

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
AGM MAY 2007

When I began my year as president, I was fortunate to be able to build on the sure foundations of a society with an enthusiastic and growing membership. This was largely due to the commitment of presidents over many years, including last year's president, Norman Winterbottom, who sadly died suddenly last September. We all remember him with much affection and were indebted to his significant contribution to the society.

I was so sorry that one of my first duties as president was to attend the funeral of John May's wife, Joan, who was a member for many years and who also died suddenly, but we are glad John has found new happiness and we all wish him all the best for the future. On a happy note I was pleased to send a card to congratulate one of our honorary life members, Greg Fry, on his 65th wedding anniversary.

One of my aims at the start of the new season was to ensure that our membership continued to thrive, that all new members were made to feel welcome and would benefit from the weekly meetings as well as the workshops and would also enjoy the outings organized by John Tennant and walks by Peter Geldard. I think we have had an exceptional programme this season, thanks to our programme secretary, Joy Auty and the monthly workshops have proved very successful both for beginners and more advanced workers, thanks to a team of willing tutors and organizers. As always we have been fortunate to benefit from the talents of our own members, Steve Burkett, Barry Mann, Keith Taylor and Zoe Smith, who shared their skills and experiences with us.

I was very eager to see an improvement in our standing in external competitions. This, as you have heard in the Competition Secretary's report has been achieved with the exception of the slide championship, but I'm sure everyone was delighted by our success in the inter-club Digital Competition. The effects of digital technology continue to have an impact on all aspects of our photography with increased numbers of entries in both monthly competitions and the annual exhibition, with standards increasing all the time.

I was also very keen that our 74th annual exhibition would still be held at a venue in Winchester, although the Guildhall Gallery was no longer available. Thanks to the determination of our Exhibition coordinator, Roger Buchanan, this has been achieved and this year's exhibition will be held in the Saxon Suite, and we have the promise of a new venue, the Discovery Centre, for next year.

I have endeavoured, as president, to keep everyone fully informed of events and I hope that all have found email information useful and communication between the committee and members to be regular and productive. As a committee we try to take on board suggestions and comments from members and to this end you were asked to complete a questionnaire and the issues raised will be addressed by the new committee.

In my role as president I have had the support of a very hard working team of officers and committee members, whom I shall not thank individually, but you all know how much we owe them for the smooth running of the society. However, I would like to thank Clive Richardson for his commitment to supplying all our photographic and computer needs over a number of years, a service which we have all appreciated, but has unfortunately come to an end. My thanks, too, to George Walsh, who is an invaluable help to everyone, assisting in every possible way at our meetings and external events, as well as being a constant source of information. In addition, I must thank all those who are not on the committee who willingly give their help on a regular basis - Graham Eyles with assistance from Rita Geldard and Leila Joshua, who provide our refreshments. Rita with Marjorie Jackson has organized the occasional raffles, as well assisting on competition nights with Anne Ruffell. David Taylor has continued to maintain and update our website which I know attracts new members and he also helps out in many other ways. John Duke always checks the sound system alongside John Davis and others regularly help with equipment and preparation for the meetings. I am indebted to you all.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as president and I wish my successor, David Simmonds, good luck for the forthcoming season and know that you will all support him in maintaining the status of Winchester Photographic Society as one of the most successful clubs in the south.

Barbara Lambert
President