



The
Royal
Photographic
Society

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Travel Log

Newsletter of the Travel Group



JANUARY 2014

ISSUE 66



RPS Travel Group

Chairman

Liz Rhodes
New Cottage, High Street
Drayton St Leonard
Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA
Telephone: 01865 890712

Secretary

Keith Pinton LRPS
Temple Cottage
Whitcott Keysett
Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8QE
Telephone: 01588 640592

Treasurer

Chris Hammond ARPS
4 Launcelyn Close
North Baddesley
Southampton
Hampshire SO52 9NP
Tel: 02380 731373
home1@chrishammond.com

Travel Log Editor

Colin Howard ARPS
11 Nightingale Way, Victoria Bridge
Hereford
Herefordshire HR1 2NQ
mail@crhoward.com

Digital Forum

Hazel Frost ARPS
11 Wedale View
Stow Galashiels,
Borders, TD1 2SJ
folio@travelgroup.rps.org

Committee Members

Brian Brooks ARPS
Great Hollenden Farm
Underriver
Sevenoaks
Kent TN15 0SG
brian@greathollenden.co.uk

John Cucksey ARPS
South View, Samphire Close
Blakeney, Norfolk NR25 7PE
cucksey@btinternet.com

Aline Hopkins
alinehopkins@btinternet.com

Richard Lewis ARPS
Chase House, West Chase
Mundon
Essex CM9 6PD
rlewisuk1@aol.com

John Speller
42 Forest Glade
Basildon
Essex SS16 6SX
JohnDSpeller@aol.com

Travel Log – Your Newsletter!

Do you have images languishing in your computer, never to be seen by others save friends and family, or perhaps your camera club? Now is a good time to think about putting together an article for *Travel Log*! There is nothing quite like the sense of achievement of seeing your work in print, and knowing that others in the Travel Group can also enjoy the fruits of your efforts.

All articles on travel photography, long or short, are welcome. Instructions for submissions are to be found below.

Travel Log is published by the Travel Group of the Royal Photographic Society three times a year: in January, May and September.

Contributions are welcome on all aspects of travel and travel photography. Full articles typically contain five to six images selected from those submitted, plus an accompanying text describing aspects of the journey and any technical issues encountered. It is worth noting that a mix of landscape and portrait images is useful. The layout of the text and images in the publishing software often means that it is necessary to crop pictures in order to balance the layout so images with a fair amount of open space surrounding the main subject work particularly well. It is also worth bearing in mind that images with much detail lose impact on the printed page as the final printed version is inevitably smaller than a print.

Many members are not comfortable with writing lengthy text: if this is the case, please contact the Editor who will be glad to assist. All text is copy edited and proof-read by another member of the Travel Group committee.

Shorter submissions are also welcome as well as articles describing photographic exhibitions with a strong travel theme or reviews of techniques, etc. of particular value to fellow travel photographers. Both colour and monochrome images are acceptable.

There is always a need for strong images

for the **front cover**. It is not necessary to submit an article for an image to be considered for the cover, although it should be borne in mind that the cover image must have impact and be technically perfect.

Copy for articles can be sent on CD or by email in Word, RTF or TXT format. Digital image files are preferred.

Digital files should be in JPEG format, minimum resolution 300dpi, and adjusted to produce an image file of not more than 5 megabyte (5mB). Many cameras produce files of a lower resolution, adequate for many purposes including projection, but much lower than the resolution required for printing.

Users of Photoshop can find the necessary option under the Image/Image Size menu. If you are uncertain how to adjust image properties, please contact the Editor for advice. If you wish to submit prints, please contact the Editor before dispatch.

Travel Log accepts **advertisements**. Advertisers should contact the Editor by email at the address opposite.

Receipt of all submissions will be sent by email. Unless specifically requested material will not be returned.

Please send all material to the Editor.

The **deadlines** are 1st March (May issue), 1st July (September issue) and 1st November (January issue).

The small printNo payment is made for articles used and whilst every care is taken the Editor, Production or the Travel Group do not accept liability for any damage to photographic material submitted. The views expressed in articles are those of the contributor, and not of the Travel Group or Editor. The Travel Group and the Royal Photographic Society do not recommend any tours or services nor accept any liability whatsoever for members who may make bookings with, or purchases from, any companies or individuals who advertise in *Travel Log* or are mentioned in published articles.



