Editorial

This month's newsletter comes to you a couple of weeks after our first weekend conference and Annual General Meeting, which I have done my best to report over the next few pages.

Thanks to all who attended and, of course, to all those who contributed to the success of the weekend. A special word of thanks should go to conference organiser Mark Reeves and his partner Gaynor, for the huge amount of effort they made in putting the event together.

The main outcome from the AGM was the addition of Mick Rawcliffe to the committee. Thanks to Mick for stepping forward. Thanks also to Peter Douglas-Jones, a member of the committee since the group started, who has now stepped down.

Also in this month's newsletter are reports on three October field trips, to Stourhead, Aysgarth Falls and the south Wales coast. All three faced challenging weather conditions, as you will see.

Sheelagh Davidson's images from Lombardy take us to somewhat warmer climes, while Mike Basham brings us back to more familiar weather conditions with his images from Hartland Quay.

Finally, if you are thinking about upgrading your gear, look out for Camera World's trade-in offer on page 7.

With kind regards

Jim Souper
Newsletter Editor
Group Conference and Annual General Meeting
by Jim Souper

The Landscape Group’s first weekend conference and Annual General Meeting took place over the first weekend in November. The following pages include short reports on each of the speakers and a few images from both conference sessions and photo shoots. More images from the weekend will be included in next month’s newsletter.

Friday evening session

Following opening remarks from group chair Richard Ellis and a excellent dinner, the highlight of Friday evening was a keynote talk by Charlie Waite.

In a session spanning two hours, Charlie talked about his own photography, ten years of Landscape Photographer of the Year and his recent involvement with Art for Recovery.

Charlie delivered a passionate advocacy of landscape as an art form. He argued that photography is an expression of our emotional response to the world around us, and spoke of the pain we feel as photographers when the image we originally envisaged turns out to be sterile. The challenge is to produce an image with parity to our experience and that provokes an emotional response.

He went on to stress the importance of intentionality over serendipity, while acknowledging that, on occasion, the latter can make a huge difference.

Judging by the applause and discussion that followed the talk, it provided an inspiring start to the weekend.

www.charliewaite.com
Saturday morning session

Delegates attending the Saturday morning session had the choice of a distinctions workshop led by Peter Paterson FRPS or a photo shoot at Winskill Stones with Richard Ellis and me.

The majority of delegates attended the distinctions workshop, some presenting their images, others simply observing. For those unable to attend conference, I hope to include an article by Peter early in the New Year.

Just over a dozen photographers made the trip to Winskill Stones, a half-mile drive from the conference venue. We were greeted by a damp and misty morning, but the cloud gradually cleared during the course of the morning.

The group spread out over a wide area and, with the changing light, were able to capture a variety of images, more of which in the next newsletter.
**Saturday afternoon session**

The Saturday afternoon session featured two speakers - Simon Weir and Jesse Alexander. We were particularly grateful to Simon, who stepped in at short notice when Melvin Nicholson dropped out at short notice.

**Simon Weir - Beyond Visible Light**

**A Journey into the World of Infrared Photography**

Simon's talk offered a fascinating insight into the history, science and techniques of infrared photography as well as sharing his own personal journey into the genre.

We learnt of the origins of infrared photography in the early 20th century, with photographs by Robert Williams Wood appearing in the October 1910 RPS Journal. More recently, the Hubble Telescope had an infrared camera built into it.

Simon offered some excellent technical advice, in particular regarding the types of camera to convert. He feels that mirrorless cameras have been a game changer, as they do not share the focusing issues associated with SLR's. He has used Fuji system for his recent work.

I, for one, was blown away by the quality of Simon’s own work and would recommend a visit to his website.

Overall, Simon delivered a highly entertaining start to the afternoon session. Listed below are a few links to further information, from the fact sheet Simon provided at the end of his talk.

