Edinburgh Photographic Society

Newsletter *Spring 2021*

Alastair Cowan: Snowdrop

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Stop Press: Annual General Meeting

The AGM is on **Wednesday 31st March.**

We need at least 30 members present to be quorate – so please come!

A number of business matters are discussed and we also present the trophies for this season.

An active society like ours relies on members to keep everything running smoothly and there are currently several roles available on the EPS Council
It doesn't matter if you are a brand new member, a member for a few years or a member for decades – everyone is welcome to join the team. EPS has a glorious history and with your help it will have an exciting future!

President's welcome *Isobel Lindsay*

The days are getting longer, daffodils and snowdrops are flowering, and spring will soon be here. First of all I'd like to give a warm welcome to all the new members since the last Newsletter. It's wonderful to have you join us and I look forward to saying hello when we meet on Zoom.

In the last bulletin I was hopeful that we'd see some easing of the COVID-19 restrictions but it was not to be and in fact we shut the studio and cancelled 3 print competitions. I'm hoping that we will run them later this season and will let you know as soon as I can. I'd also like to thank everyone who enters the competitions – I know it's a lot of work and is nerve wracking but it is a huge pleasure to see the breadth of talent we have at EPS. So give yourself a round of applause! Our annual members exhibition is coming up and it's a wonderful opportunity to show your work to members and the public so look out for the update on that.

Despite the restrictions we've been meeting up to 4 times a week and had some superb talks. A highlight was the evening with Douglas Dubler which was fabulous, wonderful images and great stories from one of the greats of photography. Not only was Douglas presenting from New York but, we had our biggest audience ever including other clubs and members of the public from around the world. My thanks to David Greer for organising it.

Another highlight was than evening when an EPS member showed us glorious abstracts – definitely not rubbish! We've also had some great software demos and talks on a huge range of topics from underwater and iPhone photography; 20 years in the Balkans; how to create beautiful nightscapes; and some superb nature talks. We've recorded a number of the talks and I hope you've enjoyed watching them in in your own time.

The syllabus continues for the next few months so I look forward to many more great evenings.

The Council continues to look to the future and how we can improve EPS. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you have about what you'd like to see or changes that would improve the society. 2020 changed things in ways we would never have imagined so why not do more!

I hope 2021 brings back a more normal world. Even if it doesn't we've proved that it can't stop us creating beautiful images or enjoying photography. No matter what happens this year that will continue and I look forward to seeing you and your images all in the coming weeks.

Isobel

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Treasurer's report *Martin Ashford*

Hello EPS members,
As Treasurer, the last two months have been quite busy for me. As well as maintaining this season's accounts I've also been finalising last year's, in readiness for our AGM and submission to OSCR, our Charity regulator.

When I haven't been up to my eyes in Spreadsheets and Receipts, I've been thinking of things to keep me occupied during the lockdown and the long Scottish Winter.
I've installed a 'Squirrel proof' Bird feeder in my garden. I've spent hours watching how the Squirrels, Wood Pigeons and Robins interact with one another; it's fascinating and offers lots of photo opportunities.
To try and reduce my ever expanding 'lockdown waistline', I've taken to walking into town then up to the top of Calton Hill at least two days a week to catch the sunrise. It's a wonderful place to see the sun rise over Arthur's seat. If you haven't done it, give it a try, you'll get some great photos, and you'll burn off a few calories in the process

But now to the interesting stuff – EPS Finances!

- With the 50% reduction in our Membership fees and the cancellation of the International Exhibition, it looks like we'll finish our financial year (Aug 31st) with a deficit around £2,000.
- Fortunately, we own our property outright and have healthy cash reserves which have been built up over many years. Despite everything that Covid-19 has thrown at us, the Society is in good shape and will be ready to re-open the doors when it can.
- An interesting point to note about this season is that despite having the doors closed, we're at our highest membership since 2008 (228 members). One of the advantages of having a Zoom syllabus means we've attracted new members from England, Ireland, Spain and even Denmark. We're fast becoming an international society!

