I have a very eclectic choice of subject matter for my photography.

I will quite happily point the lens at a landscape or seascape; street scene; sunrise or sunset; travel subjects; textures or anything unusual. Photography is my hobby – I don’t have a hobby to photograph. Having said that, I do have a particularly favourite subject, which is derelict or badly run down properties, former homes or factories or disused military constructions (e.g relics of the German occupation in Guernsey). Perhaps I need psychotherapy?

Having come across a disused cottage in the middle of the Welsh countryside, near to where I was staying for several weeks, I decided it was worth investigating in order to check out any photographic possibilities.

I was able to easily gain access to the two storey property which was on the roadside but fortunately not a busy road. It was left open and having just a quick initial look, I could immediately see the possibilities and would investigate further, which was not a problem as I was living close by at the time.

My main problem was the lighting. I wanted natural light and did not want to resort to flash or artificial means at any cost. It was mid winter, February – which can be dismal in Mid Wales at the best of times.

I noted that the windows and doors all faced south but looking out onto large trees across the road from the property. The trees were bare at this time of the year so I was hopeful the angle of the sunlight would filter through to the windows and light up the rooms and nooks and crannies I had discovered - but when?

​The sky remained uncooperative for seemingly weeks as I drove past on my way out always with the hope for a break in the weather. Finally my wish came true as I had a chance to grab my kit when everything came together for a few hours.

In the end, I was able to make two trips and photographed the rooms and corridors with lovely winter light coming through illuminating the textures of flaking paint, old rotting furniture and fireplaces and casting shadows on the walls. Nature was slowly regaining a foothold with brambles and shoots creeping in through windows and doors. My only equipment was a tripod, Sony camera and wide angle lens; all the while repositioning myself and camera for different angles, being careful not to put a foot through a rotting floor board!

Having decided to go for a Distinction – something I needed to do to justify all my years in photography, I felt I should try to get together a panel of my resulting images from the Welsh cottages.

It took a few years for everything to come together – editing, selecting, panel order, two Advisory sessions and guidance from my peers.

After a couple of delays getting my submission sent due to disruptions caused by Covid19, I was happy to have been awarded my ARPS.

Davide Agnelli ARPS AFIAP 27th November 2020