

CHAIRMANS UPDATE – JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year everyone and I really hope that you had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends.

Unbelievably we are now halfway through our season.

Since my last update a lot of work has been happening behind the scenes on next years programme of events. I am hoping to finalise this over the next couple of months, as well as putting together some interesting photoshoot days throughout this year.

I am delighted to announce that on Friday 16th February there will be a club photoshoot at Shaftesbury. This will coincide with their Snowdrop Trail week, and whilst there are many photographic opportunities in and around Shaftesbury, being able to walk the trail and enjoy the snowdrops may just be what a lot of us need, to remind us that Spring is just around the corner.

We will meet at Coffee #1, 26 High Street, Shaftesbury at 1030am for coffee and from there the morning/day is entirely yours. There are numerous rest areas around the town and for those wanting to stay for lunch I am quite sure that there will be somewhere to 'whet your appetite'. The day is completely free, other than parking charges and food, but I hope will be a fitting start to a full season ahead, of days out and about for us all. Other than a meeting place, photoshoots are completely unplanned, which enable members to be as creative as they like in their photography.

Another date to keep free is Saturday 16th March, when Elizabeth has kindly put together a day for us all at the Radipole RSPB reserve. Further details will follow closer to the date, but if this interests you then please make a note on your diary.

Australia Meetings

I am pleased to let you know that since the success of the last meeting with our friends at the Whittlesea Photography Club, Australia, plans are underway for our next meeting in April 2024. Further details will follow on this as well.

I know many of you would wish a more regular meeting, but it has been agreed to delay the next meeting until the clocks change again to allow meeting times to be a little better for those in Oz.

Initial discussion is that the theme will be something along the lines of UK wildlife that has naturalised and settles in Australia. This is not a definitive theme and may change slightly, but I do think it's likely to be a nature-based theme.

Upcoming Meetings

Next week we welcome Laura Pearce to our club, to offer some constructive critique on images submitted by members. Having spoken to Laura she is looking forward to seeing many images from us and is looking to make this evening a more informal evening than we have sometimes experienced. Whilst she will be giving a critique of the images, based on her judging experience, she would also like to engage the photographer to explore why the image was captured etc. Please take this opportunity to submit up to 3 images to her as the more images she can critique the more beneficial the evening will be to us all. This will be an entirely safe learning evening, and one when any image is good enough for consideration and feedback.

Going on from this I would like to draw your attention to Paul Meyers email of 1st January that explains the new method of submitting your images, via Dropbox. Mark Taylor has developed this system as it had become apparent that the previous system was somehow leading to errors in receiving submissions. We really hope that this new system will overcome all these problems. If you have any questions regarding this or any feedback could I please ask that you make contact with Mark on mark111@outlook.com

On **January 23rd** we will hold our shoot a theme night. This years theme was set by last years winner, Ally Morton, and is Motion Blur. He has requested that motion blur should not be camera shake, but intentional motion blur. I know there has been some discussion around this by some members, but after discussion with Ally it is agreed that as the competition will be judged by members, that interpretation of motion blur should fall to the photographer themselves.

On **13th February** we will hold our annual Keith Lane Lecture. This year's guest speaker is Millie Pilkington. Millie is a local portrait photographer who specialises on children and families. She has been commissioned right across the world and has photographed many famous people, and the Royal family.

Then on **27th February** it is our Post production challenge. So start thinking about any images that you would be happy to share with the group, in their RAW and processed states.

Somerset Mono Group Meeting

The next meeting of this group is on **3rd February** and will feature Sean Goswell, who will speak on Mindfulness in Photography. Full details can be found at www.somersetmonochrome.com This group has been recommended by Sarah Simpson, and as such is one that I will be trying to attend as often as I can. There is no membership fee, but there will be a small fee per meeting. If anyone else would like to go, then perhaps if you could let me know we can sort out some car sharing.

Club Changes.

I was sorry to hear that Anders Mattsson has decided to resign from our club due to personal reasons. He is aware that he is welcome to attend any meeting he would like as a non-members and has stated he may try to do that from time to time

Anders will be very much missed in our group, and I am sure that you would join me in wishing him well for the future.

And finally, Gill Newton has now resigned as our Secretary. Gill had indicated her desire to resign some time ago but kindly agreed to continue holding the reigns until this last Christmas to allow us to find a replacement.

I am disappointed that we have been unable to find someone to take this position over from her and consequently the committee and club is now operating without one of its key officers. This is a vital role and one that we really must fill in the coming months. For now the work of the Secretary is being undertaken by myself and other members of the committee, but I am sure you will agree this is not satisfactory, and is potentially unsustainable in the long term.

I am therefore again requesting that if anyone would be interested in taking over this position, could they please contact me or any other member of the committee. It really is a vital role for the success of our club, but one that is perhaps not as demanding as some may think it is.

Steve Davenport
Chairman
Sherborne Bradford Abbas Camera Club.