

Webmaster's Report 2012

The Society's website has been up on the internet continuously during the year and it is pleasing to note that statistics show the number of visitors to go on increasing year on year. It is, as always, not easy to separate user access from admin access but we continue to see a diverse range of countries from where the site has been accessed: the UK and US remain the dominant users but access has come from over 50 different countries including some surprises such as Gabon, Albania, Ecuador, Peru and Cyprus.

At the beginning of this season it was encouraging to receive so many registration requests from new members - 136 members now have full password access out of a total membership of 160.

Admin access has been higher than usual this year because of the need to revamp the exhibition upload facility that over the past two years had caused more than a few problems that were not always apparent to those who entered. This has worked very well this time thanks to a lot of hard work and long hours put in by Paul Irving over the winter months - that's worth a round of applause. Some members also experienced problems uploading images to their galleries (ironically me included) - this has also now been resolved.

It would be nice to see more members using this gallery facility to display their favourite images. There are still only 37 galleries, the same as last year. In addition to the galleries, all the exhibition trophy winners and certificates of merit have been uploaded as also are the winners and certificates of merit from both the monthly print and PDI competitions. It is a pity that there are still a few members gaining awards in the print competitions who forget to send their image files to me to upload, despite regular reminders from Philip.

Websites are a bit like Topsy, they keep on growing and there are some 1250 images on the site compared with 900 last year, partly due to the new facility to display selected images taken on the summer walks. Also new this year has been the inclusion of committee meeting minutes in the members only pages and I have added some more RSS news feeds under the Magazine Links menu which all carry links to articles in the more popular photographic magazines

The forum has now been transferred to the members section in the hope that this might encourage greater use and open honest comment out of the public eye but there is still only a very small number of members making use of these pages which could usefully be used by beginners seeking help and advice from more experienced members. There is an easy link to the most recent postings at the top of the forum page.

As always, we are glad to consider suggestions for additional items that might widen the scope of the site which has continued to evolve over the seven years of its existence.

David Taylor, Webmaster