Silver Medal, awarded for services to the Group. We should not forget that Tony's wife, Doreen, gave and indeed continues to give him tremendous support and thereby helping all of us. It seemed most fitting that we should reward him by making him an Honorary Member of the Nature Group, a sort of bar to his silver medal, no-one could deserve it more. You will find elsewhere in the magazine a short account of the new Committee structure and members.

We have had a number of interesting communications concerning the 'Five-Slide' Competition and the Annual Exhibition, there is no doubt that many of you are very keen on both and are interested in ensuring that our work reaches as wide an audience as possible. The two events will form a major agenda item at our next Committee meeting in September. Watch this space!

There is no doubt that we live in rapidly changing times and I do not refer to political national and international affairs but rather photographic concerns. Most of you now produce your prints digitally and many of you now own a digital camera, some of you have moved completely to digital. Certainly transparency film has a secure short-term future, but I wonder how long that future will be? However this is a change essentially in the method we use to record our images, but there is another change becoming more noticeable and that is in the style of nature photography. More and more interpretive (or pictorial) images are being taken and many of them are both very effective and beautiful. A number of you I know will abhor this approach and consider that it is not nature photography whilst others will embrace it. It is important to remember that nature photography is, and I quote, "the photography of a species such that a well informed person may identify it". Provided that the biological content of the photograph is not reduced to a secondary or minimal role then I am sure there is room for this approach. The wonderful world of nature is certainly large enough to accommodate all of us, working and non-working photographers alike, those who prefer taking classical images and those who prefer a more interpretive aspect. One thing of which I am quite certain is that life is too short to fall out about it. The splendid Canadian photographer Freeman Patterson entitled one of his books "Photography for the Joy of It", which I think says it all! I hope that you all have a wonderful summer taking lots of pictures that give you pleasure ☘

Tony Wharton FRPS receives an Honorary Membership

Our Regulations allow us to have up to four Honorary Members at any one time although, as far as I am aware, there has only been one previous holder. Honorary Membership is an award offered at our Committee's discretion.

It has been the custom that service to our Group is recognised by awarding the Nature Group Silver Medal which Tony received in 1997, the citation appeared in *The Iris*, Issue No. 68, Summer 1997. At our committee meeting in February this year, however, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that Tony should be offered an Honorary Membership in recognition of what is probably an unique service record.

Undoubtedly one of our more widely known members I feel, at the risk of making him blush, that his history should be recounted for the benefit of newer members.

Before doing so though mention must be made of the part played by his wife, Doreen. Quite apart from supporting and encouraging Tony she has, over the years, consistently worked incalculable hours for our Group; far more than most members. And this is despite not being a member of the Nature Group, nor the RPS, herself.

One may sometimes come across scenarios, in some organisations, where close scrutiny reveals that the holder of a long-standing 'service' record had really done little, other than be there for a long time. That, despite length of service, their contribution was minimal.

The opposite is true in Tony's case. Joining the Nature Group in 1976, within a couple of months of its formation, Tony was elected to the committee in 1983 and has remained on it until standing down this year. He became Vice-Chairman in 1987, two years later Chairman, then Immediate Past Chairman. Many years ago he resurrected our Annual Exhibition after it had lapsed and was elected Exhibition Secretary; later he resumed these duties on a temporary basis to keep the exhibition running during a gap between appointments. Some eleven years ago he formed Circle A, a Postal Portfolio within the Nature Group. This was so successful that a second, Circle B, was formed a year or so later.

Outside our Group, but within the RPS, he served an initial term for some nine years on the Nature Distinctions Panel, stepping down when the Society introduced the 'eight year rule'. After a mandatory break of two years he is now three years into his second term, has written the current guidance notes for 'A' and 'F' nature applicants and is one of the team who produced the CD-ROM guide to a Nature Associateship.

On a much wider front, through his lecture circuit, various courses and as a tour leader, he has done much to introduce an enjoyment of nature photography into diverse persons. Many people have told me that they owe their interest in nature, and success as a nature photographer, to Tony's enthusiasm. An extremely successful photographer he has won numerous photographic awards and his work has been published for many years in a range of books and magazines.

His work for our group, combined with his roving ambassadorship for nature photography has justly earned his Honorary Membership ❀





Minutes of the RPS Nature Group 2003 AGM

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Photographic Society Nature Group was held at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, on Saturday 26th April 2003 at 2 pm. It was chaired by Dawn Osborn and was attended by 42 members.

Apologies. These were received from Kath Bull, Bill Burns-Begg, Audrey Clark, Roger Jacques, Geoff Trinder and Martin Withers.

Minutes of the 2002 AGM. The Minutes of the 2002 AGM printed in issue 83 of *The Iris* were approved and signed by Dawn Osborn as a correct record of what then took place.

Matters Arising. There were none.

Chairman's Report. Dawn Osborn said that it was hard to believe that her two years as chairman had passed so quickly and that they had been very enjoyable years. She had enjoyed working with the committee and thanked them for all their help, support and hard work.

She went on to thank particularly Robert Hawkesworth for his sterling work as secretary and Trevor Hyman for the excellent work he did as treasurer.

She also made reference to Tony Wharton and said how much everyone appreciated his long-standing involvement with the Nature Group.

Treasurer's Report. The accounts are presented in a similar way to last year's, using the same headings. Overall, it has been a satisfactory year financially. All I propose to do in this report is to highlight some points of interest and draw a few comparisons with last year. As usual, I'll be very happy to clarify points or to answer any questions you might have.

Subscriptions. The situation at RPS Headquarters relating to their computer system has deteriorated even further since last year. While I appreciate many of the problems at Bath, I really cannot understand why the Membership database is still in such a state. It is not possible for me to identify "lapsed" members so there is no chance of my 'chasing' them up. After a great deal of work, I believe I now have a reasonably accurate list of our members (with Membership Numbers !!) - many thanks to the Membership Department for their help in this matter. The records from Bath show 628 payments were credited to the Nature Group in the F/Y 2002 - '03 (which includes Mar. '02 but not Mar. '03 renewals). Bath's list shows 670 "current" members (some members who may pay late have not yet been classified as "lapsed"). In line with a general trend seen by Bath, our numbers are about 40 down on last year.

The Iris. This is our main expenditure and the figures include postage.

Lectures & Workshops. Our Chairman's Day in November made a profit of just over £36. after VAT. The Field Weekend to be held in Dorset looks likely to do likewise, while it's too early to predict on the 2003 Brooksby event (though I know that more participants will be welcomed). VAT has been paid on the Dorset deposits but not yet on the final payments (both will be reclaimable). The Brooksby deposits are being transferred over to next Financial Year.

Transfers. This item shows how CAF Gold was used to ease cash-flow during the year.

Interest received. This has been split to show that going to CAF Gold and that to our

Current A/C. Although interest rates have been lower this year we have received slightly more on our Current A/C. This is due to a consolidation of our funds with those of other Groups. Our funds are separated out at Bath into a Group “Cash Book”, so we don’t “lose out”. We had no choice in this matter as it was imposed on us by Bath to bring us in line with the other Groups. The rather small return in extra interest doesn’t seem worth, to me or to the Auditor, the extra work involved.

Annual Exhibition. This item includes the Travelling Exhibition, which contributed £390 to our income. To show the overall picture more clearly, the cost of staging the Annual Exhibition (travel and judging room hire costs) have been included under this heading and not under General Administration as previously.

Sundry Income. This includes VAT refunds and also that resulting from the sale of the ‘A’ Guidance Interactive CDs (£348.20).

General Administration. Includes all running costs of the Nature Group (general postage, telephone, stationery and travel to committee meetings plus VAT expenditure). There was a special 1-off purchase of a minidisk digital recorder, which will be used initially for recording the commentary for the Travelling Exhibition. Since it will be used for various other committee jobs too, it has been charged to this heading.

