From: Evan Dawson
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Dear RPS Trustees, volunteers, staff and friends

I hope you've all had a happy week. The weather has definitely changed now, and it seems dark outside as I write this email, for the first time.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to Rebecca's call for "*The Joy of Photography*" images. We really do still need more, so please do get in touch with her if you have any.

On **Monday**, I was in RPS House all day, starting to get to grips with the mountains of notes I've been taking from all my introductory conversations. Thank you to everyone who has spent time with me so far. **Michael**, **Rebecca** and I had a **Journal planning meeting** with the team at *Think*, talking about the articles and themes that are planned for the next few issues. The magazine is now grappling with some really contemporary issues, with eminent photographers and members. It's really exciting, and needs to be even more widely seen. Working with **Andy**, I also helped respond to a **Distinctions** appeal, which was really interesting. There is a clear and consistent approach established, which I was pleased to see in action.

On **Tuesday**, we had a full **staff meeting** to start the day, with four of us (me, **Michael**, **Sally** and **Billy**) all in the socially-distanced Education Room, and everyone else on the big screen. We covered lots of ground, including the new Inclusion strategy, and alternative names to "HQ" for the building in Bristol (all suggestions welcome!). We welcomed back **Gary** from furlough, who is now busily back at work on the Science exhibition. After that I met (in person) with **Tracey Marshall**, director of the new Bristol Photo Festival, and our own Holocaust project - who is an old friend of the RPS. It was great to enthusiastically compare notes with someone else who has travelled from the music sector to photography. In the afternoon, we had our monthly **managers meeting**, including an interesting discussion about the relationship between gift aid and member "benefits". I had an introductory call with **Dr Afzal Ansary**, who most of you will know I'm sure. As well as being the Founding Chair of the Medical Group (amongst other roles), he has been a member of the RPS for over 50 years! His contributions to the organisation in this time are truly remarkable, and it was a great pleasure to speak with him. Following that, **Nikki**, **Simon B** and I discussed the **CRM** replacement process - which was far less interesting, but important.

Wednesday was a quieter day, working from home. After being with the organisation for over a month now, it was time for me and **Alan Hodgson** to start to draft some objectives for my own first year, which was useful to consider. I also had another helpful conversation about **CRM**, with the Assistant Director at **Action for Children**, who have been through a similar process recently and had lots of advice.

Also that day, **Michael** writes:

> Thirty-seven members and non-members coming from the UK, Europe, USA and New Zealand attended the first of an eight-week online lecture series led by curator, educator and writer **Colin Pantall**. Colin discussed the face and ways of seeing it from the 1850s to the present. For me, the nineteenth century photographers such as Hugh Welch Diamond, Duchenne and Charcot were

> very familiar, but Colin reframed their portraits with a deeper theoretical basis which gave me a new way of understanding them. I did blanche slightly at the 2005 story of Jill Greenberg taking lollipops away from children so she could photograph their tears!
>
> A further two series, each of eight lectures, are planned running in to 2021. There are still spaces on this first series: https://rps.org/looking1

Yesterday I had an excellent and detailed *Umbraco* training session with **Emily**, to get under the hood of the website; and made some progress on drafting the inclusion work. **Nikki** has completed the signatures and formal parts of the annual trustees' report and accounts, which are now online here. In the evening, I managed to get out to photograph an outdoors jazz concert, at which people danced, knitted and wore creative face coverings. It was both uplifting and photographic.

Also that day, **Andy** wrote the following for us:

> The latest innovation from our team has been the RPS Digital Roadshows this week via Zoom, which cover what it takes to achieve a Distinction. They have proved to be a great success with more than 800 people booking tickets for the Licentiate and Associate events. Panel chairs and assessors, successful applicants and – for the first time – unsuccessful applicants have all contributed to making these sessions a great learning experience for everyone and a superb showcase for Distinctions. The advice has been especially well received by participants. One wrote on our Facebook page: "Enthused, empowered and motivated." Another said: "Brilliant presentation, the BBC would not have done better. The RPS at its best." The Fellowship Roadshows are this Tuesday, 15th September. All roadshows will be available on YouTube soon.

Finally, back in RPS House, **today** started with a wonderful conversation with Past President **Rosemary Wilman**, discussing her impressions of the RPS over many years, and her ideas about its future. I also spoke with **Justin Cohen**, editor of *Jewish News*, with whom we are working on the Holocaust project; and **Matt**, **Emily** and I had a planning session for the fast-approaching AGM (details here). Finally, I was interviewed by **Silvergrain Classics** magazine, who are doing a feature about the RPS.

Next week, my priority is to ensure the AGM registration process and video settings are sorted, as well as several in-person meetings - at FelineSoft to talk about the website, with Simon B to talk about Membership Strategy, with Emily to talk about all her online work, and with Andrew Page to talk about the fascinating work of Positive View.

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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