

Chair's Report for AGM 2023

Membership

Membership of the group during 2022 was around 600. This has fluctuated slightly each month but recently there seems to be a slight drop in numbers.

Creative Eye Magazine

As usual, there were three issues of Creative Eye magazine published in 2022.

After just a little more than 3 years as editor of our magazine, Steve Varman handed over the reins to me. In the first stage I commissioned the articles, whilst Steve designed and assembled the magazine (Issue 88) and in the second stage (Issue 89), I took over the entire process of producing the magazine.

Exhibitions

For 2022, the Print Exhibition and the Digital Exhibition were held at different times of the year so that members had two opportunities a year of having their images accepted in lieu of a creative eye group exhibition.

2022 Print Exhibition

The Members' 2022 Print Exhibition, selected by Dr David Townshend FRPS, Joan Jordan ARPS and Dr Ian Wilson ARPS was free to enter.

There were awards for the best prints and a change to the format for print submissions in that the images did not need to be mounted for submission. It was hoped that this change would give more members a greater opportunity to enter.

The result was a great success, resulting in double the usual number of entries. Prints arrived from all over the UK, but importantly, also from Hong Kong, Australia, Sweden and Ireland.

The prints were mounted by Moira Ellice and Veronica Worrall and looked great at the exhibition as there was a uniformity.

Sixty-five of the prints from the exhibition were shown at the Apex Gallery in Bury St Edmunds from Tuesday 16 August – Sunday 18 September 2022.

A slideshow of the complete exhibition (136 prints) was installed on the gallery's big screen TV, which was very well received.

The complete exhibition (136 prints) was on display throughout November at the Edinburgh Photographic Society. Arrangements were made to display the Digital Exhibition slideshow on a TV in the entrance hall, also, projected in one of its event rooms at 'Open Weekends'.

All the award winning and other accepted prints were published in the Creative Eye magazine issue 88.

2022 Digital Exhibition

For the 2022 exhibition, Members were invited to submit up to four images each with one being selected from everyone for inclusion in the final slide show on the Creative Eye website and will also be printed in the first issue in 2023 of the Creative Eye magazine.

We received 466 images from 118 members. The Selection Panel discussed the merits of all images, chose one image from each member for the Exhibition and decided on ten images to receive one of the awards. These were the Commended, Highly Commended, the three Selector's Awards, and finally a RPS Gold Medal for the best in the whole Exhibition. It was a tough selection process which took over nine hours to complete due to the images being of such high quality.

The Selectors were Athena Carey MFA ARPS, Simon Leach FRPS and Viveca Koh FRPS.

The Digital Exhibition is now on the Creative Eye website and will also be shown at photographic societies including Edinburgh and Smethwick.

Online Talks

Jan Harris organised and hosted a programme of online talks and workshops, and she helped run the Members' Day in June.

The talks held were:

- Joe Houghton, Lightroom Live, 8th January 2022
- Ruth Grindrod, Colour, Tones and Textures, 5th February 2022
- Iñaki Hernández-Lasa FRPS, FIPF, Architectural Photography, in search of the "genius loci", 10th September 2022
- Linda Wevill, "Expressing Creative Vision", about creative techniques and her 2 FRPS panels, 26th November 2022
- James Kerwin, "Sands of Time", 28th January 2023
- Steve Geer FRPS (and friends) present a discussion on "The P2 Project - Poetry and Photography" on Saturday April 22nd 2023

Members' Day

The 2022 Members' Day, organised by Moira Ellice and Jan Harris, was held on 26th June. It was well attended with 117 participants joining the event.

Talks were given by:

- Steve Varman LRPS 'Creative and Eclectic'
- Margaret Rainey FRPS 'City Impressions'
- Julie Cowdy ARPS 'The gift that keeps on giving'
- David Jordan FRPS 'Adventures with Infrared'
- David Harris ARPS 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees'
- Wendy Irwin ARPS 'Mixing Art and Photography'
- Steve Geer FRPS 'Imagining Reality'
- Mike Kwasniak FRPS 'The Accidental Fellow'

Moira received many messages of thanks, and one non-member was so thrilled with the day, she said it was the best RPS event she has attended for years.

Field Trips and Photo Walks

Rebecca Johnson LRPS was Coordinator of Field Trips and Photo walks from November 2021 until she had to give up the role at the end of 2022.

- Walks which took place in the last year were:
- March 2022 - Spitalfields and Brick Lane Photo walk, led by Roger & Angela Ford
- April 2022 - Kew Gardens visit, led by Dave & Joan Jordan
- July 2022 - Brian Titchiner lead a Photo walk in London (from Three Mills to Trinity Wharf)
- October 2022 - Robin Myerscough lead a Photo walk in Norwich, on a day that coincided with an Exhibition by the local Camera Club in the Cathedral.

Creative Eye Portfolio Group

Membership of the group, which is run by David Harris, has been stable in the last year. We currently have 13 members, with all thirteen currently active. This is probably at about the right level for a single group.

The exchange of images and written comments each month is continuing, as is the group Zoom meeting every 8 weeks or so. Some members seem to prefer the written comments and some prefer the Zoom format, some enjoy both equally!

Group Website

Steve Varman continues to run the group's website with great success. The site contains a wealth of information about the group including news items, events, the print exhibition, the digital exhibition, the members' day, documents and details of members' websites. I recommend this site to all those who wish to know more about the group and its activities.

Facebook

Our Facebook group, administered by Margaret Rainey. With 290 members it is very active and is a great place to share your images for comment as well as to exchange ideas, find out what is going on in the Group.

Flickr Group

The group has a Flickr site which until recently was looked after by David Ryland. Currently it has 68 members. I'm very pleased to say that Clive Watkins has taken over responsibility for the group.

Thanks

I would like to end this report with a very sincere thank you to all our volunteers. They are essential to making the group the success it is.

Although I am stepping down as chair at this AGM, I will continue to edit Creative Eye magazine and I look forward to working with the group and its members in future.

Dr David F Cooke FRPS