

# 2023 Committee Report

## Chair Report – Colin Balfour

### Role description

Provide leadership and support to the Landscape SIG ensuring a vibrant and dynamic programme

### Report

2023 was an exciting and successful year for the Landscape Group.

We relaunched our magazine with a new format and, in collaboration with On Landscape magazine, a series of articles by Joe Cornish. There are many other exciting new features and articles by other outstanding photographers and contributors. We are very proud of our magazine, and I'm delighted to say that we have received enthusiastic feedback.

Speaking of collaboration, we also teamed up with the Digital Imaging Group (DIG) to launch the first Talk-Walk-Talk (T-W-T) which had a Coastal theme. The T-W-T series offers an initial Zoom talk presented by a subject expert photographer, followed by a series of walks led by members across the UK, and finally a talk in the same member led groups which then select one image from the day. Our former Chair, Richard Ellis ARPS, delivered the first talk. This first T-W-T proved to be very successful with a total of 216 participants and 33 walks across the UK. The final images were made into a zine. We have launched the second T-W-T with a theme of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE). The initial talk will be delivered by our Vice Chair, Mark Reeves FRPS. Our second T-W-T is proving to be even more popular as we currently have 288 bookings across 42 locations. I'd like to thank the team at DIG for all their support and help with the T-W-T series and we look forward to continuing to work with them going forward.

We launched three special projects: The Shipping Forecast, Postcards from Home, and the Zine Project.

The Shipping Forecast project runs until the end of March and currently has 97 registrations. There are a total of 31 sea areas of which 17 also have a land (or nearby) boundary on Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is these 17 coastlines that we are keen to capture as part of this RPS Landscape Group project. We're also keen to include islands that lie within these areas. A selection of the submitted images will be chosen by a judging panel and will be displayed in a web gallery after the project closes.

The Postcards from Home project invited participants to create postcards using images taken close to home. The project was inspired by the work of Sue Clark LRPS who took part in North Wales Region's "Frontiers" project which was conceived and led by regional organiser Rolf Kraehenbuehl. We will produce a printed book featuring all eligible postcards that were submitted by registered participants. A copy of the book will be provided to each registered participant. We will also publish a web gallery on the RPS website featuring all eligible postcards.

The aim of the Zine Project was to encourage people to have a go and produce their own zine. For too many photographers our digital images just languish on computer hard drives. Great for giveaways (or swaps), zines are also ideal for concluding those photographic projects that seem to

linger on, desperate for an ending. The Zine project was managed by Fiona McCowan FRPS. Fiona was awarded a FRPS in 2021 for her handmade photobook "In the Offing". She is also a member of the RPS Photobook Distinction Panel. We were delighted circa 80 people signed up for the project with circa 30 people submitting their zines for review and more than 20 participating in the 'zine swap'. A selection of the submitted zines will be chosen by a panel and will be displayed in a web gallery.

Member-Led Events have proven to be incredibly popular. In 2023, we ran 18 events with a total of 102 bookings. We have had very positive feedback. For 2024, we currently have 21 events launched with 98 bookings (as at 24/01/24). We are always looking for more members to be leaders so please get in touch if you are interested.

Professional-Led Events are also very popular. We really value working with professional photographers who deliver a superb range of excellent workshops. These vary from one day workshops to a week-long residential course, which was held in the Cairngorms in 2023.

We continue to publish a regular newsletter and run regular competitions, both monthly and themed. The competitions continue to be very popular and are made easier by our use of PollUnit for uploads which we introduced last year. The monthly competition gets between 35-60 submissions each month. The B&W themed competition had 153 entries and the Urban Landscapes themed competition received 133 entries. The current themed competition is on ICM Landscapes and closes on 21 March.

Circles continue to prove very popular. We now have 125 members across 15 circles. The circles cover print, processing, and critique. As some people are in more than one group, this does not represent 125 unique members. Previously we had 81 members, so this represents a growth of 54%.

Social media is important for us. We have a very active private Facebook group (510 members) along with our public facing Instagram feed (1,478 followers).

