

Message from the President

We have always said that managing the Society during the ongoing pandemic will require flexibility and adaptability and so it has proved.

Our most recent challenge was the surprise decision by the WI hall that they were not prepared to take our more limited number of bookings for this season. This in turn meant that all the equipment stored at the hall had to be removed and kept elsewhere. However, we managed to find a local commercial storage unit which can securely hold all our stuff, at least for the short term, and a couple of weeks ago a team from the committee safely transferred everything to the unit.

The next challenge was to find a new hall that can accommodate us when we can return to real meetings. This was not easy since many potentially suitable places had no availability or were too far away to allow easy access. Luckily we have now managed to get bookings at the Methodist Hall near Solihull station, which is the venue we have used successfully for our technical workshops. This hall is very central, has good facilities, and very importantly has plenty of free parking on site. The one downside is that the only evening available was Wednesday, so all future planned hall meetings will now have to be on that day. We know that this may prove difficult for some members but there was no alternative and we hope that it will still work out ok for the vast majority. We will trial this for the current season and if all goes well we will make this permanent for the 21-22 season. For this season we plan to keep the scheduled Zoom meetings on Tuesdays as already notified.

Thanks to all those members who responded to the recent second survey. The summary of results is included with this newsletter. It was very pleasing that there is overall good support for the modified programme we have put in place and the way we have tried to keep members interests alive during the lockdown. Understandably, people have very different personal views on issues such as when they would feel comfortable returning to hall meetings, so as much as possible we try to balance the views of all. We will use your valuable feedback in managing our way forward during these uncertain times and will continue to keep you briefed on any necessary changes to our plans.

As well as the already published programme, we have been looking at ways to further support your photographic interests as we head into the autumn. You will know that we have been in discussion about more cooperation with Shirley Photographic Society and as a result we have agreed to allow reciprocal access to some talks at each club. We hosted some Shirley members to our recent Zoom talk by James Kerwin and in turn we will have access to a couple of Zoom talks on Thursday evenings by speakers at Shirley over the coming months. These details are now included in the updated programme on page 2 of this newsletter, which also has the change of date for hall based meetings to Wednesday.

We have held a couple of successful on line workshops during the summer and we now plan to continue this into the autumn roughly on the first Monday evenings in the month. The workshops will also be run jointly with Shirley and are planned as follows:

- Oct 5th - Image output (file types, resizing, colour profiles, etc.)
- Nov 2nd - Removing distractions from your images
- Dec 7th - Effective management of colour in your images

Finally as a result of your feedback we hope to restart the Facebook Challenge shortly and more information can be found later on page 3 of this newsletter.

Bob Breach - SPS President

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20-21 Programme - Updated Sept 23rd

*** Note: Programme subject to change depending on updated official health advice so please check website for details. All future hall based meetings will be in The Solihull Methodist Church Hall**

