

A question of succession



Like me, you will have seen the announcement in the latest edition of Travel Log that, for reasons of ill-health, John Riley has decided he must, reluctantly, relinquish his positions of Chair of the Travel Group and Editor of Travel Log as soon as is practicable. John has been the Editor of Travel Log from 2016 and Chair of the Group since 2019.

Your committee wish to start now, well in advance of our next Annual General Meeting, his successors in each of those roles.

As Chair, the successor, assisted by the committee, will lead the Group and represent the Group at meetings of the Members' Committee and, if appointed by that Committee, the Representatives Committee. Currently those meetings are conducted online.

If you want further details of the work and time commitment involved you may wish to seek that information direct from John Riley at editortravel@rps.org or Richard Lewis, who has been assisting John by attending the Members Committee at John's request, at traveltrips@rps.org

In the event of more than one person putting themselves forward, the Travel Group Committee will decide as to the way ahead.

Travel Log is a magazine that is highly valued by the Group Membership and the successor will be expected to maintain that standard.

As Editor, John receives, and seeks as necessary, articles and images for the magazine, liaises with the authors as necessary, prepares and lays out the magazine in a publishing program called In Design, liaises with the printers in general and on costings, and forwards the prepared magazine to the printers for printing and distribution.

Currently, the only assistance John calls upon is that of John Minter who is the copy proof-reader. However, if there are suitably experienced Group Members wishing to participate, it may be possible to divide the workload in a way that works for those involved.

To assist his successor or successors, John is willing to act as guide in producing at least the next edition of Travel Log and to ensure a smooth handover in receiving articles.

The recent editors of Travel Log have been full members of the Travel Group Committee and participated in the running of the Travel Group. Should you wish only to be involved in the production of Travel Log, then, as is the case with other Special Interest Groups, to co-opt you onto the Travel Group Committee solely in connection with Travel Log would be possible.

If you are able to volunteer for either of the above roles, or require any more information, please contact me at travelsecretary@rps.org by 6 December 2021

John Speller
Hon Secretary, RPS Travel Group

The Group's Online Presence

At <https://rps.org/groups/travel/> you will find :

- a series of links to other pages on the Group's section of the Society's website which, in turn, take you to
- recordings of online presentations,
- upcoming presentations
- examples of images of the month and year,
- short reports of trips Group members have enjoyed and places they recommend,
- past editions of Travel Log and
- a variety of other pieces of information as they become relevant.

It is here that you should always be able to find information you need about the Group and its activities.

If you have ideas about how the website can be improved - and, maybe, the skills to help - I would be delighted to hear from you.

Email travelweb@rps.org !
Thank you.

The screenshot shows the RPS website header with navigation links: What's on, Qualifications, Opportunities, Resources, Support us, About, Shop, Search, Basket, Login, and BECOME A MEMBER. Below the header is a navigation bar with the text: "The Group is at its liveliest and most effective when there is discussion involving a wide range of members."

The main content area features three prominent articles:

- Preparing your work for publication or to enter competitions**: An online presentation on 21st November at 1430 GMT. Kav Dadfar is a professional writer and photographer whose work is represented by some of the leading agencies and can be seen in numerous prestigious publications. During lockdown in 2020 he was one of the initiators of JRNY a travel photography magazine for freelancers. He is a judge on the Wanderlust Travel Photography competition.
- Trips to Iceland organised and led by Paul Sansome**: Two trips are planned exclusively for members of the Travel Group following Paul's very well received talk to the Group in 2020. Both visits will take place in May 2022. Details can be found [here](#).
- Recent Events from the Travel Group** and **Future Events from the Travel Group**: Navigation buttons for event information.
- TRAVEL LOG PAST ISSUES September 2019**: A link to past issues of the Travel Log.

Preparing your work for publication and to enter competitions Sunday 21st November at 14.30 GMT

As you should already know, we are fortunate that Kav Dadfar has agreed to give us some of his tips for using images in publications or for competitions this coming Sunday.

Kav is an engaging speaker whose work - both text and image - has been published widely. He is a judge for the Wanderlust Travel Photographer competition.

Kav was one of the instigator of JRNY the freelance travel photographers publication that Matt Parry alerted us to earlier in the year and which was a product of so many photographers being 'grounded' during lockdown.

If you haven't yet registered to join us, please do so [here](#).

And if you have any other ideas for speakers for next year please email travelweb@rps.org

More or Less?



In 2019, at the Society's Annual General Meeting, it was agreed that a committee be established to consider the Society's position on Climate Change and Pollution. That committee, now entitled the Environmental and Social Responsibility Committee (ESRC), has met and suggested a number of changes to the Society's policies which have been adopted. The ESRC intend inviting all of the Special Interest Groups to formulate their own policies in that regard so that, if possible, a uniform policy can be adopted.