We have just announced our 2025 residential conference which takes place on the weekend of 7-9 March in North Queensferry in Fife. It is a stunning location, perched high above the Firth of Forth, with fabulous views over the estuary and the three Forth bridges. Edinburgh, which is easily reached from the nearby train station, is just a short trip away. Tickets will be going on sale in the next few weeks, so keep an eye out for announcements.

Finally, thank you to everyone who completed our survey. Your feedback is incredibly important to us.

Colin Balfour LRPS

Chair, RPS Landscape Group

## Treasurer Report – Mark Edwards

### Role description

Sound financial management of the group including arranging payments of expenses and invoices, liaison with RPS finance, production of annual accounts.

This will be posted as a separate file.

## Secretary Report – Viv Cotton

### Role description

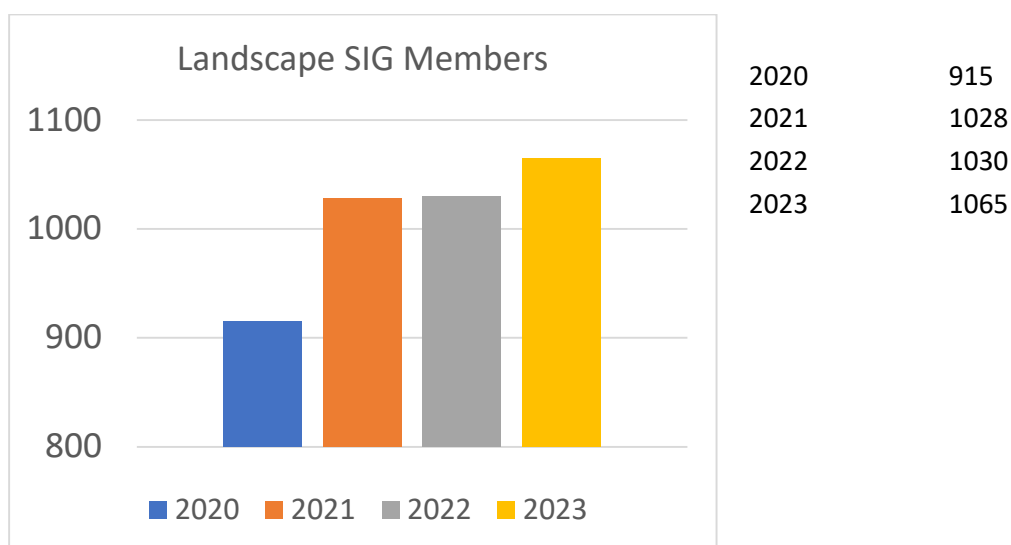
Ensure the efficient administration of the group

### Achievements 2023

As part of the handover from the previous secretary, a physical folder of historical documents was received. These have all been scanned and are now on Microsoft Teams and accessible to all committee members. The minutes of all committee meetings since the last AGM have been kept and circulated to committee members within seven days of meetings. These along with all reports provided by committee members are also held centrally on Microsoft Teams.

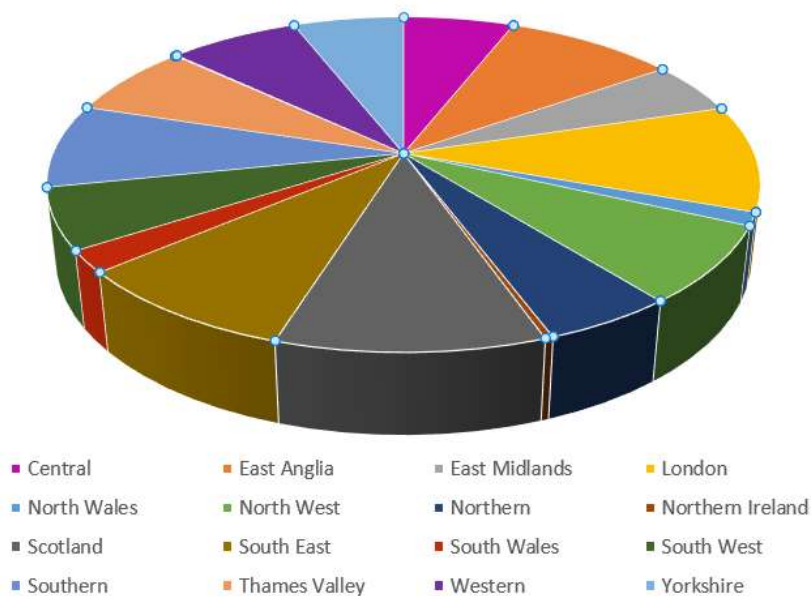
### Membership Information

The overall number of members has increased by 35 – a 3.4% rise.



