



Chairman's Report for the 2026 AGM 13 July 2026

Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-EFIAP APAGB

Welcome to the 2026 AGM of the RPS AV Group.

The last twelve months has seen the continued evolution of our activities to a hybrid calendar of 'live' and 'on-line' events. The undoubted highlight was the International AV Festival, held as a 'live' event at a new venue in Worcester University. We were delighted to welcome the RPS CEO, Victoria Humphries, to the festival, and she was very impressed with the quality of the work shown, and also the camaraderie of the attendees.

Our 'on-line' Zoom meetings have also been very successful, with some fascinating technical talks as well as reprising some of the sequences in our ever-growing archive. The next one is on **Saturday 15 August 2026 - 14:00 - 16:00** on Zoom, and we will present our celebration of WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY with specially chosen awarding winning AVs which celebrate photography, its people, its history and its landmark moments.

An innovation this year was to publish a digest of articles from AV News as a bumper edition, printed on high-quality A3 paper. Our thanks go to Ian Hosker for producing this, and I hope you all enjoyed reading it.

During the course of the year I tried hard to revive the stand-alone AV Distinction. After some very encouraging meetings with Victoria Humphries and Anthony Luvera, the RPS Director of Education, the eventual decision was to pause the process while the overall Distinction review was taking place. As yet there is nothing new to report, and indeed the whole RPS Distinction process has similarly been paused, so we will have to wait to hear what the outcome will be.

As usual, the Committee have done a sterling job over the last twelve months in keeping the AV Group running, and I should like to record my thanks to each of them for the work that they have done:

Alastair Taylor – our SIG Finance Officer who has kept our finances in good shape, and also chaired the International AV Festival. This year he has volunteered to chair the National AV Championships, which will be held as a live event in Smethwick on 14th/15th November 2026.

Ian Hosker – Ian hit the ground running at the last AGM, and has done an excellent job in producing the regular on-line editions of AV News as well as the printed ‘annual’ digest.

Edgar Gibbs – Edgar has stood in as de facto Vice-Chair, and provides a wealth of experience to the committee. It was very pleasing to see the both Edgar and Linda were featured in the recent RPS Journal for the many years of volunteering that they have both done.

Sheila Haycox – Sheila has been an excellent resource for her knowledge of the RPS website. Most of you will know that Sheila has had some serious health issues this year, and is sadly no longer able to administer the website. We asked for a volunteer to take over this role, and.....

Keith Watson – offered to become the new website manager. After some training at RPS HQ, he has made an excellent start in reviewing the site content and bringing it up to date. He is also the SIG Secretary, keeping the rest of us on our toes for the various reports and agenda items needed for the Group committee meetings and sending out the information for the AGM.

Andrew Gagg – Andrew has continued to bring a professional eye to our graphic design, designing logos, letterheads and Zoom backgrounds to ensure that the AV Group’s public face is both appealing and in-line with RPS policies.

Martin Addison –Martin is the editor of our electronic newsletter, AV World e-Extra. This has continued to be a useful fill-in between the AV News issues, providing timely information about forthcoming AV events and the results of recent competitions.

Malcolm Imhoff – Malcolm has taken on a key role in the running of the two RPS organised AV Competitions, and has additionally taken over the running of the Peter Coles AV Competition.

Mike Pill – Mike has been a valuable resource for various events, and has a keen interest in new technology and methods.

Adrian Battersby – Adrian continues to bring a fresh perspective to the committee, and together with Mike Pill organised the North-West AV Day in April.

Ian Bateman FRPS
Chair of RPS AV Group