

Report of London Region AGM

London Region of the RPS held its Annual General Meeting last week on Thursday 26th January at the Wetherby School near Marble Arch. 30 Members were present, joined by another 10 for the Keynote Talk.

Report on 2016

The meeting started by a report on 2016 by the Joint Regional Organisers (Judy Hicks and Neil Cordell) which included the following summary information: -

* During the year, the Region had held 97 events with 1168 attendances - 84% of attendees were members, 16% non-members

* In addition, there had been 52 Café Art Mentoring sessions

* Regular monthly events included Street and London Naturally walks, SE and SW London Groups and the Bookworm Club.

* The Breathing London Project has 64 active participants and over 5,000 images had been uploaded to the website representing all 33 London boroughs. Three Exhibitions have been staged, along with a number of articles, the most recent being in the RPS Journal. The image gathering side of the project will end at Easter.

* During the year London Members had been successful with distinctions: -19 LRPS; 14 ARPS; and one FRPS by Clive Arrowsmith

* All this was only possible because of the work and support of the volunteers who organise events, manage the infrastructure and/or carry out ad hoc tasks and give advice and guidance.

SW London (Putney) started this year and together with SE London (Greenwich) these groups are intended as an opportunity for Members and non-members to meet locally, to discuss and enjoy all things photographic and learn more about the Region's activities.

Neil Cordell as Acting Treasurer presented the accounts for 2016 which showed an increase in cash in the bank over the year to £5,652, but some expenses for 2016 had been paid after January 1st reducing the balance by approximately £1,400 to £4,252. Events were generally run on the basis of break-even or small profit; the Joe McNally talk being the exception as it made a profit due to Joe's great generosity, giving both his time and expenses.

Neil reminded the meeting that any event costing over £1,000 required preauthorisation from HQ.

Elections

Both Judy Hicks and Neil Cordell advised that they were prepared to continue as Joint ROs for London for another year. No other person was proposed and the meeting voted for them to continue. The existing Deputy RO, Lorraine Grey, advised that she was prepared to continue for another year. No other person was proposed and the meeting voted for her to continue. Neil Cordell announced that a volunteer for Treasurer had not been found and that he would continue as Acting Treasurer until a replacement is found. In response to a question from the floor, he confirmed that an

Extraordinary General Meeting would be held to formally appoint any new Treasurer.

Look ahead to 2017

Judy Hicks and Neil Cordell talked briefly about the coming year and advised that: -

* Street and London Naturally walks, SE and SW London meetings and Bookworm Club are all scheduled and will continue through the year, as Members wish.

* The Distinctions Programme will continue with Advisory Days, an Assessment Day in London in September and a new initiative to establish a “pre-L” workgroup.

* Our involvement in Café Art and Kick-it-Out will continue

* Urbanicity 2 is reaching completion and publication

* Breathing London photography will finish at Easter, with an Exhibition to follow in the summer.

* It is also intended to hold more talks by high profile photographers like Joe McNally and Tom Jenkins.

They asked Members to let them know what they would like to see on the programme for future events – both one offs and regular monthly. They also asked for ideas for a project to follow on from Breathing London.

Any Other Business

Nicola Young was introduced to the meeting as the newly appointed Volunteer Co-ordinator in HQ in Bath and she explained that her role is to manage/co-ordinate all aspects of the Volunteer programme and to act as a conduit for Volunteers with Bath and vice versa.

A question was asked from the floor about the lack of responsiveness by staff in the Bath HQ and about how he perceived the RPS was failing to give Members what they needed. Other people from the floor responded that they had received timely and supportive responses from the staff in Bath. Judy Hicks requested that, as time was limited, the conversation be taken off-line and Neil Cordell undertook to follow up with the individual and with Bath, as did Nicola Young.

David Hicks