**2020-2021 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 Sammonds**- **Programme Secretary**

John has been a member for some 30 years and has taken an active role in the club. He is currently the Program secretary and therefore it is his responsibility to ensure that we have an enjoyable evening. He started taking pictures at the age of 14 and has seen many changes in photography at club level. He loves the diversity of images that club photography brings and the company of like-minded people in camera clubs.

**Julia Booton: Membership Secretary**

Julia discovered her love of photography when she did a foundation course in Art and Design at East Surrey Art College. She then went on to start a part time degree in Photography at Westminster University, but due to family circumstances had to leave after one year. Many years later she took up photography again and by joining the club she has learned new ways of creating digital images. She particularly likes street photography and “capturing the moment” but tries not to be too serious in her approach, adding a bit of humour if possible. The competitions have also motivated her to make an effort and overcome her reluctance to enter, which has given her more confidence. The feedback has been helpful and enabled her to move forward with her photography. She has found IOTPS to be a very friendly club and there are always people willing to help and share their experience.

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

Nicola has always enjoyed taking photographs and has had cameras since she was young. 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. Nicola did not really ever try many other forms of photography, before joining the camera club, but has now been inspired by seeing other members’ images to try new things, including more abstract photography, close up/macro and street photography. 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.

**John Draper - Treasurer**

John has owned a camera ever since buying his first SLR camera, a Nikkormat FT2 in his late teens and has enjoyed taking photographs ever since. Having gained independence from his now adult children, John has been able to devote time to this passion! For John, photography is about enjoying the great outdoors, whether indulging in Landscape or Wildlife photography. He can often be seen on the beach with a camera and tripod before sunrise, even during the summer! Once the sun has come up, he will switch into birdwatching/bird photography mode. John has a particular passion for macro photography and has been using this interest to study, in detail, the insect life in his garden for the past five years. So far amongst many other insects, he has photographed and recorded 35 species of bee in his garden. John has a very good working knowledge of Lightroom and on rainy days is working on his Photoshop skills. For John, time indoors on a sunny day is time wasted!