

Ready for a few days away?
This might be the trip for you

Photographing the Elan Valley 8-11 September 2024

Ian Foster ARPS, a member of the Group, has a good knowledge of the Elan Valley in Mid-Wales and has access to some interesting locations within it. He has arranged an Elan Valley experience to include access to the dams and the opportunity for night sky photography in one of the country's acknowledged dark skies venues.



The trip will be based at the Elan Valley Hotel in the heart of the Elan Valley estate and will make full use of the time available, with review sessions and speakers to help you get what you want out of the visit.

All the details can be found on the RPS website [here](#).

Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

THANK YOU, RICHARD!

For the past few years, Richard Lewis ARPS, a long-standing member of the Committee, has taken responsibility for our programme of events and online gatherings. Richard felt this was the year to stand down as committee roles were re-defined and we want to take this opportunity to record the thanks of the whole Group for all that he has done over the years despite some periods of ill-health that made it difficult for him. I'm sure there's much in the past of which I am unaware but important recent contributions have been the introduction of Share and Chat sessions which have become integral to the Group's activities and being one of the team of judges for the Group's monthly competition.



CONGRATULATIONS to our winners

One of the elements of our day in Bristol which maybe has too little attention is the announcement of the winner of our annual Travel Image competition for Group members. Using RPS House for the past two years attendees and other visitors to the building have been able to view all the entries to the competition on the big screens in the foyer of the building and those viewings have engendered both discussion and pride. I distinctly remember one member last year commenting on the pride she felt seeing her images displayed - and could see that same pride in the demeanour of others.

The medallists and the shortlisted images are published on the website along with the comments made by this year's selector, Jay Charnock FRPS.

You can find them at <https://rps.org/groups/travel/travel-image-of-the-year-2024/>



Congratulations to the 2024 Gold medal winner:
Weng Sang Wong ARPS



Silver medal: Rachel Dunsdon ARPS



Bronze medal: Yasser Alaa Mobarak LRPS

Travel Image of the Month

Best of the Best 2023



CONGRATULATIONS
to David Cummings ARPS
for his image
Lesa Working in Japan
judged
Best of the Best
Monthly Competition
2023

It's always difficult to know how best to promote our monthly travel image competition to encourage you all to enter: we don't want to bombard you with emails, but we don't want to disadvantage those who don't use Facebook or Instagram or any other social media channel. And we know that we all forget deadlines and have distractions to deal with day to day taking us away from our photographic best intentions.

So please take this as a reminder and a point of reference when you need it:

- The monthly competition is open to ALL members of the Travel Group
- The deadline is ALWAYS the last day of the month (though earlier entries help Sue!)
- Submission is by email to travelcompetitions@rps.org
- Files MUST be jpg, 1000px wide and at 72ppi. Height does not matter.
- Images should demonstrate 'a sense of place' in line with the RPS definition of travel photography
- ALL entries are posted on the website as they are submitted but are not credited until after judging so that judging is done without the judges knowing the name of the photographer.

During 2023 our judges were Justin Cliffe ARPS, Richard Lewis ARPS and Glyn Paton ARPS. We are grateful for the time and energy they have given to the task over the months and to the consistency that their involvement has made possible.

Thanks are also due to Sue Hutton ARPS, our Monthly Competition coordinator for managing the whole process, getting the judges in place and the images on the website and then updating the website as necessary with the results.

While it is pleasing to see a regular group of entrants, including a number of our overseas members, developing it would be really good to see greater involvement (you don't have to enter every month!).

So why not set yourself a challenge of entering a few times this year? Maybe it would quickly become a habit!

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY - THE FUTURE

RPS House, Bristol 20th April 2024

A day of inspiration for anyone who loves travel and photography

That was how we described the programme that had been put together for our annual focus on Travel Photography - and we are delighted that feedback from those who attended suggests that was achieved.



James presents one of a number of fascinating facts he brought to the discussion.



Dr. Lauren Siegel, Judy Ford, Daryl Ford, Jordan Banks, Kav Dadfar and James Scipioni answer questions raised in the panel session at the end of the day

Sue Stuart sums it up here:

'A great day was had by all who attended our event at Bristol on Saturday 20th April. With a great line up of speakers discussing everything from sustainable travel to how to pitch a travel article, the discussions were stimulating and enlightening, with most of those attending mentioning the theme as their reason for turning up. One person, attending their first Travel Group event, felt they had "found their tribe" with 100% feedback of being very glad (80%) or 'satisfied' that they had attended.