The Landscape Group were the first to formulate a policy and the ESRC the invited the Travel Group to be the second so to do.

Under the leadership of Gareth Hughes, a group of Travel Group members have met and drawn up a draft policy the attached version of which, with your Committee's agreement, has been forwarded both to the Chair of the ESRC and to the Society's President to arrive before the Society's AGM at the end of September.

In forwarding the draft it was made clear that, in our view, the policy should only be for the guidance of members and that the ESRC should investigate and recommend which forms of Carbon Offset can be recommended to avoid any that are merely "greenwashing", that is actions that would have been taken in any event.

The President has indicated that the draft Travel Group policy will be reviewed with the ESRC and with the Trustees. We await their feedback.

The President has also asked that he be advised of any feedback we receive from Travel Group Members. So, have you any comments on the draft? If so, please send them to the Committee via me at travelsecretary@rps.org and include "Climate Change Policy Comment" in the subject line of your email.

You will find the draft Group policy on the following pages, together with an update from Martin Hancock, Chair of the Society's Environmental and Social Responsibility Committee following the AGM.

Please do get involved by letting us have your comments.



John Speller
Hon. Secretary, RPS Travel Group

RPS Travel Group

Policy on Environmental and Social Responsibility (with associated Guidelines) [Submitted Draft]

AIM

To provide environmental and social responsibility policy for Group activities

OBJECTIVE

To provide members with a set of guidelines to consider when travelling or making travel arrangements

PRINCIPLE

- Travel of itself is not a bad thing. Undertaken responsibly it provides economic and social benefit to the host community and to the photographer/ traveller
- As a charity and a learned society, we have a responsibility to the places we visit, the people we interact with and the planet on which we live.
- A commitment to sustainability should always be incorporated into our actions.
- Travel organised under the auspices of the RPS Travel Group will adhere as closely as possible to the guidelines attached.
- This policy relates to all travel.
- Continuing research is necessary to ensure that 'offsetting' is appropriate.
- Trips should aim to be carbon neutral through government accredited schemes.
- Regular meetings should be conducted online to minimise the environmental impact of business travel
- All trips should have mitigation measures put in place to minimise environmental impact.
- Accommodation used should be locally owned with 'green' tourism credentials where possible
- Public transport options should be included in communications and venues/locations chosen that are accessible by public transport
- Ideally, travel to countries that have not ratified the 2015 Paris Climate Accord (or any successor) should be avoided.
- The Group is committed to making decisions based on the best information available at the time, in the light of constantly evolving knowledge of climate science.

GUIDELINES

As a volunteer-led membership organisation we cannot dictate how members act but we can and should provide meaningful guidance

Trip Planning

- Check the eco credentials of the Tour Operator.
- Where possible or appropriate travel overland rather than taking short flights but always consider personal safety and use reputable operators for all modes of transport. Slow travel can lead to more photographic opportunities.
- Use public transport where possible. This provides the opportunity to get more familiar with the country and locations you are visiting and spot photographic opportunities that you might otherwise have missed.
- Consider travelling at off-peak times.
- Learn about the places you are visiting and the people that live there before you go.
- Countries that currently have not ratified the 2015 Paris Accord include: Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Eritrea, Libya, Yemen (Correct at time of writing. Check <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition> for latest information.)

Flights

- Choose the lowest number of flights possible as most emissions happen during take-off and landing
- Identify flights/routes with lower carbon emissions. Apps such as Skyscanner (<https://www.skyscanner.net>) consider the aircraft type, engine model, and efficiency, the load factor and seat configuration which all impact on the fuel used. (Note flying accounts for 2 - 3.5% of global warming. (<https://ourworldindata.org/co2-emissions-from-aviation>))

Accommodation

- Locally owned accommodation is preferable so that more of the money spent goes back into the local community
- Consider the accommodation location in relation to the daily excursions. Where possible the mileage used to get to photo locations should be factored into any decision about accommodation
- Green tourism accreditation may exist for accommodation providers to conform with. These schemes normally expect providers to meet minimum standards of environmental consideration about energy use, water use and waste.
- Look for a sustainability policy. Beware of 'greenwashing' where companies make unsubstantiated or misleading claims about environmental efforts purely for marketing purposes. This is often easiest to spot through a quick search for online reviews or by looking at social media. Are they really doing what they say they are?
- Use accommodation providers that support their local communities by employing local people at good rates of pay.
- Avoid food waste, use local produce and consider the environmental impact of the food you eat. A reduction in the methane associated with food production has a 30% greater and faster effect on reducing global warming than reducing CO2, although its effects last for a shorter period. (<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>)
- Consider limiting the use of air conditioning
- Try to reduce the amount of water and energy you use within in the accommodation.
- Re-use your towels and bedlinen when you can.
- Consider not using complimentary toiletries in single-use plastic containers.

