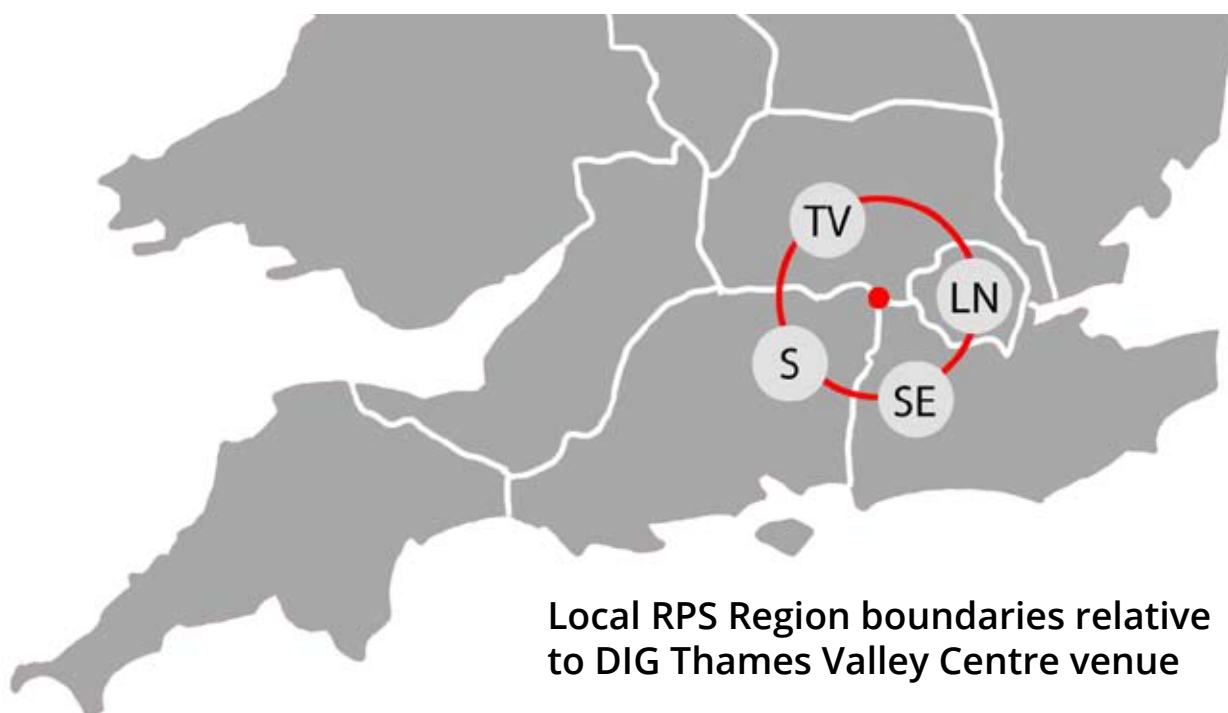


Welcome to **DIGEST** - the first of a series of occasional Thames Valley Centre newsletters that we will produce when we have something we want to tell you about. Right now we have a lot going on in the Thames Valley Centre.

Who is this Newsletter for?

The venue for the Thames Valley Centre - in Wokingham, Berkshire - is well placed to serve members in four RPS Regions: London, South East, Southern, and, of course, Thames Valley. So we are hoping it will be read and enjoyed by all RPS members in those Regions.



Local RPS Region boundaries relative to DIG Thames Valley Centre venue

We are more than just Photoshop!

A glance at our Programme of events for 2020 - on page 3 - will give you some idea of the breadth of content and genres that we bring to members, whether they are 'into' Digital Imaging or not. And from the cross-section of attendees at our events, we know that there is a lot of interest in our presentations from members of other Special Interest Groups, or no Special Interest Group at all! Incidentally, all of our events are also open to non-RPS members, so you can bring along a friend, spouse, partner or camera club buddy to any of our events.

The Thames Valley Centre Team

Alan Bousfield ARPS is the Centre Organiser, and the one ultimately responsible for the high quality of delivery of our events. Alan is ably supported by a well-coordinated team of six, each with well-defined responsibilities. In addition we are grateful for the support from other regular attendees who lend a hand as needed. There's more about the team on our website.

Find us at www.rps.org/digtv

New Projector for Thames Valley Centre

Thames Valley Centre is pleased to announce the arrival of our new projector, to replace our ageing Canon SX80 Mk II. Its replacement is the WUX500. This is the latest LCoS model from Canon, and the projector sought by top camera clubs. It offers a native resolution of 1920 x 1200 (WUXGA), compared with the previous 1400 x 1050. It features a much higher lumen output and greater contrast ratio, so we are expecting a much-improved viewing experience.



It also offers HDMI input for all input resolutions, so our connection regime is much simplified. We have adaptors to convert both USC-C and Mini-Displayport to HDMI, to accommodate a wide range of presenters' laptops.

The higher resolution will change the image specification for our Thames Valley Centre competitions. These changes will first come into effect for our Len Deeley PDI Competition in April 2020, and will be reflected in revised rules.

Competition News

So will the Thames Valley Centre PDI Competition rules be changed to 1920 x 1200 for the new projector?

