

**From:** [Evan Dawson](#)

**Sent:** 27 November 2020 17:30

**Subject:** Snapshot - No.16

Dear RPS trustees, volunteers, staff and friends

Before we dive in, please note the following four important things:

1 - If you're interested in the **governance** of the RPS, please take a look at the proposed changes online [here](#), and do come along the Q&A session on **5 December** - but you must [register](#) in advance. If you are thinking of coming, please register asap as we have a limit of 100 people and it's popular already.

2 - This Sunday we are having our first **#RPSTogether Sunday Photo Challenge**. The rules are very simple: At 9am on Sunday, the challenge will be revealed, and you have until 5pm to create a suitable image and share it. It's open to everyone, so please share this as widely as possible. Details [here](#).

3 - If you're doing any **Christmas** shopping online today (it's Black Friday apparently) or anytime soon, PLEASE remember to use **Amazon Smile** - so the RPS gets a free donation every time. Instructions [here](#).

4 - Today is **Ben's 15th anniversary** of working with the RPS. Congratulations Ben. It's great working with you!

This week, on **Monday**, I started the week as usual with my relay of calls with all the staff team. Lots of great things happening as usual, including six separate competitions that are currently open for entry (details [here](#)). There is also a very interesting opportunity being advertised to be the new editor of the **RPS Science Journal** (details [here](#)). Please do share these.

I've had the experience this week of helping address three very different **complaints**, arising from different parts of the RPS. We involve so many people in our work, and photography is such a driving passion, that this is to be expected of course - so it's important that we have clear and confidential systems in place, as these can be very emotive for everyone. I learnt a lot this week, and I feel the staff and trustee team have been really supportive throughout. So, thank you to everyone - you know who you are!

On **Tuesday**, I was at RPS House all day. We had our (now weekly) meeting of the trustees **strategy** group, which is shaping up very well, based on all the feedback and suggestions you've already given me. It's nearly ready to show you the first draft, which I'm looking forward to doing. I also had a long conversation with **Simon B**, to talk about his ideas for our developing **strategy for membership growth**. That day, we also had the **roof** fixed and made some decisions about maintaining the **gallery floor**, steered carefully by **Matt**.

On **Wednesday** morning I was delighted to join a meeting held by RPS Australia, led by **Gigi and Robin Williams** entitled "In our backyard". I was expecting something creative about making the most of a small outdoors space, but in fact their backyard is a stunning national park, with breathtaking panoramas and a wide array of unique wildlife! During the afternoon, we spoke with

another consultancy company about our **CRM/CMS** issues, organised by **Simon B**. It feels like a clear path is emerging now, I'm pleased to say.

**Yesterday, Janet, Andy G** and I reviewed the longlist of proposals for our new group of **Critical Friends**. It was difficult to narrow it down, but we feel we've made really good progress with this. More soon.

**Today**, I cycled over to RPS House at short notice to sign a document for a **trademark** application we are doing, so we could post it back by the deadline. This is quite exciting, but I can't tell you yet! I also had the great pleasure of joining a zoom meeting of eminent **Distinctions Chairs**, chaired by **Andy M** and **Peter**.

Two nice messages to share with you below, which speak for themselves:

Dear Dr Alan Hodgson and Team,

Sadly I feel I should resign my membership at the end of its current year on 1st April 2021. You have provided splendid interest and service over the years for me. But now everything has become more complex and demanding. Could it be my age, I wonder – I am 90 at my next birthday?

Photography has always been of great interest to me. I passed my LRPS on 21st February 1978. I recall the President at that time crawling about on his small lounge floor in Bolton, or similar, sorting my prints, while trying substitutes. That was service!

My interest at that time was candid photography. The centrepiece was of two Irish navies, drunk as lords, asking me to photograph them in Liverpool, and what impact this had! Above was a dome on the building behind, which simply had to be removed in the processing.

Since then I was drawn away by work in the Civil Service, of mostly a mathematical nature. Then we sailed our yacht in the Med for some years, plenty of opportunity, but plenty of other things to occupy me.

Thank you again, and my best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,  
Eric J White

and

I have been taking "The Journal" since I joined the RPS as a member some 8 years ago and was beginning to think that my membership fees were just financing the journal such as it was.

But not any more. This new version is far beyond my expectations. Most of the content is PICTURES. Mostly very good pictures, and the stories are just as good.

Well done Kathleen Morgan. You have set yourself one heck of a standard to keep up.

Seasons greetings, Dr Tim Lawson ARPS

**Next week**, I'll be in the office on Wednesday. As you may know, Bristol will be in Tier 3, so we are all continuing to work from home in general, and only going to RPS House when necessary. I have meetings about strategy, and with the Disabled Photographers Society, amongst other things.

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 weekendening!

Evan

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**Evan Dawson** (He/Him)  
Chief Executive Officer | The Royal Photographic Society

[www.rps.org](http://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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