

Christopher J Caygill
Sandyhills a hot day with Haar

Image on RPS Scotland Group
Facebook page



Dear Members

Welcome to the latest RPS Scotland Newsletter, after a short break last month while our events organiser enjoyed a well-deserved holiday. The Region has been quite busy with events during the last couple of months. Firstly thanks go to Omar Shamma who ran a Camera & Coffee event in Aberfeldy and Trish Roberts who ran two Photo Days in the Northern Region, one to Blackhills Estate, and a second combined visit to Burgie Arboretum and Dunphail distillery. Sam ran a photo visit to Janet Eagleton Kiltmakers in Perth. For anyone who does prints there was an inspiring and educational talk by Mark Banks at the start of April on Paper choices, a subject which is worthy of study in its own right.

In April we held our annual Celebration of Distinctions and Print Exhibition Selection. Eight Scotland members presented their successful panels - four Licentiates and four Associates - with one other Licentiate panel succumbing to software incompatibility with the monitor. This is something we shall look at next time we show digital images.

Members then presented their entries for the print selection, and after three rounds of consideration the final forty images were chosen. Thanks to all who sent or brought images and especially to those who took part. The selected images can be viewed on the RPS Scotland web-site.



We are social! On Facebook as RPS Scotland Group, you will need your membership number to join!

In May we ran an Advisory Day and were pleased to welcome Richard Hall to advise on Photobooks, plus Hazel and James Frost who covered their areas of expertise. A total of 10 prospective submissions were presented giving everyone a good insight into the standard required for the award of a Distinction.

The RPS continues to work on developing the new Distinctions Framework and the target date for roll-out is July. We were planning to hold an Advisory Day later in the year to give you the opportunity for feedback if you were looking at submitting your work for a Distinction during the first half of 2027. However, the advice I have received from Anthony Luvera, Director of Education (who is heading up the roll-out) is to hold off from planning anything at the moment until we know that the pool of assessors are sufficiently familiar with the new framework to be able to offer advice. I am keen to run another Advisory Day as soon as the situation allows, and will provide updates as I have them. To date the Distinctions Working Group have held three sessions; the group includes assessors, members, and external organisations who have expertise in developing assessment criteria and frameworks.

Coming up we have an Isle of Skye two day event at the end of June, and later in the year the 2026 Print Exhibition showing at Edinburgh Photo Society, a Night-Sky Weekend, and two Photoforums (Edinburgh and Nairn).

The submissions to our book project continue to arrive, if you haven't already considered sending an image then do have a look at the information on the web-site and go out and take some images to submit. First entry is free!

Thanks to everyone who is supporting the RPS Scotland events - and do get in touch if you haven't already considered questions, ideas or wish to join us on the Volunteer Team.

One area where we are looking for additional support is our Monthly Competition. The competition has become a popular feature of the RPS Scotland programme, giving members the opportunity to share their work, explore new themes and enjoy some friendly competition throughout the year.

We're looking for a volunteer to help coordinate the competition. The role involves setting or sourcing monthly themes, checking entries against the competition rules, organising submitted images and preparing content for the website. It is not particularly time-consuming, can be undertaken entirely from home, and would suit someone who enjoys being organised and engaging with the work of fellow photographers.

If you've enjoyed taking part in the competitions or would simply like to become a little more involved in the Region, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch for an informal chat about what's involved.



Loxley Colour

Have generously given a 10% discount code for Photographic and Fine Art Prints specifically for RPS Scotland members, single use code LOXLEYRPS10

Please note that other Print companies are available and Loxley is not endorsed by The Royal Photographic Society.

Monthly Competition



Volunteer Opportunity – RPS Scotland Monthly Competition Coordinator

We're looking for a volunteer to take on the running of the RPS Scotland Monthly Competition.

The competition has become a regular part of our programme, giving members a chance to share their work, try new ideas, and enjoy a bit of friendly competition. To keep it going, we need someone willing to take the reins.

The role isn't particularly technical and doesn't require any special qualifications – just someone who is organised, reliable, and enjoys being involved in the photographic community.

