

**From:** [Evan Dawson](#)

**Sent:** 13 November 2020 17:33

**Subject:** Snapshot - No.14

Dear RPS trustees, staff, volunteers and friends

It's **Friday the 13th**! Lockdown is not unfamiliar to us now of course, but as the nights draw in, it can start to feel quite isolating at home. Please do take care of yourselves, and make sure you take regular breaks during the day, whilst it's light outside. At the end of this email is a photograph I took last week of our RPS building after dark, to illustrate.

This week, on **Monday**, I was working from home of course. I reviewed progress on our strategy deliberations with **Heather**. It feels like things are taking much clearer shape now. I also spoke with **Janet** about our relationship with **PAGB**, and the potential for more partnership work with them. And I spoke with **Mike Taylor** about his **governance review**, and more generally about his thoughts on the RPS after being out the COO post for 3 months now.

On **Tuesday**, we started the day with our **all staff gathering**. It was great to "see" everyone, but equally frustrating not to have everyone all in one room together. We talked about the new Covid arrangements, the RPS Awards and much more. That day, we also had a team meeting to discuss how we might promote **gift membership** of the RPS for Christmas; and I spoke with **Emily** and **Rebecca** about our new 'photo burst' project idea. This is the idea that we would regularly challenge our members to create an image to a specific and very particular theme, all at the same time - perhaps on a Sunday afternoon. It could be a nice family activity, or a more solitary pursuit. More on this soon!

On **Wednesday**, I was quite focussed on website things, reviewing our relationship with our current developer. Also, **Simon Bibb** and I met with the organisers of the **Photography Show**, who regard the RPS as a really important contributor and partner. Her comments about our importance to the UK's photographic ecology were really uplifting. Sadly, the show in March is online again next year, but we're hoping that the event in September will go ahead in person. Together with **Michael** and **Liz**, I met with our friends at **Positive View**, whose youth photography competition has been such a success. We discussed our ideas to create a new youth membership (or similar) for the RPS, next year.

On **Thursday**, I went in to RPS House. **Matt** has been looking after the building very well, and now has a massive perspex shield on reception. It's a covid-fortress! **Emily**, **Alan Hitch** and I talked about the ongoing quest to update our **CRM**, which still feels quite difficult - but there is light at the end of the tunnel now. We also had our **monthly managers' meeting**, which I found very uplifting. Whilst there, **Michael** showed me the new collection of **autochrome** plates that have been donated to us, which are beautiful. Hopefully we can display these soon, as I'm sure you'll love them.

Finally **today**, I was back in my kitchen/office again. **John Miskelly** and I had a good catchup, talking through the finances and more; and I had a long chat with another John, from **Arts Council England**, about the RPS's place within the wider arts community, and the possibility of applying for funding next year.

**Please note:** we seem to have been targeted by several "**phishing**" emails this week. These take the form of an email that pretends to be from one staff member or volunteer to another, requesting an invoice be settled urgently. They're quite crafty, because the email "sender" is disguised to look

internal. Please do be vigilant, and if a payment is ever requested that you're not expecting, always pick up the phone.

Some nicer things to share with you this week:

**Emily** shared some feedback with us from the **home page competition**, which were all received just during the last week:

It has been a great activity to have during lockdown thank you.

Thank you Emily, I really enjoyed the theme, it was a fantastic challenge. All of the themes were a joy to enter to date and so well managed and presented. Thank you for all the work you have put in.

Incidentally, if I haven't said it already, thank you very much for devoting so much time and effort for what has been an interesting, stimulating, well-organised, yet sometimes frustrating competition.

I am happy to be part of spreading hope and positive thinking in these difficult times as you do with the website and your article on the images!

Thank you for your time and enthusiasm to move this exciting weekly competition forward!

I'm very pleased to report that the **Journal** is up for yet another award, this time with the Scottish PPA in which we have had some success in previously. Congratulations to everyone concerned, including Michael, Simon Hill and Rebecca.

It's a public vote for the best cover so **please** click on the link, vote and then share with others:  
<https://ppasma.co.uk/2020/en/page/front-cover-vote>

**Emily** let me know earlier that our **Sri Lanka microsite** is now live: <https://rps.org/chapters/srilanka>. It's a great example of a new and very enthusiastic international chapter, posting some terrific images and stories to the site. Please do take a look if you have time, and I'm really looking forward to seeing how it develops further.

Finally, there are some lovely quotes about our **OU course** and about the impact of photography on our wellbeing in this article:

<https://rps.org/news/regions/southern/2020/november/anthony-topham/>

Well done **Liz**!

**Next week**, I'll be in the office on Tuesday, and working from home the rest of the week. I'm looking forward to joining the Education Committee on Wednesday morning, and moving the strategy on with trustees on Tuesday. We also have a big meeting with a potential new CRM provider on Wednesday afternoon, so fingers crossed that's a good fit; and I'll be talking Christmas with Kate....

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 weekendening!

Evan

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**Evan Dawson**

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