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Note from the Editor

Members may note that the publication schedule for *Travel Log's* three issues a year has been changed slightly to January, May and September. **The deadline for the May 2014 issue is 1st March 2014.**

Apologies ... to John Keighley whose name I missed out as being a contributor to the article on the Costa Rica trip which appeared in the September issue of *Travel Log*.

Dates for Your Diary

10th - 11th May 2014 Travel Group Spring Weekend, Ludlow, Shropshire

7th - 14th June 2014 Trip to Northumbria, based in Alnmouth (see page 19)



Chairman's Chatter

Liz Rhodes

The old year is coming to an end as I write this and 2014 beckons, and as usual at this time of the year I find myself looking back and reviewing what I may or may not have achieved from a photographic point of view and then looking ahead to what I would really like to do in the coming twelve months. From a personal point of view I do not think I have made much headway with my photography, but from the Travel Group's point of view I think we have started to develop some fresh ideas which hopefully will be more fully developed during the coming year.

Despite this age of instant communication there is very little feedback on whether your Committee is arranging events that are of interest and I sometimes wonder whether our efforts are worthwhile.

But this past year we have tried out some new ideas, such as a well-attended day in Rye, organised in conjunction with Terry McGhie, the South-East Regional Organiser, and a trip to Paris in conjunction with the Visual Art Group. My own view is that we should be looking to do more across the groups together with the Regional Organisers – as I have said on many occasions, travel photography does not sit neatly in any 'box'! So discussions have started with the

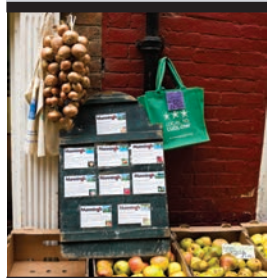
London Region on a number of ideas which I very much hope will come to fruition in the coming months and one or two people around the country have offered to help arrange long weekends the details of which I hope we will be able to announce shortly. And, of course, there will be the usual Spring Weekend in May, details of which you will find further overleaf.

All of this cannot be done without the time and effort of the Committee. A couple of the current committee members have made it known that they will be resigning come the AGM so there is an urgent need for some new volunteers. In particular we are looking for a new Treasurer and someone to take over as Editor of *Travel Log*. What is required is an enthusiasm for travel photography so that we can provide a range of activities that help you, the members of the Group, develop your own photography in this area. Please get in touch with me if you are interested in joining the Committee.

In the meantime, Happy Travelling in the year ahead.

Below: One of Colin Howard's successful "A" panel submission - more in the May issue!





Spring Weekend 10-11 May 2014, Ludlow

Provisional Programme

Friday 9th May

12.00 am Two options: either

a. Talk and walk around historic Ludlow, or

b. Travel distinctions workshop

Saturday 10th May

9:00 Coffee and reception

9:45 Chairman's welcome

10:00 Lecture: Clare Carter

11:00 *Coffee*

11:30 "How I got my A"

12:30 *Lunch*

14:00 10 min soapbox presentations

15:00 *Tea*

15:15 Lecture: Kimberley Coole

17:15 Close

19:00 Dinner at The Feathers Hotel

Sunday 11th May

9:15 Chairman's welcome

9:30 Report on Group Trips

10:30 Lecture: Gary Groucott

11:30 *Coffee*

12:00 10 min soapbox presentations

13:00 *Lunch*

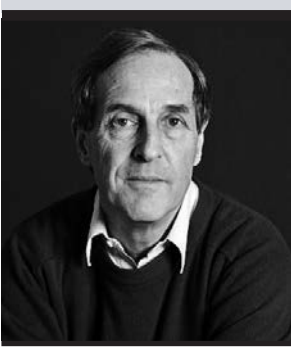
14:00 Members' competition and presentation

15:00 Close

The Annual General Meeting of the Travel Group will follow at approximately 15:30. All members are welcome to attend and registration for the weekend is not necessary. Agenda and papers to follow. Please contact the Secretary if you wish items to be placed on the agenda.

