

LONDON REGION 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 20th January 2025 at 7pm

in Brixton Tate Library, Brixton Oval, London SW2 1JQ

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. **Welcome.** David welcomed those present to the meeting and introduced Joanne Segars who had agreed to be our chair for the evening.
2. **Present.** There were 34 members present – see list in attachment at end.
3. **Apologies for Absence** had been received from 8 members – see list in attachment at end.
4. **Minutes of 2024 AGM.** The Minutes of the 2024 AGM had been previously circulated (and were distributed again in the meeting). No questions were raised and a vote to approve the minutes was passed unanimously with no votes against and no abstentions.
5. **Matters arising from the 2024 AGM.** There were no matters arising.
6. **Regional Organisers Report.** David had previously circulated the Regional Organiser's Report and this is attached as Appendix A to these minutes. He highlighted key points/summarised as follows:
7. **The London Region Organisation** is largely unchanged, but the new HQ Terms of Reference required us to appoint a Secretary to the Committee. Roger Towell (elected as Co-Deputy Regional Organiser) volunteered for the role in addition to his London Urban and Campaign Monitor activities and has been co-opted to the formal Committee as Secretary.

NOTE: - Elected Officers / Committee Members are now elected for a period of three years; current Officers / Committee Members were elected at the 2024 AGM, and all are prepared to continue so there is no requirement for elections until the 2027 AGM. The new terms of reference for Regions allows the committee to co-opt new members to fill vacancies or additional posts between election AGMs.

8. **Events.** During the year we delivered 122 events. 461 individuals attended one or more of these events and the total bookings were 2,109.
9. **The Role of Volunteers.**

The Volunteers' Core Team is essential to the Region's operation. The following assist regularly and have specific roles – see schedule at end: Vincenzo Albano,

Fred Barrington, Brian Connolly, Martin Gandy, David Hicks, Judy Hicks, Jennifer Hurstfield, Mike Psyllides, Julian Rouse, Jennette Russell. Joanne Segars, Pat Simmons, Edith Templeton, Roger Towell.

Three significant changes since the last AGM are: - (i) Edith Templeton taking on the role of organising and managing events and posting them on the website; and (ii) Joanne Segars running the Sustainable London project and being willing to oversee the running of the 2025 projects and (iii) Vincenzo Albano taking on the role of London Region Instagrammer.

Many more members assist from time to time, liaising with venues, assisting with events and exhibitions and much more. We could not manage without all you volunteers.

10. Events

We usually hold nine regular monthly events – in an endeavour to provide “something for everyone.”

Edith Templeton runs a number of special events three or four times a year: these add variety and interest to the programme. If you have any special requests or ideas, please contact Edith (londonevents@rps.org) As noted above, 122 events were held during the year: 57 local meetings – SE SW & North, bookworms and zoom; 33 photowalks - Street, Urban and Landscape / Cityscape; 11 Distinctions related - 10 Study Groups and one Advisory Day; and 21 one-off events - exhibitions, field trips and workshops.

11. **London Region Membership** grew by a net of 110 over the year to a total of 1,175 – the highest number since August 2020. This was largely due to the HQ’s online marketing drive. The addition during the year of 306 new members, probably many with a digital focus could be a challenge to the Volunteer Team going forward?
12. **Distinctions Successes.** David congratulated the 10 Region Members who have achieved their Distinctions during the year: 7 LRPS and 3 ARPS. Numbers have been depressed for a number of reasons including Licentiate assessments not being available between March and October with the transfer to the new Digital Assessments platform.
13. **The London Region Members’ Print Exhibition** has nearly trebled in size since the first Exhibition in 2017/18 when 40 images were exhibited to this year when we have 115. This is our big showcase event, when any London Region Member can join the selection process and have one image in print in the Exhibition and a

second one as part of our digital display. The exhibition will again be in The Espacio Gallery in the last week of March.

14. **Our 2025 Project, Sustainable London**, saw 25 photographers completed 32 “mini” projects, which formed our Exhibition in fourcorners gallery, Bethnal Green in November. Success is down to Joanne Segars, who had the concept, enthused photographers and ran the project. (A second outing for the exhibition is planned for Kingston in March.)
15. **RPS London-Café Art Photography Mentoring Programme** for people who have lived experience of homelessness has gone from strength to strength under Julian Rouse’s leadership. During the year, Julian has been supported by Judy Hicks, Fred Barrington and Pat Simmons as mentors.

A fund-raising campaign during the year with generous donations from RPS Members and Café Art supporters, together with significant support from Fujifilm, means that the group now have 12 new and used Fuji XT-30 series camera, plus two telephoto lenses for their use.

