

# OSPS newsletter

The newsletter of the Ordnance Survey Photographic Society  
In its 67th year.  
spring 2020



Treasure box

Photo books: Roy Fisher

Been there, got the photos: Martin Buckley

## Thoughts from the chair

It's strange how things can change in unexpected ways. In last year's spring/summer edition I commented that one unavoidable thing a photographer had to do was get their camera in front of the picture. Work out where the picture is and when it's going to be there, and then fly, drive, sail, walk, crawl or climb to get in the right place. Almost a year later and we find ourselves in a situation where going anywhere is not really an option. A state of lockdown caused by Covid-19. That said, I'm sure that excellent work will come out of these difficult times because such things need to be recorded, and enough photographers will find themselves in positions to capture those telling images. Don't break the rules though. Keep being creative but stay safe.

### Mike Stacey

## Contents

3	Photo books	Publishing a book of your photos.
4	Been there, done that, got the photos	Setting foot on every continent.
5	Treasure box	Not a bad haul for a small club.
7	A photographer's Myanmar	Travels through a changed landscape.
9	OSPS website	Volunteer needed.
10	Story behind the picture	Always be on the lookout for images.

## Officers / committee 2019-2020

President	<i>Position vacant</i>	Programme Sec	Barbara Beauchamp
Vice President	<i>Position vacant</i>	Ext Competition Sec	Barbara Beauchamp
Chairman	Mike Stacey LRPS	Int Competition Sec	Roger Beauchamp
Vice Chairman	<i>Position vacant</i>	Membership Sec	Mike Stacey LRPS
Secretary	Jenny Harding	Web Master	Dave Perkes
Treasurer	Mike Stacey LRPS	Newsletter Editor	Mike Stacey LRPS
		OS liaison	Kevin Ramsell
			Heso Jima-Otero

Cover image: 'Iguana' © Martin Buckley. FrontPage logo © Microsoft Corporation.  
Weebly logo © Square Inc. Other images © of their author, otherwise © OSPS.

# Photo books

One of the most enjoyable and satisfying skills I have learned in the last few years is how to create a photo book. I use the company Bob Books (Website [www.bobbooks.co.uk](http://www.bobbooks.co.uk)) but there are lots of publishing companies available. So far I have produced 14 different books covering photography, art, travel and also several children's books which I illustrated with my own art.

Because of the situation with coronavirus we are all spending a lot more time indoors and, possibly, a lot of time on the computer. This is an opportunity to create something you are proud of and, if you want, to share with others on the internet. As photographers we have all got thousands of images on our hard drives that could be used in a photo book.

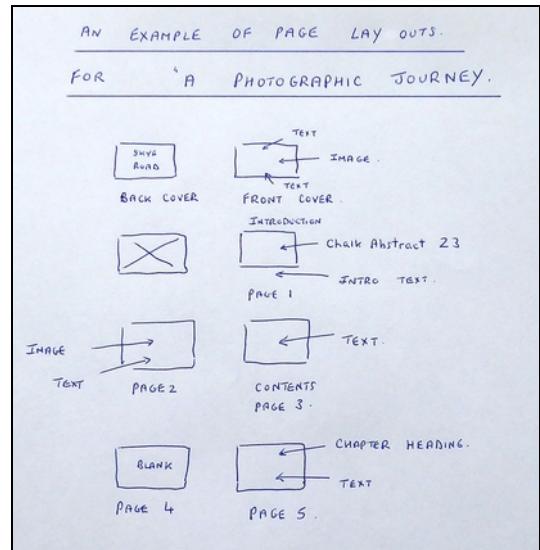
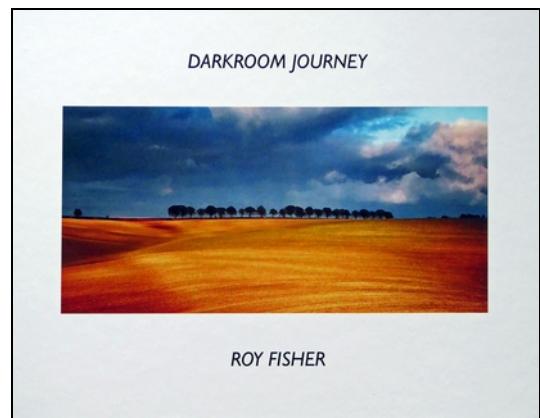
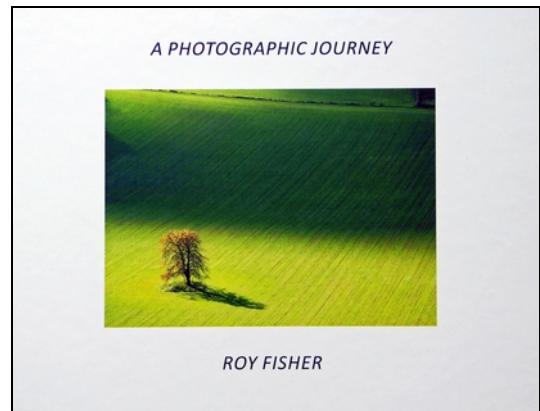
Well, how do you start? Go to one of the publishing companies websites and view their videos and instructional information. When you are ready to start creating your book you have several decisions to make regarding cover, size, paper etc. The software will then load a blank book to your requirements which you can then fill with your chosen photographs and text. I suggest that before you start on your book you select and load all your pictures first. You can play around with the software for free. It is only when you order your book that it costs money.