Ludlow - the Assembly Rooms are in the white building to the lower left of the picture, close to the entrance to the castle (see September issue of Travel Log for more on the town!)





Berlin Revisited

Tony Cutler

Berlin like most big cities presents the photographer with two problems; where to start and when to finish. Our first visit was 23 years ago at a time when much of the city was enclosed by a high wall. It did not matter in which direction you walked, within a short time you found yourself running into the wall. Today everything is open and you can walk or ride wherever you wish.

We travelled by train this time and the first impressive building that you see when you arrive is the new main railway station. Originally named the "Lehrter" station and today a glass palace combining national and international rail, the local "S" railway and the underground. Needless to say that we got lost in this maze of escalators, lifts and walkways.

A tour around the city on a sightseeing bus helps give an initial orientation. Thereafter it is a matter of choosing the best transport method, including walking.

Pieces of the wall can be seen in many areas but

the only substantial stretch remaining is to be found in the south east of the city. There is a bridge, "Oberbaumbruecke" crossing the river Spree and from the west side of the river you get a good general view of the wall. Once close up you can admire the many pieces of graffiti.

After many years of discussion a memorial was erected in memory of the jews on an area not far from the parliament buildings. It consists of concrete blocks of varying sizes arranged in rows. The idea behind this design was to provide a place of peace and tranquillity, away from the everyday traffic and noise. Unfortunately it has become a picnic and play area with children running between the rows of blocks and springing from one to the other as they play hide and seek.

Most if not all Jewish cemeteries and synagogues were destroyed during the Second World War. The New Synagogue in the Haeckische area of Berlin has been rebuilt and close by there is an old cemetery with a group of statues at the entrance.

One memory of the earlier visit were the ruins of

Below: Oberbaum Bridge



the “Gedaechnis Church” but to my disappointment the church is now completely hidden by scaffolding as repairs are urgently needed. The small chapel adjacent to the church is open and there we saw a cross of nails made from nails found in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral.

The parliament building with the Sir Norman Foster designed glass dome is a centre of attraction and close by the Chancellor’s offices can be seen.

The story goes that the “Currywurst” was created in Berlin and although I refrained from eating one a typical currywurst stand always has many customers.

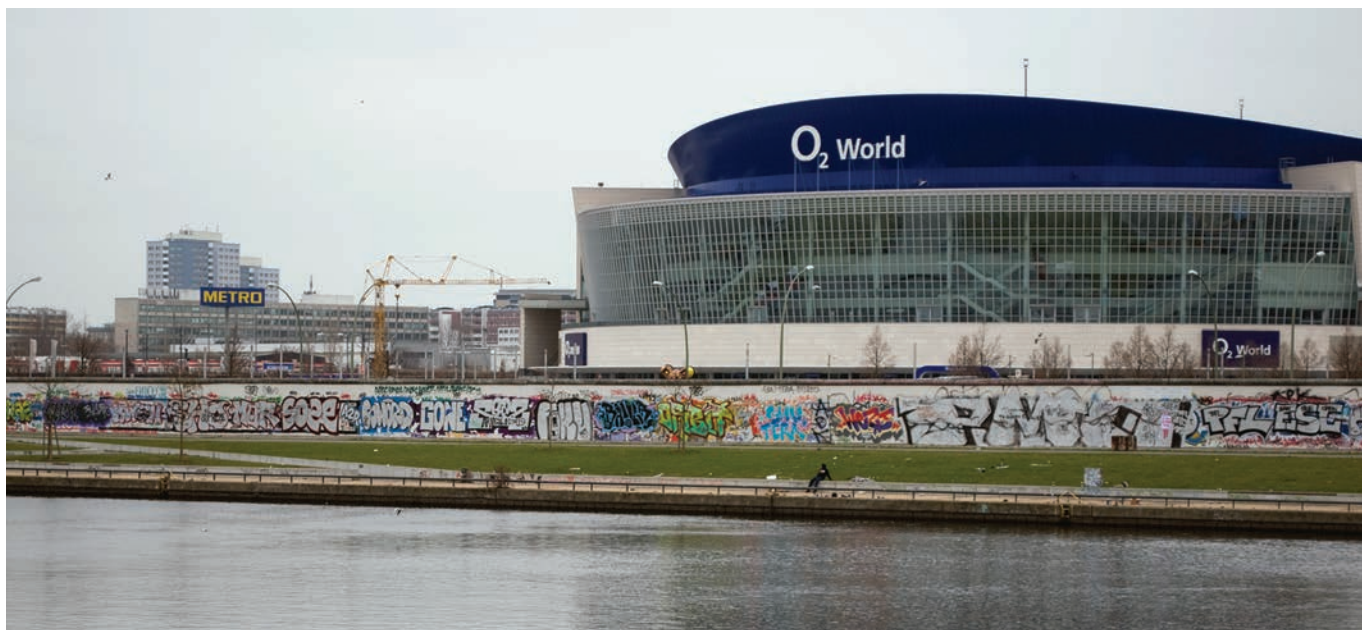
A visit to the superstore KaDeWe is a must although the New Year crowds made shopping more

