

Message from the President

Your committee recently met, via an on line conference call, to discuss the current coronavirus situation and how this will impact on Society activities over the coming months.

These are unprecedented times, and the timing, and nature, of any changes to current Government advice is uncertain to say the least. However, it seems likely that any easing of the lockdown will be gradual, and for older and more vulnerable people potentially many months away. Although we would like to restart as normal in September, in reality it is unlikely that this will be possible and we have to plan on that basis.

We are therefore making a number of proposals about how the Society should operate over this continuing period of uncertainty. These are summarised below and we would welcome your comments and, we hope, your endorsement of these.



Society activities

Plan A

Our sincere hope is that we can resume normal meetings, workshops and other activities as soon as Government advice allows. We will continue to develop a programme for this, but it will have to be flexible and we will have to maintain ongoing regular contact with speakers and judges about timing as and when advice is updated. Realistically, we have to plan on the basis that it might be into 2021 before full normality is resumed.

Plan B

Until such time as we can resume normal activities we would like to develop a regular programme of "virtual" on line activities. For example you will hopefully have seen the on line judging of our annual DPI competition, and we have been very pleased with the images members have uploaded for our A to Z challenge on Facebook. There are potentially lots of other similar things we could do on line, including talks, workshops and other activities. None of these will be as good or as social as meeting together in person, but as we grow our experience with the technology, hopefully we can make it as close to the real thing as possible. We will pilot some of these over the coming weeks and then, assuming all works well, develop a more structured programme of activities on a regular basis. We fully understand that some people may be a bit nervous about using such on line technology but we will do our best to provide help and guidance to all members.

The annual AGM

Our rules say that we must normally hold an AGM at the end of the season in May. This is to cover things like approving the accounts, a new committee and other similar matters. In the circumstances this will clearly not be possible, so in line with many other societies we propose to postpone the formal AGM until such time as we are back to normal.

However, as a democratic Society we will send every member within the next few weeks a copy of all the key information that you would normally have at the AGM. We will also provide some way that you can have any questions answered and seek your endorsement of our interim proposals.

None of this will be easy, but it is, and will be increasingly, important to keep busy and active during these challenging times. We hope we can look forward to your continued support for the Society but please let me know if you have any questions or concerns and we will do our best to answer these.

Stay safe

2019/2020 Competition winners

Thanks to Bob Bracher and John Innes for their hard work in running the internal competitions again this year, and many congratulations to all this year's winners:

Panel Competition (*The Derek Foss Memorial Trophy*)

Print - **Bob Bracher ARPS AFIAP** with *Mountain High*

DPI - **Bob Bracher ARPS AFIAP** with *Arch & Door*

Knockout Competition (*The Roger Pinn Memorial Trophy*)

Print - **John Shaw** with *Athletic Leap*

DPI - **Phil Moorhouse** with *Impeachment*

Annual AV Competition (*Jubilee Cup*)

Bob Breach BPE 1 with *The Opium of The People*

Quarterly Aggregate Competition

Print - **John Shaw**

DPI - **Bob Breach BPE 1**

Annual Nature Competition

Print - **Bob Breach BPE 1** with *Coyote In Snow*

DPI (*Bowie Trophy*) - **Bob Bracher ARPS AFIAP** with *Roe Deer*

Annual Digital Competition

Judged on line

Colour (*R H Patterson Cup*) **Richard Lloyd** with *Anniversary of the Revolution*

Landscape (*Betty Derrick Trophy*) **Keith Tyler** with *Misty Mountain*

Mono (*Joan Moignard Cup*) **Jo Monro ARPS** with *Por Favor Mama*

Portrait (*SPS Challenge Cup*) **Jan Lee** with *Shady Character*

Annual Print Competition

Not held this year due to Coronavirus

Most Consistent Worker - prints and digital (Millennium Trophy)

Bob Breach BPE1*

As previously announced, due to the increasing difficulty and cost, we have discontinued the practice of having the Society trophies engraved with winners' name each year. Instead we have created a "Roll of Honour" which will list the recorded winners from the inception of each competition. These will be issued separately and will be updated each year.

Photography interest - members contributions

In this newsletter we are using links to relevant web pages. These are highlighted in blue and underlined. To access the web page you will need to be connected to the internet. Depending on which device you are using, simply click on the link or if that does not work try holding down the alt key with your cursor over the link and it should change to a hand sign, then click. The webpage should open in a new tab on your browser

Short AVs

This is a link to a short 13 minute AV of the Galapagos archipelago .

[Galapagos AV](#)

We spent a wonderful week there in June/July 2007. When we reached the more mature, southerly islands, the birdlife in particular was amazing. At that time, it was possible to see the chicks of the blue-footed boobies, the frigate birds and the waved albatrosses being looked after by their parents! But there was much, much more!"

Tony Moir



Zooming together

As mentioned on Page 1, your Committee is working hard to develop a programme of on line activities until such time as we can meet again, once Government advice allows. More information will be sent out shortly.

For this programme, we will mostly be using the popular web conferencing software called Zoom. We used this for the recent on line Annual DPI competition, and the feedback was very positive.

There have been some concerns in the press about security when using Zoom, although the latest version has a number of enhanced security features and these are being continually improved. The Society will be taking a number of extra steps to make sure any Zoom session is as safe as it can be. For example we will be using extra secure passwords for any session which you must use to join.

We will be setting up a number of Zoom familiarisation sessions shortly and will let you know about these as soon as we can. In the meantime here is the link to Zoom which you may wish to have a look at.

[Zoom website](#)

Photoshop fun

If your kids or grandkids are getting fed up during the lock down, why don't you improve your Photoshop skills, and impress them at the same time.

Like many others, my grandkids are keen on the usual well known film and TV shows, so it was quite fun to use some recent images of them superimposed on their favourite characters. You can usually find low resolution (and copyright free) images of these on line which you can download.

Then in PS just add the kid's image as a separate layer on top of the base image, adjust the size and angle to fit and then blend the two images using a layer mask. You may have to adjust colour balance and saturation of the portrait to match that of the base image.

If you are not sure how to do this maybe we can include in a future on line workshop?



Bob Breach