



THE **RPS**  
ROYAL  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
SOCIETY

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# THE **IRIS**

MAGAZINE OF THE NATURE GROUP OF THE RPS

Issue No. 140 / Summer 2021

# Treasurers Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## Cash Book Summary

Current Account Balance	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2019	£ 23,619.41
Income for 12 Months to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec		£ 15,459.94
Expenditure for 12 Months to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec		(£ 12,494.65)
Closing Balance	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2020	£ 26,584.70

<b>Bank Account Balance</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020</b>	<b>£26,584.70</b>
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## Income and Expenditure Summary

	Income	Expenditure
Members Subscriptions	£ 12,687.25	
VAT Refund	£ 162.24	
Deposits – Blencathra (2021)	£ 1,425.00	
Exhibition		£ 1,166.47
Events in Year	£ 1,139.45	£ 833.77
Printing & Distribution (Iris)		£ 9,348.64
Travel, Room Hire AGM/Committee		£ 1,140.77
Admin & Other		£ 5.00
Other Income	£ 46.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£ 15,459.94</b>	<b>£ 12,494.65</b>

## Notes:

1. Printing Costs includes new software purchased for both the Iris and the newsletter
2. Income from events has dropped because of cancellations and refunds, but the Advisory Day raised £1435.
3. Exhibition expenses are low because the travelling print exhibitions needed to be cancelled.

## Publication information

'The Iris' is published by the RPS Nature Group three times a year. Copy and publication dates are as follows:

Spring	Copy deadline 8th December Published mid March.
Summer	Copy deadline 30th April Published early July.
Winter	Copy deadline 31st August Published early November.

All contributions should be submitted to the Editor. Items covering any aspect of nature photography and/or natural history are welcomed, including reviews on equipment and relevant books. The Editor can be contacted at: iris\_editor@griff45.com

Copy should be sent as .txt or .doc files by email or wetransfer.com. Please do not send hand written copy.

Digitally captured photographic images are preferred but scanned transparencies are also acceptable. Images (whether vertical or horizontal) should be supplied on CD or via WeTransfer.com as flattened 8bit sRGB Tiff files, 6" x 4" at 300 pixels per inch (1800 x 1200 pixels, file size approx 6.17MB). Please do not send larger images. Larger files may be needed for the cover.

No payment will be made for material used and whilst every care will be taken, neither the Editor, the Nature Group or the Printers can accept liability for any damage that may occur to photographic material submitted.

The views expressed within The Iris are solely those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nature Group Committee or the Editor.

### Distribution:

'The Iris' is forwarded to members using address labels produced by the RPS Membership Dept in Bath. Any member not receiving their copy should contact that department so that their name appears on a label in the future. The Secretary will be pleased to post single copies to members who have failed to receive them.

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by Gerald Griffin ARPS

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### Cover image

Quiver Tree branches by Karin Wilson ARPS

Gold Medal award in the Nature Group Annual Exhibition, 2021.

# Committee

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**Julia Wainwright FRPS**

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Immediate Past Group Chair: Thomas Hanahoe FRPS

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President of the Society

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Society

Honorary Treasurer of the Society

Chair of the Natural History Photography Distinctions Panel

# Editorial

The Summer edition of The Iris is a little late because of editorial difficulties. It is largely dedicated to our Annual Exhibition and I would like to congratulate all members who had an acceptance and especially those who are mentioned in dispatches. Thank you to the two authors who have contributed articles in this edition, which I know will make interesting reading. The minutes of the 2021 Nature Group AGM are also published in this edition.

I am usually in the happy position to carry over articles to the next edition of The Iris but at present I have only two pieces for the Autumn issue. One is an article about gaining a distinction, which I am sure will stimulate others to 'have a go'. Without articles we have no magazine and I am hugely indebted to those of you who make a contribution. But I need more of you to send me some material! I am always ready to give help or advice. There is no need to worry if you find the writing difficult because all articles are edited and proof read. My computer screen matches the printer's output so I can make sure that all your wonderful photographs are shown at their best. (We do not edit pictures in the Annual Exhibition in this way). So please get writing.

Julia Wainwright FRPS has joined the production team of The Iris. Dawn Osborn FRPS and Julia have provided valuable help with the editing and proof reading of this edition. My thanks to them both.

Enjoy your summer photography!





# From the Chair - David O'Neill

## Introduction

This is my first 'From the Chair' and my articles will tend to focus on committee business and nature based news which might be of interest to members.

## Nature Group Exhibition

In the absence of an awards ceremony this year, I would like to take the opportunity to formally congratulate our award winners. Each award winner is also listed later in the magazine, with the title of their awarded images.

## Gold Medal Winners

Yealand Kalfayan ARPS and Karin Wilson ARPS

## Bronze Medal Winners

Sarah Kelman ARPS and Nigel Spencer ARPS

## Selector's Choice Awards

Victoria Andrews LRPS, Bob Gibbons FRPS, David Keep ARPS, Conor Molloy ARPS and Jean Robson ARPS (x 2)

## Highly Commended

Graeme Clarke ARPS, Robin Claydon ARPS, Sandie Cox ARPS, Jean Dixon, Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS, Bob Gibbons ARPS, Ann Healey ARPS, David Hughes ARPS, Ajit Huilgol ARPS, Diane Jackson ARPS, David Keep ARPS, Mike Lane FRPS, Tracey Lund ARPS, Darron Matthews ARPS, Gordon Mills ARPS, Andre Neves LRPS, Richard Revels FRPS, John Scholey, Nigel Spencer ARPS and Karin Wilson ARPS

## Zoom

The advantage of Zoom is that these events are available to almost everyone regardless of geographical location. It also gives us the opportunity to invite speakers from anywhere in the world, which allows us to broaden the variety of speakers and the content of the talks that are offered.

Our current plan is to continue to offer these events free of charge to members and we would be interested in receiving recommendations from members to help us maintain an interesting and varied selection of talks.

We also hope to expand the use of Zoom to allow some live events to be available on Zoom too, but this will be dependent on the facilities available at each venue. These will be chargeable events for attendees, so we will probably need to charge an appropriate fee for Zoom as well.

## Distinctions

The advisory day last year was a great success, and three of the attendees have subsequently achieved a distinction. I would like to congratulate each of them and many other nature group members for their achievement, many of which have also been celebrated in the recent Newsletter from Dawn Osborn FRPS.

## ARPS

Duncan Locke, Andrew Neves, Martin Hancock, Tim Cossens, Janice Clark, Tony Cooper, Alex Rees, Stephen Hyam and Michael Psyllides

## FRPS

Julia Wainwright, Ann Healey, Darron Matthews and Martin Vaughn

The chair of the Nature Group Distinctions Panel, Mick Durham, also gave an excellent zoom talk on gaining a distinction last year and the event recording is still available on the website for anyone who is interested in giving it a try.

We do not yet have a date for our next advisory day, but we do hope to build on the success of the last one and would also like to hear from members working towards a distinction about what other events would help them on their 'Journey'.

## Publications (Iris/Newsletter)

The impact of Covid 19 and the travel restrictions that this has imposed will have reduced opportunities for members to get out and practice their photography, which appears to be a contributing factor to a decline in the number of articles received for publication in the Iris.

We are hopeful that the relaxing of restrictions means that things will return to normal and more members will wish to contribute articles in the future.

