

CHAIRMANS UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2024

I don't know if I'm the only one that is looking around and thinking Spring is on its way?

Perhaps it's just very wishful thinking after what seems to have been a very long and wet winter. I'm sure that winter isn't quite done with us yet and that we will see some more extreme weather thrown at us, but for now, looking out at my garden and seeing a few snowdrops in flower and signs of daffodils emerging does at least fill me with hope that it won't be long now before we can all start to enjoy some better weather days.

To add to that I recently took a trip to RSPB Ham Wall and there is no doubt that some of the birds are already beginning pair up for Spring.

All good news, and exciting times for those of us that enjoy seeing and capturing nature at its best.

January seems to have passed us by in a flash, and both of our meetings went extremely well.

Congratulations to Chris Dowding for winning our 'Shoot a Theme Competition' with her stunning image of a dragonfly in flight. Her patience in capturing this image must have been immense and well done to her for presenting such a wonderful image to us all. It now falls to Chris to set the theme for next years competition. Once I have details of what she has chosen for us I will pass this on to you all.

MEETINGS

Our meetings in February are being held on 13th and 27th.

On 13th February we will be holding the Keith Lane Lecture. This year our guest speaker is Millie Pilkington. Millie is a local portrait photographer of national standing, having been commissioned to take portraits of many celebrities, and members of the royal family. Millie will be speaking to us all about her work and showing us some of the portraits that she has taken. She has also kindly agreed to give us all some practical advice on how best to take portraits in non studio conditions. She will concentrate on babies, and young people but I'm sure that this advice will be relevant to any portraits or family photos that we would like to take. Truly an evening not to be missed.

An invitation has been passed to other clubs so numbers attending may be higher than usual. So, arrive early to ensure you grab a parking space.

Then on 27th February we will hold our "Post Production Challenge". During this evening members are invited to show us an image they have taken that has been processed in some way. Each photographer will be invited to explain exactly what they have done to the image

to enhance it. Whilst a lot of us use post production as part of our photography, and may feel confident in our abilities, I am sure each and every one of us has something that we can take away from the evening that will be of use to us.

So, start looking out images that you think will be of interest to us all. They don't need to be of competition standard, but ones that simply demonstrate your processing skills.

Some of you may be wondering what our workshop will be on March 12th. I am very pleased to let you know that this year Matt Phillips has agreed to do a presentation to us and display his photos, for us all to see. The theme of the evening is entirely in Matt's hands, but I am sure we will all thoroughly enjoy this evening, enjoying the talent of one of our own members.

I would like to thank Matt for volunteering to do this for us all.

COMPETITIONS

As our website is not working at the moment it may be useful just to remind you all of the competitions that we have coming up for the rest of the season, so that you have plenty of time to find out or produce images for entry.

On 26th March it is our Macro and Close-Up Competition. This year our judge will be Alan Denison. Digital entries will be called for no later than 8th March, so keep an eye out for Paul's email, and on your drop box account.

Then on 14th May we will hold our Open Competition. This year our judge will be Laura Pearce.

PHOTOSHOOTS

You will all have received a copy of our planned photoshoots for this year. These outings are something that a lot of members requested, and so I hope that throughout the year there will be some days when we will be doing something that interests you, and that you will be able to come along to.

Photoshoots are a great opportunity to enjoy a day with friends with the same interest in photography that we all have. There is no expectation to create anything, although I am sure given the locations that we are going to that it will be very hard not to do so.

Everyone is welcome, (friends and family included), so put these dates in your diary.

My thanks go to those members who have put together days for us all to enjoy.

WHITTLESEA CAMERA CLUB

Yesterday I have received an email from our friends in Australia and we are planning another joint (zoom) meeting with them, most likely sometime in April. The theme this time will be

nature based and is, "Animals that are present in both the UK and Australia'. It is clear that the Australians hold somewhat of a grudge against us 'Brits'" for introducing rabbits and foxes to their continent, but I am sure some of us can show them the beauty in the wildlife that we share.

Together with their Chairman I am putting together a list of animals that we believe are relevant to this category, but I am sure this list will be exhaustive and open to some interpretation by members.

For those who haven't attended one of these meetings before, it is an extremely informal meeting. It is always held on a Saturday morning and usually lasts about 2 hours. However as it is on zoom, it is possible to drop in and out whenever you want. I attended my first such meeting back in September and will most definitely do all I can to make sure I attend all meetings going forward.

COMMITTEE

As you will recall from my last update, I put out a call for any member that feels they would wish to join the committee and take on the role of Secretary. Unfortunately, we still have no registered interest, and so I find myself having to ask again. I know there is a reluctance to volunteer based on the perception that this role will bring a high level of work and commitment. Whilst there will be a need to produce minutes for the AGM and perhaps our committee meetings, there is little else that **must** be done. Anyone taking on the role, in time may wish to broaden this but for now this is all that is being asked for.

If anyone is interested or has any questions about the role, would you please contact me.

A strong committee is essential in delivering a strong club, which is enjoyable for us all, so please give this some serious consideration.

We really do need some help going forwards.

AND FINALLY

I am sorry to hear that both Roger Gibson and Chas Williams are suffering health issues at the moment. I am sure you will join me in sending our best wishes to them both and wish them a speedy and full recovery.

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