

## **AGM Committee Reports – AGM 2023**

Please find below the committee reports for 2022.

### **Chair Report – Richard Ellis**

#### *Role description*

Provide leadership and support to the Landscape SIG ensuring a vibrant and dynamic programme.

#### *Achievements 2022*

2022 can be best summed up by the opening line from Kipling's poem "If you can keep your head, when all about you are losing theirs"

We entered the year with Covid-19 restrictions which curtailed activity in the early part of the year but by far the largest headwind has come from the poor implementation of the CRM system by HQ which has absorbed a huge amount of committee time with very little net benefit. By organising work arounds, we are now able to deliver most of the programme and to keep members informed. The committee deserve a huge amount of praise for their resilience and fortitude in the face of this continuing issue.

Our programme of events continued with over 40 events including lectures, face-to-face workshops and residential educational workshops.

The "By degrees" project was completed and we will publish a special edition of the magazine containing the images. The closer home project is coming to conclusion with over 60 participants having documented an area of landscape in the vicinity of their abode.

Our monthly competition continues to attract over 60 entries and we are grateful to Alex Hare for judging the overall winner. Congratulations to Steven Baldwin for his lovely overall winning image.

We have grown our social media following on Facebook and Instagram by 25% to 1253 Instagram followers and 511 participants on FB. The website is regularly updated and we have moved to a web based regular email which is proving popular.

After a few false starts on our programme to assist young photographers we have settled on giving bursaries to young people undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award photography modules. This will be administered by a third-party charity bringing young people into photography.

The circles programme has grown and now has over 80 participants allowing people to get critique of their prints, PDIs and processing. This a great example of the educational value of being a member of the group.

We organised an outdoor exhibition which was a great success and is currently in London having been in Edinburgh and York previously. Our second location guide is available and covers the tip of Cornwall.

The newsletters continue to keep members informed and we have also published two magazine issues which have been well received. The magazine is undergoing a revamp and will feature more content written by professionals.

Our membership numbers remain stable at 1031, and our finances remain robust and we are confident we can continue to deliver an attractive programme. Our documentation also remains in good order and held on a cloud-based system for security.

#### *Future Plans*

This will be my last report as I will be stepping down as chair having served my six-year term as per RPS guidelines. I am very lucky to have led a very talented committee and I would like to place on record my thanks to each and every one of them for their hard work, diligence and friendship. I am sure the group will be in safe hands when Colin takes over in March (subject to AGM vote). I am also grateful to all of you for being members of the group and especially to those who have been with us from the start.

The committee will launch some new projects at the conference and the programme of workshops and talks will continue.

#### **Treasurer Report – Mark Edwards**

This will be posted as a separate file.

#### **Secretary Report – Andy McLaughlin**

##### *Role description*

Ensure the efficient administration of the group.

##### *Achievements 2022*

The minutes of all meetings have been kept and circulated to committee members within seven days of meetings. These along with all reports provided by committee members are now held centrally on Microsoft Teams and accessible to all committee members.

#### *Future Plans*

Continue to deliver meetings for the group and compliance with RPS policies.

#### **Events Manager Professional – Mark Reeves/Chris McIntosh**

Mark has been the organiser of the group's events that are led by professional tutors and workshop leaders for 6 years and is in the process of standing down and handing over to Chris.

##### *Events 2022:*

Our programme in 2022 continued to feature a combination of face-to-face workshops, online events, talks and hybrid events (ie usually a combination of online briefings/advice/learning followed by self-directed location work and culminating with online image reviews).

There have been over 40 events during the year with face-to-face workshops being the most frequent type offered but the other events being equally popular in terms of bookings. Most events have been fully booked and very few have had to be cancelled.

We have been very fortunate to have the support of such a number of high-quality professional photographers who offer a wide range of photographic opportunities.

The year's programme was helped by the gradual relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions although we remain mindful of its continuing impact and the need to take appropriate precautions and to react according to any new risks or restrictions.

