

# NEWSLETTER

Leamington Spa Photographic Society



Issue 2, Winter 23



'Making the Move' by Andy Newman: Awarded the Open Mono Prints GPU Gold Medal at the 49th Smethwick International



## The Clubman

Three rounds done. Whose images have made an impact with the judges? Find out on Page 4.



## Scotland Special

In October three of our members embarked on a two week photographic tour of Scotland. Report inside !



## Cotswolds Trial

The Vintage Sports Car Club Cotswolds Trial saw 14 of our members brave the mud for a fabulous day out with their cameras.

## What's Inside ?

### 02. The Season so Far !

Odie Evans, our Secretary and Editor, reflects on the season so far.

### 03. Raising the Society's Profile

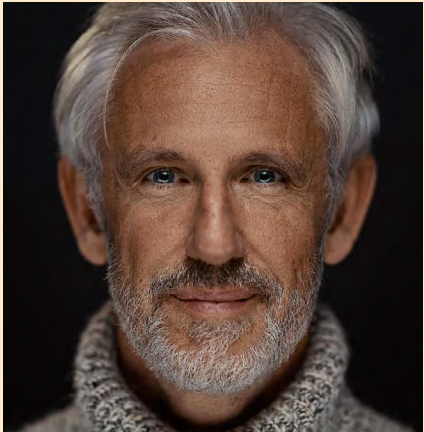
Did you know LSPS has recently collaborated with Leamington Studio Artists?

### 06. Nature Group

Mike Calvert updates us on what the Nature Group have been up to and highlights some key trips planned for next year.

### 12. SIG Corner

Stefan Shillington updates us on what our various SIGs have been up to.



The Season so Far !

Welcome to the second edition of the Leamington Spa Photographic Society newsletter. As your Secretary (and unofficial newsletter editor) I thought it a good opportunity to say hello to you all and to reflect on the season so far.

It has been a very hectic few months since Colin Trow-Poole kicked off our season on the 26th September. Since then we have had a raft of external presenters, as well as a very successful members evening with Tim Evans talking about the Street Groups outing to London to photograph in the style of Saul Leiter. Additionally, Mike Calvert let us know what the Nature Group have been up to at Manor Farm and Mike expands on this more on Page 6 where he tells us what the Nature group have been up to.

We have also had three rounds of our Clubman competition for both Club and Advanced level photographers. Take a look at Page 4 to see some of the images that made an impact with our judges and to find out who is

currently top of the leader board and which new members are challenging for the Rex Darby Cup.

The Society has also had some great successes in both external exhibitions and international competitions. On this editions cover you can see another fabulous image by Andy Newman which was awarded the GPU Gold Medal for Mono Prints at the 49th Smethwick International. I was also fortunate enough to be awarded a Highly Commended in the 2023 Landscape Photographer of the Year Competition for my image ‘Sway’ in the Expressions and Impressions of the Landscape category.

The season has also seen us collaborate with Leamington Studio Artists for the first time. We hope that this will become a regular occurrence and our Chair, Peter Chappell, explains all on Page 3.

Do you like a muddy day out? Tim Evans arranged a trip for the Street Group to the Vintage Sports Car Club Cotswolds Trial. Tim provides us his report on Page 8 along with some fabulous (muddy) images !

If mud is not your thing then perhaps a two week trip around Scotland would be better. Three intrepid LSPS members did exactly this and John Tickner explains all on Page 14.

So as the 2023 draws to a close, on behalf of the Committee I would like to extend our best wishes for the festive season and thank everyone for their wonderful contributions so far. We have an action packed 2024 planned - so stay tuned.

Odie Evans  
Editor

LSA Collaboration

Members of Leamington Spa Photographic Society welcomed the invitation from Leamington Studio Artists to jointly display a diverse range of photographs and enter into a friendly competition sponsored by the London Camera Exchange.

Nine LSPS members took up the challenge and had framed photographs on display and for sale at the Leamington Studio Artists ‘Artroom’. This is located in a shop unit close to the south entrance at Royal Priors shopping centre.

London Camera Exchange kindly donated two vouchers as prizes which were won by Mark Godfrey (£50) and Joy Herbert (£25) ! Keith Roberts and Jim Crabtree just missed out on the cash but were awarded Highly Recommended certificates for their efforts.

