



It's been really good to have responses from members, to Travel Log, the e-news and the Facebook changes. 'Keep them coming! Now we need some more input on the Travel Group website. There are opportunities to make changes and it would be helpful, in making those changes, to know what members would like to see there.

One of the things I will upload soon, is Graham Vulliamy's guide to creating a Photobook. I have also talked to a couple of members about producing notes on destinations - something like a 'Lonely Planet' for photographers. This could be a way of getting our overseas members involved in sharing the secrets of their homes and for those of us who are UK based to share some favourite locations and tips about events.

What about someone organising a photoshoot near their home so that we can demonstrate that Travel photography doesn't have to be of faraway places?

Let us know what you think, please - and, especially, what you can offer.

**CONGRATULATIONS** are due, I think, to at least one Group member who was awarded an ARPS in September. When I have confirmation, I'll publish a name - I hope there are more than the one I think I have spotted. Do let us know about your achievements so that we can celebrate them.

Any comments or concerns about this newsletter should be sent to [travelweb@rps.org](mailto:travelweb@rps.org).

# Looking for something to do? Going to be in Florence?

## OBIETTIVO BUCHETTE

The historic Wine Doors of Florence are the subject of a unique and delightful photography exhibition in Florence this Autumn/Winter.

Opening on the 9th November 2019 at the Teatro della Pergola, Florence, the exhibition features work by photographer Andrew Barrow MA ARPS and researcher and street photographer Robbin Gheesling.

The Wine Doors are serving hatches that allowed the noble landowners of Tuscany to sell their wines within the city walls. Their use spans the centuries from the Medici period right up until the early years of the last century. Over 160 remains have been documented with many more lost to development.



Expanding the work from his recent successful master's degree in photography (from Falmouth University), Andrew Barrow takes a fine art and conceptual approach in capturing these unique historical remnants. He looks at the passage of time and how these purely functional doors have been repurposed, ignored in the face of air conditioning ducts and gas pipes or reused as letter boxes or as an evolving canvas for street artists.

Robbin brings her eye to the doors with a more documentary street art approach, placing the doors firmly in the present with the city's inhabitants playing a pivotal role in her unique approach to recording the wine doors in the contemporary environment.

Both Andrew and Robbin will be present on the opening night and are available for interview. Robbin will have examples of her handmade photobook available while Andrew will also show a bespoke, limited edition, portfolio box, that also formed part of his photography MA. Both book and portfolio box will be available for purchase as are limited edition copies of the 30 prints on display.

The event is being organised by the local Wine Doors historical cultural association, the Buchette Del Vino.

# Italian Exhibition for a Travel Group member

## The Wine Doors of Florence Exhibition

Ignored, disused, swamped by gas grills, heating ducts, and water pipes or repurposed as letter boxes or a canvas for street art and more basic graffiti... this was the premise for my MA Final Project (in Photography with Falmouth University) with a portfolio of images featuring the Wine Doors of Florence. And now these images are to form part of an exhibition in Florence itself.

The Wine Doors are serving hatches, or rather the remnants of them, that are found across the historical centre of Florence. They date from the Medici period and were in use right up until the early years of the last century. A law allowed noble landowners to sell wine mainly, although other produce was also sold through them, from properties within the city. You came along with your flask and handed it through the door to the wine cellar or shop behind for a refill.

There are 260 odd doors still remaining within the city and scattered across other Tuscan towns. Many more are thought to have vanished entirely. Indeed during my research, I discovered an image of a previously unrecorded door in the Alinari photo archives. A call out on Facebook soon identified the location. It is still a wine bar in Piazza Peruzzi, but the wine door has long since vanished.

I took a fine art approach to the images along with a more conceptual edge alluding to the passage of time and how people simply ignore these insignificant historical remains. One of my course tutors, who lived in Florence for a year, had no idea of their existence. The other delights and attractions of Florence perhaps eclipse these little wine doors. However, since this photographic project began, I've noticed that some local tour guides include a stop at one or two of the more ornate doors. This is probably due to the creation of the Buchette Del Vino, a local cultural association that has recorded and monitors the wine doors.

It was this association that invited me to exhibit my photographs alongside American researcher Robbin Gheesling's more documentary photographic images of the doors. It was Robbin that first highlighted these doors to me several years ago.