than a little difficult. Six floors of luxury goods with a restaurant on the top floor glazed to show wide views of the city of Berlin.

Nearby is the Wittenburgerplatz underground station which was the first to be built in Berlin, the only change being the pedestrian area is now replaced by a roadway. The kiosk below ground level looks exactly the same as when it was first constructed.

Finally a visit would not be complete without visiting the Brandenburger Tor and the nearby famous Adlon Hotel.

A short visit this time but one to be repeated in the not too distant future.



Top left: Currywurst stand

Top Right: Monument in the Old Jewish Cemetery

Bottom: The remains of the Berlin Wall on the east side of the river



Berlin Revisited (contd)

Above: Main Railway Station

Left: Underground newspaper kiosk

Below: Parliament building

All pictures by Tony Cutler





How I achieved my Associateship in Travel Photography

Julie Calvert ARPS

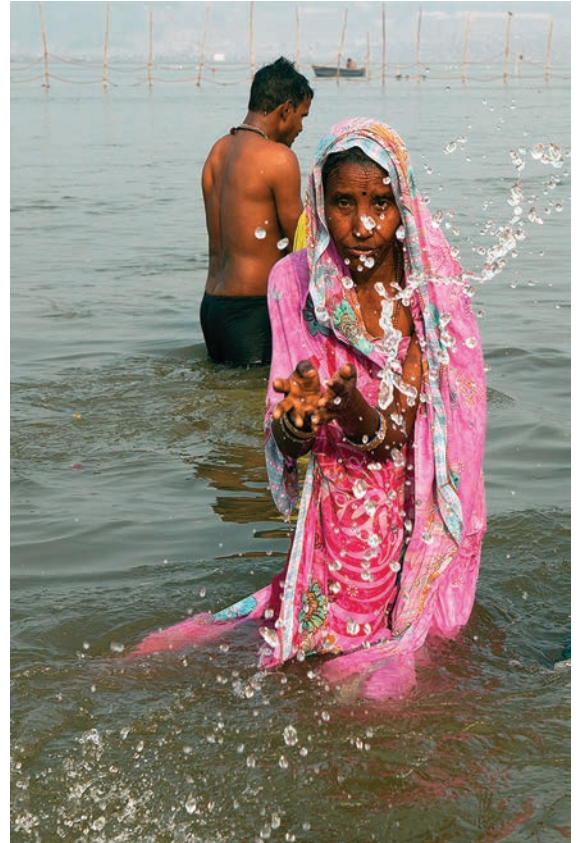
Satement of Intent

From the brightest of colours to basic housing and extremely hot conditions, from rituals and festivals to the simple every day life and from the wide-eyed kids to the lined elderly, the people of central and northern India fascinate me and I wanted to photograph the regionally diverse and interesting villagers I met on my travels.

I would sometimes take a 'discreet' picture but I really enjoyed talking to the villagers and learning about their lives. Although we often didn't understand each others' spoken words, we usually managed to connect and find some common ground via gestures, broken English and Hindi, and humour. I persuaded them not to pose for me but to continue doing what they were doing, to forget I was there. I wanted candid images but in most cases I took my picture at the exact moment when the camera caught their occasional, spontaneous glance in my direction.

