

Regional Organiser's Newsletter

It has been some time since our last Newsletter, December 2017 in fact, and so much has happened in that time. In May 2018 Ian Wilson stood down as RO after a long stint in the hot seat. Mark Stimpson then took on the role but unfortunately left before the following AGM, which was due to take place this May. After some discussion with the Committee and Bristol I offered to stand in as Acting RO and I can tell you it has been a very busy four months.

My intention was to remain in place until the AGM could be rearranged. However, the task has been something of a challenge due the lack of a handover resulting in a knowledge void. This is something that we must aim to avoid next time. To allow me to build up some experience with which to hand over, I will stay in place until the next years' AGM as a minimum. As a committee we have taken advice from HQ regarding this matter. It is their preference that the Region seeks and puts forward a replacement RO and that the Committee's recommendation is made from a selection of candidates. Therefore, if you would consider taking on this role, or would like an informal discussion about it, then please do contact me.

A committee meeting was held July. It was established that the exhibition organisers were over committed, already running other RPS exhibitions, and unable to run the members exhibition annually. It was agreed that the exhibition will run biannually going forward and we will seek to display the work in additional locations. The current exhibition will be on display in January 2020 at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds after touring the Stamford area. Full details are on the web site.

In the period since the last AGM (May 18th 2018 - Aug 24th 2019), forty-five events have run within the region organised by the Region and Special Interest Groups. These included Exhibitions, Workshops, Field Trips, Advisory Days, Meetings & Lectures. Three Advisory Days ran, one of which was ARPS only and a further "A" only day was planned but cancelled due to a lack of bookings. Exhibitions and Field Trips were well attended and we saw members from other regions come and join us for many of them.

The region has good links with Special Interest Groups and over the past few months we have explored further joint events with the Nature Group and are now liaising with both Creative Eye and DIG Eastern. Twelve events are currently advertised within the region for the remainder of 2019 including the annual free lecture this November, which is Travel Photography with Hazel Mason FRPS and James Frost FRPS. Please book now as we have a limited number of seats left.

It would be good to see more happening and it must be down to the local membership to do this. I would encourage anyone to organise a small gathering of members to do an activity, which can be promoted through the web site and Journal. If you would be prepared to organise just one or two events each year in your area it would help spread activity throughout the region. I will assist in supporting your event. An event can be as simple as a local circular walk or a get together to critique images. If you feel you can be involved in something please do contact me via e-mail.

Looking ahead, we are in early planning stages of organising a macro workshop, four field trips and a late year Advisory Day. A further "L" Advisory Day is already booked for March 2020, which will be held in Norwich. You will be able to book this when the event goes live on our web page soon. A change within the Distinctions Department at HQ now allows some Groups to have Group specific ARPS Advisory Days. We are currently working with the Nature Group with a view to running one of these next year.

We have a very active region and we have excellent member engagement with Group events. There is always room for improvement but, as everything currently depends upon a few volunteers, we must accept there are limitations. Therefore, the more volunteers we have the more we can do, the lighter the load is on each individual and the more we can all gain from our membership. Our Regional web pages are viewed more than any other's apart from London's. These pages hold all the information you need for Events, Workshops, Advisory Days, Field Trips and Exhibitions. We blog our Field Trips and create Galleries to show our members what we have done. It's your Region and your RPS, please be involved.

Jonathan Vaines

Acting Regional Organiser

Contact me by e-mail: eastangliaweb@rps.org