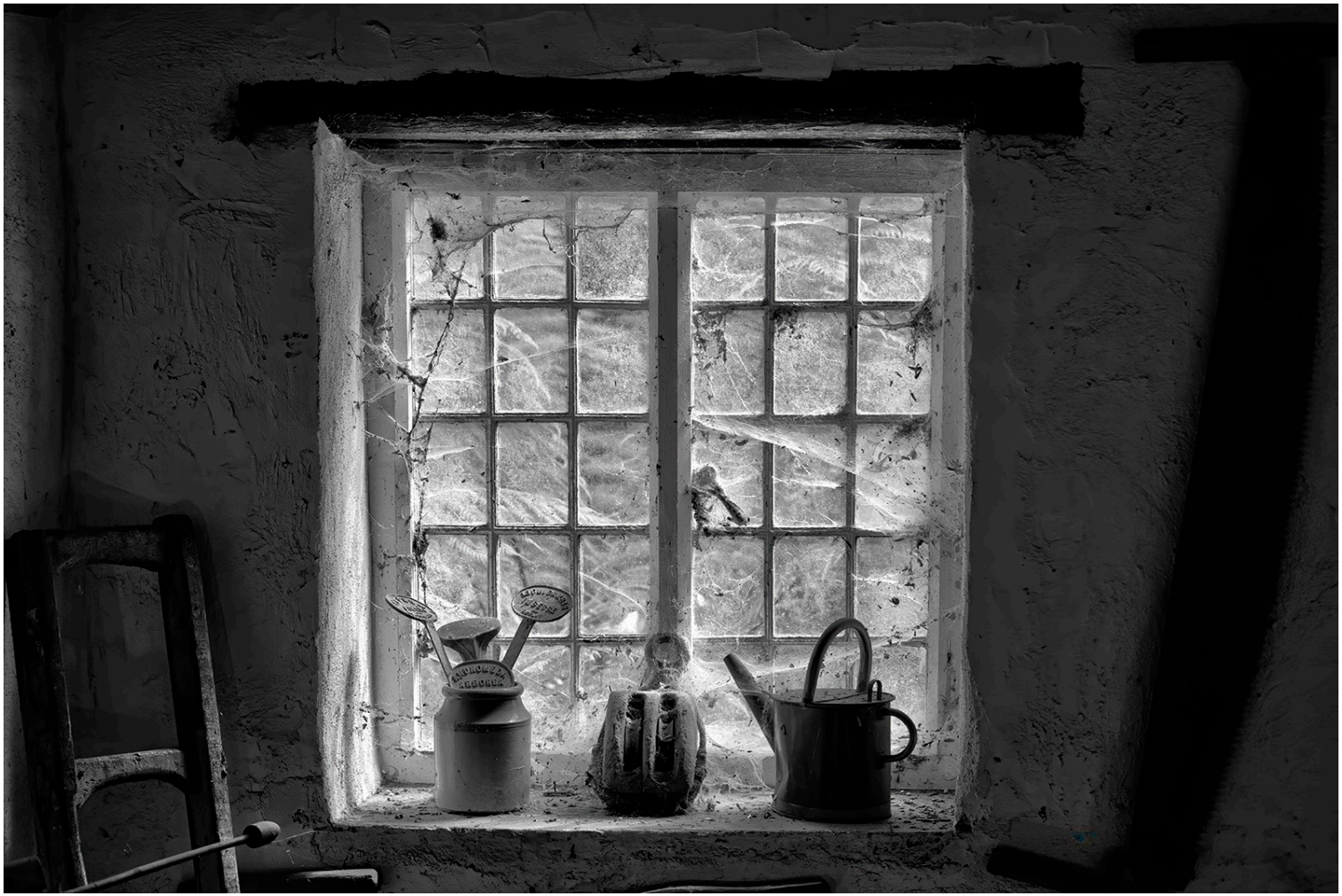
THE RPS

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

DOCUMENTARY

The June bi-monthly competition gallery

Caroline Preece - Lockdown Loosens - Westfield Shopping Centre
I love the contrast between the mass consumerism and optimistic laughing faces on the advertising hoardings and the reality which is today's society as slowly we get a little more freedom but most shops remain shut and people are covering up and protecting themseles in the face of an invisible danger. I thought the woman coming out of the shopping centre masked and gloved up contrasted brilliantly with the images portrayed by the advertisers of an unreal utopia so far from today's world.



