



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **8 September 2015**

This is Woodbridge Camera Club's fifth annual general meeting, and my second as chairman, but this will be my last as I've decided to stand down and hand over the reins to someone else. However, that doesn't mean that I'll be leaving the Club, as was the case with my two predecessors, and I hope to continue to serve on the Steering Group if elected.

I think we've had a successful year and the Steering Group has worked hard to broaden our activities and help members to improve the standard of their photography.

I hope that you will all agree that we have been able to provide an interesting programme of speakers, competitions, tutorials and practical evenings at our Club nights, and also to promote new activities. Certainly our meetings have been well supported with 20-30 members regularly attending.

During the year we have been fortunate to hear presentations from some excellent speakers, including Mike Chen, who spoke about combining traditional film and darkroom processing with digital imaging; and Toby Gray, who told us about his work in headshot photography, with a practical demonstration. You also had to put up with a presentation by me on working with RAW, and three of our members showed us examples of their work at a member's showcase evening.

Members had the opportunity to get their cameras out and show off their skills at a couple of photoshoots around Woodbridge: one concentrating on the riverside area; and the other in the form of a trail, where members were given a set of clues to guide them around the town, photographing locations en-route, ending here at the King's Head for a bit of socialising. Unfortunately, a third photoshoot at the Suffolk Falconry Centre had to be cancelled due to the weather.

We have arranged three club competitions during the year: "Decay", which was won by Brian Trayner; an open subject print competition won by Glyn Collins; and "The Funny Side", the winner of which modesty prevents me from revealing.

We've also taken part in three inter-club competitions: the Tripod Competition with Framlingham and Wickham Market Clubs; the A45 Competition hosted by Bury St Edmunds Photographic Society; and the Granville Foulger Trophy organised by East Ipswich Camera Club. Unfortunately, we didn't cover ourselves in glory at any of these, but since members of some of the other clubs taking part are very experienced or professional photographers, we've nothing to be ashamed about and I'm sure we'll try again.

It's our turn to host this year's Tripod Competition, which will be held on 6 October at Woodbridge Quay Church Hall. This is the first time that we've organised an inter-club competition so we want to put on a good show and I hope that as many of you as possible will come along.

Our fourth annual exhibition was held at the Shire Hall in July. We welcomed around 175 visitors over the 2 days, many of whom left very positive comments in the visitor's book. I think that the standard of the images on display goes up every year and every member who contributed should be proud of what they've done. Local photographers John and Annette Roberts had the difficult

task of selecting the best photograph in the exhibition and our thanks must go to them for doing an excellent job. The winner was Phil Hill with his image "Partnership Under the Sun". Sue and Jonathan Garrod shared second prize, and a number of photographs received commendations. Congratulations to you all.

Thanks to all members who submitted images, those who volunteered for stewarding and other duties, and those who brought food along to the evening reception, which I think was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Sarah, who had the massive job of coordinating everything for the reception.

One of our greatest successes this year has been the acquisition of a digital projector, with the help of a Localities Grant from Suffolk County Council, for which we must thank Councillor Caroline Page. After the disappointment of last year, when we failed in our bid for lottery funding, this is a great step forward for the club as we are now able to display high quality PDI images on a screen, which is essential for competitions. Indeed, we would have great difficulty hosting the Tripod Competition next month without this equipment.

Our website is updated regularly and I would encourage all of you to use it, and to promote it among your friends and contacts. There is a lot of information on there for you such as our forthcoming programme, news and tips and tricks. There are also the member's galleries and every member is entitled to have their own gallery and to submit images to be displayed. A lot of members have taken advantage of this and I would encourage all those of you who have not yet done so to put together a selection of your images to be included, to let members and other visitors to the website see what you have done. Your contributions to the Tips & Tricks section would also be welcomed.

As you'll have seen from my recent email, members now have the opportunity to sell their prints at Gallery74 in the Thoroughfare. This is not only an opportunity to make a little money from your photography, but it will also help to publicise the club because, if we provide enough prints to make it worthwhile, the gallery will provide a browser frame specifically for club members' photographs. I hope that as many of you as possible will take advantage of this opportunity.

Our membership continues to grow. This time last year we had just 40 members and we now have 46. The new Steering Group will have to consider whether to limit membership in the future or find an alternative, larger venue for our meetings. The Library has served us well – the room is pleasant and parking is easy, but if the growth in membership continues we will soon outgrow it.

The Club has made great progress in the five years since it was formed, but what of the future? How would you like to see things develop? It's your club, so please make your views known if you would like to see specific things happening. New ideas are always welcome.

During the year I have been supported by an excellent Steering Group and I would like to express my thanks to Sarah, Charmian, Steve, Martin, John and Peter, although Peter unfortunately had to step down a few months ago for personal reasons. Also to Glyn, Phil and Jeff, who joined us as co-opted members during the year.

I must also thank all members for their support during the year and I hope that the Steering Group is running the Club in the way that you would wish. If not, let us know.

Richard Brown  
September 2015