

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear members of the Bangor and North Down Camera Club,

It is amazing how time flies! It seems like only yesterday we had our 2008 club annual exhibition and now we are only a few weeks away from the beginning of the 2008-09 season. The camera club formal nights restart again on Friday 5th September and I'm looking forward to welcoming you back again for what promises to be a very entertaining year.

I hope you all had a good holiday and got plenty of great photographs. The first night back at the club is your chance to show us what you took, and we would like you to show us your holiday pictures. Either bring in a selection of your prints, or digital images for us all to see. Alternatively you can do them as a short AV presentation.

The programme committee have been hard at work over the summer months and have put together a varied and interesting programme for the new season which should have a little bit of something in there for everyone. One of the most requested things asked for by club members was more speakers. This year we have no less than twelve external speakers and four internal speakers. Many of the external speakers are new to our club including some from camera clubs in Southern Ireland. Topics covered will include book publishing, underwater photography, macro photography, natural history and sports photography. The club will also have an opportunity to have an outing to Christian Brothers camera club in March to meet Andy Rouse, one of the UK's most respected nature photographers.

The competition rules sub-committee have also been at work over the summer months and have listened to all the feedback they received from members last year. As a result the rules have been revised and further refined to incorporate those necessary changes. The new rules can be viewed and downloaded at the club web site and will also be available at the club premises as a printed copy to take away.

During the summer months our members have been active going on organised formal club outings on the first Saturday of every month. Outings were organised to Castle Ward, the hidden history of South Armagh, Carrickfergus castle, and the north coast highlights. Our sincere thanks to David Best, Sean Barton and to Chris Roberts for organising them which proved to be a great success both as a social outing and also to give folk great photo opportunities. I look forward to seeing your pictures from these trips in the forthcoming club competitions!

The Clubs 2008 Annual Exhibition winners are now up on display in the Flagship Centre in Bangor. They are in the same two locations as last year, which are upstairs at the Food Court and downstairs near the staircases at the back of the Shopping Centre. Once again they act as an excellent showcase displaying the talents of the members of our club, and we should all feel justifiably proud of this display.

Your committee also agreed that it was time that the digital viewing equipment should be upgraded. As a result we now have a new high quality projection screen that can be rolled out of view when not in use, and this will now give us more wall space for viewing prints.

Well, that's about all I have to say for now. Many thanks to all who worked so hard over the summer months organising outings as well as attending committee meetings and generally taking care of the club. The Wednesday night meetings have been going strong all through the summer and it was nice to see so many of our members regularly going to the club both as a social meeting and to learn from other members.

Looking forward to welcoming you back again on 5th September and enjoying the craic!

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Craig