



Early Purple Orchid © Dawn Osborn FRPS



Bluebells © Dawn Osborn FRPS

May and June are a wonderful months for getting out and capturing images of spring flora. Bluebell woods are in full bloom at the moment and soon there will be areas full of Early Purple Orchids with many other species to follow in June. Birds and pollinating insects are also at their most active at this time of year. Unfortunately the weather in most parts of the UK has been rather unseasonably cold, wet and windy for the time of year, but the forecast is for warmer, more settled weather. Fingers crossed then!

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Welcome to the sixth issue of the Nature Group eNews. In this issue you will find details of a Video Workshop to be held later this year, a new Autumn Residential Weekend and also Field Meetings arranged for the 2019 season. Please support these events. If there isn't an event near to where you live, then could you organise one that would be of interest to members? If so, or if you have any questions, please email the Nature Group Programme Coordinator, Ann Miles, at: annmiles70@gmail.com.

The next issue will include an article from Nature Distinctions Chairman, David Osborn FRPS. David will be offering advice about how best to go about preparing your submission;

avoiding some of the common pitfalls and thereby giving yourself the best opportunity to be successful. If members have specific questions relating to Nature A & F panel submissions please send them to me and I will forward them to David who will try to answer them in his article. Please let me have your questions before the end of June.

eNews enables members to share information with fellow members, such as sites of photographic interest, field meetings, natural history and photography book reviews, items of photographic kit for sale. Anything that might be of interest to you as a nature photographer will almost certainly be of interest to your fellow Nature Group members.

eNews can only continue if members support it by sharing items of interest.

Nature Group members are a well travelled group of people, so why not share your trip experiences and see your images in print?

Gerald Griffin ARPS, my successor at The Iris, also needs articles for the next issue of The Iris.

We both look forward to hearing from you soon.



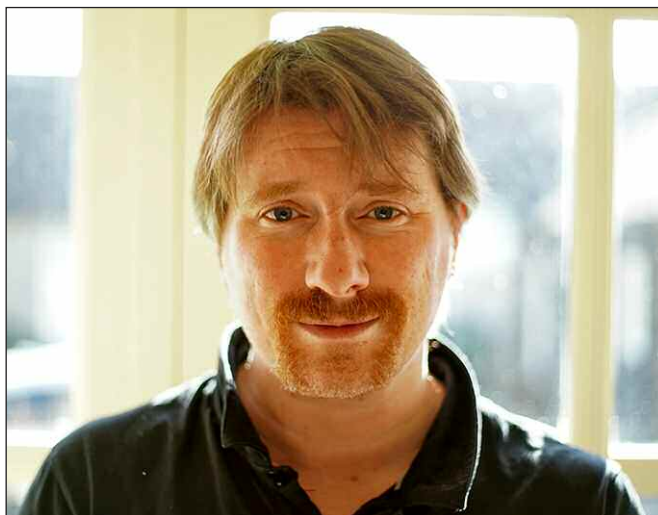
Dawn Osborn FRPS
eNews Editor

Nature Group Video Workshop Announcement

Nature Group Members, are you a novice when it comes to using your DSLR or mirrorless camera to take videos? If so, then this workshop is for you.

An Introduction to Video

This workshop will be led by Tom Middleton, a professional director of photography and filmmaker based in Shropshire. Tom's career began in London working for international productions companies. After years of working in marketing, distribution and post production, Tom and his wife took the plunge and went freelance starting their own company, SMN Film, in Shropshire.



Tom's passion for capturing the outdoors is readily evident in a portfolio of over 300 branded commercial films, and aerial cinematography. His camera work has been featured on several BBC One and Channel 4 nature and documentary programmes. Alongside his commercial career, Tom has developed educational programmes and lectured in film production at Staffordshire University and Worcester University.

In the first instance, Tom will deliver this introductory workshop to Nature Group members from the East Anglia Region and then subsequently to members from other RPS Regions.

