

Events Manager report AGM 2017

Role description

The main responsibility of the events manager is to ensure that there is a vibrant and varied programme of events that reflects the wishes of the group's membership and the views of the committee. Alongside this, the manager needs to ensure that events are suitably publicised, that they at least break even and, where possible, that event reports are published on the RPS website.

Achievements 2017

I took over the role of events manager in December 2017, having previously been the group's web manager. During my time as web manager I organised a survey of all members' views about the activities that the landscape group should offer and this has largely informed the programme for 2017.

The main priorities indicated by group members were:

- Field trips in different parts of the country
- Events to support learning and development of skills
- Opportunities to share work and to give and receive feedback
- Help with gaining distinctions.

During 2017 the programme has featured:

- 18 field trips (location shoots) in 9 different RPS regions
- 6 workshops in 6 different RPS regions
- A weekend conference
- A factory visit.

The vast majority of events have been over-subscribed which, on one hand, suggests that they are what members want but, on the other, suggests that we could easily fill more events if we had the resources to organise them.

This latter point brings me to the need to express very sincere thanks to all those group members who have volunteered their own time and effort to organise events for the group. Without

you, our programme would be sorely lacking and the group's value significantly reduced. Feedback from participants is almost universally positive so, to our volunteers I would say thanks, not only for doing the right things, but also for doing the things right!

Those who have organised events are (in approximate chronological order): Tim Parish, Peter Douglas-Jones, Barry Freeman, Constance Morris, Mick Rawcliffe, Ken Rennie, Richard Ellis, Pauline Benbrook, David Fiddes, Jim Souper, David Baker, Richard Jones, Paul Stone, Nick Bowman, Geoff Meakin and Arron Davis.

Not strictly events, but also during the year we launched our main image sharing and feedback forums. Digital images can be shared and critiqued on our facebook page which is very active with over 170 members. Printed images can be shared via three "print circles" and thanks are due to David Fiddes, Diana Wynn and Doug Lodge for organising these.

Future plans

It is my hope that next year we will have a similar programme to 2017 – but with more events spread across more areas of the country.

But delivering this really does depend on more volunteers coming forward to offer to lead events in their areas. Photographic expertise is not needed; just a good local knowledge of a location that would be of interest to other photographers.

As regards the conference, it is currently foreseen that this should take place every two years and that on the intervening years we will probably organise either an exhibition or a magazine of members' work. Each of these ideas is subject to considerable further investigation and each will also depend on help being offered by members other than the current committee.

Mark Reeves
Events Manager
November 2017