

OSPSP newsletter

The newsletter of the Ordnance Survey Photographic Society
In its 65th year.

Spring / summer 2018



Night of year results
Print stands come and go
Been there, done that, got the photo

Editor's thoughts

With the constant allure of what seems to be a continuous stream of technological development and innovation, it's very easy to give in to gear acquisition syndrome (GAS). If only you had that latest phase-detect autofocus or AI-assisted dynamic range enhancer, you could get that elusive award-winning image! Only we know, through hard-won experience, that's not the case. To get that wonderful image of that wonderful landscape, you need to get yourself and your camera in front of it. That might mean a long journey, a horribly early start, an arduous trek to a mountain summit or patiently waiting for the right lighting, but that's just the reality of so many wonderful images. Find the equipment that will do what you want it to do and do so reliably, and just go looking for pictures.

Mike Stacey

Contents

3	Night of year results	Last image standing!
3	Been there, done that, got the photos	Photographers go wandering.
5	Display no more	Print stands come and go.
5	Tales from the archive	50 years ago (in a galaxy far far away)
6	The story behind the picture	A near miss!

Officers / committee 2017-2018

President	<i>Position vacant</i>	Programme Sec	Ian Miller
Vice President	<i>Position vacant</i>	Ext Competition Sec	Martin Buckley CPAGB
Chairman	Variable/adaptive	Int Competition Sec	Niall Tyler/adaptive
Vice Chairman	<i>Position vacant</i>	Membership Sec	Mike Stacey LRPS
Secretary	Jenny Harding	Web Master	Alison Ramsell / Dave Perkes
Treasurer	Mike Stacey LRPS	Newsletter Editor	Mike Stacey LRPS

Cover image: 'Wall with reflections' © Mike Stacey

Nights of year results 2017-18 season

Yes it's that time in the season again, when the best images from the monthly competitions have a big punch-up to find the last image still standing upright. Here are the results for the 2017-18 season.

Trophy	Winner	Runner-up
Primary colour prints (for the Colour Print Trophy)	No qualifiers	No qualifiers
Senior mono prints (for the Metcalf Trophy)	Martin Buckley <i>Kongsfjorden, Svalbard</i>	Barbara Beauchamp <i>On the stairway</i>
Senior colour prints (for the Colour Print Tankard)	Roy Fisher <i>Insect on knapweed</i>	Barbara Beauchamp <i>Off the wall</i>
Primary PDI (for the J. Leisnam Cup)	Roger Beauchamp <i>Ice pattern 2</i>	Ian Miller <i>Glass bricks</i>
Senior PDI (for the Premier Colour Award)	Maureen Toft <i>Young elephant dusting</i>	Mike Stacey <i>Push push push</i>
Open print competition (for the Open Print Trophy)	Not held	Not held
Open PDI competition (formerly Herbie Cox Trophy)	Maureen Toft <i>Young calf</i>	Mike Stacey <i>110 percent</i>
Panel of 3 print competition	Not held	Not held
Panel of 3 PDI competition	Mike Stacey <i>Push push push</i>	Roy Fisher <i>St Ives</i>
Most prolific worker (The Bill Bessant Print)	Roy Fisher	Barbara Beauchamp
Most consistent mono printer	Roy Fisher	Barbara Beauchamp
Most consistent colour printer	Roy Fisher	Barbara Beauchamp
Most consistent PDI worker	Mike Stacey	Jenny Harding
Derek Travis Trophy	Kevin Ramsell	

Been there, done that, got the photos

It's been noticed, on more than one occasion, that a competition judge takes an initial look through the prints or PDIs in a monthly competition and says something along the lines of 'Well you're a well-travelled club'. And yes, looking back at the variety of images that have been submitted, there is a global distribution. Namibia, Australia, Svalbard, USA, Iceland, Antarctica, to mention but a few locations. OSPS members seem to have been almost everywhere, and this got me wondering about sharing a few details about our ramblings and wanderings. What I

would like to do is frame a standard set of questions and aim them at our members and hopefully this can become a regular item in the newsletters. It would be nice to include a few images to illustrate some of the answers. To give you an idea of what I mean, I'll start with me.

Do you have a favourite mode of transport?

Probably by foot. It's slow but it gives you time to look and peer into nooks and crannies, which is important for a photographer.



Of the places you have visited, what is:

a) the most memorable (wow!) place you have visited?

Many contenders, so I'll pick one at random. Ben Nevis, or Beinn Nibheis if you prefer. When I ascended Britain's highest mountain in 1997 it was one of the few days when a view from the summit was granted. The ascent was in mist and low cloud, but as the sun began to break through and raise the temperature, wispy vortices started forming and it was more like climbing a volcano. An amazing day.

b) the strangest place you have visited?

Tricky question as there are a few weird places I've found myself in, but a strong contender would be the narrow, rocky pass between Glen Pean and Glen Morar in the Scottish Highlands. It was blocked at each end by rock falls and there had been a lochan in-between (small lake). On this occasion it had dried to a gloopy mud which had trapped a deer. There was just a skeleton remaining!



c) the most interesting place where you have stayed overnight?