What would you be doing?

- Coming up with (or sourcing) monthly themes.
- Checking competition rules and entries.
- Receiving and organising submitted images.
- Making sure entries comply with the guidelines.
- Collating images for the website.
- Helping ensure each month's competition runs smoothly.

The role can be carried out entirely from home and the time commitment is relatively modest, spread across the month.

If you've ever enjoyed entering competitions, voting on images, or simply seeing the fantastic work being produced by photographers across Scotland, this is a great way to give something back to the community.

Most of us on the committee started by putting our hand up to help with a small task. This could be yours.

If you'd like an informal chat about what's involved, please get in touch. We'd be delighted to hear from you.



ISLE OF SKYE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND WITH SIMON DODSWORTH

Friday 26th June to Sunday 28 June 2026

Simon Dodsworth ARPS: Growing up in the austere landscape of the Pennines gave Simon an affinity with simple, graphic, composition which has been a major influence on his image making, in both his personal photographic work and art, and he gained his ARPS in 1992 after being encouraged to apply at an RPS workshop by past president of the Society, John Barsdley.

He is interested in capturing a range of subjects but especially landscape, portraits and architecture. His recent move with his partner to the Isle of Skye was driven largely by the inspiration provided by the mountains and coastline of the island.

A highlight of his photographic practice was having Sir Don McCullin selecting 3 of his landscape photographs, making Simon a finalist in the 2023 Marshwood Arts Awards.

Instagram: @dodsworthsimon

Website: simondodsworth.pictures

A relaxed, inspiring experience for RPS Members. Join us for a two-day photographic journey across the Isle of Skye – one of Scotland's most dramatic and rewarding landscapes. Designed especially for RPS members, this weekend offers a carefully planned route that makes the most of each day while allowing time at key locations to photograph, explore, and enjoy being on Skye.

Whether you're travelling from afar or closer to home, the itinerary is thoughtfully paced, flexible, and accessible, with locations chosen for their photographic potential in a wide range of conditions. Google Maps links will be provided, and closer to the event we'll also share What3Words locations and a few practical tips to make getting around as straightforward as possible.

Why Skye?


Skye offers an extraordinary concentration of photographic opportunities – from reed-fringed lochs and dramatic mountain backdrops to moody coastlines and surreal, otherworldly landforms. It's a place where grand landscapes meet quieter details, and where even challenging weather can lead to truly compelling images.

The starting point on Day 1 is less than 20 minutes / 10 miles from the Skye Bridge, meaning that once you're on the island, the experience truly begins. The overall structure allows for a relaxed arrival and an easy transition into photographing, rather than feeling hurried from the outset.


FRIDAY Day 1 – South Skye: Lochs, Mountains & Coast

The first day explores the southern half of Skye, an area rich in contrast and variety. While there is some driving between locations, each stop is close to the road, allowing everyone to choose how much (or how little) walking they'd like to do.


We begin beside Loch Cill Chrìosd, sometimes called “The Hairy Loch” due to the dense reedbeds that fringe much of its shoreline. These reeds make wonderful photographic subjects in their own right, particularly in softer light or breezier conditions, and offer strong opportunities even if wider views are muted by weather.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CXvmvT6GizA2Ffr7>

From here we move towards Torrin, where the unmistakable bulk of Blà Bheinn (Blaven) rises dramatically above Loch Slapin. The views here are superb straight from the roadside, with optional nearby viewpoints for those wishing to explore further towards the saltmarsh at the head of the loch.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/mjnKusaxR5dkDqN76>

Continuing south, we arrive at Elgol, one of Skye's most celebrated coastal locations. From the beach, the jagged Cuillin dominate the skyline, while looking west opens views towards Soay, Rum and Canna. A short walk along the shore leads to the well-known Joe Cornish boulder, though remaining closer to the beach still offers plenty of rewarding compositions.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/s8EU2mz85gGodZ3u9>

Midway through the afternoon, the pace softens with a visit to Talisker Distillery in Carbost. As well as being an iconic Skye location, the distillery tour provides a fascinating insight into whisky production. Photography is permitted throughout most of the tour, with Driver's Packs available so those driving don't miss out on the tasting. Nearby cafés and pubs offer options for coffee, food, or a short rest before heading back out.