Just before I sign off, a couple of reminders for you: -

We have an active closed Facebook group for EPS members. When you're in Facebook, search for '**EPS Members Closed Group**' then ask to join. We're up to about 66 members now, but it would be good to get some more.

We also have an active Instagram page. When you're in the App or on the webpage, type in 'Edinburgh Photographic Society'; we should be at the top of the search results. (Please remember to follow us)
That's it from me; I look forward to virtually meeting you all at the AGM
Martin

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Since the last bulletin it's been a busy time! Some of the highlights have been a night with Mike Caithness showing us his rubbish images (one thing they aren't is rubbish!); a discussion on about printing (which was a challenge on Zoom!); an evening learning about AVs; a talk from Colin McLean on his wonderful exhibition; a presentation and demo on iPhone photography from Gerry Coe; a night with Eion Johnston and his glorious images; and we even managed to cram in another superb night learning software techniques with Neil McCoubrey and Eric Robinson.

We also had our annual Xmas challenge – which was either to make something with the 5 random images we supplied or just challenge yourself to do something new. Here are a few of the images you created

Al McOrist: Exploding flowers

Brian Flemming

Bill Mitchell

Derek Robertson

Alan Jones

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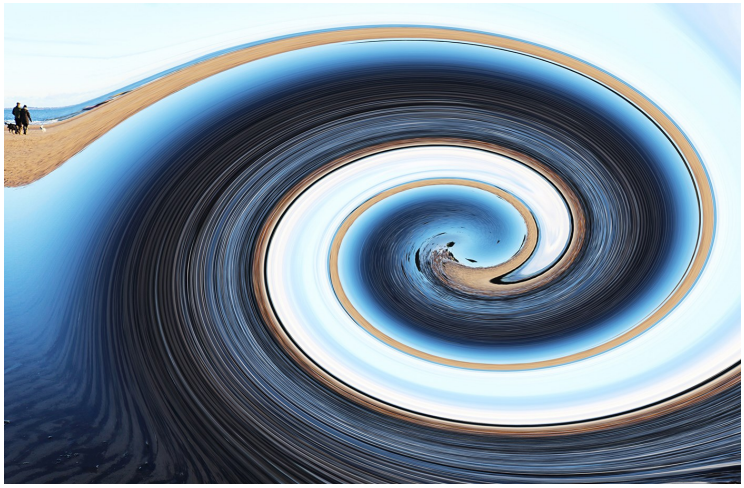
Creative Digital Group

Eamonn Cullen
Guard Dog

Martin Ashford



Jenny Harper

Neil Scott

Muriel Binnie

Donald Stirling

Creative Digital Group
Inter Club night

Our annual interclub took place with Stirling, Musselburgh and Kirkcaldy Camera Clubs. This year the competition was held on Zoom on 25th November 2020 and we came first equal with Kirkcaldy! The Judge was Eddie Telford and he was excellent - good feedback and very fair scoring. Well done to all those whose images were put forward and thanks to everybody who submitted images for selection. A good result after coming bottom equal last year.

Final scores were:

Edinburgh and Kirkcaldy	267
Musselborough	264
Stirling	259

Congratulations to the EPS top scorers who are…

Alan Jones - Malachite Sunbird 20 and Round up 19,
Derek Robertson - The Fingal 19,
Eamonn Cullen - Milky Way Over Wast Water 19
Muriel Binnie - Snowy Mountains 19.

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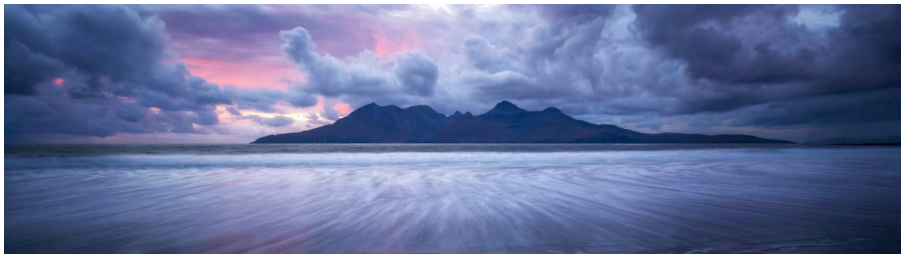
We also held our online competition where all entries are critiqued by a number of other CD Group members. The images were superb and showed the range of skills we have in the Society. Congratulations to our winners who are:

Vikki Macleod – with 20 points for 2 different images: A Rum Old View and Any Given Monday.