To plan my book I do lots of page layout diagrams and I have included an example.

If you want to see any of my books go to [www.bobbooks.co.uk](http://www.bobbooks.co.uk) then go to bookshop.

I hope these few words will encourage you to produce your first photo book.

**Roy Fisher**



## Been there, done that, got the photos

This is the third in a wandering series about photographic travels. We've had Mike and Barbara, and this time it's Martin Buckley. The questions are a standard set but the answers are very different, as journeys are variable and we all travel with our own outlook and curiosity. The photos are all from a journey to the Galapagos Islands, part of the Republic of Ecuador.

### *Do you have a favourite mode of transport?*

I have always been interested in boats. I started whilst I was in Primary school and I 'helped' my father whilst he built two canoes which we used on the Bridgewater canal. Later whilst still at school I built an Enterprise sailing dinghy and learned to sail it. Later in life I bought and used a Narrow boat and for about 9 years managed to traverse most of the canals then available in this country. More recently, with more free time available I have taken cruises to visit other countries by both river and sea. Having said this I cannot finish without saying that there are two rail journeys that I will never forget, Swaythling to Venice, via Waterloo and Paris and the narrow gauge line from Kalka to Shimla in India.



### *Of the places you have visited, what is:*

#### *A) the strangest place you have visited?*

The strangest place has to be the Galapagos Islands, where not only are there many unusual creatures I haven't seen before but their acceptance of humans as 'just another animal' and show little or no fear of them.

#### *B) the most memorable place you have visited?*

For this reason Galapagos is also my most memorable place although Antarctic comes a close second!

#### *C) your favourite place?*

My favourite place is the Isles of Scilly which I have visited annually for many years.

It is a quiet location where any of the main islands can be visited by boat on a daily basis. The quiet unhurried atmosphere of the Islands and the naturally restricted number of visitors make this a superb location to slow down and unwind.

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

I have now visited many different countries in all of the continents but have decided that there are many places in Great Britain that I would like to visit again. Places like The Lake District, The Peak District, Welsh Highlands. All 'out of season' of course.

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

I always do my own online research when planning a journey but as a travel guide I would be content with just an 'Explorer' map of the area.

*What is your most travelled possession? / What would you not want to travel without?*

I would not be happy if I could not record my journeys, so my camera is my most travelled possession.

*Do you collect souvenirs from your journeys?*

My Photographs are my souvenirs of my journeys.

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

Always make sure you have a backup for as many contingencies as you can. Spare Camera, Batteries or Charger. AND check out the correct power connectors you will need. (Not all ships have the same sockets!)



