

Webmasters Report 2011.txt

Webmaster's Report 2011

I am pleased to report an increased usage of the website over the past year both by members and non-members. More use is now being made of the site as a means of disseminating information to members of whom there are now 131 registered on the site out of a society membership of 145, against only 106 last year. This partly accounts for a significant increase in the number of visitors from an average of about 18000 per month last year to 25000 early this year but, as always, it's difficult to separate admin access for maintenance from other users. Unfortunately, we have had to withdraw the self-registration facility because of the continuing large number of bogus attempts from spammers, largely from eastern Europe, which we have been able to identify and reject. As a result, new and existing members who may not yet have registered now have to ask the webteam for login permissions.

During March/April this year, visitor numbers increased threefold no doubt due to much increased use of the Exhibition upload facility when almost 1000 entries were uploaded, including 345 images into the PDI classes. Potentially, this could be a valuable and time-saving facility but unfortunately many entrants didn't follow the guidelines, thus causing a lot of additional corrective work for the webteam before the entries could be accepted.

As might be expected, visitors accessed the site from countries all over the world – 30, excluding the UK – with the US, Germany and Spain generating the most from overseas. As always, there were some surprises such as Romania, Taiwan and Vietnam. It is interesting to note that amongst the browsers, Firefox has regained the lead from Internet Explorer by nearly two to one with Google Chrome increasingly evident but still a long way behind with only 4% of the total.

The use of members' galleries remains disappointing as only three additional galleries have been requested from the webteam over the year but there are still only 37. There are now rather more images in these galleries but it would be nice to see more members making use of this facility. In total, including awards in the exhibitions and monthly competitions, there are now some 900 images on the site. We now have the ability to post videos to the site and have uploaded the winning entries in the last two year's Dunelm Trophy.

Postings to the members' Forum are also disappointing as amongst its many other uses this could be a valuable source of help and advice for beginners wanting to improve their photographic skills. There is an easy link to the most recent items at the top of the Forum page.

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