From: Evan Dawson
Subject: Snapshot - No.1
Date: 31 July 2020 15:41:22

Dear RPS Trustees, staff and volunteers

It's the end of my first week with the RPS. I'm still standing. Lockdown is a curious way to start a new job - but I've felt very welcome, and much inspired by the panoply of photographic activities taking place.

I want to be a visible and available CEO for the organisation, so I'm going to send you regular snapshots of what I've been doing. Please feel free to opt out of these, or to suggest anything you'd like me to include.

On **Monday**, I was welcomed to an otherwise empty RPS House by **Mike** and **Matt**. I was given a tour of building, seeing behind the scenes of the stunning gallery and theatre, and some of the more discrete touches of which Mike is particularly proud, such as the aircon system, projector, cupboard handles and stairwell lighting. As well as remote conversations with **Michael** and **Nikki**, Mike spent a lot of time with me, integrating me into the IT systems; and explaining the complex array of voluntary groups, committees, chapters and regions that underpin all of the RPS's work. It is a fascinating, generous and historic organisation.

On **Tuesday**, we looked at the accounts, going through every budget with Nikki, and having lots of short conversations with the staff owners of each "department". It was a useful way to meet lots of the team members remotely, in a short focussed way. Having got a semblance of the shape of things financial, I then spoke with our treasurer **John Miskelly**. That evening, as Mike and I left the building, I managed to break burglar alarm! (It's fixed again now)

On **Wednesday**, Mike talked me through the AGM process, accounts and annual trustees' report. The AGM will be in September, so I'll need to get cracking with this quickly - although he's already done most of the work. We also had a chat with **Rebecca** about her budget, and Mike made lots of external introductions for me with organisations, photographers and our royal patron.

Yesterday, Mike and I had a conversation with **Alan Hodgson** (with whom I've spoken many times over the past few months, along with the other trustees) about his vision for the coming year of his presidency. We also talked with **Andy** about Distinctions, and with **Emily** about the website. At the end of the day, we had a fascinating conversation with **Martin Hancock** about the Climate Change Working Group.

Today, back at RPS House, we've been going through the last sections of Mike's long handover list. He has been so welcoming, generous and thoughtful throughout the week, and I'd like to thank him for this. As I'm sure you know, and may have seen from Alan's message on the RPS website today, Mike has achieved a tremendous amount in his two years with the RPS - from big projects, such as the opening of RPS House, new website and the digital response to the pandemic; to more subtle things, such as the admin systems that support the team's day to day work. He will be much missed.

I will shortly be joining an online drinks party to bid him farewell, so perhaps I'll "see" some of you there.

Next week, I'll be trying to get some shape on the mountains of notes I've made. I also hope to have lots of individual conversations with the staff team; and, together with Michael and Nikki, meeting with the trustees to consider our shared strategy for the future. I'll be looking at the management accounts with John and Nikki, and talking with Caroline Kenyon about Food Photographer of the Year.

Happy weekending!

Evan

Evan Dawson
Chief Executive Officer | The Royal Photographic Society

www.rps.org
0117 316 4450 | 07960 222160

The Royal Photographic Society, RPS House, 337 Paintworks, Arnos Vale, Bristol, BS4 3AR, UK

The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain is a company registered in England and Wales No. RC000798, Registered Charity No. 1107831. VAT Registration No. GB 753 3057 41.

This email contains confidential information and must not be distributed, disclosed, copied or transmitted to other parties without the express permission of The Royal Photographic Society (RPS). Any views expressed in this message are those of the sender and may not reflect the views of the RPS. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. The RPS does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the content of this message, which arise as a result of e-mail transmission. We may monitor any communication entering or leaving our systems for quality control or compliance purposes and use spam filters. The RPS has taken reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of software viruses, but we recommend that any attachments are virus checked before they are opened. This email has been scanned for viruses by MailDefender.

Privacy policy | Further RPS contact details