



## Gallery Newsletter

August 2014  
Hello!

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### Interview

Local photographer Steve Schnabel tells us about his move to the Highlands, his current project and future plans.

**Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?** Born and raised in Gosport on the south coast of England, I spent much of my working life, with wife Sue, based along the M4 corridor before escaping to the sun and living for ten years on the Mediterranean, in the south of France and later Crete. During the "M4 years", we had spent many happy holidays touring Scotland, eventually the call to return proved too strong, in 2010 we left Crete for good and made our home in Torrison.



**When and how did you become interested in photography?** I came to photography late, inspired to have a go after becoming captivated by "A Legacy", a book of black and white photographs by Edward Weston, found in a used book store in Santa Barbara, California. On returning home I bought a digital SLR and started making photographs - this was late 2008. Over the subsequent two years Sue and I made a number of trips through Europe and the US, and on these trips I immersed myself in the making of photographs.

Now based in Torrison, the landscape was initially somewhat overpowering in its scale - where to go, what to shoot, so much to see - but by focusing on specific projects I'm now building a portfolio of images and plan to open a small gallery in the byre at our home in Inveralligin over the next year or so.

**How would you describe your style?**

Classical - I love black and white and tend only to use colour where its inclusion adds to the composition and story. However, autumn in the highlands is a special time for colour so the mono work tends to go on the back-burner from September to November.

**What type of camera(s) do you use?**

Nikon D800 SLR for the serious work but I also carry around a Sony RX100, a wonderful pocket-sized compact which is always with me.



**What inspires you to create your imagery?** If I have a project in mind I'll just get on with it, although I rarely venture out in the rain! Otherwise it's all about the light - dawn and dusk are best but this tends



to rule out the summer months as I like my beauty sleep! This current project - the old sea wall of Alligin - came about by accident. Shortly after moving here I ventured down to the wall at low tide and was mesmerised by the colours on display in the rotting wooden frame that held the boulders in place - the end of each trunk was a miniature landscape of colour and texture as I hope I've conveyed in some of the photographs. I then forgot all about it, even though I walked past it most days.

This year I wanted to revisit these "wood ends" to make some more images but was horrified to find much of the structure had collapsed - we had some severe storms last winter - and this prompted the idea of an on-going project to photograph what remains over the coming years. I see this very much a project in progress and I also hope to work backwards and try and piece together the history of the wall (and the harbour it created).

**Steve is exhibiting a display titled 'The Old Sea Wall at Alligin' from 8<sup>th</sup> August to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at the Loch Torridon Community Centre.** If anyone has any knowledge of, anecdotes about or pictures of the old harbour in Inveralligin, Steve would love to hear from you - please send an email to [steveschnabel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steveschnabel@yahoo.co.uk). His website can be found at [www.steveschnabel.com](http://www.steveschnabel.com)

*Images: 'Coast Bound', in action at the Old Sea Wall in Alligin and macro shot of 'wood end'.*

## Spotlight on Tim Johnson

Originally from South Yorkshire, Tim Johnson first became interested in working with wood as a way to relax when not working as a Radiographer in a busy Manchester hospital. Since moving to the East Coast of Scotland in 2003, Tim has been able to follow his dream of working in wood on a full-time basis. His work is exhibited in galleries throughout Scotland, including the gallery at the Loch Torridon Community Centre. Using locally sourced wood where possible, he takes his



inspiration from the Highland countryside and its ever-changing natural beauty. Tim's work combines practicality with aesthetic appeal, and focuses on the natural shape, form and patina of the wood. At the Centre, Tim is exhibiting a selection of handmade bowls, shawl pins, chopping boards and super-sized knitting needles. Tim can be contacted at [www.thehighlandcraftcompany.com](http://www.thehighlandcraftcompany.com).

## 'Out There in Torriddon' Exhibition 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014

This will be a mountain, loch, river and sea themed, mixed media exhibition and will coincide with the Torriddon Mountain and Sea Festival. Entry to the exhibition will be free. Work will be by local artists/makers or have a direct association by content with the Loch Torriddon area within the essence of the mountain, river, loch and sea theme.

Artists and makers are invited to submit one piece of work. Invitations and submission forms are now available to download from the Centre's website or obtained from the manager at the centre. Closing date for submission forms is **15<sup>th</sup> September 2014**.

## Food and Craft Markets

Showcasing local Food and Crafts each Friday to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10am to 4pm. Stalls vary from week to week and visitors have the opportunity to meet some of the Gallery's artists and makers. Stalls include: baking, bread, shellfish, smoked salmon, venison, sweets, woodworking, driftwood art, handmade soaps and toiletries, needlework, pottery, silver jewellery, photography, cards, felt craft, plants, antiques and collectables.



*Image: Lesley from the Garden Cottage Nursery with a display of colourful plants at a recent market.*

This and previous issues of the newsletter are available to download from the Centre website via the Exhibitions page. We'll be back soon with more news and features,

## from The Gallery

### Address

Loch Torriddon  
Community Centre  
Torriddon, By  
Achnasheen  
Ross-shire, IV22  
2EZ

### Contact

Email:  
[manager@lochtorriddoncentre.co.uk](mailto:manager@lochtorriddoncentre.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01445 791 361  
Website: [www.lochtorriddoncentre.co.uk](http://www.lochtorriddoncentre.co.uk)

### Opening Times

#### Easter - October

Monday to Saturday inclusive - 10am-4pm  
Closed Sunday

#### November - Easter

Monday - Wednesday - Friday - 11am-3pm  
Closed - Sat, Sun, Tues, Thurs.