The group’s annual exhibition is currently running for the month of January in Brixton Library with 39 images from 15 photographers.

16. **Administration and Interface with HQ**. There are still problems with HQ’s new CRM system and the Blackthorn Events module. London Region continues to use Eventbrite, but all events are also publicised on Blackthorn. The plan is to move to Blackthorn later in the year when it is working satisfactorily following an upgrade.
17. **Financial Overview**. We aim to run all our events at no/minimal cost. Where there are costs, we recover these through ticket sales. The exception to this is that we fully subsidise the London Region Annual Members’ Print Exhibition and partly subsidise the Annual Project Exhibition.

HQ introduced a formal budgeting process for Regions and SIGs for 2025. The London volunteer team discussed and agreed a programme of events and ticket prices where necessary. This was written up into an outline plan for 2025 and associated budget which after some discussion, was agreed with HQ and formally signed off by the London Region Committee. HQ have agreed to fund the deficit for the year.

18. **Key Points**

- In 2024 we stopped using the Hybrid model for meetings and moved to in person meetings except for one monthly zoom only meeting.

- The Online Distinctions Study Group has continued to be successful and popular.
- Photowalks are extremely popular and normally fully booked.
- We only held one Advisory Day for ARPS and LRPS at the start of the year.
- The RPS London-Café Art Photography Mentoring Group continues with fortnightly field trips followed by online feedback sessions.
- London Region Membership has increased from 1,065 to 1,175 over the year.
- The Volunteer Team has not only remained stable but has gained two new members.
- During the year, Vincenzo took over our London Instagram Account, which has greatly increased our profile and the number of visits/views to the site. We have paid for some Instagram promotions.
- RPS HQ, other Regions and SIGs have continued with their programme of talks with high-profile photographers and a particularly strong series of talks and events relating to the distinctions programme. We endeavour to complement these, not compete with them!

19. Why do we do all this?

Our aims as Regional Organiser and as volunteers are to:

- Support the strategic aims of the RPS in bringing photography to a wider audience. We do this through running open groups and activities, exhibitions and projects, supported by you the members and our large team of volunteers.
- To engage with the London Region Membership and welcome new members.
- Most importantly to help you enjoy and, if you wish, improve your photography in the company of like-minded individuals – and have fun!

20. Questions and Vote

No questions were raised. Vote to accept the RO's report was carried unanimously with none against and no abstentions.

21. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jennette tabled her Treasurer's Report, which is attached at Appendix B, and shows the Region with a balance of £2,574.11 on 31st December 2024.

Jennette explained that "surplus" cash funds of £3,000 had been transferred to HQ as part of their rationalisation of cash/bank accounts. The centralisation of cash and rationalisation of bank accounts will greatly assist HQ with their cash flow.

The balance remaining in the Region's account is the amount of the expected deficit in the approved 2025 budget. However, if special situations arise and a sound business case can be presented, it is not expected that reasonable requests for further funding will be refused!

There was some concern and discussion about the new funding model. David explained that the changes had been the result of the financial position of the RPS with an operation loss of just under £1m in 2022 and just over £1m in 2023 – the last year for which accounts are available. This has required the RPS to better use and minimise cash balances across the organisation. It has also driven the restructuring of HQ and the decision to sell RPS House and rent small admin offices in Bristol.

It was noted accounts related to The RPS London-CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group were "ring fenced" and separate from the main Region account. The CafeArt CAFdonate account is there solely for the purchase of equipment needed for the group. There is also a separate "CafeArt fund" to help with day-to-day running of the group including, for example, admissions to galleries, locations such as Kew Gardens etc.

A vote to accept the Treasurer's Report was carried unanimously with no votes against and no abstentions.

22. Joining the Volunteer Team.

The support of volunteers is essential for the running of the Region's activities. The team from last year had remained stable and had been joined by three new Members: -

- Edith who had taken over the management of events and the running of the associated website / booking system (Eventbrite);
- Joanne who ran the Sustainable London project and exhibition; and
- Vincenzo, our Instagrammer

All have said that they are enjoying being volunteers which had met their expectations in being able to meet new people and do new things.

David invited members who would like to get involved with the Region to get in touch with him to discuss the areas they might like to become involved in.

23. Plans for 2025

David explained that it was intended to continue as in 2024 with: -

- nine regular monthly meetings as in 2024.
- the annual London Region members Print Exhibition (LRMPE) at end March – selection mornings had just been completed.
- programme of in person Advisory Days (3x) for ARPS.
- programme of online Advisory Mornings (5x) for LRPS.
- investigate an in-person Fellowship Advisory Day and “Distinctions Celebration Day.
- a number of special or one-off events over the year as in 2024.
- plan for the 2026 LRMPE with selection mornings in January and exhibition in March / April.
- continue with the London Region-CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group with an exhibition in early 2026.
- a London Region project (or projects) for 2025 as previous years (see below).