UPDATE TO RPS AGM 2021 ON CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES

BACKGROUND

At the 2019 AGM, a member resolution was supported by the Council of the RPS and approved by the membership: To recognise the Climate Emergency and establish a working group to consider the Society's position with regard to climate change and pollution. This subsequently led to the creation of the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG).

Having established Terms of Reference with the Trustees work began on several initiatives.

Despite the pandemic and resultant lockdowns, good progress has been made in taking initiatives forward.

The mantra of the Working Group is **Awareness to Action**

SUMMARY OF INITIATIVES

The first task of the CCWG was to take a detailed look at the Society's operations and activities to ensure its own house was in order. This included a review of the RPS Investment Portfolio and an environmental audit of RPS House. The key outcomes of these reviews can be summarised as follows:

- In terms of the Investment Portfolio, the recommendation was to divest in any assets associated with oil, gas and mining. A detailed review of the portfolio subsequently led to the decision to not only change fund manager, but also to restructure the whole portfolio to embrace Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria. This transition has now been completed.

- A review of energy sourcing and efficiency showed that RPS House had the highest rating in terms energy efficiency and that the energy supplied came from 100% renewable sources. The heating system was provided by a company who specialise in green energy systems. Waste is collected by a company that recycles 80% of their waste. One area for further consideration/work was the re-cycling of IT equipment.

Other areas where the Working Group have been active are:

- Exhibitions and Competitions – by using the medium of photography to inform and document the environmental issues facing the world. As you will have seen, many related articles have appeared in the Journal and the Science Photographer of the Year competition had a specific climate change category. This is an area where further initiatives will be undertaken.

- Travel – climate change is being driven by the burning of fossil fuels and travel is the elephant in the room for photographers. The pandemic and lockdowns meant severe restrictions on travel and the key issue is do we need/want to return to pre-pandemic levels? Encouraging more local photography is one option and/or supporting carbon offsetting programmes.

A detailed review was undertaken of the use of public and private transport by SIG's and Regions before and during the pandemic, needless to say there was a significant reduction as virtual meetings became the norm. Again, do we need/want to return to pre-pandemic levels?

The Landscape Group have done some pioneering work in this area and I encourage you to look at their website.

It is acknowledged that public transport is not always feasible, but car sharing, where possible, is another way of reducing carbon emissions along with carbon offsetting. The Working Group is looking at ways these behavioural changes might be encouraged.

- Website. A new section will be added to the RPS Website which will include:
 - Carbon offsetting programmes that RPS members can consider
 - A review of the climate change initiatives being taken by major photographic manufacturers to reduce their carbon footprint.
 - We will also be looking at RPS suppliers to determine their carbon footprints and reduction initiatives – the so called 'Scope 3' emissions in the RPS value chain.

RPS Strategy

The recently announced RPS strategy embraces ESG criteria across all its workstreams and will encompass a larger range of issues in addition to climate change. This has led to the CCWG becoming the Environmental and Social Responsibility Committee (ESRC). This shows the commitment of the RPS to developing a wide ranging sustainable strategy. Additional skills and experience to assist the next stage of the ESG programme will be required.

IN SUMMARY

You have only to look at the news now to realise that climate change really is an emergency. Nobody wants to confront this on the back of a pandemic, but as Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency stated earlier this year "The climate emergency is the unseen pandemic, left unchecked it will kill more people and do much more harm than Covid 19."

The all important global meeting on climate change (COP 26) takes place in Glasgow next month. It is fair to say that the RPS has, and will continue to play its part in addressing the climate emergency and working towards a 'net zero' emission future.

Martin Hancock
Chair
Environmental and Social Responsibility Committee

Some regular activities

Online meetings have become integral to our activities: from the AGM where we welcomed the President through presentations from eminent travel photographers and group members to the fairly informal Share and Chat gatherings that were started earlier in the year as a forum for discussion within the group.

Online Presentations

We were very grateful to Drs. Hazel and James frost for sharing their philosophy and practice of travel photography with us in September. Originally, we had planned a physical meeting in York, but there was insufficient clarity by early Summer for that to be wise, so Zoomed it was.

And it was appreciated.