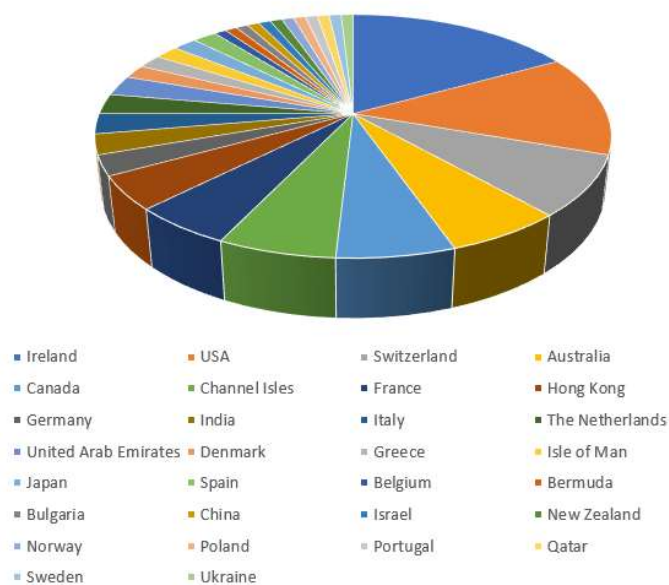
Landscape group continues to have members in all the UK regional groups.

UK Regions Represented



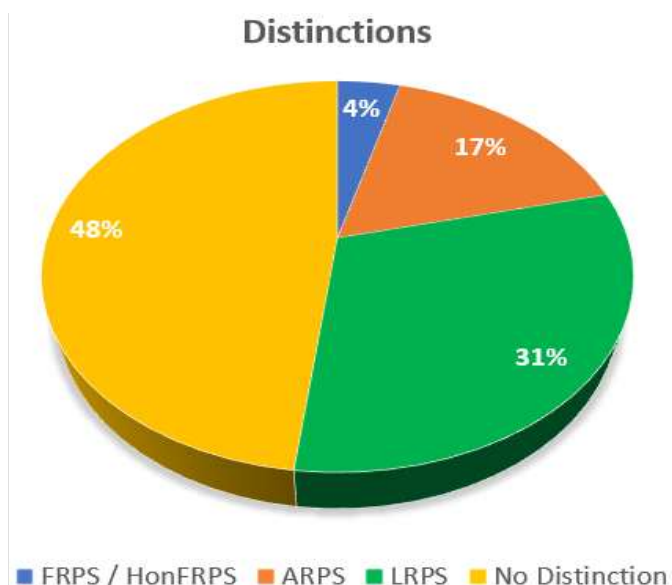
Central	57
East Anglia	88
East Midlands	48
London	98
North Wales	12
North West	71
Northern	48
Northern Ireland	3
Scotland	98
South East	85
South Wales	20
South West	56
Southern	77
Thames Valley	67
Unallocated	1
Western	67
Yorkshire	57
Grand Total	953

Overseas Members



Ireland	19	Isle of Man	2
USA	15	Japan	2
Switzerland	9	Spain	2
Australia	7	Belgium	1
Canada	7	Bermuda	1
Channel Isles	7	Bulgaria	1
France	6	China	1
Hong Kong	5	Israel	1
Germany	3	New Zealand	1
India	3	Norway	1
Italy	3	Poland	1
Netherlands	3	Portugal	1
UAE	3	Qatar	1
Denmark	2	Sweden	1
Greece	2	Ukraine	1
Total		112	

Overseas membership is stable at approx. 8%.



	2023	2022
FRPS / HonFRPS	4%	4%
ARPS	17%	17%
LRPS	31%	32%
No Distinction	48%	47%

52% of members with distinctions.