In the interim, we also need to look at the content and roles of both the Iris and the Newsletter to strike a balance which best serves the interests of members.

A small number of members have also shown a preference for electronic versions only, but there does not appear to be an appetite to move away from a printed version. I personally still see the Iris as the flagship of the group.

David O'Neill

# Red Squirrel's Tails

## Robert Galloway LRPS

Red Squirrels have tails of many colours ranging from white to brown through to black. Some examples are shown in this article. They were all photographed in the same garden in the Scottish Highlands.

In 2007 I purchased a 500mm lens for my DSLR and for the following three years I became especially attracted to photographing Red Squirrels. I was fascinated by the variety in the colour of their tails. From 2011 until 2016 I broadened my interests to include flowers, plants, insects, butterflies and birds. I did not photograph squirrels during these years. During 2018-19, I became preoccupied with Pine Martens and also a Badger, which visited the garden. The Red Squirrels regained my attention in 2020, along with the other mammals. The Red Squirrel photographs of 2020 show a similar range of tail colours to those I had

observed some 12 years earlier.

What causes the range of colours shown by Red Squirrel tails? Inheritance, time of year, age? Photographs of wild Squirrels cannot provide an answer since there is no way of identifying whether the same individual has been re-photographed after a year, a month, a week or even after a few days.

*Editor's note:* According to the British Red Squirrel Group (<http://www.britishredsquirrel.org/>) their coat colour is usually reddish but can vary from almost white to almost black according to age, genetic variations and the seasons. In winter the red squirrel has a thick, warm coat and bushy tail, with impressive ear tufts some 3 cm long. In summer the coat and tail are thinner and sleeker and often the ear tufts disappear completely.



### The photographs

Above: A tail which is brown near the body with a significant length of white to the tip 2009 Aug. (Similar to 2020 Sept. & Oct.) See page 6 for opposite photograph titles.







### **The photographs**

*Previous page - top: White tail Aug 2008. (Probably same squirrel photographed Aug 2007, May 2008, June and Aug 2009, Similar to May and June 2020.)*

*Previous page - bottom: Black tail Oct 2020. (Similar to Aug, Sept and Oct.2007; May 2008, July, Aug and Sept 2020.)*

*This page - top left: Brown tail Oct 2020 (Similar to Sept 2007, June 2008, May, Sept and Nov 2017; July, Sept and Dec 2020.)*

*top right: Brown tail with white tip, August 2008. (Similar to 2020 May and Oct.)*

*Opposite page - top: Black core with white outside to tail Aug 2020. (Similar to Aug 2008 and Sept 2020.)*

*Opposite page - bottom: White tail with black rings Aug 2008. (Similar to Aug 2020.)*







### Photographic data

For the photographs taken around 2008 a Sony DSLR A100 camera was used which had a C size sensor of 12MP. I used ISO 400 with manually set aperture (between f5.6 and f11), automatic exposure (between 1/80 and 1/500 s) and manual focus. The lens was a Sigma zoom 30-500 mm (usually at about 300 mm) mounted on a Manfrotto tripod and gimbal.

For the photographs taken in 2020, I used a Sony A77 camera, which had a C size sensor of 24MP. The ISO was set at 400 and the aperture at f8. I manually pre-focused on where the squirrels were expected to be (1 or 2 m from camera). I used fill flash from an off camera Sony HVL-F60RM flash. The lens was a Sony zoom 16-50 mm and the system was triggered remotely.



# THE NATURE GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2021

## Accepted Images

Award	Author	Title
Gold Medal	Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Apollo Butterfly on Knapweed
Gold Medal	Karin Wilson ARPS	Quiver Tree branches
Bronze Medal	Sarah Kelman ARPS	Golden Eagles Fight over carcass
Bronze Medal	Nigel Spencer ARPS	Amethyst Deceiver
Selector's Choice	Victoria Andrews LRPS	Stonechat with grub
Selector's Choice	Bob Gibbons FRPS	Small Pasque Flower in flower and fruit
Selector's Choice	David Keep ARPS	Sealion Pup, Cabo Pulmo, Mexico
Selector's Choice	Conor Molloy ARPS	Red Fox jumping for prey
Selector's Choice	Jean Robson ARPS	False Chanterelle and spider
Selector's Choice	Jean Robson ARPS	Oysterling on Silver Birch
Highly Commended	Graeme Clarke ARPS	Shaggy Scalycap
Highly Commended	Robin Claydon ARPS	Grizly Bear cubs
Highly Commended	Sandie Cox ARPS	Iris Seed pod
Highly Commended	Jean Dixon	Autumn seeds
Highly Commended	Jean Dixon	Hay Rattle
Highly Commended	Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Green-veined White on foodplant
Highly Commended	Bob Gibbons FRPS	Common Puffball producing spores
Highly Commended	Ann Healey ARPS	Pallas Long-tongued Bat
Highly Commended	David Hughes ARPS	Great Crested Grebe feeding chicks
Highly Commended	Ajit Huilgol ARPS	Plum-headed Parakeet & Malabar Parakeet face-off
Highly Commended	Diane Jackson	Charging Bull Elephant
Highly Commended	David Keep ARPS	Grey Seal, Farne Islands UK
Highly Commended	Mike Lane FRPS	Mountain Hare
Highly Commended	Tracey Lund ARPS	Arctic Fox squabble
Highly Commended	Darron Matthews ARPS	Azure Blue Damselfly and Poppy
Highly Commended	Gordon Mills ARPS	Dalmatian Pelican and fish
Highly Commended	Andre Neves LRPS	Young Allium head
Highly Commended	Richard Revels FRPS	Corn Cockle with Cuckoo-spit
Highly Commended	John Scholey	Common Spotted Orchid
Highly Commended	Nigel Spencer ARPS	Pine Marten
Highly Commended	Karin Wilson ARPS	Sandstone Strata
Author	Title	Award
Nick Akers ARPS	Bearded Tit in flight	
Jon C Allanson LRPS	Namaqua Chameleon	
Neil Anderton ARPS	Kestrel and Mouse	
Victoria Andrews LRPS	Anhinga with fish	
Victoria Andrews LRPS	Northern Gannets	
Victoria Andrews LRPS	Mantling Kestrel	
Victoria Andrews LRPS	Stonechat with grub	Selector's Choice
Victoria Andrews LRPS	Orchid Italica	
Michael Atkinson	Bearded Tit on reed	
Michael Atkinson	Elephant Hawk-moth on Honeysuckle	
Wendy Ball	Fox	
Wendy Ball	Lion cub	
John Barker LRPS	Gadwall Ducks	
Philip Barker ARPS	Yellow Stagshorn	
David Anthony Barrett LRPS	Common Mallow	