These images all received 19 points.
Alan Jones – Howl
John Fotheringham - The Bow
Carole MacLaren - This Way

We also completed our annual Safari panels and this year we portrayed our favourite nursery rhyme. The final panels were judged by Margaret Salisbury who didn't have an easy job of it. 4 Groups submitted panels on a variety of rhymes – Ring a Ring O Roses, Mary Mary Quite Contrary, Old MacDonald had a Farm and Jack and Jill. They all includes beautiful images and clever creativity. For the first time there was a draw - Group 2 with Group 3! Our thanks to everyone who took part for their enthusiasm and images that they provided.

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Digital Challenge Cup

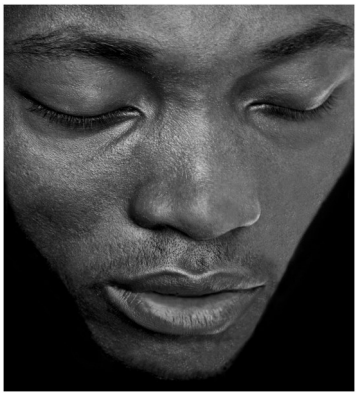
The overall winner is:
Alan Jones with 20 and his image - Windmills

BEFORE

AFTER

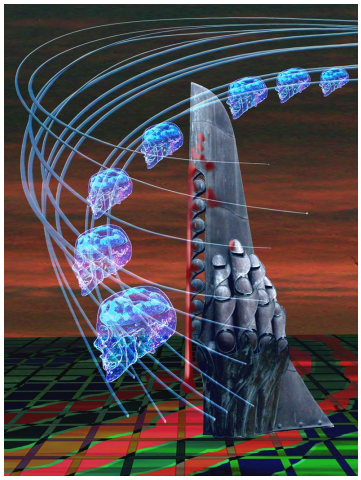
2 runners up, also with 20 points are:
Margaret Salisbury with her image – Face on Train
Barbara Bartkowiak with her image - Scalpel And Laser.

BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE



AFTER

Before the end of the season we'll have a presentation from Adrian Cullen on film, a night showing off our mobile phone creativity, hear from Chris Osborne who recently received a FRPS and a night on promoting passion! We'll also be holding our annual Cunningham Cup competition. As always lots of things to look forward to!

We look forward to seeing you on a Monday night!

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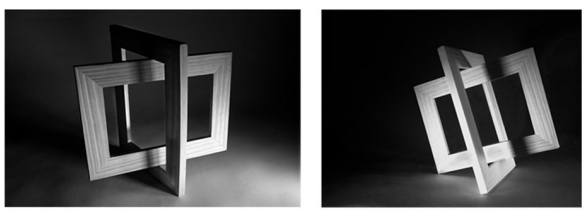
This has been a fruitful year so far at the Phoenix Group, operating under the move to Zoom with the current pandemic. Although we are not able to view prints 'in the flesh', the meetings have been well subscribed with members showing new and intriguing work.
In particular several members have presented panels of photographs, either successful submissions or seeking comment on tentative first steps. We are lucky to have experienced members who can give their considered opinion on members' work and what next steps might be taken.
Each evening there have been between three and five presentations, which is a fine number so that the members can present in a relaxed atmosphere and allow plenty of time for consideration by those attending.

Al McOrist
Locha Choire
Ben Vrackie

Chris Osborne
Polariod 1931



Neil Scott
Frame 01

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Nature Group

Jean Manson

The Nature group had an active and successful season supported by large and enthusiastic audiences at all of our meetings. We have met every two weeks this season and will continue this into the coming season.

