

CHAIRMANS UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2024

How time flies. October has come and gone and already I am seeing Christmas decorations wherever I go.

While this seems a little early to me, I must agree that it does add some colour to what could be seen as a grey time of year.

However, if you are minded to walk through a forest at the moment you will be treated to a riot of colour with all the trees turning colour, shedding a carpet of gold across the forest floor and the early morning mists adding atmosphere and beauty all around.

With the warm but damp wet weather that we have had it seems as though this year has been a bumper year for fungi, and while I haven't managed to get out to take any macro or close up shots of the fungi, I am sure the opportunity will be there for any of you who are interested to do so for another couple of weeks.

Stourhead is worth a visit right now as the trees around the lake are approaching their autumnal best.

From my home in Longburton I am lucky enough to witness a starling murmuration most evenings as they roost in a relatively small reed bed around a pond on our local farm. While this is not anywhere near the scale of that found at RSPB Ham Wall, it really is something to enjoy and with any luck I will be able to enjoy this until March.

And for those interested in nature, the wintering birds are beginning to return. I have already seen red wings feeding on the berries, and it won't be long before I see and hear the fieldfare in the trees and bushes.

This really is a glorious time of year, especially for photographers. And with the weather being relatively mild at the moment I would encourage all of you to grab your cameras and get out to enjoy it while it lasts.

CLUB NEWS

October has been a busy month.

On 8th October we were all treated to an excellent presentation on Audio Visual Sequencing (AV's) by Ian Bateman. Ian is clearly very skilled at his art and his presentation left many of us with ideas and a motivation to explore our photographic catalogue to see what we could archive by grouping some of our images together.

For those who were unable to attend the evening I would point you towards his website :

<https://www.ibateman.co.uk/ian/> . You will be able to find many of the AV's that he showed us on the evening within this site.

Then on 14th October many of us made the journey to Weymouth for a very enjoyable evening photoshoot around the harbour and esplanade. The weather was very kind, and I think just about everyone came away with some images they should be proud of. A selection of these can be found on our website at <https://www.sbacameraclub.co.uk/gallery/photoshoot-galleries>

On 19th October Malcolm Balmer and Dave Chapman arranged a zoom meeting with our friends in Australia. The theme for the meeting was 'a favourite building' and I am told that many excellent images were shown by both our members and those from Whittlesea Camera Club.

I would again like to thank Malcolm and Dave for stepping forward to save this meeting. I know many of you enjoy this morning event and with Malcolm and Dave at the helm I am sure it will now thrive and continue for the foreseeable future.

On 22nd October we hosted the annual Bradford Abbas Shield. The hall was packed for the evening with representatives from Shaftesbury CC, Wincanton CC, South Petherton CC and Yeovil CC joining a number of our own members.

Our judge Rose Atkinson, was handed the unenviable task of scoring a selection of the most excellent images.

The final results for the evening were:

- 1st – Sherborne Bradford Abbas with a score of 186
- 2nd – Shaftesbury with a score of 181
- 3rd – Wincanton with a score of 178
- 4th – South Petherton with a score of 165
- 5th – Yeovil with a score of 163.

This was an excellent effort by all members of our club to achieve a win in this competition, and I would like to thank everyone for their support in entering images for consideration.

Particular congratulations should go to Chris Edgecombe, Sarah Simpson and Malcolm Balmer who all achieved maximum scores of 20 for their entries.

It now falls to us to choose the theme for next seasons competition. As soon as this has been decided I will let you all know what it will be.

OTHER NEWS

I am pleased to be able to report that we still have a relatively strong membership. With all subscription having been collected we have 34 members of our club plus 2 honorary

members. While this number is a little down on last year, we do seem to be doing well when compared against many other clubs.

Your committee will continue to work hard to promote the club and to encourage anyone who is interested to join us.

However if anyone knows of someone who may be interested in joining our club, I would encourage you to speak with them and bring them along for a meeting. The first visit will always be free of charge.

I am currently working on a schedule of photoshoots for 2025. This should be completed in the next few weeks, and I will then circulate it to you all.

The programme for next seasons club evenings is coming along well, and again I will publish this as soon as it is completed.

AND FINALLY

Our website is now fully completed thanks to the effort and hard work of Paul Meyer and Sarah Simpson. If you haven't yet had a look at it, I would encourage you all to do so by clicking on this link <https://www.sbacameraclub.co.uk> . I would particularly draw your attention to the Forums pages. This area is for everyone to participate in and in many ways is an vast improvement on our Facebook page – which was rarely used. Whether it be somewhere that you have been that you feel others may enjoy, future events that you are aware of, interesting videos that you have seen, or even tips and hints on photographic technique, we would very much encourage you all to use these Forums. If you think it may be of interest then I guarantee it will be to someone.

These pages are restricted to members only.

The site is already full of updates and information useful to all members, but this can only improve if many of us make use of this function of our website.

There is also a Members Gallery page which is available for all members to participate in. Should anyone who has not got a page open in this area wish to create one, can I ask that you speak with Paul or Sarah and they will guide you through what is required.

Equally if anyone with a page wishes to add or just update their page Paul and Sarah would be able to help you with this as well.

November will be equally as busy as October has been, with our Post Processing Challenge, and Iris Overton cup on the horizon. Details of both will be circulated to you via email. Please take the opportunity to participate in these events. We would all love to see what you are up to with your cameras.

Stephen Davenport
Chairman

Sherborne Bradford Abbas Camera Club.