



# **DI News November 2020**



'Memories of Summer' by Martin Parratt ARPS

Winner of the Digital Imaging monthly competition for October

# **VIEW FROM THE CHAIR**



lan Race, DI Chair digchair@rps.org

As Deborah sets out in this issue of *DI News* we are looking to add to our pool of volunteers to help spread the work load and to gain more involvement and additional perspectives. If you think that you can contribute, please let Lyn Phillips (digsecretary@btinternet.com) know.

We have started to plan towards the need to hold an online AGM for 2021. This is going to take some time to organise but we will let you know the arrangements and timeline as soon as we can. On a personal note, in addition to supporting the work of the committee and our volunteers I have also been involved in several initiatives for the wider RPS: an internal review and some systems replacement activity.

# **WELCOME**

Greetings and salutations!

Six months ago we were dismayed at the need to cancel very many RPS workshops, talks and other events organised for the spring and summer. Now we find, as we face another period of lockdown, that we are busier than ever attending and running workshops, talks and events. We have a lot of plans and ideas, but are held back by having too few hours in the day. So what are you up to, these days? We could really use your help!

We need help with administrative tasks like sending welcome packs to new DI members and helping with ticketing for online events. We need folk who could help Centre Organisers run Zoom events, and can provide any training you might need. We need a designer for print and projected image catalogues. All the work of gathering the assets is in hand, but we need someone to design the publications for print. In fact, there may be an opportunity to do something special for the print exhibition. And, speaking of the print exhibition, we're looking for someone who loves exhibiting to work with us on a pandemic version of our print event. And I could use a hand with this newsletter, too.

So please contact Lyn Phillips (digsecretary@btinternet.com) if you can help.



Stay safe!

Deborah Loth DI News Editor dignews@rps.org

# MONTHLY ONLINE COMPETITION

The winner of our October monthly online competition was 'Memories of Summer' by Martin Parratt ARPS, featured on the cover. (For more information about the friendly monthly competition, visit <a href="https://www.rps.org/DIGMonComp">www.rps.org/DIGMonComp</a>.)



#### **Martin Parratt ARPS**

This image depicts the pastel coloured beach huts at West Mersea, Essex. It actually shows the backs of the huts because the fronts are not suitable (too complex) for this kind of treatment. I have recently found myself drawn to soft pastel shades, often in combination with high key treatments and blur.

I created this interpretation in 2017, from an earlier photograph, but it has only now been put to good use, following a few further tweaks in October 2020. I wanted to create a soft, light and slightly unreal quality to the picture, implying hazy memories.

To achieve this, the image was stretched vertically in Photoshop then overlaid on a blurred copy of itself (vertical Motion Blur), adjusting the opacity to retain some sharpness. A high key treatment and pale vignette were applied, both using Nik Color Efex.

I usually like to add some film grain to images which have been blurred in Photoshop, but this muddied the pastel colours somewhat. I therefore added 'Sprinkles' which only adds very light tones and so did not spoil the fresh, high key colours. This option can be found as follows: Filter...Filter Gallery (image must be in 8-bit mode)...Texture...Grain...Grain Type 'Sprinkles'. The sprinkles looked very mechanical when viewed close-up so I added a very slight touch of the Oil Paint filter to give a more organic texture.

As with most images containing fine texture such as grain it looks best as a print. The main difficulty I had with this image was in deciding on the optimum degrees of stretching, blurring and brightening. The original was taken on a Nikon D700 with a Nikon 28-300mm lens at 48mm.



Second place was 'Rhythm' by Katherine Rynor ARPS.



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Third place was 'Talisker Bay' by Neil Milne ARPS.