**Martin Buckley**



## Treasure box

OSPS has never been what you could describe as a big club. The most members we've had was, if I remember correctly, about 125 in the mid 80s. Membership was on the up and we had our successes, but since then the numbers have declined quite considerably. However, that hasn't denied us the odd victory here and there. In fact, around the turn of the century we went through something of a purple patch. The photos below give an idea of this and, while I won't identify exactly which is which, here's an account of what we won.

Print winners and overall winners of the 2001 multi-club print and slide competition sponsored by GEMS Sports & Social Club.

Winners of the 2003 Itchen Valley Trophy for the SPF league knockout print championship.

Winners of the 2003 Swanmore Trophy as best club in the southern region of the SPF league knockout print championship.

At the national PAGB Print Championship 2003, we won the Terry Chapman plate (as featured on the cover of the December 2003 newsletter), a large silver trophy measuring some 12 inches in diameter. It was a great way to celebrate the club's 50th birthday. We couldn't keep the plate but have a medal instead, the one on the left below.

Winners of the 2003/04 Portsmouth Plaque for best club slides in the SPF league knockout competition.



Winners of the 2003/04 BT Trophy for best club slides in the southern region of the SPF league knockout competition.

Winners of the 2003/04 Swanmore Trophy for best club in prints in the southern region of the SPF league knockout competition.

Winners of the 2004 Newbury Challenge.

Runners up for the National PAGB Inter-club Slide Championship in 2004. This was a big one. We beat a lot of very prestigious clubs to get that medal. There's a full account in the June 2004 edition of the newsletter.

Winners of the 2005 Newbury Challenge.

Winners of the 2005 southern league of the SPF league knockout competition.

Woolston Shield (club entry) 2nd place. 2006 runners-up in the SPF interclub print championship.

Winners of the 2006 Newbury Challenge.

And this may not be a full account. For example, we came 2nd in the SPF print championship in 2006 so qualified for the PAGB Print Championship at Connahs Quay again, but only came 5th. Only .....

### **Mike Stacey**

## **A photographer's Myanmar**

In 2012 I visited Myanmar, otherwise known as Burma, for the first time. It was unforgettable for the travel experience and photographically. Myanmar has been for decades a closed country, but gradually during the 2000s some limited tourism was allowed. However, secret police would be observing official tour groups and like North Korea were only allowed into a few areas.



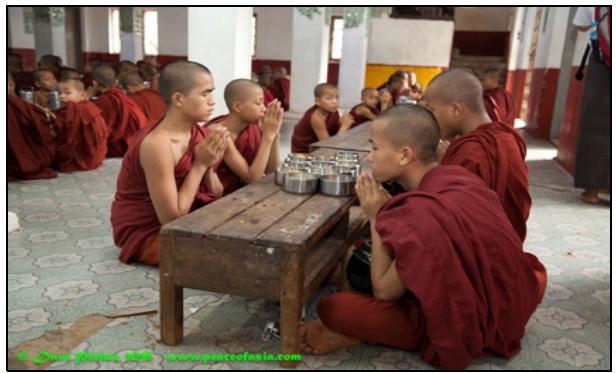
As a photographer I would never have been able to get into the country as the military junta banned foreign journalists from entry. Even though I was a general photographer I would have had difficulties. I tried to enter in May 2008 but the bureaucratic hurdles were too great. It was probably a good thing, as in that month a major cyclone, Hurricane Nargis, devastated the country. I would have had a very different set of images or possibly have been arrested.

When Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest at the end of 2010 Myanmar changed briefly for the better. In 2011 photojournalist friend, Karl Grobl

had managed to get into the country to run photo tours and introduced me to tour operator and photographer Mya Min Din when he visited Cambodia that year. It's interesting to note that the Burmese still prefer to be Burmese even though Myanmar was its old name and Burma the British colonial name.



MM as he was otherwise known, arranged for me to have an remarkable insight at life in the many Buddhist Temples in Yangon (Rangoon) and other towns. I spent 3 weeks photographing monasteries, nunnery's and the spectacular temple sights. MM took me to a nunnery that he guided Steve McCurry a year before.



I spent a third of my time travelling on Burmese railways and the beautiful Inle Lake. Towards the end of my trip I had seen so many spectacular temples that I thought I'd seen enough for a lifetime.