The Garbh Coire bothy in the Cairngorm Mountains, Scotland. However you look at it, it's a small tent made of boulders!

Is there anywhere you would like to visit but haven't?

Lots of places, but I recently reviewed my journeys around England and found the only county / administrative region I haven't visited or passed through is Herefordshire. So, Hereford.

Is there anyone, living or dead, who you would like as a travel guide?

Simon Reeve.

Do you collect souvenirs from your journeys?

Rarely. I don't have anywhere to keep them. That said, I have a marker ball from a weather balloon instrument package I found in the Kintail region of the Scottish Highlands back in the 80s.

Do you have a useful hint or tip for travel photography?

Try to carry some sort of camera support, even if it's something small like an Ultrapod mk1.



What is your most travelled possession?

My watch; a Casio AD520 which I've owned for 24 years.

What would you not want to travel without?

A camera. (What else did you expect?)

Mike Stacey

Display no more

Back in 2003 there was a newsletter article about a rather clever piece of carpentry executed by one of our members, Peter Locke. This was a mobile print stand that folded out to three times its stored size and sat on top of an old, though sturdy, studio tripod. The only thing it lacked was suitable illumination and while we tried various light sources over the years, nothing seemed to quite fit the bill. The final configuration consisted of three spotlights along the top but this eventually drew adverse comments about uneven coverage. We needed something else. Something that was all-inclusive.



Brian Jones stepped up to the challenge and created an impressive replacement that included twin, built-in, daylight-balanced, folding illumination. This worked well, but early on there were signs of disapproval from Ordnance Survey with respects to health and safety.

The problem with this sort of equipment is that there are not that many options available. Commercially available print display stands tend to be aimed at studios, galleries and professional photographers, and tend to be very expensive (£1000+). The only real choice for camera clubs and the like is the DIY / custom-build route. That's what most clubs do and it's what OSPS has done. However, while we were able to get the necessary PAT approval by an independent electrician, Ordnance Survey wasn't so happy. This

has now reached a point where we can no longer use this display stand at Explorer House, and we are currently looking for an acceptable alternative. As shown in the image to the left, Brian's stand got its final deployment at the Colbury Memorial Hall. Hopefully we should have a new stand by the time the 2018-19 season begins, but there may be some disruption to print competitions for a short while. Thanks go to Brian for all the work he put into this display stand.

Mike Stacey

Tales from the archive

Although OSPS is not the oldest of photographic clubs, we're fortunate to have records stretching back many decades. And while not the most exciting of reads, committee meeting minutes can give an indication of how things have changed – or not.

50 years ago, in the spring / summer of 1968, OSPS reached the end of another season and membership for 1967-68 had been 59. At the AGM in May 1968, held at London Road as this was prior to the move to Maybush, the existing patron (the OS Director General), president (J Liesnham) and vice presidents were all re-elected. But get this; there wasn't one vice president, there were five! Mr Lund, A Goodall, A St John Perkins, C Hawkins and A Baron. Then there were the people who dealt with the running of the club; PO Brian, G Barfoot and M Williams

were re-elected as chair, secretary and treasurer, while V Willstead, R Cooper, SJ Williams, J McKenzie and GL Behr were elected to the committee.

Changes to competition rules were introduced at the AGM that are still with us now – that 3 images per author can be entered for each class, and that an image can only be entered into 2 monthly competitions, except once it had qualified for the NOY.

OSPS was generally running much as you would expect, with weekly meetings, internal and external competitions, a few more social activities than we have now and plans were being made for the big move to the Maybush site. Oh yes, and club funds were £41 15s 5d – this was pre decimalisation!

The story behind the picture



Following on from the earlier article about travelling and photography, there's an odd story behind this image. It was taken in 1981 outside Glen Pean bothy in the Scottish Highlands and yes, that's me in the middle, (when I had some hair!), along with Sam Johnston on the left and Geoff Boyling on the right. However, as my log entry describes, we had all been fortunate to avoid having more than our hair singed off the previous evening.

..... while we were cooking our dinner, a group arrived who had come up from Glenfinnan. It was a school group of what I guessed to be an average age of 14-15, led by a teacher. The inexperience of the whole group, including the teacher, was made very clear by a potentially lethal incident with a Primus stove. This is what happened.

The three of us were drinking tea around the only table, waiting for our food to cook. Some of the school group got out stoves and started them up, ready to cook their evening meal. One of the stoves was a Primus much like the one Geoff uses. Geoff, by the way, is an expert with the Primus and has turned lighting them into an art form. Anyway, this lot certainly got their Primus going. I'm not sure what happened but it burst into flames some three or four feet high, spectacularly enhanced by the darkness. It was though, as I said, a potentially lethal situation as the fuel tank could have blown up! In a confined space like the interior of a bothy, everyone would have suffered burns at the very least. Sam, Geoff and I began to get concerned when it was obvious they couldn't control the stove, Geoff in particular I think. He went over to help and it didn't take him long to calm things down. He then explained what they had done wrong and even gave a demonstration with his stove – perfectly of course.

Mike Stacey