

Chair's report – October 2022 - AGM

Welcome. Having emerged from the pandemic, 2022 was very much about getting back to “normal”. Our Documentary Photographer of the Year Exhibition opened and went on tour, we had a strong series of Engagement Talks and held more workshops. Our regional sub-groups also moved back to more in-person events.

Our DPOTY Touring exhibition started in Oxford (with the help of Thames Valley Region), then moved to Fujifilm London, Newcastle (helped by Northern Region), Oriel Colwyn (and North Wales Region), Inverness and Glasgow (with help from Scotland Region) and finally Chippenham (with help from Western Region). A big thank you to Harry Hall and all the Regional groups support for helping this to happen. Along the way we held a number of talks and events with some of the winners as speakers. We have estimated that over 20,000 viewed the exhibition as it toured.

Our Engagement Talks continued, with some ‘big name’ speakers in early 2022 and we have more talks planned into 2023. As ever, they are free, but you can donate if you wish.

Our regional sub-groups held both on-line and re-started in person events, including some jointly with Contemporary. If you have a group near you, please support them and the volunteers who run them. If you don't have one ... you could always try to form one. We also joined up with Contemporary and encouraged the use of peer group help for distinctions.

Decisive Moment (DM) continues to develop in terms of content and quality, although we continue to have minor production challenges and resource constraints. We have published more Newsletters this year, mainly aimed at letting people know about our upcoming events. We are still interested in more help to create DM.

We are working on a new workshop, aimed at those working on projects and looking for specific help. This will have an online and in person component, it is aimed at helping you successfully complete the project, and this should be available in 2023.

The biggest challenge of the year has been the issues with the website and the “CRM”, that has made it harder to run paid events and to post them. It has also taken up volunteer time. As a result, we have moved to Eventbrite for event bookings for now, but we plan to return to the new RPS system in 2023.

2023 will also see the next edition of DPOTY, we are already working on this and plan to re-brand this as RPS Documentary Photography Awards as we want to celebrate more than just ‘a winner’. We hope the next edition will allow us to highlight more work and show it in the main exhibition area in RPS House.

Our 2021-2024 Plan is unchanged and posted on the website.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a few people ... all the current committee, all our regional volunteers who have helped support the Group and the regional sub-groups. Without you, there would be nothing.

Separate updates will be provided on finances and membership. Finally, thank you all for your support. Looking forward to a smoother 2023.