Editorial

The main feature of this month’s newsletter is a fascinating insight into the south Australian landscape by Max Melvin, of the society’s Australian Chapter. It seems to be a unique and challenging environment, but also a rewarding one for the photographer.

Closer to home, two islands feature. David Fiddes shares his recent trip to Raasay, while Paul Stone visits his birthplace, the Isle of Wight. There are also reports from two field trips. Mark Reeves reports on the group’s day at Dinorwic Quarry. Carol Palmer writes about the Northern Region’s guided walk along Hadrian’s Wall, which I and other Landscape Group members enjoyed.

Bookings for next month’s weekend conference are now closed. However, there are still places available for Charlie Waite’s talk on the Friday night and, of course, at the AGM session on the Sunday morning.

We are also pleased to announce the group’s first holiday event, a week on Harris and Lewis. Tim Parish, now resident on Lewis, will lead the holiday in March next year.

Finally, thanks to all of you who took the time to complete our annual survey and, in particular, to those of you who have indicated a willingness to help in some way with the running of the group. We will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

With kind regards

Jim Souper
Newsletter Editor

Submissions

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is Friday 3rd November, for publication in the week commencing 13th November. Please note that it may be necessary to hold some submissions for a future newsletter.

If you have an idea for article, please send a brief synopsis of the purpose and content of the piece. Please submit your images as jpegs, sized to 72 dpi with 1200 pixels along the longest edge and borderless.

Please send all submissions by email to: landscapenews@rps.org
Ranging from dense tropical jungles to seemingly endless deserts, Australia has many different landscapes, and all with great photographic possibilities. It is a land long isolated over geological time and it has evolved its own plant and animal forms. The climate is marked by droughts, floods and fires.

There is no typical landscape, but in each portrayal of our land, whether a painting, a drawing or photographic image, there are identifiable features which any Australian can easily recognise. This is a nice feeling of connection with our past and with the landscape, which we like to share with others.

Most of my photography is centred on the south eastern edge of our land. Travel time to get on site here is a major factor. I find it is better to concentrate on the near at hand, particularly if several visits are needed to become familiar with local features. It is also easier to predict what the local weather will be.

Eucalypts, those beautiful, uniquely Australian trees, are included in many of my images for each is an individual. Stark against the sky with strips of bark hanging from the trunks and branches, these eventually will join the forest litter on the ground, fuel for the next bushfire. Even when dead the trees stand stark, their white limbs towering overhead, though inevitably fire or wind will bring them crashing down.

Fire is an ever present factor in the bush and many of our trees and plants have evolved to survive fire will survive and quickly recover their foliage – an almost miraculous rebirth.

For the landscape photographer there are some special challenges: the light often is very bright and the shadows deep. Mists to soften the background are rare. As everywhere, the weather can make life difficult, here it is heat, high winds and rain. In many areas, flooding rains can make roads impassable for days, even weeks.

Despite these difficulties, photographing country areas can be most satisfying. Trying to capture the uniqueness and ‘feel’ of the Australian scene, whether in the tropical north, the forests or scrub, or in the deserts of the inland, there is plenty to keep a photographer interested.
Trees regenerating after a bushfire near Kinglake, Victoria.

River Murray scene near Loxton, South Australia. Gum trees line the banks and are reliant on intermittent flooding.

Anakie hill top, Brisbane Ranges. These stark trees are a feature of much of the Victorian countryside.

A burnt out gum, a common feature in scrublands.

A pathway into the bush.
Poocher Swamp near Bordertown, South Australia. This grand old tree possibly predates European settlement of the region.

A massive gum felled by the wind. The tree, shattered by the fall, reveals the colour of the timber within the weathered exterior.
News Round-Up

Black+White Photographer of the Year 2018

A reminder that the deadline to enter Black+White Photography Magazine’s annual competition is fast approaching. The deadline is midnight GMT on Monday 30 October 2017.

The Black+White Photographer of the Year will be chosen from three category winners: The World of People, The World Around Us and The Creative World.

See here for details.

Scottish Nature Photography Awards 2017

Entries to the Scottish Nature Photography Awards are now open, closing on 30th November.

Last year’s competition featured three landscape categories - The Land, Sea & Coast and Urban Greenspace.

See here for details.

CameraWorld LIVE 2017

CameraWorld LIVE 2017 will take place on Saturday 28th October, at 155 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 3YD. The venue is a large state-of-the-art conference, event and exhibition centre and is located right next to Liverpool Street Station in the City of London.

Billed as London's biggest camera show, there will be a range of exhibitors, seminars (including David Noton and Andy Astbury) and exhibitors plus a number of one day only offers from CameraWorld.

You can click here for free tickets to the show.

Outdoor Photographer of the Year 2017

Entries to this year's Outdoor Photographer of the Year competition are now open, to be submitted by the closing date of midnight on Thursday 9th November.

The eight categories include a new addition - View from Above. This seeks images shot from a drone, helicopter or plane.

