

U3A Digital Photo Group Meeting – 28 March 2022

Dear Member,

Here is a report (as amended) of our meeting on 28 March 2022.

1. The meeting was well attended

There were thirteen attendees in the Baptist Hall and six via Zoom.

2. Presentation "Microsoft Windows 10 Photos and FastStone"

Andrew, thank you for presenting the features.

The principal features were;

Windows 10 Photos – has a range of editing tools such as, crop, resize, adjust colour etc, and is simple to learn.

FastStone (<https://www.faststone.org/download.htm>) has many more editing tools for the more advanced user -> FastStone Image Viewer 7.5 - Photo editing - Download this one as well as other Apps available from that site:

- FastStone Capture 9.7 - A PC/laptop screen capture application
- FastStone MaxView 3.3 - View, adjust, resize and annotate images
- FastStone Photo Resizer 4.3 - Image converter and renaming, photo editor that runs in Batch mode.

After each download you will be asked, but not obliged, to make a donation - I download all four applications and then donated \$15 which is £11.97

Do NOT download any FastStone applications from any other 'Free Software download site' as it might contain 'malware'

These two Photo editors were easier to use than Adobe Photoshop or Affinity photo, which required a great deal of learning and practice.

3. The competition results

Brian introduced our competitions in the following way.

- A brief run through of the all photos
- Then discuss those photos with higher winning votes
- Then critique some of those photos which did not score any votes.

3.1 Results for "Snap into Spring" - 28 March 2022

1st	Springtime Warmth - Told the story of a release from lockdown, a chance for two friends to converse in a relaxed manner on a warm day	Steve Binysh
2nd	Crocus's - Lovely rich colours, background nicely blurred without distractions	Ian Brown
3rd	A Bunny Good Picture - A pleasing and inventive arrangement of flowers and small doll with a black background	Andrew Longhurst
4J	Raindrop keep falling on my leaf - A well seen appealing and intriguing image of raindrops on a tulip leaf	Freda Longhurst
4J	Blossom - A lovely light frothy cloud of white blossom against a blue sky.	Janet Nicolas
5J	Langley Park Rhodedendron - We liked the depth of colour and that every part of the flower was in focus.	Margaret Dorigan

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5J	My My Mimosa - A pleasing arrangement of yellow flowers and green leaves with an appropriate witty title.	Elisabeth Curran
P6-8	All these photos with votes had lovely colours and / or were pleasing images	

3.2 Results for "Shot of the Month - 28 March 2022"

1st	Black Headed gull juvenile - Lovely photo of gull in perfect focus flying into picture against subtle pink/brown reeds blue water.	Ian Brown
2nd	Sunderland flying boat - Very strong image of fuselage interior in which the crew would have flown for 10-12 hours searching for submarines and attacking them.	Steve Binysh
3-J	Robin Longshanks - The Robin is in perfect focus with catch light in the eye. Andrew said Robin was very tame and posed for him.	Andrew Longhurst
3-J	Coral Protea - An eye-catching photo of this flower. The grainy appearance is due to its small file size of 581KB.	Janet Nicolas
4-J	Unnamed Tree - An attractive composition of semi-tropical plants	Janet Nicolas
4-J	Leonburgers on a walk in Sarratt - Strong image of a large dog that weighs 45-75kg. Name comes from furry mane like a lion.	Malcolm Barwick
5-J	Ribbit, Ribbit - Striking image seen in Kew Gardens. Some members wondered if it ate mashed potatoes.	Margaret Dorigan
5-J	Heron's Head - Strong image with great details, in light colours emphasised by being against a very dark background.	Ian Brown
5-J	Citroen Row - Fine image of Roupell Street, in a 19th century conservation area near Waterloo Bridge. Roupell Street used in many films 'Mr Selfridge', 'Call the Midwife', 'Doctor Who' and the 'Kray Twins - Legend' with the gangsters black cars in the street.	Elisabeth Curran
5-J	Green Parakeet - Striking image, good detail, delicious food (<i>for a bird</i>) and nicely blurred background.	Freda Longhurst
5-J	The Big Kid - Captures the joyful moment of the child that is always in us unable to resist a ride on a swing.	Malcom Barwick

3.3 Critique of those photos that did not score any votes

The competition photos that did not score any votes were displayed without the photographer's name, to preserve anonymity.

