

President's Valedictory Address and presentation of President's Award

Good evening everyone.

A synonym for valedictory is farewell and so this speech is about Farewells and Thank you.

Farewell to a great year as President of SPS, one which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

Farewell to the banging of the gavel, H&S, notices, getting volunteers to make tea and do thank you speeches and of course making the introductions to guest speakers.

Farewell to getting up at the crack of dawn on Wednesdays to send out thank you letters and e cards as well as writing the weekly newsletter but I think it is important to keep members informed and thanked to show our appreciation. No pressure John but I think the newsletter has been well received and you need to continue with it!

Farewell to the wearing of the chain of office at events like the ICDKOC, opening of the Winter Garden exhibition and the Annual Exhibition. It is indeed a great privilege to wear this chain.

Farewell to chairing the Council meetings and trying to ensure that they finish by 10.00pm!

Now to the Thank You! Clubs like ours would not survive without the time and effort given by the following people.

A HUGE Thank you to Tim Swetnam and Mike Smith (Programme Secretaries) for organising and implementing the 2016/17 programme. I think they both did an excellent job! We have had a great variety of outside speakers with one of my favourites being landscape photographer Tom Dodd.

Many thanks also to our members who have spoken this year;

To **Colin New** for his talk on Namibian Journey/Hidden Mothers and for his excellent commentary on the London Salon exhibition.

To **Jim Charlton, Rebecca Nex, Janet Thorpe, Tim Swetnam, Judy and Mike Smith, Linda Jackson and Erica Oram** for the excellent members' evenings.

To **Terry Irons** and the AV group for their wonderful evening of AVs

To the 8in 10 ers: **Mark Tomlinson, Trevor Unwin, Lynn Healy, Alan Phillips, Gareth Morgan, Gerry Sweetman, Ann Woolhouse and Keith Allchin**. Some of these members were new to speaking about their images so well done to them, it was a marvellous evening.

It is so important and rewarding to see the work of our own talented photographers.

Thank you goes to **Richard Hall** for an excellent and varied 2016 Summer programme giving members many opportunities to take lots of images. Many thanks also go to **Richard** for his tremendous work as External Comp Sec. We have had some great successes this year both as a club and as individuals and the choosing of appropriate images and prints to enter competitions is no easy job.

Thank you to **Liz Pickering**, our Past President, for all her help and support and for passing on essential information and materials from her year as President. And also to our President Elect, **John Ferretti**, for his refreshment making on club nights and for organising the Club Dinners.

Now a big thank you to **Linda Jackson**, who as Secretary, has kept us all in order and ensured that we do what has to be done and on time. Linda has also been a great support to John Scholey in the preparations for the 2018 YPU Exhibition and will continue to do this as she steps down from the Secretary role. At this point I would like to thank **John Scholey** for all his work as Exhibition Co-ordinator. Along with **Mike Smith**, they organised a very successful and popular Winter Gardens exhibition. We have just staged the 2017 Annual Exhibition at the Cathedral which John co-ordinated and led very successfully.

No organisation can succeed without someone keeping a close eye on the finances and that has been our Treasurer **David Greenwood**. Thank you **David** for keeping a watchful eye on the purse strings! I've never countersigned so many cheques in my life! Thank you to the Auditors for verifying the accounts.

Judy Smith, our Membership Secretary, has done meet and greet at the front desk all year and dealt with a huge variety of issues that only **Judy** knows the answers to. So a big thank you to Judy for being not only Mem. Sec. but Archivist as well.

Pat Rutter took over as Summer Programme Coordinator this year and has done a lot of research and visits to put together our programme so many thanks to **Pat** and now - go out and enjoy!

Thank you to **Terry Irons** for organising the AV Group and for being the projectionist and fetching and carrying all the equipment every week. Also a huge gratitude to **Terry** for his evenings on Lightroom and Nik Effects, both very informative and very useful.

Julia Greenwood has done a great job of raising the profile of the club and getting lots of publicity for our events. She has made lots of valuable contacts which can be passed on to our next Publicity Officer, because after many years Julia is stepping down. So many thanks to you **Julia**.

We are indebted to **Peter Matthews our News Editor** for all his work on the management of the Forum, organising the Forum Comp, management of Critique Groups and the writing of the Annual Review. Peter is stepping down from all of these responsibilities to spend more time with his family and have time for his own photography again so be warned **Peter and his images** will be back!

Thank you goes to the Internal Competition Team of **Jane Perryman, John Gorman and Erica Oram** for their slick organisation and processing of images and prints for the Members Print Competition.

What a great job, **Steve Dorey** our Web Master, has done on revamping the website, it is a pleasure to use! 27 and counting, what is that? The no. of members' portfolios now online so thank you so much **Steve**.

Many thanks go to **Chris Perry** for all his hard work and efforts as Head Steward; he sets up and takes down the screen and stands and sorts out the sound equipment for our speakers. Also to **Pat Rutter initially and Jane Perryman** latterly for organising the refreshments for us and indeed to everyone who has helped with teas.

And thank you to the elected members on Council: Ann Woolhouse, Jane Perryman, Elizabeth Uruchurtu and John Gorman for all their help.

Now I come to my President's award for 2016/17. This is for someone I have mentioned a few times already **Jane Perryman**. **Jane** offers her home for bed and breakfast when speakers want to stay over, she feeds them and ferries them

around to where they need to be. She organises the prints and the images for the Members Internal Print Competition and is an elected member of Council. She purchases and brings the refreshments for the interval and has offered to do the teas on many occasions. She even came up with a venue for a child's 4th birthday party when this hall had been double booked and we were already ensconced with the Annual Exhibition judging. **So huge thanks Jane!**

Finally I'd like to wish John a very successful and enjoyable season as our President in 2017/18.

It's over to you John!

Anne Turner