Click here for details.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Do you have any news, an award or an exhibition for example, that may be of interest to members? If so, please email landscapenews@rps.org.
Dinorwic Quarry Field Trip
by Mark Reeves LRPS

Dinorwic slate quarry is located high above the town of Llanberis in North Wales. With its origins in the 1780s it was once one of the largest slate quarries in the world and now, although no longer operative as a quarry, its vast scar in the mountainside covers nearly 3 square kilometers.

The quarry presents opportunities for many kinds of photography. The views across the valley to Snowdon and of the lakes below are magnificent for those seeking big landscape views. There are the remains of machinery and buildings for those interested in industrial history. The slate itself can present a beautiful subject in itself, or a backdrop for all kinds of imagery.

On Sunday 17th September members of the landscape group, led by local member Richard Glynne Jones, met up to photograph the quarry and its surroundings. Much of the quarry can be dangerous so the group confined itself to marked trails and public rights of way, but this wasn’t a problem as there is so much to see without venturing further.

Slate, of course, comes in many colours and these are enhanced by wet conditions. On the day there wasn’t any rain but we were lucky to have dramatic and ever-changing skies. Some of the group concentrated on the main areas of slate workings while others went to work around the old miners’ cottages in Dinorwig village. At the end of the day we met up for tea and cakes on the warm sunny terrace of the Lodge Dinorwig cafe and watched the last of the day’s steam trains descending the northern ridge of Snowdon.
Hadrian's Wall Guided Walk by Carol Palmer ARPS

Throughout our region we have some amazing landscape, seascape & cityscape and we intend to offer an ongoing series of guided walks for our members and our first walk took place on Sunday, 17th September on a stretch of the Hadrian's Wall, which included the iconic Sycamore Gap, Crag Lough.

The weather forecast did not look promising with heavy skies and rain suggested but the BBC weather app was wrong again, as we had the sort of conditions photographers enjoy. Dark skies, light shafts, occasional blue sky, some sun and a little rain. Better conditions than had been envisaged.

Geoff Chrisp, our leader checked that we all had food, drink and warm clothing before we set out and briefly told us what to expect of the terrain and mentioned some of the iconic photo stops. The walk was 5 miles with ascents of 366 metres. Geoff admitted he was not a historian but he certainly knows this area very well and with the help of Marj Baillie, who was also the back marker, provided us with lots of information about the Wall.

Leaving Steel Rigg car park was the first ascent onto the Wall and it got everyone’s hearts and lungs working in record time but the views from the top were spectacular. Those of us who live in this area, sometimes take for granted this scenery but seeing it again through the eyes of those new to this part of the world makes us locals look again and really appreciate these stunning vistas.

Stops were made at regular intervals and I think that I can say without contradiction that everyone was in awe of Sycamore Gap and comments were made about the beautiful symmetry of that wonderful tree. And to make it special we arranged for the sun to make an appearance just as we arrived. It was also the coffee stop!

There was much amusement when we were discussing the tree, which was made even more famous in the film Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves. For those of you remember the film Robin arrived in Dover from the Crusades and travelled to Nottingham via our tree in Northumberland, (where he rescued a boy up a tree), closely followed by Aysgarth Falls in Yorkshire! Film producers certainly have a licence to fabricate!

Our next major photo stop was Highshield Crags with views towards Crag Lough with its pair of swans gracefully swimming in the lake and Hothank Farm. It is very exposed here and very blustery and, as it is a steep drop, no one wanted to get too close to the edge.

After lunch, we made our way to Milecastle 37, which is rather special: the arched span of the north gate has partially survived and it was just the place for a group photo and again we were blessed with good light.

From here, we backtracked slightly to return by a different route and were on the north side of the Wall, little used by walkers but with tremendous views of it. We visited the lime kilns with Cuddy Crags in the distance and then the rain came down. We all had a good soaking but then just as we reached the point where Sycamore Gap came into view again the sun briefly made an appearance and out came the tripods with some slow shutter speed images being captured.

Finally, we arrived back at the car park where an enterprising businessman had brought his coffee wagon to provide drinks to any weary walkers not that we fell into that category of course.

All in all, a very successful walk and enjoyed by all.
Raasay - The Hidden Gem
by David Fiddes

Skye is great for landscape photography but it is getting very overcrowded, whereas on Raasay you feel you have the place all to yourself and the photo opportunities are just as good.

We spent the first week of June on the island and I was won over completely. Raasay used to be difficult to get to but since the community took ownership of Raasay House, it is now very welcoming. There is essentially only one road up the spine of the island but one can get to anywhere from it thanks to the excellent Raasay Path Network.

Highlights for me were Brochel Castle, the walk from Fearn to Hallaig, the views from the top of Dun Caan, and the differing aspects of Skye from just about anywhere. But the views from Temptation Hill, just 200m behind Raasay House were exceptional, so the dogs and I were up there every evening of the week. We will certainly be going back.
The Isle of Wight
by Paul Stone LRPS

Being born and brought up on the Isle of Wight, I like to return at least once a year to see how the island is standing up to the rigours of life and weather conditions.

