



## **Chair's Report for AGM 9th April 2022**

**David O'Neill LRPS**

Firstly, I would like to welcome Nick Bowman and Christine Holt onto the Committee.

### **Events – Field Trips and Zoom:**

Ann Miles continues to organise an impressive number of Field Trips with new events planned in several parts of the country.

She would like to extend this to as many counties as possible and in order to achieve this, we are hoping to encourage many more Members to offer to host events in their local areas. All suggestions and support will be welcome.

We are also looking for Zoom speakers so that we can continue to offer a variety of talks that are available to all Members regardless of geographical location. Please contact Ann or any other Committee Member if you have any suggestions.

### **Nature Group Advisory Days:**

The RPS is now encouraging the Nature Group to run Advisory Days, which will allow us to build on the success of our last one in 2020.

All the places for Advice on the first of these on 26th March have been filled, but there will be another later in the year, when we hope to be able to include prints.

### **The Iris:**

The new A4 version of the Iris has received a lot of very positive feedback from Members, regarding both the printed and electronic versions and I would like to congratulate Dawn Osborn for her excellent work.

The larger size makes it more flexible for organising the content and layout of articles. It also allows more space for Members' images to be shown at a more suitable size to showcase the photographer's work.

The feedback also suggests a need to support both printed and electronic versions and we already have a system in place for anyone who prefers to receive electronic copies instead of a printed magazine. We can also monitor and report on the take-up of an electronic version.

Feedback from Members is always welcome and we also hope that you will be inspired to submit articles to Dawn for future editions.

### **Members' Photography Competition:**

We are also planning to launch a Members' photography competition this summer and this will be announced as soon as we have the arrangements in place to support it.

**Young Persons Exhibition / Competition:**

With the support of our new RPS Development Director Tracey Marshall Grant, we have recently held a meeting with Education Manager, Liz Williams, and Young Persons Engagement Officer, Elise Wootten, to discuss a Young Photographers Exhibition / Competition for the Nature Group.

It will take time for the Society to gather the information necessary to support this, so the most likely outcome in the short term is a competition for the families of Members.

**Nature Group - Code of Practice:**

Duncan Locke is currently working on updating our Code of Practice which will be covered in more detail in his report.

**Environmental and Social Responsibility:**

We have been approached by the Chair of the RPS Environmental and Social Responsibility Committee (Martin Hancock ARPS) and have agreed to work with him to devise a policy for the Nature Group.

The Landscape and Travel Groups have draft policies documented, but there appears to be no commonly agreed standard for this at the moment, although it is a relatively new initiative that will undoubtedly change in the coming months.

Our current approach is to be mindful of the environment and make common sense decisions to reduce our impact, such as encouraging more local events to reduce travel and increased use of Zoom for both Committee Meetings and online talks for Members.

David O'Neill LRPS

1st April 2022