David Anthony Barrett LRPS	Globe Thistle	
David Battensby	African Elephants	
John Bebbington FRPS	Banded Demoiselle female with prey	
John Bebbington FRPS	Longhorn Beetle on Hogweed	
John Bebbington FRPS	Speckled Bush Cricket courtship	
John Bebbington FRPS	White-Legged Damselfly	
John Bebbington FRPS	Bee Orchid flowerhead	
John Bebbington FRPS	Bladder Sedge female inflorescence	
John Bebbington FRPS	Cocksfoot inflorescence male state	
Mat Bingham LRPS	Greenfinch	
Mat Bingham LRPS	Sand Martins	
James Black ARPS	Large White nectaring	
James Black ARPS	Clouded Yellow	
James Black ARPS	Northern Marsh Orchids	
James Black ARPS	Viper's Bugloss	
James Black ARPS	Meadow-Sweet	
Peter Bott LRPS	Wasp Spider (Female)	
Peter Bott LRPS	European Roller	
Nick Bowman LRPS	Brown Hare bounding though the stubble	
Nick Bowman LRPS	Green Woodpecker	
John Boyd ARPS	Young Kestrel wants feeding	
Brian Boyes LRPS	Otter Parent and pup bonding	
Brian Boyes LRPS	Sleeping Otter	
Maggie Bullock ARPS	Short Eared Owl hunting	
Maggie Bullock ARPS	Black Headed Gull diving	
Maggie Bullock ARPS	Self Heal	
John Bulpitt FRPS	Dark Bush-Cricket eating Snail	
Diana Buzoianu	Great Bittern	
Diana Buzoianu	Nature Pattern 1	
Diana Buzoianu	Nature Pattern 3	
Pamela Carter ARPS	Dusky Thorn Moths	
Pamela Carter ARPS	Golden Plushia Moth	
Pamela Carter ARPS	Grasshopper	
Pamela Carter ARPS	Green Brindled Crescent Moths	
Pamela Carter ARPS	Mayfly Carrying Eggs	
Pamela Carter ARPS	Small Heath	
Andrew Chu ARPS	Ring-necked Parakeet feeding	
Janice Clark LRPS	Black-Tailed Skimmer with Dew on Wings	
Janice Clark LRPS	Little Owl Staring	
Janice Clark LRPS	Red Deer at Sunrise	
Janice Clark LRPS	Night Jar in Habitat	
Janice Clark LRPS	Amethyst Deceiver	
Janice Clark LRPS	Mycena	
Janice Clark LRPS	Honey Fungus	
Janice Clark LRPS	Slippery Jack	
Janice Clark LRPS	Golden Scalycap	
Roger Clark ARPS	King Penguins Courting	
Graeme Clarke ARPS	Shaggy Scalycap	Highly Commended
Graeme Clarke ARPS	Common Bonnet	
Graeme Clarke ARPS	Parasol Mushrooms in Habitat	
Robin Claydon ARPS	Grizzly Bear Cubs	Highly Commended
Robin Claydon ARPS	King Penguin	
Robin Claydon ARPS	Polar Bear and Cub	
Robin Claydon ARPS	Red Fox	

Trevor Clifford ARPS	Brown Hare	
Trevor Clifford ARPS	Sanderling	
Trevor Clifford ARPS	Knapweed	
Trevor Clifford ARPS	Mullein	
Czech Conroy LRPS	Little Bee-eater	
Michael Cook	Broad-bodied Chaser (Female)	
Anthony Cooper	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	
Timothy Cossins	Maribou Stork	
Sandie Cox ARPS	Green Oak Tortrix	
Sandie Cox ARPS	Purple Heron with Snake	
Sandie Cox ARPS	Dead Mans Fingers in Lava Flow	
Sandie Cox ARPS	Iris Seed Pod	Highly Commended
Sue Critchlow ARPS	Leaping Owl	
Sue Critchlow ARPS	Little Owl with chick	
Sue Critchlow ARPS	Tawney Owl about to land	
Liz Cutting ARPS	Stag Beetle	
Susan Dall LRPS	Oriental Pied Hornbills	
Trevor Davenport ARPS	Black-veined White on Scabious	
Trevor Davenport ARPS	Pale Tussock Moth Caterpillar	
Trevor Davenport ARPS	Sallow Kittens	
Trevor Davenport ARPS	Southern Festoon after rain	
Trevor Davenport ARPS	Bird's Nest Fungus	
Trevor Davenport ARPS	Sandstone Rock detail	
Trevor Davenport ARPS	Scarlet Elfcups	
Kevin Day ARPS	Red Squirrel On tree stump	
Kevin Day ARPS	Red Squirrel jumping	
Gary Dean LRPS	European Roller with Sand Lizard prey	
Gary Dean LRPS	Running Mountain Hare	
Gary Dean LRPS	Basaltic Column Formations, Isle of Staffa	
Derek Dewey-Leader LRPS	Sawfly Larvae	
Ann Dickson LRPS	Lioness and four Cubs	
Ann Dickson LRPS	Mother and daughter Olive Baboons	
Jean Dixon	Autumn seeds	Highly Commended
Jean Dixon	Hay Rattle	Highly Commended
Jean Dixon	Willow Flowers	
Jean Dixon	Wild Carrot	
Tim Downton ARPS	Wasp Spider	
Tim Downton ARPS	Glossy Ibis tossing grub	
Tim Downton ARPS	Kingfishers mating	
Tim Downton ARPS	Squacco Heron skinning Marsh Frog	
Tim Downton ARPS	Pallas's Gull with fish	
Tim Downton ARPS	Amethyst Deceiver	
Tim Downton ARPS	Porcelain Fungus Gills	
Tim Downton ARPS	Honey Fungus	
Tim Downton ARPS	Clustered Brittlestem	
Dickie Duckett FRPS	Hobby Catching Mayfly	
Dickie Duckett FRPS	Red-necked Grebe feeding Chick	
Dickie Duckett FRPS	Red Kite lifting Rabbit	
Dickie Duckett FRPS	Kestrel catching Mayfly	
Mark Ellis LRPS	Stonechat	
Chris Ellison ARPS	Red Squirrel alert	
Chris Ellison ARPS	Physostegia	
Chris Ellison ARPS	Spotted Orchid trio	



Kevin Elsby FRPS	Red-backed Shrike	
Kevin Elsby FRPS	Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher	
Kevin Elsby FRPS	Crab Plover and Crab	
Kevin Elsby FRPS	Monkey X Lady Orchid Hybrid	
Kevin Elsby FRPS	Military Orchid	
Kevin Elsby FRPS	Marsh Helleborine	
Kevin Elsby FRPS	Bee Orchid	
Simon Elsy LRPS	Whistling Kite and Juvenile White-bellied Sea Eagle	
Wendy Margaret Burton Eve ARPS	Red Thorny Seahorse	
Wendy Margaret Burton Eve ARPS	Spinecheek Anemonefish	
Peter Farmer ARPS	Tree Pangolin	
Robert Farrow	Common Blues roosting	
Robert Farrow	Small White feeding	
Michael Feeney ARPS	Pied Flycatcher	
Edmund Fellowes FRPS	Nuthatch Feeding young	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Elephant Hawk Moths	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Foraging Nuthatch	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Gentoo Penguin in blizzard	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Green-Veined White on foodplant	Highly Commended
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Marsh Tit aggression	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Two-flower Cinquefoil in habitat	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Secund-flowered Primrose	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Rhododendron landscape	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	Forrest Fritillaria	
Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS	The Blusher	
James Foad LRPS	Common Blue Butterfly resting	
James Foad LRPS	Meadow Grasshopper wiping it's eye	
James Foad LRPS	Bee Orchid with fly	
James Foad LRPS	Fly Agric in environment	
James Foad LRPS	<i>Mycena leptocephala</i>	
James Foad LRPS	<i>Mycena</i> Sp. and Pixie Cup	
Gordon Follows ARPS	Bananaquit	
Gordon Follows ARPS	Blue-Grey Tanager	
Gordon Follows ARPS	Reed Warbler singing	
Gordon Follows ARPS	Silver-washed Fritillary nectaring on Bramble	
Robert Bennett Galloway LRPS	Larch Flowers	
Bob Gibbons FRPS	Male Lesser Kestrel over the sea	
Bob Gibbons FRPS	Black-necked Stilt foraging on tideline	
Bob Gibbons FRPS	Big old male Atlantic Salmon migrating upstream, Perthshire	
Bob Gibbons FRPS	Coltsfoots opening through the snow	
Bob Gibbons FRPS	Small Pasque Flower in flower and fruit	Selector's Choice
Bob Gibbons FRPS	Poppies and Mignonette at dawn, Dorset	
Bob Gibbons FRPS	Fly Agaric Fungi in Birch Woodland	
Bob Gibbons FRPS	Common Puffball producing Spores	Highly Commended
Barrie Glover ARPS	Calving Glacier	
Barrie Glover ARPS	Sandstone Striations	
Barrie Glover ARPS	<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	
Jasmina Goodair LRPS	Stonechat	
Jo Goudie	Stonechat	
Jo Goudie	Willow Warbler	
Gerald Griffin ARPS	Bee Orchid, UK	
Gerald Griffin ARPS	Sea Pink, UK	
John Haigh ARPS	Striated Caracara feeding on Elephant Seal carcass	

