

# RPS Documentary Group Bi-monthly competition

January, 2020

## Angus Stewart- Double Bass - Winner image

This is a shot from an ongoing project on cabaret and burlesque in London. This particular shot was taken at a charity show raising money for Cabaret vs Cancer in North London - the performers worked with the band to create original acts for the show, in this case the performers costume was a 'big bass'. I particularly liked this shot as the cabaret performer is 'mirrored' with the musician behind. The band gave the whole show a 'speakeasy' feel - it was a great evening for a great cause.



## Valerie Mather - Blue chair Middlesborough



The image was taken in a loading bay in Middlesborough city centre. The chair placed there by people for their cigarette breaks. I like the image because it is empty of people and yet it was clearly taken in an urban space. I took 3 shots but in this one the harsh light is spilling across the chair at just the right moment, highlighting the point of interest and contrasting nicely with the dark shad-

ows and textures in the image.



## DR David Pechey - Searching the skies

Jodrell Bank Observatory was created a UNESCO World Heritage Site in August 2019. Being within an hour of home I wanted to record this high-tech research installation resting in the gentle Cheshire countryside. A couple of visits produced several fairly predictable photos of the imposing radio telescope against alternately blue skies and stormy clouds. But I felt none of them fully reflected the mood of the UK's major site seeking signs of extra-terrestrial life. With the site closing at dusk I went again and waited for the setting sun to pass behind the Meccano-style structure supporting the main dish to capture some of its unworldly atmosphere. EXIF Data: Nikon D7100; 16-80 mm Nikon lens at 30mm; f8 and ISO 400; 1000th sec





## Daniel Simon - Untitled



This shot is part of an ongoing series about life in the traditional villages of the United Arab Emirates far from the glitter and glitz of Dubai. Along every highway in the UAE, there is a camel-proof fence. Once you get past the fence, you find traditional Emirati villages untouched by tourism and a way of life that owes more to the Bedouin than the seven-star hotels and indoor ski slopes of Dubai or the international galleries and the palaces of Abu Dhabi.

In the village of Lubsah in the Emirate of Umm Al Quwain, life revolves around camels. There is a camel racecourse, several camel-specific vets and a camel fertility centre. The village itself is quiet on a Friday morning, the only movement a seemingly stray camel rooting through the bins by the solitary row of shops that serves the few residents. Everybody else is away at the races.



Lorraine Poole - The Painted lady



I had the pleasure of meeting this lovely lady a couple of weeks ago. She contacted me to get some photos done of her amazing body art. At 70

The venue was her own house utilising an adjustable bed and spotlights as well as daylight from a large window. ISO 1600, f/4.5, 73mm, 1/60th sec. Canon EOS 6D, EF 24-105mm L.



Ian Tasker - Chargrilling Artichokes Sicilian Style - Highly commended image



Near the fishmarket in Catania, a local man poured olive oil over his artichokes to augment the charcoal fire grilling process. Antipasto in the making.





## John Smith - The Big Wheel build



Background: For four years I have been documenting Hull Fair and this year i was able to access the site whilst the rides were being assembled. This particular 'Big Wheel'was making its first appearance at the fair and I was keen to record its 'build'. You can see from the scale that the two construction engineers are dwarfed by the central spindle as it is being lowered carefully into place.



## Katherine Maguire - Damaged retinas

This image is part of my work towards a ARPS panel. I suffer from a disease that can cause blood vessels to form on my retinas, which in turn cause damage and leave behind scars. The scarred areas of the retinas are no longer able to process light correctly. The scars have developed on the edge of the macular of each eye. This has resulted in my central vision is being blurred, as the brain uses this vision to focus the light that falls on the rest of the retina, my whole vision becomes blurred.

By combining two images taken at the same time, I am attempting to illustrate what it is like to live with damaged retinas. Using a 50 focal length lens, an aperture of f2.2 at a focus distance 5m on half of the image is produced to represent how I see the world, with only within 10 metres being in focus. The second half is then taken by changing the focus distance to infinity and changing the aperture to f10 and then combined to create one image.





## John Dilworth - Free Hugs



The images was taken on 25/10/2019 in Newcastle City centre with my Fuji XT-20, 1/160sec, f4.5, 400iso.

On a Street Photography outing in the city, I came across two young women who were stood next to Greys Monument. Each held a small placard offering free hugs to passers by on a particularly dank, cold Saturday afternoon. There were plenty of takers and a lighthearted mood created which I tried to capture in this image of one of the 'free huggers'. I think the shop sign helps to

reinforce the warmth of the couples embrace.



## Sue Surita - Littlehampton Skate Park



Inspired by my first meeting of the South East Documentary Group, I decided to embark on a project photographing the ordinary kids at skate parks. I have been to the Littlehampton skate park a few times now, each time with a different lens, and each time there have been different characters there, although some I now recognise as regulars. On each visit these guys have been more than happy and comfortable to be photographed, and in fact couldn't wait to show me their skills and tricks. I even have a few 'follow' me on Instagram now, one of whom referred to me as being 'sick with the snapper'.

This particular photo for me sums up what this place is about.



## Stephen Bywater - Red chairs Birmingham



I drove past this scene and did a double take. I turned around, got out and composed a shot.

The road is on the back streets of Birmingham, near to Digbeth. The streets were deserted, but these three red chairs and one rogue chairs gave away the only indication that someone should be around.