Simon's website - [www.simonweir.com](http://www.simonweir.com)

Simon's book, Beyond Visible Light - [www.blurb.co.uk/user/simonweir](http://www.blurb.co.uk/user/simonweir)

Camera conversions & technical information

Life Pixel (USA) - [www.lifepixel.com](http://www.lifepixel.com)

Advanced Camera Services (Norwich) - [www.advancedcameraservices.co.uk](http://www.advancedcameraservices.co.uk)

Spencer's Camera Services (USA) - [www.spencerscamera.com](http://www.spencerscamera.com)

Kolari Vision (USA & Europe) - [www.kolarivision.com](http://www.kolarivision.com)

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Jesse Alexander - Contemporary Approaches in Landscape Photography

Describing himself as a 'photographer interested in place', Jesse Alexander started the second part of the Saturday afternoon session by talking about some of the photographers who have influenced his own work. The list included Richard Long, Susan Derges, Ingrid Pollard, Joel Meyerowitz, Paul Seawright and Dan Holdsworth, not all of whom might be considered landscape photographers in the traditional sense.

Jesse then went on to talk about how landscape is used, in advertising for example, and how it often references earlier works of art. He discussed the role of photography in promoting tourism and its complicity in overstretching the capacity of popular locations, such as the Isle of Skye.

We learned that Jesse is interested in the use of the pastoral in the representation of the landscape, both in photography and in other forms of art.


https://jessealexanderonphotography.com

Saturday evening session

Show & Tell

Saturday's proceedings concluded with an informal Show and Tell session, where members presented up to 15 of their images in five-minute slideshow. Seven members took part - Dave Glenn, David Rippin, Dawn Black, Jim Souper, Mark Reeves, Rob Duncalf and Richard Ellis.

Galleries of the images presented by Dave Glenn and Jim Souper are available to view on the RPS website using the links below.

Dave Glenn

Jim Souper
**Sunday morning session**

On Sunday morning we were treated to a further two speakers, Steve Gosling and Carol Emmas. Sandwiched between the two speakers was the group's first Annual General meeting.

**Steve Gosling - Lensless Landscapes**


Before talking about his pinhole photography, Steve started his talk by explaining the principles and philosophy behind his work. First among these are emotion and mood - the need to feel what you are looking at. He is not interested in technical perfection for its own sake, and would rather have a Susan Bernstine print than an Ansel Adams. He looks for detail in the sentiment behind an image rather than in the image itself. First and foremost, Steve makes images for himself. There are no rules, only guidelines; there is no right or wrong. So, if it works for you, do it.

Steve then spoke of his pinhole photography, something he feels to be a good fit with his philosophy. He explained that it started as an experiment, to find out just what was possible with a single, simple piece of equipment.

The majority of Steve’s pinhole photographs are made using a wooden and brass pinhole camera, handmade by Zero Image in Hong Kong. There is no lens, no viewfinder and no built in light meter. The only technical decision is the speed of the 120 roll film loaded.

Despite the lack of a viewfinder, composition can be precise. The small aperture of the pinhole (f138) means exposures tend to be long, so reciprocity failure is a consideration and bracketing essential.

Steve touched briefly on digital pinhole photography, with companies such as Pinwide, Holga, Skink Pinhole and Pinhole Solutions all supplying pinhole 'lenses' for digital cameras.

Finally, Steve offered five tips for pinhole photography:

1. Work to the strengths of an image (foregrounds, strong shapes for example)
2. Break the rules - try unusual viewpoints and angles
3. Enjoy taking photographs in all weathers - it does not matter if a pinhole camera gets wet
4. Learn to enjoy the limited control and embrace the unpredictability of pinhole photography
5. Have fun!

[www.stevegoslingphotography.co.uk](http://www.stevegoslingphotography.co.uk)

[www.zeroimage.com](http://www.zeroimage.com)
Annual General Meeting

The business of the AGM was concluded in half an hour.

Group Chair, Richard Ellis (pictured left) delivered a presentation on the progress of the group to date. This was followed by a brief update on the group’s finances, by the Treasurer, John Urquhart.

Votes to accept the group constitution, committee reports and to re-elect committee members were swiftly completed. Finally, Mick Rawcliffe was co-opted to the committee.

Richard’s presentation and the minutes of the AGM can be downloaded from AGM 2017 on the group web pages.

The AGM was followed by a Prize Draw. Thanks to Camera World, Permajet and GMC Publishing for donating prizes in advance of conference. Special thanks to Charlie Waite, who donated a one-day Light and Land workshop and to Steve Gosling, who generously donated a print and two copies of Lensless Landscapes on the day.

Carol Emmas - Photographic Artist

The final conference session was a talk by Carol Emmas, a photographic artist who finds abstract landscapes in the patina of oxidised metals, weathered wood and paint. She explained that taking macro-photographs of textures rather than traditional landscapes, she is inviting her audience to make their own landscapes within the images she has created.