(Distillery tours are optional and subject to availability)

The day draws to a close at Sligachan, a classic Skye location where mountains, river, and moorland come together. Some may choose to photograph the famous bridge, while others might wander further along the river or towards the loch for quieter viewpoints. There's no pressure to do everything – this is a place to slow down, explore, and respond to the light. Food and refreshments are available nearby for those who wish to stay longer.


SATURDAY Day 2 – Trotternish Peninsula: Icons & Hidden Corners

Day 2 focuses on the Trotternish Peninsula, forming a natural loop that works particularly well for those staying in or near Portree.

We begin at Loch Fada, with views across the water towards the iconic Old Man of Storr. While the full walk to the Old Man is fairly strenuous and time-consuming, excellent photographic opportunities are available from lower viewpoints, allowing everyone to choose what suits them best.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/p4nF6EGQQUBaJr8f6>

From here we head to Brothers Point, a lesser-known coastal location that rewards a relatively easy walk with striking views and a sense of space away from the busiest areas of the island. It's a wonderful location for those who enjoy coastal landscapes without heavy footfall.


 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/k2eGs7ZZs9Kega598>

Next is one of Skye's most extraordinary and recognisable landscapes: the Quiraing. Vast, sculpted, and constantly changing with light and weather, it's a place that feels almost unreal. Classic viewpoints are easily accessible from the car park, with no need for strenuous climbing to achieve strong images.

While the main car park can fill up, a lower-level alternative is always available.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/L2zKrn5PDjMZMo5m8>

For those who wish to continue, the weekend can conclude at the Fairy Glen – a compact, magical landscape of grassy mounds and winding paths that feels like Skye distilled into miniature. It's an ideal final location to explore at a relaxed pace and reflect on the weekend's experiences.

 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/BDeqhhuV7ZLJBkp8>

Accommodation

Participants are encouraged to look for accommodation in or near Portree, which is ideally located close to the end of Day 1 and the start of Day 2 on the Trotternish Peninsula, helping to minimise driving and keep the weekend relaxed.

There is also a campervan and campsite at Sligachan for those travelling by van.

Simon & his partner have a B&B and currently have availability although they only have one double room available. picturemaker100@gmail.com

After six weeks travelling through Asia, Borneo, New Zealand and Australia, I'm finally back and easing myself into RPS Scotland life again.

One of the highlights was standing beneath the Milky Way in New Zealand, watching shooting stars streak across some of the darkest skies I've ever experienced. Another memorable moment was visiting Hobbiton. Walking through the famous round green door into a Hobbit hole was one of those occasions where I genuinely gasped out loud. It really was every bit as magical as I'd imagined.

The image accompanying this newsletter is Divided Herd, inspired by a young elephant called Itin that I photographed in Borneo. For a few moments he stood apart from the rest of the herd, creating a scene that stayed with me long after the trip ended. Sometimes a photograph becomes about more than the subject in front of the camera, and this is one I'm still reflecting on.

While I've been away, things have been relatively quiet from my side, which isn't surprising given that I was often on the other side of the world and in a completely different time zone. However, now that I'm back, it's full steam ahead.

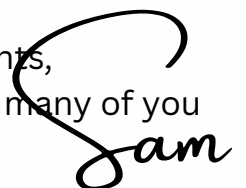
Our speaker programme is now confirmed through to the end of the year and bookings should be available online this week. We have another excellent line-up of speakers covering a wide range of genres and interests, and I hope you'll be able to join us for some of them. Camera & Coffee is also back underway. These informal gatherings continue to be a great way to meet fellow members, share ideas and simply enjoy some photographic conversation.

I'm also looking forward to our Isle of Skye weekend at the end of June. We're delighted to be joined by Skye-based photographer Simon Dodsworth, who will be sharing his local knowledge and favourite locations with us. Whether you're hoping to photograph iconic landscapes or discover somewhere new, it promises to be a fantastic weekend in one of Scotland's most photogenic locations.