Hopefully, this is the start of a fruitful relationship with LSA and the local artistic community which will ultimately widen our photographic horizons. The LSA have suggested we might like to consider joining both them and Open Studio at a forum to discuss how we could all potentially collaborate in the future.



Raising the Society’s Profile

Our Chair, Peter Chappell, tells us what the Committee have been doing to raise the profile of the Society in the wider community



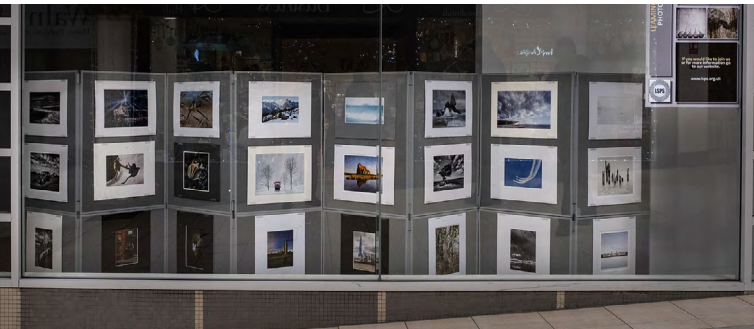
LSPS Members images for sale at the LSA Art Room

Royal Priors Display

The Society was given the opportunity to display our images in one of the units in the Royal Prior in Leamington Spa.

The Committee felt that this was an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the Society within the wider community and Tim Evans managed the event on our behalf.

Taking images from the 2022 Annual Exhibition, we now have an excellent display in a very prominent location, along with details on how to join the Society. I am sure you will agree this to be an excellent initiative.





# The Clubman Leaderboard

Three rounds in and whose images are making waves this season?  
We are now three rounds in to this seasons Clubman so who is top of the leader-board?

### Club Level Prints

Mike Kupczenko	22
Gwyn Davies	13
Aileen Carlile	12
John Flaherty	5

### Advanced Level Prints

Dick Prior	18
Tim Evans	13
Joy Herbert	8
Andy Newman	7
Odie Evans	6
Clive Bailey	4
David Eaves	3
Paul Beard	3
Roger Lickfold	3
Andy Bridgestock	2

### Club Level Projected Images

David Elbourn	12
David Fearon	8
Martin Johnson	8
Ian Blake	7
David Millington	5
David Child	4
Geoff Jones	3
James Bagshaw	3
Thomas Leaper	2
Sam Curry	2
Paul Langham	2
Steve Batchelder	1
Chris Chong	1

### Advanced Level Projected Images

Hugh Matthews	14
Rob Musgrove	11
Peter Chappell	10
Steve Melville	8
Tony Aiello	7
Bobbie Bolam	4
Helen Ashbourne	3
Mike Calvert	2
Pamela Digby	2
Richard Dunn	2
Yvonne Ferrier	2
Tony Horrocks	2
Hugh Tottle	1

## Round 3

Judge: John Haines

In the most recent round Tim Evans pipped Dick to the top spot in Advanced Nature Prints with his wonderful image “Serengeti”, whilst Aileen Carlile stormed to the top spot in Club Prints with her fabulous landscape ‘Connemara’. Hugh Matthews excellent ‘Fritillary and White Lipped Snail’ took First place in Advanced Nature Digital, with David Elbourn doing the same in Club digital.

## Round 1

Judge: Phil Cooling FRPS

In our first round which was Open for both Club and Advanced levels, Dick Prior impressed Judge Phil with his artistic advanced print ‘Rain Dance’, whilst Mike Kupczenko took both First and Third in the Club level prints.

In the Advanced Projected Images Rob Musgrove took First with ‘Highland Bath’ pushing Peter Chappell’s two images into both Second and Third positions. In the Club level, David Elbourn took top spot with his image ‘Good Fishing’.



‘Rain Dance’ by Dick Prior, ARPS



‘Highland Bath’ by Rob Musgrove



‘Save our Planet’ by Tony Aiello



‘Connemara’ by Aileen Carlile



‘Serengeti’ by Tim Evans, LRPS

# Competition Corner

## The Rex Darby Cup

Everything is still in play for the Rex Darby Cup for our Seasons new members. Remember the more entries you make, the more points you cxan accumulate !