Perry Tatman - The Gardener’s Shed

While at Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens I chanced upon an old building and the door was unlocked. It was an old gardener’s shed, everything was rusty and covered in cobwebs. I tried to imagine when these items were last used, if only the spiders could speak.

David Fletcher- Separate Spaces

This is part of my series Separate Spaces - people taken through a window in their houses during lockdown. The window acts as both frame and mirror, showing us something of the outside the inhabitants are separated from.

Graham A Evans LRPS - Working from Home.

I tried to illustrate the problems many have had working from home rather than in a large office during the pandemic.

Susi Luard - On The Way To A Peaceful Protest

I'm generally interested in what people are doing while I'm out and about. I met this young man with a placard on the overground train so I asked where he was going and if I could photograph his placard. He was on the way to the peaceful protest in central London in sympathy with US protests sparked by the recent death of George Floyd in Minneapolis USA where police officers were charged over his death.

John Kay - Sunnies

The sunglasses on the umbrella were reflected by the ones the tourists are wearing, this caught my eye. Taken in Cambridge.

David Collins - Also provides a place to rest

I went into town to see how much Covid 19 had impacted on the shopping area, the entrance to Greggs had become a semi permanent place for a homeless person to live and sleep."His Favourite Resting Place"

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Highly commended image

Marianne van Loo - Aqua-aerobics in Malta

I took this image last year in June in Malta, I took it because I liked the composition. Especially just the legs in view in the top right corner. With Covid-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement this image has taken on a whole new context.

David SHILLABEER - Lighten Our Darkness

This image took a week to prepare with Photographers Ephemeris and an hour to set up. I am documenting the rising sun on the Summer Solstice (The Longest Day). I used the non illuminated lamp standard as a part reference to the title. I also wanted it as a point of interest by positioning it where the sun would rise with the cross bar on the horizon. I wanted the sun at its lowest point to signify the actual start of the day. In part of the Communion Service are the words, “Lighten our darkness we beseech thee O Lord”. Words which aptly reflect the long dark days we are living through at the moment. The luck was the weather clearing after a week of North Sea Haar at Nairn, Scotland. It rained 20 minutes after the shot was taken.

Maggie Jary - Kindred spirit

Wherever I travel to I find it interesting to see what the local photographers are capturing. Whilst in Corsica I chanced upon this photographer in his shop/studio down a tiny backstreet in a small town. He drew me in with his friendly smile and of course I was curious to see his amazing collection of photographs and equipment. It was like stepping back in time. Despite being barely able to understand what the other was saying we managed to have a conversation using 'photography speak' and sign language. He was very animated and clearly passionate about what he was doing, which I hope comes across in this photo.

Simon Maddison - All Bets Are Off

I have always documented my small market town of Hitchin. The restrictions of Covid lockdown forced me to think what to do. I decided not to do a socially distanced queue as I thought many people would do that. On an exercise walk I saw this closed bookies and the abandoned feel and this front door which no one had been through for a couple of months. So I went home and returned with my camera

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Winner image

Ian G. Wright - Rooted

An image from my project on rural life in the Lincolnshire Wolds, begun in September 2019. The image captures some important elements of my narrative. It portrays one of the central features of rural culture - the close relationship farmers have with their working dogs - against a landscape backdrop typical of the area. The ancient drainage ditches are a prominent element of the landscape and in autumn and winter the mist commonly descends on the rolling hills – it's a myth that Lincolnshire is uniformly flat. This is a very English area with traditional patterns of life and values; big fields; small hamlets and market towns in existence for a thousand years or more. Mark – the subject of my portrait and one of the characters through which I tell my story – manages 6,000 acres spread over several farms.