The association, despite its good intentions, are rather adverse to the 'reuse' of the wine doors, especially when graffiti and street art appear in or near them. But I'm rather a fan and enjoy repeat visits to see how the art changes with time or is replaced with something new. The street art of Florence just happens to be the subject for my next project.

Several of the Wine Door images have been exhibited in an Italian wine bar in Covent Garden and in a large exhibition in my home town (a showcasing requirement of the MA) but this is my first international exhibition.

Incidentally 'Obiettivo', I have been advised, which doesn't translate well into English means "a lens, an objective, a lens in the sense of 'focus'!" Rather apt I thought.

**The Wine Doors of Florence Photography Exhibition, Obiettivo Buchette is to be held in the Caffè Guido Guidi-Teatro della Pergola, opening 9th November 2019 (17.30 to 19:30 with refreshments) and runs until January 2020.**

Associazione Buchette Del Vino –  
<http://buchettedelvino.org/home%20eng/index.html>

Andrew Barrow MA ARPS –  
<http://andrewbarrow.co.uk>

Robbin Gheesling –  
<https://www.winedoorsflorence.com/>

Caffè Guido Guidi-Teatro della Pergola, via della Pergola 18, Florence, 0552264336 –  
<http://www.teatrodellapergola.com/>



# Our Facebook Group

## A few facts:

- The 'old' group was archived on 9th October and is no longer available for posts
- The new group has 88 members. It is a closed group for members of the group only.
- No-one who is NOT a member of the RPS Travel SIG should be able to view the group discussions or participate in them.
- The group is linked to a Facebook Page which IS accessible to others to view but which only contains posts by Admin and directs those interested to the RPS website and the Travel SIG section there for further information. Currently, the Facebook page needs work and I will gradually make it more useful to those who find it.
- If you are a member of the Travel Group but NOT currently a member of the Facebook group and would like to join the Facebook Group, you should provide your RPS Membership number when you ask to join the group, please - then we don't have to contact you to ask for it before approving your membership.

## How can you help?

- Please encourage other members of the Group to participate but please DON'T invite friends who are not members of the Travel SIG.

## Moving Forward:

- It's been good to see some new faces posting in Facebook.
- As a result of a request in a post there, I have a very useful 'How I do it' resource from Graham Vulliamy which will eventually appear on the website as a permanent resource.
- It's very useful to have ideas about things you would like the Group to do, or things you could offer to increase our effectiveness and visibility. The Facebook Group is one place where ideas can emerge and develop, so please do engage in discussion.
- There has been much discussion over the past couple of years about the Facebook group and the Image of the Month. On the next page you will see that we are proposing a solution, much in line with many other groups. We look forward to everyone's cooperation in making it work so that we really can be a great showcase of Travel Photography on the web.
- If you have any ideas about how the Facebook group can be used, please post them there and let's make it a group worth joining.
- If you are not yet a member, please consider joining as a way of linking with other Travel Group members and sharing information as well as your photographs.

## Issues?

email [travelweb@rps.org](mailto:travelweb@rps.org)

# The Travel Image of the Month

A number of members have suggested that the Image of the Month competition run within the Travel Group needed to be reviewed. In response, and in the hope that you will share your favourite travel images with other members of the group, we have made some changes which we hope will result in a much more engaging competition.

The long-term plan is that each year the twelve Images of the Month will be in competition to be the Image of the Year and that single image will then be judged against the best image in the annual PIC (Projected Image Competition) as a candidate for the Wakelin Trophy. This will happen first at the Spring Event in 2021.

Rather than use either Facebook or the Galleries,

- we are now **asking members to submit a single favourite photograph that reflects the essence of travel photography** to you each month. These shots will form part of a monthly gallery that can be viewed on the website, from which a featured image for the month will be chosen.
- For the remainder of this calendar year at least the selection will be made by Richard Lewis ARPS who has made the earlier selections this year.
- The winning shot will be added to the Travel Image of the Month page on the website, with the overall monthly winners competing to be the Group's best travel photograph of the year.
- **Remember:**
  - Travel Photography communicates a sense of place;
  - Image manipulation that significantly alters the truth of the situation or event is not permitted.

For November and December 2019, entries which Travel Group members have been taken in previous years can be submitted, while from January 2020 onwards shots should be new.

**To be included in the competition, please email your image (no more than 580px wide because of page restrictions – no limit on how tall, within reason!) to [travelcompetitions@rps.org](mailto:travelcompetitions@rps.org).**

You should get an acknowledgement of the receipt of the image. Make sure you include your name and a title for your shot.