#### Newsletter Editor – Peter Fortune

In 2023 8 Newsletters were produced. This is the same as the last few years and meant that Newsletters are produced in January, March, May, June, July, September, October and November. Three articles from members (has become the standard for each Newsletter but if we have more than are needed for the next edition or so we will publish more). Following the profiling of the Committee members last year, Profiling the new Committee Members started with Mark Webster and continued with Chris McIntosh in the July edition. It is hoped to continue with these in future editions. Another innovation started in 2022 was Letter from America (with apologies to Alistair Cooke) featuring the work of Candia Peterson who lives in Upstate New York. This last innovation is seen as an occasional series and Candia wrote for a number of editions in 2023 including the June edition. This is expected to continue with another article in early 2024.

Paul Cayton is also now assisting and has made a big contribution to the Newsletter.

Although we are always short of articles a system suggested has significantly improved this situation. I am sent a list of delegates on workshops and I write to each one suggesting they might like to write a report on the Workshop they are attending. This increased the supply of articles. However, we would like to include some more technical articles, and are looking for ways to make this happen.

#### The Future

We hope to continue with 8 editions in 2024, in February, March, May, June, July, September, October, and November.

If anyone is interested in writing an article (either technical or pictorial) for the newsletter then please contact Peter. Email address: [landscapenews@rps.org](mailto:landscapenews@rps.org)

## Member Events Manager – Howard Klein

### Role description

Organise and publish field trips to be led by members of the Landscape Group, rather than professional photographers.