- There will always be photos that do not score votes, i.e.
 - If 10 photos are submitted by 10 photographers
 - Each photographer has 1 vote, and 5 photographers vote for the same photo
 - Then there will be 4 photos that cannot receive any votes.
- General comments on those photos that did not receive any votes
 - No main point of interest, though might have been improved with cropping
 - There were distracting areas on the photo, e.g. white glare, bits of rubbish.
 - The vibrancy of colours or contrast was weak
 - The subject had little impact or interest.

3.4 The Full Voting results

28 March 2022 - Snap into Spring			28 March 2022 - Shot of the Month		
Title	Tot	Pos	Title	Tot	Pos
Springtime warmth	9	1	Black Headed gull juvenile	10	1
Crocus's	8	2	Sunderland Flying Boat	6	2

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A Bunny Good Picture	6	3	Robin Long Shanks	5	3
Blossom	5	4	Coral Protea	5	3
Raindrops keep falling on my leaf	5	4	Unnamed Tree	4	4
Langley Park Rhododendron	4	5	Leonburgers on a walk in Sarratt	4	4
My, My, Mimosa!	4	5	Ribbit, ribbit.	3	5
What a beauty	3	6	Herons Head	3	5
How did they get there	3	6	Citroën Row	3	5
The spring chickens (U3A chair arobics).	3	6	Green Parakeet	3	5
Langley Park	2	7	The Big Kid	3	5
St Giles Early Spring	2	7	Whose a Pretty Boy	2	1
Daffodils with a difference	1	8	War Protest	2	1
Magnolia Sky	1	8	After the storm	2	1
A Golden Host	1	8	Turkey Tail Fungi	2	1
Magnolias	0		A tree with a message	0	
Look hard and what do you see	0		Kid and Cat	0	
Spot the spider	0		U3A-Ukulele Concert Group	0	
Spring in Madeira	0		Morley Glory	0	
Dafs-under-bow	0		A neighbour's handiwork	0	
Euphorbia, Wolf's Milk	0		Flint Wall	0	
One Big Egg	0		Storm Damage	0	
Caught in the web	0		Where am I only 8 miles from the centre of London	0	

4. Our next Competitions

- Themed competition is "**Before and After Photo Editing**"

For each of your three entries you will submit two separate photos, named in the following way

- Title of photo - Then letter A.jpg
- Same title of photo - Then letter B.jpg

e.g.

- Green Parakeet - A.jpg The original photo before editing
- Green Parakeet - B.jpg The photo after editing

5. Important Dates

- 11 Apr - Mon - 3pm Committee meeting
- 17 Apr - Sun - midnight - Final submission of your photo entries
- 23 Apr - Sat - midnight - Final submission of your votes
- 25 Apr - Mon - Group meeting at Baptist Church and via Zoom

6. Technical point - Sound quality of Laptop in Hall

Initially the HP laptop sound in the Hall was far too faint.

- It was much improved by coming out of Zoom,
- Going to Settings -> Sound -> Two speakers appeared to be present
- Selected each speaker in turn, adjust volume to 100 % and test
 - Best speaker in HP Laptop was 'Speaker (Realtek(R) Audio)

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7. **Technical point - Audience comments could not be heard by those on Zoom**
The committee will consider and test a roving microphone

8. **Technical point - Some images will not fill Album Page or appear grainy**
Usually due to a small file size. An optimum size is 3600 Horizontal 2200 Vertical pixels.
Can be improved by resizing to a larger file size and extra pixels will be interpolated between the original pixels.

If this has been a problem for you, you may wish to create your own test Google Album and add your own photos to see the effect.

9. **Interesting suggestions from members**
From Sheppy. - Click on this link to see more lovely pictures of Scotland

[Your pictures of Scotland: 11 - 18 March - BBC News](#)

The meeting ended at 4pm.

Brian Hillier,
Group Leader