**2019-2020 Committee – Short biographies**

**Laura Drury – Chair**

Laura had always enjoyed taking photos but it wasn’t until she attended a 10 week eveningclass at Canterbury Christ Church University that she decided to take her hobby further. Since joining IOTPS in May 2017 Laura has truly ‘got the bug’ and has enjoyed learning from both the guest speakers and the judges critiques.  Having got to grips with Lightroom and Photoshop Laura now relishes the post processing as much as taking the initial shots. Whilst enjoying all types of photography Laura has developed a particular passion for composites - using textures and a combination of images to create a very different and original image.

**Rod Giddins – Secretary and Publicity Officer**

Rod’s father took many photographs in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) during the 2nd World War and sparked his interest in photography. He travelled extensively by train in the 1960’s and photographed the last days of steam on British Railways. This interest in railways has continued to the present day although key photographic interests are architecture and historic buildings, landscapes, flora and fauna. Rod is also keen on travel and enjoys “candid” photographs. He doesn’t like posed, studio or portrait photography.

Rod has learnt much from other members and speakers at IOTPS meetings and hopes to continue to improve his skills. He has never owned an expensive camera and all his images are taken with a compact or “bridge” camera.

**John Robinson: Membership Secretary**

Photography has been an all-consuming interest with John ever since he built his first darkroom when he was eighteen. The hobby has many subjects and facets. Landscape, portraiture, macro, sport, architecture, & wildlife are just some of them.

Among John’s particular interests is stereo photography, which led to him publishing a book of local views of the subject in 2017, using red & blue glasses to give the 3D effect.

John also volunteers at two local museums which involves auditing, scanning and repairing old photographs.

A recent development is developing skills in video editing of old publicity films. This in turn leads to understanding audio, and how to add soundtracks. So, sixty years after building his first darkroom John is still learning.

**Nicola Clamp:** **Joint Competition Secretary and Webmaster**

Nicola has always enjoyed taking photographs and has had cameras since she was young, snapping away without really worrying about the precise technicality of the images. She has always liked to take landscape shots and would come back from holidays both abroad and in the UK with a large number of pictures, mostly so that she could look back at the places that she had been. Nicola did not really ever try many other forms of photography, except taking pictures of her dog, before joining the Thanet Camera Club. However she has been inspired, by looking at the images of other members, to try new things, including more abstract photography, close up/macro and street photography. She was a little bit scared of using editing software but took the plunge and got Photoshop with the NIK collection add on, allowing her to have hours of fun trying to come up with more polished images and also images that had a little bit more of her in them. Nicola has come to realise that you should take pictures of what you like and decide why you like the scene or subject before you take the shot.

**Carwyn Mills: Joint Competition Secretary**

Carwyn has always been an avid photographer starting his journey in Mid Wales in the 90’s. He has a range of photographic interests, but particularly enjoys still and wildlife subjects. IOTPS has provided Carwyn with great and advice and techniques and has inspired him to perfect Macro photography in particular.