Leaderboard	Total Points	No of Entries
Ian Blake	7	6
David Child	4	2
James Bagshaw	3	6
Paul Langham	2	4
Winnie Liu	1	6

## Round 2

Judge: Bob Moore Hon FRPS MPAGB Hon PAGB

Dick Prior extended his lead in Advanced prints with his out-standing people mono ‘Alone’, whilst Mike Kupczenko did the same in Club prints taking both the First and Second places.

Tony Aiello took top spot in Advanced digital with ‘Save or Planet’, with Martin Johnson doing the same in Club digital with ‘Muddy Fun’.



‘Signora Classica’ by Mike Kupczenko



# Nature Special Interest Group

Mike Calvert lets us know what the Nature Group has been up to

During 2023 we have been on trips each month, some old haunts and some new ones. The highlight is always a three-day trip away in spring.

Over the past few years we have been to Norfolk (twice), Northumberland (Farne Islands), around the Preston area for Red Squirrels at Formby Point and this year we travelled along the south coast staying at Poole, Weymouth and Sidmouth.

We are looking at the possibility of going to the south east English coast. We always enjoy the banter, the helpfulness of each member and their expertise they bring with them. The friendship we have developed over the past few years.

In the last few months the weather has affected our trips out. Too much rain meant that so much ground was waterlogged leaving it mostly inaccessible.

Our trips to the deer rutting and then a fungi trip were cancelled, which is the first time we have had to that.

Hopefully, next year will be better.



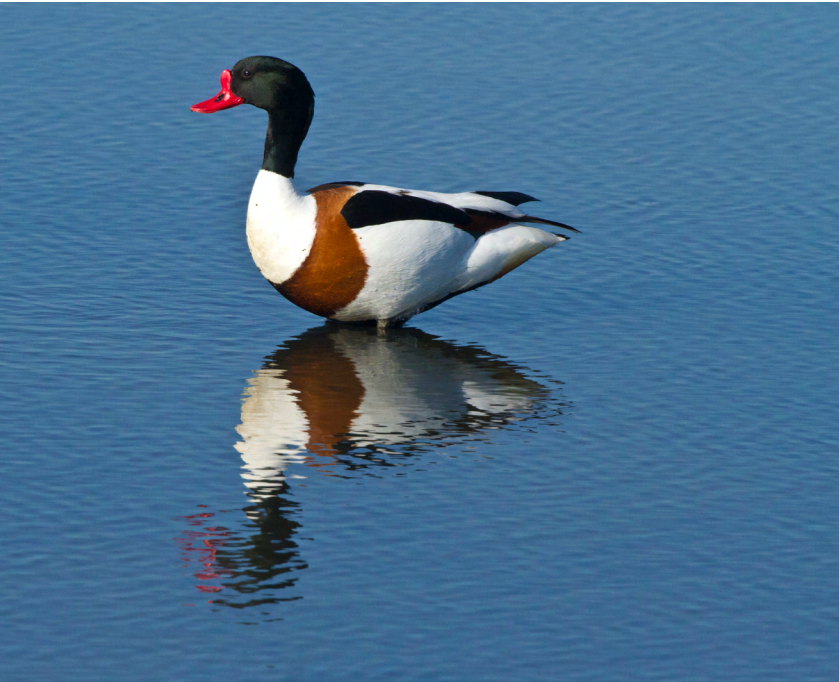
The Nature Group doing their thing



### Manor Farm Project

Our project at the farm ended in September but because we have kept contact and developed a rapport we will be invited back twice next year.

The book we had printed as a mark of our appreciation went down extremely well with Rebecca, the farmer, and she is delighted to keep in touch with us and invite us to visit the farm.





# The Vintage Sport Car Club Trial

Tim Evans reports on a muddy day in the Cotswolds

## The Cotswolds Trial

What was started as a Street Group outing initiated by Gwyn Davies seemed to attract more than just the Street Group diehards as 14 society members ventured down to Prescott to see the VSCC Trials.

Essentially the trials involve a lot of old cars seeing how far they can drive up a series of off-road hill tracks before invariably sliding down backwards through the increasing layers of mud – what could be more fun to watch?

The weather forecast in the preceding days had looked grim however it stayed pretty much dry overhead although anything but underfoot which certainly helped the spectacle – but it did mean struggles for some to exit the car park at the end of the day!

First part of the day was the 'scrutineering' at which point the cars and their drivers were in relatively pristine condition – this was also the time for last minute checks and tinkering.

