

## My President's Report 2020/2021

The AGM requirement is for the President to sum up the past year, and look towards the next, and my report records a year like no other any of us have experienced. As we entered that first lockdown a year ago, we never imagined how long our confinement would continue for. We couldn't comprehend how many things would change in our lives and what things would gain importance and what would fill our lengthy hours at home. Each of us would approach this in different ways, with both positivity and negativity, some would love it and others hate it, some would learn new skills, paint and write and listen to the silence others would rail against the solitude, the loneliness, and the boredom. Many of us have been so lucky and not been struggling financially but feel so for those whose lives have been so affected.

The Photography world has welcomed Zoom into our lives, and it has become crucial not only for many types of club and activities but for many families across the world. So many of us embraced this technology, and the benefit of still maintaining our club life through it, has been very important for the Virtual Folkestone Camera Club. It is not ideal, not the same as human contact, but we have maintained some contact and enjoyed a really varied programme, with great input from members in showing their images and entering into the competitions both fun and league ones. Some might feel Zoomed out, but there is so much to learn from others, and find inspiration it is hard to not take advantage of these free or very cheap offerings being advertised everywhere. Our Chairman has detailed the past programme and when you see it listed you can appreciate the breadth and variety we have enjoyed during lockdown. In these still very uncertain times we are making plans for the future, but keeping them flexible. It will be up to you the members to plan the direction of travel. Personally I don't think we should look to the past but map out a new and different future for the club, the new word of the moment is "Hybrid Event"

The definition, **Hybrid events** are, quite simply, a mix of live and virtual **events**. You take your live **event**, complete with an audience, content, and more, and you add a virtual component to it so your audience can participate and engage with your **event**, no matter where they are.

How this will work will be up for discussion but we will need your support, both physical, virtual and by really getting involved in sharing your images, your ideas and enthusiasm for the continued journey of FCC and its life outside Lockdown. Please don't be a silent participant tell us what you think, and what you want.

Thank you to you the members, for your interest in maintaining Club life through Zoom, for entering our competitions and supporting our evenings.

Thank you to John our Chairman and the rest of the Committee for their hard work behind the scenes. Looking forward to a Hybrid Future.

Melanie Chalk  
President FCC