**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020**

Welcome back to Earl Shilton Camera Club for a new season of photographic activity. Following the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic, we look forward to the new season. We hope our members both old and new are experiencing some normality again and that our shared hobby of photography brings a new joy to life.

 2019/20 was another good year for the club and we were doing well up until the season being suspended’ following the meeting of 11th March. We continue to go from strength to strength and it is generally recognized that the standard of work within the club reaches ever higher levels. Congratulations to Phil Malin winner of Photographer of the Year and The Secretary’s Challenge. Also Julie Holbeche-Maund for winning the Trevor Wain Trophy for British landscapes and James Botterill for the Image of the Year.

Before the suspension of the season we had again been doing well in external competitions including retaining the Cedars Challenge, coming first in the Lutterworth Presidents Panel and the Fosse Co-op interclub competition. The club also did extremely well at Midphot with many members’ entries being accepted. Competition Secretary Gary Wood will have all the details in his report.

Following the suspension of the season we were able to complete POTY rounds 6 and 7 by holding the competitions online. For the Image of the Year, which was scheduled for May 13th, the judge Peter Gennard agreed to judge the images remotely and returned comments and modified images showing his thoughts. The main casualty to fall to the pandemic was the annual battle with Ashby PS.

I would like to thank all the committee for the hard work that helps to make the club the success that it is. To Ian Waite for providing our varied programme. John Langham in his first year as treasurer bringing a new professionalism to the role. To Jules for her fresh approach to the role of club secretary and supporting me as vice chair. To Gary Wood who as always makes an excellent competition secretary and is now technically supported by his son Dan. And of course to Steve Bexon, Paul Steans and James Botterill. During lockdown they have still worked to make sure that the future of the club is assured for our return and have planned for all scenarios. Unfortunately despite their hard work the Summer Exhibition fell by the wayside. During this unusual summer our interest has been kept alive by the Just4Fun competitions again thanks to Gary and Dan for the work they have put into this and Peter Lawrence for first suggesting the idea and providing the background music to the results presentation

On a personal note, I have been on the committee for seven years; four as club secretary and the past two years as chairman. I have enjoyed this time and seen the club go from strength to strength. I was deeply involved with the organization of our first keynote speaker, Chris Weston. Such evenings have seen our club go in a new direction. However much I have enjoyed this time I decided in May to step down. For the rest of the summer the committee have carried on without me. I will continue as an active club member and look forward to the year ahead.

 John Smith

 Chairman