

Rhys Jones ARPS

Book of Condolence

"Our paths crossed a number of times. The most memorable occasion was earlier this year, the [last planned public lecture](#) by David Hurn HonFRPS. This was a special meeting organised by the RPS South Wales Region and hosted in the main lecture at Cardiff University School of Journalism Media and Culture (JOMEC). At that event David extolled us to "Do it well". Rhys did it well, at that event and through his service to the RPS." *Dr Alan Hodgson ASIS HonFRPS*

"Rhys was a very friendly, enthusiastic and down to earth volunteer and member whose passion for photography came across in all the work he did for the RPS. He was a lovely man who'll no doubt be missed by many." *Simon Bibb, RPS Membership Manager*

"Rhys was such a lovely person, I always enjoyed speaking to him over the phone and was impressed with the work that he has done for the South Wales group, he had arranged so many interesting events. I'd just given a talk that he had arranged in October, he was so lovely to work with, and was very generous with his time as he gave me lots of practice sessions - I'd not given a zoom talk before. I'm so shocked and saddened to hear he is no longer with us." *Emma Delves-Broughton FRPS, RPS Workshop Co-ordinator*

"I just wanted to share the Travel Group committee's reaction on hearing of the sudden loss of Rhys and our experience of his support.

As the pandemic took hold and it became clear that 'regular' activities were going to be on hold way beyond the period we had anticipated, our committee agreed that we should try to set up some online activity and I approached a couple of speakers. Having their agreement, we needed to find a way of hosting presentations. By that time the Distinctions conversations were already in progress so I wrote to Peter to ask whether there was a general Zoom account for larger numbers that we would have access to should it be needed. He directed me to Rhys and from that moment on we 'zoomed' into action.

Not only did Rhys provide the account and set up the meeting, he also gave time to rehearsals and talking through issues; he promoted Travel Group sessions not only through his South Wales membership but also via a range of Facebook groups such as 'UK Club Photography'. As a result we have had around 180 attend both sessions we've run, with nearer 300 registering: the sessions are free so we knew there would be some who booked and wouldn't attend.

The second of those sessions was just last Saturday, so you can imagine how shocked I was to hear the sad news from another Group member yesterday. Our committee is shocked and



saddened at the loss of a really good man - and a great ambassador for the Society. I'm just glad I remembered to thank him at the end of the event.

I don't expect you are able to share Rhys's wife's address, but I would be grateful if you would express the Travel Group's gratitude to him and sympathy to the family in an appropriate way when you are in touch with her." *Kath Phillips ARPS, RPS Travel Group, Digital Communications Co-ordinator*

"I was so sad to hear about Rhys, who worked like an absolute trojan on behalf of the RPS. He came over as somewhat tentative but that belied the truth, that he was fearsomely determined. Never aggressive, but boy did he almost always achieve what he wanted to get done. Time without number, this was to help someone else: a single person, a club, a region or a SIG. Some of his friends tried to persuade him to take on less but he would hear none of it. Rhys got to grips with social media very quickly, and the South Wales region soon boasted the most tweets of any RPS outlet! He was extremely proud of being a Regional Officer for the Society and of being a volunteer. He was the first to say that he got a lot out of the role: learning new things and meeting new people. He loved it, and he was highly successful at putting on events and attracting internationally known speakers such as David Hurn and Martin Parr. He was also famous for including dozens of people in his frequent emails; if he felt something was worth supporting, he put his heart and soul into promoting it, and he wanted as many people to know about it as possible! In short, he had a heart of gold and will be sorely missed. Rhys epitomised what the Royal Photographic Society is all about." *Peter Hayes FRPS, Chair of the Distinctions Committee*

"I had the privilege of working alongside Rhys and saw the enthusiasm, commitment and knowledge he brought to his role within the RPS South Wales region. He 'drove' the region forward and made a significant impact that will be lasting. I, and many others, will miss his guidance and sincere passion to promote photography." *Trevor James ARPS, Treasurer South Wales Region RPS*

"I loved working with Rhys, he had such passion and was a whirlwind of ideas. He would always help me if ever I needed it. Not only was he a great photographic inspiration. He was also a great person. I not only consider him a great volunteer, but also a great friend. One I could always rely. His generosity and human kindness were what really made Rhys one in a million. I will miss him deeply." *Kate Constance, RPS Volunteer Manager*

"I had the pleasure of working with Rhys for several years in his capacity as Web Editor for the South Wales Region and it really was a pleasure. Every time I spoke to him it was like a sprinkling of joy and boundless energy. He had so many ideas, largely to help or for the enjoyment of others, and had the capacity and experience to bring these ideas to fruition. He was honest, polite, creative, fiercely intelligent, fastidious and a real team player. Our content team meetings won't be the same without him. Goodbye from the web team to a very dear friend." *Emily Mathisen, Web Content Manager*



“I've just returned from the Artists' Private View Exhibition for the Many Voices One Nation - a collaboration between Ffotogallery Wales and the Senedd / Welsh Parliament, which opened today. I was one of the accepted artists taking part, what a huge honour. It was Rhys who nominated me, along with another photographer who was also exhibiting at the Ffotogallery space in Cardiff.