We have had wonderful talks from our external speakers Ben Hall, Helen Mugridge, Kevin Elsby and Tracey Lund. In addition, we have some excellent talks from our members David Wolfenden gave us a beautiful story of Barn Owls, Jim told us about the FI-AP/PSA and PAGB rules for Nature Photography and Eric Robinson has given us some valuable instruction on Film making which we hope to turn into an evening of films by the members next season

Keith Thorburn will be judging the Iolaire Cup on the 16 March 2021. We have had an exceptional entry this year with 72 images submitted.

The monthly challenges are still well supported with some outstanding and imaginative images.

David Wolfenden

Jim Moir

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Unda McKie

We now have a full and very exciting syllabus for the coming year with some very well known photographers and naturalists talking to us. We will also have a number of internal nights with members showing their images and hopefully films. There will be plenty on offer for those that are not able to come to the EPS premises as many, if not all of these talks will be transmitted by zoom.

If you would like to learn more about nature photography or if you simply would like to watch some beautiful presentations just join us. We are always please to see new faces. I look forward to welcoming you to our future events.

Jean

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The EPS building has been on lockdown for several weeks and the situation is likely to continue for a while longer. Even after lockdown rules are lifted I doubt we will see groups gathering in the studio room this syllabus year. Later in the summer, when we have less restrictions in place I will gauge interest for a small outdoor walkabout shoot with a model with social distancing etc in place. This beginners' workshop will include a discussion about mixing outdoor natural light with flash, and some of the challenges that brings as well as methods of dealing with harsh shadows on a sunny day (weather permitting).

In the meantime, for those of you who use Photoshop CC, please be aware that there was a recent update to Camera RAW which makes colour grading images a lot easier. There is now a dedicated "Color Grading" panel just under the "Color Mixer" panel in Camera Raw. There are sliders which allow you to separately tint your highlights, shadows and midtones to give your portrait images a completely different mood. As a starting point, you could try introducing cyan into your shadows and a bit of orange into your highlights, and then fine tune from there.

If you have taken any still life or portrait photographs that you would be happy to have included in future articles, then please do get in touch.

Thanks and Regards

Malkit

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PDI competitions *Keith Walkingshaw*

The competitions concluded in January with a grand total of 530 images entered over the season - 183 in league 2 (35%) and 347 in league 1 (65%). The 35/65 split was reasonably consistent over the four competitions (+/-3%).

81 members (approx. 36% of the last reported EPS membership) entered some or all of the PDI competitions, 32 members in league 2 and 49 in league 1.

PDI's 3 & 4 produced eight maximum scores which brought the total number of 20's the season to twenty-one. The average image score over the 4 competitions was 15.9 in league 2 and 16.3 in league 1.

Congratulations to the eight members in league 2 who scored 87 points and above with their top five images and will compete in league 1 next season.

The images scoring maximum points from PDI's 3 & 4 are shown below:

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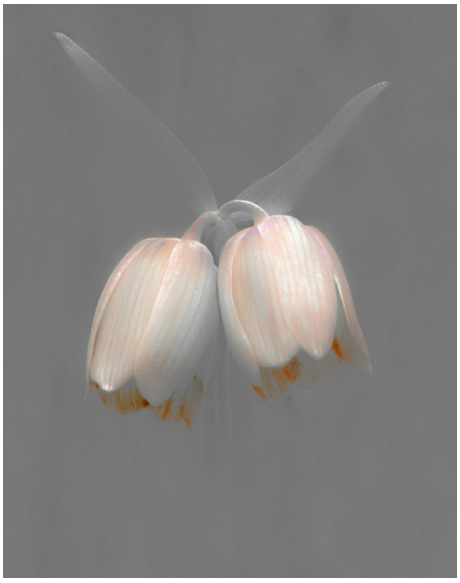

