

Dear RPS trustees, staff, volunteers and friends

As the Covid figures continue to fall here in the UK, there is a growing sense of optimism that Spring really is coming, and all things photographic may soon be possible again.

Led by **Sally** and **Billy**, entries for this year's **International Photography Competition** are continuing to do really well. At the start of this week, we'd received 240 paid entries, and a whopping 1,044 free entries, most of which are from non-members, of whom most are under 30 years old. It's a great opportunity for us to engage new people with the RPS, as well as being a tremendously exciting photographic opportunity in itself.

And let's not forget last year's **IPE162**, which is continuing to tour. We just had some feedback from the curator at Beverley Art Gallery, who wrote:

The response was overwhelmingly positive. We held the exhibition in between the lockdowns, so we had to introduce strict measures such as a one way system and limited number of visitors in the gallery at any one time. Nevertheless, we still received over 6k visitors which is higher than our usual number without the covid restrictions. Our social media campaign was also well received and attracted many visitors to the gallery. Numerous visitors said they returned to see the show several times. We also attracted visitors from further afield such as York and Leeds.

If you're keen to see it in person, it will soon be coming to **Taunton**. Details here:

<https://rps.org/events/bristol/2021/may/international-photography-exhibition-162/>

And we are looking forward to the opening of the new **In Progress** exhibition (details [here](#)). It hasn't started yet, but already it's generating lots of interest, including the news this week that (thanks to Sally) the Guardian would like to run it (in part) as an online gallery. More on this soon. Incidentally, this week marked **Sally's eleventh year** with the RPS. Many congratulations, and thank you for all your great work.

For me, much of this week has been focussed on preparing budgets and other documents for our board meeting yesterday. We made much progress, including signing off on the text for the outward-facing version of the new strategy "**Photography for Everyone**". This will go to the designers now, and then I look forward tremendously to sharing it with you.

However, we still need to produce an image for the cover, and so **I need your help**. We want to produce a collage image of self-portraits. Please could you send me a passport-style self-portrait, in portrait orientation, for us to include? We'd be grateful if you could do this by the end of next week (**26 March**). We'll try to include as many as possible.

We had some sad news this week, that **Robert (Bob) Faris** died in late February, aged 98. He was a Life Member of the RPS, having joined 50 years ago. He was a much loved member of the Creative Eye and Digital Imaging Groups. We are liaising with his family, and will post something about him to the RPS website soon. If you would like to contribute to this, please do let me know.

The **CRM work** is continuing at a pace, **Simon B** writes:

There has been a lot of work behind the scenes on the CRM project recently and this week saw the business case and roadmap presented to the board of trustees by Hart Square.

The next phase of the project commences next week, when we begin our engagement with external suppliers who responded to the Invitation to Tender. This engagement involves a series of three meetings with each of the suppliers. One of these meetings is dedicated to the all-important product demonstration where we get to

tangibly see what these systems can do and how this benefits the RPS in its current position and in the future.

Once the three rounds of engagement meetings have been completed, with each of the providers, we move on to shortlist the two most suitable products, one of these ultimately being selected as the partner for our new system.

The project is at an exciting phase and it'll be good to get a flavour of these new systems and how they can benefit the RPS across the board.

Thanks to **Rebecca's** great publicity work, our **Science Photographer of the Year Competition** is featuring this week in the BBC Science Focus Magazine, on sale 24 March. A copy of the stunning page is attached.

And, whilst on the subject of science, did you see these incredible images sent back from **Mars**?
<https://rps.org/groups/imaging-science/remote-photography-reaches-new-heights/>

There's still time to enter **this year's IPE** competition here:
<https://rps.org//ipe-163-new-entries/> (deadline is 27 April)

And also, there's a new **Exposure competition** that's just opened:
<https://exposure.rps.org> (deadline 14 May)

Finally, you must see these lovely images of the "European Yellowstone" in Romania, taken by **Nicholas White**, part-funded by an RPS bursary, and featured in the New York Times.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/15/travel/romania-national-park.html>

Next week, lots more work on the CRM and strategy, our next Critical Friends meeting, and the EGM. If you haven't voted or registered yet, please do. We really need every member to take part, and to support the proposed changes. Details [here](#).

Also, **tomorrow** (Saturday) do come back to look at the RPS website from around midday onwards for a rather lovely surprise story....

I hope you're enjoying my weekly *Snapshots*. Please do send me anything you'd like me to share. **I would be grateful if chairs and ROs could circulate this to their group members, if appropriate - and if you are receiving this indirectly, do drop me a line if you'd like me to add your email to the circulation list.**

As usual, please do keep in touch, and do let me know if you'd like to discuss anything.

Happy weekend!

Evan

Evan Dawson (He/Him)
Chief Executive Officer | The Royal Photographic Society