

Chairman's report for the AGM - 26 May 2022

Following the relaxation of Government Covid restrictions, club meetings resumed in the main church hall in September 2021 and we ran a full and varied programme. Some members were unable to attend, so the club used Zoom for all but one meeting - Mix and Match. This set-up placed a considerable strain on our technological capabilities. After a somewhat shaky start, we purchased additional audio equipment, which helped to overcome some of the challenges associated with simultaneous Zooming of meetings while coping with the erratic broadband connection in the church hall. Much of the success can be attributed to Phil Copestick who, with great personal effort on his part, helped to make Zoom meetings viable - so thank you Phil.

Next year we hope to return to holding all meetings in the school room as the current arrangements this year hindered good social interaction, cohesion and the traditional club atmosphere. We will aim to restrict Zooming to just a few meetings such as presentations and where Zoom offers an added benefit.

The committee met four times this season via Zoom and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication throughout the year keeping the club on course.

Sadly, last summer, our club secretary, Sandy Beamont, lost her struggle with illness and died. The club sent sincere condolences to Sandy's family on behalf of members and, I am sure you will all agree, she is greatly missed.

Attracting new members continues to be a challenge, in particular attracting younger age groups. Although this situation is not unique to CCC - many clubs are experiencing a similar problem - we do need to take further measures to improve the club's appeal in the local community and encourage younger people to come along to ensure the club's longevity. Unfortunately John Warbrick has recently had to step down as Membership Officer due to ill health leaving a vacancy for this vital committee role. Thank you John for all your efforts in ensuring the membership numbers held up reasonably well in this difficult period and for helping new members in their induction to the club - we currently have 31 members.

The club has revised and updated the CCC members' handbook. Publicity Officer, Chris Flood, distributed new publicity flyers prior to the start of this season and continues to seek new avenues to promote our club in the community. Thank you Chris for all your efforts in this area.

Angela Karney did a great job putting together the 2021-22 club programme spanning 31 weeks, which included a varied mixture of competitions, workshops/critiques, outside events and four very enjoyable presentations by guest speakers, namely:

- *An African safari by David Smith LRPS CPAGB*
- *The wider world part 1 by Ashley Franklin ARPS APAGB*
- *The seeing eye by Paul Mitchell FRPS*
- *My restless lens by Dr Keith Snell LRPS EFIAP EPSA*

At the beginning of the season, Norman Price gave an informative demonstration of still life photography. We thank him for sharing his skills for putting together suitable set-ups and appropriate lighting for still life photography. Sharing skills with other members helps further the learning and continuous improvement ethos at the club.

This year we succeeded in running all five rounds of the main competitions: colour prints, mono prints and PDIs, at the church hall and simultaneously streamed the meetings via Zoom.

In addition we held the Reg Mullard nature competition and the Chairman's Challenge on the subject of *'the odd one out'* but were unable to fit an outside events competition into the programme.

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Thank you Angela for all your work getting the judges and speakers to deliver the season's programme and for organising the outside events.

CCC hosted a 3-way club competition - Midhurst pipped us into second place by a small margin of 2½ points and Haslemere came third 9½ points behind.

In November the club competed in the SPA inter-club print competition and in March the PDI inter-club competition. A small club like ours is always going to find it difficult to compete with the larger Surrey clubs for the top honours but simply taking part demonstrates our commitment to photography. Thanks to Miles Thompson for all the hard work he puts into organising our club's entries.

Our annual exhibition at the Village Hall was attended by approximately 150 visitors - a reasonable footfall bearing in mind the Covid Omicron variant prevalent in the area at the time. The exhibition made a small surplus after all expenses which helped boost club funds for future investment. A big thank you to the large number of members who volunteered to help make the event possible and to run smoothly throughout the day.

We have recently received an invitation from the Cranleigh Arts Centre to hold a small exhibition in their gallery during June/July 2022. A selection of approximately thirty photos will be selected from prints held back after the Best Print and PDI competitions plus other images scoring 9 and 9.5 in club competitions this season.

The CCC official website is the main source of reference for all important information relating to the club and is updated weekly. It also acts as a permanent archive of each year's activities from 2017 to date.

The CCC Facebook group has continued to be a great success enabling members to share ideas and images in a relaxed and non-competitive environment. It is an effective medium for publicity and has generated a number of enquiries from new prospective members.

Under our Treasurer, Bev Pegram's, stewardship, the club finances have remained stable and enabled us to invest in new equipment, namely two Lavalier (radio) microphones to help with Zooming and presentations and a long overdue state-of-the-art projector which will be ready for the start of the new season in September.

We are currently carrying out a member survey which has been designed to provide useful information to assist in determining the future direction of the club. The committee would welcome feedback/suggestions on any improvements the club could make to meet current members' goals and also to attract new members. To help in this task, we have asked members to respond to the survey recently emailed to them. We aim to publish the results in June 2022.

I would like to thank members for their continued loyal support during this difficult time. Member participation is of the utmost importance for the club's survival and future prospects. Without the hard work and co-operation of the club committee, together with the involvement of all members in club activities, Cranleigh Camera Club could not operate as effectively as it does. So again a big thank you and well done to everyone.

Ed Hull - Chairman