

CONGRATULATIONS!



Fire Dragon, Guangdong
GOLD MEDAL WINNER
Weng Sang Wong ARPS
Macau

The results of the Group's annual Projected Image Competition were finally announced at the delayed Spring Meeting on May 16th and all the images which received an award are on the website at <https://rps.org/groups/travel/pic2021/>.

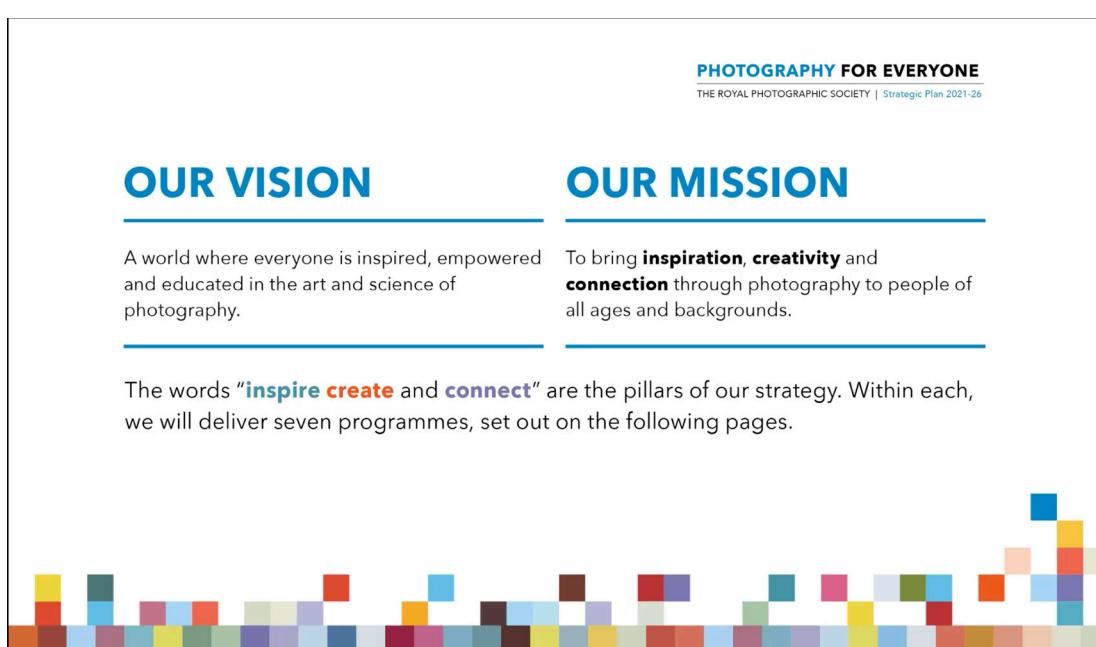
Special congratulations to Weng Sang Wong ARPS on his winning image and to Justin Cliffe ARPS and Robert Akester LRPS who were awarded second and third place by our judge, Margaret Salisbury FRPS. Of the competition overall, Margaret, who had to select the award winners from over 300 entries, said: 'Judging such brilliant images was hard but more than that it was a privilege'.

Look inside for more about Weng Sang and his image.

The Spring Meeting and AGM

All our arrangements for an April meeting and the AGM went on hold very suddenly as we learned the sad news that Prince Philip had died just a few weeks before his 100th birthday. The committee felt it right to postpone our event that weekend so went into overdrive to find a new date as soon as practically possible. May 16th it was!

We were grateful that the Society's President, Simon Hill HonFRPS was able to join us and set the tone of the morning by explaining the new **Strategy Photography For Everyone**, outlining the Society's 21 identified priorities for the next five years and encouraging the Group's support for them.



PHOTOGRAPHY FOR EVERYONE
THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY | Strategic Plan 2021-26

OUR VISION

A world where everyone is inspired, empowered and educated in the art and science of photography.

OUR MISSION

To bring **inspiration, creativity** and **connection** through photography to people of all ages and backgrounds.

The words "**inspire** **create** and **connect**" are the pillars of our strategy. Within each, we will deliver seven programmes, set out on the following pages.

A copy of the document can be downloaded or read online at <https://rps.org/about/strategy/>

At some point we would like to discuss ways in which we, as a constituent Group of the Society, can take some positive steps to show our support for particular aspects of the strategy. This could, perhaps, be part of a future Share and Chat meeting so that members' views are represented rather than just those of the committee.

Moving on to the activities of the Travel Group specifically, Richard Lewis gave us a whirlwind tour of what had been possible during the past year - so much courtesy of Zoom! He noted the development of online talks and the increased involvement of members in the Monthly Competition which seems to be re-invigorated and more highly valued.

