

Dear Member,

The 25 March meeting was well attended, 16 in the Hall, 4 on Zoom and 4 apologies.

1. Announcements

- 1.1 Rayner Herd has developed a very painful condition that affects his feet and hands and we hope that he will make a speedy recovery.
- 1.2 Exhibition of Princess Diana's photographs - 25 May to 2 Sep 2024
 - At St Katherine's Dock, Dockside Vaults
 - Details on website: <https://www.princessdianaexhibit.com/london>
 - If any person is organising a group they can contact Dominic
 - whose email address is <dominic@thingstodold.com>.
- 1.3 For the 25 April competitions - Theme is "**Wildlife**" and "**Shot of the Month**"

2. Presentation "**Wildlife Photography**" - by Ian Brown

First, Ian showed us a series of photos of animals in their natural environments around the world. Ian then asked us what might be unusual about these photos.

No one in the audience suggested the answer that Ian gave, which was;

Ian had photographed all these animals in UK wildlife parks, and with only minor edits he had removed any objects such as fences, railings or other visitors, that might suggest photo was taken in the UK.

Ian gave us the following tips on photographing wildlife.

- Before going, ensure camera charged and required equipment packed.
- A mono-pod was useful to bear the weight of heavy camera and lens.
- Telephoto lenses cost about £1,000 but Tele-Converter was about £100.
- Use Auto settings, as animals move too quickly for manual adjustments.

- Research the habits of the animals you intend to photograph, such as
 - When they were active during the day
 - Their favoured plants and places
- Wear appropriate clothing, subdued in colour to avoid scaring the animals

There are many Wildlife parks, RSPB and zoo's, and some suggested were

- Colchester Zoo - <https://www.colchester-zoo.com/>
- Barnes Wetlands Centre - Queen Elizabeth Walk, London SW13 9WT
- Slimbridge Wetland Centre - <https://www.slim-bridge.co.uk/>
- Lea Valley, RSPB Rye Meads - Rye Rd, Hoddesdon, Ware SG12 8JS

Visit their web-site to find details of their activities, costs and opening times.

3. Competition - "Portrait Photography" - 24 Entries

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - MARCH 25			
Photographer	Title - Portraits	Pos	Tot
Elisabeth Curran	Dark Side	1	16
Andrew Longhurst	Any chance of a lift?	2	10
Mark Buckingham	Early Portrait	3	7
Karol Schlachter	Olivia	3	7
Carol Mitchell	Bobby at the Pub	4	6
Sue Finch	Linford Christie 100m runner 2	4	6
Mark Buckingham	Parallel Lines	4	6
Andrew Longhurst	"Squid"	5	5
Elisabeth Curran	Pearly King	5	5
Sue Finch	Ready for Dinner	5	5
Steve Binysh	Early Reader Pippa	6	3
Steve Binysh	Fishmonger	6	3
Norma Shirley	Jolenekit	6	3
Brian Hillier	Mitzy at home	6	3
Karol Schlachter	Posing Again	7	2
Denise Buckingham	Tik and Tok	7	2
Brian Hillier	Brian photo editing	8	1
Janet Nicolas	A Pretty Girl		0
Mike Briskman	Cat		0
Dave Swan	Charming!		0
Denise Buckingham	Deep in Thought		0
Ian Brown	Grey Heron		0
Ian Brown	Lolly		0
Mike Briskman	Rabbits Feeding		0

4. Competition - "Shot of the Month" - 23 Entries

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - MARCH 25			
Photographer	Title - Shot of the Month	Pos	Tot
Denise Buckingham	West Pier Brighton	1	25
Elisabeth Curran	Birdman	2	11
Norma Shirley	Welney Fen this winter - Flooded	3	10
Karol Schlachter	Tubingham Reflections	4	9
Denise Buckingham	No Photos Please	5	5
Mike Briskman	A Plant	6	4
Andrew Longhurst	Dazzling Daffs	6	4
Andrew Longhurst	Northolt Night Shot	6	4
Tony Mitchell	Time Difference Liverpool	6	4
Janet Nicolas	The Mediran coastline	7	3
Sue Finch	Dragon's Den	8	2
Margaret Dorigan	Moth Orchid	9	1
Sue Finch	Pretty Florida Shrub	9	1
Steve Binysh	Shapes textures and colours	9	1
Steve Binysh	The Eyes Have It	9	1
Brian Hillier	Un avion avec elan	9	1
Margaret Dorigan	A Creature at Kew		0
Elisabeth Curran	Glass		0
Brian Hillier	Cool-Cats-in-Car		0
Janet Nicolas	Funchal by night		0
Karol Schlachter	It's raining Petals		0
Mark Buckingham	Outstanding Courage		0
Norma Shirley	Pussy Willow		0

5. Important Dates

5.1 22 April 2024 - Group Meeting

- Presentation "**RAF Northolt - Night Shoot**" by Brian Hillier
- Themed comp-> "**Wildlife Photography**" and "**Shot of the Month**"

5.2 21 May 2024 - Group Meeting

- Presentation "**Black & White Photography**" by Brian & Andrew
- Themed comp-> "**Spring Time**" and "**Shot of the Month**"

5.3 24 June 2024 - Group Meeting

- Presentation "**Graphic Design**" by Steve Binysh
- Themed comp-> "**Black & White Photography**" and "**Shot of the Month**"

Thanks to

- Ian Brown for a very interesting and useful presentation
- Anna Hillier and Denise Buckingham for teas and coffees
- Andy Austin for taking the Attendance Register
- Andrew Longhurst for collating the competition results.
- Elisabeth Curran for checking building empty on leaving.
- Tony Kemp for putting the presentation and competition results on our U3A - Photography Group web-site.

Brian Hillier,
Photography Group Leader