Each workshop will be limited to a maximum of 10 participants.

The morning session will be classroom based, followed by an afternoon practical field session. In the field participants will work in pairs and each individual will take a short nature video. Tom will work personally with each pair of participants to ensure that everybody has completed a suitable video by the end of the day.

The Nature Group intends to provide further workshops in the future to enable members to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to use appropriate computer software such as Final Cut Pro or Premier Pro to edit video clips into short movies.

The Nature Group Committee anticipates that the workshop will be popular and, in order to obtain manageable numbers, in the first instance it will be available to Nature Group members in the Eastern Region of the RPS. The workshop will then be provided subsequently to other RPS Regions.

Further details on page 3.

Introduction to Video

A One-Day Workshop for Nature Photographers

Foxton Hall, Hardman Road, FOXTON
Cambridge CB22 6RN

Sunday 15th September 2019
10am - 5pm

This workshop will be led by Tom Middleton, a professional filmmaker and director of photography.

Aims:

By the end of the workshop you will have obtained a correctly exposed, creatively composed nature video taken with your DSLR or Mirrorless camera.

Level:

Competent nature photographers who are new to video.

Required personal equipment:

DSLR or Mirrorless Camera and suitable lens such as 24-70mm or 24-105mm, 70-200mm may be useful.

Participants:

The maximum number of participants for the workshop is 10.

The morning classroom session will include elements such as:

- operating the video controls of a DSLR or mirrorless camera
- obtaining footage hand held and use of camera support
- camera mode, auto or manual
- frame rate, 25/50/100 fps, which to choose and why, the 'Hollywood look'
- appropriate shutter speeds, shutter speeds and moving subjects, shutter speed in relation to frame rate and the 180 degree rule
- focusing the camera lens for videos, use of autofocus, tracking moving subjects
- parameters related to video quality such as format (MOV or MP4), picture resolution (4K, FHD, FHD or HD) and compression (MJPEG, ALL-1 or IPB)
- panning and slow motion
- capturing a suitable range of clips to integrate into a short movie (2-3 minutes)
- recording of sound
- advice regarding the potential choice of free and commercial video editing software for use with Apple and Microsoft Windows platforms.

The afternoon field session will provide:

- a practical experience of recording a short nature video
- participants working in pairs and receiving individual specific support.

Cost:

£100 for the full day - Nature Group Members only.

Booking:

Nature Group Members in the Eastern Region may apply for tickets direct from the RPS website:
<http://www.rps.org/events/2019/september/15/an-introduction-to-video>

Foxton Hall has appropriate resources to support the workshop including a kitchen to cater for tea and coffee. However, please note that you will need to bring a packed lunch with you.

Field Meetings 2019

The following Field meetings have been organized for Nature Group Members.

Full details of the events listed below, including photographic interest, exact location, cost (if applicable), how to book etc. are on the Nature Group Events Section of the RPS website along with other Events.

Wednesday 22nd May
Martin Down (National Nature Reserve)
Near Salisbury SP5 5RH.



This Nature Reserve on the Hampshire/Dorset border consists of 350 hectares of unspoiled chalk downland. A great opportunity to photograph some of Britain's rarer orchids including Burnt-tip, Butterfly, Bee, Frog and many more species. If the weather is kind, there should be lots of downland butterflies and insects.
Event Organiser Duncan Locke LRPS

Wednesday 29th May
Christopher Cadbury Reserve,
Upton Warren Near Droitwich, B61 7ET.

