



## November 2024 Newsletter

Summer is officially over, if it ever actually arrived, and we have left behind BST on our wrists, mantelpieces and phones. To be fair, the weather hasn't been so bad recently, and although it's getting colder, there has been some good light, the usual stunning autumnal colours, and a series of awesome aurora. The T-W-T series of events continues to grow, and so far there is one published Scottish e-zine from the West Woods of Ethie walk:

[https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/west\\_woods\\_of\\_ethie](https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/west_woods_of_ethie)

I'd hope there will be lots more to share with you in our next Newsletter.

You'll also see in this newsletter that there is plenty of choices with regards face to face events next year. This programme is kind of part of our new requirements as stated by RPS HQ, but actually we were doing or planning most of them anyway. Please support them, and make them the vibrant, happy days that we in RPS Scotland deserve.

Speaking of deserving...all hail Clive Watkins ARPS, one of the latest additions to the ranks of A. Clive's panel is deeply personal, and beautifully presented. It got it's first real airing at PhotoFest 24's advisory day session, some extra input from Simon Hill FRPS, and Clive subsequently put in the hours, and reaped the reward. Congratulations.

Littoral Concretion  
- Mairi MacAulay ARPS

**RPS Scotland**



**24 Exhibition**



## Monthly Competition

Waterfalls...we've been chasing them obviously. And the best one was:



Dave Lynch: Skyefall and the Milky Way. Not surprised, but honourable mentions to Neil Goodwin ARPS, and Tracy Ross LRPS for brave attempts against a cracker. November's topic is A Tree...cool, so get singular and show us what you've got, where your mind goes. Could be arboreal!

<https://rps.org/regions/scotland/scotland-monthly-competition/>

Send entries to Ken, sized at 1000px wide, by as many pixels as you want tall, via [scotlandweb@rps.org](mailto:scotlandweb@rps.org)

## **Darn Walk Woodland Workshop with Paul Mitchell FRPS**

4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Site Darn Walk, Bridge of Allan

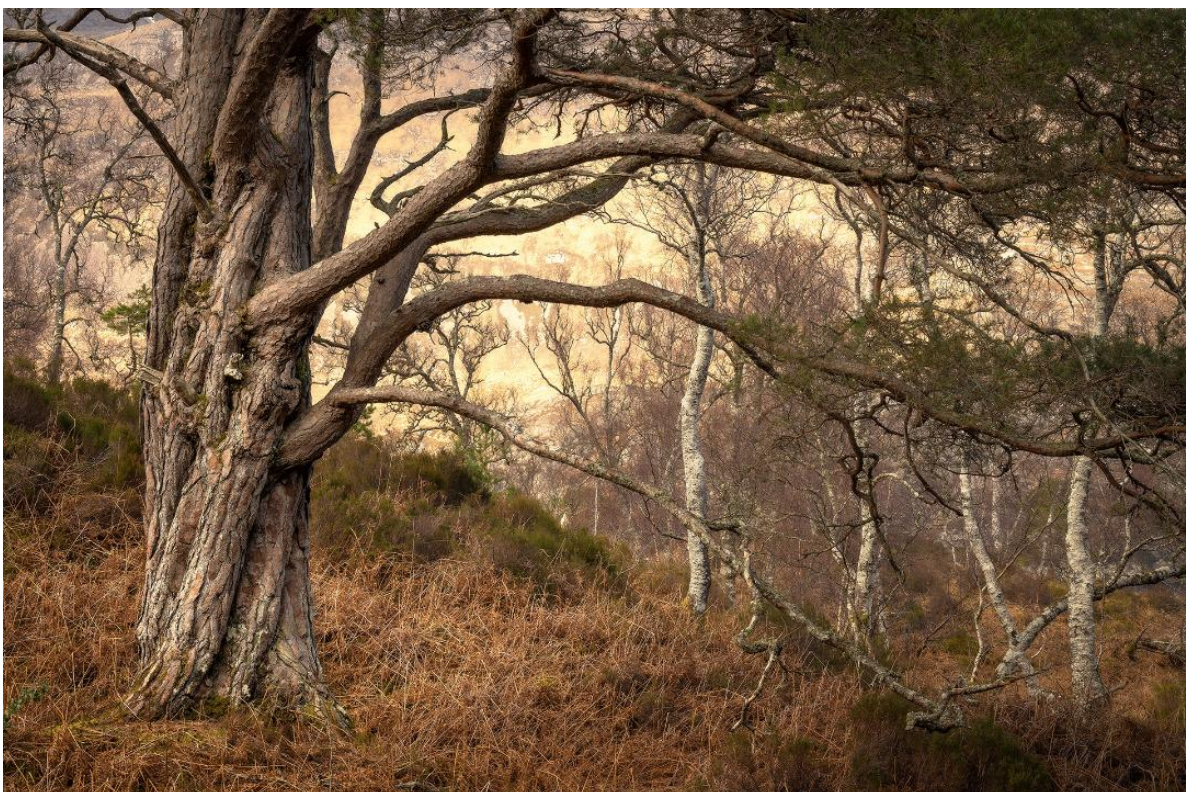
Paul is an award-winning photographer, having been placed in Landscape Photographer of the Year, Outdoor photographer of the Year, International Garden Photographer of the Year, and the RHS best in show winner with his beautiful woodland images. Paul is chair of the RPS Landscape panel, and a member of the Visual art and Photobooks panels.