Day	Date	Meeting type*	Speaker/Event
Tuesday	1/9/2020	Zoom	Anne Sutcliffe – Swan song
Tuesday	15/09/2020	Zoom	James Kerwin – Tales of abandoned architecture
Tuesday	22/09/2020	-	Hand in for 1 st Aggregate competition
Tuesday	29/09/2020	Zoom	1st Aggregate - Judge Peter Cheetham
Tuesday	06/10/2020	-	Hand in for Panel Competition
Thursday	08/10/2020	Zoom with Shirley PS	Julian Elliott - Mongolia From Steppe To Eagle Hunters
Tuesday	13/10/2020	Zoom	Panel competition - Judge Steve Clifford
Tuesday	20/10/2020	-	Hand in for 2 nd Aggregate competition
Tuesday	27/10/2020	Zoom	2nd Aggregate - Judge Kirsty Ralfs
Wednesday	04/11/2020	Live trial at hall	To be confirmed subject to official advice
Tuesday	10/11/2020	Zoom	Roger Butler - Canal Heritage
Tuesday	24/11/2020	Zoom	3 Ss Competition - Judge Dave Tucker
Thursday	26/11/2020	Zoom with Shirley PS	Ralph Snook - Wildlife snaps from my travels
Wednesday	02/12/2020	Live trial at hall	Phil Moorhouse – My images and creating a website
Tuesday	08/12/2020	Zoom	Ashley Franklin – Part 1: Wider world of photography (Its history and genres)
Christmas Break			
Wednesday	06/01/2021	Live at hall	Harish Chavda – Sports and landscape prints
Tuesday	12/01/2021	-	Hand in for 3 rd Aggregate
Tuesday	19/01/2021	Zoom	3rd Aggregate - Judge Paddy Ruske
Wednesday	03/02/2021	Live in hall	Verity Milligan –Birmingham based local photographer and educator
Tuesday	09/02/2021	-	Hand in for 4 th Aggregate
Tuesday	16/02/2021	Zoom	4th Aggregate - Judge Lloyd Moore
Wednesday	03/03/2021	Live at hall	Andy Thorpe – People, places and things
Tuesday	16/03/2021	Zoom	Phil Savoie- Wildlife photographer and film maker formerly with BBC Natural History Unit
Wednesday	31/03/2021	Live at hall	Ashley Franklin – Part 2 : Wider world of photography
Easter Break			
Tuesday	6/04/2021	-	Hand in for annual DPI
Tuesday	13/04/2021	Zoom	Annual DPI – Judge Nick Akers
Wednesday	28/04/2021	Live at hall	Annual Print – Judge Anne Sutcliffe
Tuesday	11/05/2021	Zoom	Speaker to be confirmed
Wednesday	26/05/2021	Live at hall	AGM and social

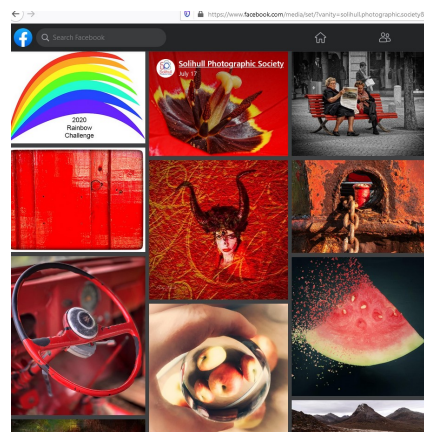
Photography news

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

Facebook challenge

Although not all members were able to participate in the recent Facebook challenges, quite a number were and supported the idea of keeping them going, at least for the time being. After a break we will therefore re-start the challenges, probably in the next week or two, so watch out for more information. Each week we will set a theme which we hope will be quite broad and allow for a wide interpretation. We will invite all members to upload up to two images during the week with some link to the theme. There will be no rules or prizes this is just for fun. The themes we have in mind are set out below and will be confirmed in plenty of time - so get searching in your image archive. We might also consider how we can extend the challenge to those who do not use Facebook

1. Wheels
2. In the city
3. Water
4. In the night
5. Something square
6. In the garden
7. One of the deadly sins !
8. Buildings
9. Other themes??



Some upcoming on line photo events

A couple of things you might be interested in. Sorry for the short notice on the RPS event which we have only just learned about.

RPS AV international

This weekend RPS are hosting a special weekend long showing of some of the best international AVs from recent years. The event is free but you must register. More information through the link below:

[RPS - AV event](#)

MCPF speaker event

On the 18th October MCPF has organised on-line talks by three very good photographers. One of them, Phil Savoie, will be speaking at our club later in the year but you may be interested in the other two. A small charge applies and more information through the link below:

[MCPF event](#)

Member survey results

Attached to this newsletter is a summary of the results of the recent survey. As set out in the President's column, we are extremely grateful for those members who took the time to reply. Your feedback is extremely useful in planning our way forward during these difficult times.

Roll of Honour

Each year Bob Bracher adds the winners of the previous season's competitions into an updated "Roll of Honour". There are 19 competitions in total and each document also includes previous winners of the competitions going back in time, in some cases to the 1980's. Some of these names will be very familiar to those members who have been with the Society for a long time. The documents provide a fascinating record of our long established Society. They can be found in the member's area of the website. Any difficulties accessing let us know.