

CHAIRMANS UPDATE – DECEMBER 2023

Well, I'm sure I'm not the only one saying – where has that year gone. A year that I hope has been as good a year for you all as it could be.

With the Christmas Break approaching I thought I would just keep you informed of a few things that are happening within the club.

For those of you that visit our website www.sbacameraclub.co.uk you will have noticed that Sarah has been busy uploading some images taken at the recent workshops in Wareham Forest, Moor Crichel and Badbury Rings. If you haven't had a look, I would urge you to do so as there are some excellent images on display. While you are there have an explore as it's a good tool that is available to all club members.

This Tuesday marks our last meeting of the year and as usual we will be running our in-house competition with the theme – **Most Unusual Image**. This is always an interesting competition with creativity being displayed by you all. After the competition has taken place we will break for a social event to celebrate Christmas. I understand that again Elizabeth, Sarah, and Pam have volunteered to provide some of their excellent cakes. I am sure you would like me to offer thanks to them from us all for undertaking to do this again.

The year has seen a great deal of change in our club. At the AGM Mike Herrmann and Sarah Simpson stood down from the committee after many years of service to the club. I thanked them on the evening, but I would like to thank them again as having taken over as chairman from Mike it has quickly become apparent just how much work they did for us all behind the scenes.

At the end of the month Gill Newton will be standing down as Secretary. Gill has also worked tirelessly for the club, but due to other competing demands she now feels it is best for her to hand the role to someone else. I would also like to thank Gill for all her hard work and look forward to seeing her enjoying club nights from the 'back benches'.

As yet we have not managed to fill the position of club secretary.

Also standing aside at the end of the year is Tony Hilton. Tony has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put the digital images together for our competitions together with many other IT related matters. Put very simply, without his support our competitions just wouldn't happen, and so I would like to thank him for everything he has done for the club.

I am pleased to announce that Chantal White and Matt Phillips have both agreed to join our committee and I look forward to working with them both over the coming months and hopefully years. They are joining the committee without portfolio.

We are however still short of 1 or 2 committee members. If you feel that joining the committee is something that would interest you, please let me or any of the committee know. There is a fear that becoming a member of the committee will involve a great deal of work. I won't lie by saying that there won't be some expectation in joining the team, but there is surprisingly little work involved in most positions, unless you have a particular interest which you would wish to develop for the good of the club.

We meet as a committee 4 or 5 times a year at the Rose and Crown, Bradford Abbas where we discuss club business. These meetings are relatively informal and very enjoyable, but they are essential in taking the club forwards.

Going into the new year there is a full programme planned.

We will be returning to club on 9th January for an evening critiquing member photographs. The judge this evening is Laura Pearce. The purpose of the evening is to gain constructive feedback from a judge and well-respected local photographer about what is good in your image, and what could possibly be improved. This will very much be a two-way process with the judge and photographer being able to question each other. So, if you have an image that you wish to get some feedback on, whether it be to display at home, to print or to submit into a future competition this is a great opportunity to test it out.

Then on 23rd January it is our annual **Shoot a Theme Competition**. The winner of last years competition Ally Morton has set the theme for this year as – **Motion Blur** – he has defined this as intentional and proper blur rather than blur caused by camera shake. This is again an in club competition which is always highly entertaining. So, start looking back over your images now, or even use the festive period to get out and create an image for the evening.

I am currently working on the programme for the 24/25 season which I will publish as soon as it is done. I am also working towards a full list of club photoshoots. Many of you have already provided ideas for these, but if there is something that you think would be a good local day out for us all please let me know.

And finally can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past year(s). I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas spending your time doing whatever you would want to do with whoever you want to do it with. Stay well, stay happy and whatever you do always consider taking your camera with you.

Happy Christmas

Steve Davenport
Chairman
Sherborne Bradford Abbas Camera Club.