The whole presentation can now be accessed online [here](#). The thinking about the place of Distinctions in a photographer's 'journey' and about the many ways in which photography can be used to benefit communities offered a new perspective for some and echoed the sentiments of many members.

We are delighted that Hazel has agreed to judge our 2022 competition - details soon.

A quick visit to the 'Recent Events' link on the website will give you access to the majority of the presentations we've seen over the last fifteen months.

By the time you read this, final preparations will be in hand for Kav Dadfar's presentation.

Share and Chat

Another innovation this year are the 'Share and Chat' sessions, led by Richard Lewis and initiated by him as a way of getting group members together on a regular basis.

These have been variably attended but have always led to good discussion - so much so that there is a constant risk of 'running over'.

Our concern is that they are not sufficiently member-focussed as they have had to be used to deal with such topics as the development of the policy you have seen on the preceding pages.

Highlights have been short presentations by members showing images of their favourite 'off the beaten track' places and these have been very well received by those present and have resulted in offers of more.

We would love to have your ideas about topics you would like to see discussed - particularly if you would be willing to lead such discussion!

Please email Richard on traveltrips@rps.org

For Your Diary

Sunday 21st November 2021 Kav Dadfar 'Preparing images for publication or for entering competitions'

Sunday, 16th January 2022 David Short 'Chernobyl - destruction and recovery'

Sunday, 13th February 2022 Share and Chat

Saturday/Sunday April 8th/9th Spring Event and AGM Details will be available soon

Fetes Votives, Aigues Mortes A Travel Group visit in October 2021



Images above © Jay Charnock

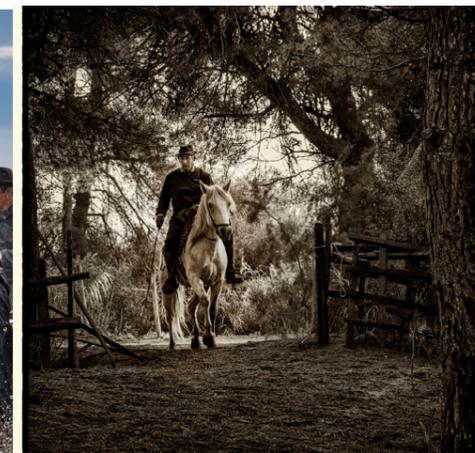
Marking the end of the summer, the Fetes Votive at Aigues Mortes, is a festival dedicated to the bulls and horses which are farmed across the Camargue. Nine days of activity take place in early October. Totally non-commercial and truly local, for the people of the area, this is a fascinating event which the Travel Group visited recently.

We experienced a range of photoshoots, both sunrise and sunset, in a variety of locations as well as photographing the festival.

Keith Pointon



Images above © Sandy Cox, below © Keith Pointon



Competitions

In recent years the annual competition has been managed by Keith Pointon and when he stood down from the committee last year John Riley added it to everything else he was doing. We are grateful that for this year's competition John Speller has agreed to take on the huge task. John writes:

While the opportunities for travel have been limited of late, your committee have decided to hold the usual annual image competition again for 2022.

Reflecting the fact that the images supplied are now in digital form we have taken the opportunity to rename the competition **RPS Travel Group's Image of the Year**.

I am pleased to advise that Dr Hazel Frost, FRPS, who chairs the Travel Distinctions Panel, has kindly agreed to judge this competition.

While we usually ask for current images, it would not surprise me if you have not spent some of the time in lockdown revisiting, or even visiting for the first time, the images that you have taken in the past. These older images may form part of your entry.

The conditions for entry are below but are largely unaltered from this year's event. The only significant change from 2021 is :

'Any image that has previously received a Medal or Merit Award in previous Travel Group Annual Projected Image Competition are is not eligible for entry. '

Please note, also, the revised process for submission of entries.

The entries must be with me by midday on 29 January 2022. The entries will then be forwarded to the judge for adjudication.

It is intended that the results will be announced at the Spring Event on Saturday 9 April 2022, and for which the programme is currently being finalised.



Gold Medal winner
2021:

Fire Dragon,
Guangdong

by Weng Sang Wong
ARPS

RPS Travel Group's Image of the Year 2022

Submission Closing Date: Midday (GMT), 29 January 2022

You are invited to enter up to 4 individual Travel Images from locations of your choice. Gold, Silver, Bronze Awards and Merit Awards will be made at the Judge's discretion and announced at the Group's Spring Event.