John Haigh ARPS	Falkland Thrush	
Richard Hall	Quiver Tree Forest, Namibia	
Thomas Hanahoe FRPS	Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding a chick	
Thomas Hanahoe FRPS	Walrus and Calf on Icefloe	
Thomas Hanahoe FRPS	Arctic Fox	
Roger Hance FRPS	<i>Mycena inclinata</i>	
Roger Hance FRPS	Yellow Antler Fungus	
Roger Hance FRPS	Panther Cap Fungus in habitat	
Roger Hance FRPS	Green Winged Orchids	
Martin Hancock LRPS	Kingfisher casting pellet	
Alan Harris	Four Spotted Chaser	
Alan Hartley ARPS	African Fish Eagle calling	
Alan Hartley ARPS	Merveille Du Jour	
Alan Hartley ARPS	Bath White	
Alan Hartley ARPS	Black Skimmer	
Stewart Haynes ARPS	Black-Eared Kites	
Stewart Haynes ARPS	Rock Ptarmigan	
Ann Healey ARPS	Costa Rican Red-eyed Tree Frog with spawn	
Ann Healey ARPS	Crested Tit in Snow	
Ann Healey ARPS	Pallas Long-tongued Bat	Highly Commended
Ann Healey ARPS	Common Bonnet	
Christine Holt	African Skimmer	
Christine Holt	Pied Kingfisher	
Peter Hudson ARPS	Pollination and Reward for Mexican Bat & Yucca	
Peter Hudson ARPS	Lioness with Warthog	
David Hughes ARPS	Red Kites in aerial dispute	
David Hughes ARPS	Great Crested Grebe feeding chicks	Highly Commended
David Hughes ARPS	Grey Seal Mother and Pup Kiss	
David Hughes ARPS	Mountain Hare	
Geoff Hughes ARPS	Yellow Dung Fly	
Geoff Hughes ARPS	Hooded Merganser	
Ajit Huilgol ARPS	Cheetah Cubs at play	
Ajit Huilgol ARPS	Tigress Clamps Down on Sambar Stag neck	
Ajit Huilgol ARPS	Plum-headed Parakeet and Malabar Parakeet face-Off	Highly Commended
John Hunt ARPS	Roller balance	
Diane Jackson	Bison sparring	
Diane Jackson	Steller Sea Lion scratching	
Diane Jackson	Charging Bull Elephant	Highly Commended
Simon Jenkins ARPS	Arctic Fox in the snow	
Koshy Johnson FRPS	Black Headed Ibis and snake	
Koshy Johnson FRPS	Lioness and her cubs	
Koshy Johnson FRPS	Little Egret fishing	
Koshy Johnson FRPS	Icy Patterns	
Martin Johnson LRPS	Male Adonis Blue Butterfly	
Phil Jones ARPS	Goldfinch on Teasel	
Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Large Blues pairing on Knapweed bud	
Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Bottlenose Dolphin	
Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Lackey Moth Caterpillar on Rosa sp.	
Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Spotted Fritillary pairing on Lesser Burnet	
Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Orange Tip (Male) on Herb Robert	
Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Apollo Butterfly on Knapweed	Gold medal
Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Cuckoo Flower	
Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Early Purple Orchid	

Yealand Kalfayan ARPS	Dusky Cranesbill	
Richard Kay ARPS	Blue Morph Arctic Fox on the move	
Richard Kay ARPS	Female Blue Morph Arctic Fox in Iceland	
Richard Kay ARPS	Blue Morph Arctic Fox with her cub	
Patricia Kearton LRPS	Buzzard dispute	
Patricia Kearton LRPS	White-tailed Eagle	
David Keep ARPS	Cuban Crocodile, Mangrove Swamps, Cuba	
David Keep ARPS	Sealion, Cabo Pulmo, Mexico	
David Keep ARPS	Grey Seal, Farne Islands, UK	Highly Commended
David Keep ARPS	Caribbean Reef Shark, Cuba	
David Keep ARPS	Sealion Pup, Cabo Pulmo, Mexico	Selector's Choice
Sarah Kelman ARPS	Golden Eagles fight over Carcass	Bronze medal
Sarah Kelman ARPS	Mating Great Crested Grebes	
Sarah Kelman ARPS	Red Fox	
Barry Kettell LRPS	Mating Damsels	
John Lacey ARPS	<i>Clitocybe connata</i>	
Mike Lane FRPS	Blue Dacnis	
Mike Lane FRPS	Dalmation Pelicans	
Mike Lane FRPS	Mountain Hare	Highly Commended
Mike Lane FRPS	Whooper Swans	
Adrian Langdon ARPS	Vixen with Rabbits	
Adrian Langdon ARPS	Coprinus Comatus	
Adrian Langdon ARPS	Honey Fungus	
Charles Lee ARPS	King Penguin Group at dawn	
Charles Lee ARPS	Three Juvenile Gentoo Penguins running for food	
Charles Lee ARPS	Three Giraffes as storm approaches	
Duncan Locke LRPS	Black Snub-nosed Monkeys	
Duncan Locke LRPS	Golden Snub-nosed Monkey	
Duncan Locke LRPS	Box Tree Moth	
Duncan Locke LRPS	Fly Agaric	
Tracey Lund ARPS	Arctic Fox squabble	Highly Commended
Tracey Lund ARPS	Pelican stare	
Rosamund Macfarlane ARPS	Black Headed Oriole	
Rosamund Macfarlane ARPS	Iced Puddle on peat moorland	
Rosamund Macfarlane ARPS	Weir Lip Flow pattern	
Jeremy Malley-Smith LRPS	Copper Underwing	
Jeremy Malley-Smith LRPS	Fox with egg	
Jean Manson	Brown Hares	
Jean Manson	Goldcrest	
Maggie Manson ARPS	Goldfinches	
Michael Marshall	Hairy Shield Bug	
Michael Marshall	Wood Longhorn Beetle	
Ita Martin LRPS	Blue Throated Barbet	
Ita Martin LRPS	Little Green Bee-eater	
Ita Martin LRPS	Red Squirrel	
Darron Matthews ARPS	Common Wasp in flight	
Darron Matthews ARPS	Small Elephant Hawk-moth on Heather	
Darron Matthews ARPS	Azure Blue Damselfly and Poppy	Highly Commended
Darron Matthews ARPS	Female Small Red Damselfly	
Darron Matthews ARPS	Male Orange Tip Butterfly	
Malcolm McCamley ARPS	Apollo Butterfly	
Malcolm McCamley ARPS	European Bee-eater	
Malcolm McCamley ARPS	Eyed Hawkmoth Larva	

