

## A few thank yous to begin....

There are four people without whom the events of the past few months would not have been manageable:

**John Riley LRPS** has been Chair of the Group since 2018. He undertook the role in addition to his existing role as Editor of Travel Log because he felt passionately that the Group should be more inclusive and he has worked hard to ensure that the Group is welcoming. He has also represented the Group effectively to other Groups and Regions through his membership of various committees within the RPS. Thank you, John.

**Steve Day LRPS** has spent a few hours each month for the last two years ensuring that entries for our monthly competition have been received, acknowledged, uploaded, critiqued and credited on the website, engaging with each entrant and ensuring that the competition is properly valued within the Group. He has decided to put his own photography first for a while but will be keeping a weather eye on our progress. Thank you, Steve.

**Richard Lewis ARPS** has done a huge amount to hold the Group's work together over the last year, representing us at meetings of the wider Society, liaising with other SIGs and Regions, keeping members informed of developments which might affect us and planning the Spring Meeting which was held last Saturday and we all felt was a success. Thank you, Richard.

**John Speller** has been the Group's Secretary for the past six years and, as such, has managed our committee meetings amazingly efficiently, providing continuity and always having relevant information at his fingertips. This year he also took on the challenging task of administering the Group's Annual Image Competition. Although it took many hours of work he just got on with it without fuss. And his technology learning curve this year has been steep as he has had responsibility for the Zoom account and for 'dry runs' with each of our presenters to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible on the day. Thank you, John.



# Spring Meeting

## 9th April 2022

The committee's initial plan had been to hold this year's Spring Meeting in person - probably using the facilities at RPS House so that our members became acquainted with them. But the responses to the Member Survey undertaken at the very start of the year indicated that there was still a great deal of hesitation about physical meetings and that a more welcome solution would be to have a shorter meeting over Zoom.

We were delighted that RPS CEO Evan Dawson recorded a message specially for the Group as he was unable to be with us for the occasion. In expressing his pleasure at speaking to the Group Evan wrote in his introductory letter:

*'During my 18 months in post, it has been clear to me that the Travel Group is a particularly forwarding-thinking and dynamic part of the RPS family. Your great work to develop an environmentally sustainable approach to travel has been referenced at both the RPS Environmental and Social Responsibility Committee and the Board of Trustees, and helped influence our thinking in this area for the wider organisation. (Ed. note - if you have forgotten what these are you can see them in e-news 53)*

*Similarly, your highly creative responses to my consultation questions about the priorities in the new strategy have been tremendously useful. Since that time, I do hope that you can see how some of these ideas have started to take shape. In particular, the idea of engaging younger people in our work, how we can take a revised and more personalised approach to Distinctions, improvements to the online experience, and networking/collaboration opportunities.*

*I remain interested in how our specialist groups measure their own success, but it's very clear to me that the Travel Group is a highly engaged group, with a clear sense of purpose and a colourful constituency of actively creative travelling photographers!'*

The video of Evan's talk will be available on the RPS YouTube channel soon and we hope those who were not able to be with us on the day will take the time to watch it and to see how we can contribute to and benefit from some of the current developments to achieve the [Photography for all](#) strategy. If you're not sure about the elements of the strategy you can download a copy by clicking on the title in this paragraph. You will also find the Group's responses in e-news 53.

We discussed more ideas later in the morning and a few members have offered to plan photography days out in their own favourite places near to home so that others may join them for an interesting day's shoot - similar to the one David Short organised in Windsor last October. So watch this space (more correctly, the [website](#) and [Facebook page!](#)) for details as they become available.

If you have a favourite venue you would like to share with other Travel Group members please let us know by emailing [travelweb@rps.org](mailto:travelweb@rps.org) or [travel@rps.org](mailto:travel@rps.org). We'd love to be able to offer activities around the country and even where we have members overseas where there is a demand.



Keynote Speaker: Chris Coe,  
founder and Director  
Travel Photographer of the Year Award

TPOTY celebrates 20 years next year and, as one of the award sponsors, the RPS gives free membership for a year to some category winners. Indeed, two members of the Group present on Saturday indicated that the only reason they had joined was because they had received that initial membership.

The committee had invited Chris Coe to speak as we felt it would be good to look at the wider interpretation of travel photography and of the ways in which a single image might be judged differently from a panel. Interestingly, these issues were also addressed by Hazel Frost FRPS when she spoke about her choice of medal winners in the Image of the Year competition.

Chris explained that TPOTY had been launched at a time when he felt Travel Photography as a genre was undervalued - 'pretty pictures of places visited on holiday' - and needed to be better understood by the media as well as by the general public. Over twenty years it has grown into an inspirational competition with entries from over 150 countries and from photographers from 8 to 88 years old.