We had managed to gain 'media passes' from the VSCC for everyone meaning we had access to wherever we wanted to go and allowed for great opportunities to photograph not just the cars but also the characters in them – more significantly we were able to use the Bugatti owners club clubhouse which provided a superb bacon sandwich!

Things then went quiet for a bit whilst the cars went off-site – time for a bacon sandwich – before returning to the Hills set up on the Prescott site where the real action started. Biggest challenge on the first hill was about stopping rather than keeping going with an evil 'stop box' set up at the bottom of a small slope.

Some cars didn't get very far!





## The Second Hill

The second hill was a classic in terms of going as fast as possible up a straight hill before all grip was lost and then sliding down – certainly the place for the more dramatic pictures.

At the end of the day the mud won with few cars making any real progress up the last hill however there was no shortage of opportunity to try some ICM shots and to focus in on the drivers and their passengers as they became increasingly mucky as the day went on.

I am sure we will plan to go again next year so will advise the date as soon as we know it in the meantime there are plenty more images of the day on the Street Group Flickr page.





# SIG Corner

Stefan Shillington provides us with a summary of what our SIGs have been up to.

### Abstract Group

Members continue to post images on Flickr, many of them taken during trips with other groups. The group is now 19-strong, with two new members Sheik Taiyib and Paul Langham, having joined - although both are yet to post any images on the site.

### Book Group

A draft process for borrowing books from the Society’s “library” should be ready to trial shortly.

Free small, A5ish, photobooks have been tried out and they are perfect for the “cheap and cheerful” need. Yes, the basic books are free, you pay for postage and extra pages/features etc. Very good value for what they are.

Diptychs will be trialled at the Panels and Avs competition evening.

### Concept Group

AI continues to be the main interest - what it can do and how we handle it within LSPS.

In view of the number of empty shop windows in Leamington, the scope for a small exhibition is being investigated.

### Distinctions Group

Paul King just got his LRPS, congratulations are in order. In future LRPS submissions will be digital only. Just in time Paul.

### External Competitions Group

Looks like four members between them got a total of eleven acceptances at the Dingwall CC

### Landscape Group

A small group of stalwarts made it to Batsford Arboretum on the very wet weekend. A bit too early for the leaf colour. Looks like nowadays we need to leave the leaves till November – overnight on 1st Nov the leaves started to fall. The Landscape group is looking to form a WhatsApp group as the Mid-week group has done.

### Learning and Development Group

The group has already had two well attended meetings - in October “Preparing images for Competitions” and “Self-critique”, followed this month by “Travel, Event and Landscape photography” and “Introduction to Lightroom”. Next month will be Printing: Lr print vs commercial, Commercial Printing, Print Mounting.

### Macro Group

An exceptional year for Fungi if Kenilworth Common is anything to go by according to the Warwickshire Fungi group.

### Midweek Group

The Group continues its programme of monthly outings - Stowe Landscape Garden was the October destination. November’s outing will be to Birmingham finally to photography Ozzy the Bull in New Street Station, also the German Christmas Market should be in full swing.

### Natural History Group

The Hodnell Manor Farm project is finally finished, the book of the project printed, and a copy presented to Rebecca - much appreciated. An invitation was taken up to witness the ringing of this year’s Owlets.

### Portrait Group

The local Shooting Club invited the group to “shoot” them and their activities – environmental portraits. This is being pursued.

### Street Group

This group has recently had a successful trip to Sheffield. The next one will be to Prescott for the Vintage Car Club’s off-road Hill Climb. Insurance to allow press level of access is being arranged through the Society.

### Style Group

The Group continues with its regular monthly meetings, providing inspiration, encouragement and critique to taste. November’s get-together will be at a new venue, The White Lion in Radford Semele. A trip for exhibitions is in planning for London later this month. There has been a shortage of good exhibitions recently but suddenly that all seems to have changed. Included in the offerings are substantial exhibitions from two really important Japanese photographers.