David Pollard - A kitchen at the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib Sikh temple, Delhi

The dining hall at this temple serves free meals, prepared by volunteers, to some 25,000 pilgrims daily and this is one of its kitchens. The temple is one of the most important places of worship for Sikhs in Delhi.

Daniel Simon- Football pitch, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Just prior to the Covid lockdown and faced with increasing uncertainty over oil prices, Saudi Arabia is slowly opening up to tourism. The infrastructure of the country, however, is still lagging a little way behind.

Ann Chown - Clapping for the NHS

I took a small series of pictures of my neighbours clapping the NHS on a Thursday evening and liked this one as I felt it was the most natural of the ones I took.

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Highly commended image

Chris Barbara - Meeting a friend from a different household

On the day in March when the UK went into lockdown because of the coronavirus I started a documentary series entitled 'Coronavirus - A new day in a new world'. I have 122 photos in that series. As the government announced some relaxation in the rules in May I decided to do a 2nd series entitled 'Coronavirus - The way out of lockdown'. As I started to take the photos I saw the opportunity to link the lockdown series photos with those from the coming out of lockdown series.

In the first series I had taken a few shots of benches and in particular the police speaking with a man sitting on a bench on the seafront. On the day the rules on benches were relaxed I took quite a few shots of people sitting happily on them. This one stood out to me because the women (Leela and Jenny) were explaining to me they were sitting on different benches because they were from different households. When I took other portraits of people sitting on benches they were quick to explain that they lived in the same house. It was like everybody felt the need to justify where they were sitting."

Mark Stimpson - Come Fly with me.
This is the Woes who were the support act for the Roam/With Confidence gig at the O2 Academy, Islington last September. I walked out of the photo pit to take a few photos from the side of the stage. At this point the lead guitarist started jumping about the stage. I immediately thought wouldn't it be good to try to capture him in mid flight. I upped the shutter speed and took about half a dozen shots just before the third song finished and all the photographers are required to stop shooting. This shot I like the most as I also managed to capture the singer jumping off the drums.

Highly commended image

Lorraine Poole - The Orderly Queue

I am hoping I can submit this image rather than the last one I sent? (sorry). I shot this last week whilst on my first trip out to a supermarket since lockdown began. This is just a small section of a very long social distancing queue, trollies at the ready. It was a glorious day and standing in the hot sunshine wasn't as enjoyable as I had hoped, unfortunately. The white wall of the supermarket, however, made a great backdrop to the waiting would-be shoppers. So I just had to take some grab shots whilst I waited also. Patient, quiet and still - it was really quite a surreal experience.

Ronen Tivony - Jane Fonda

Actress and activist, Jane Fonda (C), leads a Fire Drill Fridays climate change protest in Los Angeles.
I documented this moment as I felt that all the elements came together. The woman in the foreground is yelling (at the press) which worked well with the sign in the background of Trump yelling, both provide contrast with the more subdued facial expressions of Jane Fonda and the other protesters. The image was taken while on assignment as a photojournalist.

Paul Byrne - Pedestrians confused by Traffic Sign!

I am from New Zealand and this image was taken on a recent visit to London. I had not seen these signals before and neither had the many tourist who seemed startled, amused and, in some cases, confused when the sign illuminated. The image is part of a work in progress about “Signs of the Times”.

Hidesawa Sudo - Continue On

This photo was taken in front of the newly opened hotel in Osaka, Japan. The hotel was used to be a Kabuki theatre for such a long time.

Katherine Maguire- Garden as seen by scarred retinas

“I have a eye disease called Presumed Ocular Histoplasmosis Syndrome. The disease can cause abnormal blood vessels to form on the retinas and when they heal, the light sensitive cells are replaced by scar tissue. Thus my vision is now permanently blurred which cannot be corrected by contact lens or glasses.

By combining two images taken at the same time using a 50 focal length lens, I am attempting to illustrate what it is like to live with damaged retinas, First image is taken at an aperture of f2.2 at a focus distance 5m and represents how I see the world, the second is then taken by changing the focus distance to infinity and aperture to f10 to represent how others see the world. Then both images are combined into them one image.”