

East Anglia Observer

Summer 2024

Highlights



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Architecture and
Built Environment

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Regional Organiser's Update

Simon Fremont ARPS

Dear Members,

I am pleased to provide an update on the recent developments and exciting events in the East Anglia Region following our Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM was a great success, with enthusiastic participation and several key announcements that I am eager to share with you.

Election of New Committee Members

We are delighted to announce the election of two new committee members who will bring fresh perspectives and energy to our team:

- Roo Pitt – who joins as Finance Officer for the region.
- Peter Orton - Who joins as Committee Member without specific role.

This edition includes photography from the Regions recent events and demonstrates the great work created by members.

Upcoming Events in East Anglia

We have an array of new events planned for the East Anglia Region, aimed at fostering learning, creativity, and community among our members:

Photography Event: Scheduled for 2nd June in the picturesque town of Aldeburgh.

Zoom Talk: In conjunction with the Analogue Group we have Paul MacKay from Analogue Wonderland talking about the different films stock that are available to analogue photographers.

Advisory Day: On 16th November will be a chance for members to get in-person advice from a number of panel assessors which will be invaluable for those preparing to apply for a distinction.

Details for these and other events will be shared via our newsletter, facebook group and website. We encourage all members to participate and take advantage of these enriching opportunities.

Announcement of Sale of RPS House

In significant news from the national level, the Royal Photographic Society has announced the sale of RPS House. This decision comes as part of a strategic move to optimise resources and expand our reach. While the sale marks the end of an era, it also heralds new beginnings and opportunities for growth and greater engagement via Regions.

The future looks bright for the East Anglia Region and I encourage you all to get involved, share your ideas, and continue to support each other as we embark on these new ventures together.

Photo Tips



One of the fundamental principles in photography is the Rule of Thirds. This simple yet powerful technique can significantly enhance the composition of your images.

What is the Rule of Thirds?
The Rule of Thirds involves dividing your image into nine equal parts by two equally spaced horizontal lines and two equally spaced vertical lines. The key elements of your photo should be placed along these lines or at their intersections.

How to Use the Rule of Thirds:

1. **Activate Grid Lines:** Most cameras and smartphones have an option to display a grid on the screen. Activate this feature to help visualize the Rule of Thirds.
2. **Position Key Elements:** Place your subject or important elements along the grid lines or at the intersections. For example, if you're shooting a landscape, position the horizon along the top or bottom third rather than in the middle.
3. **Balance and Interest:** Use the Rule of Thirds to create balance and add interest to your photos. An off-center composition can be more engaging and dynamic.
4. **Experiment and Adjust:** While the Rule of Thirds is a great guideline, don't be afraid to break it. Experiment with different compositions to see what works best for your scene.

Advisory Day

East Anglia Region Advisory Day returns to Foxton Village Hall Cambridgeshire after a break on the 16th November. If you on the Distinctions journey an in-person is a great way to get feedback to ensure your panel is heading in the right direction to achieve your goal of being awarded a distinction at Licentiate (LRPS), Associate (ARPS) or Fellowship (FRPS).

On the 16th November we are delighted to the following Assessors present:

- Janey Devine FRPS (Licentiate, Applied Photography, Documentary, Travel)
- Hazel Frost FRPS (Licentiate, Travel)
- Nick Frost (Licentiate)

If you are interested in booking a slot with the advisors please contact East Anglia Regional Organiser via EastAnglia@rps.org. There will be a charge when booking an Advisory Day to cover the costs of the event.



Event Calendar

Date	Event	Link
2/6/2024	Aldeburgh Coastal Photography	Book
15/6/2024	Creative Eye Photowalk Ipswich	Book
18/7/2024	Zoom Talk: The Exciting World of Analogue Film Stock - Beyond Ilford FP4	Book
14/9/2024	Motorsport at Snetterton	Book
16/11/2024	Advisory Day - Foxton	See Advisory Day

A series of woodland related photowalks are being planned and will be published in the coming weeks. If everything goes to plan we will be able offer members access to woodland walks in each of the counties in the region.

Volunteering

Sense of Fulfillment: Contributing to a cause you care about can bring a profound sense of satisfaction and purpose.

Networking Opportunities: Volunteering can expand your social and professional network, connecting you with like-minded individuals and potential career opportunities.

Making a Difference: Volunteers play a crucial role in addressing societal needs and creating positive change.

We are looking for volunteers to support running events! Just 6 hours of your time can make a big difference to the event programme within East Anglia. If interested, please reach out for more details to EastAnglia@rps.org. Thanks.

Talk Walk Talk - Norwich

by Paul Hurst

Weather was kind to us on our visit to Norwich. Starting at the Roman Catholic cathedral of St Johns, a walk down to the Market Place and Forum. We then continued to the Royal Arcade and to Marble Hall, unfortunately Aviva seem to be unhelpful and was not allowing our group of five into their empty building! Another day. Last minute visit to Norwich Cathedral ended a good day of meeting up with like minded people and image gathering.