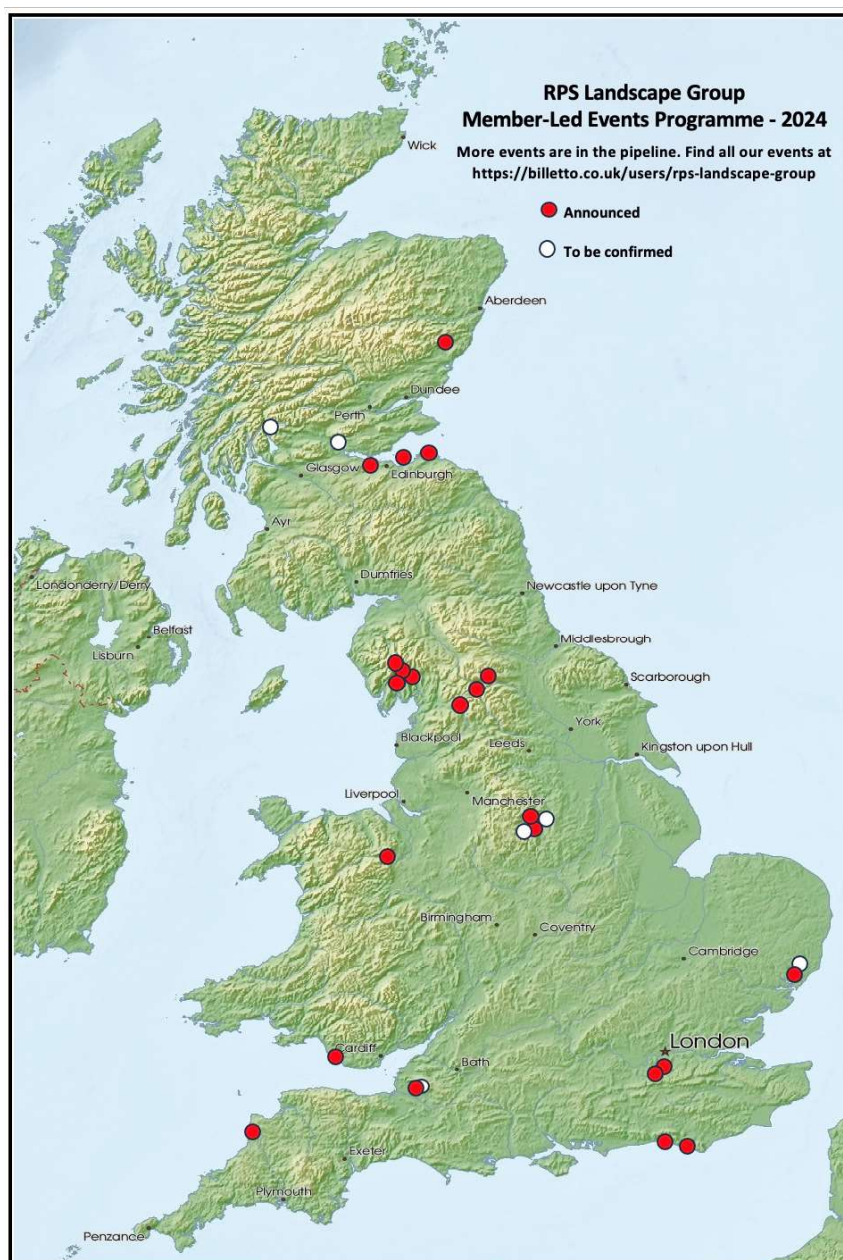
### Member- Led Events

Membership Survey  
showed 72% support; 12  
volunteers

2023: July-November  
18 Events / 7 Full / 3  
Cancelled  
102 Bookings  
Feedback very positive

2024:  
21 Events launched; +  
pipeline  
Seeking more members to  
be leaders - It's not  
onerous!  
98 Bookings to-date (at  
24/1)

Further promotion  
underway





## Talk – Walk – Talk

This is a joint project with Digital Imaging SIG. An initial talk is given on a specific theme, members volunteer to lead walks with the theme in mind. Later the walk attendees meet again to see each other's images, discuss them and select one for the final zine.

### Coastal

- Speaker: Richard Ellis ARPS
- 33 Locations - Led by members
- 216 Bookings
- Good Feedback (some lessons)
- The final images were made into a zine – QR code and short link here

<http://tinyurl.com/3m7b8f4c>



### Architecture & Built Environment

- Speaker: Mark Reeves FRPS
- 42 Locations - Led by members, scheduled February/March
- 288 Bookings to-date (at 24/1)
- International solo-walk option

Next-up: Woodland In the latter part of 2024

Anyone interested in volunteering to host a walk either as a member led event or as part of Talk-Walk-Talk should contact Howard who will provide support and guidance.

Email address: [landscapeexhibitionmemberevents@rps.org](mailto:landscapeexhibitionmemberevents@rps.org)



### Role description

Co-ordinator for print, processing and critique circles which now number 15. Each circle has their own leader to facilitate and co-ordinate the meetings with the circle members.

### Report

#### The marketing effort paid off!

Since the last report, we've publicised the circles in the Facebook group, by email, and in an article in the newsletter. This has been successful — we now have 37 new members in four new critique groups (led by Candia Peterson, Greg Lovett, Steve Hartley and Chris Burgess).

We've now become a victim of that success because I'm struggling to find new people who can lead the groups. For example, I have 4 people that want to join a Processing group but no-one wants to lead the group. I prefer to recruit a circle leader from an existing group (as they know how the process works) but I fear I've run out of volunteers.

#### How many members do we have?

We now have 125 members across 15 circles. Some people are in more than one group, so this does not represent 125 unique members. In my last report we had 81 members so this is a growth of 54%.

Circle Leader	Circle Type	Members	Maximum
Chris Burgess	Critique	10	10
Steve Hartley	Critique	10	10
Greg Lovett	Critique	9	10
Candia Peterson	Critique	8	10
Mark Sims	Critique	9	10
David Travis	Critique	10	10
Martyn Bennett	Critique	10	10
Bill Daniels	Critique	9	10
Doug Lodge	Print	7	8
Diana Wynn	Print	7	8
Diana Wynn	Print	8	8
Claire Wallace-			
Watson	Processing	6	7
Leigh Foster	Processing	6	7
Irene Stupples	Processing	8	8
Jim Stupples	Processing	8	8
Total		125	



### Role description

To keep the group's pages on the RPS website up to date and to add new content. The structure and content of the group's web pages have been built using pre-defined page types and content cards and media (images and documents) uploaded by the Web Editor. Oversight of Instagram and Facebook moderation.