It was great to meet members, including the 22% for whom this was their first event, and hear about both recent and planned trips – and we look forward to seeing the results either in competitions or on the facebook page!

The most important takeaways from the day included the impact of images on places (and future tourism), the importance of documentary travel work and the need to travel off the beaten path. With those attending saying that they will "think more deeply about the need to be representative of places I travel to" and "visit less usual destinations and spend money locally", nearly three-quarters of those attending said that they will change their actions following the event.'

The post event questionnaire was completed by the vast majority of attendees and has given the committee some useful pointers for future events. Most people travelled around 100 miles to get to Bristol so we are looking at other venues - perhaps in York or at Aston again. *Is there somewhere you know and would travel to that would be a good base for a weekend of Travel Photography? If there is, please let us know!*

Requested future activities include overseas short breaks, workshops on photographic techniques for travel photographers, support for members seeking RPS Distinctions, local visits in different parts of the UK. *If you would be willing to help facilitate any of these please email travel@rps.org*

Look out for information about next year's event! And consider booking some of the others on offer now.

And, for a smaller number, the Sunday workshops were useful with Tim Jones from Fotospeed leading some through the taking to making process of a print and Judy Ford helping others develop the selection skills needed for curating a collection of images for presentation in exhibitions and books. Others walked the streets of Bristol cameras in hand and enjoyed photographing the city.

Committee Update 2024

In March 2024, the Trustees agreed new Terms of Reference for Special Interest Groups within the Society with the expectation that Groups would implement them by September 2024. Our committee decided that it would be more straightforward to bring them into effect for the Travel Group at the AGM in May as we had just about enough time to make the necessary changes. Because they had been the subject of earlier consultation with the Groups there were no real surprises.

We were pleased that the decision to hold the meeting online did result in better attendance with some overseas members joining us for both the AGM and Colin Howard's presentation which followed the meeting. There was even some discussion!

One of the significant changes is that officers and committee members are now elected for a three year period and that there is no limit on the number of times they can be re-elected.

The current list of committee members can be found by following the link to the Travel Group Team on the Group's section of the RPS website at <https://rps.org/groups/travel/>.

In recent months a few more members, either at Share and Chat, via email or at face-to-face events, have expressed a willingness to be more involved as volunteers. We are keen to make this a rather more formal recognition giving us a team much stronger and broader than the committee. If you feel able to offer any time to the Group, particularly in organising local events to meet the needs of members in your region, please email travel@rps.org

In this context, we are grateful to **Ian Foster** for all the work he has done in putting together the Elan Valley experience which we have finally been able to advertise after a couple of COVID false starts (see the first page of this newsletter and the website for details) and to **Liz Bugg** who is always on hand when help is needed to deal with logistics or manage an ad hoc activity.

We believe there is real opportunity for growth in our programme of events by doing things in different areas.

Can you help us make it happen?

Would you like to invite Travel Group members to your part of the UK (or the world)?

We are looking for opportunities to further develop community spirit within the Group by sharing more activities and experiences. Email travel@rps.org with any offers or ideas, please.

You will have seen that thanks are expressed to Richard Lewis earlier in this newsletter for his sterling work on the committee over a number of years, most recently as 'Trips Co-ordinator'.

When the committee became aware that Richard was likely to be standing down we wondered where we might find someone to take on the wider role anticipated in the Terms of Reference and were delighted when **David Short** expressed his willingness to be nominated. Members will remember **David's** presentation on Chernobyl a few years ago. If you missed it, you can find it online via this [link](#). David has also organised a day in and around Windsor for the group and is frequently at Share and Chat sessions when he's not travelling himself or accompanying groups of tourists around the UK.



We look forward to working with David in his new role as Engagement and Events Officer on the committee.

If you have any ideas for future events - especially if you are able to help organise them - please contact David via travelevents@rps.org

Sue Stuart joined the committee last year. Since then, she has introduced us to Instagram and has written minutes of committee meetings, getting to know the Group better. She is now taking on the mantle of 'Communications Officer' under the new Terms of Reference, using the email address travelweb@rps.org.



Initially, Sue will focus on Instagram and Facebook but may well move more into managing other aspects of communication as time allows and systems develop.