RC Cathedral, Linda Gower, 2024



Norwich Cathedral Steps and Balustrade, Mike Harris, 2024



Royal Arcade, Val Walker, 2024

Analogue Corner



Berlin Kino B&W 35 mm ISO 400

Capture life's most elusive moments in everlasting monochrome charm with this iconic black and white cine film.

- Release your inner Berliner and get artistic
- Medium light sensitivity of ISO 400
- Panchromatic emulsion with moderate grain
- High dynamic range and sophisticated tonal spectrum
- Great for striking street and elegant editorial photography

Talk Walk Talk - Beccles

Holly Stranks FRPS

A group of 8 met on a bright Spring morning in Beccles, Suffolk to enjoy a successful TWT. The following images and text are from the participants with the exception of Kati Phelan who owing to work commitments was unfortunately unable to attend the zoom session and final talk.

I asked each of the participants to choose an image from the day and to write a short piece about that image.

Holly Stranks FRPS



Steps from St Michael's church Holly Stranks FRPS, 2024

As well the built environment, this image also shows the lovely daffodils and bright weather we enjoyed. I do love taking pictures of seasonal flowers – usually with my dogs in them, next to them, behind them, in front of them.... But I can take images without them in too! This is a three shot handheld panorama. The images we took, and our comments give an excellent example of how we all approach our photography differently and see different things. Personally, I find these differences fascinating and it makes you think - "I wish I'd seen that"!

Jane Murphy LRPS



Beccles Town Council offices, Jane Murphy LRPS, 2024

Beccles TWT event on 6th March was led by Holly Stranks FRPS and the group met at 10 am in Roys' carpark. The participating photographers spent the following couple of hours exploring the architecture of this north Suffolk market town. There were challenges with narrow pavements, cars and the shopping public but we were lucky with the weather, blue sky, and puffy white clouds. The buildings in the centre of town are old, often listed and apart from the Bell Tower none are tall. Wide angle lenses were needed for many of the photographs taken and there were problems with converging verticals. My own favourite image is of the Beccles Town Council Office with a replica milestone at its front. Correcting verticals took time when processing the photo. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the morning and very welcome lunch at the Town House Café



A Town on the edge, Mike Cowling ARPS, 2024

As a Suffolk border town Beccles is on the edge - between Suffolk and Norfolk (largely on a clifftop overlooking the river and marsh below). Often characterised as the gateway to the Norfolk Broads it is equally the entrance to northern, very rural, Suffolk. As a former Saxon river port on the River Waveney, a border market town mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, and with industrial heritage including a herring fishery, the town is mysterious and presents a diverse façade. The image is of an ordinary intersection in the town centre, with a range of architecture, from the 16thC detached belltower, curiously owned by the local council, adjacent to St Michael's Church (parts of which date from the 14th Century) and with a range of shops and institutions in various buildings, with the modern accoutrements of a branch of Citizens' Advice (with a public defibrillator), and the quirky gravestone atop the chimney above the estate agents.

Nigel Ladkin



A view of the back of the church, Nigel Ladkin, 2024

Landscape photographers tend to the solitary, so it is always a pleasure join with others. Six photographers can point six cameras at the same view and come up with six unique photographs. For me this view of the churchyard said the most about Beccles. I have recently been interested in the work of Josef Sudek (1896-1976), known as the photographer of Prague, and in making this photograph I was conscious of the way he saw the world, with an emphasis on directional light and the historic environment.

Robin Garrod



Sweep's Memorial, Robin Garrod, 2024

While taking this image we noticed the Memorial Stone on the chimney stack, but I included the whole building in the shot. Shortly after, a local resident noticing we had cameras asked us if we had seen the 'Gravestone' on the chimney. She explained a sweep's boy fell while inside and was suffocated. When editing the image, the story felt more important than the whole of the building leading me to focus attention on the roofline with its chimneys, memorial and cloudy sky. An excellent day out with RPS Friends.

Sue Grief PHD LRPS



This photo reflects the sad neglect of a building that, in earlier times, was a significant attraction in Beccles. It shows one corner of the impressive façade of Beccles cinema, the elaborate moulding and the decorative fruit reflecting its classical, Palladian style. The cinema was built in 1914 and closed in 1960, subsequently becoming a showroom, then a restaurant. It now stands empty. The cracks, the dirt and the cobwebs symbolise its current demise while the bush, growing out of the roof, reminds us of nature's tenacity and the possible threat it poses to the building's continued existence.