Secretary’s Report. All the usual secretarial duties have passed perfectly smoothly this year, with the continuing exception of the problems occasioned by the poor functioning of the RPS Membership Database. There is still no satisfactory service regarding membership to both our treasurer and me, consequently I am unable to give an accurate figure regarding our numbers. The request, which I placed in The Iris for new members to contact me so that I could at least let them have a new members’ pack did have some effect. I suggest that we could continue with this until the problem is resolved.

Officers and Committee 2003-05. The following officers have been duly nominated, proposed and seconded:

<i>Chairman</i>	Robert Hawkesworth FRPS
<i>Vice-chairman</i>	No nomination
<i>Treasurer</i>	Trevor Hyman LRPS
<i>Secretary</i>	Margaret Johnson LRPS
<i>Representative on the RPS Advisory Board</i>	John Myring ARPS

Committee Members. Nick Jarvis ARPS. David Osborn FRPS. Geoff Trinder ARPS and Chris Wood LRPS.

As you are all aware we were to have held a postal ballot, however since the number of nominations equalled the number of vacancies then according to Article 6.5 of our Regulations no election was necessary.

AOB. Robert Hawkesworth had some correspondence with Bert Crawshaw ARPS about the possibility of having the Print section of the Annual Exhibition seen by as many people as possible in its original state, rather than as transparencies that form part of the travelling exhibition. This was put to the members present who thought that in theory this was a good idea. After much discussion it was decided that the practicalities and the cost of organising such an exhibition were prohibitive. There was also no one present who was willing to take on the task of co-ordinator of such a project.

Tony Wharton was granted Life Membership in recognition of the many years of service he has given to The Nature Group in his capacity as a valued committee member, past chairman, holder of the Silver medal and also as someone who has been there to offer his expertise and help to members at all times.

Date and Venue for the 28th AGM 2004. This would be Saturday 24th April 2004 at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury at 2.00 pm. The meeting was declared closed at 2.40 pm ☘

THE NATURE GROUP OF THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Income and Expenditure Accounts for 1st April 2002 to 31st March 2003

'Current' Account (Subdivision Memorandum)

Income

Year 01/02

6,666.42
 5,177.50 (+1,110 c/i)
 706.30
 3,000.00
 89.92
 580.76

17,220.90

Year 02/03

Subscriptions 6,930.23
 Lectures & Workshops (-380 c/o) 1,763.00
 Annual Exhibition 807.91
 Transfers (from CAF Gold) 1,000.00
 Interest received (to C/A) 90.55
 Sundry Income 933.00

11,524.69

sub totals

Expenditure

6,242.70
 5,813.16
 720.76
 1,633.60
 2,000.00

16,410.22

The Iris incl. postage 6,575.60
 Lectures & Workshops 1,672.03
 Annual Exhibition 1,062.66
 General Administration 1,551.63
 Transfers (to CAF Gold) -

10,861.92

sub totals

810.68

Excess of Income over Expenditure

662.77

CAF Gold Account

673.88
 2,000.00
 -3,000.40

-326.52

Receipts Interest 531.92
 Transfer from C/A -
 Less withdrawals & charges -1,000.40
 Excess of Withdrawals over Receipts

-468.48

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2003

Current' Account

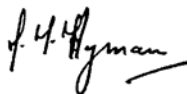
	£
Deposits to be carried over (Brooksby)	380.00
Balance brought forward	2,468.40
Excess of Income over Expenditure	662.77
Uncleared Credit	-45.00
Uncleared Debits	255.88
Total	3,722.05

CAG Gold Account

Balance brought forward	15,348.06
Excess of withdrawals over receipts	-468.48
Total	14,879.58

Net Assets at 31/3/2003

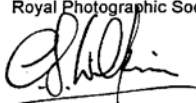
18,601.63



J T Hyman (Hon Treasurer)

Independent Examiner's Report to Members

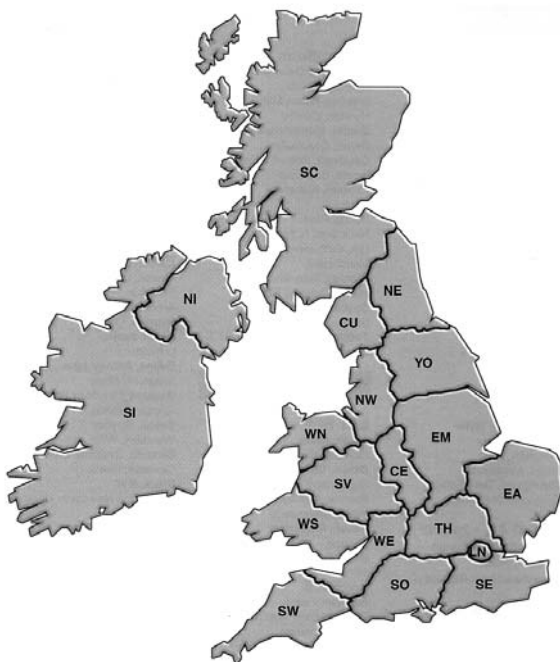
The statements of account for the year ended 31st March 2003 set out above have been prepared from the books and records of the Nature Group of the Royal Photographic Society and are in accordance therewith.



C S Wilkinson, Chartered Accountants 24th April 2003

*SHOWN BELOW ARE NATURE GROUP MEMBERS PER RPS REGION
TOGETHER WITH REGIONAL CODE AND OTHER STATISTICS
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2002.*

CE - CENTRAL	60
CU - CUMBRIA	11
EA - EAST ANGLIA	54
EM - EAST MIDLANDS	33
IN - IRELAND (NORTH) combined	6
IS - IRELAND (SOUTH)	
LN - LONDON	24
NE - NORTH EASTERN	12
WN - NORTH WALES	9
NW - NORTH WESTERN	63
SC - SCOTLAND	23
SV - SEVERN VALLEY	25
SE - SOUTH EASTERN	93
WS - SOUTH WALES	13
SW - SOUTH WESTERN	23
SO - SOUTHERN	59
TH - THAMES VALLEY	55
WE - WESTERN	42
YO - YORKSHIRE	22
TOTAL UK	627
OVERSEAS	43
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	670



The statistics are as at 31st December 2002 and based on information provided by the RPS Membership dept.

By Membership type

Life members	13
Life members (Free)	77
Ordinary members	580

TOTAL 670

By Distinctions

Honourary FRPS	4
FRPS	83
ARPS	197
LRPS	176
Non Distinction holders	210

TOTAL 670

Map courtesy of the RPS Journal January / February 2001.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS IN 2003

Dorset Weekend - 2nd to 5th May 2003. Report by John Fairbank ARPS.

Eighteen members and partners assembled on Friday afternoon for a delicious tea in the Kingcombe Centre near Toller Porcorum and were pleased to meet old friends, some of whom had been on previous trips based at Burton Bradstock, and to make new ones. On this occasion we did not have a local leader but with advice from the helpful Centre Warden, Nigel, we planned excursions for the following two days.

The Saturday was overcast, cold and windy with occasional showers, in the morning, but we went down to the coast at Bexington Beach where there were only a few flowers of any interest, Tree Mallow (*Lavatera arborea*) and Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*) neither very photogenic. Farther inland there were some faded Cowslips (*Primula varis*) and rather poor Early Purple Orchids (*Orchis mascula*) that were taken in case there were none better later on. Our next port of call was another stretch of beach close to the Chesil Bank and some hardy ones went exploring there in a shower whilst some of us hazarded our lives shooting Rosy Garlic (*Allium rosea*) on a narrow verge beside the busy main road.

We ate our excellent picnic lunch, provided by the Centre, and went on to Chapel Coppice where there were numerous banks covered in Bluebells (*Endymion non-scriptus*) amongst the trees, and beside a stream. Farther into the copse were some good Early Purple Orchids and beside the road was a lovely single specimen of Lords & Ladies (*Arum maculatum*) just developing.

