

The SPS future roadmap

The last year has been unbelievably difficult for individuals and organisations alike. However, due to the hard work of the committee and the support of members, the Society has hopefully come through the worst of the pandemic in reasonable shape and can now begin to plan ahead to some form of new normal. Zoom meetings and other electronic communication have helped to keep us going over the last 12 months, but everyone is hoping that before too long we can get back to seeing each other in person and once again enjoying our photography together.

To help us plan ahead, we are really keen to get your views in three main areas:



The last two months of the season

We have four meetings scheduled up to the end of the season. The first two of these, the annual DPI and print competitions are 13 and 28 April respectively. At present the Government road map means it is unlikely that these will be able to go ahead in the hall so they will both probably be held through Zoom. The last two meetings (the postponed talk on "Reality capture", and the AGM and social), are on 12 May and 26 May. It is possible that these may be able to take place in the hall, although this of course does depend on Government decisions yet to be taken. If allowed, we would very much like to meet live in our new hall venue. By that time vaccinations should be well advanced for most members, and we would of course have to adopt suitable covid security measures (sanitising, social distance, masks). We would however only do this if sufficient members supported the idea. So please let us know whether you would be willing to meet at the hall in late May.

The AGM

Whether live or via Zoom, we would encourage as many members as possible to join us for the AGM. If in the hall we would hope to have the print competition entries on display as well as enjoy some form of social activity, but whichever way we need your support. We will be sending out more details and the necessary papers well before the meeting, but in particular we want your approval for a more flexible committee structure which we discussed at our special meeting in January. This is necessary to meet the changing needs of the Society and address the difficulty of getting more members to help run activities. We are very grateful to the new volunteers who have offered to join the committee but more are always welcome, so let me know if you think you can help in whatever capacity.

Summer activities and next season

We are working on the next season programme which will start again in early September, but in future always on a Wednesday evening. This is being planned on the basis that we will again be meeting weekly in the hall, which among other benefits, has more space and much better parking and access. However we are looking at the practicability of still having more distant speakers still join us via Zoom from time to time. We will keep you in touch with plans as they develop. We hope everyone will rejoin SPS for the new season and encourage other new members to join as well.

Between the end of May and September we would really like to arrange various photographic activities to keep us going until the new season begins. We had considered some form of social trip away but the response to Jim Hiscox's note on this was limited. So we need your suggestions. Do we have photowalks, social events/activities, ongoing workshops or something else? Please let us know your views.