

AGM Committee Reports – AGM 2021

Chair – Richard Ellis

Role description

Provide leadership and support to the Landscape SIG ensuring a vibrant and dynamic programme.

Achievements 2020

2020 has been a year of huge change and I am delighted to report that the group has risen to the challenge. As the virus spread we were the first group to put our programme on-line and have produced a wide variety of events: on-line talks, hybrid location workshops, a book making course, processing courses and theme-based workshops. Overall the events have proved very popular with members of the group, the RPS and the wider public. Whilst it is difficult to cite cause and effect of this programme we have attracted over sixty new members to the group.

As outlined in the 2020 AGM report we have ended the subsidies to events but continued to deliver a financial advantage for membership of the group through reduced cost of events. Our finances end the year in very good health and give us the confidence that we will be able to drive forward with an exciting programme for 2021 and beyond.

We have produced our regular newsletter and two issues of the magazine. Our circles are in good shape with ones catering to physical prints as well as PDIs and a processing circle. We have also developed a presence on Instagram and our Facebook community continues to thrive.

None of the above would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the committee and to the present and former members of the committee I am truly grateful for their contributions.

Future Plans

We aim to continue our on-line programme for as long as restrictions remain in place and as the situation eases we will offer location-based events once again. We aim to offer an on-line programme as part of our activities even after restrictions are lifted as this enables members to participate regardless of location and helps to fulfil our climate change initiatives.

In line with the RPS AGM resolution to help tackle the climate crisis we will be introducing a number of initiatives to contribute from within the group. Specifically, we will now expressly consider climate impact for all purchasing decisions and levy a carbon offset charge for all workshops. This will be donated to a carbon offsetting charity.

Having filled the vacancies on the committee a key focus will be to try and encourage more of you to volunteer to help with some of the administration of the group and to plan for succession on the committee.

Treasurer Report – Diana Wynn

This will be posted later once approved by HQ

Secretary Report – Andy McLaughlin

Role description

Ensure the efficient administration of the group.

Achievements 2020

The minutes of all meetings have been kept and circulated to committee members within seven days of meetings. These along with all reports provided by committee members are now held centrally on Microsoft Teams and accessible to all committee members.

Historic meeting agendas and minutes along with reports have also been uploaded to this central library.

Future Plans

Continue to deliver meetings for the group and compliance with RPS policies.

Events Manager Professional – Mark Reeves

Role description

I am the organiser of the group's events that are led by professional tutors and workshop leaders.

Achievements 2020

Our programme for 2020 inevitably took on a radically different shape to that envisaged when I was writing my report for last year's AGM. At that time coronavirus was something that was just starting to happen on the other side of the world!

I am proud to say that the Landscape Group was the first RPS special interest group to develop an online events programme and ours was almost certainly the most extensive and most varied within the RPS. Our online events were – and continue to be – extremely popular and many have sold out within just a few hours of tickets going on sale. Over the year as a whole we arranged over 100 events including on-location workshops, online workshops and a range of talks given by speakers from the UK and around the world.

In order to support the work of the RPS Climate Change Working Group, the Landscape Group has begun to introduce a range of measures aimed at reducing and mitigating our carbon footprint. The first of these was the introduction of a small carbon-offset levy on the ticket price of relevant events. More details can be found at <https://rps.org/groups/landscape/climate-change/>

Future plans

Looking forward, hopefully the roll-out of vaccinations in the UK will mean that we will be able to return to a full programme of traditional on-location events and we will do this as soon as it becomes feasible to do so. Alongside this, however, we aim to continue with a number of online workshops and talks. These will, we hope, not only benefit our members outside the UK, but will also enable members to participate in events whilst clocking up far fewer miles. And finally, we will continue to try to diversify our range of

events to include more workshops aimed at creative and different approaches to landscape photography and more workshops that are accessible to people with limited mobility.

Member Events Manager - Dave Glenn

Role description

Organise and publish field trips to be led by members of the Landscape Group, rather than professional photographers.

Plan and implement the 2022 and/or 2023 annual Landscape Group conference(s).

Achievements in 2020

The year has been significantly quieter than envisaged, due to Covid-19. Two "face-to-face" events were held (Blackstone Edge in Winter and a dawn shoot at Stonehenge) before the pandemic took hold, with an additional member talk by Stephen Lewis being held via Zoom in the summer. Bookings were good for all three events. Unfortunately, five planned events had to be cancelled, but I hope to reschedule these at a later date. Plans for the 2021 conference were well underway; a hotel had been selected, speakers booked and a draft programme created ... and then Covid-19 intervened! It will be replaced by an online Speakers' Day this March. A further online Speakers' Day is now being planned for March 2022, along similar lines to this year.

The original arrangements for a residential conference will now be moved to 2023, with some tweaking as necessary. The detailed arrangements will be approved by the committee before the end of 2021 and the conference will be published on the RPS website in Spring 2022.

Future plans

Hold as many Zoom talks and virtual field trips as possible. It is hoped that these will now have a permanent place in the annual programme of events. Phase in face-to-face field trips as soon as circumstances permit. Continue planning the 2022 Speakers' Day (provisional date Saturday 5 March 2022) and the 2023 residential conference (provisional dates are 3-5 March, 2023 - tbc).