Carol spoke about two projects in particular - the Monthly Series and the Seasons - which no description I attempt here will do justice. She explained that she likes to print on textured paper to give a painterly effect. She also spoke of her inspirations, Howard Hodgkin and Gerard Richter.

A visit to Carol’s website is highly recommended.

www.carolemmas.com
**Sunday afternoon**

After a lunch of soup and sandwiches, most delegates made their farewells and either headed homeward or went to explore the area on their own.

**Malham Photo Walk**

About 15 of us set off for an afternoon photography walk around Malham. Finding the main car park full, most of the group headed up towards Goredale Scar and Janet’s Foss. Those who were able to park walked toward Malham Cove.

I hope to be able to include members' images from the afternoon in next month’s newsletter. The image of Goredale Scar here was made in early October.

**Monday morning**

**Twistleton Photo Walk**

About 15 members had stayed at the hotel on Sunday night. While most headed home or to take photographs along their homeward journey, a small group made there way to Twistleton, above Settle. This offered the prospect of taking photographs towards Ingleborough across the limestone pavement at Twistleton Scar, or dropping down to a waterfall, Thornton Force.

We chose to start at Thornton Force. Sadly, the promising light in which we had arrived was soon replaced by grey cloud. Consequently, the group decided to remain there for the morning, rather than climb up the Twistleton Scar.
Stourhead Field Trip
by Arron Davis

Landscape group members met for an exploration of Stourhead National Trust House and Gardens on 14th October.

It was an overcast day and, while there was some autumn colour, the lack of directional light made capturing an image with impact a real challenge. There was, however, a chance to make some images before the crowds arrived.

It was an informal day, with members free to explore the grounds as they pleased and with the option to meet for coffee and lunch at agreed times.

In addition to the images shown here, a more complete gallery of images can be viewed on the RPS website.
Aysgarth Falls Field Trip
by Jim Souper ARPS

The group that met at Aysgarth Falls on Wednesday 11th October numbered just four, with a number of others dropping out due to the poor weather.

For my own part, I had not seen the falls so full and the sheer power of the water was itself a challenge to photograph, with some of the usual vantage points under water.

Nevertheless, the rain was not as heavy as it had been and we were able to do some photography. Our visit to the National Park centre for lunch was particularly welcome!

Thanks to Geoff Meakin for organising the trip, which he hopes to repeat next year in better weather.
Storm Brian
by Peter Douglas-Jones ARPS

The Landscape Group had an autumn colour event scheduled for 21st October. We would go to the Lower Lliw reservoirs near Swansea. The event was under-subscribed, and all save one fell away in the preceding weeks – leaving just Nigel Goode and me.

The Met Office told us to beware of Storm Brian. 36 hours before Nigel and I were due to meet, we exchanged emails and decided that the storm was too good to miss. We met at 8.00 on the designated Saturday and went in turn to Bracelet Bay in south-east Gower (briefly: very heavy rain), on foot to nearby Limeslade Bay, back to Bracelet, then to the house for a cuppa and to discard (in my case) wet clothes.

We then drove west into Gower and parked at Port Eynon Bay, taking advantage of local knowledge to park free. The storm was memorable, but direct sunlight somewhat an exception. We were back at the house for a late lunch and decided that our exhilarating day might at that point be drawn to a close.

I have seen some of Nigel’s shots, and I doff my cap to him.

A splash at Limeslade © Peter R Douglas-Jones ARPS

Port Eynon Bay, Gower from Port Eynon Mere across Skysea Rocks © Nigel Goode LRPS

Mumbles Head from Bracelet Bay, Swansea © Nigel Goode LRPS

Limeslade Bay, Swansea © Nigel Goode LRPS
Sirmione sul Garda, Lombardy
by Sheelagh Davidson LRPS

"These six shots were all taken in Sirmione sul Garda, in the province of Lombardy Italy. It’s a place I’ve visited many times but I never tire of it. The light here is truly amazing and a landscape photographer’s dream."

Sheelagh Davidson LRPS
Hartland Quay
by Mike Basham LRPS

These images were made on a field trip organised by Derek Stratton, from the SW Region. The weather was dryish if a little blustery, and sometimes we were in danger of being 'blown away', and not just by the scenery!

