

Dear Member,

Here is a report of our meeting held on Monday 25 October 2021.

I have written this report in two parts, the first part describes the content of the meeting and the second part details various technical difficulties that we experienced and these will be discussed by our committee at the next committee meeting on Monday 8 November 2021.

The content of the meeting

Admittance was from 2:00 and the room and equipment was setup by 2:10pm

The meeting was well attended with 14 members in the hall and on Zoom were 2 members and 2 guests from the U3A Mill Hill photographic group.

The main presentation was The "British Press Photographers Association annual awards for 2021". Brian had visited this exhibition in September, which was held just behind the OXO tower on the River Thames in a building called the Barge House. Canon had sponsored this exhibition that was in rooms on on five floors. Originally, there had been about 900 entries from which 100 were printed 20" by 16" and beautifully displayed in black frames. Brian showed a selection of these photos in several different categories. The photographs showed different aspects of, elegance, impact, public concerns and humour.

Andrew introduced the competition winners based on the number of points cast by the members who had voted in each competition using 3,2,1 points. Andrew explained that 3,2,1 gave a more decisive result than 1-1-1, and members were unanimous in preferring to use the 3,2,1 system

The competition winners for "Freedom" winners;

- 1-- John Clark - Freedom of Flight - White Capped Albatros
There was fine detail in this large bird with a mean and keen look.

- 2-J Ian Brown - Red deer in the rut
This male deer dressed in Sunday best was nicely in focus and there was depth of field.

- 2-J Janet Nicolas - Peace is Freedom
This seascape so peaceful that one wanted to walk in the solitude of its beach..

- 3-J John Clark - Freedom of flight - Bald eagle
The was fine details in this powerful eagle as it flew in search of prey.

3-J Janet Nicolas - Freedom from Fear

Young boys raced along a BMX course as though they were extras in the film E.T.

3-J Malcolm Barwick - Her new Freedom

Young girl enjoying her new roller skates, perhaps her next vehicle will be the adjacent BMW.

The competition winners for "Shot of the Month" winners;

1--- Andrew Longhurst - Gull from 12 yards away

Andrew was very pleased with photo taken with a bridge camera on maximum zoom.

2--- Freda Longhurst - Storm Bird

Lovely, a bird on wet beach pebbles and all about to be drenched with the next wave.

3-J Brian Hillier - Shaggy Mane Fungi

A strong image of fungi edible when young but these look too disgusting to eat.

3-J Ian Brown - You looking at me!

This black bird looked so confrontational as if it would enjoy an argument or punch-up

Wifi connections

- Was excellent and it was possible to view Google Photo Albums on on the internet and project them on the screen. This means that Andrew will no longer have to previously download each album and insert the photos into a PowerPoint slide-show to project during our meeting.

The Technical difficulties.

This was the Group first attempt at a hybrid meeting, and we expected that the presentations would be OK and mainly they were. However, we were uncertain how there could be interaction between the members in the hall and on Zoom.

Here is a list of difficulties experienced and these will be discussed by the committee at their next meeting on 8 November.

Firstly, I would like to thank Andy, Tony, Andrew and the Zoom viewers who helped to correct these problems.

1. Brian's presentation
 - Started presenting and the Powerpoint was projected correctly on the screen
 - But the presentation was not being shared to those on Zoom
 - Restarted presentation, those in the hall saw the correct projection, but Zoom viewers saw the "Presenter view", Brian located the option to "Hide Presenter View".
2. The projector failed just before the end of Brian's presentation, though the Zoom viewers would have continued to see the slide-show. The Projector was re-connected to Andrew's laptop but initially failed to display on the screen, though the Zoom viewers would have seen Andrew's initial comments.
3. The projector may have overheated and switched its self off. Perhaps the projector's airflow was obstructed by dust.
4. When the projector is connected to the laptop, the laptop then acts as though it has two monitors called 1 and 2, and presenter has to select the correct screen for Projection and Zoom.
5. There was feedback from the presenting laptop, the Zoom viewing laptop, and Mobile phone that was going to be used as a roving mike. Two of the three have to be muted.
6. The Hall audience could not hear the Zoom viewer's comments.
7. The "presenter" was unable to see any zoom viewer's even if they wished to comment.
8. There was great difficulty trying to allow members in the hall or on Zoom to comment as the members were dotted around the room making it impossible for Andy to present their comment with his phone acting as a "roving microphone".
9. During the many efforts being made to correct the situation there was no way to inform the Zoom viewers what was happening.

The committee will be discussing these topics and will keep you informed.

Kind regards,
Brian