

Regional Organiser's Notes

I don't normally send out a newsletter with the March issue of the *RPS Journal*, so you might wonder why I'm breaking with tradition on this occasion. For historical reasons, as Regional Organiser I am obliged to send out at least two paper newsletters every year. This dates from the time when Internet connections were poor and email coverage of members was patchy to say the least. All this has now changed, of course, but the paper obligation remains – despite the inefficiency of the medium and the environmental cost (as well as the Region's bank balance).

My policy has been to send out a sheet with the December *Journal*, with one side dedicated to the Regional programme for the following year: this (hopefully) provides something useful to be pinned onto a notice-board or fridge, as well as fulfilling half my obligation. The other half is accounted for by the AGM and Exhibition paperwork, which is usually sent out in April ready for the meeting in May. Clearly it is important that every Regional member receives notice of the AGM, which this year will be happening on Sunday 9th April. It does seem slightly pointless printing 700-odd nomination forms, however, given that none are ever returned to me! Similarly, it's terribly wasteful to print a large number of Exhibition entry forms when the majority of entrants download the editable version from the website anyway. So, in an attempt to stem this unnecessary waste I have decided that this year's Exhibition "paperwork" (entry form, rules, etc.) will be made available electronically, and a bulletin to this effect will be going out at the beginning of March. Similarly, the AGM nomination form will also be made available on the website at the same time, along with last year's minutes and accounts.

I hope you will understand – maybe, even approve of – my small attempt to help save the planet. The aim is simply to be more efficient, and there is absolutely no attempt to discriminate against those who do not have ready access to the Internet. *If the changes affect you in any way, then please get in touch so that we can work out alternative arrangements.*

I am very much looking forward to building on the successes of last year's Exhibition. The introduction of awards meant that we had record entries for both Prints and PDIs, in terms of both numbers *and* quality. The sheer number of images to be handled on the day meant that our traditional "two pass" selection mechanism was too slow and cumbersome; also, the size of the audience meant that print visibility was less than ideal. As a result we will be adopting a new selection system this year (details to come), and I am also planning simultaneous digital projection of the prints as they are selected. Hopefully this will result in a more streamlined day, and one which can be enjoyed by everyone – not just those on the front row!

Talking of the Exhibition, I can give you a provisional date for your diary. The official opening of the Exhibition at *The Apex* in Bury St Edmunds is scheduled for Friday 12th May starting at 18:00. I shall confirm the details a bit nearer the time; but, if the last "Apex" opening was anything to go by, this will be an event not to be missed.

The 2017 AGM will be slightly different to normal in that, as well as the usual election of officers, we will be starting the transition to a new Regional Organiser taking over from me in 2018. The plan is to ensure continuity by involving my successor in the planning of events which he or she will be responsible for once they have taken over. It also provides a gentle introduction for the person concerned, allowing them a whole year in which to "learn the ropes". Continuity is the key to a successful Region, in my view, and this means more than just the RO. My successor will need a new deputy, for example, as well as building teams to run events at their chosen venues. I was always brought up with the philosophy that "the more one puts into something, the more one gets out of it". This has certainly been true of my time as RO, and I would encourage other members to become involved with practical aspects of running the Region. It can be hard work sometimes, but it's also hugely rewarding.

Finally, I'm sure many of you will have seen the superb series "Yellowstone" on BBC2 recently. It's a place I've never visited, but I ended up drooling all over the sofa while watching the amazing pictures of the area and its natural history. The series introduced a photographer who specialises in Yellowstone and its wildlife, and this is none other than Dan Hartman: this year's Regional Sponsored Lecturer. Dan will be speaking at Foxton on Sunday 14th May, along with Roger Reynolds HonFRPS who also organises photographic tours to Yellowstone. This should be an absolutely unmissable event; and, because it is being sponsored by the Region, it will be free to everyone – RPS member or not. Please spread the word, as we'd like as large an audience as possible on the day. Sadly, the BBC Yellowstone series is no longer available on iPlayer, but short clips from the programmes can be seen here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00jcdml>