Between us we had a dozen or so cars that would have caused awful congestion in the very narrow lanes so it was providential that the centre had a minibus that we could hire and John Bebbington could safely drive.

The Centre is based in old farm buildings comfortably converted and it was a toss up whether we were better off in the Cowshed, close to the dining hall, or the Barn farther up the lane where we had interesting slide shows each evening. The food was excellent and the Warden and staff went out of their way to make us comfortable.

The Sunday was sunny but very windy so our photography of Early Purple and Green-winged Orchids (*Orchis morio*) at their best and in their masses at Hardington Moor was to say the least difficult. There were also specimens of Adderstongue Ferns (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) too small to be affected by the wind.

After picnic lunch overlooking the Moor, and enjoying extensive views, we moved on to Blackett's Copse where a short walk took us to extensive banks of Ransoms (*Allium ursinum*) among trees and beside a stream with again Early Purple Orchids farther on.

Some of us then went on to Powerstock Common for early specimens of Common Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) that looked particularly attractive against the sun.

It was most unfortunate that Kath Bull, who had organised the event, was recovering from a serious heart operation and unable to attend. However Eileen Taylor and Nick Jarvis ably took over.

There was some discussion during the last evening regarding a similar weekend in 2004. We had been in the area on four previous occasions, in May or June, with a professional leader who knew the best sites and got us permission to go onto private land; some members thought this a better arrangement and wondered whether we should make it a regu-

lar venue or whether we might find another area as attractive?

The basic requirements would be a good location with a number of photogenic sites, accommodation at a Field or similar Centre, and a local leader who knew where to go.

Should any members have ideas for this to put forward would they please contact Nick Jarvis, the Group's Programme Co-ordinator ❀

Bellamy's Brow Sunday 11th May. Report by Jon Allanson LRPS.

About twenty five members of the Northwest Region and the Nature Group participated in the Bellamy's Brow Day, based on the Ravenstor Youth Hostel Field Study Centre at Miller's Dale, Derbyshire.

We split into three groups. One remained in the immediate area of the Field Centre photographing the local flora and the landscape. Derek Allsop, from Chapel-en-le-Frith Camera Club, took a party along part of the Monsal Trail to Cressbrook looking at the flora including Early Purple Orchid, Cowslips, Lords and Ladies and Leadwort. Tony Pioli ARPS took a small group into Coombs Dale where they found primroses, Horsetail seed-heads and several butterflies including Green veined White, Orange tips and Dingy Skippers ❀

NATURE GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2003
AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS
APPEARING IN THIS MAGAZINE

Prints Award Winners

<i>page 9</i> Gold Medal Winner	Roger Pinn ARPS	<i>Male Lions, Serengeti.</i>
<i>page 2</i> 2nd	Dawn Osborn ARPS	<i>Gentoo Penguin at nest.</i>
<i>page 10</i> 3rd	Martin Withers FRPS	<i>Spotted Fritillary.</i>

Selectors' Awards

<i>page 18</i> Cath Mullen FRPS	Stephanie Clack	<i>Polar Bears.</i>
<i>page 19</i> Tony Bond FRPS	Martin Withers FRPS	<i>Tiger.</i>
<i>page 28</i> John Jones ARPS	Stephanie Clack	<i>Yellow-billed Storks.</i>

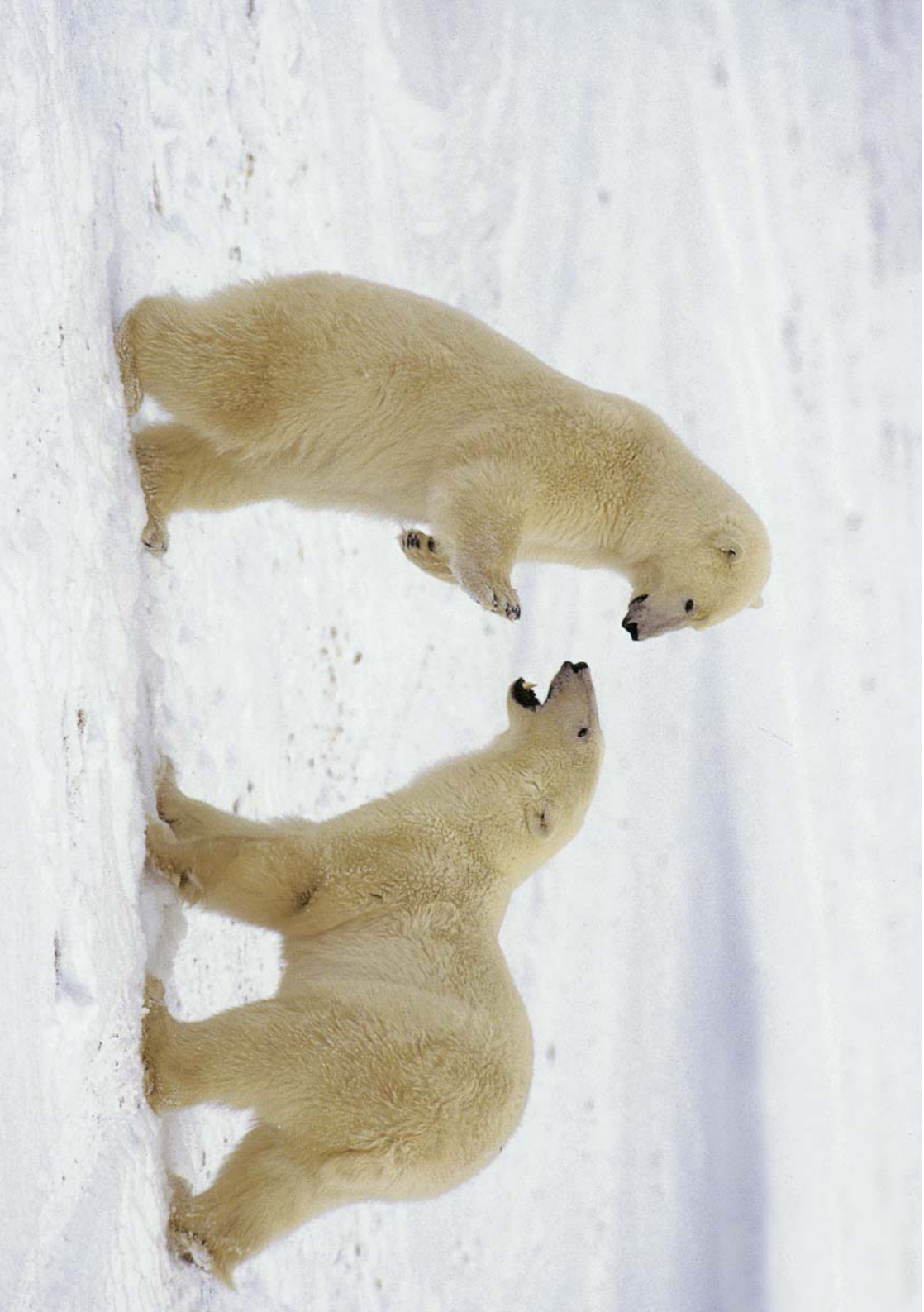
Slide Award Winners

<i>page 27</i> Gold Medal Winner	Terry Wall ARPS	<i>Snow Geese at dawn.</i>
<i>page 35</i> 2nd	Phil Muggridge ARPS	<i>Bison in mist.</i>
<i>page 36</i> 3rd	Helen Williams ARPS	<i>Red-throated Diver.</i>