Below: Julie's Hanging Plan





All Photos by Julie Calvert, ARPS

On page 12 Julie has provided a running commentary on the assessment held last July - essential reading for all aspiring towards an "A" in travel!





Julie has provided a diary of the assessment held on 1st July 2013, as follows:

10.15am We are allowed up to the assessment room. I have counted about 13 candidates and there are probably a few from overseas or around the UK who are not present. I am feeling neutral: pretty good actually as at least I am submitting a panel. I had left my case of images on the train on Saturday but thankfully we were reunited after a very stressful few hours when I had resigned myself to withdrawing.

10.30am We are introduced to the four judges by the Chairman and the first panel of 15 images goes up. It's a very striking panel of very small monochrome images in 50 x 40 cm mounts taken in Barrow in Furness. Wonderful to see, a great panel. The judges said it was a nice story of time and place which is key for travel photography and they commented on the striking compositions. Goes to show you don't have to leave your home country or home town to do travel photography.

10.55am I am excited at seeing wonderful images taken in different parts of the world. There has been an Indian panel and a panel of the Karakoram mountains. The judges commented on being able to see and feel the environment, see a representation of life, good variety, some over-sharpening for the personal taste of one of the judges but it wasn't terminal as both of these panels were successful.

11.05am Another Indian panel. I'm starting to feel sick. I don't want the judges to have India fatigue by the time they see mine! The judges commented on a few slight technical issues: not quite sharp in one image and some small colour management points in others, however there was a good sense of time and place together with a good variety and photographer input so on balance it was passed. The Chairman joked and said 'by the skin of its teeth'. I relax, I think my panel will be OK, these judges are being reasonable.

11.15am Bolivia markets panel goes up. The images are all shot in the market and they are quite similar in composition. The judges comment on the repetition, some print quality issues on a few of the images, over-sharpening has created a poster effect and loss of the isolation of subjects and natural depth of field, compositions not very adventurous. Regrettably this one is not passed.

11.30am Scottish Highlands panel goes up. It's really dramatic, very exciting colours, not the typically painterly landscapes I've been seeing lately. The judges comment on some over-saturation, possibly, in some parts, compositionally very good, very good use of light, different viewpoints and techniques, high impact images. James looks relieved when he is told his panel gets a Distinction. I loved it.

11.35am My heart sinks: yet another Indian panel goes up. Lots of mood, perfect choice of aperture, strong technically and artistically, great luminosity, processed beautifully. Once again, very different to my Indian panel, yet to be shown. The judges love it. As do I, but my heart sinks. I need a Valium.

11.50am Thankfully not India, Winchester gets through. A few images a touch dark in the Lowlights but sufficient variety of images, the panel meets the criteria of travel in that the images make you want to go there.

11.55am Real Cuba goes up, but although the subject matter is good there are some technical issues: blue colour cast, too

much sharpening on some of the images, not processed to Associate standard. It doesn't get through and unfortunately the next panel is Cuba as well so I feel very sorry for this photographer.

12.12am Cuba in monochrome. There's a lot of discussion between the judges about the style and I can just hear a couple say it has been the photographer's conscious style decision to stylise like this, (gritty). Yeah, bring it on I'm thinking. Their verdict is 'good seeing eyes', a real mixture of different images, gritty printing style may not be to everyone's taste, there's a story in every picture. It's through. I liked the panel and although my panel is mainly colour, this panel is bold and I like the fact that this gritty panel got its Distinction.

12.20pm Tenerife doesn't get through. The judges say it is a bit too record shot, not much mood or photographer input. Needs more variety in composition, less sharpening.

12.25pm Bold India goes up, completely different images to the other Indian panels that have gone before. They're mine. It's my panel! I see two judges smile at each other. What does that mean? What are they thinking? Not another bloody Indian panel? Goodness, look at those colours/ that style? I wish my portfolio had stayed on the train!

