

CHAIRMANS UPDATE – APRIL 2024

With Easter behind us and Spring now starting to show itself all around, I for one am looking ahead with hope and anticipation for some much needed warmer and drier weather.

Spring flowers are growing everywhere adding their annual splash of colour to the borders and hedgerows, and just occasionally there are hints of bright green flashes emerging from the trees that have laid dormant through the winter months.

This is my favourite season to get out with my camera, to capture all the new life that is emerging. Whether it be the lambs in the fields, the new growth from the hedgerows, forests or gardens, or the early chicks emerging from their nests, wherever you go there are now photographic opportunities available.

March seems to have been a very long and wet, but I believe for our club there have been some amazing highlights that has added a bit of brightness to an otherwise gloomy month.

Those who attended the talk given by our very own Mat Phillips were treated to an incredible evening. Mat entertained us all with his images, and humour, whilst at the same time letting us all know just what his passion for photography meant to him. I'm sure you will all agree that Mat showed us just what an accomplished photographer he is.

On 16th March several of our members attended RSPB Radipole. This was the second club photoshoot of the year. The day was an unsettled one with very poor light, but even with the less than favourable conditions some great images were captured. Those who attended all seemed to enjoy the company of other club members, and to round a wonderful morning off in style, cake and coffee seemed a must at the local Cafe.

The second meeting of this month was our annual Macro and Close Up competition. There were 25 digital images, and 7 print entries to the two competitions. All images were of an extremely high standard which gave our judge, Alan Denison a real headache in picking the winning images. Congratulations must go to Mark Tatchell for winning the digital competition, and to Elizabeth Jubb for winning the print competition.

CLUB NEWS

I am really pleased to let you know that we now have a full committee. Can I thank all those who have volunteered to help for your efforts in bringing such a strong team together.

Since the last update Elizabeth Jubb has started to work with the committee, to offer us some support with the Secretary's Role. Whilst at this time she has not formally taken on the role her help and guidance is very welcome. I would very much like to thank her for offering her support and hope that we can welcome her to our team when the time is right for her to join us.

There is some good news regarding the website. Due to ongoing issues with the existing provider and their inability to resolve issues with our current website it has been decided to terminate the existing contract and to design a new website. A small working group led by Paul Meyer and assisted by Sarah Simpson and myself have been working hard to create and populate the new site. I am hopeful this work is now reaching a point where we may be able to launch the new website very soon.

Once I am able to let you know of a date when we will be going live I will let you know.

In the meantime Paul has asked that you all consider entering up to 20 of your best images to him for inclusion in the members gallery. If you could also include a little bit about yourselves and what interests you – photographically - that would be brilliant.

The website gives us a real opportunity to show the strength and depth of the photographic skills that exist within our club. It is very much an interactive site which will rely on all members to provide input to get the most from it.

I know Paul would like images submitted via Dropbox, and I believe he will shortly be sending out a reminder as to how best to submit images for the members gallery and for the photoshoots.

LOOKING AHEAD

April is looking likely to be another exciting month within our club.

On 9th April we will be treated to a presentation by Jeanette (Jet) Lenden. Jet is a successful commercial photographer from London. She has made the very brave move to switch from using her DSLR for her commercial work, and to switch entirely to using her smartphone to capture her images. She has a passion for sharing her skills in this area and now runs safaris across the country offering guidance to students on how best to make use of their smartphone cameras.

On this evening Jet will be showing us some of her work, whilst also passing on some of her techniques to us all. This evening will be an interactive presentation and Jet has therefore asked that everyone who attends brings along their smartphones so that she can offer some guidance on settings for us to use.

We have offered this talk out to other neighbouring clubs and on the night we will be joined by 18 guests. So please arrive early as I suspect parking will be more difficult than usual.

I have also heard a whisper that there may be cake available to go with your tea or coffee.

Then on 10th April Jet is running a safari for 12 members and guests in Sherborne, during which she will oversee and guide those attending on how best to use their smartphones in a live environment.

On 23rd April we will be treated to a talk by Gary Holpin. He will present to us his experiences of walking the South West Coastal Path as a backdrop for a photographic tour of the coastline of the South West with a little excursion onto Dartmoor. Looking at his website <https://www.garyholpin.co.uk> it is clear that Gary has a wealth of photographic experience to share with us and so this evening should be a very enjoyable one.

On 26th April we will be holding another club photoshoot at Thorncombe Woods / Hardy's Cottage. Everyone is invited and as a group we will be meeting at 10am. These woods are renowned for their bluebells and other spring flowers at this time of year, as well as providing many acres of woodland and open heathland to explore. This should enable all who attend to get involved in a wide range of photographic opportunities, and also allow members to look for that winning photo for the Bradford Abbas Shield.

AND FINALLY

With the club season nearing an end, our programme of events will continue through the summer months by way of photoshoots. I will also attempt to stay in touch with you all with any updates that are occurring and which I think may be of interest to you.

Photoshoots are proving very popular with those who attend. It would however be good to see more members coming along – even if it is only for an hour or two. Why not consider bringing your family and friends along as apart from being a photographic shoot, these outings are also a very pleasant and social event. Many of the locations have either a café or restaurant close at hand for all to enjoy if they want to.

These meetings would also be a great way to introduce someone that you know who may have an interest in photography or even in becoming a future member of our club.

We have planned and published events at Cerne Abbas, Dawes Twineworks – West Coker, and at Portland Bill, but these days are by no means all that we could consider. So should you have any other ideas or are just going somewhere and fancy a bit of company for the day why not let us know. I am always happy to pass invites on through my usual contact list.

Steve Davenport
Chairman