

Chairman's report for the AGM

Cranleigh Camera Club Thursday 4th June 2026

Introduction

Last year I was delighted and also surprised to stand for election and be elected to the position of Chairman of this wonderful club. Taking on the role of chair was not without its challenges and I'm very grateful for the support I have received from Ed our previous chair, the committee and you the members.

I've enjoyed the position and learnt new skills and trust that I have served the club well during my tenure even when I was on the missing list!

Financial position

The club's funds have remained in the care of our Treasurer Mike Hall, who has carefully forecasted spend and ensured that at the end of the year there's a small surplus and we in a good position.

To supplement the Club's Lloyds Bank Account, a new 'Sumup' account has been setup in order that card payments can be accepted. This allows for greater financial flexibility, immediate real time visibility of transactions and balances through a point of sale system (POS). There is the ability then for prompt transfers to the main Lloyds account. Personally I'm delighted to see this advancement.

I'm aware that Mike will provide further information within his report, so to avoid duplication I will not provide specific detail.

Mike has decided to stand down from the role of Club Treasurer that he has held for a number of years and I believe through the benefit of Mike's wisdom the club has remained in a good stable financial position despite rising costs and reduction in membership. On behalf of the club I would like to express my gratitude to Mike for all his efforts, skills and foresight.

Membership

This year there are 25 paid members excluding our two honorary members. Despite efforts on social media, there appears there is a declining interest in people joining the club although there are some enquiries for membership next year. A free period of membership was offered and accepted to the winner of the public open competition and it is likely that this will translate to full paid membership next year.

Membership numbers remain critical for the club's future wellbeing and we are grateful for the work undertaken by our membership secretary, Gwen Ward, to help keep numbers stable and following up all new member enquiries.

Club programme

For a small club we offer a very full and varied programme, with the competition evenings attracting the most interest. This included the three internal competition. Almost every member entered images to the competitions and in total 456 images were judged.

Other competitions held were Ludshot interclub, Reg Mullard Nature, the Chairmans Challenge and finally the 'Best Image'. Congratulations to everyone that has taken part and the winners.

The club has also run club events to cover different aspects of photography and we were delighted to welcome either in person or using Zoom four excellent guest speakers. There were also other evenings run by our more experienced members and I'm extremely grateful for their participation in particular Miles, Ron and Pete. We also visited some local areas through the season that were very interesting. The gun powder factory was a blast!

During several of the meetings held in the Church Hall, there were complaints that some members were not able to hear the speakers or judges. The committee have considered the options available and following the trial of a portable PA system a purchase will be made for the next season.

Overall, the club's activity in terms of the programme has been extremely interesting, educational, diverse and most importantly enjoyable!

I'm very grateful for our programme secretary Angela Karney and the committee for the effort to create and manage the programme to ensure the success of each event. I know this isn't easy and looking forward to the future we need all members to continue to support the club.

External SPA competitions

At last year's AGM there were no members that stood for election to become the External Competition Secretary and as a consequence the club was not able to enter any external competitions through the Surrey Photographic Society (SPA).

Club Photographic Exhibitions

The Club held two exhibitions during the year. The first was held in Cranleigh Library in February and was sponsored by Busy Bee Coffee. This was a small scale exhibition that was within the main area of the library and was free to view. This exhibition exhibited a small number of prints, but generated some interests from Library visitors. Overall, the exhibition was successful and promoted the open public competition.

The main annual exhibition took place again in the Village Hall in a similar format as previous years. Almost every club member entered images to be judged. Overall, there were almost 400 images. There was limited member contribution to the planning, organisation and admin of the event that was left in the main left to committee members. However, on the day everyone made an excellent effort and the exhibition was well presented.

As part of the exhibition a public open competition was held. The winners were announced during the exhibition and this was received very well with people who had entered attending.

Some members considered that the public attendance was less than last year and revenue was also down from previous years. The exhibition judge also provided feedback in general about the format and arrangements of the judged images. In view of this it was decided by the club committee to present a resolution to the AGM.

Committee

The committee met frequently during the year to deal with club business and also to plan the Annual Exhibition.

The members of the committee have been fully committed to their respective roles and worked to look after the club's future. However, the shortfall of a vice Chair, Publicity officer and External Competition Secretary has reduced the committee's overall capacity. Fortunately, Ed has remained an active committee member on an advisory level and also to address any website issues.

My planned absence from January probably had no or a limited impact. However, when I was unable to return to the UK in March I presume my presence was missed. I am very grateful for everyone who stepped in during this period but it is without any doubt the lack of a vice chair was detrimental.

Going forward Mike Hall has decided to stand down as Treasurer and also Competition Secretary. Both of these roles are important to running of the club and Mike has undertaken these duties with a high level of professionalism and attention to detail. We now seeking nominations for both these roles or other consequential changes within the committee members.

Angela Karney has agreed to continue to stand for election as Programme Secretary, but intends not to continue the role for the following year. I'm keen that someone comes forward as a co-opted member of the committee.

Personally, I'm only going to stand for election as Chair on the basis that no other member comes forward to stand for election. I also need to consider my other commitments and if I have capacity for the role of chair without a vice chair to support me in the role.

I believe that the priority going forward should be to attract new members by increasing the profile in the local community and engaging with other photographers – we need to open our doors more!

Thank you everyone for the massive support I have received this club year. I'm looking forward to the next year!

Mike Guy
Chairman
Cranleigh Camera Club