

Webmaster report for 2021 AGM

Well, that was quite a year, in amongst all the other things going on, the RPS website also proved a challenge, but with support I got over it and managed to get things freshened up a bit.

We then started to try to give the members something to do during the first lockdown and instigated a couple of monthly competitions. These were quite well received and we got a couple of judges to look at the entries and two members received some vouchers for their efforts. Thanks to all who did enter and to our two judges.

Also within that period we did four member focus interviews with Sue Brown FRPS, Ken Holland ARPS, Rod Fry ARPS and Di Wilkins ARPS. These took the form of questions, a choice of 8 were offered of which we asked them to answer five and then send us at least ten images to make a page on the website.

We also did a spotlight on two members, Nigel Dutt ARPS and Lois Wakeman LRPS, who presented us with their successful distinction panels and the journeys they undertook to achieve their respective distinctions. Nigel Dutt also had a very interesting article which was published documenting his fathers VE day.

These are all still available to see on the website under "Articles and Features".

Whilst we did have some criticism of the website, especially finding your way around it, I did produce a short guide to navigating around it, and this perhaps proved useful to many members as our "hit" rate for members looking at the various pages increased somewhat and put us amongst the best from the whole UK for people looking at what was there. There are still improvements planned for the website, but financial constraints have curtailed this somewhat due to Covid, but there are plans in the pipeline, but as with all these things they cost money.

During the year we had what started off as weekly, then moved to monthly, Zoom meetings run by Emily Mathieson where all webmasters were invited to attend and ideas were put forward and some best practises established which proved very useful and we all used each others templates in some ways.

There are now events be put on for 2021, but at the time of writing this in early December, nobody is yet sure of how things will proceed during the year, but hopefully we will be able to have some face to face meetings.

That about covers a brief run down on my year as webmaster, but I have decided, after almost 30 years in various roles within the Region, which have included two stints as RO, Webmaster, Deputy RO and General Committee member that the time has come to retire gracefully from Committee duties. My wife Joy, who held the role of Treasurer for several years, but has been on the Committee as long as I have has also decided to retire. Over the years we have made friendships which have stood the test of time, we have also lost some very good friends, Jenny Leathes, Don Harris and recently John Page to name three, but feel now is the time to bow out and hopefully let others come in to help Tim.

Our thanks go to all the South West Region membership for their help and friendship over these almost 30 years and hopefully will see at least some of you at future events.

Best wishes