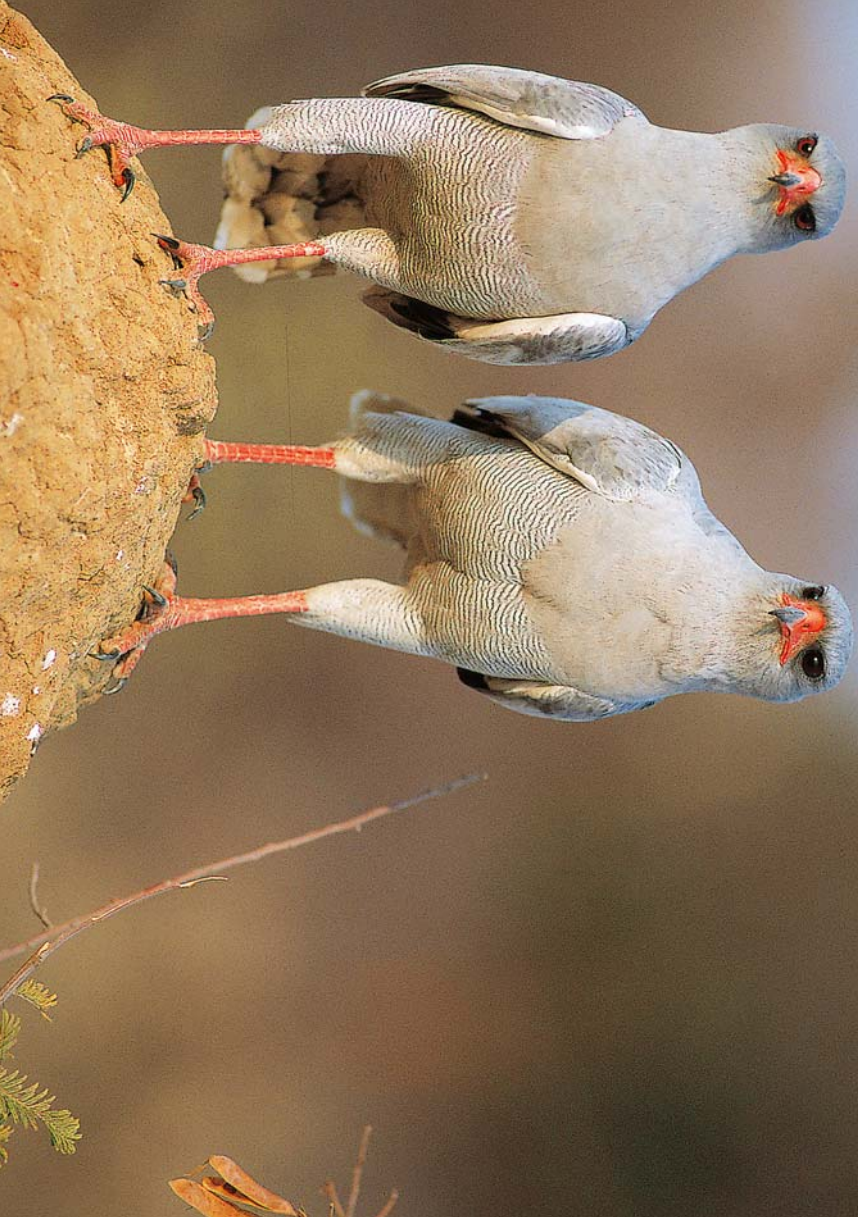
Selectors' Awards

<i>page 20</i> Cath Mullen FRPS	John Chamberlain FRPS	<i>Pale Chanting Goshawks.</i>
<i>page 17</i> Tony Bond FRPS	Mike Lane FRPS	<i>Snipe.</i>
<i>page 1</i> John Jones ARPS	Dickie Duckett ARPS	<i>Hanging Nuthatch.</i>









THE NATURE GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2003

Selectors

Cath Mullen, FRPS. Tony Bond, FRPS. John Jones, ARPS.

Venues for the Travelling Exhibition:

23/07/2003	Bristol PS.	27/11/2003	Keyworth CC.
01/09/2003	Sibley PS.	20/01/2004	Tonbridge CC.
12/09/2003	Fosse CC.	05/02/2004	Abingdon CC.
08/10/2003	LRWT.	19/02/2004	Poulton-Le-Fylde PS.
10/10/2003	Leicester & Leics PS.	01/03/2004	Yeovil PS.
20/11/2003	LVNP, Waltham Abbey	24/05/2004	Taunton CC

Comments by Peter Jones ARPS, Exhibition Secretary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the selectors for their sterling work in selecting the 2003 Exhibition, and to all who assisted in the organisation of this year's exhibition. Finally, thank you to the Nature Group members who submitted their work, without whose participation there would be no exhibition. I hope to see an increased entry next year.

List of Accepted Slides

Slide Award Winners

Gold Medal Winner

2nd

3rd

Terry Wall ARPS

Phil Mugridge ARPS

Helen Williams ARPS

Snow Geese at dawn.

Bison in mist.

Red-throated Diver.

Selectors' Awards

Cath Mullen FRPS

Tony Bond FRPS

John Jones ARPS

John Chamberlin FRPS

Mike Lane FRPS

Dickie Duckett ARPS

Pale Chanting Goshawks.

Snipe.

Hanging Nuthatch.

Highly Commended

Mike Lane FRPS - *Redshank*. Alan Millward FRPS - *Roadrunner*.

Phil Mugridge ARPS - *Female Goshawk*. David Osborn FRPS - *Gentoo Penguin at nest*.

Roger Pinn ARPS - *Male Redshank on display* - *Male Cheetah on Kopte*.

Commended

Andy Callow - *Ruby-tailed Wasp*. Ian Hulme FRPS - *Hygrocybe cantharellus group*.

Nick Jarviss - *Burnished Brass*. Phil Mugridge ARPS - *Bewick's Swans*.

Accepted Slides

Ann Benn ARPS - *Coprinus comatus* - *Marsh Helleborine (Epipactis palustris)* - *Male Greenfinch (Carduelis chloris)*.

Les Borg ARPS - *'Jay perched on old tree stump'* - *Grey Heron in flight* - *Buck Fallow deer standing in front of bracken*.

Kath Bull ARPS - *Aphids winged & wingless forms* - *Mayfly Ephemera danica* - *Meadow Cranesbill detail* - *Rose Sawfly Larvae*.

John Bulpitt ARPS - *Red Deer Hind* - *Lion at dawn* - *Lesser Masked Weaver*.

