

Good afternoon

The 28th June Zoom virtual meeting went well, with 12 members on line (& several apologies).

However, before reporting about the meeting, it has been decided that, for **August this year**, we would aim to organise an **Outdoor Photo Shoot** instead of having a Zoom virtual meeting, and thus:

Please send your suggestions for locations and dates to Brian (bhillier75@gmail.com)) ASAP so that the Committee can review and discuss them, and then circulate a “shortlist” of the “best options”.

General

Brian introduced the meeting and then passed it over to John for his presentation “Outdoor Events Photography”.

The Presentation: " Outdoor Events Photography" from John

This was freely admitted to be an updated and amended version of one originally prepared in 2019, but, given that we’ve been in lockdown for a long period since then, reminders of how to approach this area of photography were thought to be a good idea for to members who haven’t been to outdoor events for a long time.

It discussed various aspects of the subject, and notably the general similarities and differences between “**Static Events**” where subjects move slowly (*if at all*) and “**Action Events**” where subjects move rapidly and often in “unpredictable” directions.

The main topics were:

- Significant “Common Things to Remember” at both types of event:
- “Action Events” are more challenging because:
 - o They are typically “time-scheduled”, so arrive early enough to see/shoot what you want.
 - o The location from where you shoot can significantly affect your results
 - o Shutter speeds are very important and will vary according to the subjects and the intended results
 - o Autofocus may not work well for fast-moving subjects
 - o Successful shooting is difficult using camera / phone screens, so use optical viewfinders if you have them.
- How to prepare **beforehand** for an event, and what to do when you get there (*apart from taking photos!*).

An updated version of the presentation (**Outdoor Event Photography, 2021-06-28 Final 2.pptx**) will be found on our webpages, and the embedded hyperlinks point to the relevant example photos on John’s Google Photos account - where they will remain there for at least 3 months (*i.e., the end of September 2021*). *Hopefully a pdf version, including those example photos, can be produced but that may take time in order for it to be suitable for the Hu3a website.*

“Identify Your USB Storage” – Brian’s methodical approach using USB Memory Sticks

Following his general presentation on computer backups in May, Brian gave a short presentation to show how he personally backs-up all his photo & data files onto USB memory sticks, labels them carefully and then stores them in a dedicated cabinet - a PDF version of his presentation will soon be .

The method obviously works very well for him – but it does involve buying quite a large number of 32GB (*some are larger*) USB memory sticks, very carefully noting and labelling what is on each one, and then storing them securely. Thus, it may not everyone’s preferred approach, but the essential point is to have a “formal methodology” to ensuring that one has **duplicated** backups of the shots, **and knows where to find them if and when needed.**

Finally, remember that:

- Always buy **USB3** memory sticks because they inherently **much** faster than older USB2 ones, are backwards compatible with USB2 slots on PCs/Macs, and cost very little more nowadays;
- *However*, not all USB3 memory sticks are “created equal”, and thus choose those from well-respected brands like Sandisk & Samsung, etc., and preferably ones with metal-bodies ones as they dissipate heat better than plastic-bodied ones (USB3 transfers data very quickly, and so the sticks can heat up a lot!)

The June Competitions Results

Andrew announced the winning entries in the “**Watery Worlds**” and “**Shot of the Month**” competitions during the meeting and the results spreadsheet is now attached.

He led discussions in which he “Shared” the Google Photo albums of the two competitions and the members then discussed where, when & how the winning shots had been taken.

In descending order, the top shots in “**Watery Worlds**” were:

RJW - Me n My Shadow
SM - Tranquility
BH - Rose water
SM - Playing with water
JN - Topsham, Devon
JN - Rose with Dew
AL – Pond Dipping for Frogs
IB – The Cascade, Virginia Waters

And those for “**Shot of the Month**” were:

RJW - ForkAndles
SM - Spring Flowers
AL - Darter Dragonfly Lido Woods
FL - Granddaughter
JN - Reaching for the Sky
JN - Stourhead NT, Wiltshire
BH - Sunrise
RJW - Cobweb Cat
SM – Des Res Gasometer

The July Competitions

Following on from John’s presentation, the July themed-competition will be “**Outdoor Events with Motion**” and you can submit your shots into Google Albums as follows:

1.1 Competition - **Outdoor Events with Motion**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nJqaoff1eX3saWFC6>

1.2 Competition - **Shot of the Month**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TWPBeJ6YQS3sqham9>

The deadline for all **entries** will be: **midnight on Saturday 17th July**

The deadline for **voting** will be: **midnight on Saturday 24th July**

Members are now encouraged to upload their photos directly to the relevant albums (see Brian’s 23rd March email) – but, if you are uncertain about doing that, then send them to Brian at bhillier75@gmail.com.)

The 26th July presentation

The main July presentation will be “An RAF Photographer Remembers 1959 to 1960” by Brian.

Monthly meeting Diary Dates for 2021 - the 4th Monday of each month (at least for the immediate future)

As you know, the H u3a meeting programme for 2021 is currently “fluid” due to the ongoing pandemic and restrictions, and thus we aim to have **Zoom meetings on the 4th Monday of each month** until opportunities for face-to-face meetings at the Baptist Church (*or photoshoots elsewhere*), become much clearer and more stable – but that now seems somewhat unlikely before, possibly, the end of 2021 (???)

Well, that’s all for the moment, and so all the best and hope to see you all on **MONDAY 26th JULY at the next ZOOM Virtual Meeting!**

Brian

And on behalf of the other members of the Steering Committee: Andrew Longhurst, Judy Peddie & John Allen!

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 there is also much information & guidance there on many aspects of photography, learning how to use your camera, image processing and printing, etc.!