Magazine Editor – Robert Brittle

Role description

Editor of the group's magazine has evolved to cover the periodical production a printed magazine, that includes members content and also content related to the genre of Landscape Photography, that the members may find of interest.

Achievements up to March 2021

Progress since the last AGM has seen the successful production and distribution of Issues 3 and 4 of the group's magazine to all members. The editorial team has now increased to 3 with an addition of a dedicated magazine production volunteer, who has previous experience in the print industry. Copies of all the previous issues of the magazine are also available via the Society's Issuu online archive.

Future plans

We are proposing to produce 3 issues in although this is dependent upon the following:

1. Continued input by members.
2. Proposed number of issues production costs and postage costs can be afforded by the group.

The magazine will only continue to thrive with the input of the membership, content will always welcome. Please get in touch

landscapemagazine@rps.org

Newsletter Editor – Peter Fortune

Purpose of Role

To edit and co-ordinate the distribution by Head Office of at least 8 editions of the Newsletter, which is distributed by email.

Achievements in 2020

I took up this role in May 2020. In conjunction with the Web Editor, I produced 4 editions of the Newsletter for June, July, September, & November.

My objective for my time in post in 2020 was to learn about the processes of Newsletter editing and to maintain the high standards previously set. I believe I achieved this objective.

When I took on the role the editions were coming out towards the end of the month. I have worked to bring the publication date forward so that the November edition came out on 5th November.

I have introduced a new regular feature "From the Circles" which first appears in the January 2021 edition.

At the time of writing, the January 2021 is almost ready for going into the distribution process. It has more member's contributions and photographs in it than in any of the 2020 editions and I hope to be able to continue this.

Plans for 2021

The 8 editions planned for 2021 are in January, March, May, June, July, September, October, and November. If there are enough contributions from members I hope to run a February edition as well.

I am looking for some graphical style to adopt for every edition. I hope that I will be able to decide upon this in time to apply it to the January edition.

I hope that in future editions, images will be larger to better illustrate the skill of the contributor. I am thinking that an occasional one page image would enhance the Newsletter.

It has been agreed that profiles of each of the Committee Members (one per edition) will start in the March edition.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the Committee especially, the Web Editor, for their help, suggestions and support, and to pay tribute to the many members who have contributed to the Landscape SIG Newsletter – may they continue and encourage their friends to join in!

Web Editor (March to August) – Jim Souper

I indicated soon after the 2020 AGM that I wished to stand down from the committee in 2021. We were fortunate to find an excellent successor in Sue Uppington Wright. Sue has experience of editing a charity website and has designed and managed a number of few websites in the last 15 years. She also runs a Facebook group for Blesma, the limbless veterans' charity. Sue took over at the end of August.

The main aspects of my own role were: -

- A number of updates to the Landscape Group web pages and Facebook group rules agreed at the March committee meeting
- Attendance at weekly Web Editor meetings organised by the Emily Mathisen, the Society's Web Content Manager during the first lockdown
- Planning and delivering handover of the role to Sue

Since August I have continued on the committee without portfolio, offering support to Sue in the resolution of a number of issues as necessary.

Web Editor (From August) - Sue Wright

I am most grateful to Jim for a very constructive handover in August and his continued support while I familiarised myself with the webpages of the Landscape Group website.

- The role continues mostly as above in respect of updating the website, administering the Facebook Group and attending online Web Editor Zoom meetings with Emily Mathisen.
- At the end of 2020 a webpage called 'Galleries' was added to the Landscape Web pages where Landscape members photography stories are highlighted. These stories were previously published in the Landscape Group Newsletters or Magazines.
- During December 2020 a 'Landscape Photography Competition' page was developed and launched onto the website on 1st January 2021. Members are invited to submit their images during the first 3 week of the month followed by a week of member-led judging via an online form. For the first 6 months there will be a prize of a Fotovue book for the 1st place winner.

Future plans

Continue to review the design and content of the new web pages. If anyone has feedback on the Landscape Group pages, please email landscapeweb@rps.org.

Member without portfolio – Fiona McCowan

Member without Portfolio

A mainly project focused role, e.g. running the Landscape Group Instagram account, membership surveys and assisting other Committee Members as and when required.

Achievements in 2020

- #rpslandscape - launched the Landscape Group Instagram account at the end of March 2020. Selecting and posting an image circa once a week on the feed – 45 posts by the beginning of January 2021 with 337 followers.
- Circle Co-Ordinator - raising awareness of the Print, eCritique and Processing Circles and being the point of contact on the committee for circle leaders.

Future plans

- Ongoing management of the Instagram account - #rpslandscape.
- Organising the Membership Survey – being sent to all members in January 2021. Analysing and reporting back on the results to the Landscape Group Committee and the membership.
- Continuing to raise awareness of the Print, eCritique and Processing Circles & liaising with the circle leaders.
- Provide assistance, as and when required, to other committee members eg at AGM & biennial conference.