



Planning a way back to normal

Like all organisations, the Society has been through some challenging times during the pandemic, although we are beginning to see some real optimism about a gradual path back to normality.

I am very grateful for the members who responded to my recent mini survey about when they would feel comfortable returning to Covid secure hall based meetings. Inevitably people have different personal situations, and the survey confirmed this. At the moment being in Tier 3 means that the hall cannot open anyway, and we don't know when this situation will change. However, hopefully things will begin to look a lot brighter over the coming months as mass vaccination rolls out



Nevertheless, given this uncertainty, although a number of members are keen to begin to move back to the hall for meetings soon, we now feel that sadly it is not practicable to do so until after Easter. Thus we have updated the programme for the rest of the season and this is shown on the next page. All meetings before Easter will be via Zoom, but the last three meetings of the season will be in the hall, under whatever safety precautions are necessary at that time. This will include the first (and only) real print competition this year (more details on page 3). It also means that for the first time we can begin to appreciate and take advantage of the benefits of our new Methodist Hall venue, including the much easier parking.

Although it's still early days, we are also starting planning for an exciting and perhaps a bit different new season of weekly meetings in the hall from September 2021. By that time we sincerely hope that we will be much closer to a near normal situation and again all able to enjoy our photography together in person. We will be seeking your views on what new things we might wish to try.

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

But, and it is very big but, the Society doesn't run itself. Over the years and particularly during the recent difficult times, we have only managed to successfully keep going due to the hard work of a very small number of committee members. For various personal reasons, a number of those committee members, including Rhys Jones, Tony Moir and Sharon Kerby have had to or will be standing down by the end of the season. I wish to place on record

my sincere thanks to all of them for their great contribution to the Society. However, this means that there will then only be five long serving members still willing and able to serve on the committee. This is not fair on them or sustainable in the longer term.

We thus urgently need more help on the Committee to make sure we can keep going. Volunteering may appear to be a bit daunting for some people, but we are looking at ways of making the committee structure more flexible in the future to make this easier. For example reviewing the role of president and creating understudy roles to support existing committee members for a time. Any help, in whatever capacity, would be welcomed.

To discuss the scale of the issue and seek your support and help we will hold a special Zoom meeting on 12 January, when we can share the challenges in more detail and get your feedback on how to move forward. This will be followed by a showing of some of the best recent images from Midlands photographers included in the MCPF portfolio. Please try to participate and help us keep your Society thriving in the future. But for now I wish you a safe and very happy Christmas.

Bob Breach - President

20-21 Programme - Updated Dec 14th

Note:

- ◆ Programme remains subject to change depending on updated official health advice.
- ◆ Some Zoom sessions and all hall based meetings will be on a **Wednesday** evening

Day	Date	Meeting type*	Speaker/Event
Christmas Break			
Wednesday	06/01/2021	Zoom	Harish Chavda – Sports and landscape images
Tuesday	12/01/2021	Zoom	Member Discussion and MCPF portfolio Hand in for 3 rd Aggregate
Thursday	14/01/2021	Zoom with Shirley PS	Andy Macdonald - Light and Composition in the landscape
Tuesday	19/01/2021	Zoom	3rd Aggregate - Judge Paddy Ruske
Wednesday	03/02/2021	Zoom	Verity Milligan –Birmingham based local photographer and educator
Tuesday	09/02/2021	-	No meeting - Hand in for 4 th Aggregate
Thursday	11/02/2021	Zoom with Shirley PS	Claire Carter - The camera never lies
Tuesday	16/02/2021	Zoom	4th Aggregate - Judge Lloyd Moore
Wednesday	03/03/2021	Zoom	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	Zoom	Ashley Franklin – Part 2 : Wider world of photography
			Collection for annual print competition
Monday	22/03/2021	Zoom	Interclub competition with Webheath (the hosts)
Thursday	01/04/2021	Zoom with Shirley PS	Jane Lazenby - From paintbrush to pixels
Easter Break			
Tuesday	6/04/2021	-	No meeting - 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
Wednesday	12/05/2021	Live at hall	James Kirby - Reality capture (talk postponed from last season)
Wednesday	26/05/2021	Live at hall	AGM and social

The programme continues the reciprocal arrangements with Shirley Photographic Society. We have been invited to join three of their events shown above and we will do the same for their members.

Photography news

The annual print competition will happen on 28 April 2021

We are planning to run the annual print competition next year. It will be great to see real prints again and this time in our new hall venue. We don't yet know what Covid Regulations might be still in place then but please take note of the following:

1. The closing date for entries will be 31 March 2021
2. The entries can be delivered to my house in Knowle or I will try to collect if more convenient for you
3. As a back up we will also require DPI copies of your prints, which should be submitted to the usual e-mail address for internal competitions
4. The prints will then be collated into the various categories (colour, mono, landscape, portrait) and given to our judge Anne Sutcliffe
5. Anne will judge the print entries at her home during April
6. We hope to show the judging on the evening of the Wednesday 28 April subject of course to any safety restrictions that might still be in force at that time.

Any queries contact [Bob Bracher](#)

To make you smile through challenging times