Well, actually, no - but they will change! After careful consideration, and discussions within the RPS and also with the PAGB, we have decided that the best path for us is to move to the PAGB-preferred spec of 1600 x 1200 for our competitions. This retains the 4:3 ratio we are familiar with. But, more importantly, it maintains a 'fairly level' playing field for competitions where judges are comparing and assessing landscape and portrait images together. The 4:3 ratio mitigates the potentially large difference in image size between the two image shapes, so is arguably fairer to both. The other factor that supported our decision was that our professional projection screen has a 4:3 aspect ratio (10 x 7'6"). That's not to say we won't use or offer other aspect ratios for other applications, including, of course, our speaker presentations. Our presenters will be free to use any resolution up to the 'Full HD' standard.



Our Competition Trophies

Just a reminder about our competition awards.

The **Len Deeley Memorial Trophy** (above left) is awarded to the winner of our annual PDI Competition, held in April each year. **The Millennium Cup** (below left) is awarded to the winner of October's Print Competition. Both trophies are engraved with the winners' names, and are held by the winner for one year.

See our web pages for all galleries of our competition entries over the years.



Our Print Competition winner

The winner of our Millennium Cup Print Competition on 20 October was Anne Eckersley LRPS, with her compelling image entitled 'Trapped'. Anne received the trophy from judge Paul Mitchell FRPS.



Our Programme for 2020

As many of you will have already seen, our 2020 programme is now fully detailed (indeed, even some of our 2021 speakers are already booked!). Here is a 2020 run-down:

 <p>Sunday 19 January ...</p> <p>Peter Dazeley BEM FRPS</p> <p>UNSEEN LONDON, PLATINUM PRINTING & ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY</p>	 <p>Sunday 16 February ...</p> <p>★ STAR EVENT</p> <p>Tony Harmer MAKING IT on mobile ... in Photoshop ... move!</p> 
 <p>Sunday 22 March ...</p> <p>Colin Westgate FRPS MFIAP MPAGB APAGB</p> <p>THE EXPRESSIVE LANDSCAPE</p> <p>Chrissie Westgate FRPS</p> <p>MIXED BLESSINGS</p>	 <p>Sunday 19 April ...</p> <p>Jo Teasdale FRPS</p> <p>'THE FACTORY' (Jo's FRPS panel)</p> <p>'MY ADOPTED FAMILY'</p> <p>+ PDI Competition</p>
 <p>Sunday 17 May ...</p> <p>Sam Gregory</p> <p>MORE THAN AN IMAGE</p> <p>A JOURNEY INTO LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY & BEYOND</p>	 <p>Sunday 20 September ...</p> <p>Paula Davies FRPS EFIAP/PS EPSA Guy Davies ARPS EFIAP EPSA</p> <p>DOUBLE VISION & CONTINUING THE JOURNEY</p>
 <p>Sunday 18 October ...</p> <p>Alan Frost ARPS</p> <p>ME AND MY MONO followed by the Millennium Cup Competition for Prints</p>	 <p>Sunday 15 November ...</p> <p>Polina Plotnikova ARPS EFIAP</p> <p>STARTING FROM A BLANK CANVAS Flowers ~ Still Life</p> <p>SEE IN A NEW WAY My journey with Lensbaby</p>

We will have the usual line-up of eight events, and are pleased to have been able to retain our 2019 prices. And our Season Ticket plan is particularly popular, as it offers exceptional value - offering top presenters for as little as £5 per full-day event for DIG members, and just £7.50 for other RPS members. Other benefits include a personalised delegate badge, never having to buy a Day Ticket for the rest of the year, and a guaranteed seat near the front of the hall. Page 4 explains the reasons for our arrangements for buying tickets.

[See all of our events HERE](#)

[Visit our 'Tickets for Events' page HERE](#)

A little more about us ...

Our venue: Woosehill Community Hall, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 3DA

We meet in a modern, purpose-built community hall that is well-suited to our needs. It has seating capacity for up to 100, an efficient blackout system, and a well-equipped kitchen. There is extensive adjacent parking, and Morrisons supermarket next door is available for lunchtime items - and it also has a cash machine - for those last-minute purchases of event tickets, Prize Draw tickets, or photographic books etc from our presenters.



The best of sound too ... and optimal print viewing



We look after the sound as well as the vision - with a professional stereo sound system and Shure radio microphones.

And print viewing has not been overlooked, with our locally-crafted LED-illuminated print easel that can show up to three prints at a time.



Regular Prize Draws at our events

At nearly all of our events we hold a Prize Draw. The high quality of our prizes ensures this is a popular element of the day - enhanced by the electronic draw that we project live as the numbers are selected. Tickets are just £2 per strip, though 'three strips for a fiver' are particularly popular!

A bit about our ticketing scheme (or why we don't yet use the RPS online system!)

Ticketing is surprisingly complicated! We have three different rates, for DI Group members, RPS non-DI Group members, and for non-RPS members. Then we have three different prices for Season Tickets. There is a complication when a member buys multiple tickets, because it may not always be possible to ascertain the membership status of the other parties.

We have been looking at how we might move to the online service, but with imminent large-scale website changes, we think it better to wait and see what that has to offer in this area. So in the meantime we're sticking with cheques or cash, but will accommodate a bank transfer for those unable to do either cheque or cash.

The best solution by far, for our regular attendees, is a Season Ticket: one purchase and you're done for the year. Just turn up and take a preferential seat!

*We hope you've enjoyed reading this issue of **DIGEST**, and have found it useful. Feedback on anything we do, or that we publish, is always welcome: **Alan Bousfield** - digthamesvalley@rps.org*