12.28pm My statement of intent is read. As always the judges get up and take a closer look at the images, taking them down, poring over them, putting them back. This seems to take an eternity. I look at the images and I think they look good. I would, wouldn't I? Good comments from the judges: the images give a sense of involvement between the photographer and the subjects, you want to travel there, good techniques, they liked the spitting shot, the slow shutter speed and the composition of the pilgrims in No. 2. One of the judges questioned why I did the central image in monochrome, she wouldn't have but that was her taste. Very complimentary. I'm through! I thought I'd be excited but I'm just numb, and grateful.

12.38pm Venice goes up and I can go back to enjoying the show. Quirky style, creative eye, lots of photographer input and variety. It's a good panel and it's different. Colin is through.

12.45pm China and East Asia goes up. It's a really exciting panel, one of my favourites. The Chinese photographer is not present as I would have loved to have talked to him/her. The judges say "very powerful panel, some sequencing issues which we can all see but this is accommodated because the overseas photographers don't have the same access. The panel has lots of energy. A well deserved Distinction.

1.05pm Mount Bromo, Java goes up. Another full on gloss production, high impact, Chinese/Indonesian photographer not present. I loved it. Beautiful light throughout, some discussion as to whether one of the images may be a composite which is tantamount to fraud in Travel or Wildlife photography, but inconclusive and this wonderful panel gets its Distinction.

1.30pm Decamped for an Italian lunch by the river and a read of the papers lying on the grass in Bath's wonderful park. It's a gloriously sunny day. Summer is a great season to do your assessment and to visit Bath!



Baja California and the Sea of Cortez

Gordon Follows ARPS

For many years now, both Judith and I have travelled extensively, sometimes for culture but often in the search for wildlife, and during these travels have occasionally been fortunate to encounter whales. Most of these sightings however were brief and not very satisfying, a blow here and a tail fluke there, so in 2013 we finally decided it was time to make a more determined effort. After considering several options we eventually chose the eastern Pacific Ocean and a journey down the coast of Baja California and into the Sea of Cortez in search of marine mammals and large whales in particular.

The journey started from San Diego (we disembarked in Cabo San Lucas on the southern tip of the peninsula, thus avoiding the potentially uncomfortable return journey against the current up the Pacific coast) and our home for the next twelve days or so was an 88 foot boat, used in the main for game fishing, and aptly named the “*Spirit of Adventure*”. We soon adapted to a life at sea, the constant movement and extremely limited personal space. The pattern of daily life aboard was to take breakfast before sunrise in order that we could spend two or three hours ashore either birding,

snorkelling or just exploring before it became too hot - clear skies and temperatures between 20° and 30°C were the order of the day in March/April 2013. The rest of the day was then devoted to searching for whales and other wildlife.

Most of the shore excursions were to uninhabited islands where we found both Californian sea lions and northern elephant seals, a number of endemic Mexican birds and some interesting arid landscapes; Santa Catalina Island with its forest of tall multi-branched cardon cacti was particularly memorable.

The search for whales, however, was the main focus and once located, the on-board sonar could be used to predict where the animals were likely to surface and therefore offer the best views. Blue, grey, fin and humpback were the four species of baleen whale encountered whilst both common and bottle-nosed dolphins were regularly seen. Although photography of whales is most challenging (unless you are either under water or in an aircraft!), the presence of dol-

Below: The Spirit of Adventure



phins in schools several hundred strong made for great excitement as they rode both the bow and wake waves. On such occasions they offered great opportunities for action shots, providing you learnt to anticipate where they would surface and your camera/lens combination was capable of focussing very quickly! I found that a Nikon D3s plus a 300mm f2.8 lens was a suitable combination.

However, the highlight had to be the two days we spent in the San Ignacio Lagoon on the Pacific coast of the peninsula where the grey whales congregate in the winter months. Here they give birth and then nurse their calves before making the 10,000 kilometre return journey to feeding grounds off Alaska and the Sea of Okhotsk. Amazingly for a species which had been hunted extensively until recent times (the Atlantic population was exterminated by the early 18th century), the animals' relationship with man has changed so much that the cows regularly approach the pangas with their young, often appearing to push the young whale to make contact with the boats and their occupants. To be able to have such close encounters, to smell and even touch these magnificent animals was a real privilege and made up for all the disappointment of previous years.