Upton Warren is Worcestershire's premier bird reserve. It is home to breeding Avocets, Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing and Redshank. The reed beds and surrounding hedgerows are home to Reed Buntings, Reed Warblers, Bullfinches, Greenfinches and many others. Passage birds have included Dunlin, Sanderling, Turnstone, Bar-tailed Godwit plus much rarer birds such as Red-necked Phalarope and Black Tern. Even the occasional Otter may be seen. In late May there will be plenty of bird activity, including almost certainly Avocet chicks. The hides are ideally placed for photography.
Event Organiser Jeff Steady LRPS

Sunday 2nd June
RSPB Strumpshaw Fen
Near Norwich, NR13 4HS



There should be opportunities to photograph the usual Fenland birds, Marsh Harrier, Reed Warblers, Kingfishers etc. It is also an excellent site for insect photography. If the weather is kind, it will be the right time to observe and photograph Swallowtail Butterflies and Norfolk Hawker Dragonflies among many other species. There is also a chance you may see Otters.
Event Organiser Ann Miles FRPS

Sunday 28th July
Sharpenhoe Clappers,
Bedfordshire, MK45 4SH

Sharpenhoe Clappers is a classic chalk escarpment and part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is crowned with traces of an Iron Age hill-fort and an impressive beech wood.

The main subjects of the outing are butterflies, other insects and chalk-specialising flowers. This is a wonderful site for butterflies, especially Chalkhill Blues. The timing of their emergence obviously changes each year so no guarantees on numbers.

For those new to nature photography, it is an opportunity to learn more about macro photography. Alternatively you might like to try some more creative approaches such as shallow depth of field, double exposures etc

A confirmation email will be sent to everyone who books about a week before the event with updates on species etc.
Organiser Ann Miles

Please support these events.

RPS Nature Group Residential Weekend Autumn 2019

Margam Discovery Centre,
Margam Park, Port Talbot,
South Wales. SA13 2UA

18th - 21st October 2019

Leader: James Foad LRPS

It is hoped that this re-introduction of the Autumn Residential weekend will be as successful as the highly supported Summer Residential Weekends.

Main subjects of interest:

Deer and Deer rutting, Fungi, autumn colours and water falls.

Cost per person for 3 nights:

£170.25 Single room

£147.75 Shared room, per person.

All rooms are en-suite.

Price includes full board accommodation,
Packed Lunch and VAT at 20%.

We will have the use of the Centre's 16 seater mini bus for which there will be a small extra charge per mile.

Deposit

A deposit of £85.00 is required within fourteen days of booking to secure your place. If a deposit is not paid within this period and a waiting list is in operation you could be at risk of losing your place. Deposits are non-returnable unless there is anyone on the waiting list who can take your place should you be unable to attend after confirming of your your booking.

Deposit cheques should be made payable to:
Field Studies Council Ltd. and mailed to:
Mr J. C. Foad, LRPS,
24b Queens Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 8DZ

No bookings will be accepted until this notice has appeared in The Iris.

For further details and to book please contact:

James Foad LRPS

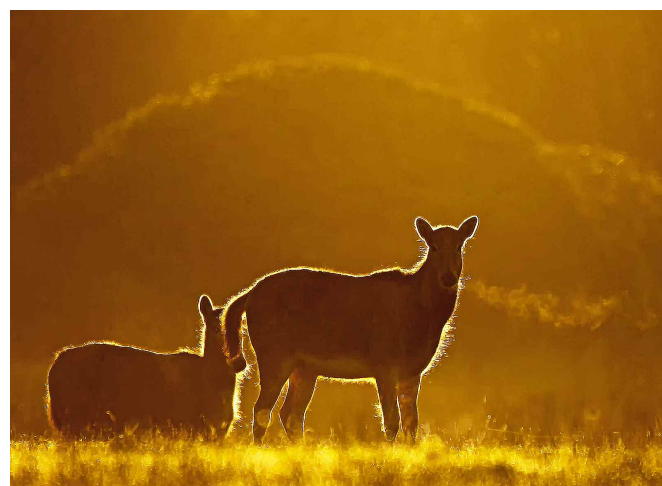
Phone: 07834 810430

Email: jamesfoadlrps@inbox.com:

Emails must have in the Subject box:

RPS, NG Autumn Residential Weekend 2019

This Weekend may not be suitable for disabled members and members with walking difficulties - there will be some walking on uneven and slippery ground as one of the water falls we will be visiting has steep paths with tree roots and loose stones to walk over



This Weekend may not be suitable for disabled members and members with walking difficulties. There will be some walking on uneven and slippery ground as one of the water falls we will be visiting has steep paths with tree roots and loose stones to cross.