Paul is also very keen to support learning and development. We are delighted that he has agreed to lead a workshop for us in Scotland.

More information about the event is on the website.

<https://rps.org/events/regions/scotland/2025/april-2025/darn-walk-woodland-workshop-with-paul-mitchell/>

**Places:** Only 10 places are available, and booking will open on 5/11/24. Early booking is advised.



Why not make it a 2-day excursion and sign up for the Advisory day on the 5th as well? Some of us will be staying at Stirling Court Hotel on the night of 4<sup>th</sup> so come and join us!

### **Advisory Day**

We still have some spaces left for our advisory day on 5<sup>th</sup> April. Advisors for the day will be James Frost FRPS, Hazel Frost FRPS, Mick Durham FRPS, and Paul Mitchell FRPS.

This august line-up allows us to provide help for anyone working towards Licentiate, and also Associate or Fellowship in Travel, Documentary, Nature, Landscape and Photobook.

<https://rps.org/regions/scotland/advisory/>

### **Photoforum Days**

The Photoforum days are less formal, but equally useful and informative days. The concept is that members (and non-members are welcome too) bring images in that they want to talk about or get other's opinions on. These images can be a putative panel for a distinction, or a personal project, or just a series of images that the photographer wants to discuss. Those showing images will get the chance to explain them, to listen to others thoughts on them, and then in turn they will offer their thoughts on the images that the others have brought along. No judgements, no rights or wrongs, just open discussion and mutual respect.

The Northern Group has already had their busy annual day in Nairn - report on the next page; South West have theirs shortly at Shambellie House; Glasgow are having one in February 2025, and there will be one in Edinburgh as well.

Observers are also welcome, but we'd encourage as many members as possible to come to each day, and to bring some images with them.

Dumfries: Shambellie House 16th November 2024

Glasgow: Pollokshields Burgh Hall 8th February 2025

Edinburgh: Edinburgh Photographic Society May or June 2025, to be confirmed.

<https://rps.org/regions/scotland/photoforum/>

A sad, last minute piece of news is the passing of Sandy Clelland FRPS, after an illness bravely borne. Sandy was well known in RPS / EPS and beyond, a genuine master of many styles, and a great talker, judge, mentor, and friend. Our thoughts and condolences go to his family, including Karen Berry FRPS, his daughter and definite chip off the old block. More on this next month.

On Sunday 27 October the Northern Area of the Scottish Region hosted a highly successful and very enjoyable Photoforum in Nairn. Trish Roberts, the Northern Area Rep, welcomed 15 RPS members to the event, and also welcomed four non-members of the RPS from local camera clubs in Forres and Inverness. James and Hazel Frost provided expert oversight, assisted by Roy Robertson. Six members brought prints along to show, five brought digital images and two non-members showed enormous fortitude in also bringing prints into what they may have considered to be the lions' den of photographic expertise.

The images presented demonstrated a variety of subjects, some with potential for development as future projects, to almost complete panels, and successful distinctions. The variety of genres and techniques was impressive, although landscapes and visual art featured predominantly.

James and Hazel brought along examples of their recent work, demonstrating the extremely high standard of photography that they have achieved, whilst Roy provided a selection of thought provoking images of dancers, taken on film, which showed remarkable in-camera and darkroom technique to capture and show movement as a series of abstract monochrome studies.