Entries will be accepted for November 2019 onwards.

Happy shooting!

## New Committee Member

At our most recent Committee meeting we were pleased to welcome Steve Day, who is based in the 'North Midlands', and it is Steve who has taken on the running of this competition. You can find out more about Steve [here](#).

## Could YOU help?

The Committee is keen to find new venues and organise new activities, but there aren't enough of us to make it all happen. If you would be willing to help organise a Travel Group event in your area, please let us know.

# What else have we been up to?

## Travel Group Exhibition at Wingfield Barns

*"Very interesting and expiring exhibition...."*

*"Well worth travelling to see, Well done..."*

*"Interesting panels and discussions about them good to have another view of the world."*

*"Lovely examples of travel photography giving insight into places and people, Many thanks to all involved...."*



These are a number of the comments made in our Visitors Book on the recent Travel Group exhibition held at the picturesque Wingfield Barns in Wingfield, Mid Suffolk from 26th September to 6th October.

Following an invitation from those organising the Nature Group's annual exhibition at Wingfield, we agreed to take a gallery at the same location with a view to exhibiting a selection from a number of successful panels for Associate distinction in Travel. Those panels were from Tony Smith ARPS (2009), Richard W Lewis ARPS (2013), Kathryn Phillips ARPS (2019) and Justin Cliffe ARPS(2019)

In addition, we showed the projected images that were either medal winners or commended in the Group's Projected Image Competitions from 2015 to 2019, together with a number of the printed images that formed part of the Group's October 2016 exhibition at Fenton House in Bath.

A member of the Travel Group was in attendance every day the exhibition was open. While the numbers attending could have been higher - the weather, in particular on the final weekend, was very wet – it was rewarding that all our visitors engaged in discussion with us the images on view, as well as the Distinctions process, and there were some detailed exchanges of views.

This was an encouraging experience and further Travel Group exhibitions would be worthwhile but will require some stewarding assistance from Group members local to the venue.

Finally, I must thank Moira Ellice ARPS who suggested we held the exhibition and provided invaluable support and encouragement in setting the exhibition up, Richard Lewis ARPS for his assistance in selecting the images, hanging them and taking the exhibition down as well as sharing the stewarding duties, Kathryn Phillips ARPS and Safeena Chaudhry who have assisted with the advertising of the event.

John Speller

## Walking the Regents Canal



We met at The Thornhill Arms on Caledonian Road to continue on the second half of the Canal walk, which had previously begun at Limehouse Basin. The aim was to explore the entire length of the Regents canal, which we managed to do in two short days.

On the second Saturday, we restarted our exploration from the other side of the Islington tunnel and walked to Camden Lock. There was a variety of flower, fauna and birds that we could take pictures of as well as the graffiti on the walls. Closer to Camden, there were more people but not as many as our first walk strolling or cycling along the canal. There were a few canal boats moored along the way, each with their own design and character. The pace was leisurely as we stopped at Camden Market for lunch before we embarked on the canal boat, which took us along the canal right through to Little Venice. It was a good thing that we hadn't walked that way, as much of it was accessible only by boat. There were 9 people who came on this walk, many from outside of the RPS, which was a wonderful way of introducing them to the organization. One woman was on holiday from Dubai and others were based in London and wanted to meet other photographers and explore a hidden gem of London.

Safeena Chaudhry



And finally, please book these dates - we look forward to having a good proportion of members attend the Group's annual Spring Event in 2020. Look out for more details of the stimulating and enjoyable programme to take place in the pleasant surroundings of RPS House. More details soon!

## RPS Travel Group Spring 2020 Event



Safeena Chaudhry 2019

**Friday 17/Saturday 18/Sunday 19  
April 2020**

A weekend of

**Meeting People - Talks - Photoshoots  
Bring a Print Competition  
Projected Images Competition  
Members Soapbox**

**RPS House  
Paintworks  
Bristol**

And, of course, there are visits to Wales, the Camargue and Helsinki to think about if you're planning next year's diary. All the details and contact information are on the website under Events.

Is there anything you'd like to organise for the group? If there is, do get in touch.

Also, if you have ideas for any of our communication channels please contact [travelweb@rps.org](mailto:travelweb@rps.org). We'd be happy to hear from you.