Malcolm McCamley ARPS	Small Emerald Damselfly	
Malcolm McCamley ARPS	Southern Hawker	
Malcolm McCamley ARPS	Triangular Spider	
Ian McLean ARPS	Eastern Dappled White	
Ian McLean ARPS	Yellow Banded Skipper	
Ian McLean ARPS	<i>Ascalaphus macaronius</i>	
Richard Merritt FRPS	Great Hammerhead Shark with Pilot Fish, Remoras and Jacks	
Richard Merritt FRPS	Nurse Shark	
Richard Merritt FRPS	Resting Lemon Shark	
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS	Male Banded Demoiselle dispersing pheromone	
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS	Burnet Moth in rain	
Ann Margaret Miles FRPS	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	
Gordon Mills ARPS	Dalmatian Pelican and fish	Highly Commended
Gordon Mills ARPS	Roseate Spoonbill	
Ian Mitchell ARPS	Crested Tit	
Ian Mitchell ARPS	Female Mountain Hare	
Ian Mitchell ARPS	Juvenile Gannet watched by parent	
Ian Mitchell ARPS	Otter with cubs	
James Moir ARPS	Squabbling Kittiwakes	
Conor Molloy ARPS	Red Fox, jumping for prey	Selector's Choice
Conor Molloy ARPS	Great Northern Diver with chicks	
Conor Molloy ARPS	Great Grey Owl	
Carolyn Moore	Roe Deer	
David Morement	Gannet Emerging from sea with fish	
David Morement	Redshanks fighting	
Graham Morrice	Twin Spot Centurion Soldier Fly on window	
Lajos Nagy	Hoopoe feeding	
Lajos Nagy	The little bird's food	
Lajos Nagy	Bellflower	
John Nash	Bee with Mites	
John Nash	Burnet Moths mating	
John Nash	Male Vervet Monkey	
John Nash	Sawfly Larvae	
Douglas Neve ARPS	Garden Spider with prey	
Douglas Neve ARPS	High Brown Fritillary	
Douglas Neve ARPS	Marbled White with Red Mite affliction	
Andre Neves LRPS	Chalkhill Blue pair at sunset	
Andre Neves LRPS	Common-Blue Damselflies mating	
Andre Neves LRPS	Female Meadow Grasshopper	
Andre Neves LRPS	Female Migrant Hoverfly nectaring on Star of Persia	
Andre Neves LRPS	Male Ghost Moth	
Andre Neves LRPS	Young Allium head	Highly Commended
Ian Nicol ARPS	Common Frogs	
Ian Nicol ARPS	Willow Emerald Damselfly	
Richard Nicoll ARPS	Yellow Dung Flies mating	
Richard Nicoll ARPS	Yellow Wagtail	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Grass Wren take off	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Gentoo Penguin comes ashore	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Hamerkop in flight over reeds	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	King Penguin courtship	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Little Blue Heron with prey	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Cowslips	
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Southern Marsh X Pugsley's Marsh Orchid	



Barrie Parker LRPS	Elephant couple grazing and sand blowing	
Barrie Parker LRPS	Elephant calf interacting with herd	
Barrie Parker LRPS	Plains Zebra grazing on the floor of the Norongoro Crate	
Steven Parrish	Gadwall in flight	
Andrew Parsons ARPS	Red -Eyed Danselfly paired	
Gill Peachey LRPS	Orchid Beetle on blade of grass	
Gill Peachey LRPS	Foxtail Flowerhead caught on leaf	
Gill Peachey LRPS	Cocksfoot Grass	
Gill Peachey LRPS	Common Toadflax	
Gill Peachey LRPS	Hawes Developing on Hawthorn	
Kirsten Peake LRPS	Red Fox mousing	
Ron Perkins ARPS	Juvenile Peregrine in a gale	
Ron Perkins ARPS	Chiltern Kite conflict	
Ron Perkins ARPS	Raft Spider	
Kevin John Pigney ARPS	Dartford Warbler	
Kevin John Pigney ARPS	Brown Hare with wild flowers	
Kevin John Pigney ARPS	Brown Hare in snowfall	
John Plant LRPS	Green Weevil Being attacked by ant	
John Plant LRPS	Green Woodpecker on Birch	
Keith Polwin ARPS	Female Stonechat	
Keith Polwin ARPS	Kestrel at nest hole	
Keith Polwin ARPS	Marmalade Hoverfly on Field Scabious	
Keith Polwin ARPS	Orange Tip Butterfly male	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Common Green Grasshopper	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Lion cubs	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Newly Emerged Chalkhill Blue	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Speckled Wood	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Honey Fungus group	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Pasque Flower	
Ken Rasmussen ARPS	Shaggy Scalycap group	
Jane Rees ARPS	Common Centaury	
Jane Rees ARPS	Lady's Smock	
Chris Renk	Leptophyes punctatissima	
Nicholas Benedict Reuss ARPS	Green Lynx Spider guarding her nest	
Richard Revels FRPS	Southern Migrant Hawker Dragonfly in flight	
Richard Revels FRPS	Corn Cockle with Cuckoo-Spit	Highly Commended
Richard Revels FRPS	Nettle-Leaved Bellflower	
Jeremy Paul Richards	Falkland Steamer Duck and brood	
Jeremy Paul Richards	Southern Elephant Seal pup sleeping	
Brian Ridgley LRPS	Red Deer mating	
Brian Ridgley LRPS	Common Blue at dusk	
Brian Ridgley LRPS	Buds and Blooms	
Jean Robson ARPS	Buff Tip Moth	
Jean Robson ARPS	Green Lacewing emerging	
Jean Robson ARPS	Cortinarius Species on a wet day	
Jean Robson ARPS	False Chanterelle and spider	Selector's Choice
Jean Robson ARPS	Mycena on Sitka Spruce	
Jean Robson ARPS	Oysterling on Silver Birch	Selector's Choice
Jean Robson ARPS	Russula Species Fungus with fly and slug	
John Scholey	Mountain Hare	
John Scholey	Pine Marten	
John Scholey	Common Spotted Orchid	Highly Commended
John Scholey	Foxglove	