Andy Callow - *Ruby-tailed Wasp C* - *Robber Fly & prey* - *Lacewing Larva & Spangle Galls C* - *Hairy Snail & Flat-backed Millipede* - *Spotted Snake-millipedes*.
 Gill Cardy ARPS - *Common Crane Displaying*.
 John Chamberlin FRPS - *Pale Chanting Goshawks* (**Cath Mullen Award**)
Bull Elephant Dust Bathing - *Immature Peregrine Falcon* - *Eland at waterhole* - *Gentoo Penguin feeding chick*.
 Stephanie Clack - *Hippo, Masai Mara* - *Kori Bustard* - *Buffalo* - *Pale Chanting Goshawk* - *Sable*.
 Bert Crawshaw ARPS - *Black Rhinoceros* (*Diceros bicornis*).
 John Cucksey LRPS - *Flightless Steamer Duck & young* - *Pair of Lions by Lake Nakura* - *Gerenuk*.
 Bob Devine ARPS - *Lilac Breasted Roller*.
 Dickie Duckett ARPS - *Greater-spotted Woodpecker with dragonfly* - *Kingfisher, front view* - *Oystercatcher calling* - *Hanging Nuthatch* (**John Jones Award**) - *Australian Sealions in the surf*.
 Gordon Follows ARPS - *Green Heron fishing* - *Great-spotted Woodpecker* - *Navelwort and Lichens* - *Immature Red-shouldered Hawk* - *Juvenile Great Blue Heron begging*.
 Bill Furse ARPS - *Swallowtail butterfly* - *Marsh Helleborine* - *Dark Green Fritillary*.
 Michael Gore FRPS - *Hoopoe foraging*.
 Patrick Halton - *Hawthorn flower*.
 Radu Handoca - *Tree Nymph* (*Idea leiconde*).
 Robert Hawkesworth FRPS - *Orange Pholiota*.
 Barbara Hawkesworth ARPS - *Yellow Sea Aster*.
 John Hill ARPS - *Tawny Owl* (*Strix alugo*) - *Silvery Grebe* (*Podiceps occipitaus*).
 Susan Hill - *Pale Tussock Moth*.
 Ian Hulme FRPS - *Hygrocybe cantharellus group C* - *Armillaria lutea No 3*.
 Trevor Hyman LRPS - *Armoured Ground Cricket*.
 Pamela Jackson LRPS - *Argiope bruennichi with prey*.
 Nick Jarvis ARPS - *Early Purple Orchids, Mill Dale* - *Burnished Brass C* - *Dingy Skipper* - *Bark Beetle Galleries*.
 Margaret Johnson LRPS - *Gazanias, Namaqualand*.
 Peter Jones ARPS - *Dead Camel Thorn Tree, Namib Desert*.
 Malcolm Kitto ARPS - *Helvella crispa* - *Pholiota aurivella* - *Paired Small Red Damselflies*.
 Mike Lane FRPS - *Marsh Harrier* - *Redshank* (**HC**) - *Osprey* - *Pond Heron* - *Lilac Breasted Roller* - *Snipe* (**Tony Bond Award**)
 Jack Malins ARPS - *Phainopepela* - *Polar Bear* - *Brunnichs Guillemots*.
 David Mazey LRPS - *Magellanic Penguins at dawn*.
 Tony Mcdade FRPS - *Ammonites*.
 Phil McLean ARPS - *Male Orange Tip on Water Avens* - *Green Veined White on grass* - *Wild Fox with rabbit prey* - *Ringlet* - *Grey Squirrel on snowy Scots Pine*.
 Graham Meaker FRPS - *Paired Duke of Burgundy Fritillaries* - *Wood Ants with Blackbeetle*.
 Eric Middleton ARPS - *Meadow Pipit with caterpillar*.
 Alan Millward FRPS - *Soaptree Yuccas* - *Havard Agave and Sotols* - *Bromeliad Tillandsia fendleri* - *Turkey Vulture* - *Roadrunner* (**HC**)
 Philip Mugridge ARPS - *Bewick's Swans C.* - *Female Goshawk* (**HC**) *Bison in mist* (**Second**).
 David Osborn FRPS - *Great Blue Heron with chick* - *Gentoo Penguin on nest* (**HC**) - *Shaggy Pholiota* - *Gentoo Penguin running ashore* - *Glistening Ink Cap*.
 Dawn Osborn ARPS - *King Penguin chick & parent* - *Southern Elephant Seal Pups* - *Cyclamen graecum* - *Butterbur*.

Allen Parker ARPS - *Common Coot (Fulica atra) fighting - Fieldfare (Turdus pilaris) feeding on apple - Long-horn Beetle (Rhagium mordax) pair mating.*
 Roger Pinn ARPS - *Male Redshank display (HC) - Female Black-winged Stilt - Male Cheetah on Kopte (HC).*
 Kay Reeve ARPS - *Jew's Ear Fungus - Meadow grasshopper - Dryad's Saddle - Velvet Shank Fungus.*
 Richard Revels FRPS - *Grey Heron with fish - Wasp Spider in web - Nut Weevil - Earth-star Fungus - Hornet flying to nest.*
 John Sixsmith ARPS - *Oystercatcher - Red Squirrel - Red Deer Stag - Kashmir Goat Kid.*
 Margaret Sixsmith ARPS - *Cladonia pitrea - Seathrift in habitat - Male Orange Tip Butterfly - Wild Pine Martin.*
 Ron Tear LRPS - *Atlantic Grey Seal Cow & pup - Alligator & Dragonfly.*
 Lewis Thomas FRPS - *Seaslug Facelina coronata.*
 Terry Wall ARPS - *Snow Geese at dawn (First).*
 Harry Weekers ARPS - *Giant Turtle.*
 Helen Williams ARPS - *Capercaillie - Starling - Red-throated Diver (Third).*
 Rosemary Wilman ARPS - *Bear Grass.*
 Derry Wilman ARPS - *European Tree Frog - Slow-worm knot (Anguis frafilis) - Crested Lark (Galerida cristata) - Amethyst Deceiver and Tawny Grisette.*

List of Accepted Prints

Gold Medal Winner	Roger Pinn ARPS	<i>Male Lions, Serengeti.</i>
2nd	Dawn Osborn ARPS	<i>Gentoo Penguin at nest.</i>
3rd	Martin Withers FRPS	<i>Spotted Fritillary.</i>

Selectors' Awards

Cath Mullen FRPS	Stephanie Clack	<i>Polar Bears.</i>
Tony Bond FRPS	Martin Withers FRPS	<i>Tiger.</i>
John Jones ARPS	Stephanie Clack	<i>Yellow-billed Storks.</i>

Highly Commended

Michael Gore FRPS	<i>Sandhill Crane over hills, Bosque Del Apache, New Mexico</i>
Roger Pinn ARPS	<i>Nuthatch</i>
Richard Revels FRPS	<i>Harvest Mouse</i>
Martin Withers FRPS	<i>Red Grouse in Heather</i>

Accepted Prints

Mary Allen LRPS - *European Otter*
 Clive Bailey LRPS - *Elderflower Orchid Dactylorhiza sambucina - Military Orchid Orchis militaris - Greater Leopardsbane.*
 Peter Basterfield ARPS - *Northern Carmine Bee-eater - Mexican Free Tailed Bats - Salvins Mollymawk - Great Bowerbird - Eastern Yellow Robin.*
 John Berry ARPS - *Garden Tiger Moth - Mating Longhorn Wasp Beetles.*
 Les Borg ARPS - *Bittern in reedbed - Grey Squirrel amongst Bluebells.*
 Stephanie Clack - *Polar Bears (Cath Mullen Award) - Yellow-bill Storks (John Jones Award)- Pelicans at Nakuru.*
 Bert Crawshaw ARPS - *Suricates Erdmannchen species.*
 John Cucksey LRPS - *African Wattled Plover - Elephants, Tarangire - Hippopotamuses in Ngorongora Caldera.*
 Kenneth Day - *Beisa Oryx drinking, Kenya - Sea Lions, Galapagos Islands.*
 Michael Gore FRPS - *Sandhill Crane over hills, Bosque Del Apache, New Mexico (HC)*
 Roseate Spoonbill preening, Sanibel Island, Florida.

John Hill ARPS - *Gerenuk feeding on Acacia (Redunca arundinum)* - Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) - Black-browed Albatross pair.
 Margaret Hodge FRPS - *Membranipora membranacea* - Common Starfish on Sea Lettuce - *Botryllus schlosseri* on *Fucus serratus*.
 Nick Jarvis ARPS - Scarlet Wax Cap- Birdsnest Fungus - Great Diving Beetle Larva.
 Ian McLean LRPS - Nettle Weevils mating (*Phyllobius pomaceus*)
 Dawn Osborn ARPS - Gentoo Penguin coming ashore - Gentoo Penguin at nest (Second)
 Southern Elephant Seal Pups No 2 - Early Purple Orchids - Cowslips.
 Roger Pinn ARPS - Male Lions, Serengeti (First) - Nuthatch (HC) - Cheetah Cubs, Ndutu.
 Jane Rees LRPS - Giant Green Anemone (*Anthopleura xanthographmica*) - Lilac *Mycena* (*Mycena pura*).
 Richard Revels FRPS - Spotted Flycatcher with prey - Cock Tree Sparrow - Arctic Tern in flight - Swallowtail Butterfly hanging from pupa - Harvest Mouse (HC).
 Terry Wall ARPS - Grey-headed Kingfisher - Laughing Gulls - Zebras
 Martin Withers FRPS - Spotted Fritillary (Third) - Tiger (Tony Bond Award)
 Red Grouse in heather (HC) Hoopoe.