Top: Elephant seals lounging

Above: Common dolphin

Right: Blue whale surfacing off the bow!





Above: Close encounter with a grey whale calf

Below: Santa Catalina Island





A Trip to Belfast - Where are you going?

A city in transition as depicted by mural paintings

Pia Thommes LRPS

My partner has been living in Belfast for a few years and I took the opportunity of regular visits to get to know this fascinating and in many respects pretty city as a travel destination close to home. Walking and driving around with my camera it was almost impossible to ignore the aspects of segregation between Republican and Unionist communities. Flags, painted kerb stones, murals and memorial gardens were clear reminders even to the naive visitor in which part of the city he is visiting. That's when I started a project photographing the murals that Belfast is so well known for.

As a visitor you are very aware of the history and tensions among Belfast communities and at times I felt very self-conscious walking around with my camera. Many times I was walking down empty roads, where I saw curtains moving, doors opening and quickly closing again. Driving around in a car with an English number plate made me conspicuous in Republican areas and we often stopped only for minutes to take a few hurriedly composed frames. On several occasions I got a 'silent salute' when passers-by noticed that I was taking photos and covered their faces with their hands.

But there were those other encounters as well: a

person cycling through a gate in the Peace Wall stopped in the pouring rain and got me involved in discussions about the separation of the communities and how silly it all was. A lady saw me taking photos of a Remembrance Garden in Mount Vernon and proudly told me the story of how the community built this garden together. And when I took a picture of the mural in memory of Sean Maguire, an Irish fiddler, a man on top of a step ladder came down and told me what a nice guy this fiddler had been.

There was also the struggle with the Belfast weather. Changeable at its best, it seemed to be determined to stop me from photographing. Several shoots were done under rather wet conditions and I was struggling to keep lens and gear dry. More than one photo got deselected, because of big raindrops on the lens. Running around with the camera tucked under a coat or jumper didn't make me any less suspicious to an observer. If it wasn't raining the light was very low and while this could result in very warm images I had to increase the ISO to 400 most of the time to get decent handheld exposure.

Below: This is one of the most sinister murals situated at the end of a terrace: walking up the hill the visitor stares into the gun openings of the masked men.



Right: Workers-inspired mural

So what is so special about the murals in Belfast? The tradition of depicting religious and historic scenes on the walls of their houses goes back to the early 20th century in the run up to the partitioning and independence of Ireland. Every year on the 12th July the Loyalist Orange Orders celebrated (and still celebrate) the victory of protestant William of Orange over James of England and Scotland in the Battle of the Boyne and the houses along the routes were decorated with images of Prince William and other historical and religious scenes. During "the Troubles" these traditions increased, in particular depicting fighters of the various paramilitary forces e.g. UVF, UDA and UFF.

The tradition of murals on the Republican side is much shorter and really only started with the Troubles in the late 1960s. In particular when 10 Republican prisoners died after a hunger strike this became the principal subject of republican murals.

The quality of the murals is very variable: some are very crude, rather ugly portrayals of military leaders and gunmen painted in bold shiny colours. A popular topic is the silhouette of World War I soldiers against the sky. The more recent ones have become



very elaborate; it's obvious that they have been painted by professional artists. A replica of Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" on the Divis Street Peace Wall is the first mural that is the combined effort of a Republican and a Loyalist artist.

The murals have changed over the years and are a living documentary of political and cultural life in Belfast. The most notorious ones are the militant ones from either side, be it the newly painted gunmen on Newtownards Road or the salute fired over the Tricolore covered coffin of Bobby Sands in Whiterock Road. Both sides pay tribute to fallen civilians of the Troubles as well as showing pictures of the leaders of their militant organisations. There are the memorials to fallen soldiers, particularly of the First World War and the Battle of the Somme in Unionist Areas, but more

recently including the ones from the Afghanistan War. The historical ones refer to the Battle of the Boyne, William of Orange and the Conquest of Ulster and there are still a few Oliver Cromwells left. On the Republican side there are reminders of workers' issues, the hunger strikers, but also reminders of peoples' struggles all over the world. This is particu-



