I asked the winner to tell us a little of the ‘back story’ to his ‘The Touareg’s Welcome’. He writes:

‘I entered the November competition almost on a whim and was exhilarated to hear that I had won. My family were quite proud of me!

The image was taken when my wife and I had hired a car and driver for a week’s tour of the Moroccan Sahara. In a small village, we came across this very friendly gentleman in his bazaar where we spent about an hour chatting to him over coffee and sweetmeats. He was pleased that I knew about the ‘Blue Men’ of the Sahara. He confirmed that he indeed was one and that his artefacts came from other Saharan nomads. We parted, having bought some small items, with professions of friendship on both sides.

The photo itself needed little editing, just a bit of colour correction, sharpening and cropping. I purposely left in a fair amount of ‘milieu’ to ensure that there was a bit of story to the picture.’

Andrew Brochwicz-Lewinski

Congratulations, Andrew! Read Steve’s account of the month on page 2.
Revitalising the Monthly Travel Image Competition

After listening to the views and opinions of travel group members November 2019, saw a refresh of the travel group monthly competition as a way of providing photographers with a way to become more involved with the group.

Additionally, it was hoped that the competition would enable photographers from all over the world to be able to see the different ways in which the concept of travel photography was being interpreted and that the competition would encourage members of the group to see this as an opportunity to put some of their best work forward.

A key RPS criteria for travel photography is the ability of any submitted image to communicate a strong sense of place. Of course, there is no one way of doing this, so it was interesting to see the different interpretations of ‘a sense of place’ as the photographs were submitted.

The images submitted for the November competition, came from members all over the globe and covered subjects which included locations from the high Arctic, to the deserts of Africa, and the grasslands of Mongolia, to name but a few.

Some of the images were very much focused on landscape, and man’s interaction with that landscape, while others focused on the cultural diversity of different places across the globe. It was impossible to gauge what sort of image I would be opening every time an entry pinged into my email box, but I knew that each image was going to reflect a different part of the world and that the people and places within it in a fresh and exciting way.

Running the competition for November just made me realise just how much people enjoy their photography, and just how talented as a group, and passionate travel group members actually are, in seeking out the best locations and situations order to capture and share the world around us with others.

Judging this competition was an unenviable task, and it was interesting to see which of the images would be selected for the November competition as a winner.

It was good to see the range of images that were submitted in November, and it reflected the broad interpretation of the criteria of ‘a sense of place’.

For some contributors that meant the way the landscape had been impacted by man, whether functionally as in the case of Tom Lloyd’s Dungeness Lighthouse, spiritually - as with Chris Page’s ‘Taj Mahal’ or simply moving through it as shown by Rob Morgan’s ‘Fisherman on the Caramel Lake.’

For others it was the people themselves that drew you into that sense of place. John Clare’s ‘The Charcoal Man’ was fascinating right from the moment I opened it. It’s one of those shots that you simply want to know more about. The same could be said for lan Wright’s ‘Pilgrims’ and David Pollard’s ‘Cremation Ghats’ both in their own way a reflection of how human culture and behaviour provide a sense of place.

Landscapes alone can make the observer simply gasp at the beauty of the planet, and many of the images submitted were spellbinding in their ability to keep you focused on those places captured by the photographer. From Jane Murphy’s ‘Arctic Ice’ and Sue Hutton’s ‘Kirkjufell’, to Andy Kumaria’s ‘Victoria Falls’, there were so many images that left you wanting to see more, and I was grateful that it wasn’t me that had to make the final decision.

In total 43 members of the travel group submitted an image into the competition which was judged by Richard Lewis ARPS, a senior member of the Travel Group committee.

In the end, out of the submissions, it was Andrew Brochewicz-Lewinski’s image ‘A Touareg’s Welcome’ that was judged by Richard to have best met the criteria for this month. His image will go forward to the annual competition for the best travel shots of the year.

Richard commented that:

“The images submitted for this inaugural Travel Group monthly competition were of a high standard, and several were strong contenders to win it. After careful consideration I selected the winner as A Touareg’s Welcome. The RPS characterises Travel photography as communicating a sense of place. I believe the winning image met this criterion very strongly. The pose of the subject, the facial expression, the background location, lighting and texture all combined to emphasise the sense of place. In addition, the image was technically of a high standard.”

For those of you who have not yet had chance to have a look at the results of the November competition, it can be found here.

If by looking at these images you feel that you have an image which you would like displayed on our competition page for this month or future months, then don’t hesitate, we would like to see a lot more of your work displayed on the travel group pages. Simply follow the instructions in the next column to get your image on the site.

Future submissions

To submit a photograph, send your image no more than 580px wide at 72 dpi to travelcompetitions@rps.org. (There is no restriction on height of the shot – as long as it is reasonable.) There are no restrictions on the age of the photograph you submit, apart from the need for it not to have been submitted before to an RPS competition website.

Once submitted, you will receive an email back as acknowledgement that we have got your photograph, and the second email to inform you when your shot has been posted to the site. The closing date for each month is the 28th, and the results will be posted on the RPS travel group website.

Steve Day LRPS: Competitions co-ordinator

Our thanks are due to Steve who is the newest committee recruit for being willing to take this on and run with it to make it a success. Bear with us as we make it work on the new website and please send any more ideas to Steve by email to travelcompetitions@rps.org

Do YOU have any ideas you would like the Travel Group committee to consider?
Any ideas for a Travel Group event in your region?
Any speakers you would like us to organise?
Anything you would be willing to help with?

