

## **CHAIRMANS UPDATE – MAY 2024**

At the moment I am sat at home looking out at my garden and am wondering if our weather will ever change for the better. A friend of mine who lives in North Wales told me that there is a statistic from their local weather centre that states they have had some rain across their area every day since July.

Whilst I am sure we aren't quite as bad as that, it really does feel that way, and talking to people it is very clear we are all now desperate for some warmer and brighter days.

That having been said, for those of us who are more adventurous these weather conditions do bring with it darker more atmospheric skies that will improve any landscape photograph immeasurably.

## **CLUB NEWS**

April has seen a full programme of events within our club.

Without doubt the highlight for many of us was the talk we were treated to by Jeanette Lendon. Jet opened our eyes to the photographic opportunities that are available to us all everyday using the one camera we all always have with us – our smartphones. After spending a few minutes helping us all set our phones up correctly she then amazed us with her images taken solely using her phone. These convinced us all not only of her skill, but also that perhaps our smartphones are a lot better than we thought they were.

After a lot of hard work by the committee we hosted 23 guests for this evening. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying such an inspirational talk.

This talk was followed up by a workshop the next day in Sherborne. Even though the weather was extremely wet it was clear that the participants in the morning's activities enjoyed putting into practice what they had learnt from Jet the previous evening and enhanced on that knowledge under her excellent guidance.

You can see a few images from this morning on the website.

Even before the event took place there was so much interest in this subject that we have decided to introduce a smartphone challenge into the programme for next year. The format for this is yet to be fully decided but I am hopeful that this will prove a success and may form part of the programme for future years.

Unfortunately, due to a technical issue, Gary Holpin cancelled his visit to us and so we needed to react quickly to put on an evening's event for you all.

This disappointment turned into quite an evening with Paul Meyer and Mark Taylor spending the time to do a full instruction on how to upload images to Dropbox, and to run through what was present on the new website.

From the number of questions being asked it is quite clear that there is still some confusion as to how members should use Dropbox. In answering the questions raised I am very hopeful that all present managed to go away with the confidence and knowledge to now use this programme.

As someone who also struggled in understanding it, I can now say with some confidence that I understand how to use it and do find it easy to use. That having been said, if anyone is still struggling to understand how to use the programme I know that Paul and Mark will happily spend time with you to talk you through how to set it up on your computer, and also how to use it.

The website has now gone live, and I hope you will agree is an excellent piece of work. My thanks must go out to Paul, Sarah, Jon and Mark for the work they have put in to making this happen.

I would encourage you all to visit the site and to add it to your favourites. There is no doubt that the site will develop as time goes by, and I know that Sarah is trying to recover some images from past competitions to include in the competitions page. However even in the form that it is in right now the website is full of information that will be useful to you all.

Access to the Members Area is via the password SB@cameraclub17.

The website belongs to us all. To make it truly useful it is best served by as many people as possible getting involved in its content. One way that you can become involved is by submitting up to 20 of your best images to the Members Gallery. Please also write a few words about yourself and include this document when submitting your images. Many have already done this but there is always room for more. It is not necessary that anyone does participate, but clearly the more that do then the better the content will be.

Can I reassure you that the site has been set up so that no images submitted can be copied or shared with others. Paul has deactivated all ways of doing this.

The rest of the evening was spent having a discussion around future competitions. It was very clear that there is a wide range of views on this subject which were all recorded and will be taken forward by the committee for further consideration.

The month was rounded off by a photoshoot to Thorncombe Woods. This was another successful event enjoyed by several members. On this occasion it was further enhanced by inviting our friends from Wincanton CC to join us. Many good images were taken, a few of which are already showing on the website.

## LOOKING AHEAD

I guess many of us are now looking forward to our summer holidays. But before you rush off there are a couple of events arranged this month for us all to enjoy.

On 8<sup>th</sup> May Pam has arranged a wonderful photoshoot to Haddon Copse Farm. This is an evening visit. We will be given an introductory talk about the farm followed by a short guided tour then we can go off to photograph to our hearts content. On the farm there is a heritage apple orchard which should be in full bloom, natural hedgerows full of wild flowers. A couple of log wild honey bee hives. Pond and a lake. Chickens, Dorset Down sheep with lambs, Oxford Sandy & Black pigs with lovely muddy wallows!!, Ruby Red Devon cattle. Beautiful views towards the rolling hills surrounding Bullbarrow. Birds and insects galore!! So as you can see this is one not to be missed.

I believe there may still be some places available, so if you are interested can you please let Pam know. If you haven't got Pams email address then let me know and I will pass your details on to her.

The next photoshoot after this is on 11<sup>th</sup> June, when we will be visiting Cerne Abbas for a village walk and shoot. Details of all future photoshoots are also available on the website.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May we will be running our annual club Open / Best of the Year Competition. The judge will be Laura Pearce. There are three categories being judged.

1. Digital Images
2. Colour Prints
3. Black and White Prints

Digital entries for this should now have been submitted. I am sure we will be in for a really good evening seeing what you consider to be the best images you have taken this year.

Then on 28<sup>th</sup> May we will be holding our final meeting of the season.

As a result of the discussions that took place at the last meeting around competitions, those present expressed a wish to continue these discussions at this meeting. Areas that will be discussed will be:

- The Programme of Events
- Photoshoots
- Workshops

There will also be an opportunity if time allows for a more open discussion from the floor on any club related topic.

## **AND FINALLY .....**

I hate to mention this already but before we know it we will be thinking of next season. Looking at the programme of events you will see that as usual the year begins with us choosing images for the Bradford Abbas Shield. I am sure many already have images processed and stored for this evenings theme – TREES, ONE OR MORE OR PARTS THEREOF – but if not there is still enough time to find that winning shot and to help our club improve on our showing last year.

Our club is always looking for new members. As you all know we are a very friendly group of people who largely meet to share our passion for photography. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested in coming along to our meetings please take time to have a chat with them before the next season. Don't forget we offer a 'try before you buy' offer of coming along to their first meeting free of charge to check us out and to make sure we are a group they would want to join. They will be made very welcome.

*Steve Davenport*  
*Chairman*