



Chairperson's end of year report, Earl Shilton Camera Club.

First of all, I would like to say how privileged I have been to take on the role of Chairperson during the last year. It has been a new role for me and I hope I have served you well. It has been a quite different one than I was expecting as we haven't been able to meet in person once during this season, so I hope that my input during our weekly zoom sessions has ensured that you were always updated with information. In this role I have also tried to engage members as much as possible in the numerous activities and welcomed all input. I trust this has been well received. If not, just let me know. Thank you for your support and involvement in the club's activities during this year.

I would like to thank each member of the committee for all their work and support this last year. Some contributions have been more visible to everyone but I can honestly say that every committee member has made very valuable contributions and given me brilliant support through the year.

Thank you Ian for ensuring that we continued to have a full and varied programme, which has needed to be amended as the year progressed. I think I speak for all when I say it has been a thoroughly enjoyable programme.

Thank you John for keeping us up to date with clear finance explanations, so that everyone can easily understand the healthy financial situation that the club is in.

Thank you Gary for running all the competitions so well, ensuring everyone is able to fully participate. It is very obviously a large task and you do it so well. We would be lost without your expertise. Also thank you for updating the website, as it moved to a new theme part way through the year. I know how much work you put in to achieve this and it will never be underestimated nor underappreciated.

Thank you Dan for your technical knowhow and input for the zoom sessions in particular. And also for assisting your Dad as only you two fully know.

Thank you James for fulfilling the secretary duties so efficiently, including clear detailed minutes and action lists. And all this while becoming the club's Photographer of the Year!

Thank you Steve for your valued input and expertise throughout the year. I acknowledge that you have not needed to officiate as vice chair but I always knew you were there if needed. Maybe it would have been bit different had we been meeting at the Conny Club.

Thank you Peter for your valued contributions through the year. You do underestimate the contributions you have made, but I haven't and I'm sure others haven't also.

Both Steve and Peter have indicated they do not wish to sit on the committee next year but as members of the club they will both continue to play a significant part. I expect they will both be making good suggestions and providing good feedback throughout the year.

As well as the last part of the 19/20 season being significantly affected by Covid-19 we have now had a full and very successful season of Zoom meetings which has been quite well attended by members. I appreciate that it is quite alien for a number of members and some who decided to only rarely join in but I appreciate all the support for the club which is shown by being a member regardless of the limitations we have had to endure. I am now looking forward to meeting up again at the Constitutional Club for the new season starting in September, just after our annual exhibition at the Atkins Building in Hinckley starting on August 23rd. Another good programme has been put together by Ian and hopefully we will be able to see it through face to face in Earl Shilton.

I would like to add my congratulations to James Botterill for Photographer of The Year, to Julie Holbeche-Maund for the Secretary's challenge, to Isobel Chesterman for Trevor Wain UK Landscape and for the Image of the Year. There is one other trophy to be awarded, which is the Chairman's trophy, and this will be announced at a later date. I would also like to add my congratulations to all those members who have participated in and had success in external competitions and exhibitions. May it continue next year.

A number of discussion points have arisen through the year, which James has mentioned in his report, but I would just like to summarise a few.

In response to some feedback the committee sought the views of members on the current POTY format or alternative competition. It was clear that members liked the POTY format with comments from the less experienced photographers indicating they liked to see how their images fared against the more experienced in the group and didn't want this to be taken away. Regarding a separate competition for less experienced members there wasn't really enough support to warrant moving this forward at this time. This can be reviewed again in the future if necessary.

Another suggestion received was regarding seeking help from other members in the club, sometimes at a fairly short notice. To this end we sought members who were willing to offer help to anyone else in the club and as a result a list of one-to-one assistance was put together and circulated to all club members via email. Please use this when you need help.

On a similar line a club Facebook group for members only has been set up so that photography matters can be quickly raised for other members to see. While I appreciate that not everyone uses Facebook I think this has been quite successful for those who have used it.

Finally, I would like to say that if I am re-elected I hope I will be able to continue to fulfil the role to your expectations, hopefully as we meet face to face. I am always willing to receive any comments or feedback from anyone in the club and if something needs addressing I will ensure it happens.

Thank you for your support and I hope this will continue into the future.

Paul Steans, Chairperson