‘More Nature Group Authors and Their Books’

Dr. Hilda Canter-Lund FRPS and Dr. John Lund FRPS. - ‘*Freshwater Algae. their microscopic world explored*’ Publisher Biopress Ltd, Bristol 1995, reprinted 1996, 1998. ISBN 0-948737-25-5 (hardback A4) pp 360, 387 colour and 253 monochrome photographs. Received the Prescott Award of the Phycological Society of America 1997. £69-50 + £6 postage and packing UK; £10 abroad (surface rate). Still in print. Publishers address: 17 Wimbledon Rd. Bristol BS6 7YA.

Alan Potts FRPS. - ‘*Natural North*’ Publisher Zymurgy Publishing ISBN 1 903506 00 X. Hardback £16.99. 160 pages with 285 colour photographs. *See review page 26.*

Dr. Michael Proctor FRPS. - ‘*The Pollination of Flowers*’ by M. Proctor, & P.Yeo, 1973. Publisher Collins, London. ISBN 0 00 219504 6. (Contains larger reproductions of the black-and-white photographs than our later book.)

A number of my early photographs were reproduced in John Gilmour & Max Walters *Wild Flowers* (1954) and John Raven & Max Walters *Mountain Flowers* (1956), both Collins ‘New Naturalists’, before the days of ISBNs!

D.M. Turner-Ettlinger - ‘*Natural History Photography*’. Publisher Academic Press, London. ISBN 0 12 703950 3. (N.B. - Michael Proctor informs me that this, which he describes as, a nice and perhaps too little-known book, includes chapters by various oldies, hardy perennials, and deceased members of the Nature Group. These include the young Heather Angel, Sam Beaufoy, Sdeuad Bisserôt, the Bottomleys, David Cooke, Arthur Gilpin, Harold Hems, the Lythgoes, yours truly, Derek himself, the Urrys, Pat Whitehouse and John Woolley.)

Andrew N. Gagg ARPS. - ‘*The Macmillan Guide to British Wild Flowers*’ by Franklyn Perring and Max Walters -illustrations by Andrew N. Gagg ARPS; ISBN 0-333-44522-8. Publisher Macmillan 1989.

‘*Wild Flowers, an Easy Guide by Habitat and Colour*’ by Tracy Dickinson - illustrations by Andrew N. Gagg ARPS; ISBN 1 903998 20 4. Publisher Green Books forthcoming in 2003❀

MEMBERS' LETTERS

The views expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the Editor, nor the Nature Group Committee, nor the RPS.

Dear Editor,

Just writing in reply to Christopher Mylne FRPS's letter in Issue 85. I have to admit that I am a "lapsed member" of the Nature Group, although your magazine is still being sent to me (at the moment!).

This letter touched upon several issues which lead to me choosing not to resubscribe, and why I am considering rejoining next year. I left because I felt that the Nature Group had an overly-rigid definition of what was a "nature photograph" and what was not. I am also unable to take sharp, close-up animal pictures with my present equipment, so I felt that my work would not be considered of any value as nature photography. I don't believe that Nature Photography is simply the "poor relation" to and servant of Natural History, but instead I feel that one of its principle aims should be to communicate nature to a wide audience, including non-scientists/non-naturalists, who may get little chance to experience much of nature first hand. An arresting image, even if it is highly pictorial (such as the BG Wildlife Photographer of the Year features in its patterns in nature category) can be valuable as they frequently point out details and patterns in nature which are overlooked by the casual eye. They force the viewer to take a fresh perspective on nature, which can't be a bad thing, can it?

A strongly "pictorial" image can also "drive home" a far greater impact, and have a stronger message, because of the attention paid to aesthetic considerations. It may also be remembered for longer, perhaps prompting people to think a bit about conservation. Scientific perfection, whilst by no means worthless (heaven forbid! All nature photographs after all should be truthful to their subject) isn't the be-all and end-all of nature photography. The work of photographers such as Frans Lanting are striking for exactly this reason - consideration given to framing, light, and creative use of exposure (both long and short).

Anyway, that's my "two pennies worth". I realise that not everyone will agree with me - thankfully there is no single definition of what is and what isn't a nature photograph. I do think, however, that the range of subjects and styles your magazine covers, and the group embraces, should be widened. A tree is, after all, as much a part of nature as the bird that may or may not be sitting in its branches..

Yours sincerely, Gavin Duley (by e-mail).

[Editor - I have e-mailed Gavin hoping that he will soon be rejoining our Group and thanking him for his interesting views. My response was too lengthy (two A5 pages) to reproduce here but in brief I felt that whilst there was a place for more pictorial 'nature' photographs the traditional record shot was still the only way in which accurate subject information could be conveyed. Please write with your own views regarding pictures in our magazine and exhibition.]

Dear John

'Fascinating Rhythms'

Ian McLean may be fascinated by rhythms, but he really ought to get his quotes in sync

too. (And so should the editor for letting it slip through!). It was not John Betjeman, but Rupert Brooke writing about Grantchester who penned: stands the church clock at ten to three and is there honey still for tea? *[Sorry, your editor is not omniscient! Others also pointed out the misattribution.]*

That apart, Ian's article was very interesting and Iris continues to be an inspiration - carry on the good work!

John Woodward LRPS - Hythe Kent

Dear Sir,

I found Ian Vaughan's article "A Digital Camera for Nature Photography" extremely interesting. Can you say whether it is yet possible, if so how, to obtain slides, of a quality acceptable for nature talks, from Digital images. I should be very grateful for and interested in your reply.

Yours sincerely, Gordon Gale by e-mail: gjgale@waitrose.com

*[I have e-mailed Gordon with my suggestions. **Would members please offer any advice through The Iris so that others may benefit as well.]***

BOOK REVIEW

'Natural North' by Allan Potts FRPS

First published in 2000 by Zymurgy Publishing, tel. 0191 276 2425.

ISBN 1 903506 00 X - Hardback £16.99 - portrait format 280 mm x 200 mm

with some 285 colour photographs and a foreword by the Duke of Northumberland.

The titles to the sections of this book make interesting reading in themselves. Some such as 'Lonely Fells' - 'Secretive Woodland' - 'Tidal Rhythm' and 'Wildlife Encounters' fit with many nature books. What though of 'Dog & Stick Country' - 'Arable Heartland' and 'Industrial Heritage'? This is a book about the flora, fauna and the landscapes of the north-east of England with each section concentrating on a particular aspect.

You could browse through this book, but it is one which should be read carefully, drunk slowly like a good wine. Though priority has been given to photographs and their layout the interspersed text is informative, interesting and very readable.

The photographs themselves contain an interesting mix of subject matter. Given the area covered there is no surprise in finding the seals of Donna Nook, nor the Puffins and other residents of the Farne's. There are though other, less predictable pictures to be enjoyed as well. An Eider drake swimming in the multi-hued boat reflections in Seahouses harbour; a cow cautiously sniffing at a Great Crested Grebe's nest with eggs. A curlew defending it's nest from a grazing sheep and its lamb. A land fill site, agricultural machinery, farmland, landscapes, geological shots, all play their part in demonstrating the interactivity of the area.

For those who have not yet visited this beautiful area this book comprehensively demonstrates what there is to be enjoyed. And for those who have visited, well, if you are like me it will make you want to return as soon as possible ❀





NEW MEMBERS - OUR NEW SECRETARY NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

If you have joined the Nature Group within the last twelve months *and have not received a New Members Pack from our Secretary* would you please contact Margaret Johnson whose address appears on page 3.

