

## **CHAIRMANS UPDATE – OCTOBER 2024**

A month into our annual programme and already so much seems to have happened.

Starting with the AGM. I was very pleased to have been voted back into the position of Chairman for another year. It is honestly a pleasure to do this role, and I hope to continue focussing on developing members knowledge and skills, and the overall enjoyment of being part of SBACC.

It was nice to see so many of you at our AGM to say our goodbyes to Chas. He has told me that he will pop along to meetings in the future should he be in the area, and I am sure you will agree with me that he will always be made very welcome.

It was also lovely to be able to recognise the achievements and support of Brian Haigh and to make him an honorary member of our club. Brian has been a longstanding supporter of our club and his knowledge of our history is something we should cherish.

I am now working on next year's programme which does seem a little odd as I am booking dates into 2026 already. I suspect there may be one or two changes in the 25/26 programme that will reflect the feedback that we have received from many of you. It will be a while before this work is complete but as soon as it is I will share it with you.

As a committee we are also working on a full programme of photoshoots, but for the next year we will be having a summer break in August, when many of you seem to be away on holidays, and will most likely not arrange anything in December as most of us are busy getting ourselves ready for Christmas.

I have said many times that these meet ups are a great social event but also a place to learn from others in the club, and to pass on your knowledge to those looking for help. If anyone has any ideas of places they would like us to consider for 2025 please do let me know.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 10 of us joined Pam at Careys Secret Garden near Wareham for a workshop with Huw Alban. The weather was fabulous for the day and that made for a great opportunity to learn how best to take images of flowers and 'mini beasts'. Huw is such a good person to learn from as he made sure that he spent time with as many people as he could and to deliver instruction that fitted their needs.

His opening line was "I will be asking why you are taking the image and what you are hoping to achieve". Those words alone focussed my mind for the day, and I do believe it made for some improvement in my photographic skills for that day at least.

I would very much like to thank Pam for making these arrangements and I know that everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the day.

## **NEWS**

October will bring a full calendar of events for us all.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August we will be treated to a presentation by Ian Bateman. For those who don't know Ian, he is a skilful photographer who also creates audio visual sequences from his still images. I think most of us know how to create a slideshow, but Ian will show us how he takes these to a completely different level.

Then on 14<sup>th</sup> October we will be offering an evening photoshoot in and around Weymouth Harbour and Esplanade. It is planned for us to meet in the Pavilion Car Park at 7pm and from there we will break into small groups to explore the area. If the weather is kind to us the harbour will offer up some good opportunities to take some very colourful water reflections. Further details will come out about this trip very soon, but it would be nice to see several of you there. So mark this date in your diary. We really must also consider car sharing to not only reduce our carbon footprint but also to reduce costs.

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 9am Malcolm Balmer and Dave Chapman are hosting a joint meeting with our friends in Australia at Whittlesea Camera Club. It is our turn to host the meeting this time and so if you can jump onboard even if it's only for a short time I know that you will be made really welcome. For those who haven't experienced this meeting I would encourage you to give it a go as it's a lot of fun.

The meeting will be held using zoom and Malcolm will be circulating the link to you all as soon as he can. The theme this time is A FAVOURITE BUILDING. I am quite sure that we all have images that fit this criteria so why not share them with everyone and join the meeting. I promise you this is not a meeting where images are judged or critiqued. Its simply an opportunity to share images with likeminded friends on the opposite side of the world.

And then on 22<sup>nd</sup> October we will be hosting the annual Bradford Abbas Shield. The images that were submitted made the committees job in choosing those images that would be put forward extremely difficult. We have however made our selections and I am confident that we will have some success this time around. That having been said the strength in this event is not all about the winning, but for me it's more about being joined by those from our neighbouring clubs and sharing an evening with them, enjoying some amazing images.

## **AN UPDATE ON TEA AND COFFEE**

I have a brief update on developments regarding tea and coffee at our meetings.

As many of you know I have been seeking a volunteer to take over the role that Chas has performed for us. Unfortunately, nobody within the club is willing to take on this role. Therefore, after some discussion I think we have reached a point where we have no

choice but to ask you all to bring along your own cups to each meeting and to make your own tea and coffee in the break. Supplies will continue to be provided for now, but this change does mean that we all hold a responsibility for the safety of others using the kitchen, and to maintain the cleanliness of the kitchen area.

You must also take your cups home with you at the end of the evening as we cannot hold any responsibility that they will be returned if left behind.

Personally, I think it is a shame that we must change things but with no volunteers to help out unfortunately this is the only way ahead if we are still to enjoy a drink during the break.

## **AND FINALLY**

As some of you will know I have been struggling for a while now to make time for my photography and for SBACC as my life has become increasingly busy. My reasons are complex and numerous but without going into too much detail, I act as a carer for my wife who does struggle periodically with her health. Thankfully she is still mobile and maintains her independence, but her illness is such that it does mean that I am heavily committed with everything in her life and act as her carer.

I also have four lovely granddaughters who live close by and thankfully visit often. I would like to spend more time with them to enjoy seeing them grow up, but at the moment I am finding there are many occasions when I cannot do this through the number of commitments that I have.

On top of this you will also be aware that I have recently returned to work, which is now beginning to take up more of my time.

It is therefore with regret that I am going to have to announce that I will be standing down as your chairman at the end of this season (May 2025). I would still intend to be an active participant in the club, but I simply cannot carry on with the level of work that I am currently sustaining.

This decision has been a very hard one for me to make, but something must change in my life to allow more time for myself. The only thing I can change is the work that I currently do for our club.

I really hope that you understand my reasons. I will of course carry on as I have promised earlier for the remainder of my time as Chairman.

**Steve Davenport**  
**Chairman**