Beccles Cinema, Sue Grief PhD LRPS, 2024



Beccles Shelter, Jennie Mursell LRPS, 2024

The centre square in the town has this elegantly shaped covered seating area facing towards the shops and other seats under a large tree at the junction of three or four streets. The two large trees on either side give a symmetry to the area and building, together with the floral planting and railings, all add to what could be a pleasant area to sit and watch the world go by for those who rest there. The shape of the shelter differs from other houses and shops surrounding and has an almost far eastern shape, at odds to the remaining styles in the town.

Talk Walk Talk - Cambridge

Simon Fremont ARPS

On the day of the Cambridge Half Marathon, the city was a hive of activity and anticipation. The early morning sun bathed the historic streets in a warm, golden light, setting the stage for an unforgettable photowalk. Our group of photographers gathered in front of the majestic King's College, where the race would start and finish. The road closures, implemented for the marathon, presented us with a unique opportunity to capture the architectural beauty of Cambridge unobstructed by cars and traffic.

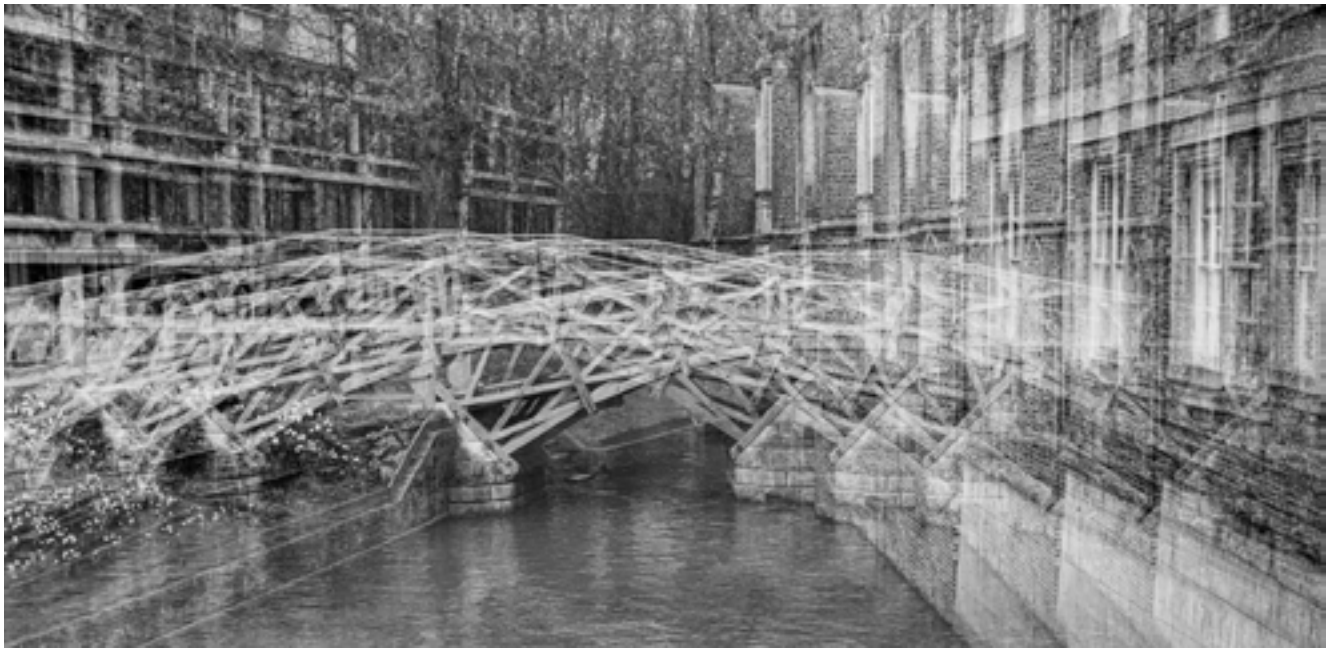
The clear streets allowed us to capture the full height and breadth of these magnificent buildings. Trinity College's Great Gate, with its detailed carvings and imposing presence, was a favorite subject. The interplay of light and shadow on the ancient stone created compelling compositions that would have been impossible on a normal day.

The day's photowalk offered a rare glimpse of Cambridge in a state of peaceful repose, its architectural splendor undiminished by the trappings of modern life. The road closures, intended for the runners, had inadvertently granted us the freedom to explore and capture the city's essence in its purest form. As we reviewed our photos, each image was a testament to Cambridge's enduring charm, framed by the unique conditions of a city paused for a race.

A big thank you to the people that participated in the photowalk as it added to the experience.



Nigel Ladkin, 2024



The Mathematical Bridge, Gary Dean, 2024



Cycle Repair Shop, Lou Mason Walsh, 2024



Sue O'Reilly, 2024



John O'Reilly, 2024



Roo Pitt, 2024



Gates, Andy Shearweb, 2024



Giles Thurston, 2024