Ian

Ian Wilson ARPS

Regional Organiser

Forthcoming Events

2017

Sunday 2nd April

Permajet — Print with Confidence

This is being held at Foxton Village Hall, Hardman Road, Foxton, CB22 6RN, from approximately 10:30 to 15:30. Permajet's "Print with Confidence" lecture, run in conjunction with the RPS Digital Imaging Group, includes an explanation of both monitor calibration and printer profiling, colour management through various software and general profiling methods. It then discusses Ink and Paper, the continuous Ink Flow system and many other areas of colour management including choice of Monitor. Cost is £7 for DIG and RPS members, £10 for non-members.

Contact: Mark Gillett (rpsdigeast@gmail.com)

Saturday 8th April to Monday 17th April

Creative Group Annual Exhibition

This is being held at Wingfield Barns, Church Road, Wingfield, Diss, IP21 5RA, and is a showing of the RPS Creative Group's 2017 Exhibition. Opening hours are 11:00 to 16:00, Wednesday to Sunday. Entry is **free**.

Contact: Moira Ellice (moira.ellice2011@btinternet.com)

Sunday 9th April

Regional Exhibition Selection and AGM

This is being held at Foxton Village Hall, Hardman Road, Foxton, CB22 6RN from approximately 10:30 to 16:30. Entry is **free**, but there a small fee to enter the exhibition.

Wednesday 3rd May to Sunday 4th June

Regional Exhibition

This is being held at the Apex Art Gallery, Charter Square, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3FD, and is a showing of the RPS East Anglia Region's 2017 Exhibition. The gallery is open Monday to Saturday 10:00-17:00 and Sunday 10:00-16:00. Entry is **free**.

Contact: Moira Ellice (moira.ellice2011@btinternet.com)

Sunday 14th May

Dan Hartman: Wildlife among the Rockies

This is being held at Foxton Village Hall, Hardman Road, Foxton, CB22 6RN from approximately 10:30 to 16:30. National Geographic photographer, Dan Hartman, specialises in photographing the wildlife of America's Rocky Mountains, including the Yellowstone National Park. Dan will be joined by Roger Reynolds HonFRPS, who is himself involved with running photographic tours to the USA. This day of American natural history

photography is being sponsored by the Region, so entry is **free for everyone**.

Sunday 11th June

Joint Meeting with the Digital Imaging Group

This is being held at Foxton Village Hall from approximately 10:30 to 16:30. Details TBA.

Contact: Mark Gillett (rpsdigeast@gmail.com)

Sunday 10th September

Lecture or Outing

Details and venue TBA.

Saturday 30th September to Sunday 15th October

RPS Nature Group's Annual Exhibition

This is being held at Wingfield Barns, Church Road, Wingfield, Diss, IP21 5RA, and is a showing of the RPS Nature Group's 2017 Exhibition. Opening hours are 11:00 to 16:00, Wednesday to Sunday. Entry is **free**.

Contact: Moira Ellice (moira.ellice2011@btinternet.com)

Sunday 8th October

Joint meeting with the Creative Group

This is being held at Foxton Village Hall from approximately 10:30 to 16:30. Details TBA.

Sunday 12th November

Distinctions Advisory Day

LRPS and ARPS (Applied, Fine Art & Travel). This is being held at Foxton Village Hall from approximately 10:30 to 16:30. Cost is £15 for RPS members submitting work, £20 for non-members submitting work, and £10 for observers.

Contact: Ann Miles (ann@pin-sharp.co.uk)

2018 (provisional)

Sunday 11th February

Sunday 11th March

Sunday 8th April

Sunday 13th May

Sunday 10th June

Sunday 9th September

Sunday 14th October

Sunday 11th November

Unless otherwise stated, the contact for each event is the Regional Organiser (ian@greenmen.org.uk)