

## RO report 2026 for the SE RPS region for the year ending Q4/2025

Colin Young will have already talked about the financial position, which paints a favourable picture.

I am going to cover 3 topics:

- 1. Our events in 2025 and our proposed programme for 2026**
- 2. Change in the election and re-election timescales of the committee**
- 3. What does the RPS SE and RPS look like from where I'm standing?**

### **1. Our events in 2025 and our proposed programme for 2025**

We stuck very much to our proposed programme, which reflects the current thinking for events. We based our programme on the following:

- a majority of click events, which were meet-ups which entailed only paying an entrance or car park fee
- a few face to face events, which are generally workshops, which are paid for
- a few Zoom events, which were a mix of free to attend or paid for

We wrestled with the click events after a few people cancelled at the last minute for our meet up in London. The winner is undoubtedly that we want to keep these events free and see no point in introducing a charge.

There are two lessons from 2025. Firstly, we need to give people plenty of notice, and secondly, even if the event is sponsored by another body, as was the case for the Bewl Water TWT, we need to market that early and also market it ourselves.

### **Events 2025**

Street Photography in London click event	Click event	Jan 2025	not such a good attendance
LRPS distinction online advisory day	Zoom	Feb 2025	excellent after going to other regions
AGM for 2024	Zoom	Mar 2025	very poor attendance
Bluebell Photo Workshop click event	Click event	Apr 2025	Excellent event
Use your phone as a camera - cancelled as no interest	F2F	Apr 2025	a surprising outcome
RPS SE unique access to Lullingstone Castle and World Garden	F2F	May 2025	Excellent event
RPS SE unique access to British Wildlife Centre 2025	F2F	Jun 2025	Excellent event
Broadstairs Folk Week '25 click event- cancelled as no SE leader	Click event	Aug 2025	an unavoidable situation
Banger Racing at Smallfield Raceway click event	Click event	Aug 2025	poor attendance
Margate click event	Click event	Sep 2025	Excellent event
Bewl Water TWT - cancelled as too few entries	TWT/click event	Oct 2025	a surprising outcome
A Tour of Canterbury ending at the Xmas Market	Click event	Dec 2025	Excellent event

## Proposed 2026 events

AGM for 2025	Zoom	2026-02-01	
Tour of Biggin Hill Museum	F2F	2026-02-19	already full
Sunset at Reculver	Click event	2026-03-08	
LRPS distinction online advisory day	Zoom	2026-03-27	gone out to all regions
KINGS WOOD (Bluebells)	Click event	April 2026	we were thinking of another location but the Kings Wood location in Kent is the best in Kent
Samphire Hoe (Orchids)	Click event	May 2026	
Whitstable beach and town walk	Click event	June 2026	
British Wildlife Centre	F2F	July 2026	Bookable now
Sissinghurst Gardens	Click event	July 2026	
St Pancras, London Street Photography	Click event	September 2026	
Motor Cycle grass track racing click event	Click event	September 2026	
Oare Marshes	Click event	October 2026	
Autumn Colours	Click event	November 2026	

## 2. Committee Member elections

Following an update to the Terms of Reference for Regional Organisations Committees, we are able to stand for 3 years before requiring re-election. Anyone standing down before that 3 years is up, may be replaced by someone co-opted onto the committee.

## 3. What does the RPS SE and RPS look like from where I'm standing?

The RPS SE looks reasonable but could do with more help. I have been doing this job since 2020 now, and I feel the time is ripe for a change. I would like to see a successor in the next 11 months. Come onto the committee and see what we do.

I outlined our strategy above as:

- a majority of click events (free)
- a few face to face events (paid for)
- a few Zoom events (mix)

This is fairly risk free in terms of finance, which is important in today's operating environment. Should we have more F2F events like ARPS advisory days, AGMs, and/or exhibitions?

We have yet another RPS CEO in place, the third since I took on this role. Let's hope for some positive change.

- We are still using Billetto to book our events after more than 2 years as the RPS system shows no sign of improvement.
- The RPS website is still in the same poor condition as I first saw it many years ago.
- The changes to the ARPS/FRPS distinctions process has thankfully slowed down after, what was in my opinion, not a great way forward for the LRPS changes in terms of communication and outcome.

John Gough, RPS SE RO, 10/01/2026