The judge will be Dr Hazel Frost, FRPS

The Rules:

- The competition is open only to members of the RPS Travel Group and is free to enter.
- The subject matter must relate to TRAVEL.
TRAVEL for this competition means photography which communicates a sense of time and place, either UK or Overseas.
- Manipulation that significantly alters the truth of an image is not permitted.
- Any image that has previously received a Medal or Merit Award in previous Travel Group Annual Projected Image Competition are not eligible for entry.
- You must be the creator of all Images and own the copyright.
- Do not include any identification in the image as names will be removed from the file before judging.
- The Judge's decision is final. No discussion will be entered into.
- Entrants agree that any image entered may be used by the Royal Photographic Society, including the Travel Group, in promoting its Charitable status to further the public appreciation of photography at its highest standards.

Submitting Images:

Send entries to travelsecretary@rps.org We Transfer is recommended for file transfer. Please put Image of the Year as the title of the transfer.

The image size should be as large as possible but be no larger than 4096 pixels wide (Landscape) or 2400 pixels high (Portrait). The image must not exceed these limits in either direction. (These are the current pixel limits for submission of digital images for RPS Distinctions)

Files should be saved as

Image Format: JPEG Colour space: sRGB Resolution: 300 dpi
(These settings enable accurate colour projection and are ready to print in Travel Log if selected)

Saving at the highest quality is recommended.

Files must be named in the form of:

Unique Image Title_Location_Author's Name (including distinction where held).jpg
(The Author's Name and Distinction information will be used as shown in the preparation of any certificate)

Competitions

The monthly competition

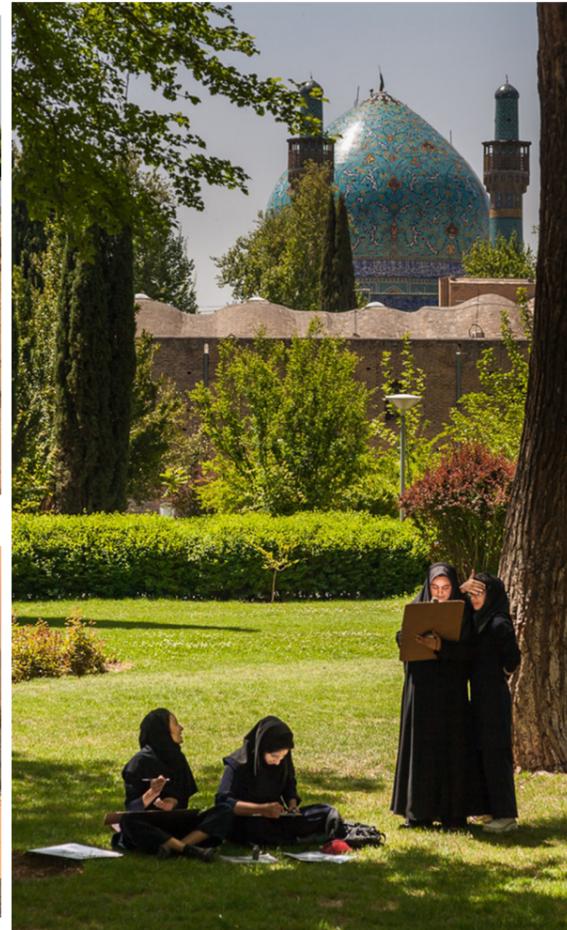
Despite his own health issues Steve Day has kept our monthly competition running with great success, with able judging from Justin Cliffe ARPS and Richard Lewis ARPS. Together they have developed the level of feedback so that now there is a critique of the winners and runners-up on the website every month.

One thing is very noticeable: entries in the early part of the month can be quite slow and then, after Steve sends a reminder during the third or fourth week, there is a flurry of activity and the majority of entries come in the following forty-eight hours.

All you need to remember is that the closing date is always the last day of the calendar month, so please keep the entries coming: we love seeing the variety each month.

Last year's overall winner and the monthly winners for 2021 can be seen on the website at <https://rps.org/groups/travel/2021-tiom-winners/> - and, if you're wondering what the judges look for then their comments each month, together with the various presentations we've had by travel photographers might help you select your own winning entry.

Good luck!!



And finally!

A day of photography in Windsor

You may remember that David Short, a Group member who lives in Windsor, offered a day of photography in and around the town at the end of October.

The turnout was disappointing with only three of us joining David but we had a really good day - energetic, walking the Long Walk up to the George III statue, after watching the parade for Changing the Guard - and enjoyable. One of the group had never been to Windsor before and, to my surprise, didn't know that the Long Walk existed. The trees were just beginning to turn to Autumn colours and there were deer in the park.

I feel sure there are many other places we could visit and I wonder which areas Group members might like to investigate together.

Planning events like this is one area in which we really need member involvement to offer an inviting programme.

Can YOU offer something?