Vincent Scriven LRPS	Grey Heron with Trout	
Richard Sheldrake LRPS	Bee, drinking in the summer sunshine	
Richard Sheldrake LRPS	Eurasian Hobby, about to strike a Mayfly	
Richard Sheldrake LRPS	Banded Demoiselle, resting on grass	
Paul Sievers ARPS	Bee on Lavender	
Paul Sievers ARPS	Dryads Saddle Fungi	
Paul Sievers ARPS	Fairy Inkcaps	
Paul Sievers ARPS	Porcelain Fungal patterns	
Lloyd Sluman LRPS	Black-backed Jackal, Spotted Hyena and White-backed Vulture	
Eric Smith	Mother and child	
Peter Smith	Giant River Otter with fish	
Peter Smith	Pair Pyramidal Orchids	
Peter Smith	Bogbean	
Nigel Spencer ARPS	Water Vole	
Nigel Spencer ARPS	Pine Marten	Highly Commended
Nigel Spencer ARPS	Dalmation Pelican	
Nigel Spencer ARPS	King Eider	
Nigel Spencer ARPS	Arctic Fox	
Nigel Spencer ARPS	Amethyst Deceiver	Bronze medal
Nigel Spencer ARPS	White Hellebourine	
Qasim Syed ARPS	Small Blues	
Qasim Syed ARPS	Silver Studded Blues	
Qasim Syed ARPS	Marbled Whites	
Nigel Symington LRPS ARPS	Red Champion	
Nigel Symington LRPS ARPS	Clustered Bonnet	
Sonja Thompson FRPS	Bearded Seal on Iceflow	
Sonja Thompson FRPS	Plantain Flower Spike	
Derek Trendell ARPS	Cheetahs with Young Impala	
Clive Alan Wade LRPS	Great Crested Grebes changing places	
Julia Wainwright ARPS	Gentoo Emerging from the sea	
Paul Watkins	Southern Carmine Bee-eater mating rivalry	
Karin Wilson ARPS	European Bee-eaters courting	
Karin Wilson ARPS	Green-crowned Brilliant Hummingbird feeding	
Karin Wilson ARPS	Mass migration	
Karin Wilson ARPS	European Bee-eater with bee	
Karin Wilson ARPS	Spoon-winged Lacewing	
Karin Wilson ARPS	Sandstone Strata	Highly Commended
Karin Wilson ARPS	Quiver Tree branches	Gold medal
Karin Wilson ARPS	Mycena Cluster on decaying log	

## Award Winning Photographs



### **The photographs**

*Above, Gold Medal: Apollo Butterfly on Knapweed by Yealand Kalfayan ARPS.*

*Below, Bronze Medal: Golden Eagles fight over carcass by Sarah Kelman ARPS.*









### **The photographs**

*Clockwise from top left, Gold Medal: Quiver Tree branches by Karin Wilson ARPS, Selector's Choice: Small Pasque Flower in flower and fruit by Bob Gibbons FRPS, Highly commended: Shaggy Scalycap by Graeme Clarke ARPS, Selector's Choice: False Chanterelle and Spider by Jean Robson ARPS, Bronze Medal: Amethyst Deceiver by Nigel Spencer ARPS.*





**The photographs**

*Clockwise from top left.*

*All Selector's Choice:*

*Red Fox jumping for prey*  
by Conor Molloy ARPS,

*Oysterling on Silver Birch*  
by Jean Robson ARPS,

*Sealion pup, Cabo Pulmo,*  
*Mexico*  
by David Keep ARPS,

*Stonechat With grub*  
by Victoria Andrews LRPS.









### **The photographs**

*Clockwise from top left. All Highly Commended: Green-veined White on foodplant by Gianpiero Ferrari FRPS, Plum-headed Parakeet and Malabar Parakeet face-off by Ajit Huilgol ARPS, Grizzly Bear cubs by Robin Claydon ARPS, Great Crested Grebe feeding chicks by David Hughes ARPS.*





### **The photographs**

*Clockwise from top left. All Highly Commended:*

*Iris Seed Pod by Sandie Cox ARPS,*

*Autumn seeds by Jean Dixon,*

*Corn Cockle with Cuckoo-spit by Richard Revels FRPS,*

*Young Allium head by Andre Neves LRPS,*

*Hay Rattle by Jean Dixon.*









### **The photographs**

*Clockwise from top left. All Highly Commended:*

*Pallas Long-tongued Bat by Ann Healey ARPS,*

*Grey Seal, Farne Islands, UK by David Keep ARPS,*

*Common Puffball producing spores  
by Bob Gibbons FRPS,*

*Charging bull Elephant by Diane Jackson.*







### **The photographs**

*Clockwise from top left. All Highly Commended:*

*Mountain Hare by Mike Lane FRPS,*

*Arctic Fox squabble by Tracey Lund ARPS,*

*Dalmation Pelican and fish by Gordon Mills ARPS,*

*Common Spotted Orchid by John Scholey.*





### **The photographs**

*Clockwise from top left. All Highly Commended:*

*Azure Blue Damselfly and poppy  
by Darron Matthews ARPS,*

*Pine Marten by Nigel Spencer ARPS,*

*Sandstone strata by Karin Wilson ARPS.*



# BLUEFIN TUNA IN START BAY

## OCTOBER 2020

Dr Michael Bamford



Between the various versions of lockdown, my wife and I managed to book a week's stay in the Lighthouse Cottages at Start Point, Devon, during the first week of October 2020.

The forecast for the week was not good with gales and rain expected, the remnants of a storm. We had planned to be self-sufficient, and took binoculars and cameras with the hope of seeing differing wildlife from our usual Suffolk fare. On arrival we were surprised to see that the previous guests had written in the visitors' book, that they had seen Tuna in the Bay.

The cottage allowed good views of Start Bay and the sea to the east and south. On our first evening I started scanning the Bay. The sea was relatively calm and it was not long before a very large and unusual splash indicated that something was out there. It was not repeating, and therefore what I could see was not the rhythmic porpoising of a Dolphin. More splashes in the near and medium distance popped up at intervals. The difficulty was anticipating such apparently random events. However after a while one of the culprits obliged by jumping twice. It was a very large streamlined fish that was clearly a Tuna. Minimal research indicated that there had been a number of

sightings of Bluefin Tuna in the South Western approaches over the preceding couple of months.

While we were staying we kept a look out for more Tuna. We found that Tuna continued to show over a large area of the Bay early and late in the day. Some were close enough to photograph, although capturing them was a bit like 'bash the rat' at a village fete, as the leaping fish were unpredictable, and not frequent. We got more photos of disappearing fish than mid action photos!

It was apparent from the pictures we took that their food were Garfish, a species that is not particularly sought by fishermen and one that may be benefitting from warming seas. We were told that there were few Mackerel around at the time.

Bluefin tuna have been seen more regularly in recent years in UK waters, having been absent for many years. Pre-WW2 there was a significant sport fishing season for Tuna in the North Sea from the ports of Scarborough and Whitby. Much to their frustration, U.K. fishermen do not now have a quota for taking Tuna but this may well change with future legislation. Observing the Tuna was a superb bonus and complemented the sightings of Harbour Porpoises and Common Dolphins, which we also were lucky enough to see.









### **The photographs**

*Previous page - Start Point Lighthouse and cottages.*

*Opposite page - Tuna feeding.*

*This page - A tuna feeding and a Garfish shoal.*

The photographs were taken on a Canon EOS 5D MkIV with a Canon 400mm f/4 DO IS MkII lens.

Here is a link to the Tuna sport fishing in the text:  
<https://britishseafishing.co.uk/big-game-tuna-fishing-in-britain/>



# RPS Nature Group

## Minutes of the 45th AGM, 24th April 2021

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The 45th Annual General Meeting of the RPS Nature Group was held on Saturday 24th April 2021 starting at 1315hrs on-line using Zoom. It was attended by 67 Members.

The AGM Agenda, Minutes of the 44th AGM 2020, Officers' Reports and Programme Coordinator's Report were made available in advance of the AGM and remain available on the RPS website under:

<https://rps.org/news/groups/nature/2021/april/2021-agm-reports/>

### **Welcome and Apologies for Absence:**

Thomas Hanahoe, Chair of the RPS Nature Group, welcomed Group Members and John Miskelly, RPS Honorary Treasurer, to the Meeting.