This was typical of Rhys, someone who advocated others by putting them and their photographic practice into the limelight, because he believed in them. He was so passionate about the photography world, he supported and encouraged those he felt should be sharing their work more than they did. He certainly gave my recent photo project some wings to fly out there with. So when I stood there today looking at it in an exhibition space, I felt incredibly grateful to Rhys, and incredibly sad that he wasn't with us today celebrating what he helped make happen.” *Jo Haycock, South Wales Volunteer*

“Just over a year ago in November 2019, I nominated Rhys for the position of Regional Organiser for the Royal Photographic Society's South Wales Region. Since then I have always been greatly impressed with his enthusiasm together with the numerous and varied ideas for increasing the influence and positive reputation of the South Wales Region and the RPS. Rhys aimed high, with successful presentations that included well known guest speakers such as Martin Parr and David Hurn. The latter event was held in February 2019 and due to the pandemic was the last live South Wales Region presentation of 2020. To bring this very successful event to fruition, Rhys worked closely with Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media & Culture, the Tom Hopkinson Centre for Media History, Magnum Photos and the National Museum of Wales. He created a very special and memorable event, which was the last time that David Hurn planned to speak in public.

When lockdown was introduced in March, Rhys, as Regional Organiser arranged and hosted many well attended Zoom events. One, that I really enjoyed, was about the photographer Lee Miller. This was presented by her son Tony Penrose, Director of the Lee Miller Archive and Penrose Collection at his parents' former home, Farley Farm House, together with Lee Miller's granddaughter. The event proved so successful that it was repeated.

Rhys was extremely skilled in making connections with people, such as Martin Parr, David Hurn and Tony Penrose and enabling others to benefit from the opportunities that followed. He always left me feeling “buzzed” after our conversations and I was consistently impressed by his passion for the arts and the creative world. I was also impressed by the motivation Rhys had to connect the RPS to some of his other interests and external organisations. One of these being the History Shed Experience in Carmarthenshire, where Director and Museum Curator, Seimon Pugh-Jones, is intending to hold a memorial event for Rhys when more conducive times allow. Seimon said of Rhys “he was such a great supporter and a lovely man”.

Personally, I will always remember Rhys as not only an enthusiastic, loyal member and supporter of the RPS but as a knowledgeable and quietly spoken individual, who sadly will be missed by so many.” *Edgar Gibbs FRPS, AV Group Chair*



"I am devastated to hear that very sad news. I have known Rhys and his wife Christine for a number of years. Rhys was a brilliant advocate for the RPS, the Arts and culture in general. Rhys was such a kind, gentle and clever man with such a big heart - always thinking about others. I worked with him on a number of projects both here at Penllergare and our local community of Uplands. He gave so much and volunteered for many causes." *Stuart Hemsley-Rice, Penllergare*

"Fond memories of a lovely person and a dear friend X" *Susan Ashford ARPS, South Wales Volunteer*

"Rhys and I would talk to each other many times every week, throughout the week about RPS matters and other matters concerning photography and academia, we shared many thoughts on the photographic world we shared. When I took the call to say we had lost him it was such a shock and it stopped me in my tracks, I still can't quite accept he is gone.

My wife Shona only met Rhys the once, when we travelled down to Cardiff to hear the David Hearn lecture that Rhys had spent a year arranging. She wanted to go to listen to David because she had listened to me speak so highly of since I had met him a few years ago. She enjoyed the talk and, on the way back said to me that she thought Rhys was the nicest person she had met at the RPS. She repeated that this week when I told her Rhys had left us. I want to thank Rhys for all he did for photography, for us as a family and for what he did for the RPS. All my thoughts are for his family." *Stewart Wall ARPS, East Midlands Regional Organiser and Standing Committee Chair*

"This is sad, very sad news. Rhys was a lovely person. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by all those who knew him. May his soul rest in peace." *Dr Afzal Ansary ASIS FRPS, Medical Group Chair*

"Do accept our condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this sad time." *Romesh De Silva, Chapter Organiser, Sri Lanka*

"It is indeed very shocking to hear the passing away of Rhys Jones. I was in contact with him just a few days ago and did not realise that these would be our last communication. He indeed was very helpful and a lovely person. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends." *Rajen Nandwana, Chapter Organiser, India*

