

Royal Photographic Society – East Anglia Region Annual General Meeting

Regional Organiser Update

It was my privilege to take over as the Regional Organiser at last year's East Anglia Region AGM. I want to share an overview of the photography activities in our region over the last year. Following a number of committee members stepping down in 2023, it was a year of rebuilding for the region's committee. A committee of three people is too small to run an effective programme of community led events for the regions members. At today's AGM we will ask you to approve the appointment of a two new committee members.

The Region has 682 members with many of those hold distinctions at the different levels LRPS, ARPS, FRPS and two members with HonFRPS.

Our Community Led Events during 2023 were limited due to the small size of the committee. We did hold a number of events with the support of the different Special Interest Groups covering genres of Landscape, Nature, Digital Imaging to highlight a few collaborations.

In the final quarter of 2023 we launched our new Newsletter – East Anglia Observer that will be published quarterly in digital format.

At the start of 2024 the Board of Trustees approved a new Terms of Reference for Regions and Groups with the objective of standardising the way Regions and Groups operate when providing Community Led Events. The Terms of Reference outline a minimum set of activities that Regions and Groups should provide to members and encourages collaboration between Regions and Groups.

- (1) four in-person photographic activities per year
- (2) two presentations (online or in-person) by visiting speakers per year
- (3) one Distinctions Advisory Day per year
- (4) one exhibition of members' work (biennially)
- (5) two Regional Newsletters (digital) at least six-months apart
- (6) an informative Regional webpage

There will be changes to the way the Region Finances operate in 2025 that will start with Regions and Groups submitting budgets in September as part of the broader RPS budgeting process with the aim of allowing the RPS to achieve a balanced budget within 2 years without impacting the way Regions operate and deliver their programme of events.

The RPS has other plans for 2024 that include a new version of the event platform and the launching of Digital LRPS that was announced at the 2023 RPS AGM. I hope to be in a position to share more information about Digital LRPS in a future update to members. Digital LRPS should make it much easier for members to take the first step in the distinctions journey.

Looking at 2024 we have launched a more comprehensive programme of events in conjunction with the Special Interest Groups.

- There have already been multiple Talk Walk Talk events in across the region and the Nature Group have held events within the Region. We will continue to use the quarterly Newsletter to provide links to events in the Region.
- There are other events in the pipeline that will be announced in the Summer Edition of East Anglia Observer which is due to be published in May. There will be a further iteration of Talk Walk Talk events in the Autumn with a woodland theme.
- We are currently working on an Advisory Day for the Autumn of this year that most likely will be held at Foxton due to its location and our experience with holding events there in the past.
- The plan is to hold a members exhibition in 2025. Exhibitions have a greater logistics overhead than the other events we organise within the Region.

We continue to run a Region Facebook Group the objective of that Group is to create a place where members can share the photographic images and as a committee we will use it alongside RPS Broadcasts to communicate with members outside of the quarterly newsletters.

It would be great if we could create a cohort of members who are interested in helping the committee run Community Led Events as that will allow us to expand the number of activities within the Region. For example, if we had 30 members who would be happy to led an event every 2 years we could significantly expand the volume of events available to members.

There will be a chance to ask question as part of agenda item number 7. I hope as many members as possible will find time join at least one of our Community Led Events.