The From the Land project continues quietly in the background. Remember, this is a year-long project and there's no rush. Whether you're documenting your local community, wildlife, landscape, industry or everyday life, now is the perfect time to start thinking about the stories you want your photographs to tell. Together we're creating a photographic record of Scotland in 2026, and I look forward to seeing how the project develops over the coming months.

As always, thank you to everyone who supports RPS Scotland by attending events, volunteering and taking part in our activities. I look forward to catching up with many of you over the coming months.

Happy photographing



Divided Herd - Samantha Dearlove



B O R N E O

The land remembers what is taken.
And so does the body.
We are more connected than we allow ourselves to see.





Meet. Shoot. Sip. – Camera & Coffee!

NOW BOOKABLE ONLINE AT RPS SCOTLAND EVENTS BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

It's a relaxed, informal, and a short event all about connecting with fellow photographers

 One meet-up per month (weather permitting!)

-  **Saturday July 11th Inverness Highland Games 10am-2pm - tickets available www.invernesshighlandgames.com**
-  **Saturday 29 August Cross Country Horse Trials Scone Palace 10am-2pm -tickets available sconehorsetrials.com (NOTE: You can apply for media passes for the day as well)**
-  **Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September Isle of Lewis, own accommodation and transport to the Isle. Calanais Visitor Centre and Stones. **TBC****
-  **Friday 2nd October - Sunday 4th October Exclusive use of Garvault House with Andrew Allan, Scotlands Nightsky, plus plenty of wildlife & landscape.**
 -  **November - **To be decided****
 -  **Friday 11 December 10am - 2pm Edinburgh Festivities**

Why join us?

Meet fellow members and enthusiasts in a relaxed setting

Share stories, ideas, and inspiration

Explore new areas with your camera in hand

Enjoy coffee, food, and a welcoming atmosphere

 We'd love your suggestions!

Email Sam at scotlandevents@rps.org if you'd like Camera & Coffee to come to your area, or if you're happy to help host.

Michael Morley



Thursday 25 June 7pm

THE WHIMS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

The street is an accessible stage where people and life are exposed for the pleasure of the photographer. Let's hope that pleasure is never taken away by laws. I thought China would be restrictive, but quite the opposite. In central Beijing, photographers with long lenses fired away at young people beautifully dressed in the latest fashion. In Vietnam, young photographers and aspiring models conducted photoshoots in beautiful clothes throughout Ho Chi Minh City & Hanoi.

For me, the street is an exciting and creative canvas where I'm energised by observing and capturing interesting moments and human emotions. It's a place where I'm always smiling and quite happy sitting on the kerb people-watching while being watched. I'm upset when I'm judged, rejected or there is conflict, but in all the places I've photographed it's been very rare. This talk is about my technique on the street over many years, including that very important ability to engage with strangers, which has usually resulted in positive and enjoyable interactions.

My Background

I grew up at the end of the Northern Line in South London. I was an only child and my parents were unambitious and unadventurous, so at 17 I joined the RAF as an RAF Regiment Gunner. I wasn't particularly clever, ambitious or competitive, but 42 busy years of service helped me progress through the ranks and I eventually left as an Officer with a good pension. My career was diverse: new roles, new places, new teams, new challenges and, occasionally, a new wife!

It was common to be away for eight months of the year, including deployments to Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.

My grandad, who was my stand-in father until I was four, handed down his cameras to me. I've always loved photography and often watched the specialist photographers attached to my teams in conflict zones. My final six-month deployment was to the Falkland Islands, where I was fortunate to travel extensively by boat and helicopter, photographing the wildlife. One evening at dusk we watched petrels gather from the sea in a huge swirling mass. It looked like a Spielberg film. As my friends continued firing away with their modern cameras while the birds disappeared into their burrows, I found myself asking: why am I not doing this as my main hobby? I upgraded my gear, left the service and, after a spell teaching mental health, became a property photographer covering Scotland. The job kept me on the road, but it also gave me the opportunity to photograph Scotland's beautiful landscapes.