Apologies for Absence had been received from: Maggie Bullock, James Foad, Martin Hancock, Rod Orrell and Evan Dawson (RPS CEO).

### **Minutes of the 44th AGM 2020**

There were no corrections to the Minutes and it was proposed by Ralph Snook and seconded by Julia Wainwright that the Minutes be approved.

### **Matters Arising:**

None.

### **Chairman's Report – Thomas Hanahoe FRPS:**

My term of office as Chairman of the Nature Group Committee is now complete. It is a sign of the times that during my two year period the Committee has become expert in on-line meetings. Previous practice was for the Committee to gather round a table at Smethwick Photographic Society three times each year, but in 2020, as a result of the Covid 19 viral pandemic lockdown of society, the Committee held eight virtual meetings and also provided numerous other computer-based activities for Members. In the process we learned a lot and it is likely that the Committee will continue with on-line meetings, which have removed the need for long journeys and the associated travel expenses. This may enable Members from distant parts of the United Kingdom to join the Committee.

Despite the lockdown the group continues to flourish with 913 members in January 2021 compared with 905 in January 2020.

National lockdown impaired our programme of Field Meetings. During 2020, 17 Field Meetings were planned with more in the pipeline, but regrettably in May and June, eight had to be cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions. I am pleased that Field Meetings are now back on track, albeit limited to individual groups of five participants for each leader. Ten trips are scheduled to be held between April and July 2021. These numbers are most impressive compared to those of yore. I extend my congratulations to all those concerned.

The Chairman's Day meeting at the end of October was also on-line with over 90 people taking part in the event, including Dr Alan Hodgson, the then President of the Royal Photographic Society. I was honoured to be joined on the virtual stage by Dr Daniel Hayhow, Environmental Scientist at Earthwatch Europe, who presented a lecture on 'The State of Nature 2019' and by Dr Mike Daniels, Head of Land Management at the John Muir Trust, who spoke on 'Rewilding in Britain'. Following the Chairman's Day, the virtual Annual General Meeting of the Nature Group agreed the revised Regulations of the Nature Group, which were updated to reflect changes in practice. It also agreed that the Annual Exhibition will in future include a new separate section to accommodate Annual Photographers aged 18 years or younger.

The Committee is composed of volunteers who give their time and expertise freely, investing substantial amounts of time on behalf of the Nature Group and I thank each of them for their support during my term of office.

### **Treasurer's Report – David O'Neill LRPS:**

This is printed on the inside front cover.

### **Secretary's Report – Duncan Locke ARPS:**

Last year's AGM, originally planned for the 4th April 2020, had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Later in the year, a short on-line AGM was held on the 31st October 2020 as part of the Chairman's Day; the Minutes of this Meeting were published in the Group eNews No. 12, February 2021.

The Committee had already successfully trialled the use of video meetings using Zoom before the

Covid-19 restrictions came into place. Between the 20th April 2020 and the 1st March 2021, we have had 11 well attended Committee Meetings on Zoom including two specifically to discuss the Update of the Group Regulations.

Historically the Committee normally had two face-to-face all day meetings a year plus a third shorter meeting after the AGM. Moving to on-line meetings has resulted in greater flexibility as to when Meetings are held plus a big reduction in the mileage driven by Committee Members to attend them. The Group has made considerable financial savings in the cost of room hire and travel expenses and at the same time reduced the Group's carbon footprint.

Going forward, Committee Meetings will continue to be held on Zoom at about 6 to 8 weeks intervals unless there is an opportunity for the Committee to meet face-to-face, such as following the AGM. Once Covid-19 restrictions are over, I expect that face-to-face AGMs will resume at Smethwick as it is central and provides an excellent venue for the print exhibition.

There have been no changes to the Committee during the year. We did not have a full-time Treasurer and so David O'Neill continued to act as both Vice Chairman and Honorary Treasurer. Ralph Snook, in addition to being Exhibition Secretary, also acted as Webmaster for both the Group pages on the RPS website and for the Nature Group Galleries website, which he created in the middle of last year. It provides an excellent platform for Members to show their images. It can be found on: <https://www.nggalleries.net/>

Ann Miles, as Programme Coordinator has kept the Events and News sections of our Group pages on the RPS website up-to-date.

I hope that Group Members are aware that we have a Facebook Group administered by Julia Wainwright, for you to share images and information about your nature photography. So please join the Group (you will need your RPS membership number), which can be found on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188690442327099/>

In September 2020, the Committee put a considerable amount of work into updating the Regulations that govern the operation of the Group. The previous Regulations had not been updated since December 2006 and were in urgent need of revision to reflect the move to more on-line communication, staff changes at the RPS, increasing Group membership and to update financial procedures such as the declining use of cheques.

The updated, October 2020 Regulations, were approved by Group Members at the AGM on the 31st October 2020.

Communication between the Committee and the Group Members is an issue. The Iris is our longest serving communication and the only item sent by post to ensure that it reaches all Members; we have no plans to change this. However, the bulk of the Group's day to day communication is by e-mail and website and it is important that those Members who do have e-mail addresses, but have not registered them with the RPS, do so if they want to receive up-to-date information on Group activities.

I act as Membership Secretary in that I monitor the number of Members in the Group and send a welcome letter and a copy of the latest issue of The Iris to each New Member. The membership of the Group as of the 1st March 2021 was 919. This compares with 905 Members on the 1st March 2020. Over that period 176 New Members joined the Group and 163 Members left. This represents a turnover of close to 20%, which I find surprisingly high.

As of the 1st March 2021, the Group had 860 Members in the UK, Eire, the Isle of Man and Channel Islands plus 59 overseas Members. The biggest overseas group is in the USA (12 Members), but they are well spread out across that country.

As I said at last year's AGM, I believe that the aim of the Group is to inspire and educate its Members into taking better images of the natural world and so we must organise events for Members to get together, Covid-19 restrictions permitting, and develop their nature photography. We now have an ever growing programme of Field Meetings, Workshops and Residential Weekends. Even with periods of lockdown in 2020, we managed to run nine Field Meetings.

Ann Miles is doing an excellent job of organising events, but we can always fit in more especially in those parts of the country where none are held at present. So please think about whether you could organise an event that would be of interest to Group Members and talk to Ann.

Finally I very much hope be at Smethwick Photographic Society, in April 2022 (date to be advised), for the 2022 Spring Meeting, AGM and opening of the Annual Exhibition will. In the mean time, stay safe and hopefully by the time the summer comes, we will be less restricted in our photographic opportunities.

## **Programme Coordinator's Report – Ann Miles FRPS:**

Field Meetings and Workshops have been very disrupted for obvious reasons during the last 18 months but, whenever restrictions have allowed, Nature Group Members have taken part in the various Field Events.

During 2019, we ran 11 Field Meetings and two Macro Workshops.

In 2020, we managed to run nine Field Meetings. Before lockdown these were to: Ham Wall, Somerset; Titchwell, Norfolk and Welney, Norfolk. After lockdown easing, successful trips were made to: Sharpenhoe Clappers, Buckinghamshire; Snettisham, Norfolk; Paxton Pits, Cambridgeshire; Monkwood, Worcestershire; Clowes Wood, Kent and Bradgate Park, Leicestershire. All events were well supported. A further 10 events planned for Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, London, Nottinghamshire, Pembrokeshire, Somerset and Warwickshire had to be cancelled.