# WELCOME to our new members...

Davide Agnelli Guernsey Marilyn Beacham Redcar Verwood Alan Bentley **Andrew Bradford ARPS** Bournemouth Raymond Bridges LRPS Tenterden Kathleen Brown Alston Margaret Campbell ARPS Glasgow Athena Carey ARPS Cobham Jose Closs Leeds Joyce Cresswell Ilkeston Lorena Cuervo Bexley Sian Davies ARPS Caernarfon Terry Day LRPS Borehamwood Rosalie Dolan Australia Juliet Evans ARPS Bournemouth David Faulder **Broadstone** Graham Finlayson ASIS FRPS Norwich Cranbrook Catherine Fowler Anne Franks Marlow Linda Gates LRPS Andover Cheryl Barbara Greenwood LRPS High Peak Nicola Hammond **Emsworth** Celia Henderson LRPS Arundel Lynne Hooper Bicester John Hopkins Aberdeen Peter Hubert Jersey Cambridge John Hunting Debbie Isitt Rhuddlan Charana Jayasuriya Sri Lanka Chris Keenan Nottingham Marsha Kelly Rotherham Faringdon Jonathan Lipinski Nottingham Alison Lowe David Loxley-Blount Finchley

Netherlands

Katherine Maquire LRPS

Roger Marks LRPS Maidstone

Fiona McCowan LRPS Wotton-under-Edge

Richard Mcreddie FRPS Whitby

Patricia Meakins LRPS Chippenham
John Miskelly FRPS Newtownards

Nina Noordzij France
Amanda Norton LRPS London
Andy Pinch LRPS Helensburgh

Sharon Powell Ely

Peter Reynolds Billericay
Nicola Robley LRPS Carlisle
Barry Rourke Purley

David Royle Manchester
Barbara Sheldrake Halifax

Marion Sidebottom ARPS Burnham-on-Crouch
Raju Anupam Sinha West Bromwich

Steven Smith LRPS Bury

Gordon Spruce Knutsford
Wendy Stanton Nottingham
Brian Stubbs LRPS Wincanton
Roger Styles Littleborough
Stewart Wall ARPS Market Rasen
Gilly Welch Wadebridge

Jane White ARPS Exeter
Cheryl Wilkes ARPS Ipswich
Graham Wilson Bicester
Horst Witthueser LRPS Germany

#### SUPPORT THE RPS WHILE SHOPPING ON AMAZON

smile.amazon.co.uk

The RPS has registered with Amazon Smile. If you're buying anything on Amazon, please do so through Amazon Smile and nominate the Royal Photographic Society - it will receive a donation of 0.5% of your net purchase price every time, and it won't cost you anything! Details <a href="here.">here.</a>

#### **RPS AWARDS**

Congratulations to the two Digital Imaging members who were honoured in this year's round of RPS Awards: Dr Tony Kaye ASIS FRPS was awarded the Fenton Medal and Judy Buckley-Sharpe LRPS was given the Member's Award.



Click on this page from RPS Journal to view the full profiles for both DI members.



Dr Tony Kaye ASIS FRPS was a Trustee for many years and has chaired the Imaging Science Committee and the Science Committee. He often speaks at the Imaging Science Group series of Good Picture Symposia. The Fenton medal is named after Roger Fenton, one of The Society's founders and then for several years its Honorary Secretary. The award is made to a member or non-member who has made an outstanding contribution to the work of The Royal Photographic Society. Usually, no more than three or four

Fenton Medals are awarded each year. Since 1998 this award carries Honorary Life Membership of The Society. You can view a list of all recipients here.



Judy Buckley-Sharpe LRPS has spent more than 15 years volunteering with the Thames Valley Region committee as part of the core group organising all its events. The Members' Award was established in 2005 and is given to an ordinary member who, in the opinion of Council, has shown extraordinary support for The Society over a sustained period. This is not normally a reward for service on a committee but it does not exclude committee members where exceptional and outstanding commitment and

support can be cited. This award also carries Honorary Life Membership of The Society. You can view a list of all recipients here.

# **LOOKING AT YOU**

Last February, at the Digital Imaging AGM, RPS President Dr Alan Hodgson ASIS HonFRPS presented DI members - Barry Senior HonFRPS, Rex Waygood, Janet Haines ARPS, Chas Hockin - with certificates celebrating their contributions to the RPS. Now, in pandemic times, such recognition for volunteering tends not to while it's great that the RPS

be delivered in person. And systematically gives

reason why we do it. probably not the main

Now is a perfect time to be doing things which in health or to the health of there's plenty you can do now.

current times are dangerous to our others. But there is a silver lining and Volunteering with Digital Imaging is more than something useful to do. You can find yourself engaging with photographers from all around the country, indeed all around the world, on a regular basis. It's a rewarding experience. So turn back to page 2, take a look at how you might help, and contact Lyn Phillips (digsecretary@btinternet.com). Some of the roles don't require a lot of time, and others are more involving. There's something for everyone.

