

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

Good evening everyone

It hardly seems a day since I was standing here, giving my first speech as President of Sheffield Photographic Society. I said then how honoured I felt to have been asked to take on this role and I still feel this way, having helped to steer the club through a wide range of activities this year.

The year has gone very quickly and it has been busy but very enjoyable. I have never written so many thank you letters or received so many emails – at the last count it was nearly 2000. We have had some excellent speakers, both from outside and inside the club, hosted two successful exhibitions, involved ourselves in a number of external competitions and have prepared to be hosts for the YPU Annual Exhibition later this week.

I said then what a welcoming and friendly club it is and it has been good to see our nine new members taking advantage of this and getting involved in club activities.

We have raised our profile locally by establishing our monthly page in the Star, which has proved very popular, and altogether 50 members have now had their images published. A group of us also visited Doncaster Prison before Xmas and spent the day working with inmates – hopefully inspiring them to take up photography as an interest.

What I have realised, however, is just how much work goes on behind the scenes to make the many events happen. I'd like to thank all those in the club who have worked so hard giving up their time to help the club prosper.

Many do this in all kinds of unseen ways but I am going to mention a number by name.

First of all, thank you to **Anne Turner**, 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, **Jim Charlton**, for his refreshment making on club nights, helping to plan next year's programme and standing in for me when I was away.

A big thank you to **Mike Smith** (Programme Secretary) for organising the 2017/18 programme. I think you'll agree he has done a great job! We have had a great variety of visiting speakers, all of whom have both entertained us and given us new ideas. He also books the judges for the Print Competition and Exhibitions and they have been very good – maybe with the odd exception. No names!

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

To **Colin New** for his talk on Rajasthan and the Shetland isles and for his excellent commentary on the London Salon Exhibition.

Erica Oram for her talk “Seeing Opportunity” which was the best attended evening all year.

Terry Irons, Trevor Unwin, Roger Moore, Mark Tomlinson, Gareth Morgan and Mike Newman for the excellent members' evenings.

To **Terry Irons** and the AV group for their very entertaining evening of AVs.

To those who contributed to the **8 for 10 evening**. Some of these members were new to speaking about their images so well done to them; it was a very good evening. Those contributing were **Judy Smith, Sue Richardson, John Beadman, Susan Chambers, Linda Jackson, June Gorman, Wayne Hallam and Terry Chambers**.

Thank you goes to **Pat Rutter** for an excellent and varied 2017 Summer Programme, giving members many opportunities to take lots of images.

On behalf of the Club and Council, I'd also like thank her for her work as Secretary this year; she has kept us informed as a club about events and ensured that we all do what has to be done on time.

Alan Phillips took over from Pat as Summer Programme Coordinator this year and has done a lot of research into possible places to visit. He has put together a really interesting 2018 Summer Programme, including a lock-in at the Cathedral, though I am told it is BYO. Unfortunately, Alan is having to give up his post because of increased outside commitments so we would like to thank him for all he's done this year.

Many thanks also go to **Richard Hall** for his tremendous work and enthusiasm as External Competition Secretary. We have had some great successes this year both as a club and as individuals. The choosing of appropriate images and prints to enter competitions is no easy job. Thanks to his team of **Jim** and **Erica** for this as well.

I would like to thank **John Scholey** for all his work as Exhibition Co-coordinator. Along with **Mike Smith** and **Linda Jackson**, they organised the very successful and popular Winter Garden exhibition. We have just staged the 2018 Annual Exhibition at the Cathedral which John co-ordinated and led very successfully, helped again by Mike and Linda plus a large team of helpers.

He has also led a team preparing for the YPU Exhibition and spent many hours liaising with the YPU committee, attending meetings and scheduling tasks and dates. This has been an enormous undertaking and he has been supported by **Linda Jackson** in this. I'd like us to give them a special round of applause for this.

Every organisation needs someone to keep an eye on the finances and that has been our Treasurer **David Greenwood**. Thank you for keeping a watchful and very efficient eye on the purse strings! Also thank you to the Auditors, **Mike McManus** and **Roger Ward**, for verifying the accounts.

Judy Smith, our Membership Secretary, has done meet and greet at the front desk all year and made new members feel at home. So a big thank you to Judy for being not only Membership Secretary but Club Archivist as well.

Thank you to **Terry Irons** for organising the AV Group and passing on his expertise. Also for being the projectionist and fetching and carrying equipment to various meetings. Also we are grateful to **Terry** for his evenings on Lightroom and Nik Effects, both very informative and useful and for organising an evening by Epson on printing and printers.

John Gorman (Publicity Officer) has done a great job of raising the profile of the club and getting lots of publicity for our events. He has strengthened our links to the Star and Telegraph and ensured we do not just get local publicity. We have had special features in the YPU and RPS Newsletters and been featured on Radio Sheffield. Thank you, too, to **Julia Greenwood** who has been responsible for all the YPU Exhibition publicity and for finding sponsors. She has done a fantastic job.

We are indebted to **Mike Newman** our News Editor for all his work on the management of the Forum, running the Forum Competition and the organisation of critique groups.

Thank you goes to the Internal Competition Team of **Jane Perryman, Linda Jackson** and **Sue Richardson** for their organisation of images and prints for the Members' Print Competition.

Steve Dorey, our Web Master, has done a great job maintaining the website and keeping it refreshed. He also works tirelessly on club nights with Terry on the projector.

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. Thank you also to his regular team of helpers.

Also to **Jane Perryman** for buying the refreshments for us and to all those who have volunteered with teas and coffees.

I'd also like to thank all those who volunteered to give the Vote of Thanks at the end of meetings.

And finally thank you to the elected members on Council: **Ann Woolhouse, Jane Perryman, Elizabeth Uruchurtu** and **Gareth Morgan** for their input.

Now I come to my **President's Award** for 2017/18. This is for someone I have already mentioned previously. It goes to someone who puts in hours of work to make the club successful. To someone who doesn't seek the limelight and is always modest about what he does. To someone who this year especially has had to juggle numerous tasks, dates and meetings for three major events. If you haven't guessed by now – it is **John Scholey**.

Normally this would be my last duty as President but this year we have the YPU to host starting on Saturday. So I'll be Honorary President for a few days yet at the Assembly and with the YPU Committee showing them round. I'm sure it is going to be very successful and will bring both the club and city great prestige.

Finally I'd like to wish Jim a very successful and enjoyable year as our President in 2018/19, as he takes over for the second time.

It's over to you Jim! But I do want the chain back for a few days.

John Ferretti