The Nature Group Annual Exhibition 2019



A DVD containing all of the accepted images from the 2019 Exhibition is now available to order online from the RPS Shop. Priced at only £10

[See the RPS website for more details](#)



SOUTH EAST CENTRE

**Rachael Talibart
& Ann Healey ARPS**

**DIGITAL CAPTURE
OF THE
NATURAL WORLD**

Sunday 9th June 2018 ~ Maidstone, Kent

Announcements & For Sale

Dates for your diary

Entries Invited

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

June

Winchester National Exhibition

Digital Projection

www.winphotosoc.co.uk

Entries close 30th June 2019

July

Beyond Group

Digital Projection (PDI)

www.beyondgroup.org.uk

Entries close in July - check website

Midland Salon:

Print & PDI

www.midland-salon.com

Entries close 14th July 2019

The South Devon Salon:

Digital Projection (PDI)

www.newtonabbot-photoclub.org.uk

Entries close 14th July 2019

August

Welsh International*

<http://thewpf.co.uk>

SRGB Print Celebration*

Prints

www.srgbphotogroup.org

September:

Dingwall National Projected Image Exhibition*

Digital Projection (PDI)

www.dingwallcameraclub.com

Shrewsbury Open Photography Exhibition*

Digital Projection (PDI)

<http://www.photocompentries.net>

October

Guernsey Salon of Photography*

Digital Projection (DPI)

www.guernseysalon.co.uk

Frome Wessex Salon of Photography*

Digital Projection (DPI)

www.fromewessexcameraclub.co.uk

* Check websites for details of opening/closing dates.

Field Meetings



Recently, while going through some old Nature Group files, I came across the picture above. It shows Nature Group members who attended a Field Meeting many years ago. Although I do recognise a few faces, the only one I can put a name to is John Fairbanks ARPS (the gentleman wearing the light coloured jacket). The image may have been scanned from a print or slide as there is no metadata. I would guess that it was taken on a fungus foray led by John - generously gave his time and organised many such days on behalf of the Nature Group.

It seems a pity that such events are becoming rare while at the same time members are still asking why there are not more Field Meetings.

Ask yourself - would you like to see more Field Meetings? If your answer is yes, please consider leading a meeting in your area. Expert knowledge is not required. Also, please try to support the meetings that have been arranged even though some may be some distance from home. You will make new friends and meet like minded nature photographers

For Sale

If you have items of photographic equipment that you no longer need or use, why not advertise them for sale in eNews?

It costs members nothing to advertise and the advert will be read by over 900 members of the Nature Group.

To advertise your items contact the Editor at: naturegroup_enews_editor@btinternet.com

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. 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.

No payment will be made for material used. Submission of images assumes permission is given for their use in eNews. Authors should hold the copyright for any images submitted for use in eNews.

The views expressed within Nature Group eNews are solely those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Nature Group Committee.

Distribution:

eNews is available to members as a download from the Nature Group Members section of the RPS website. An RPS Bulletin advising members of its availability will be emailed to Members using addresses supplied by them to the RPS Membership Department in Bristol. Please update them if you change your email address.

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Design & layout

by Dawn Osborn FRPS

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Ex officio Committee members:

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

*Members please note:

David O'Neill is currently acting as Nature Group Hon. Treasurer. He cannot continue to perform this role indefinitely on top of his other commitments to the Nature Group. If you have the necessary experience, can you help the Nature Group by performing this very important role? Please contact David O'Neill for further information.

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.

