

***1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT***

# **RPS London Region AGM 2026**

## **Item 4: Regional Organiser's Report on 2025 Activities**

**David Hicks**

- **RO's Report – Overview**

- **Organisation**

- The London Region 'Official' Region Team remained stable during 2024
- David Hicks as Regional Organiser
- Judy Hicks, Mike Psyllides & Roger Towell as Co-Deputy Regional Organisers
- Jennette Russell as Treasurer.
- Roger Towell as Secretary
- Note: Election are due at the 2027 AGM

- **Region Organised Activities**

- We held **122** events in the year – with a total attendance of **2,109**
- **461** people attended one or more events; average just under **5** events per person

- **RO's Report – Contribution of  
Volunteers' Core Team**

- Each Volunteer (singly or jointly) runs one or more of our regular activities
  - Photowalks / fieldtrips – Roger Towell; Julian Rouse; Fred Barrington; Judy Hicks, David Hicks;
  - Book Group “Bookworms” – Jenny Hurstfield;
  - Distinctions: L & A Advisories & Study Group – Mike Psyllides & Brian Connolly;
  - Local “groups” – N, SW and Zoom facilitated and managed by Judy Hicks, David Hicks: - SE Group by Mike Psyllides, Julian Rouse, Mike Walker.
  - CaféArt Mentoring Group – led by Julian Rouse with Judy Hicks, Pat Simmons, Fred Barrington as Mentors
- Ongoing support roles essential to maintain contact with Members
  - “Events” Edith Templeton
  - “Capital Letter” etc. – Judy Hicks & Roger Towell
  - Projects (2025) – Joanne Segars

**Plus others who undertake a variety of tasks and activities to support the Region and us in the Core Team, such as: finding and booking venues; stewarding exhibitions; “running the bar”.**

# RO's Report – Events' Calendar

- **Regular Monthly (same “day” each month)**
  - SE London (1<sup>st</sup> Monday) – Pett’s Wood In Person
  - London-wide Zoom (Alternative 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday). Zoom for all
  - North London (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) – Highbury & Islington In Person
  - SW London (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) – Putney In Person
  - “Distinctions” Study Group (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) – Zoom
  - Street Photowalk (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday) – around London
  - Bookworms (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) – Highbury & Islington In Person
  - Midweek Explorers Photowalk (3<sup>rd</sup> week) - around London
  - Landscape Fieldtrips (4<sup>th</sup> week) –around the Home Counties, and London for “cityscapes”
- **RPS London-CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group**
  - Two Saturday afternoons per month followed by Zoom feedback a week later

# RO's Report – Special Events

- **Exhibitions and visits (field trips)**
  - January – RPS London- CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group annual exhibition (Putney Library)
  - January –February – Advisory Day LRPS + ARPS (Canada Water Library)
  - March – LRMPE annual members' print exhibition (Espacio Gallery)
  - May –August – pop-up (one-day) exhibition of Tower Hamlets cemetery (around the cemetery)
  - September –October – Visit to Buddhist Temple, Wimbledon
  - October –November –

- **RO's Report Events Details:**

- xxx (122 / 121) Events or Meetups in 2025 (2024 / 2023):  
attendances of x,xxx (2,108 / 1,880) by xxx (461 / 382) individuals

EVENT TYPE	No. of Events	Attendances
Regular Micro-Groups		
Bookworms, N SW, SE & Zoom	57	963
London Street, Midweek Explorers, & Landscape	33	539
Distinctions Advisory Days, Study Groups etc.		
Advisory Days	1	24
Study Group	10	52
One Off Events, Workshops & Exhibitions		
	21	531
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2,109</b>

- **RO's Report – Membership growth**

- **Region's Membership**

- Saw an increase in Membership over the year from 1,175 (end December 2024) to **1,352** at the end of December 2025
- This was made up of a “loss” of 190 (existing) and a “gain” of **367** (new) members
- A net gain of **177** = **15%** growth

- **Region's Membership Trends**

- Since mid-2022 to July 2024, it remained consistently around 1,060 – range 1,050 to 1,070.
- After July, London Region Membership has grown steadily by 281 (26%) over 18 months.
- The end December number of **1,352** is the highest since 2018.