Then Pam Jones treated us to an inspiring visual tour of the 'Route of Emotion' in the North East of Brazil using images taken by Group members in a pre-COVID tour organised and led by Robert Akester.

A description of the tour was published in Travel Log and is on the website if you were not able to be at the presentation.

There were ideas for the future, too - with the announcement of tours to Iceland led by Paul Sansome exclusively for Group members and the acknowledgement that the October tour to the Camargue is planned to go ahead with the May tour re-scheduled for May 2022 . The North Wales weekend will be take place when restrictions allow.

The Pictorial Image Competition 2021

Judging the 2021 competition, Margaret Salisbury FRPS, described the winning image as '*one of the most brilliant images of its type I have ever seen..... the detail is amazing.. I got the feeling I was actually there, watching and enjoying this event.*'

We thought members would be interested to hear more about the image and the photographer:

Weng Sang writes:



'My interest in photography can be traced back to my senior high school years. Since young, I have had a habit of recording what attracted my attention with a camera. Since founding the Kids Kingdom Foto Co., Ltd. in Macau in 2005, I have been taking children and family photos professionally while traveling and landscape photography are my passion.'

Weng Sang was awarded the Associateship of the RPS in 2015 and since then has achieved other photographic distinctions including EFIAP/g in 2020

His winning image is of a cultural celebration in Meizhou, Guangdong which he describes here: 'It consists of burning fire trees (burning smoke racks), burning Yumen (carp jumping over dragon gate), and burning fire dragons. It has a history of 300 years, and is held once a year during the Lantern Festival (the 15th of the first lunar month).

The "Puzhai Fire Dragon" is made of iron wire, bamboo, paper, etc., with scales, horns, and claws painted on it. The length of the dragon head to the tail is tens of meters. Thousands of fireworks, firecrackers, and rockets were installed on the dragon's body, and the gunpowder installed on the dragon's head and tail is even more numerous. A fire dragon is held by thirty or forty shirtless young men, plus drummers, lobsters, goldfish, etc., and the entire team amounts to more than 200 people. With the participation of more than 50,000 in the audience, the scene was very lively and shocking'

Weng Sang has been shooting the Fengshun Fire Dragon since 2015. There is a decision to make about the shooting position: from the square where the action takes place or looking down from a rooftop, giving a totally different perspective and impact. This photo was taken during the 2019 Lantern Festival, when he chose to shoot from the rooftop. The whole event lasts about two hours, but, as with so many major events where there are crowds, most photographers usually arrive in the afternoon and choose the best shooting location. When the event starts, since there are so many people, the scene is actually chaotic. It is difficult to take a good photo and the photographer's reaction must be fast.

Needless to say, there has been no festival during COVID, but Weng Sang is looking forward to another opportunity to film this historic festival in a different way soon.

Congratulations to all those who received awards and our thanks to Margaret Salisbury FRPS for taking the time to comment so thoroughly on the shortlisted images. before we know where we are it'll be time to get next year's competition underway. Doubtless after all the time members have spent sorting images during lockdown, there'll be an equally inspiring crop of entries in 2022.

Image of the Year from Travel Image of the Month Competition

Margaret Salisbury FRPS also selected the 'Best of the Year' from the monthly winners of 2020.

Of Alistair Cowan's 'Offering on Rail Street' she said: 'the January entry taken of the woman on the Railway Line in Vietnam, was outstanding. ... (it) told the story so well. The face and expression captured brilliantly on this lined but lovely face. Every element and detail well composed, the bonus for me was the one small area of bright colour of the flames of the fire.'



Congratulations, Alistair!

Under Steve Day's oversight, the monthly competition has continued to grow and on one occasion this year provided the most viewed page of the Society's website. You may be reading this just in time to enter the June competition. If not, get your July entry in early, and do take a few minutes each month to be inspired by the entries : each month they cover an enormous range of places and styles of photography.

The Travel Group AGM

After a short break the Spring Meeting morphed into our annual business meeting and those present received the Officers' reports for the past year.

The Treasurer outlined the current situation. It was agreed that the subscription would remain unchanged. This was an opportunity to express thanks to Bob Akester for the sterling work he has done as Treasurer during the six years he has been in that role and to welcome Justin Cliffe, who joined the committee last year and has experience as Treasurer of another Group, into the role for the coming year.

The committee was re-elected and a new member, Gareth Hughes was welcomed. Gareth has been a member of the Travel Group for a number of years and is one of those who has, in the past, volunteered activities in the background, so it's good to have him on board.

