From: Evan Dawson
Subject: Snapshot - No. 8
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Dear RPS Trustees, staff, volunteers and friends

I received two unexpected letters this week. The first was from **Kenneth Warr**, who is 95 years old, and had my job for 20 years some time ago. He was writing to wish me luck, and tell me of some of his accomplishments and experiences during his time as Secretary (as it was then) of the RPS. It was such a pleasure to read, and I hope I might have the opportunity to meet Kenneth when the virus risk makes it possible.

The second was an **anonymous email** (I didn't even know such things were possible) from a "Concerned Member" warning me that my article about making the RPS welcoming to more people had caused them to feel we might be "politicising" the organisation; and threatening to cancel their membership if we "destroy our heritage" or "promote the interests of one group over another". Nobody has such an intention of course - but it was a reminder that we need to make sure we are clear about why we want the organisation to be open to everyone, and reassuring members that this will only enhance their own experiences of the RPS.

On **Monday**, booking for the **AGM** was open (click here if you haven't yet booked). I also worked further on the draft **Inclusion Policy** (much inspired by the above), and spoke with Janet about a range of interesting membership issues.

On **Tuesday**, Michael and I had a meeting at **Felinesoft**, who look after the RPS website. It was very strange, as several of us sat around a big table, with everyone wearing masks. Otherwise, it was a very productive conversation, talking about improving the site in various ways, and developing the CRM system too. I also finished a summary of my first wave of strategic consultations, for the trustees.

On **Wednesday**, I travelled to Bath to meet **Simon B** for the first time in person. We talked about the organisation's membership strategy over many years, and what data we need to make the best decisions about the next few months and years. I also had a long conversation with **Kate** about her role as volunteer manager, and her vision for supporting the wide array of geographic and special interest groups. We also began the process of moving our HR systems online, thanks to Matt, which I hope will make things much easier for everyone.

On **Thursday**, I travelled to Gloucestershire, to meet **Emily** (also for the first time) in her beautiful garden. Accompanied by buzzards, a pheasant, falling apples and a cat, we talked about the website, and the various online initiatives that have taken place over the past few months. On my return to the office, **Michael** and I met with Andrew Page from **Positive View**, talking about their competition for young photographers. There is significant potential for partnership here, perhaps to develop a younger offering by the RPS.

Today has been much quieter, getting back on top of paperwork, and having a useful catchup with **Alan Hodgson**.

Also, the *"Hold Still"* exhibition, was launched today, supported by our patron the **Duchess of Cambridge**. There's a feature about it on our website here.

I now need to make a **correction**. In the last Snapshot, I mentioned that **Afzal Ansary** is the “Founding" Chair of the Medical Group. He has been involved with us for a very long time, and done wonderful things - but the group was actually founded in 1946, so felt we should put the record straight on that!

Emily writes:

> This week marked the 20th week of the home page header image competition (member only). You can read a synopsis of the first 19 weeks here: https://rps.org/news/bristol/2020/september/our-pandemic-journey-in-pictures/. Around 140 member images have been featured from the thousands received. People entered from around the world during this time from Manchester to Madagascar and Bristol to Beijing. On Thursday our first Russian member to be included said he was particularly delighted as he found out he was going to be featured on his birthday! Special thanks for their continued support and help throughout the project to the Switzerland Chapter and in particular to Chapter Organiser Rob Kershaw ARPS. With the building opening again in January, demand is pressing again on this space but I would like to carry on with this project for a week or two a month next year as the membership are obviously enjoying it. People have said it has renewed their interest in photography and given them confidence to go on to apply for Distinctions.

Liz writes:

> This week we announced the recipient of the RPS Postgraduate Bursary 2020. The quality of entries this year was very high and there was lots of healthy and friendly debate. The judges, Bindi Vora, Anthony Luvera, Michael Pritchard and Liz Williams, selected artist Brook Andrew - read more by following the link https://rps.org/news/bristol/2020/september/rps-postgraduate-bursary-recipient-2020/

Gary writes:

> The Science Photographer of the Year competition is now open for entries and is live on our web site. After a lengthy delay caused by, well you know what, plans are going ahead with our exhibition launching at the Manchester Science Festival in February. As ever, we are looking for visually captivating images that have a science story behind them. This year, we have added an extra category for images relating to climate change, aligning with the main theme of the science festival.
>
> Our biggest task now is getting the word out and getting the entries in. Entries are being accepted until the end of the day on 4th December 2020.
>
> A huge thank you to Michael for running the project while so many of us were

on furlough, and the Rebecca and Emily for their work getting the web site up and running in very short order!

Next week, lots of final prep for the AGM, finance reviews with each manager, and several more strategic conversations.

I hope you're enjoying my weekly Snapshots, and please do send me anything you'd like me to share. I would be grateful if chairs and ROs could circulate this to their group members, if appropriate - and if you are receiving this indirectly, do drop me a line if you'd like me to add your email to the circulation list.

As always, please keep in touch, and do let me know if you'd like to discuss anything.

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

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