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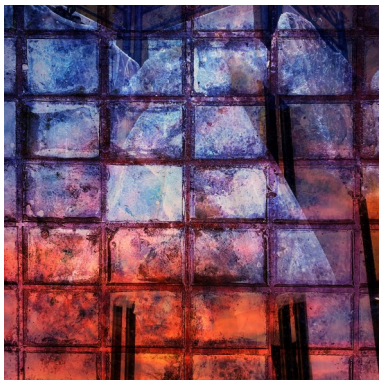
Muriel Binnie

I have been using an iPhone for about 6 months and I noticed that my favourite app was not on Gerry Coe's list. Its name is Photosplit. These images are all multiple exposures created in Photosplit and it also creates triptychs, polyptychs etc. Unfortunately not available for Android when I last looked



Gair Brisbane

Basking Shark shot off the coast of Coll

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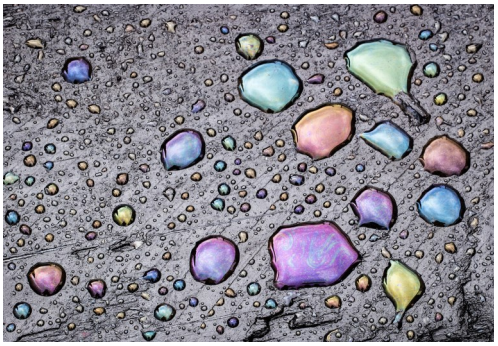
Mike Caithness

Mike did a talk to the CD group on 23rd Feb on "My photos are rubbish" - here are some of the images from the evening



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Human memory and photography

When photography was invented, it was thought as a metaphor for human memory because it captured visual information in a way that was a little blurry and tended to fade over time. The making, remember, and forget of human memory. We have always relied on external devices. Writing in a diary is probably the best ancient example. Photography was the step forward, the possibility to capture and store a visual information.

Over almost 200 years from the first photograph, cameras and developing processes became so efficient that the metaphor got outdated. Technology has allowed sharp photographs with museum quality printing which can last a lifetime, like the healthy long-term memory that most of us can experience. The idea of reflecting on and sharing memories are a key part of our sense of identity. Memories make us who we are. Don't get me wrong, everybody has their moment of memory failure. Memory process is a complex biological function that requires more than just be present in the scene to remember. Our brain is bombarded by an immense amount of stimulus that sometimes makes it impossible to store everything, even the most ordinary things. Add to this, daily life routines that make us tired and sleepless. Simply saying, our brain selectively stores a memory depending on the level of importance that we give to that information. A continuous process of how we sense and perceive an experience. Like how hardware and software are programmed to determine how they react to the world.

With the digital age and the massification of smartphones, we could assume that our visual memories are preserved, right? A quick look around and what we see are anxious people holding their smartphones up, but instead of appreciating the beauty of the real moment, we are safely saving a digital file in the cloud. The sensation and perception of that "important" event is now subjective and was saved for latter. Interestingly, all the crispness and long-lasting memory of a modern photograph are now a faded memory and can easily get lost in an infinite digital album or broken hard drive. In fact, not only the photographic files get lost. Some studies have shown that our obsession of taking too many photos may be causing certain form of memory loss, a kind of smartphone dependence. By comparing people that were immersed in an event with people that recorded or took photos of it, scientists found that the latter group had poorer memories of what happened. The quality of the memories was dependent on photos and file metadata.

© David Szauder

Don't worry, we are not becoming stupid. The subjects from these studies are exceptions and case specific. Technology is here for our benefit. Our reliance on external memories can allow us to learn new things (what is the point of memorizing a list of phone numbers?). Even the sometimes-infamous selfie has it benefits, by assisting people with memory difficulties. All that we need is to be aware of the moments, be mindful and less busy. This is the best insurance for a hard drive loss

Some extra reading:

A. Barasch et al., *Psychol. Sci.* 28(8): 1056-1066 (2017). doi: 10.1177/0956797617694868
M. Jamieson et al., *Neuropsychol. Rehabil.* 24(3-4): 419-444 (2014). doi: 10.1080/09602011.2013.825632
A.F. Ward et al., *JACR* 2(2): 140-154 (2017). doi: 10.1086/691462
H.L. Roediger et al., *Trends Cogn. Sci.* 15(1): 20-27 (2011). doi: 10.1016/j.tics.2010.09.003

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PSA Interclub

Round 2 results - Projected Image Division

The results of the PID round 2 competition have been received; I'm afraid EPS has dropped from 1st Eq in round 1 to 4th Eq. The 3rd and final submission is due to be submitted by mid April. The top 3 clubs are promoted, so still all to play for.

