

Secretary's AGM Report. 2017-18

This is my second season as Secretary and I'd like to start by thanking Tom and John for their support and guidance over the past year which has as gone in a flash.

This season we've enjoyed an interesting and varied programme compiled by Ian Stevenson with many highlights. We've had a good mix of competitions, speakers folios and it's been good to see our talented members give us enjoyable and informative talks. I think every judge has been impressed by high standard of our work and found it hard to spotlight one image. We make their job difficult and they often admit that their final decision is their personal chose.

Unfortunately, as is a general trend with most clubs, membership is dropping and less younger people are joining photography clubs. I think we need to address this as it's making it more difficult for photographic societies to survive. In this day and age photography is as popular than ever. Most people use a phone or tablet for their photography and share their photographs electronically rather than print them. Looking to the future I think we need to find a way of encouraging these younger photographers to join our club. As always the club welcomes ideas for improvement from all members.

Our relationship with Cheshire East and Crewe Town Councils is benefiting all parties. We are being given opportunities to develop our photographic skills and secured the library as an exhibition venue through our relationship with them. Cheshire East also have our flyer on their web and twitter site. They are also planning to hold an exhibition of the community photographs we have taken for them at Tesco in the summer. Crewe Town Council have invited members to photograph some of their summer events and run a photographic competition which will give us more exposure.

This year we are celebrating our 70th. anniversary and have enjoyed a meal and held a successful exhibition in Crewe Library. Tom has been busy compiling our club's history for Sharon to include in a photo book which will record members work for years to come. We hope to follow this up by holding another exhibition in October.

On 25 May the new General Data Protection Regulations come into force which we need to comply to. It's not a big task for us as we keep very little information concerning our members. We are preparing for this by writing our Data Protection Policy based on the PAGB's version. The key points are: inform members what information we hold about them, what we do with it, let them get it updated and only keep minimum data for the club to function. Only the Secretary and Treasurer hold members full contact details. The committee are holding an audit to check what information is held and by whom. Then all irrelevant data will be deleted and the constitution will be updated.

I'd like to give a big thank you to John Royle who has spent many hours focusing on the Chairman's and Competition Secretary roles. I'm sure all members would agree that he deserves to be highly commended. The time and effort he's devoted our club ensures we aren't kept in the dark. We are taking steps to relieve John of some of his workload we're very grateful to Martin Smith for volunteering to manage the external competitions next season. However, we would like a volunteer to assist, or take over John's role of Chairman.

As the shutter goes down on another season I hope you have a good summer and recharge your batteries. Don't forget you can keep in touch with fellow members on our Web, Flickr, Facebook and twitter sites. Peter Robinson