Unfortunately, we experienced major difficulties this year centred on the RPS decision to change its digital platform for publishing events. This proved to be hugely frustrating for all, from those trying to publish events to those trying to book. The change-over has also taken much longer than anticipated and issues have yet to be fully resolved. This caused us to have to use a phone booking service for many of the existing workshops. After starting to use the new RPS Blackthorn system and running into problems we started using Eventbrite for talks and latterly we started publishing events for the first 3 months of 2023 using Billetto which seems to be a good platform. However, we have had difficulty linking this to all the areas on the RPS site where Landscape Group events should appear. We hope and intend to revert to publishing events within the new RPS system soon.

We apologise to all members who ran into difficulties and frustrations resulting from these problems, including booking into events and logging on to talks.

Plans for 2023:

We will continue to offer a combination of event types and are grateful to the professionals who continue to support us. We also hope to introduce new workshop leaders. There are many diverse events planned for 2023 and our immediate priority is to get our whole programme published, hopefully in a well-functioning RPS platform.

Mark will remain in the background in a supporting role and he will also try to extend our reach north to offer more events in Scotland.

### **Member Events Manager - Dave Glenn**

*Role description*

Organise and publish field trips to be led by members of the Landscape Group, rather than professional photographers.

Plan and implement the residential Landscape Group conference.

*Achievements in 2022*

A very enjoyable and informative field trip with Paul Mitchell was held in early May 2022 to photograph the bluebells at Marlborough.

Roger Styles very kindly reprised his "South Pennines Moorland" in September (this time blessed with rather better weather!).

A hybrid event ("Land's End and The Lizard") has been arranged for the start of 2023. The event will consist of an introduction on Zoom, followed by a period of a few weeks to photograph the area, then another Zoom session to conclude). It will be led very capably by Richard Ellis.

I'm extremely grateful to the members above who took the time and trouble to lead these events.

Unfortunately, my new idea of informal photo walks, to be led by members at short notice had to be put on hold due to other commitments.

Planning for the Landscape Group conference in March 2023 is now at an advanced stage, with over 70 delegates expected.

#### *Future plans*

Finalise plans for the 2023 residential conference (to be held in Harrogate 3-5 March, 2023).

After a very enjoyable and rewarding three years in the role I will be stepping down from the committee at the end of the conference. Thanks to everyone for their support.

### **Magazine Editor – Vacancy**

#### *Role description*

Editor of the group's magazine has evolved to cover the periodical production a printed magazine, that includes members content and also content related to the genre of Landscape Photography, that the members may find of interest.

#### *Achievements*

The group has delivered two issues of the magazine this year with a variety of interesting and informative content.

#### *Future plans*

The group will issue a special edition focussed on the "By degrees" project early in 2023 and then future issues will feature more content by professional photographers.

landscapemagazine@rps.org

### **Newsletter Editor – Peter Fortune**

In 2022 8 Newsletters were produced. This is the same as the last few years and meant that Newsletters were produced in January, March, May, June, July, September, October and November. Three articles from members (has become the standard but if we have more than are needed for the next edition or so we will publish more). In addition a new feature - The series of articles on the Committee members was completed with Richard's profile in June. Following the recruitment of Mark Edwards as Treasurer he was profiled. The plan is to continue with these profiles as new Committee members are recruited. Another innovation started in October was Letter from America (with apologies to Alistair Cooke) featuring the work of Candia Peterson who lives in Upstate New York. This last innovation is seen as an occasional series and will be continued.

As the year has progressed Sue Wright's involvement has continued and the graphic design of the Newsletters has become more imaginative and striking as a result. As a result of Sue's skill and hard work the Newsletter is now at a much higher standard than when I took over the Editorship.

Although we are always short of articles a system suggested by Mark Reeves has significantly improved this situation. I am sent a list of delegates on workshops and I write to each one suggesting they should write a report on the Workshop they are attending. This has eased the supply of articles significantly although the CRM problems

have caused a reduction in events and therefore a reduction in the number of articles received.

### **The Future**

I am planning the same number of editions of the Newsletter in the same months as in 2022, and hope to continue to make the Newsletter a very readable and graphically stunning publication (with Sue Wright's help).