Round 2 Nature results have not yet been received.
Thanks to all who took part.

GROUP F. STANDINGS				
Club Name	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Redlands Camera Club	**59**	**77**		**136**
Maitland Camera Club	**60**	**66**		**126**
Blarney Photography Club	**51**	**74**		**125**
Edinburgh Photographic Society	**60**	**61**		**121**
Youth Photographic Society	**59**	**62**		**121**
New View Photography Club	**59**	**59**		**118**
Forster Digital Photography Club	**57**	**59**		**116**
Australian Horizon Photographic Club	**51**	**63**		**114**
Royal PC Zoom	**55**	**58**		**113**
Ivanhoe Photographic Society	**59**	**48**		**107**
Photography Club of Assam	**56**	**51**		**107**
State College Photo Club	**54**	**53**		**107**
Megrez Photo Club	**54**	**50**		**104**
Plano Photography Club	**58**	**46**		**104**
Champaign County Camera Club	**48**	**53**		**101**
Raying Photography	**52**	**49**		**101**

COMING UP AT EPS

Members' Exhibition 2021

The Members' Exhibition is our annual celebration of members' work. The awards in 2021 will be selected by Joe Houghton, who many of you have met online at EPS this season. I have also moved the timetable back to give the best possible chance of both print submissions and an actual exhibition in 2021:

Submission deadline	6 May 2021 (to be confirmed)
Awards evening by Zoom	Wednesday 30 June 2021
Exhibition	11 to 19 September 2021

You may submit up to 4 prints, 4 PDIs and a 2-minute AV on any subject. Any image as long as not entered in a previous Members' Exhibition - choose the images you love, your recent projects or monthly competition winners - all are welcome.

Please watch for emails with more details from Muriel Binnie, Graeme Gainey and Adrian Cullen on print, PDI and AV submissions respectively.

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EPS Information

A reminder that when you buy something from Amazon you can make a contribution to EPS as your charity of choice. Just go www.smile.amazon.co.uk and select Edinburgh Photographic Society. Every little bit helps!

If you are a member of Edinburgh Public Libraries and use their on line offerings note that the RB Digital app is being phased and replaced by Libby. Not Libby Smith of SPF Fame but an app for iOS and Android which is a portal to a wide selection of books, audio-books and magazines. Of note to photographers is the selection of Photography Magazines;

-Amateur Photographer
-Digital Camera World
-Outdoor Photographer
-National Geographic

And dozens of other relevant books and magazines. Well worth checking out and it is free if you a member of the Public Library and have an enrolment number and PIN.

*Don't forget to check out the **Website** regularly for news, competition results and galleries. We also have a presence on **facebook** and **instagram** with a 'closed group' on facebook for members to share images. Sign up to follow us on these platforms and you'll see some glorious images.*

Edinburgh Photographic Society

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Your Council for 2020 season

Office bearers

President	Isobel Lindsay
Immediate past president	Doug Berndt ARPS EFIAP
Senior Vice-President and Secretary	Jim Moir ARPS AFIAP
Junior Vice-President	David Greer
Treasurer	Martin Ashford
Property Committee Convenor	Vacant
Webmaster	Tom Gardner ARPS
International Exhibition Secretary	Edith Smith LRPS

Council members

International Exhibition Treasurer Muriel Binnie

Graham Morrice
Dennis Linn
Ian Goodall
Eamonn Cullen
Terry Railley
Keith Walkingshaw
Vikki Macleod

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