# **12 YEARS A VOLUNTEER**

Alan Cross LRPS has just passed his 12-year volunteer 'landmark'. This is his story...





#### Alan Cross LRPS

recognition for volunteering, that's

get involved. Many of us would rather

Back in 2008, I had been a regular attendee at what was then called the 'Central Southern' section of the DI group. Sadly, at that time, we had seen attendances dwindling, and the talk was of closing the section. So, in the September of that year, I

joined the Committee, to understand, and perhaps help solve, the problem.

Firstly, I proposed a name change to Thames Valley to strengthen our geographic identity. Then I put forward a plan to assign most of our funds to the following year's programme, and at the same time to cut ticket prices. We knew this would go one of two ways! In the event, attendances quickly climbed, and before long we had outgrown our hall in Bracknell, Berkshire, and moved to a larger venue in Wokingham. As numbers were increasing, we were able to

maintain low ticket prices and at the same time equip our Centre with professional presentation equipment. This enhanced the experiences of both presenters and attendees, as we know from the positive feedback.

During my time with Thames Valley Centre, I have enjoyed taking on a variety of tasks, including managing our database to provide event analysis, website editor, graphic design, equipment specification and purchase, event photographer, blog writer, and more. I always resisted the temptation to take up the role of Centre Organiser, because I am happier getting my hands dirty with the technical stuff!

My 12 years as a volunteer have been entirely with DI. There have inevitably been a few differences of opinion with the DI itself, but always with a view to enhancing the performance of the Centre, and ultimately ensuring that we were a strong selling point for the group. It's been a pleasure, over all those years, to have been part of a very strong and enthusiastic Thames Valley Centre team, and, through them, to serve the DI group.

# **VOLUNTEERING: THAMES VALLEY CENTRE**



Alan Bousfield, Thames Valley Centre Organiser
On 1 September, Alan Cross got a surprise phone call
from Evan Dawson, our new CEO, to congratulate him
on achieving Gold Volunteer Award status for 12 years
of volunteer work for the RPS, in his case entirely on
DI Thames Valley (and previously Central Southern)
Committee and looking after our web page updates.
For those who have visited these web pages over the
year, the amount of information available is vast and
easy to find. All thanks to Alan's commitment to

ensuring things are correct, up to date and valid.

Carol Drew our secretary, better known as the nice lady on the door, joined the committee some 5 months later, so she is also due to receive her Gold award in January 2021. But Carol does a lot more behind the scenes as ticket administrator and secretary. In July, Mike Reed our treasurer was eligible for his Silver Volunteer Award (8-year service) and Janice Payne our Programme Secretary and myself our Bronze Awards in September.

Due to COVID restrictions RPS HQ has been closed, and our badges and certificates are somewhere inside the building. However, we've been able to proudly acknowledge our awards on our <u>Committee web page</u>. You will see that our entire Committee now have Bronze, Silver or Gold awards.

Having between us built up such a successful Centre over the years, it is particularly frustrating that we are temporarily unable to fulfil our remit for all our local members.

# DIGITAL IMAGING DISTINCTIONS

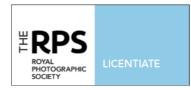
Congratulations to members who gained Distinctions in October. All will be invited by Holly to submit their work and story to *Accolade*.