Sometimes this might amount to just a day trip or, as was the case for my last trip in July, a weeklong stay. As I drive around, I am keeping an eye open for potential photographs and the attached are a selection of my most recent photos.

I hope that you enjoy looking at them.
Members' Gallery

Windblown Beach © Simon Street

Desert Graffiti © Simon Street

Compton Bay, Isle of Wight © Paul Stone LRPS

Beach at Ventnor © John Patterson LRPS

Waterfall at Keld © Alan Peacock

Skye from Suisnish, Raasay © David Fiddes

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 3rd November. Thank you!
**What's On**

**Exhibitions**

**The Lie of the Land: Exploring Modern British Landscapes from the Swindon Collection**  
Swindon  
This exhibition brings together modern landscape paintings and explores approaches that are more experimental to depicting the landscape. The exhibition includes paintings, drawings, prints and photography, dating from the 1920s to the present day. At the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery until 22nd October.

**Camel: A Journey Through Fragile Landscapes**  
Oxford  
This exhibition presents sixty-five monochrome prints by Roger Chapman from his major international photography project, premiered at the Pitt Rivers Museum. Until 29th October.

**Ian Beesley & Ian McMillan: From Salts to Silver**  
Saltaire, West Yorkshire  
Brand new poems from Ian McMillan accompany images Ian Beesley took of Salts in the 1980’s, and this year. At Salts Mill, Saltaire from 8th to 17th September (during the Saltaire Festival), continuing on weekends only to 29th October.

**Scottish Nature Photography Awards**  
Logan Botanic Garden, Dumfries and Galloway  
Thirty images from the 2016 Scottish Nature Photography Awards are on show until 31st October.

**Michael Cala: Silesia 1975 - 1985**  
London  
Michael Cala is considered one of the most important Polish photographers of the last century. This exhibition will focus on his key black and white series from the Silesian landscape, made during his early career. At the MMX Gallery from 15th September to 4th November.

**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? The work has been collected over ten months on farms and at shows and sales by Rob and Harriet Fraser and a team of volunteers. It will be displayed alongside items from the Dales Countryside Museum’s collection until 22nd December.

**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.

**The London Photo Show**  
London  
Born out of the knowledge that there are too many good photographers out there with great images not being shown to the world, *The London Photo Show* gives those people the chance to experience the buzz of showing work in a central London gallery. 32 talented photographers will show a variety of work during the exhibition, at the Strand Gallery from 18th to 22nd October.

**Wildlife Photographer of the Year 53**  
London  
This year's exhibition, showcasing the fifty-third year of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, will open at the Natural History Museum on 20 October.

**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 transcendental or spiritual place, and one rooted in social and political histories. At the Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne until 21st January 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**

**Lliw Valley Reservoirs**  
**Saturday 21st October, 10:00 to 17:00**  
Felindre, near Swansea  
A photo walk to two reservoirs. See here for details.

**Landscape Group weekend conference**  
**Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th November**  
Near Skipton, North Yorkshire  
The weekend event is now fully booked, but Charlie Waite's talk on Friday evening and the AGM on Sunday are both still available - please see below.

**An evening talk with Charlie Waite**  
**Friday 3rd November, 19:30 to 22:00**  
Near Skipton, North Yorkshire  
This talk by eminent landscape photographer Charlie Waite is part of the Landscape Group’s weekend conference and AGM but tickets for just the talk are available to RPS members and members of the public. See here for details.

**Landscape Group Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 5th November, 10:30 to 13:00**  
Near Skipton, North Yorkshire  
The landscape group's first AGM and all members of the group are invited to attend. Members attending are welcome to join us for the conference session with Carol Emmas that immediately follows the AGM. See here for details.

**Paul Gallagher’s Transitions**  
**Sunday 5th November, 11:00 to 15:00**  
Basingstoke  
Paul talks about his transition from using large format film cameras, working solely in black and white, to using digital cameras. See here for details.

**Dinefr Castle and Cothi**  
**Saturday 11th November, 9:30 to 16:00**  
Near Llandeilo  
A photo walk around Dinefr Castle and the river Cothi. See here for details.

**An afternoon with Joe Cornish**  
**Saturday 25th November, 14:00 to 16:00**  
Wrexham  
An afternoon in the company of Joe Cornish. See here for details.

**Photographing landscape; whatever the weather with Tony Worobiec**  
**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. Previously 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.

---

**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.

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.

Annual Conference and AGM
Bookings are now closed for the full weekend, but tickets are still available for our keynote speaker, Charlie Waite, on the evening Friday 3rd November.

The Landscape group’s first annual general meeting takes place on Sunday 5th November and all members of the group are invited to attend. Members attending the AGM are welcome to join us for the conference session with Carol Emmas that immediately follows the AGM.

AGM papers can be viewed [here](#).

Click [here](#) to book for Charlie Waite and [here](#) to indicate your attendance at the AGM (not necessary if attending conference).