

EMAIL from Evan Dawson
Snapshot – No.15
Friday 20 November

Dear LMN trustees, staff, volunteers and friends

On **Monday**, we received the sad news that **John Page (Hon) FRPS**, Past President of the RPS (and holder of the Fenton Medal) had died. Michael is working on an article about him for the Journal, liaising with his friends and colleagues from the South West region in particular. Our thoughts are with his family.

That day, I was in touch with **UCL** about initiating a new research project looking at the wellbeing impacts of photography. I then spent much of the rest of the time learning how to post events and pages to the RPS website, so that I could create [this page](#) highlighting the proposed changes to our **governance**, and inviting members to register for a Q&A session taking place on **5 December**. Please do check this out [here](#), and do join us if you are interested in this area. I'm grateful to **Emily** and **Alan** for your help with this. I found the website to be very intuitive and effective, once I'd had a few pointers from them.

On **Tuesday**, I was in touch with **Arts Council England**; and then had a very productive meeting with the trustees' **strategy subgroup**. We're meeting every week now, and making great progress, building on all the feedback you've provided.

Also that day, I learned the historical origin of the word "**snapshot**", rather to my dismay; and had a fascinating conversation with **Dr Michael Hallett**, who has been a volunteer with the RPS for over 30 years, spanning various roles including chairing the Distinctions Board and Education Committee.

I also learned that **Mark Philips** (Chair of our Documentary Group) had gained our first Fellowship in the new documentary genre. Congratulations to him. You can see his stunning successful panel [here](#).

On **Wednesday**, I joined a meeting of the **Education Committee** for the first time. It was an eminent gathering, with representatives of several partner organisations including Magnum, the Photographers Gallery and Autograph. Liz and Michael spoke with great eloquence about the RPS's education programmes, and the conversation was very rich, chaired by **Anthony Luvera** with zeal and authority. In the afternoon, we had another meeting with a tech provider to guide us towards an elusive **CRM/CMS** solution.

Also, **Rebecca** sent out the latest **Journal Extra** email, which I hope you all received. It included many great articles, including a new offer of gift membership for Christmas. Details [here](#).

That evening, we heard (via **Michael**) that **Tom Seymour** had won the PPA Independent Publisher Awards Writer of the Year for his feature writing on the RPS Journal. Congratulations to him, and everyone involved in making the Journal so darn great!

Yesterday, I saw the new pages for our **Medical Group**, which is looking great now thanks to **Afzal**, **Kate** and **Emily**. See here: <https://rps.org/groups/medical> I also had lots of conversations about governance, following the publication of the website pages above, and lots of enquiries coming in!

Today, I've had several more governance conversations and emails, as well as a detailed conversation with **Emily** and **Alan (Hitch)** about the website and database.

I now have some nice pieces of feedback to share with you.

Firstly, I thought I would share part of an email I received from **Dr. Avijit Datta**, who many of your will know from the Contemporary Group. Do click on the three links, if you have time:

Dear Evan. I'm writing to you to let you know how helpful, prompt and courteous **Emily Mathison** has been to the Contemporary SIG. I started the Contemporary SIG COVID-19 blogs in July together with linked Instagram posts.

<https://rps.org/news/groups/contemporary/2020/july/we-are-all-in-it-together/>

From the outset, Emily has been extremely helpful in ensuring that the blogs looked their best visually and has given them prominence. Emily has reposted some of the linked Instagram posts from the RPS contemporary page onto the main RPS Instagram page. As a result that post has received 496 "likes"

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CC3liH0n6h8/?igshid=nnq0wf4tda3l>

The 11th and latest blog relates to teaching underprivileged children photography and helping their personal development. This work was funded by children in need and was published to coincide with the BBC programme. Emily saw to it that it was (and is) on the RPS home page as a special feature.

<https://rps.org/news/groups/contemporary/2020/november/photography-and-personal-development/>

You may also have seen this message from **Andy, Ben** and **Simon** in the Distinctions facebook:

It's all over! The Fine Art panel has finished and that is it for 2020 as far as genre assessments are concerned. Congratulations to all successful applicants at both Associate and Fellowship levels. Commiserations to those who didn't make it this time - advice is available for anyone who would like to try again.

RPS Distinctions would like to thank all panel members for giving up their time and expertise to help people through the assessment process.

We have shown that the RPS is alive and kicking despite Covid restrictions. We have some exciting developments for 2021 which we will share with you here very soon.

Thank you for all your support.

Someone called Nigel Higson, who works at the National Trust, posted this in reply:

Along with many others who obviously feel the same, the fun and traumas of working towards Distinctions at all levels provides us with a purpose in life when all around us there is loneliness and depression secondary to the threat of Covid. Well done to all the team and also to the contributors to this Facebook page.

Peter also told me about a successful Associate applicant with whom he communicated afterwards, including the following:



Simon Bibb wrote:

The latest bi monthly comp winner and commended image have been chosen today. They are:

Winner: Carolyn Moore: What Big Eyes You Have.

Commended: Patrick Hudgell, ARPS: Pheasant Landing at Sunset.

Both images are live on the Exposure site: <https://exposure.rps.org/winners/> and were chosen by Nikon Ambassador and Wildlife photographer Andy Parkinson <https://www.andrewparkinson.com/>

Really pleased with the images Andy Parkinson has chosen. Perfect choice, very natural images for 'Wildlife' images, and great light in both. They compliment each other really well and will work well in the journal.

Both winning images are attached to this email (scroll down), and we received the following message from Carolyn Moore:

Having a little more time than usual because of lockdown meant that I could spend time this year doing what I love and developing my photographic skills. One image taken during the first lockdown in the Spring especially stood out for me; amidst turmoil and uncertainty, it highlighted the beauty that is to be found in our worlds, sometimes right on our doorsteps. I saw the RPS wildlife competition on-line, and on a whim, I entered it. I was surprised and delighted, if a little disbelieving, to receive an email informing me that I had won. It is the first time I had entered and, to be honest, if I had seen the field, I probably wouldn't have had the courage to put my image in! I'm so pleased that I did. I've been so excited since I got the news. Now lots of people will get to see an image that I love and to have it published on the website and in the RPS Magazine is an absolute honour. As if that wasn't enough, I get to receive a beautiful brand-new Nikon mirrorless camera and lens!

Finally, if you've got this far, and are thinking of ordering some Christmas presents soon, PLEASE do remember to use **Amazon Smile**. It costs exactly the same to you, but it means that we get a small donation each time. Instructions here: <https://rps.org/smile>

Next week, another week of mostly working from home. I'll be in RPS House on Tuesday, and also have more strategy, governance and CRM meetings. I'm looking forward to joining an event with RPS Australia on Wednesday morning, their evening.

I hope you're enjoying my weekly *Snapshots*, and please do send me anything you'd like me to share. **I would be grateful if chairs and ROs could circulate this to their group members, if appropriate - and if you are receiving this indirectly, do drop me a line if you'd like me to add your email to the circulation list.**

As always, please keep in touch, and do let me know if you'd like to discuss anything.

Happy weekending!

Evan



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