

## CHAIRMANS UPDATE – JANUARY 2025



So here it is. The start of a new year.

Happy New year to you all. I really hope that Christmas was kind to you all and that, unlike my household, you managed to avoid the bugs that seem to be circulating at the moment.

To some, I know that January can be a difficult month. With the festivities having passed and with short days and the cold damp weather, this month can seem an ideal opportunity to just stay at home and hibernate until the warmer weather starts to return. Whilst there is nothing wrong with this as photographers, this month opens a wealth of opportunity for us.

Frosty cold mornings with a hint of mist in the air are ideal conditions for capturing some wonderful Dorset and Somerset landscapes.

The storms that we seem to be experiencing all too frequently now also create opportunities for anyone wishing to capture some seascapes in wild conditions.

For wildlife and nature photographers, this month is peak season for capturing wintering birds. And with the relatively mild winter that we have there are already some places that have displays of daffodils and snowdrops showing.

And with sunrise being relatively late in the morning and sunset early in the evening, given the right conditions, capturing the golden hour is not too painful.

So far from being a month to stay indoors, this month I hope to break out the warm weather clothing and make the most of the conditions an attempt to capture some seasonal images.

### **CLUB NEWS**

I for one, was really pleased with how our seasonal meeting went on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Being a change from our normal December meeting it was good to see so many

members submit images that meant so much to them, and to hear the stories that went with the image.

And thanks again must go to Elizabeth, Pam, Sarah and Richard for providing the wonderful cakes that we all enjoyed during the evenings meeting.

Images taken on the Sherborne night photoshoot can now be found at [www.sbacameraclub.co.uk/gallery/photoshoot-galleries](http://www.sbacameraclub.co.uk/gallery/photoshoot-galleries)

This evening, like all our photoshoots, was very enjoyable. It was a shame that there was landscaping works taking place at the front of the Abbey, but as members broke out in groups it was interesting to see the variety of images that they returned with.

Going forward our club meetings start up again on 14<sup>th</sup> January when we will hold our 'Shoot a Theme Competition. This year's theme is **"Homes, or parts of homes constructed by man or the animal kingdom"** and was set by last year's winner Chris Dowding.

This competition is a very relaxed event with members choosing their winning image. All entries should be submitted to your Dropbox folder having been resized to 1920 x 1200px (*Width x Height*) and sent in the sRGB colour by 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Then on 28<sup>th</sup> January we will be holding a Critique Evening. Our critiquing will be done by Alan Denison, who will provide feedback on each image stating what he feels is good, and what he feels he would alter to improve the image. This is not a competition but is a great opportunity to understand just what an experienced photographer looks at in our images when viewing them. Personally, I always use these evenings to show images that I like but am not particularly happy with and have found the feedback useful to me as a learning experience. I would encourage you all to make use of this opportunity.

Weather dependent our January photoshoot will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January and is at RSPB Ham Wall. We will meet up at 2pm to shoot through to sunset, and to hopefully witness the murmuration of starlings that the reserve is famous for. Ham Wall is visited by many wintering birds so there will be opportunities to capture images from the hides around the reserve or by just walking around the lakes.

Don't forget that these photoshoots are free to all, (apart from any entry fees that may apply), and you are more than welcome to bring along friends and family with you.

**AND FINALLY.....**

As we enter 2025 I hope that like me, you look forward to enjoying the coming photographic year with friends and acquaintances from SBACC.

Our club seems to be bucking the trend of falling membership numbers that many other clubs are suffering at this time. I believe this is due to the active nature of our club, and the way that we offer friendship and guidance to all members, both new and old

Our club is firstly a friendly/social club, and secondly it is a club that supports its members in their photographic journey – wherever they wish to be taken with that. Our doors are always open to new members, so if you know of anyone who may enjoy what we offer please consider bringing them along as your guest and introduce them to us.

I firmly believe there is still a place for a club like ours as it opens up social opportunities in a world that seems to be becoming ever increasingly isolated and solitary.

Stephen Davenport  
Chairman  
Sherborne Bradford Abbas Camera Club.