Left: Part of the Peace Wall in Divis Street



Above: The “Mona Lisa” mural in the Lower Shankill Road, so-called as the gunman appears to be pointing directly at the viewer, regardless of direction



Left Centre: A celebration of the Easter Rising in 1916, which led ultimately to the founding of the Irish Republic



Left: One of the recent conciliatory murals: A boy from protestant East Belfast holding hands with a girl from catholic Short Strand

larly the case on the Peace Wall at the lower end of Divis Road, that almost has become the art gallery for the issues of the world from environmental to political ones, a small scale version of what the Berlin Wall used to be. Many of the more recent Republican murals show beautiful images of figures of Celtic legend as the mythical King Nuada in Whiterock Road. And then there are the images calling for reconciliation, understanding and tolerance – witness to the fact that the communities have moved on despite the occasional backward movement.

The murals have been evolving continuously, as can be seen when comparing the current ones with older documentations. Images have been refreshed, altered and painted over during the years. Recent efforts have focussed on dialogue between communities, aiming to replace the more militant murals with more “modern” conciliatory ones, although such efforts have not always been successful.



Forthcoming Trips

Aline Hopkins

Since the last issue of *Travel Log* some changes have been made to forthcoming plans in response to feedback. The trip to Northumbria will still take place during the week 7th to 14th June but the location has been changed to Alnmouth. We have chosen to base ourselves at Bilton Barns, which offers a mixture of bed and breakfast in the farmhouse, plus self catering accommodation in cottages close to the farmhouse. If anyone else wishes to come along please check www.biltonbarns.com for availability and to book, and please then let me know so that I can stay in touch with you about meetings and outings.

After various discussions, it has been decided to shelve the Yellowstone trip until 2015. There is also the possibility of a trip to China next year (in conjunction with Light and Land). Much depends on how many people are interested, so if you are interested in going to either Yellowstone or China please let me know. As for this year, we are looking instead at running a trip to Western Canada in the Autumn of 2014. I'm sorry if this sounds vague at present as I am still looking at various options. Several people have expressed an interest and it looks likely this trip will run, even if

numbers are small, so if you are interested in this trip please let me know so that I can keep in touch with you as things progress.

I am also looking at the possibility of a tour to Madagascar in early 2015, again I have several expressions of interest, if anyone else is interested in hearing more about this trip please get in touch with me at alinelhopkins@btinternet.com.

Plans for 2015 are also in hand to run a weekend in Conwy in Wales, a weekend in Cornwall: and the possibility of a week in Scotland is also under discussion. I can't give any more details at this stage but again if you are interested in any of these please let me know. And of course, we have the Spring Weekend coming up in May in Ludlow, where I hope to see many of you and hear about your travels and travel suggestions.

In Summary:

2014 Burma - Ludlow - Northumbria - Western Canada

2015 Conwy - Scotland - Madagascar - Yellowstone or China?

Right: The Gateway to Northumbria - Durham and its Cathedral



Digital Forum - Round 26 Result

The winner of Round 26 is Jonathan Ratnage with his picture of "Rajasthan Man"



Would you like to join the Digital Forum?

The Digital Forum consists of a group of like-minded photographers who are also members of the Travel Group. The aim is to be a forum for its members to upload their images, and then receive constructive criticism on that image. The Forum is only accessible by those who are a member of the group and as such it takes the form of a digital blog.

Once a quarter an image is uploaded by each member on to the digital blog. Everyone then comments on the images on the blog, and scores awarded. The image with the highest marks is then published in *Travel Log*. Currently, there are approximately 10 members who contribute on a regular basis. The only criterion is that each image must be on a travel-related theme. All members of the RPS travel group are welcome to join the group and Hazel Mason is happy to answer any questions: if you would like to join, please send an email to: hazel.mason39@btinternet.com

The Travel Group Website? This is now located at <http://www.rps.org/travel>

Back copies of *Travel Log* in pdf format can be obtained from the Editor. You will find details of events and Travel Group activities on the RPS website. There is also the opportunity to display your own portfolio of travel photographs.