Attendees were given the opportunity to closely study prints, and to see how the use of different papers can affect the final image. Each digital image was shown multiple times allowing the audience to fully appreciate the work of the author. Audience members were 'invited' by James, who co-ordinated the running order, to individually discuss the work of another attendee; such assessment is essential to understanding one's own photographic output and is a key part of Photoforum participation. All panels generated interesting and lively discussions although, in the spirit of the event, both experts and audience members did not always share opinions as to what might constitute a 'good' image. It was really positive to see active participation by non-RPS members who all agreed that the event was an excellent introduction to the RPS Northern Area which increased their understanding of work that members produce, how the distinctions worked, and what are the benefits of joining.

Overall, the Northern Area Photoforum achieved its aim of allowing photographers to spend time discussing any aspect of photography in a friendly and informal environment, free from the pressures associated with RPS advisory type events. This success was due in no small part to the dedication of James, Hazel and Roy who gave up their time to join us in the Highlands of Scotland, and to Trish and her Northern helpers for organising the day.



## What's On in November?

2nd August to 2nd November Coupar's Camera Lamb Gallery Dundee

<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/events/coupar-camera>

November: RPS Scotland Exhibition at the Hub, Eskdalemuir, with an Open Night on 2nd November 18.30, including 4 different small talks on "What the RPS does for me"

November 16th South West PhotoForum Shambellie House

Contact for all SW events: Jean Robson - [digmem@rps.org](mailto:digmem@rps.org)

<https://events.rps.org/en/4LrdQ66/rps-sw-scotland-photoforum-and-exhibition-5a2NN23WWj2/overview>

November 21st Labhairt Beag: 1-Day - [contemporarisco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarisco@rps.org)

November 27th RPS Tayside Photo Walk, Dundee Riverside...this will be on the website shortly (<https://rps.org/regions/scotland/>), or let Robin ([tillyrie@outlook.com](mailto:tillyrie@outlook.com)) / Steve ([squarehole@btinternet.com](mailto:squarehole@btinternet.com)) know to secure your place.

Further ahead:

January 15th 2025 A Chat with Simon Hill Hon FRPS - [contemporarisco@rps.org](mailto:contemporarisco@rps.org)

February 8th PhotoForum Pollokshields Burgh Hall Glasgow

March 7-9th 2025 Landscape SIG DoubleTree North Queensferry

<https://billetto.co.uk/e/landscape-group-conference-2025-full-price-tickets-tickets-902441?rr=aHR0cHM6Ly9ycHMub3JnLw==>

April 4th Woodland Workshop with Paul Mitchell FRPS Darn Walk, Bridge of Allan

<https://rps.org/events/regions/scotland/2025/april-2025/darn-walk-woodland-workshop-with-paul-mitchell/>

April 5th 2025 Advisory Day, Stirling Uni Bridge of Allan

<https://rps.org/events/regions/scotland/2025/april-2025/distinctions-advisory-day/>

AGM - will be online, and details will be published in plenty of time.

Celebration Day / Print Selection - Bridge of Allan, date to be confirmed

June 2025 Edinburgh PhotoForum, at EPS...date to be confirmed

TWT 25...gardens and blooms, after Easter, details to follow.

## **RPS Scotland Committee**

### **RPS Regional Organiser:**

Dave Ferguson LRPS [scotland@rps.org](mailto:scotland@rps.org)

### **Committee:**

Ken Ness FRPS [scotlandweb@rps.org](mailto:scotlandweb@rps.org)

Kirsten Bax LRPS [scotlandtreasurer@rps.org](mailto:scotlandtreasurer@rps.org)

Clive Watkins ARPS [scotlandsec@rps.org](mailto:scotlandsec@rps.org)

### **Local contacts:**

#### **Northern**

Trish Roberts ARPS

#### **Grampian**

Nigel Corby FRPS

#### **Tayside**

Robin Millar

Steven Whittaker ARPS

#### **Fife**

Monica Vella

Ken Goodfellow LRPS

Mark Reeves FRPS

#### **Central**

Bob Black

#### **Lanarkshire**

Douglas Thompson FRPS

#### **Edinburgh**

Filipe Teixeira-Dias

#### **Glasgow**

Anne McKelvie

#### **Borders**

Fiona Cadger ARPS

Tracey Largue

#### **Ayrshire**

Tracy Ross LRPS

#### **South West**

Jean Robson FRPS

#### **Orkney**

Jamie Bodley-Scott ARPS