The tide was high in the morning, giving chance for some 'moody' seascapes. In the afternoon, there was the opportunity to explore the beach, and get close up to some spectacular rock formations. Those of us who stayed for the afternoon were treated to occasional intervals of sunshine. Altogether a most enjoyable day's photography.
Members' Gallery

Whitbarrow Fell © John Patterson LRPS

Pen y Ghent from Winskill © Jim Souper ARPS

Winskill Stones © Peter Phillips DPAGB, LRPS

Pen y Ghent from Winskill Stones © Peter Phillips DPAGB, LRPS

The two images above were made during the visit to Winskill Stones on the Saturday morning of the group’s weekend conference. The image to the right is from an earlier reconnaissance trip.

Submission Guidelines

Please send your Members’ Gallery by email to landscapenews@rps.org.

Please submit your images as jpegs, sized to 72 dpi with 1200 pixels along the longest edge and borderless. It would also be helpful if you would provide a caption and a note of any RPS distinction that you would like to have included in your credit for the image.

The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday 8th December. Thank you!
What's On

Exhibitions

Fire & Ice
King’s Lynn
‘Fire and Ice’ includes images of industrial intrusions into wild nature, melting ice caps, and burning biofuels. It tackles tough subjects to do with the over use of energy and the stress it is causing to the environment. The tensions around the subjects are visualised through beautiful work in photography, installation, film and drawing by Gina Glover and Jessica Rayner. At the Groundwork Gallery until 16th December.

Voices from the Land
Hawes, North Yorkshire
This exhibition of photographs, audio recordings and writing shares the lives and practices of Dales farmers today. What does it take to work this harsh land? What has changed in the last 50 years and how does the future look? Rob and Harriet Fraser and a team of volunteers have collected the work over ten months on farms and at shows and sales. It will be displayed alongside items from the Dales Countryside Museum’s collection until 22nd December.

Doug Scott: High Exposure
London
Doug Scott is a renowned mountaineer and also a remarkable photographer. His body of photographic work is notable for the way it captures the beauty of the world’s highest mountains and most remote views. Doug will, for the first time, be exhibiting in black and white, with several images in wall filling scale. At the D Contemporary Gallery in the heart of London’s Mayfair from the 1st December to the 5th January.

Dark Line - The Thames Estuary
London
Nadav Kander’s personal reflection on the landscape of the River Thames at its point of connection with the sea, through atmospheric images of its slow-moving dark waters and seemingly infinite horizons. At the Flowers Gallery from 17th November to 13th January 2018.

Claire Carter: Where I Stand
Ludlow
Claire is a silent witness to the awe-inspiring, passionate beauty of areas of our planet that most of us can rarely, if ever, visit. Claire takes us on a journey to icy, cold, immense landscapes and to the beauty of the natural world closer to home. At the Photo Space from 25th November until 27th January 2018.

A Green and Pleasant Land
Eastbourne
This major survey exhibition focuses on artists who have shaped our understanding of the British landscape and its relationship to identity, place and time. Exploring how artists interpret urban and rural landscape through the lens of their own cultural, political or spiritual ideologies, the exhibition reveals the inherent tensions between landscape represented as a transcendent or spiritual place, and one rooted in social and political histories. At the Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne until 21st January 2018.

Illuminating India: Photography 1857 - 2017
London
Part of a season of exhibitions and events, at the Science Museum, that celebrates India’s contribution to science, technology and mathematics. From 4th October until 31st March 2018.

Paul Nash and the Uncanny Landscape
York
Paul Nash’s groundbreaking inter-war landscapes which transformed the genre of British landscape painting feature in this new exhibition curated by John Stezaker. The exhibition also includes works by Stezaker including new landscapes created in response to the themes of the uncanny landscape. A private collection of rarely seen Nash drawings, paintings, photographs and ephemera is also on display. At York Art Gallery until 15th April 2018.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 53
London
This year’s exhibition, showcasing the fifty-third year of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, at the Natural History Museum until 28th May 2018.

Conferences, Fairs and Festivals

The Photography Show
Birmingham
Next year’s show at the NEC will run from Saturday 17th to Tuesday 20th March. Registration is not yet open but you can sign up for a reminder.

