

Message from the President

We were very grateful for the large number of members who took the time to respond to our recent survey. As promised, a summary of the responses is included with this newsletter and we plan to repeat the survey from time to time to make sure we keep up to date with member's views.

Throughout the ongoing pandemic your Society has tried very hard to maintain some semblance of normality and it was therefore very pleasing to know from the survey that this has been appreciated by members.

The survey results are now also being used by your committee to develop plans for the new 2020-21 season. For SPS, as for all individuals and organisations, planning ahead in these unprecedented times is very difficult. Members' personal situations vary considerably, and Government advice will inevitably continue to change in response to the virus. We have though now decided on a plan for the coming season, which of necessity will be different to previous years, but equally will have to be flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances. We also have to recognise that whilst many members have told us that they wish at some stage to be able to return to "normal" meetings in the hall, they have widely differing views on when they may feel comfortable to do so.

The proposed plan for the new 20-21 season is as follows:

- ◇ For the period up to December this year, we will continue with our published programme of live on-line meetings via Zoom every two weeks. These will comprise a mix of talks and competitions, and we will try to record as many as possible for those who cannot join live.
- ◇ From January 2021 we plan to run a "hybrid" programme of events every two weeks, alternating between hall and on line meetings. Those in the hall will fully comply with all official guidance current at the time and will meet all necessary hygiene and social distancing requirements. The door fee for hall based events will be increased to £5 to help cover costs but we will be seeking ways to avoid the use of payment in cash.
- ◇ Although the main programme of events before Christmas will be on-line only, we are hoping to trial a couple of hall based events in November/December to test how all of the new Covid secure arrangements work. More details will be sent nearer the time but they will of course be subject to sufficient member interest and official guidance at that time.
- ◇ All competitions will be DPI only for the foreseeable future, and this will require some changes to the rules. The overall fewer number of meetings also means that for the time being we will not be able to run all the competitions we have in the past. If the situation allows, we do though hope to be able to run one or two print competitions in late spring/early summer.
- ◇ In the weeks between the main programme we will try to run other occasional activities, including for example workshops, all of course dependent on member interest.

We will let you have more detailed information on the programme as soon as we are able both via the website and also Newsletters.

Finally, and as with many other organisations, we estimate that the pandemic will have a significant negative impact on our finances. You will know that we have already made the decision that all members next year will pay a nominal online annual membership of £10, but even with the reduced programme set out above this will not cover all our costs and we will have to use some of our financial reserves. We will monitor this carefully, but you can all help by making sure you renew your membership promptly and encourage others who might be interested to join as well.

Thanks for your support.

Bob Breach - SPS President

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Photography interest - members contributions

In this newsletter we often use 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

Lockdown photo projects

Although we haven't been able to get out and about as much during recent months, there are lots of suggestions on the internet for photo projects you can do at home or in the local area. As an example this link is for:

["Photography at Home – 10 Cool Ideas During the Lockdown"](#)



Professional Garden Photography

Every wondered how a professional garden photographer works. Check out this link to a feature on the Canon professional website. Even if you don't use Canon kit it is interesting photographically.

[Garden photography with Clive Nichols](#)



Competition time



It's surprising how time flies. Soon, we will all need to start thinking ahead for competition entries. As mentioned these will be DPI only for the time being, with entries due the week before. Check out the website but they include:

[\(20-21 programme\)](#)

- 29th Sept – 1st Aggregate Competition with Judge Peter Cheetham
- 13th Oct – Panel Competition with Judge Steve Clifford
- 10th Oct – 2nd Aggregate Competition Judge to be confirmed

On 24th October we also will hopefully hold our Leg of the 3 S's Competition with Judge Dave Tucker.

Because of the significantly modified programme this year, we will also have to change the rules for competitions and these will be notified as soon as we can. In the meantime start sorting out those amazing images.

On line Workshops

Since the lock down, we have held a couple of successful on line workshops . The first on video and video editing by Jim Hiscox and the second a "How do I ?" session.

They are clearly not as sociable as meeting in the hall, but they have the advantage of being able to see close up screen demonstrations of various techniques.

The last workshop was perhaps a bit ambitious in the number of topics included, so we are thinking about having some shorter workshops but covering just one or two aspects in more detail and with more time for questions. Please let me know which topics you would like to cover.