### **Copy Deadlines for the next 8 Editions**

These deadlines can be operated with a degree of flexibility.

| Planned edition | Copy Deadline |
|-----------------|---------------|
|-----------------|---------------|

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| January 2023 | 24 Dec (2022) |
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| March | 24 Feb |
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| May | 28 Apr |
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| June | 26 Apr |
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| July | 30 Jun |
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| September | 25 Aug |
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| October | 29 Sep |
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| November | 27 Oct |
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### **Web Editor - Sue Wright**

#### *Role description*

To keep the group's pages on the RPS website up to date and to add new content. The structure and content of the group's web pages have been built using pre-defined page types and content cards and media (images and documents) uploaded by the Web Editor. The main requirement of the role is a good standard of computer literacy. Moderation of the group's Facebook page also falls to the Web Editor. It has been a pleasure to work on the Landscape Group's website again this year and I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to display member's landscape photography on the website that had been submitted to the monthly competitions.

#### *Achieved in 2022*

- The role continues mostly the same as last year in respect of updating the website and administering the Facebook Group. There have been issues with the website while RPS installs the new CRM system. • This year, unfortunately, there were no online Web Editor training meetings with the new RPS Website & Digital Engagement Officer.

- I implemented a new emailing system to communicate with Landscape Members, sending two emails a month, keeping members up to date with the group's news, events, projects, competitions, vacancies etc.
- During 2022 the Landscape Photography Competition has attracted on average 80 images submissions each month. In the 2nd half of the year we took the competition over to a new platform (PollUnit) where members are able to add their own image (instead of emailing them to me) and later, using the same platform they are able to vote. Thomas Heaton did us the great honour of selecting the overall winner of 2021 which was announced early in 2022.
- A new 'themed' competition has been set up, Autumn is the 1st theme and attached over 150 entries.
- Three member lead projects were added to the Landscape Group website where members could join and their imagery later displayed in an online gallery.

#### *Future plans for 2023*

- Continue to review the design and content of the new web pages. • Continue to run the Landscape Group monthly and themed competitions in 2023.
- Improve communication methods to keep Landscape Group members up to date with group news.
- Support members to produce and display on the website new Projects for the group.
- Take the newsletter from a page turning pdf to an interactive and easy to read, via links taking members to the Landscape Group's website. If anyone has feedback on the Landscape Group pages, please email [landscapeweb@rps.org](mailto:landscapeweb@rps.org)

#### **Member without portfolio – Fiona McCowan**

##### *Role description*

A mix of steady state and project focused activities eg managing the Landscape Group Instagram feed; assisting other Committee Members as and when required and membership surveys.

##### *Achievements in 2022*

- Instagram feed - #rpslandscape - since inception circa 220 posts and 1,240 followers
- introduced successful monthly guest takeovers on our Instagram feed
- Circle Co-Ordinator - increased the number of active Circles to four eCritique; three print and four processing with circa 80 members across the Circles; David Travis has now taken over the Co-Ordinator role
- worked with SharpShots to establish a 2023 student bursary scheme for young adults to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award photography course; the final portfolios of the successful recipients will be featured in the Landscape Group newsletter/website

*Future plans*

- ongoing management of the Instagram account #rpslandscape (and possibly other social media sites including Vero)
- provide assistance, when required, to other committee members e.g. at the AGM & biennial conference; hosting webinars
- project managing a new 'zine' project to be launched in spring 2023
- oversight of the 2023 student bursary scheme
- membership survey

Colin Balfour, Member without Portfolio

This year I joined the Landscape Group Committee as Member without Portfolio. My initial focus was to help with the Outdoor Exhibition and assist Howard Klein. I researched potential venues in Edinburgh, secured a venue (St Andrew Square), managed the Edinburgh exhibition setup, monitoring and breakdown thanks to a great team of volunteers, and finally transferred the panels to the next location. I also helped Mark Reeves with the final two locations for By Degrees. In addition, I researched a new upload service, PollUnit, which is now in regular use and is helping with the monthly competition and themed competition. I've also been looking at potential collaborations to help source new articles for the magazine. Finally, I have been doing research and planning for a new project to be launched in 2023 at the AGM.