Simon Street	FRPS	Fine Art	Surrey
Sarah Townley	FRPS	Applied	Southampton



Nigel Bealey	ARPS Applied	Hampshire
Andrew Dixon Carothers	ARPS Fine Art	Midlothiar
Michael Berkeley	ARPS Applied	Wiltshire
Hector Bernado Epelbaum	ARPS Fine Art	Belgium
Niall Robert Ferguson	ARPS Applied	Surrey
Richard Lavery	ARPS Fine Art	Rhone
Lesley Peatfield	ARPS Fine Art	York
Katherine Rynor	ARPS Fine Art	Essex
Holly Stranks	ARPS Applied	Suffolk



Alec Davies	LRPS	Fife
Ann Gardner	LRPS	France
Susan Grief	LRPS	Suffolk
Benjamin Speed	LRPS	London

# Nature has appointed a spokesturtle: The Comedy Wildlife Photo Awards

To view the gallery and not the ads, click where it says 'VIEW 24 IMAGES' in the upper righthand corner of the first image.



Lighting, composition, exposure, technique ... None of it matters if your photo can't tell a story and convey emotion – and the finalists from the 2020 Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards each tell a thousand words, and hopefully give you a grin! Read more

# **Bi-Monthly Photography Competition for RPS Members**

Supported by Nikon

Win a Nikon Z6 and get your work featured in our award-winning Journal

Current Theme:

#### Wildlife

Capture your local widlife

Open for entries until: 14th November

# **WIN A NIKON Z6**

With support from Nikon, the RPS is running Exposure, a bi-monthly members photography competition. Be in with a chance of winning a full-frame, mirrorless Nikon Z6 and Z 24-70mm f/4 S lens and have your images published in the RPS Journal. All RPS members are eligible, but need to register and create a login for the Exposure Competition website. Your login details for rps.org will not work on the Competition website.

# AN OVERSEAS MEMBER

If you were one of the few who attended the RPS AGM online this autumn, you may have spotted Elaine Herbert ARPS, who must have stayed up late to be with us, as she was logging in to Zoom from Australia. In recognition of her activities with the RPS down under, Elaine received the RPS Members' Award in 2008. Here she tells us about her love of photographing the Australian bush. Her portrait was made by Palli Gajree HonFRPS, another longstanding member of the Australian chapter of the RPS.



#### **Elaine Herbert ARPS**

I live in Australia, a vast continent with its unique landscape and diverse vegetation, quite unlike that of Europe. Through my photography I try to capture its essence and share that with others.

I don't concentrate on wide landscapes, though. The casual visitor to the Australian bush sees the overall scene and seldom notices the detail. However, for me, the real joy of a day in the bush lies in finding those details and photographing them for closer scrutiny and further reflection. I am drawn to the subtleties of texture, pattern and form in our natural environment, and concentrate on portraying these while being constantly aware of how they change with time. I find this deeply satisfying.

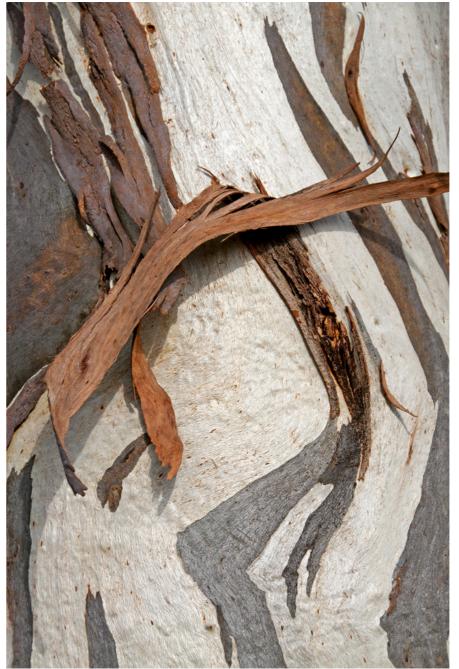
The patterns of nature may seem random, but by selecting just part of the whole I am trying to bring out its essence. By drawing the eye of the viewer to the finer details, the beauty and power of the natural world emerges. It is a subtle beauty. It grows on you.

Our forests contain many species of trees and shrubs. The eucalypts (or 'gum trees') are probably the most dominant of these and are themselves widely diversified. They offer huge potential to the photographer. Take the way they shed bark annually. Some species have long trailing ribbons of bark peeling from sinuous limbs to leave a smooth, tactile surface. In others, the peeling reveals lovely abstract designs being created as the new layer is revealed.



