

U3A Digital Photo Group – 25th February 2019 Meeting Notes

General

The 25th February meeting was a good one with an excellent turnout (*22 Members + Apologies from others unable to attend*).

Before anything else, this to ask for volunteers (willing or otherwise!☺) to step forward to prepare &/or assist with presentations for meetings in the immediate/near future as summarised briefly below, and in more detail further down:

- The “**Photographing Outdoor Events**” presentation that I will give at the March mtg
- A **Printing demonstration** using (hopefully) Epson, Canon & HP printers to demonstrate how to produce good quality prints with each type
- Prepare and give a presentation on **how to photograph Children & Animals** as this is an obvious subject for the Spring and Summer seasons
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Main Presentation: Robert Waltz “Landscape Photography – Lessons Learned”

Robert gave a presentation about the experiences gained when his wife and himself attended a residential Landscape Photography in Tuscany in October last year, which we all both enjoyed, and learnt a lot from, the presentation, and so, Robert, thank you very much! ☺

He is now in the process of updating and expanding the slide show that he gave, and it should be on our webpages in a few days or so.

The February Prints Competition “Reflections”

The February Prints competition was “Reflections” (*from any shiny surface*) as that obviously included **from** “Water”, and possibly “Landscapes” &/or “People” reflected **by/in** Water, Glass (etc.).

17 very good prints were entered, and here are the results of the Voting that took place after the tea and coffee break:

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|-------------------|---|------------------|---|
| - 1 st | - | Andrew Longhurst | “Sunrise at Denham Lake” |
| - 2 nd | - | Margaret Mayes | “Ripples” (she threw a stone in – that was “cheating”! ☺) |
| - 3 rd | - | Len Fenton | “Canal Bridge at Alvechurch” |
| - 4 th | - | Margaret Mayes | “Nepalese Reflections” |

The Winning Members should send the image files for those shots to the email address (hillingtonu3a.pictures@gmail.com) - giving the:

Competition name, the photo position number and the “photo name” (as above), and, of course, their own name, and the image file sizes should be NO LARGER than 1Mb.

The winning shots will on our website pages (<https://u3asites.org.uk/hillingdon/page/81260>) a few days after the next WCH meeting on 11th March.

“YOUR Shot of the Month, ANYTHING goes!”

As usual (*this competition is getting popular!*) we had a good entry of 17 images to look at, and so the Members discussed where and how the shots were taken.

We then had the opportunity to vote, and so the 4 “winning” entries were:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------|---|
| - 1 st | - | Andrew Longhurst | “Dawn on the Grand Union Canal” |
| - 2 nd | - | Janet Nicholas | “Statue of Lady looking Right” (Titanic Quarter, Belfast) |
| - 3 rd | - | Brian Hillier | “Iced Windscreen” |
| - 4 th | - | Margaret Mayes | “Street Portrait” (Nepal) |

Since I already have the image files, I have reduced each one to <1Mb max (where necessary) and sent them on Tony Kemp, who has now added them to our web pages here

<https://u3asites.org.uk/hillingdon/page/86648>.

This “competition” is proving popular, and so please send me up **to three (3) digital images** of your “best shots” each month

– ***doesn't matter what the subject is, providing it is interesting, and well composed & executed***
(and give date & location where it was taken, if possible).

NB: shots must be taken between the current meeting and just before the next meeting:

Thus, for the February meeting, shots must be taken between 26th February and the next meeting on 25th March 2019

- but please send them to me by around 20th March to give me time to put them into the presentation for the 25th!

The March Prints Competition = “Landscapes”

When the question of the subject for the March Prints competition was raised, and with Robert having given his presentation on Landscape photography, there was a clear consensus for choosing “Landscapes” as the subject for this competition.

To remind you: prints are to be from shots taken in the **last 12 months** (*preferably a lot more recently than that!*) before the meeting in question, should be between (roughly) A5 & A4 size, and with the following info on the back (a post-it will do):

- Date
- Camera make/type
- Image size (in “pixels”) & Image file size (in “kB” or “MB”)
- Shutter speed, Aperture size, and possibly the exposure metering mode
- Lens “focal length” & Zoom setting (only “sometimes” for some camera/lens combos)
- ISO sensitivity setting
- Any Exposure adjustments used, including possibly “White Balance” setting.
- Whether flash was used
- If you did “post production work” (“Photoshopping”, etc.) then notes on what you did.

Subjects for Presentations and Discussions at Future meetings

– and a call for Volunteers to present those!

To gauge what Members would like to see, *and to participate in*, at future meetings, I posed a few possibilities and asked for further suggestions, and thus interest was expressed in having presentations on the following:

Printing

Many members are able to produce very good prints, but it seems to be a “black art” to some others, and thus to help the latter group we aim to have a session on the subject.

However, it is complicated by the fact that there are (probably) three main home-use colour printer suppliers (Epson, Canon, HP) and each has its own, *and slightly differing*, software and processes – thus making it difficult to prepare a “one size fits all” presentation.

Therefore we would like three members, each having a printer from one of those suppliers, to cooperate to prepare & present a joint presentation – based on producing several prints from the same images, and showing the similarities and differences in the processes.

Thus, we need volunteers (willing or otherwise! 😊) to step forward if they have an Epson, Canon or HP printer which they are willing to bring along to demonstrate how to produce good quality prints with it.

- **Children & Animals**

An obvious subject for the Spring and Summer seasons

– **would anyone like to volunteer to prepare and deliver a presentation on that subject?**

- **“Events” Photography**

The “outdoor events” season will start fairly soon and so, given that the above two presentation subjects will take time to arrange and prepare, I aim to give a short presentation on this subject at the March meeting

– **but would anyone else with some experience and ideas like to work with me on this?**

Monthly meeting Diary Dates for 2019 – the 4th Monday of each month

(EXCEPT for some which will be on Thursdays as indicated below)

Mon 25th Mar, **Thrs** 25th Apr, **Thrs** 30th May, Mon 24th June, Mon 22nd July, **Thrs** 29th Aug^{**}, Mon 23rd Sept, Mon 28th Oct, Mon 25th Nov, **Thrs** 19th Dec

- ****** As previously mentioned, whether we should have a meeting in August would be discussed with the Members, and thus we had that discussion and then a vote - however, that turned out to be almost evenly split between those who wanted a meeting and those who did not. Therefore, with no decisive vote either way *but* with a substantial number of votes for having the meeting, it was decided that we **will** have it, as proposed, on **Thrs 29th August**.

PS: We would very much appreciate “Apologies” emails/phone calls if you can’t attend any of the meetings!

All the best and see you on **MONDAY 25th March 2019**

John

And on behalf of the other members of the Steering Committee: Judy Peddie, Len Fenton and Brian Hillier!

NB: you will soon be able to see these Notes on-line at <https://u3asites.org.uk/hillingdon/page/61662>, where you will also find those from previous meetings, and also much information & guidance on many aspects of photography, learning how to use your camera, image processing and printing, etc.!