"My sincere condolences to the family and relatives of Rhys. In the many conversations I had with Rhys, I came to know Rhys as a selfless, incredibly dedicated friend. His commitment as Chapter Organizer for the South Wales group was incredible! His loss leaves a very big gap! I take my hat off to a great member of society and he will always be remembered! Rest in peace!" *Chris Renk, Chapter Organiser, Germany*



“Rhys was, in my view, one of the best regional organisers. He put on a varied programme and was prepared to work with other groups and regions for the good of the RPS and our members. He will be missed. Please pass on our condolences to his family and friends.” *Mark Phillips FRPS, Documentary Group Chair*

“Rhys was always encouraging and supportive always ready to assist. His generous and caring nature was evident with his hard work within the RPS. He always shared his events with an opened invitation to all Regions and groups. His energy and belief that anything was possible was proven many times over with superb introductions to National and International speakers. It was a privilege and honour to have known him. He was an inspiration to me and many. Volunteers wishing to emulate Rhys will have to set goals to the highest of levels.

My deepest sympathy to Rhys Jones's family, friends and associates.” *Suzanne Allen (Johnson) LRPS, Regional Organiser, Western Region*

“Rhys was such a nice welcoming man and he is a sad loss to the Society and his Region.” *Alan Cameron, Chair, Contemporary Group*

I'd never actually met Rhys and only knew of him this year after attending Zoom meetings. I was always very struck by how enthusiastic he was and so keen to help.

It was a shock to learn of his death because he'd been helping Cath Phillips at the Travel Group meeting only the day before.

Very many condolences to his family and friends. *Sue Hutton ARPS, Web Editor, DIG*

Only having ever met Rhys virtually, his passion for the South Wales Region was abundantly obvious but this extended to the whole RPS family, his offers of help were very generous and always positive. His knowledge and helpful attitude will be sadly missed by all who came into contact with him. *Mick Medley LRPS, Web Editor, South West Region*

I was so shocked to hear the sad new of Rhys' passing.

He was a lovely man and his innovative thinking was enlightening. He was totally committed to the RPS and will be greatly missed.

Please pass on my sincere condolences to his family. *Moira Ellice ARPS, Chair, Creative Eye*

I hadn't known him for long but he came across as a very constructive and collaborative member of the team and is clearly going to be a big loss. *Graham Wilson, Regional Organiser, Thames Valley Region*

I met Rhys for the first time when studying photography at Swansea College of Art. He struck me as a gentle, talented and thoughtful man. His ability to bring people together in his



engaging way was memorable. He will be sorely missed in the world of photography and beyond. *Hywel Harris FRPS, BA (Hons) Photography in the Arts*

Very sorry to hear this sad news. He will be missed. *Bhupinder Ghatahora BA (Hons), ABIPP, ARPS, ASWPP, Regional Organiser, Southern Region*

I am genuinely shocked at the news, I did not know him as well as others. But the times I did meet him, he came across such a wonderful person and will be sorely missed. *Mark Slater, Regional Organiser, Yorkshire Region*

Rhys was such an active and respected member of the Society he will be greatly missed. Can I please, on behalf of all the North West Region members, pass on our deepest condolences to his family and friends. Our thoughts are with them. *Roy Appleby LRPS, Regional Organiser, North West*

It is with great sadness that we hear of the loss of Rhys. I found Rhys to be a passionate member of the Society, full of energy, spirit and drive. He will be missed by many. Our condolences go to his family and friends. *From all in the East Anglia Region*

It is so sudden and tragic to learn of the sad and unexpected passing of Rhys Jones. Much has been said and written already, applauding the many human values that was part of his DNA.

Rhys was so generous with his time and support, not only to the RPS, but also to the many individuals that he afforded such valuable help and assistance to and with.

His attitude and quality of generosity was evident to all, not only towards the great and the good in the photography world, but also to the lesser and unknown mere mortals like myself.

Status didn't matter to Rhys, his enthusiasm, warmth and passion was an obsession of his devotion to help anyone and everyone. Only very recently, Rhys and myself were finalising the detail and arrangements for my Zoom presentation on behalf of the South Wales Region of the RPS.

Rhys will certainly be hugely missed, both as a person and has a volunteer beyond comparison. Sincere condolences to his close family and friends in these sad circumstances. Rhys will be irreplaceably sadly missed for sure, please RIP my friend with everlasting blessings. *Les Loosemore ARPS*

I have had the pleasure of knowing Rhys for some time, since he studied for an MA at Swansea Metropolitan University, and was very saddened by the news of his passing.



Although he was a quiet and modest man, his passion for photography, a fierce determination and a lot of hard work, meant that in his role as South Wales Organiser for the RPS, he organised many memorable, exciting events.