Although I enjoy landscape and studio work, people photography remains my passion, especially on the street and during my travels. In many ways, it's a bit like being back on patrol.



Thursday 9 July 2026 7PM

**IAIN MCFADYEN
ARPS, DPAGB, EFIAP/G**

I have had an interest in photography and astronomy since I was a teenager, which was a long time ago!

My photographic interests are mainly wildlife, architecture and landscapes using Canon cameras and lenses. I compete regularly in International FIAP salons and I am currently applying for the EFIAP platinum award. Some of my images can be viewed on my website iainmcfadyen.com. I am a member of the Paisley Photographic Society and have served on the committee in various positions over a number of years. I am also a member of the Astronomical Society of Glasgow and very active in the imaging group there. Since I retired a few years ago I have been able to devote more of my time to astrophotography. All of my images are taken from my home in Kilmacolm and last year I have housed my telescopes in my observatory.

Talk

My talk is on deep space astrophotography where I aim to show the hidden wonders of the universe. I will be discussing nebulae, stars, distant galaxies, comets and solar system objects. I will also cover imaging methods, narrowband and broadband imaging, how to find your way around the night sky, types of telescopes, cameras and mounts required. I will demonstrate and explain how to process these images using free software.



Wednesday 19 August 2026 7PM

CLAIRE CARTER

Perpetually in Motion Part 1.

I believe that landscape photographers have to be in tune with the fourth dimension - the passage of time. This talk illustrates all the forces of nature that create motion and change and discusses how they generate creative possibilities.

Bio

Claire is a working photographer and as such has had to have her fingers in many pies to earn a living, but her passions were always landscape and studio botanical subjects. For the last 15 years she has run workshops in the UK and abroad and is now focused on running these from her Highland home, which has licenced accommodation. Her website www.carterart.co.uk has her full CV but her successes include **LPOTY, SLPOTY, Scottish Nature Photography Awards and IGPOTY.**

**TBC - September - Peter and Trish
Roberts**

Wednesday 7 October 2026 7PM

DEAN ALLAN

We are pleased to welcome Dean Allan to the RPS Scotland speaker programme later this year.

Dean is a highly regarded photographer whose work has gained recognition in a number of photographic competitions and exhibitions. During the evening, he will share his photography, experiences and insights into his creative approach.

Further details about Dean and his presentation will be announced soon.



Wednesday 25 November 2026 7PM

RICHARD HUNT-SMITH (AKA RICHFOTOGRAFI)

Richard is an Argyll-based photographer specialising in street and documentary photography, focusing on real, everyday moments as they unfold. He has been making one photograph every day since beginning a 365 project in February 2008, a discipline that has helped shape his instinctive and honest approach to storytelling through images.

Much of his work centres on the streets of Glasgow, capturing the humour, character and unpredictability of the people and places that make the city unique.

Alongside his personal projects, Richard has volunteered as a photographer with Homeless Project Scotland for the past four years, creating more than 1,000 images to support the charity's work and raise awareness of homelessness. His photography has documented the efforts of the street team, the night shelter and the experiences of rough sleepers, while also helping to build the charity's image library and public profile.

Organiser's note: While Richard has not requested this, his commitment to Homeless Project Scotland over the past four years has been remarkable. If you enjoy his presentation and would like to support the cause he has documented so extensively, donations to the charity are always appreciated, especially during the winter and Christmas period.

