

## Chairman's Blog      July 2019

I felt very honoured to be elected as your Chairman at the A.G.M.

I have to start by saying that I am not a very good photographer (or at least the judges don't think so!) but I do enjoy taking pictures and I enjoy putting together albums covering holidays and other special occasions. I think we sometimes get a bit carried away with trying to take 'clever' photographs which will please judges to the exclusion of images which we like and mean something to us. One tends to regard the words 'a good record shot' as the kiss of death for an image which actually is exactly that – a record of some place or happy time which you want to remember.

Having said that I have learnt so much by being a member of the club which has enabled me to improve my photography and I hope that others feel the same. But I will still continue to take 'record shots'!

We have a huge amount of talent in our club and I am sure we are all keen to learn from others and to help where we can. Everyone who comes to our club says what a friendly lot we are! In next year's programme there will be a lot of opportunities to show off our skills and to cross fertilise ideas with other members of the club.

I hope that we will also be able to tell as many other people who are interested in photography about our club and what we do. At the moment our membership is stable after falling a bit over the last few years (a trend in which we are not alone amongst voluntary organisations). This means that whilst we are covering our 'fixed' costs we don't have much spare cash to do special things or have celebrity speakers. Our President, Tom Derbyshire, set us a challenge at the AGM to all bring along one new member next season. This is a big challenge but it would transform the Club. So, over the summer talk to your friends and acquaintances (or indeed anyone you see wielding a camera in earnest) and see if you can interest them in coming along. Our first two meetings will be very relaxed and will give people an opportunity to take and show images in an informal way.

Now that summer has finally arrived it's a good opportunity to get out and take some landscape shots to use for the first meeting on 2 September. Don't forget to submit them as projected images through the website by 23 August.

Have a good summer and see you in September

Mike Mitchell

Chairman