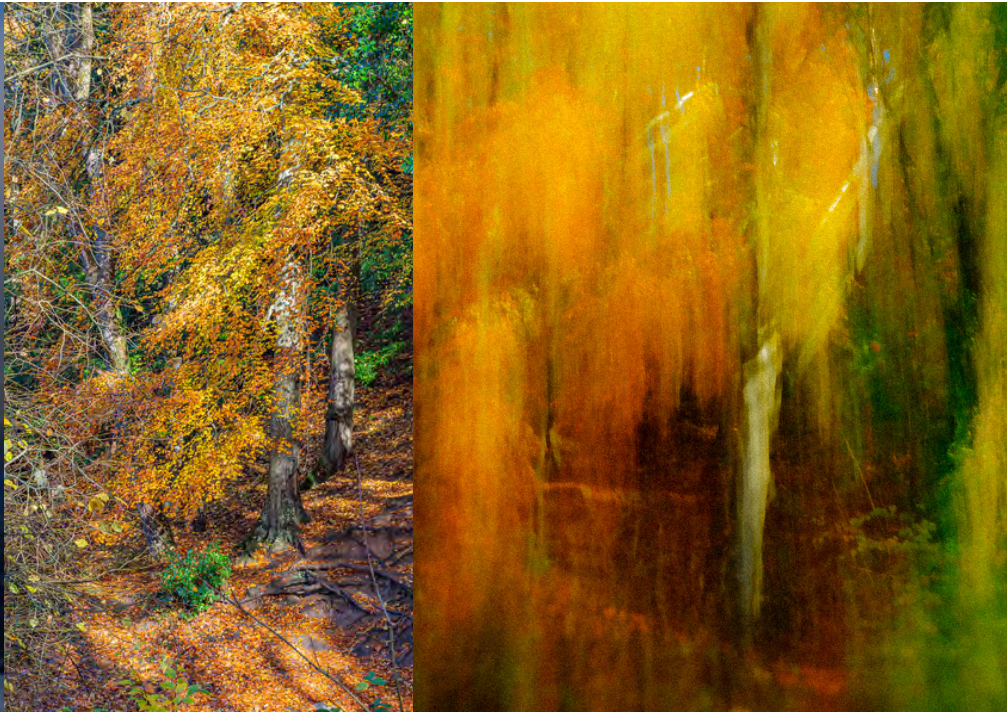


# A Scottish Tour

David Eaves lets us know about an epic Scottish tour.

On Oct 22nd this year three of our members – David Eaves, John Tickner and Hugh Tottle – embarked on a two week photographic tour of Scotland. There is always a risk of bad weather in Scotland and indeed during late October the east coast was battered with high winds and flooding from storm Babet. However, towards the west there was plenty of sun with interesting clouds and patches of light on the hills to make ideal landscape lighting.

The trip started at Bridge of Orchy and then went through Torridon and Assynt up the west coast and then the north coast following the ‘Northern 500’ to John O’Groats. The homeward part of the trip completed the ‘500’ via Wick to Strathpeffer and Kingussie.



**Photo highlights of the trip included:**

Castles – Eilean Donan, Ard-vrek, Kilchurn and Sinclair

Lighthouses – Strathy Point, Dunnet Head, Noss Head, John O’Groats

The mountains and lochs of Torridon and Assynt

The ‘Flow Country’ in the far north (Moyne House, Kyle of Tongue)

The wreck at Corpach

The sea-stacks at Sango bay, Durness.

Various shorelines including Oldshoreman and Balnakeil

Inverewe Gardens (National Trust of Scotland)

Waterfalls and autumn colours, Glen Orchy



Anyone interested in a detailed itinerary as a basis for planning their own trip including stopovers, driving times and distances, suggested hotels and photo opportunities please ask David Eaves.

sandwich,



## Next Quarter Issue

### 01. Clubman Winners

Who has won our Clubman competition?

### 02. View from the Committee

Here from your Committee on key areas that will affect you

### 03. Community

Learn about what we have been doing in the local community



**'Sway' by Odie Evans: Highly Commended in the 2023 Landscape Photographer of the Year competition**

## Editorial Review

### Copyright By

Leamington Spa Photographic Society

### Production

Leamington Spa Photographic Society

### email

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## Something on your mind?

Do you have any burning issues for your Committee?

Your Committee is there for you and comprises the following members:

Peter Chappell	Chair
Mark Godfrey	Dep Chair
Odie Evans	Secretary
Mike Kupczenko	Treasurer
Pam Digby	Internal Comp
Andy Newman	External Exhib
Richard Earp	IT
Hugh Tottle	Programme
Josie Brough	General
Joy Herbert	SIG & Pub

### Enjoyed your Newsletter?

We hope that you enjoyed this newsletter from your Society. If there is anything you would like to see featured in future editions then just drop us a line !

So please email us at  
[secretary@lsps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lsps.org.uk)