'Bark Ribbons, Black Hill' by Elaine Herbert ARPS

There are limitless possibilities in photographing even an individual eucalypt; each has its own character, changing with time – the time of day, the seasons and the years. Even dead trees have a beauty. Once the foliage and bark have gone, the trunk or stump may remain, exposed to sun, wind and rain, year after year. It weathers over time to show the beauty of the wood grain, perhaps in shades of brown or silvered grey.



'Bark Detail Dunolly' by Elaine Herbert ARPS



'Eucalypt Trunk Dunolly' by Elaine Herbert ARPS

'Peeling Eucalypt' by Elaine Herbert ARPS



'Bark Detail Mt Alexander by Elaine Herbert ARPS



'Bark Detail You Yangs' by Elaine Herbert ARPS



'Weathered Timber' by Elaine Herbert ARPS

I've been a member of Digital Imaging for quite a few years now, and have been active in the RPS Australian Chapter as its Hon. Sec. since 1998. And I've recently taken on an additional and most interesting role, that of the RPS International Members' Representative, so life is quite busy. But most of all I'm looking forward to getting out of town once the Covid-19 travel restrictions are lifted, so I can resume photographing the Australian bush.

'Peeling Bark' by Elaine Herbert ARPS

#### Postscript: Vale Alan Elliott OAM ARPS

We have just learned that one of Digital Imaging's oldest members and another RPS Australian Chapter member, Alan Elliott OAM ARPS, passed away on 30 October 2020 at the grand age of 99. DI members will have seen recollections by Alan in the latest *DIGIT* magazine, titled 'Dabbling in Digital', reproducing his light-hearted article from the Chapter's Newsletter in 2004. Alan had been a very active member of the RPS and the Australian Chapter for many years; he was a keen photo-historian and researcher of early photographic techniques, recognised in Australia and internationally, and was awarded the RPS Fenton Medal in 2013. We shall miss him greatly.



Alan Elliott OAM ARPS, October 2013 with his Fenton Medal

# **A UK MEMBER**

We eventually caught up with Robin Claydon ARPS of Cheshunt whose passion for wildlife photography is evident in his images. In addition to his RPS distinction, Robin has also picked up a DPAGB and BPE3.



#### **Robin Claydon ARPS**

I have had a serious interest in photography for about nine years, having bought my first DSLR camera after retirement. It was a natural path to link this new hobby with my passion for wildlife, where my main interest still lies.

I gained my LRPS in 2012 and my ARPS in 2019. One day I may attempt my FRPS but that is a long way away. I have also achieved my DPAGB.

Joining my local camera club in Hertford was so beneficial in improving my photography. I found

everybody at the club very welcoming and they had a raft of knowledge which they were keen to share. I had no intentions of entering competitions but I was persuaded to have a go. I learnt so much listening to the judges critiquing my



'Grizzly Bear' by Robin Claydon ARPS. Scary, seeing this coming towards you through the viewfinder whilst laying on the sand.



'Orangutan, Borneo' by Robin Claydon ARPS. A trusting mother allowing me to get within metres of her.

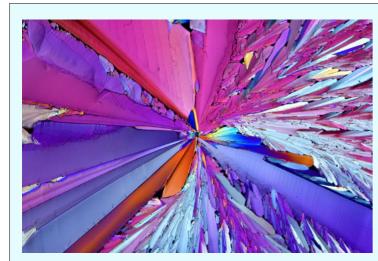


'Mating King Penguins, Falklands' by Robin Claydon ARPS. Amongst the colony, such a sensory experience.



'Mum and Cub, Churchill Canada' by Robin Claydon ARPS. Photographed from the tundra buggy - such affection.

images - often painful but such a productive way to learn and improve. I then started entering BPE salons. I have been fortunate to be able to undertake a number of trips abroad to far-flung places with the full support of my wife (a non-photographer). I love travelling and encountering wildlife I could only ever have dreamed of seeing and meeting new friends with the same interest. I also enjoy seeking out our native wildlife which I find more of a challenge. I will never stop learning new techniques and tips and I endeavour to pass that knowledge on to others. I find photography so satisfying and have made some very good friends along the way - long may it continue.