## **Congratulations to those London Region Members who had a successful Distinctions Assessment in 2024**

**LRPS = 4**

**ARPS = 15**

- **RO's Report**

- **London Region Members' Print Exhibition 2025**

- We held four selection mornings in January 2025 and 115 London Members had images in the Exhibition in the Espacio **Gallery 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>** March 2025.
- Each London Member who submitted work, had one image hung on the wall for the Exhibition – plus a second image on a rolling digital display
- **The exhibition also included 20 images from the RPS London-CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group Exhibition**
- **Grown in participation each year**
  - First year (2017 for 2018) – 44 Members put forward images
  - 2018 for 2019 = 49 – and changed to selection by participants
  - 2019 for 2020 = 55
  - 2020 for 2021 = 61
  - 2021 for 2022 = 108 (post pandemic)
  - 2022 for 2023 = 98
  - 2024 = 105
  - 2025 = 115

# RO's Report – 2025 Projects

- Sustainable London

# RO's Report – Charitable Causes

## Cafe Art

- RPS London Regions has continued to support CafeArt with their MyWorld/ MyLondon calendar competition / photography project involving people who are homeless or suffering the effects of homelessness
- The Calendar project ran in its usual form; images were taken using single use cameras and the RO helped shortlist images for the public vote, layout of calendar, and handing out of prizes to the winners
- The RPS London-CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group is separate from the MyWorld / MyLondon calendar project and is for people who are homeless or suffering the effects of homelessness and grew in membership to **xx** and strength over the year
- The programme is run by Julian with support from Judy, Fred and Pat as mentors
- It has a field trip (typically) two Saturdays per month with a feedback / educational Zoom a week later.
- The field trips have included charitable concession tickets to e.g. Kew gardens and London Zoo.
- The 2026 Exhibition is on display here (at Brixton Library) today.
- We have received funding donation from MyWorld which has enabled a field trip to Margate and covering the costs of entry fees and of this exhibition.

# RO's Report

- **Administration and interface to HQ**
- Event Booking System
  - The biggest challenge has been the limited functionality of the new HQ CRM system and its Blackthorn events module. We have continued to use Eventbrite for the majority of events with some duplicated on Blackthorn with link to Eventbrite event.
  - Although Blackthorn is probably acceptable for creating events and ticketing, it fails (as yet) to provide the necessary tools to manage an event.
  - The new HQ management team is investigation how remedy the system during 2026.
- Website (CMS / Umbraco)
  - Again an upgrade is anticipated later in 2026 to make the layout of the website more accessible for Members and non-members
- Financial Management
  - The Regions submitted a budget and plan for 2026 – as outlined later.

## ■ Financial Overview

- We aim to run most of our events either free or income-cost neutral. We try to get as many venues as possible free or nominal charge.
- The main exception is the annual London Region Members Print Exhibition: - exhibitors pay the costs of printing and mounting their own images plus a £10.00 donation towards the costs and the Region covers the remaining costs.
- Another exceptions are if there is a hire charge for local meeting, we ask for a contribution of £2.00 per person towards the hire costs over the year.
- The costs of any exhibitions or photobooks produced as part of project are fully funded by the participants.
- RPS London-CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group is extracurricular to normal Region activities and is funded by donations.
- As a result of this approach, the deficit (funded from HQ) is around £2k to £2.5k per year.

## ■ Summary

- four (SE London, North :London, SW London and Bookworms) were in-person. Only one (London Zoom) continued on Zoom only
- Online Study Group has continued to be popular and successful.
- Photo-walks are extremely popular: groups are normally fully booked
- We only had one Distinctions Advisory Day for LRPS & ARPS at the start of the year.
- The RPS London-CafeArt Photography Mentoring Group continues as in-person fieldtrips followed by online feedback
- London Region Membership has increased from 1,171 to 1,352 over the year.
- The volunteer team has not only remained stable but has gained two new members.
- RPS HQ, other Regions and SIGs have continued their programme of talks with high profile photographers and workshops. **We endeavour to complement these, not compete with them!**

- **RO's Report – and finally**

- The Region is run entirely by volunteers with support from a small HQ staff.
- Our aims as the London Volunteer Team are :-
  - to support the strategic aims of the RPS in bringing the art and science of photography to a wide audience.
  - To engage with the London Region Membership and welcome non-Members
  - to provide opportunities for photographers of all levels to learn and develop their skills in positive, supportive and enjoyable environments, whether at our meetings or events; walks or field trips; projects or exhibitions.
  - **And to have fun!**

**We hope that amongst our varied programme there is and has been something for everyone during the year.**

- **And now for your questions**
  1. Vote to accept RO's Report
  2. Proposer / Secunder
  3. Vote (For / Against / Abstain)