The chairs were so red, uniform and the blue doors & wheelie bin,

strong shadow into the entrance just made an interesting composition that left me wondering. I'm guessing they might be used as bollards or a barrier to stop people from parking across the entrance of the warehouse. Or maybe the break time chairs that catch a bit of sun.





## Mark Adams - Xbox generation - Highly commended image



Walking around east London one Saturday afternoon i came across this deserted tired looking playground attached to a block of flats. The collection of deflated ownerless balls filled me with a sense of sadness... was this the fault of xbox, Netflix, gangs?



## Malcolm Sales - Someone to love



Someone to love was shot in Nottingham's Market Square area. I saw this homeless person sitting with all his belongings drinking from a can. The "cuddly" dog was looking on with such love on its face.

Olympus E-M1 with 14 150 f4.0-5.6 lens. iso200, 135mm, f5.6 at 1/30sec.





## Andrew Spackman - On the March



This photo is part of a project recording the Brexit demonstrations in London during 2019. It was taken on the People's Vote March on 19 October 2019. The overall title of the project may well be Leavers and Remainers, though on this day of the project the Remainers were naturally in the majority. This particular photo emphasises the youthfulness of some of the marchers. It also shows a slogan which I doubt I would have been carrying in public at that age back in the 1950s.

Taken on Leica M240 with 50mm Summicron-M lens, 1/500 sec at f/4, ISO 400.



## Dr John Timbrell - Man's best friend gives warmth

It was taken in Oxford. What appealed to me was the fact that only the dogs feet and man's head were visible and that the dog was really his only comfort.



## Ian G. Wright - Woodcarver - Highly commended image



I came upon a little woodcarving workshop in a small hilltown in Abruzzo, Italy - the 'master' was teaching a young apprentice. The tools on the wall gave a great context for an environmental portrait together with the side-lighting. The sort of workshop which is fast disappearing.





Mike Longhurst - Flying the Flag for Europe



This was taken during forming up of the People's March in London Oct 19. To me it illustrated the commitment and fervor of those taking part.



Alan Horn - rock armour



I am undertaking a photo documentary at Happisburgh, East Norfolk where the cliff erosion is alarming. This image is at the base of one of the cliffs showing the "rock armour" and its limited impact on the erosion.





## Patsy Southwell - Making a Drama of it



I was walking around Bath when I came upon this scene outside the door of the Abbey. I took the picture quickly, then stopped to ask what was going on. The actors were Drama students doing a project. What seemed odd was the passer-by seeming to take no notice of what was happening.



## Stephen Marsh - Street Art by LORETTO



Taken on one of my regular photo walks around Soho. LORETTO is an artist who does a lot of political art work using the stencil technique. They are frequently ruined by tagging but luckily these two escaped this fate.



## Bill Brooks - East and West



This photograph, East and West, was taken in Berlin on December 7th. I saw a group of Trabant enthusiasts driving along Spandauer Strasse. It was raining and my camera was in my bag but I managed to get it out just in time to take this shot of the final vehicle. The juxtaposition of the Trabant - the iconic car of the former East Germany - with the Currywurst stand, an invention of West Berlin, struck me as rather poignant. At a time when our own country is so divided, this very simple picture brought home to me just how monumental an achievement the unification of Germany has been.





AJ Wood - Spiderman



Part of an ongoing project reflecting British people's love affair with dressing up.



Richard Burn - At The Charging Point



The image was taken at the Tate Modern and forms part of a long-term project I am working on documenting people using their mobile phones.





## Neil Johansson - Wings of desire



This photo was taken in Liverpool. I took this for another competition whose theme was The City at Night. I am influenced by cinema, Film Noir in particular. When I saw this moment I thought of the film Wings of Desire.



## Carmel Morris- Waiting

I took this photography in the National Museum of Scotland, the woman was on her mobile phone and I was stuck by the her appearance, - her face, clothes (especially her hat and shoes), - her posture, and the way she was holding her mobile phone as if it was a powder compact! I thought it could be set in a different time and place - especially as a black and white image.

I liked the potential story - who does the sheepskin coat belong to? Who is she waiting for? - a mystery lover? What is she doing on her her phone? - texting? - who? why? Is she a local or a foreigner? - a student perhaps? an artist? maybe she's French?

This is part of an ongoing project about lone people using mobile phones in public places, and so it was something I was looking for whilst in Edinburgh.



## Dawn Clifford - Boxing Day Morris Dancers

These are the Ewell St Mary's Morris Men who braved torrential rain and wind to dance in the streets of Ewell Village, Surrey on Boxing Day 2019.





## Robert Helliwell - Learning



It was taken outside 'Jorvik' in York on a rainy day and the range of expressions from both children and teachers caught my attention. I went to York on purpose to try out my theories on 'Street Photography'. I waited around outside the Jorvik Museum in York and this lot turned up!



## Simon Maddison - Down memory lane



I continue to document Hitchin Market over the years. An historic old outdoor market which in recent years has been in rapid decline.

My image shows shuttered up stalls and empty stands, the only fruit and vegetables are in the van. The publicity board advertises an indoor market "Down Memory Lane" of what some people like to call "vintage" or "classic" goods - basically other peoples' tat. These indoor stalls are in a what was once a flourishing electrical shop itself now the victim of highstreet shopping decline.



## John Gough - Kiosk

This was taken in a bar in Walthamstow London. The bar had previously been a music hall and then a cinema and the original kiosk remained.

EXIF taken on 16/11/19 using an iPhone11