Dr. Colin Howard has also accepted an invitation to be coopted on to the committee. Colin's willingness to become more involved with the Group again has developed since attending the 'Sense of Place' meeting a year ago in Bristol and acknowledging that his skills and interests would be useful to us all. Colin shared his lifetime passion for photography - and especially travel photography - as our speaker after this year's AGM and you can find his presentation [here](#).



SHARE AND CHAT



Join us on Zoom from wherever you are in the world at 14.30 (UK time) on Sunday, July 21st, to be taken virtually to some places you may not have had the opportunity to visit yourself. Whet your appetite!

The Zoom link for this session is
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94647731488?pwd=V3pxQzk2SW1Dci9DUzdwR09SRk9zQT09>

Meeting ID: 946 4773 1488
Passcode: 669051

However, it's really helpful if you register on the website, too, so that we have an idea who comes. It would be great to have a few volunteers for later in the year - even for July 21st!
Where have you been recently that inspired you?

These online occasions are also times when we are able to share with our overseas members and the sessions are not recorded so, if you are a member of the Travel Group who doesn't live in the UK, do consider joining us when you can. Some of our best contributions are from our overseas members: could you be next?

Travel Log needs YOU!!

Travel Log is frequently mentioned as one of the most valued benefits of being a member of the RPS Travel Group. The quality and variety of articles within each issue is all due to the creativity of our members.

Travel Log is published twice a year, in January/February and July/August, but we accept submissions at any time.

Production of Issue 92 (to be distributed in August) is well underway. As always we are seeking article ideas, either for issue 92 or 93. It takes the pressure off when we already have articles sourced for future issues. Articles can be of any length, but the maximum number of words should be around 1500. The process of submitting articles is simple and the words and images can be sent to the Travel Log Editor using WeTransfer.

If you have an idea for an article please contact the Editor at editortravel@rps.org to discuss.
The submission deadline for issue 92 is the end of June 2024.



A Different London Experience

Walk the Line with us on July 8th

The Line is London's first dedicated public art walk. Connecting three boroughs (Newham, Tower Hamlets and Greenwich) and following the Greenwich Meridian, it runs between the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and The O2 on Greenwich Peninsula. The Line features an evolving programme of art installations.

<https://the-line.org/visitor-info/> gives you lots of information about the route and the art installations along the way. David Short has done a recce recently and will lead us through some of the more interesting sections. We will meet outside Bromley-by-Bow station at 14.00 and spend the afternoon enjoying the varied artworks and forms of transport between there and the O2. Those who wish to can make their way back to the Westminster area in time for a meal together and dusk photographs in that area.

This will be a relaxed, social get-together for members, so do come along and get to know other Group members and let's learn from each other as we discover this area. There will be no charge for the event but PLEASE register so that we know who to expect and come prepared for transport costs as indicated in the details.



Working with other RPS Groups and Regions



When we returned to face-to-face meetings in October 2022, we invited the RPS Audio Visual Group to join with us for a meeting at Aston University and that cooperative working continues as we will sponsor a prize at this year's NAVC awards for the best AV in the travelogue category.

All the details of the competition are at <https://rps.org/groups/audio-visual/navc/> and anyone can enter. A number of Travel Group members are AV workers and it may well be that there's a prize waiting for you. Even if you're not considering entering, you may consider attending the event to be held at Leeds Trinity University on 28th and 29th September. You will be made very welcome!

Don't forget that as a member of the Travel Group you have a FREE annual digital subscription to the award-winning JRNY magazine, founded by Kav Dadfar and Jordan Banks during the COVID years when travel was so restricted for us all.

In order to access the subscription you need to go to <https://jrnymag.com/subscribe/> and when asked for a coupon insert the code you received in February. Email travel@rps.org if you need a reminder!

Issue Eight is due soon, so register now...



Looking further ahead

SHARE and CHAT dates for 2024:
Savernake Forest in Autumn led by Jeremy Walker
Visit to Northern Ireland (Belfast based)

15th September, 17th November
28th September 2024
June 2025

And finally...

THANK YOU - for being part of the Travel Group and for making your contribution to its activities. You can contact most members of the committee by using the email addresses on the [website](#): please feel free to send us your ideas.

We are especially keen to hear of 'conference' or exhibition venues in areas around the country which we might use, so please do share any information you have. We are hoping to arrange more of these events in the future but will need local support in order to make them possible.