

Report from the Chair (AGM 2026)

Firstly, this will be my last report as Chair. So, I'd like to start by thanking all our members and our volunteers for their support over the years. I will continue to support the group and will do some specific volunteering in future, mainly around teaching and mentoring.

The RPS is in the process of updating their Strategic Plan, so we have decided not to fundamentally update our plan until the new Strategy is published. We shall therefore continue with activities and events in line with previous plans. You can find the previous plan [here](#).

As reported last year, we now have a 'levy' applied to our income (based on membership numbers) to pay for services supplied to us from HQ / staff. This incurs an estimated cost £2000 per year. Despite this we held subscriptions at £10 during 2025. As reported at the 2025 AGM, we will have to increase it in 2026 to £15 per year. This comes into effect from 1 March 2026. At £15, they are still amongst the lowest of all Groups in the RPS.

In terms of events, we held four online Engagement Talks, as planned, and supported our local/regional teams in putting on meetings, walks and other events. During 2025, the Documentary Awards Exhibition completed its tour in Bristol, at the RPS. We have also completed the submissions and judging of DPA 2025. The nine selected photographers to be exhibited in 2026. Those exhibitions will begin in the summer and visit Stirling, Inverness, Colwyn, Teesside and London. Details are on our webpage. Once again, I am indebted to Harry Hall and the volunteers in our Northern team for helping with the physical exhibition and logistics - thank you.

Our local / regional teams remain the focus for putting on in-person events, please support them and the volunteers to help make this happen.

Our Decisive Moment continues to be published quarterly with the work split between Wayne (Editor) and Dave (Publisher), ably supported by a small editorial team.

Across the RPS a working group has been put together to address Distinctions changes. This group comprises representatives from across the RPS and external specialists, and the new criteria and assessment process for Distinctions will be published mid-year.

So, if you are working towards a Distinction now, nothing is changing during 2026 and you can still work under current rules and criteria, but your submission must be made this year. If you are thinking of doing a Distinction but have not started/will not complete this year, the new criteria, which will be applied in 2027, will be published mid-year.

We re-started our updated and more focussed online courses on doing documentary projects. So far, we have run Part 1 and 2 in January and plan more in the next few months.

Once again, thank you for your support. My best wishes to the volunteer team and incoming Chair.

Mark Phillips FRPS