

## **North Cheshire Photographic Society. AGM 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

### **Syllabus secretary's report for 20/21 season.**

The 20/21 lecture programme was finalised in early 2020 in pre-Covid times and was based on a traditional varied programme of visiting speakers plus speakers from our own Society. The growing seriousness of the pandemic and the imposition of national lock down conditions resulted in a change of plans and the programme was recast based on Zoom meetings until Christmas 2020 and then extended to cover the whole season. The outcome has been a different but rewarding experience with a varied and interesting programme successfully delivered. Twenty-three events were delivered of which 8 were led by club members. Presenters showed great skill and flexibility and quickly adapted to the new environment in which they delivered highly professional presentations.

In common with many other photographic clubs the pandemic gave the Society no option other than to adopt the use of cyber delivery. Apart from providing a lifeline, there were also other benefits from Zoom including the important ability to engage top class speakers independent of distance plus a very significant reduction in delivery costs with no accommodation or speaker expenses. The Zoom system proved resilient and quickly became well understood. The downsides were predictable in a loss of fraternity as we greeted each other through computer screens and also in presenting a more challenging speaker environment. The increase in home grown talent from our own membership who delivered excellent lectures was very heartening and bodes well for the future.

Thank you to all who supported the programme in so many different ways and to our chairman who had the task of officiating over cyberspace and handled the challenge with aplomb.

Bernie Rowlands

### **Syllabus secretary's report for the forthcoming 21/22 season.**

Our hosts at the Civic Centre have confirmed that when Covid restrictions are removed, we still cannot have our Council Chamber room on the second Tuesday in each month and neither can we have the main hall as an alternative. We may be able to negotiate the (very) occasional use of the main hall for such as our main speaker event. We are therefore faced with at least 9 meetings which can either be at another venue or we can go for Zoom. We have opted for the latter and following Bernie's successful programme initiative we have put together a syllabus where many of our Zoom speakers will be overseas - New Zealand, Mexico, California, Spain and Scotland (not quite overseas I grant you) but I think Nicola Fish might appreciate the epithet). Hopefully all these speakers are at the very top their game. We have a full and varied agenda for the year ahead, both Zoom and home meetings. Rest assured all presenters are aware that should we have a third Covid wave, requiring another set of social distancing measures, then we will be forced to revert to Zoom.

Bruce Kendrick