If you have, or know of, an exhibition you think may be of interest to landscape group members, please email landscapenews@rps.org with details.
EVENTS

An afternoon with Joe Cornish
Saturday 25th November, 14:00 to 16:00
Wrexham
Enjoy an afternoon with highly acclaimed, well respected and renowned photographer Joe Cornish when he visits us here in North Wales. Joe will talk about his work and his pictures and hopefully share some of his experiences. See here for details.

Andy Astbury – Landscapes
Sunday 14th January, 10:30 to 15:30
Chorlton, Manchester
Andy Astbury will both show his work and give an in-depth explanation on how he achieves the image. Organised by North West Region. See here for details.

Image processing for landscapes
Sunday 4th February, 10:00 to 17:00
Bassenthwaite, Cumbria
This one-day workshop will cover post-processing techniques (i.e. processing images on your computer) to get the best from your landscape images. Run by Adobe certified professional Carmen Norman at her Lake District studio, the workshop will cover the use of both Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop. During the lunch break, there will be a short walk in the local area to take some photographs (weather permitting). For full details go to the Group events page, where the workshop will appear shortly.

Nightshoot
Saturday 17th February, 18:00 to 22:00
Bath
Explore the wonders of night time photography during this hands on evening photography workshop. You will learn various creative techniques for working in low light conditions and painting with light. Organised by RPS HQ - see here for details.

Photographing landscape; whatever the weather with Tony Worobiec FRPS
Sunday 18th March 2018, 10:30 to 16:00
Northumberland
The purpose of this course is to alert you to the potential of photographing landscape, irrespective of the weather conditions. Usually run at Bath HQ, Northern Region has secured the opportunity to attend this popular workshop in the north of England. See here for full details.

Landscape Group holiday to Harris & Lewis
Thursday 22nd - Thursday 29th March 2018
Harris and Lewis
Landscape group member and Lewis resident Tim Parish LRPS will be leading this weeklong holiday to Lewis and Harris, guiding participants to some of the well-known photographic locations as well as to a good few that he has researched himself specifically for this trip. See here for full details - please read carefully before booking.

Special access Stonehenge dawn shoot
Sunday 25th March 2018, 6:00 to 7:30
Stonehenge
Following the popularity of this event in March, we are making a return visit next year. See here for details. Please note this event is now fully booked.

Photographing landscape; whatever the weather with Tony Worobiec FRPS
Sunday 10th June 2018, 10:30 to 16:30
Bath
The purpose of this course is to inspire the participant to recognise that each month in the year offers wonderful opportunities for taking great photographs. It aims to be as broad as possible, and features not just pastoral landscape, but recognises that landscape should also embrace agricultural, coastal, industrial and urban locations. To be held at Bath HQ - see here for details.

Could you host an event?
If you know of a promising and photogenic location in your area, and you would be willing to organise an informal session for other members of the Group, please email to rps.landscape.events@gmail.com. We welcome all volunteers and would very much like to hear from members in all parts of the UK.
Event categories

The categories below aim to help members understand what is on offer at any particular landscape group event. They are also a guide for potential event leaders who might be worried that their photographic skills are not sufficiently strong for them to lead an event.

**Group A** – Field trips where the guide has a good knowledge of the location (e.g. good viewpoints, good subjects, good times of day, tides if relevant etc.) and will have ideas about what to do in case of unhelpful weather or light conditions, but does not wish to offer any advice on photography skills or techniques.

**Group B** - Field trips where the trip leader has a good knowledge of the location (as in Group A) but is also willing to offer general technical support and advice to inexperienced photographers. The leader is NOT expected to be an expert in anything but should be sufficiently experienced to pass on knowledge of the basics.

**Group C** - Field trips that focus on a particular technique – such as long exposures or photographing at night. The leaders of these events will primarily offer advice about technique and location knowledge will be sufficient to enable participants to learn and practice the technique(s) concerned.

**Group D** - Workshops that primarily focus on skills or technique and where location is irrelevant or is a secondary consideration. These may take place indoors or outdoors. The workshop leader may have limited knowledge of the location but will be experienced and skilled in the topic of the workshop.

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Booking Confirmations

A few members have contacted us because they were unsure as to whether or not they were booked on an event. Here is a brief guide to how you can check this for yourselves.

When you book a landscape event through the RPS website, the system should send you a confirmation email.

If you have not received it and want to check if you are booked on an event, then login to your account on the RPS website, select the tab labeled events and tick the box for events you are booked on.

Any events you have booked will show up in orange.