The mailing labels for posting The Iris are prepared by the Society's Membership Department from their records. So, even though you have received this magazine, it does not mean that we know about you.

Although RPS database problems are being resolved there is the possibility that some discrepancies still exist between their records and ours. *and we may not know you have joined our Group.* Hence, you will not have had your Nature Group membership acknowledged by us. We are not being rude or ignoring you; we just don't know about you!

If you responded to a similar request in our previous issue please ignore the above.

THE NATURE GROUP COMMITTEE BY ROBERT HAWKESWORTH FRPS

It is very important that all members should feel able to contact any of us about matters which give concern, or for advice whether photographic or where to find particular subjects that you wish to photograph. On page three of this issue is a list of our full committee including ex-officio members. If we don't know we probably know a man or woman who does!

A new Group Honorary Secretary and three new Committee Members were elected at our recent AGM for the next two years. Some will be known to a greater or lesser extent to some of you whilst others may be new names. To give a little background brief pen-portraits provided below.

Honorary Group Secretary - Margaret Johnson LRPS.

I've been taking photographs on and off since I was quite young, but it's only since 1998 that I've seriously taken slides. I am particularly interested in wildlife and flower photography and enjoy taking landscapes. Since gaining my LRPS I have looked at things in a different light and with a more "seeing" eye.

I enjoy travelling, especially independently and in countries where my two friends and I can drive ourselves. My favourite places are South Africa and Namibia where wildlife, scenery and solitude all come together for memorable experiences and wonderful photographic opportunities. I am hoping to be able to attain my ARPS in the not too distant future.

Committee Member - David Osborn FRPS EFIAP BPE5.

Been fiddling with cameras longer than I dare to admit, having been thrown one of Dawn's cast-off's as a teenager, as an aid to Aircraft spotting, strange beginnings, but

still snapping aircraft to this day.

I class myself as a Naturalist with a camera, rather than a photographer with an interest in Natural History, for me it is vitally important to have a knowledge and understanding of the subject as well as an appreciation for its welfare in order to capture or record a valuable and viable image.

I have no specific skills or fields of expertise within NH photography and generally have a crack at absolutely anything that's prepared to stand still long enough!

Have been an RPS and NG member for nearly 30 years, man and boy! And have entered National and International exhibitions for over 20 years with over 1500 acceptances to date. Obtained the Fellowship in 1996 with a local project 'Life between the groins!' In the past have run portfolio box A, led field meetings and organised weekends for the group, but more recently concentrating on my own projects and wildlife photo-tours.

As for the future? Would still love to take a cracking shot, but still improving and enthusiastic enough to keep on trying. Digital comes next! Would love to extend my Photo-tour programme and reinstate the local instructional weekends.

And of course following in the footsteps of Dawn and Dad, I'm very much looking forward to my tour of duty on the NG committee, with the challenge of trying to develop the strengths of the group as well as securing its long term future.

Committee Member - Geoff Trinder ARPS.

I have had an interest in nature for as long as I can remember. In the early days this involved keeping various creatures from hamsters to tropical fish and butterfly and moth larvae. My first love however was birds and many hours were spent bird nesting, it was not then frowned on! I always wanted to take pictures of wildlife and started to acquire the necessary equipment about twenty six years ago. At the same time I became a manager of one of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's SSSI nature reserves. Much of my spare time was taken up with this, which involved activities as diverse as removing birch from the heathland to creating ponds; the machinery being loaned by local farmers, photography came second! Now however I spend much time travelling and photographing all aspects of nature, particularly birds and mammals, photography being at last my major interest, selling my pictures through a London based company.

Committee Member - Chris Wood LRPS.

I'm 43 years old and live in West London near Heathrow airport. I've been interested in photography since school, although until recently mainly sport and travel. My interest in nature photography started after a visit to the Wildlife Photographer exhibition at the Natural History Museum and I joined the Nature Group before the surge of enthusiasm waned. I've enjoyed being a member of the group and have found everyone I've met (and I do mean everyone!) to be helpful and full of encouragement. My interest is mainly insects, although I occasionally dabble in birds and mammals, largely dependent on where I've taken my summer holiday. One of my high points was having a photograph published in Horse and Hound despite it being credited to someone else! A low point occurred in India in 1998 when I found a mongoose and a water snake locked in combat, it should have been the photograph of the year, but I'd forgotten to reload the camera! Now I never forget (and I don't trust a mongoose!) ❀

Associateship & Fellowship Applications

The Nature Associateship and Fellowship Panel met on Tuesday 11th March 2003 with Colin Smith FRPS as Chairman and the following applicants were recommended for distinctions.

Fellowship - Prints.

Janet Edwards - Loughborough

Namib Desert

Fellowship - Slides - none successful.

Associateship - Prints

John Cucksey - Blakeney

The Falkland Islands & Charles Darwin.

Ah Kai Chin - Sarawak

Fungi.

H. V. Paveen Kumar - Bangalore

Indian Wildlife.

Associateship - Slides

Michael William Jeffries - Warwick

Tropical, marine.

Cathy Lewis - Clifton

Tropical, marine.

Norman Lock - Dronfield

British birds.

Dennis Sedgley - Wath on Dearne

Fungi

Patricia Tuson - London

Wildlife in an urban environment.

Ilija Vukomanovic - Colwyn Bay

Lepidoptera.

Access, Permits, Reserves, Gardening

by Robert Hawkesworth FRPS.

One of the first jobs that arrived on becoming your new Chairman was to pour oil on some troubled waters that could have affected the good name of the Group; I trust that prompt action achieved a happy outcome.

It did set me thinking, however, how easy it can be, quite innocently probably, to cause difficulties. I remember how, a few years ago, I had led one of our Field Meetings to a couple of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Reserves and I became involved in such a situation. Now I should point out that DWT, like many Trusts, operates an open access policy to most of its reserves, however when you take a group it is necessary (and courteous) to let them know and they will issue a group permit. (A group means 5+/- people.) Working as a volunteer for DWT I had of course picked up the necessary permit and all was well. It went wrong because two of the members decided to return to one of the reserves later the following week, they hadn't checked with me to ask if it would be in order, unfortunately the reserve was closed for some vital maintenance. On being approached by the then Conservation Officer they indicated that they had been with me the previous visit and I had said that it would be OK for them to visit. I hadn't in fact said anything of the sort, so it was rather naughty of them. Since I knew all the parties involved we sorted it out and no permanent damage to reputations ensued. So you can see how easy it is to blunder. There are several lessons to learn for us all.

Firstly, that leaders of Field Meetings will, I am quite sure, have obtained the necessary permission to be where they are. It is always wise when taking a group to let the necessary authorities know, unless of course it is completely open access land.

Secondly, if you have taken part in the Field Meeting, please ask the leader if you may visit on your own later and do not simply assume that you can do so.

Thirdly, if you are challenged, either politely or impolitely, and you do not have a permit you are in the wrong (albeit through ignorance), so eat humble pie and make the necessary apologies, which can be very difficult especially if the challenge is impolite.

Fourthly, Membership of the Nature Group does not bring with it permission to be anywhere. Consequently informing the owner, or his/her representative, that you are a member will cut no ice at all, in fact they might as a consequence suggest that in that case you should know better. We are including with this issue of *The Iris* a list of the addresses of The Wildlife Trusts, which you may find useful.

In 'The Nature Photographers' Code of Practice', issued to all members on joining, we are all encouraged to leave no trace of our presence, in other words to be very tidy not only with regard to litter but also in disturbance. As individuals I am quite sure we do this but group activity can be of its very nature very problematical. Fifteen or more people visiting a specific site can cause serious trampling and if everyone gardens to his or her preference the final result can resemble a desert! Consequently especial care is necessary and a very desirable specimen perhaps should only be visited by one or two people at a time, this will minimise trampling. It is very easy in the excitement of the moment to forget such matters and I suppose it is because I have been leading groups for many years that I am more conscious of them.