Rhys recently published on the RPS website an article I had written, and I asked him to make a great number of changes, albeit apologetically, which he made with such good humour and patience. He brought that same kindness and consideration to all he did.

Rhys will be missed greatly, not only for what he did for people but for the lovely person he was. I send my sincere condolences to his family. *Professor Andrea Liggins ASICI, FRPS*

A quiet unassuming gentleman. I feel lucky our paths crossed. Rest in Peace. *Phil Savoie*

I am very saddened by this tragic news. I had the pleasure of meeting Rhys and working with him over the last two years. In this short time I got to know Rhys though his work as an enthusiastic volunteer for the South Wales Region, first as the Secretary, then as an inspiring Regional Organiser. He was full of ideas, visions and energy - talking to him and feeling his vibrant energy the thinkable became achievable. He was always ready to pave the way for others lending a helping hand, networking and bringing people together, not only within the realms of the RPS but also in a wider community of photographers, artists, and people working for organisations like art galleries, art colleges and Trusts. I will really miss working with Rhys and offer my heartfelt sympathy and condolences to his family.

Rolf Kraehenbuehl, Regional Organiser RPS North Wales Region

I met Rhys quite a few times at committees and always admired his drive and enthusiasm. We had some friendly discussions and I will certainly miss him as will the rest of the membership.

His passing reminds us of our mortality. Maybe we can take a lesson from him, whatever we do, go for it, be proud of it, make a difference, Rhys did. *Bruce Broughton-Tompkins LRPS, Regional Organiser, South East Region*

Please pass on not just mine but the sincere condolences of all of the South West Committee.

I met Rhys when he had just taken on the RO role in South Wales and was running his first event a talk on "Lee Miller" by her son Anthony Penrose and I received a very warm welcome my colleagues in South Wales. Barely a week would pass in which we did not exchange emails and keep each other informed about what was going on in our respective regions. Rhys will leave a very large shadow, his energy and enthusiasm was something to be admired. Once again please pass on our deep felt and sincere condolences. *Tim Sanders LRPS, Regional Organiser, South West Regional*

I am so very saddened to hear of Rhys's passing which came as a great shock. Although I had been in contact with him for only the past few months I had always enjoyed our email exchanges and found him extremely helpful and supportive.



As a Regional Organiser he reached out to the international membership too and made special efforts to include us in a range of activities. The presentation he arranged on Lee Miller was absolutely memorable and attracted many attendees from outside the UK, some RPS members, others not. He had initiated some Zoom sessions linking international Chapters and I hope we'll be able to take that further. He brought fresh ideas to link people together - one was to explore Welsh immigration to other countries with RPS contacts. He really inspired us all.

Please pass on our condolences to his family from all of us in the Australian Chapter. His loss will be felt deeply. *Elaine Herbert ARPS, Chapter Organiser, Australia*

I just heard that Rhys Jones died. I'm really sorry to hear that. That's very sad. It was a pleasure working with him organising the event with David Hurn earlier this year. I really enjoyed it. He was a great combination of very tenacious (in getting things – including me! – organised) and charming (all the while he was working away at it). He had said he maybe wanted to do some research if he found the time, perhaps looking at the history of photojournalism. I'm really sorry that he won't get to do that. *Dr Tom Allbeson, Cardiff University*

It is with shock and sadness that I hear about the death of Rhys Jones he introduced me to RPS last year. I am sure he will be greatly missed. *Louise Hughes*

It was a great privilege to work with Rhys during my time with the RPS. A more personable man, dynamic volunteer leader, and positive force for good could not be found. Rhys made a great impact on the South Wales Region, but also upon all his fellow Members and volunteers across the RPS.

His friendliness and energy were greatly cherished by me and the staff. He was a shining example of humanity in all his dealings with us, and I remain grateful for his concern and support. *Mike Taylor, Chief Operating Officer 2018-2020*

Please pass on our condolences to family, friends and RPS colleagues. It was very sad news to hear that Rhys has passed away.

I came to know him only via the 'Zoom' talks he arranged or was in and he came across as a very nice man. RIP

Carol Olerud ARPS, Join-Organiser (NL) Benelux Chapter.

It was an absolute pleasure working with you. You were an outstanding volunteer in both the work you did for your Region and the wider RPS, you had a never ending pot of enthusiasm and ideas and were so helpful and positive in helping me and the other volunteers. The RPS were very lucky to have you and I was very lucky to work with you. Thanks for everything and hope your family treasures the happy memories you gave them forever. *Naomi Galliford, Former Volunteering Manager, RPS*



It was with great sadness that I heard that Rhys had died. He was such a kind, polite gentleman and so endlessly enthusiastic about photography and the RPS. I will miss him a great deal, as will the Society. I send my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Jo McDonald, Awards Manager