### Why do images win?

- visual impact
- originality
- fitting the theme/category
- humour - emotion - mood
- story-telling and communication
- transporting the viewer
- intrigue

### What mistakes do entrants make?

- don't read the rules
- choose their favourite not their best image
- don't read the brief
- enter the right image in the wrong category
- one of their images is less good than the others
- they haven't asked anyone else to look
- they have under-estimated the judges



is now open for entries.  
Entries close on 25th October 2022  
Finalists will be announced in November 2022.

April 13- May 31 in London: 138 award-winning images form an exhibition trail heading north from King's Cross station, through Pancras Square and across the canal to Granary Square.

At dates to be confirmed later in the year they will be on view in Chester Cathedral.

For more information about the exhibitions or the competition visit <https://www.tpoty.com/>

## The Group AGM

For this year's AGM the committee decided to try something a little more streamlined and reports were sent out in advance of the meeting so that any questions could be prepared and the amount of listening that needed to be done was minimised.

That seemed successful and is something we will repeat in future years.

The major business of the AGM was the election of Officers. Our committee stand down each year but are able to stand for re-election, except in the case of Officers of the committee - those being the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer - who may only serve a maximum of six years in the same post.

With regret, our Chairman had decided to stand down and our long-serving Secretary had reached the end of his tenure. When nominations closed at the end of March we had only one nomination for Chair - Kath Phillips, nominated by John Riley, seconded by Richard Lewis and John Speller and with the full support of the committee.

There being no nominations for Secretary we sought advice from the Society and were given permission under 'exceptional circumstances' for John Speller to remain in post should he be willing to do so. Fortunately for the Group, John has agreed to serve for a further year but would very much appreciate someone offering to pick up the role of secretary before the next AGM. If you think you could help the Group in this way, please email [travelsecretary@rps.org](mailto:travelsecretary@rps.org) to find out more.

We are grateful that our Treasurer, Justin Cliffe, has been willing to stand again.

These three are joined on the committee by

- Richard Lewis, who takes responsibility for trips and events, including the regular Share and Chat Zoom sessions
- Patricia Mackey, who is working on the Travel Log editorial team
- John Riley as Travel Log editor

Additionally as co-opted members of the committee/volunteers we have

- Sue Hutton who has taken over the organisation of the monthly competition and will help me in ensuring that the website is monitored and managed as best we can
- Dimitra Salmanidou who is working on Travel Log

As a committee we are very aware of being a small group. We want to be sure that we represent our membership fully and we would ask each of you to consider what you can offer to the Group's activities to help us achieve that. We were really encouraged by members offering their skills/knowledge during Saturday's discussion as we have been with those offering talks and Share and Chat presentations during the year, so please keep those ideas coming.

All of our email addresses appear on the website [here](#) and we would be delighted to hear from you.

## Competitions

The results of our Travel Image of the Year Competition were announced at the AGM and are [here on the website](#). They will also be printed in the next Travel Log.

One of our most supported activities throughout the year is the monthly competition. Over the past two years, Steve Day has sent out reminders as a separate broadcast.

From now on, we are hoping at least every second month to produce a newsletter like this and to incorporate the current winning image for everyone to see and be inspired by. The winners from 2022 so far are:



Credits are shown on the individual images. For the judges' comments see [this page](#) on the website

# Future Events

## Share and Chat

Rather like the discussion we had during the Spring Meeting, these sessions are intended to enable members to connect with other members and share their interest in travel and photography. They will only be completely successful if members are willing to contribute - and so far we've had some really good, discussion-engendering items, some of which have then become full Zoom presentations.

The next session is planned for **May 15th 14.30 BST** and I believe one contributor will be Peter Walmsley who is a keen travel photographer, recent winner of a category of TPotY and RPS trustee sharing some of his images and talking a bit about being a trustee. We hope there will be at least two other contributors.



## Journey to Romania - and how it led to more

In 2019, Judy and Daryl Ford visited Romania for the first time.

In 2020, Judy was awarded the Joan Wakelin bursary enabling her to return to a specific community eight hours' drive from Bucharest to complete the work.

They will tell their story on July 17th at 14.30 (BST) online.

[Journey to Romania - and how it led to more >](#)

On July 17th - again on Zoom at 14.30 BST - we are proud to be welcoming Judy Ford LRPS, a member of the Travel Group, who was awarded the Joan Wakelin bursary by the RPS and The Guardian in 2020 as a result of an application based on a first visit to a remote area of Romania in 2019.

Both Judy and her husband Daryl achieved Highly Commended certificates in the Annual Travel Image Competition that year.

They will talk about their photography as well as the bursary process.

Booking is open on the [website](#) now.

We are currently planning a programme of events for the next year and would interested to hear of any ideas you have - even if they are mere glimmers!

Thank you for your support and involvement in the Group.

Kath Phillips  
Chair  
[travelweb@rps.org](mailto:travelweb@rps.org)

And remember to join the [Facebook Group](#) and get some real discussion going.....