### Comms

#### *MailChimp email to Members*

We continued to use Mailchimp to send out Landscape Group news and to welcome new members. We have started to send 3 emails to members each month (4 including the Welcome email). The Mailchimp Newsletter email is linked to news items on the RPS, LG website. Mailchimp emails are automatically posted to the LG Facebook Page and then shared to the Facebook group.

#### *Competitions*

The monthly competition continues to run and gets between 35-60 images submitted each month. The B/W themed competition had 153 entries and the final themed competition; Urban Landscapes received 133 entries. The LG webpages are updated each month with images from the previous month's competition and are also featured in our Mailchimp email communications. It is good to be able to refresh the images on the homepage and elsewhere, monthly and a great benefit to members, to display their work submitted to the group's competitions.

Winners are also posted to FB, IG and X.

A 'news' page is created on the RPS website after each competition announcing the competition winners to all RPS members. (and includes a link to join the LG) The 12 monthly winners are published in the LG Spring Magazine. The 12 full-resolution images (which I obtain from each winner) and some text about their image/photography are sent to the LG Magazine Editor around Jan/Feb via wetransfer.

#### *Projects Page*

The Project pages seem to be running okay, with members booking tickets to join via Billetto and submitting their images for some projects via PollUnit or sending them directly to the project leader.

### Social Media

#### *Instagram*

The Landscape Group's Instagram account currently has 1,478 followers. The Project's news has been added to the 'stories' at the top of the profile page, giving brief info on the subject and a link to the LG webpage. <https://linktr.ee/rpslandscapegroup>, found at the top of the IG homepage is constantly updated to enable navigation directly to pages on the LG website and LG social links. Competition winners are announced and displayed in the IG posts, tagging the winners if they are on IG. Winners of the themed competition are offered a chance to take over the IG account for a weekend.

## Facebook

The FB group currently has 510 members.

Landscape images posted to the Facebook group are up by 22% and on average members have posted 5 posts per day over the last 60 days. You will see a lot of activity between the 1st and 8th of October when the two competition (monthly and Themed) winners were announced and the LG IG account was taken over by the B/W Themed winner (Mark Reeves) which is also shared to Facebook.

### All ⓘ

1,293 Posts  
1,201 Comments  
13,829 Reactions

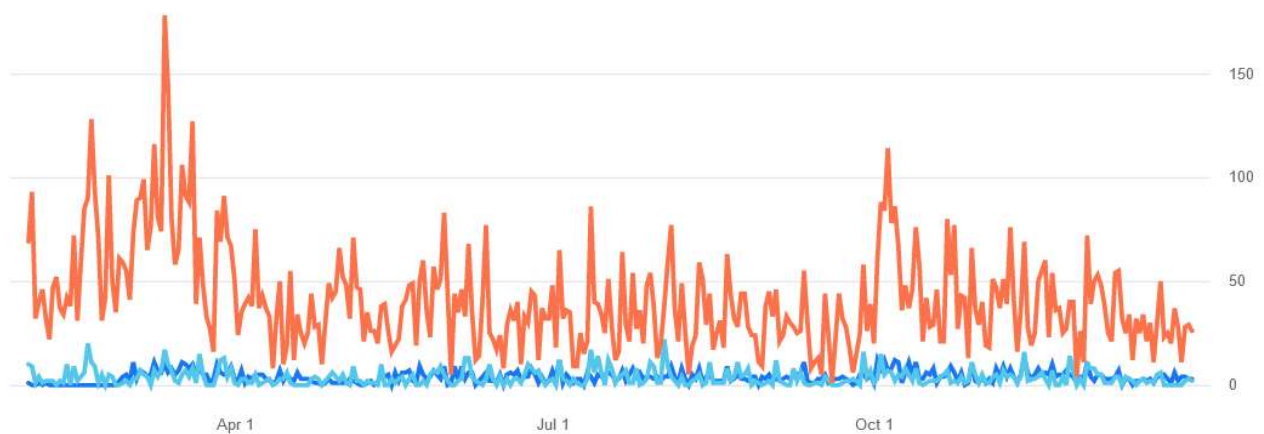
Feb 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023