Them I visited Bagan! With 3000 temples in a 50 square kilometre area, Bagan has the world's largest collection of Buddhist monuments. That is 3 times as many as the whole of Cambodia. To see this spectacular panorama at sunrise from one of the temples was, to say the least, awesome. With my local guide Minim I was able to gain access to the interiors of some of these temples and see frescos up to 1000 years old that few tourist would ever get to see.



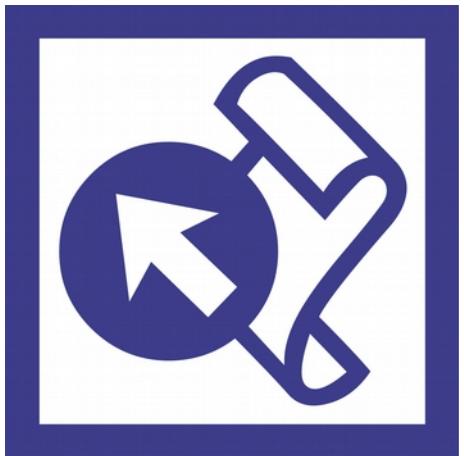
8 years on, in 2020, Myanmar is slipping back to some of the bad old days of the military junta. The freedom promised by Aung San Suu Kyi has not really happened with the ethnic cleansing of the Muslim Rohingas in the north and political repression. It's still possible to visit but it's not quite as open as it was when I visited.



**Dave Perkes**

## **OSPS website**

My interest in web design dates back to the late 1990s when I was involved with the OS Intranet for the Mapping Contracts team. The platform used was Microsoft FrontPage which was relatively easy to learn and use. When I moved to Cambodia in 2003, I became involved in a project to take photos of hotels working with a Cambodian marketing man, Kong Chheng Lee. He was marketing manager for the Angkor Hotels Organisation. I was using a Fuji S2 Pro DSLR then. There were only a few photographers in Cambodia with DSLRs at that time, so this gave me opportunities for photo work. With my interest in architecture I became a specialist in hotel photography, which led to my work in web design with Chheng Lee using FrontPage.



My first [www.peaceofankgor.com](http://www.peaceofankgor.com) website, for our small hotel, was done using FrontPage. However, life moved on and I was more involved in running photo tours, so the website work took a back seat.

FrontPage was getting outdated and not as sophisticated as I wanted. I tried a few different web design programs but I found them too complex. I did use a PC-based site builder for a while, but after I migrated to Macs I had to use a different app.



10 years ago my Marketing Manager, Warren, built our Peace of Angkor Tours website using Weebly. Woz created a really professional website with this app, which was as easy to use as a word processor. I used Weebly to create several sites. My current [www.peaceofasia.com](http://www.peaceofasia.com) site was done using this. I use Weebly for the OSPS website which I am sure you have all looked at. Please follow the link to the latest update and any contributions of new pictures or writings will be much appreciated.

[www.osps.org.uk](http://www.osps.org.uk)

I could do with someone to act as backup, so I am asking for a club member to volunteer to assist. When this Covid-19 crisis is over I will show how it all works, so please get in touch if you are interested.

**Dave Perkes**

## Story behind the picture



'Colour by numbers', West Quay South construction 2016, Southampton, Sony RX100.

It's a principle that most photographers follow: always carry a camera. I do, and looking through my portfolio I can see it's the right thing to do. There have been so many instances over the years where I've 'walked around a corner' and found something unexpected and photogenic.

I had been walking past the construction site of the West Quay extension on a regular basis from the beginning of the project. I had no desire to record the build but knew there would bound to be some good single images to be found somewhere. This surveyor was marking out the area to the east and south of the building so that the paving teams could put down a complex pattern of paving blocks to mimic the mud flats that used to be there many years ago. However, he wasn't using coloured paint, just black. When I saw this scene I thought 'Ah, colour by numbers!', a childhood memory, so I made an adjustment during post processing. It's 1 of 12 images shot, and the pose is such that I don't think it could have been much better if I had been shouting instructions to him.

**Mike Stacey**