Members were encouraged to think about ways in which they can contribute to the Group: whether they have time and skills that could be

used to the benefit of us all. A number of our members contribute 'behind the scenes' and that is much appreciated.

Following the AGM a 'think tank' of members has been formed to consider the Group's response to the Social and Environmental issues facing us all and we have been encouraged by the skills brought together in that group.

In the Travel Log Editor's report special mention was made of John Minter who gives his time unstintingly to proof-reading submissions for the magazine but it was also noted that, with regard to both the highly regarded Travel Log and our e-news, there may also be scope for someone who has the technical skill to use InDesign to make a valuable contribution to the Group's communications.

Minutes will be sent to all Group members in due course.

In the meantime please note that the 2022 AGM is planned for the weekend of 8/9 April.

Share and Chat: a new way of meeting



For some time the committee has been trying to find ways of compensating for those informal gatherings that take place around the 'formal' elements of conferences and the idea of an informal online sharing of ideas and information had been welcomed during discussions at the Spring Meeting, so it was good to see 26 members gather for the first meeting. There was nothing 'virtual' about this!

The idea is to have some formal input - on this occasion Paul Sansome filled in some of the details about the trips he is planning for the Group in May 2022 (details at <https://rps.org/groups/travel/iceland-2022/>) and Richard Lewis shared some information about the planned trips to the Camargue, co-ordinated by Keith Pointon. Members were also asked to share their ideas about our response to the Social and Environmental issues we face and a group was formed to bring together a series of guidelines/principles for discussion at a future gathering.

The latter part of the session discussed some plans for the future - especially a meeting we had hoped to hold in York in September. Being able to get members' views was really helpful in enabling us to move forward with that event

and details are now available on the website.

Topics for future meetings were discussed and, as a result, a second session has now been arranged for Sunday, July 25th at 15.00 (BST).

We hope this timing will make it possible for members from a range of countries to feel part of the group by joining in and being able to contribute to the Group's development.

The session will include

- Progress in Social and Environmental Policy
- 5 minute 'Show and Tell' presentations
- Latest plans for the group's Autumn meeting as well as the 2022 Spring Meeting and AGM.
- Your suggestions for speakers and topics of interest for future gatherings (including the Spring Meeting.)
- Open discussion and Q & A.

There is no need to register for the Share & Chats. Just follow this zoom link if you would like to join us <https://zoom.us/j/9464773148?pwd=V3pxQzk2SW1Dci9DUzdwR09SRk9zQT09>

If there is a topic you would like to discuss at this or future meetings, please do let us know by emailing Richard on traveltrips@rps.org.

A Few Things to Look Forward to...

- Online meetings and Presentations

Sunday 25th July 15.00 (BST)

Share and Chat

The Zoom link is on p5 of this newsletter



Share and Chat

Following on the success of the first Share and Chat held in June, the Travel Group is holding another session on Sunday, July 25th at 3.00 p.m.. As before, it will be an informal online gathering to ...

DATE

25 July 2021

LOCATION

Online, Join from your location, Link will be supplied, .

Sunday 12th September 14.30 (BST) Travel Photography - an RPS Panel Perspective

This meeting replaces our planned physical gathering in York. The committee in discussion with Hazel Frost FRPS and James Frost FRPS felt there were just a few too many uncertainties (including cross-border contact for our speakers!) to be able to go ahead but Hazel and James have kindly agreed to bring their presentation to us on Zoom. This is a new presentation for them, bringing to bear their experience as successful Distinctions candidates and as assessors and will be of interest to all who are looking to gaining a Distinction.

The details are online at https://rps.org/events/groups/travel/2021/september/travel-photography-an-rps-panel-perspective/_where booking will open soon.

Monday 18th October Dr. Adrian Hough ARPS, a member of the Travel Group, is making a presentation to the Contemporary Group showing how his Travel and Landscape photography resulted in a successful ARPS submission in Contemporary genre .

- Photographic Holidays

All the Group's activities are planned in line with COVID guidance. Currently expected are:

- 4-10 October 2021 Ultimate Camargue Festival
 - 8-15 May 2022 Iceland (Geothermal Highlights - North)
 - 16-23 May 2022 Iceland (Westfjords)
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- Spring Meeting and AGM - a physical meeting (Probably in Bristol)
8-9 April 2022

We expect to continue to arrange useful online events as well as building up some closer to home physical events as the regulations ease. All ideas are welcome - either to Kath Phillips (travelweb@rps.org) or to Richard Lewis (traveltrips@rps.org)