David asked if anyone had any comments or suggestions about current events or the proposed programme for events. He also asked that anyone who had an idea for a special event should contact Edith on londonevents@rps.org with details including contact emails, etc.

24. “Project for 2025”

David explained that London had run a photographic every year since the Region was relaunched by Del Barret and it was intended to continue this in 2025. Projects in recent years have included: -

- “Major Projects”: - Bleeding London / Breathing London / Celebrating London/ London’s Independent Traders/The Magnificent 7+1 Projects
- “Mini projects”: - Queens Jubilee photobook / Coronation photobook / SW London Red | White | Blue Exhibition and Book / (Members supporting) Open Gardens Weekend / Totally Thames

He also noted that recent projects had been of a documentary / documenting / contemporary nature and asked if this year’s project should have a more artistic or creative theme.

David initiated a discussion to seek views on the potential subjects for Region's project in 2025 and asked if it should be a single major project or several less complex mini projects.

Project Definitions:

Major Project including maybe 40+ to 60 Photographers – the downside can be that the single subject (topic) may not appeal to all.

Mini Project to include 15 to 25 Photographers may mean that it is more likely to be at least one for everyone.

Some favoured a big project, but no single topic fired up the imagination of the group. The consensus was for several mini projects allowing a wide range of genres and styles that would allow a wider range of people to participate. This is also easier to manage from a volunteers' point of view as the work can be more efficiently spread out – not running a major project this year would give the team “a breather” Several potential subjects / topics were suggested: -

A - London's Architecture – Historic London / Patterns of London / Old & New Buildings

B – Active London – various amateur sports

C – London's Water – Totally Thames / Rivers & Steams / Lakes & Ponds

D – VEDay 80 + VJDay 80 – documentary or contemporary / social

E – London's people – needs more explanation

F – Patterns - visual

The discussion reached no conclusions other than the need to consult with those not at the AGM. David undertook to email Member with a questionnaire to seek further suggestions and views.

The following expressed interest in helping run one or more of these potential projects :-
Mike Walker / Martin Keene / Eve Milner

25. Q&A Session / AOB

No questions were raised.

Mary Thompson proposed a vote of thanks for the volunteer team which was supported by all present.

26. Date of 2026 AGM – Monday 26th January 2026

27. Thanks and Close.

Joanne thanked everyone for their input.

There would be a short interval where a glass of wine, beer, etc. was available before the presentation 'Over the Rooftops' by James Burns.

ATTACHMENTS (next pages)

Agenda

Attendance & Apologies List

ATTACHED REPORTS (separate files)

Regional Organiser's Report - Appendix A

Treasurer's Report – Appendix B

Volunteers' Schedule, January 2025

RO's PowerPoint presentation from the meeting – Appendix C

NOTICE OF LONDON REGION 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on Monday 20th January 2025 at 7pm

in Brixton Tate Library, Brixton Oval, London SW2 1JQ

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of minutes of 2024 AGM (**)
4. Report on Actions Arising (**)
5. Regional Organisers Report (**)
6. Treasurer's Report (**)
7. The role of Volunteers and joining the London Team
8. Plans for 2025 (**)
9. Q&A Session / AOB
10. Date of 2026 AGM
11. Thanks and Close

RPS LONDON REGION AGM 2025
ATTACHMENT - APOLOGIES & ATTENDEES

APOLOGIES RECEIVED :-		
Brian Connolly	Julian Rouse	Simon Maddison
Dawn Clifford	Martin Gandy	Vincenzo Albano
Jaffer Bimji	Petra Laidlaw	

LONDON MEMBERS ATTENDING :-		
Anthony Lau	Eve Milner	Michael Psyllides
Astrid Zweynert	Fred Barrington	Mike Walker
Atilla Gluck	Gordana Johnson	Mo Greig
Carol Britton	Jennette Russell	Qian Li
Catherine Chetwynd	Jennifer Hurstfield	Rob Brabner
Dave Allen	Joanne Segars	Roger Towell
David Hicks	Judy Hicks	Stephen Roberts
David Lewis	Lois Hadley	Steve Jones
Desiree Muller	Martin Keene	Stuart McRae
Edith Templeton	Mary Thompson	Suzanna Mu
Edward Shipp	Michael Coleman	Sylviane Vuillemin
Elizabeth Roberts		