

I first took an interest in photography shortly after the end of WW2 when I acquired a Brownie Box camera (wish I still had it!). I developed my own film and made contact prints in a frame. I had several film cameras culminating in a twin lens Rolleicord fitted with an f2.8 Tessar lens which enabled me to produce excellent quality prints. Consequently, I got a Saturday job with a professional photographer in Liverpool who specialised in wedding photography. I would pick up several rolls of film plus two of his bookings, and return them later in the day hopefully with some good pictures.

This all fell by the wayside when I was persuaded to become a soldier for 2 years most of which was spent in the Suez Canal Zone and when that ended, I was more concerned with making up for time lost without the fairer sex. A couple of years later I tied the knot and I'm pleased to say still with my wife Eileen.

My photography then involved recording our holidays with our two children using Max Spielman to do the printing. Then around year 2000 digital cameras were appearing and I bought an Olympus Camedia 3040Z, 3.3 Mp – I still have it – and this revived my interest in printing my own pictures. I did an evening class course on Photoshop at Mid Cheshire College and bought an A4 colour printer.

I think it was in 2003 that I joined F&DPS. There were about a dozen or so members on my first evening in Gallery 3 at the Arts Centre and it was on that very evening that I was persuaded to become the Treasurer and Membership Sec. and was handed a set of double-entry account books which I fairly quickly abandoned after transferring the data on to a spreadsheet.

To the best of my memory, I think Hazel Bell and John Smart were the only other members at that time who still remain, but the onset of digital cameras inspired many more enthusiasts and the club quite quickly grew to its present size.

Being a keen Photoshop user, I soon developed a reputation for putting the odd sheep or a 'swan in flight' into a landscape taken on one of my trusty Nikon SLRs.

As Treasurer I've always been a Committee member and have helped to create the programme and the Membership Cards, and I will continue to do the latter. I designed and maintained the first website, a task now taken over by Andrew Williams and I log-in frequently to keep up with the club's activities. With regards to Monthly Competitions, I supply the title pages, log the results throughout the season and finally do the fiendish calculations for POY Awards.

At present, family commitments are keeping me away from meetings, and despite the fact that I have always thoroughly enjoyed the activities of the club, I hope this situation lasts as long as possible. In the meantime, I'll be popping in whenever I get the chance.

John Hughes
Vice President.