Website: www.richfotografi.com

Instagram: @richfotografi

weekend

Nocturne

WHERE DARKNESS GLOWS: NIGHT SKY
PHOTOGRAPHY AT GARVAULT HOUSE

Andrew Allan - Scotland's Night Sky

FRIDAY 2ND AND
SATURDAY 3RD
OCTOBER

Garvault House
Hotel

Accommodation & Catering – Garvault House
Exclusive use of Garvault House for workshop attendees

Photographic Opportunities

- Chance to photograph the Milky Way under exceptionally dark Highland skies
- Potential for Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) during the stay
- Night sky photography guidance throughout the event
- Daytime photography opportunities including:
 - Local landscape
 - Flora and fauna
 - Wildlife

Room Options

- 2 x single rooms £255 per person for 2 nights
- 3 x double rooms £215 per person for 2 nights

The Stables: Has one shared bathroom

- 1x double room £215 per person for 2 nights
- 1 x twin room (partitioned) £255 per person for 2 nights

What's Included

- Dinner, bed & breakfast
- Afternoon tea
- Light lunch on Saturday

Extras

Dog-friendly accommodation 🐾

Royal Photographic Society Landscape Group Members' Exhibition 2025/26



[See the Exhibition](#)

The RPS Landscape Group is holding its second exhibition of members' work across 8+ locations, starting in May 2025 at Southwark Cathedral, before moving to Bristol Central Library, eventually ending in Scotland in Spring 2026. 80 beautiful prints; from London to Antarctica; land & sea; rural & urban; from big scenes to intimate abstracts.

All venues are outdoors, open 24/7

WASPS, Inverness

2 - 17 May 2026

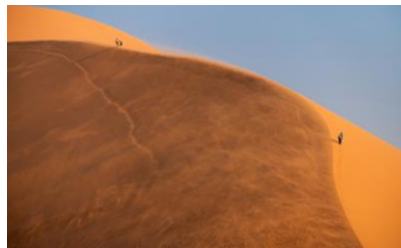
More 2026 dates to be announced



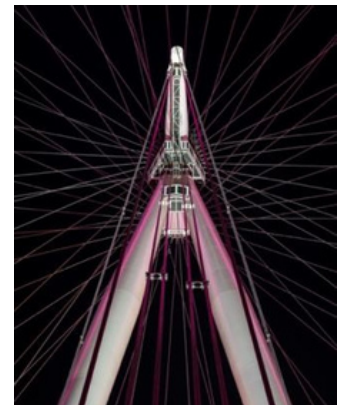
Peter Stott ARPS



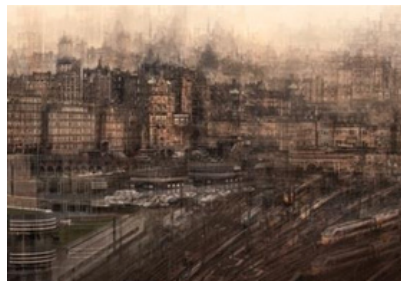
Phillip Dove LRPS



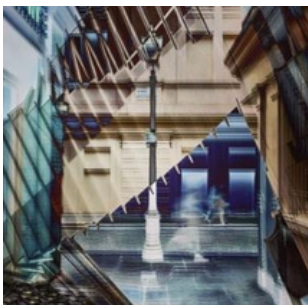
Mark Sims ARPS



Howard Klein LRPS



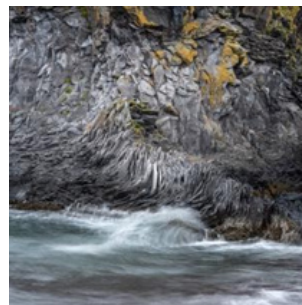
Morag Forbes LRPS



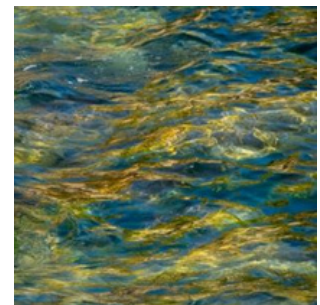
Lesley Peatfield ARPS



Rosemary Wilman HonFRPS



Lindsay Southgate ARPS



Sue Searle LRPS

Founded in 1853, current patron HRH The Princess of Wales, the RPS mission is to bring inspiration, creativity and connection through photography to people of all ages and backgrounds. The Landscape Group has 1200 members and is one of 16 special interest groups.

Website: <https://rps.org/Landscape-EXPO25/> Instagram: [rpslandscape](#) X/Twitter: [@RPSLandscapeExh](#)

Contact: landscapeexhibitionmemberevents@rps.org