If you do, please let one of us know so that it can be discussed at a Committee meeting. Our email addresses are all on the website here.
A few facts:

- The new site went ‘live’ on 26 November.
- NOTHING has been carried forward from the old site.
- We are grateful to Graham Vulliamy for developing his article on ‘Creating Travel Photobooks’ which is included here.

The format of the new site is very different from the old one and it is very much a work in progress.

We hope to continue to add resources which members will value and, in order to do that, we need your help both in suggesting content that might be helpful and in offering to send in material to be included.

One idea is to develop the section where we currently have Graham’s article to include Traveller’s Tips for various destinations as well as ideas about appropriate kit to take with you. Please let me have anything which you think may be of interest.

It might be a good idea to note the URL https://rps.org/groups/travel/ as in the new site Groups are a bit less easy to find than they were on the old site. On the main RPS homepage they are now hidden under ‘About’ in the top menu with activities at Bristol taking much more prominence.

I am very aware that there are still things missing from the site - back issues of Travel Log for example and successful Distinctions Panels - which should be there but which it has not been possible to make available in the timescale. They will come gradually.

However, you will find that forthcoming events are there including the possibility of booking online for our Spring Event.

Do, please, let me know if you find ideas on other parts of the website that you’d like me to try to replicate for our Group and I’ll do my best to make it happen in time.

One thing that has been suggested is that we have a calendar page to list Travel Group events. This is because with the new format only events in the near future are signalled on the main events page. By their very nature many of our events are publicised and need to be booked months in advance and will not appear. Hopefully we can rectify this by creating our own calendar.

I am very grateful to Emily and Lowri from the HQ team for the support they have provided as the site has been migrated and for the help they continue to offer as it is developed further. They can’t please everyone all of the time!!

Issues?
email travelweb@rps.org

The New RPS Website

In the last e-news I said that there had been some successes at ARPS from our Group members and it would be good to celebrate their success in the newsletter. Within a very short time I had messages from two and I have since made contact with another whose image I wanted to use as the image for the Travel Group on the website’s Groups page.

I know this is unlikely to be an exhaustive list but congratulations are due to: Geoff Chrip ARPS whose image represents us on the RPS website currently, Chris West ARPS who told me it was his fourth attempt overall at A, third in Travel, and to Dr. Kai-Kong Wong who writes:

‘I am Dr. Kai Kong Wong, Member no. 111943 from Hong Kong. It is certainly very satisfying and rewarding to pass the ARPS (Travel) assessment on 11/ September/ 2019 on my first attempt!

Went to Havana, Cuba this Easter for 8 days photographic trip in a group of five. The weather is just fine, the morning sunlight magical and a most unforgettable trip. I returned home on 1/5 and decided to apply for associate assessment with this Havana series. Just able to secure the 11/9 date and spent next two months in my panel building. It was tedious but a rewarding learning process, towards the final phase when I feel I have a solid panel ready and my confidence increased. The lesson learnt is that the most visually appealing shots I initially favoured are eventually replaced. Instead the focus shifted to more down to earth but solid, inter related series of photos capturing the daily lives of local people becomes the better components.

The online advice of RPS is certainly very helpful and I appreciated their help very much.

I welcome any question from our travel group members.’

Congratulations!
Forthcoming Events from the Travel Group

As events appear on the RPS Website in chronological order and as many of our events are necessarily announced well ahead of their actual date it is highly likely that you may think there are no events planned!

Please look at [https://rps.org/groups/travel/future-travel-group-events/](https://rps.org/groups/travel/future-travel-group-events/) where you will find details of trips to North Wales, the Camargue and Helsinki. A later Camargue trip is in planning at present and will be announced soon.

On the same webpage you will find a request for your ideas - both suggestions and offers are welcome. We would love to put in place more regional events but need regional members to help organise them. We will help with publicity and in any other way we are able to.

Here you will find short reports from events that have taken place. Perhaps they will spark your imagination for a photoshoot near you that might interest members from other regions, too.

We are currently working on ideas for Autumn 2020, so do please send your ideas to our Chairman, John Riley at editortravel@rps.org.

And finally, we look forward to having a good proportion of members attend the Group's annual Spring Event in 2020.

John has been working hard to get together a programme which will stimulate and be of interest to members with keynote speakers Sue O’Connell and Peter Brisley on 18th and Will Cheung on 19th.

Sue and Peter will be well-known to many as regularly receiving awards in the Travel Photographer of the Year and other prestigious travel photography competitions while Will is known as editor of a number of highly regarded photography news publications during his career. Links to their websites are included on the webpage for the event.

The weekend will also include presentations from members, the annual ‘Bring a Print’ competition and opportunities to get to know other Group members as well as to participate in the AGM.

The Annual Dinner will be held on the Saturday evening at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, near Temple Meads Station where a special rate for rooms has been negotiated. Find out more here.

The whole weekend is bookable online from the Travel Group website and we look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Sadly, of course, we will not be able to visit the clear Italian lake we used to demonstrate 2020 Vision. Instead we offer an opportunity to appreciate the Society’s new HQ in Bristol and to benefit from its facilities.

We look forward a weekend of great value.

Also, if you have ideas for any of our communication channels please contact travelweb@rps.org. We’d be happy to hear from you.