Like many groups we decided to run Zoom meetings, which included both techniques talks and lectures. In 2020, Ian Wilson ran four very successful sessions on various processing skills. Mick Durham, Chair of the Natural History Photography RPS Distinctions panel, ran a Zoom Distinction Advice session, which was followed by a full Natural History Advisory Day from Bristol HQ. The Chairman's Day talks were varied and very enjoyable and the year rounded off with a lecture by Adrian Davies on 'Photographing the Unknown World'.

2021 commenced with Zoom sessions from: Ian Wilson on 'File Preparation and Printing'; Nick Upton on 'UK Wildlife Introductions and Conservation'; Robert Canis on 'Passion Projects In Nature and the Landscape' and Charles Erb took us 'Beneath UK Seas'. In March, Alison Mees entertained us with a very informative talk on Cheetahs in her presentation 'Living the African Dream' and Qasim Syed showed us how to Focus Stack with a handheld camera. Still to come are; 'Dynamic Wildlife' from Gordon and Cathy Illg and 'A Year in the Life of a Yorkshire Wildlife Photographer' from Steve Race. Most of the lectures and demonstrations are available as recordings from the Nature Group Page of the RPS Website.

As soon as lockdown eased at the end of March, we started to arrange

Field Meetings (numbers will be limited and we will be social distanced). There are 10 field meetings already advertised at the time of this report with more to come. These are to: Royston Heath, Hertfordshire for Pasque flowers; Paxton Pits, Cambridgeshire; Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire; Lake Vyrnwy, Powys; Rutland Water Leicestershire; Prestbury Hill, Gloucestershire; Strumpshaw Fen, Norfolk; Martin Down, Hampshire; Snettisham, Norfolk and Titchwell, Norfolk.

I would like to thank all those who have volunteered to run or assist with either outings (Julia Andrew, Annette Beardsley, John Bebbington, Nick Bowman, Trevor Davenport, James Foad, Duncan Locke, Qasim Syed and Peter Ward) or Zoom sessions including Mick Durham, Ian Wilson, Qasim Syed and all our excellent speakers.

We are still looking for volunteers to help organise events so we can spread the locations out over more of the country. I am always willing to come to your area and help with an initial event if required and we take care of all the advertising and booking procedures. You can restrict the numbers to whatever you are comfortable with.

We would also love to hear from Members about what they would like to see in the Nature Group's programme, for example another Macro Workshop, Focus Stacking Days, help with Video Techniques, etc.

## **Chairman's comments**

On behalf of the Nature Group and the Committee, Thomas Hanahoe thanked Ann Miles for all of the hard work that she had put into organising so many events despite the Covid-19 restrictions. He echoed



*Pasque flowers by Ann Miles FRPS, taken on a recent field meeting.*

Ann's comment that it would be good to see some Members in Scotland running events north of the border.

#### **Committee for 2021 – 2023:**

Duncan Locke said that there were no contested positions and the Committee for 2021 - 2023 will be as listed below. He pointed out that there was a vacancy for an Honorary Secretary as he was now Vice Chair as well as Acting Honorary Secretary. He welcomed Peter Ward as Treasurer. Stan Saunders, who had been on the Committee for the last four years, had decided to stand down and he thanked Stan for all of his input during that time. Thomas Hanahoe echoed these words by welcoming Peter Ward and thanking Stan Saunders.

#### **Officers:**

Chair: David O'Neill LRPS

Acting Honorary Secretary: Duncan Locke ARPS

Honorary Treasurer: Peter Ward

#### **Committee Members:**

Vice Chair: Duncan Locke ARPS

Immediate Past Chair: Thomas Hanahoe FRPS

Exhibition Secretary: Ralph Snook ARPS

Group Magazine Editor: Gerald Griffin ARPS

Group Newsletter Editor: Dawn Osborn FRPS

Programme Coordinator: Ann Miles FRPS

Residential Weekend Advisor: James Foad LRPS

Webmaster: Ralph Snook ARPS

Committee Members: Julia Andrew LRPS & Julia Wainwright FRPS

#### **Any Other Business:**

John Curgenven asked about the relatively large number of Members who leave the Group each year and whether or not anything was being done to address this. Thomas Hanahoe said that the number of Group Members had reduced in recent years due

to the RPS ceasing to offer first year free group membership. Duncan Locke said that he followed on from his predecessor as Secretary in that he used to e-mail each Member leaving a short questionnaire asking then why they had left. Only about 10% of these were returned and those that were generally did not have any issues with the Group. The most usual reasons given were; Members getting to an age when they felt they were not getting any benefit from membership and cost of membership, not of the Group, but of the RPS. At present he has stopped sending out questionnaires.

In advance of the Meeting, John Curgenven had also asked about the option of not receiving a hard copy of The Iris by post, but instead reading it on-line on the RPS website. He was not asking for a reduction in his membership fee, but thought that any savings made if this option was generally available to Members could be used to benefit the Group as well as reduce the use of paper. It was noted that sending hard copies overseas was getting increasingly expensive and there was no guarantee that they would arrive. Thomas Hanahoe said that this was a question that the new Committee will consider.

#### **Date of the 46th RPS Nature Group AGM 2022:**

The 46th Annual General Meeting of the RPS Nature Group will be held on Saturday 9th April 2022 (date to be confirmed) at either Smethwick Photographic Society, The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, B69 2AS or on-line on Zoom dependent upon any remaining Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time. In response to a question from Colin Smith, asking if it would be possible to live stream the AGM from Smethwick for the benefit of Members who were unable to attend in person, both Thomas Hanahoe and Duncan Locke said that this would definitely be considered.



# **RPS Nature Group Residential Weekend 2021**

## **Foxlease - New Forest**

**Foxlease Girlguiding Activities Centre, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7DE**

**Friday 1st to Monday 4th October 2021**

**Leader: James Foad LRPS**



Foxlease combines the classic charm of a Georgian Manor House and the beauty of the surrounding area of the New Forest. All rooms are en-suite.

James Foad LRPS, the leader of this event, is now accepting bookings for the 2021 Autumn Residential Weekend.

There will be opportunities to photograph a wide range of fungi, plants, invertebrates and vertebrates.

A trip to Brownsea Island is also planned for which there will be an additional charge.

There are Sixteen places available. Please contact the leader by 'phone before booking through the RPS website, to check on availability. Once space is confirmed you will then be asked to book and pay your deposit as below through the Nature Group Events page on the RPS Website.

The Nature Group Committee is very keen for this Residential Weekend to go ahead mindful of any continuing restrictions due to Covid-19. A final decision will be made based on the best available information and discussion with Foxlease by Tuesday 31st August 2021. Deposits will only be refunded if the event is cancelled by either Foxlease or the Nature Group.

Final payments will be required by Friday 20th August 2021. After this date, deposits and final payments cannot be refunded, but can be transferred to another photographer. Members should consider taking out travel insurance to cover any financial loss if they cannot attend. In the event of the Weekend being cancelled by Foxlease at any time a full refund will be provided.

**The cost for single room occupancy is £295.00**

**A deposit of £125.00 is required to secure your place**

**For further details please contact:**

**James Foad LRPS**

**Tel: 07834 – 810430 E-mail: [jamesfoadlrps@inbox.com](mailto:jamesfoadlrps@inbox.com)**