Posts

Comments

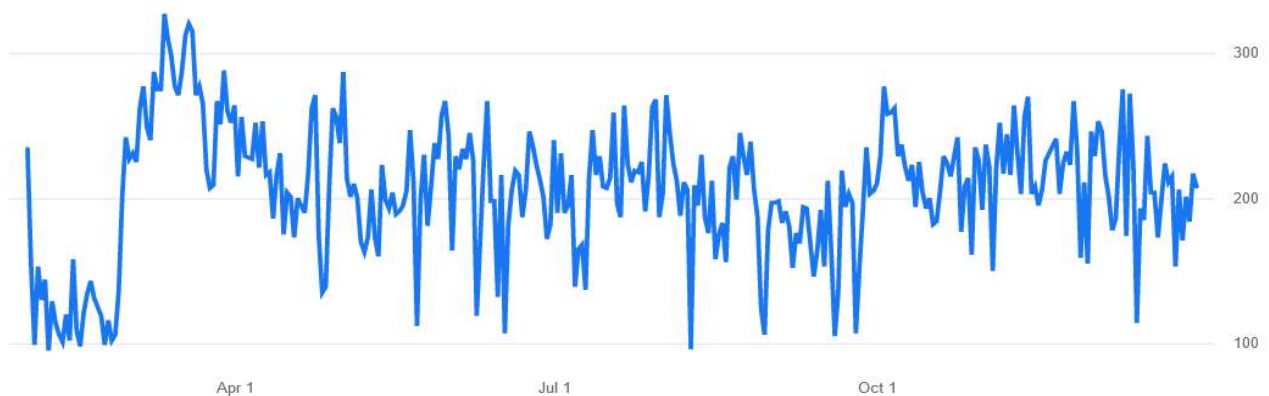
Reactions

All



### Active members ⓘ

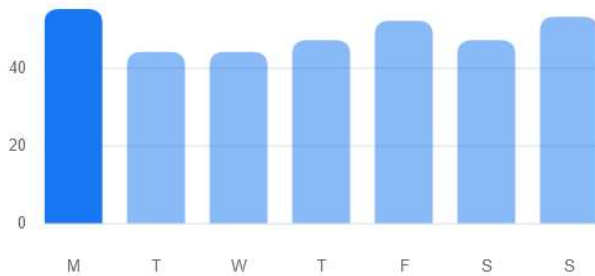
Feb 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023



Active Members Per Day (Feb 1 - Dec 31)

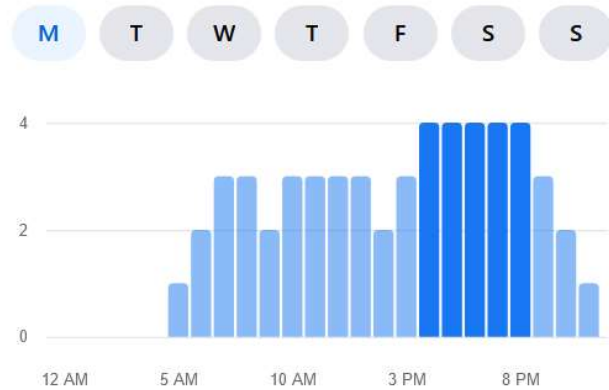
### Popular days ⓘ

The average number of times members post, comment or react on a given day in the specified date range.



### Popular times ⓘ

The average number of times members post, comment or react at a given hour of the day in the specified date range.



## Landscape Magazine Editor – Candia Peterson

### Role description

Editor of the group's magazine has evolved to cover the periodical production a printed magazine, that includes members content and also content related to the genre of Landscape Photography, that the members may find of interest.

My second issue of the magazine - Spring 2024 - will be distributed to members towards the end of March. My aim on taking over was to bring consistency to the magazine with a constant number of pages, regular themed articles and a balance between professional and member led content.

The biggest problem facing the magazine team has been to try to resolve the issue of overseas members not receiving print copies despite them having been sent out. At the time of writing, we are still working on this but hope to have a solution before the issue is sent out.

### Role description

Organise and publish field trips to be led by Professional Photographers rather than members of the Landscape Group.

### Report

We were once again fortunate in 2023 to have a diverse range of enthusiastic professional photographers leading workshops for us with a wide geographic spread. It was, though, also a more challenging year than usual in that bookings for a number of events were reduced from previous years without a clear pattern to explain this. It may be that various external factors have had an impact.