#### Science Photographer of the Year

Entries are now open for the 2020 Science Photographer of the Year competition. New for 2020 is the category 'Climate Change' for images that address global environmental and ecological issues. Submissions are free and open to all. Learn more and enter: rps.org/spoty.

#### **RPS DISTINCTIONS**

After a brief hiatus in late summer the RPS Distinctions department is back with a range of events, activities and documents. These include:

#### Guidelines

- LRPS Guidelines
- ARPS Guidelines
- FRPS Guidelines

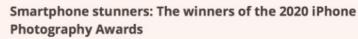
<u>Talks</u> - now in their second season, the popular Distinctions Live Talks have been watched by thousands of people around the world. They are open to all and free to attend.

<u>Advisory Days</u> - attending an Advisory day will give you the opportunity to discuss your portfolio with a current panel member in a professional but friendly atmosphere.

Assessments - have your worked assessed for a Distinction. To see the most upto-date information on availability on Distinction Assessment Days please choose from the following links:

- Licentiate (LRPS)
- Associate (ARPS)
- Fellowship (FRPS)

For Digital Imaging members, issue 7 of Accolade, which delves into members' Distinctions successes, is now available. The RPS has a FAQ page where you can find out more about the status of the assessment programme <u>HERE</u>. In addition, a number of Chapters and Regions have begun to offer online Distinctions Study Groups. You can find these by searching the RPS website <u>HERE</u>. And don't forget the closed Facebook Group: <u>RPS Distinctions \*\*Official Group\*\*</u>.





In its 13th year the iPhone Photograph Awards continues to show how rapidly smartphone cameras are evolving. The assortment of winners features incredible images from the newest Phone but also shows older models can take award-winning photographs.

To view the gallery and not the ads, click where it says 'VIEW 29 IMAGES' in the upper righthand corner of the first image.

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#### **DIGITAL IMAGING EVENTS & LISTINGS**

With restrictions on meeting venues affecting all manner of gatherings, it is not hard to see why Digital Imaging Centres are having trouble resuming their previous style and frequency of programming. But many are now taking their events online. So keep an eye on the <a href="events page">events page</a>. And if you'd like to lend a hand, several centres need volunteers to help with Zoom events, so contact Lyn Phillips (<a href="mailto:digsecretary@btinternet.com">digsecretary@btinternet.com</a>) to get involved.

The Digital Imaging online event programme we've been running since April will continue indefinitely. New online events are being planned for throughout the autumn and into the New Year.

Click on any of these ads to visit the event page:





Ross McKelvey Photoshop the McKelvey Way

www.rps.org/DIGONLINE12

Digital Imaging: Southern Saturday 5 December 2020 Online



**Kevin Maskell FRPS**'Flowers in Ice'
and Other Projects

www.rps.org/digsouthern-2020-12

Digital Imaging: Online Saturday 19 December 2020 Online



Paul Gallagher

East and West

www.rps.org/DIGONLINE13

#### Digital Imaging: South East Saturday 9 Jan 2021

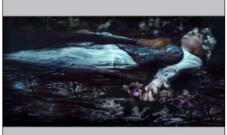


Nat Coalson
Online Presentation

Abstract Photography as Fine Art

www.rps.org/Nat-Coalson-Online

Digital Imaging: Online Saturday 30 January 2021



#### Jane Lazenby

Inspired by Art

www.rps.org/DIGONLINE14

Digital Imaging: Western
Sunday 31 January 2021
Online



#### Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP 'Wildlife Snaps From My Travels' "The Good, Bad and the Ugly" covering anecdotes, techniques, memories and frustrations.

www.rps.org/DIWesternRalphSnook

#### **SIG & REGION LINK**

Clicking on any of these ads will take you to its RPS Events page where you can find more information:



# Creative Decisions with Dan Burkholder

#### DATE AND TIME

Friday, 13th November 2020 20:00-22:00 GMT

#### **VENUE ADDRESS**

Online
Join from your location
Link will be supplied

Book Online



# Fixing the Broken Heart

#### DATE AND TIME

Tuesday, 8 December 2020 from 1800-2000

#### VENUE ADDRESS

Online Join from your location Link will be supplied

Book Online



# Talk: Landscape Photography in Southern Africa

#### DATE AND TIME

17 December 2020 19:00 - 20:30(approx)

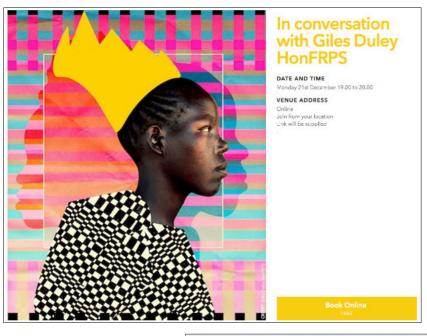
Event times are stated in UK time.

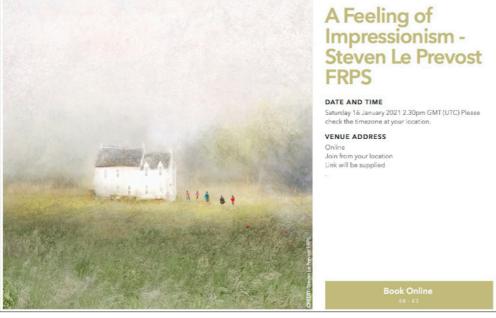
#### VENUE ADDRESS

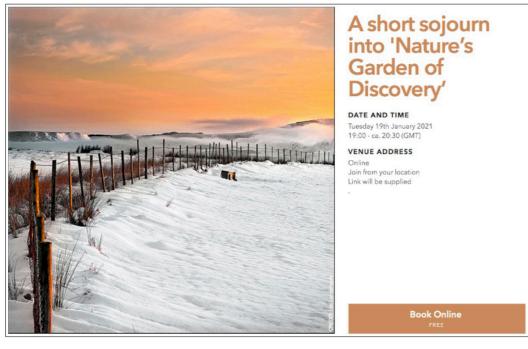
Online Join from your location

Link will be supplied

Book Online







# DIGITAL IMAGING DISCUSSION GROUP

If you're feeling a bit isolated and would like to hang out and chat about photography, please drop by <u>Digital Imaging</u> on Facebook where you can also ask – and answer - questions. You'll need to join it before you can participate, but the advantage is that it's a closed group open only to Digital Imaging members. It's especially useful if you are experiencing FOMO - Fear Of Missing Out - as a number of useful things often show up there first.

# THE RPS WEBSITE

The 'new' RPS website is almost a year old, but may still be proving a challenge to some. For guidance from the RPS on website basics, visit <a href="https://rps.org/new-website">https://rps.org/new-website</a>. For detailed information on setting up your profile and how to set up a gallery, visit <a href="https://rps.org/media/i3aaf51z/myrps-editing.pdf">https://rps.org/media/i3aaf51z/myrps-editing.pdf</a>.

If you have not had an opportunity to explore the site, you might want to take a look at the President's news page from Dr Alan Hodgson: <a href="https://rps.org/about/president-news/">https://rps.org/about/president-news/</a>.

The RPS maintains a page with updates to COVID-19 issues here: <a href="https://rps.org/covid-19">https://rps.org/covid-19</a>.

For everyone's convenience, we include this list of shortcuts to the main Digital Imaging pages at the end of each newsletter.

Digital Imaging website shortcuts:

Digital Imaging Home page www.rps.org/DIG

Membership www.rps.org/DIGMembership

Committee www.rps.org/DIGCommittee

News www.rps.org/DIGNews

Monthly Competition <a href="https://www.rps.org/DIGMonComp">www.rps.org/DIGMonComp</a>

Print Circle www.rps.org/DIGCircle

AGM www.rps.org/DIGAGM

Print Exhibition www.rps.org/DIGExhibition

Projected Image Competition <a href="www.rps.org/DIGPDI">www.rps.org/DIGPDI</a>

Tutorials www.rps.org/DIGTutorials

Publications <u>www.rps.org/digpubs</u>

There are links to all the Centres from the Digital Imaging Home Page.

The three members-only links (DIGIT Archive, Accolade and Welcome Page) are to be found in the email message announcing this newsletter.