I am honoured to be the Chairman of such a fine group of people, I can honestly say that I have met nothing but happiness and courtesy during the whole of my membership. Let us not forget that we are all ambassadors for the Nature Group whenever we are out taking photographs and that on our individual actions the standing of our Group may well rest. It only takes one person ... You know the rest ☘

DIRECTORY OF WILDLIFE TRUSTS

*N.B. THIS INFORMATION IS BELIEVED TO BE CORRECT
AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS*

Avon Wildlife Trust - The Wildlife Centre, 32 Jacob's Wells Road, Bristol, BS8 1DR.
Tel: 0117 926 8018. Email: avonwt@cix.co.uk

The Wildlife Trust for Beds., Cambs., Northants and Peterborough - 3B Langford Arch, London Road, Sawston, Cambridge, CB2 4EE.
Tel: 01223 712400. Email: cambswt@cix.co.uk

The Berks., Bucks. & Oxon. Wildlife Trust - The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road, Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 4XT. Tel: 01865 775476. Email: bbontwt@cix.co.uk

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & The Black Country - Unit 310, Jubilee Trade Centre, 130 Pershore Street, Birmingham, B5 6ND. Email: urbanwt@cix.co.uk

Brecknock Wildlife Trust - Lion House, Bethel Square, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7AY.
Tel: 01874 625708. Email: brecknockwt@cix.co.uk

Cheshire Wildlife Trust - Grebe House, Reaseheath, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DG.
Tel: 01270 610180. Email: cheshirewt@cix.co.uk

Cornwall Wildlife Trust - Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ.
Tel: 01872 273939. Email: cornwt@cix.co.uk

Cumbria Wildlife Trust - Brockhole, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1LJ.
Tel: 01539 448280. Email: cumbriawt@cix.co.uk

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust - East Mill, Bridgefoot, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 1XH.
Tel: 01773 881188. Email: derbywt@cix.co.uk

Devon Wildlife Trust - Shirehampton House, 35-37 St. David's Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4DA. Tel: 01392 279244. Email: devonwt@cix.co.uk

Dorset Wildlife Trust - Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester, DT2 7AA.
Tel: 01305 264620. Email: dorsetwt@cix.co.uk

Durham Wildlife Trust - Rainton Meadows, Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 6PU. Tel: 0191 584 3112. Email: durhamwt@cix.co.uk

Essex Wildlife Trust - Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex, CO5 7DN. Tel: 01206 729678. Email: admin@essexwt.org.uk

Glamorgan Wildlife Trust - Nature Centre, Fountain Road, Tondur, Mid Glamorgan, CF32 0EH. Tel: 01656 724100. Email: glamorganwt@cix.co.uk

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust - Dulverton Building, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road, Gloucester, GL4 6SX. Tel: 01452 383333. Email: gmcg@cix.co.uk

Gwent Wildlife Trust - 16 White Swan Court, Church Street, Monmouth, Gwent, NP5 3BR. Tel: 01600 715501. Email: gwentwildlife@cix.co.uk

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust - 8 Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 9AL. Tel: 01703 613636. Email: hampswt@cix.co.uk

Herefordshire Nature Trust - Lower House Farm, Ledbury Road, Tupsley, Hereford, HR1 1UT. Tel: 01432 356872. Email: herefordwt@cix.co.uk

Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust - Grebe House, St. Michael's Street, St. Albans, Herts, AL3 4SN. Tel: 01727858901. Email: hertswt@cix.co.uk

Kent Wildlife Trust - Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3BD.
Tel: 01622 662012. Email: kentwildlife@cix.co.uk

Lancashire Wildlife Trust - Cuerdon Park Wildlife Centre, Shady Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston, Lancs, PR5 6AU. Tel: 01772324129. Email: lancswt@cix.co.uk

Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust - 1 West Street, Leicester, LE1 6UU.
Tel: 0116 254 1254. Email: leicswt@cix.co.uk

The Lincs Trust for Nature Conservation - Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincs, LN9 5HF. Tel: 01507 526667. Email: lincstrust@cix.co.uk

London Wildlife Trust - Harling House, 47-51 Gt Suffolk Street, London, SE1 0BS.
Tel: 020 7261 0447. Email: londonwt@cix.co.uk

Manx Wildlife Trust - Conservation Centre, The Courtyard, Tynwald Mills, St Johns, Isle of Man. Tel: 01624 801985. Email: manxwt@cix.co.uk

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust - Collott House, 20 Severn Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7AD. Tel: 01938 555654. Email: montwt@cix.co.uk

Norfolk Wildlife Trust - 72 Cathedral Close, Norwich, NR1 4DF.

Tel: 01603 625540. Email: nwt@cix.co.uk

Northumberland Wildlife Trust - The Garden House, St Nicholas Park, Jubilee Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3XT. Tel: 0191 284 6884. Email: northwildlife@cix.co.uk

North Wales Wildlife Trust - 376 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1YE.

Tel: 01248 351541. Email: nwwt@cix.co.uk

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust - The Old Ragged School, Brook Street,

Nottingham, NG1 1EA. Tel: 0115 958 8242. Email: nottswt@cix.co.uk

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust - Warwick House, High Street, Llandrindod Wells,

Powys, LD1 6AG. Tel: 01597 823298. Email: radnorshirewt@cix.co.uk

Scottish Wildlife Trust - Cramond House, Kirk Cramond, Cramond Glebe Road,

Edinburgh, EH4 6NS. Tel: 0131 312 7765. Email: scottishwt@cix.co.uk

Sheffield Wildlife Trust - Wood Lane House, 52 Wood Lane, Sheffield S6 5HE.

Tel: 0114 231 0120. Email: sheffieldwt@cix.co.uk

Shropshire Wildlife Trust - 167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 8LG.

Tel: 01743 241691. Email: shropshirewt@cix.co.uk

Somerset Wildlife Trust - Fyne Court, Broomfield, Bridgewater, Somerset, TA5 2EQ.

Tel: 01823 451587. Email: somwt@cix.co.uk

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust - Coutts House, Sandon, Staffs, ST18 0DN.

Tel: 01889 508534. Email: staffswt@cix.co.uk

Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Brooke House, The Green, Ashbocking, Ipswich, IP6 9JY.

Tel: 01473 890089. Email: suffolkwt@cix.co.uk

Surrey Wildlife Trust - School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JN.

Tel: 01483 488055. Email: surreywt@cix.co.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust - Woods Mill, Shoreham Road, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD.

Tel: 01273 492630. Email: sussexwt@cix.co.uk

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust - Bellamy Pavilion, Kirkleatham Old Hall, Redcar,

Cleveland, TS10 5NW. Tel: 01642 759900. Email: clevelandwt@cix.co.uk

Ulster Wildlife Trust - 3 New Line, Crossgar, Co. Down, BT30 9EP.

Tel: 01396 830282. Email: ulsterwt@cix.co.uk

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Brandon Lane,

Coventry, CV3 3GW. Tel: 01203 302912. Email: warkswt@cix.co.uk

The Wildlife Trust West Wales - 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Dyfed, SA61 1NF.

Tel: 01437 765462. Email: wildlife@wildlife-wales.org.uk

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust - 19 High Street, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 1AT.

Tel: 01380 725670. Email: wiltswt@cix.co.uk

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust - Lower Smite Farm, Smite Hill, Hindlip,

Worcester, WR3 8SZ. Tel: 01905 754919. Email: worcswt@cix.co.uk

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 6JT.

Tel: 01904 659570. Email: yorkshirewt@cix.co.uk ☘