Our events do not have a budget to draw on. We have to ensure that ticket sales over the year balance expenses which are the workshop leaders' fees and occasional small additional expenses incurred.

11 online events varied from a single 2-hour session to multi-day sessions, often with self-directed photography between sessions and subsequent review.

16 in-person workshops took place including a residential workshop in the Cairngorms.

There were 7 online talks.

Our e-Processing Group organised a processing workshop and our Critique Group organised a workshop on critical appraisal skills in landscape photography. Each of these was limited to members of the groups.

The downside of the year was the need to cancel 1 online workshop and 12 in-person workshops due to insufficient bookings to make them viable. Having this happen is always disheartening although occasionally it is possible to make some compromises to enable a workshop to proceed, possibly with modifications.

A good range of workshops is already published for 2024 with more to come. I have been in contact with a number of professionals who do not currently take workshops for us and am hopeful that some of these will be agreeable to be involved.

Having been considering any factors which may limit bookings, one of these may well be the additional expenses of travelling and accommodation for events not close to home. After discussing this recently with Ade Gidney, he has agreed to trial two different workshops on consecutive days in fairly close proximity in the Lake District, timed to start later on day 1 and finish earlier on day 2. It is possible to book on one or both but this should help reduce accommodation costs. Other suggestions are welcome!

## Project Reports

### The Landscape Zine Project Report- Fiona McCowan

#### About the Project

The aim of the 'Zine Project' was to encourage people to have a go and produce their own zine. For too many photographers our digital images just languish on computer hard drives. Great for giveaways (or swaps), zines are also ideal for concluding those photographic projects that seem to linger on desperate for an ending.

In spring 2023, we started with an introductory briefing from Tim Daly; in the summer, a talk on zines & photobooks by Euan Ross and in the autumn, a follow up review and Q&A session looking at zines submitted by project participants.

#### Why we did it

It was for enjoyment! The project's main value was to get people engaged and to encourage them to produce their own zine. We were delighted circa 80 people signed up for the project with circa 30 people submitting their zines for review and more than 20 participating in the 'zine swap'.

#### Outputs from the project

The zines! Everyone who participated in the project has been encouraged to submit their zine for display on a stand at the Landscape Group Conference in spring 2025. We are also planning an article in the Landscape Group magazine.

Thanks to Richard Ellis for the original idea; Tim Daly, for the talks and zines reviews and Euan Ross for his talk.

#### Feedback from participants

Hilary Barton: For me the 'zine project was a great success, not in the sense I produced a great 'zine, my attempt was very much a beginner's attempt. But I've since made 3 more 'zines and encouraged several of my photographic society colleagues to have a go 😊

Alan Edwards: Creating a Zine wasn't something that I considered before the project was announced. Being one of the older generation my opportunities to get out are limited. My challenge was to find something accessible to me currently. Hence "Canals in the Landscape". I have plans to do two more sections. I left a copy with the local heritage centre for their archives. For me the project has created a new thread for my photography. I've learned a lot, and have created a few zines featuring scans of old badly stored negatives from the 1960s and 70s visits to France and the former Yugoslavia. I find myself coming up with ideas for new zines and will be floating the idea to a u3a Photographic Group that I'm involved with. So, once again thank you.



## [“Postcards from Home” Update - Sue Clark](#)

Postcards from Home is a 2023 project organised by the RPS Landscape Group. The project invites participants to create postcards using images taken within 5 miles of home.

“Postcards from home” submissions are coming in daily now that we are close to the deadline of January 31st. Possibly once the Christmas festivities were over there has been more time to devote to photography!

The entries are varied in style, location and presentation and will make a very interesting book.

## [The Shipping Forecast Project- Colin Balfour](#)

The Shipping Forecast project runs until the end of March and currently has 97 registrations. There are a total of 31 sea areas of which 17 also have a land (or nearby) boundary on Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is these 17 coastlines that we are keen to capture as part of this RPS Landscape Group project. We’re also keen to include islands that lie within these areas. A selection of the submitted images will be chosen by a judging panel and will be displayed in a web gallery after the project closes.