

# U3A Digital Photo Group – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 Meeting Notes

## General

The meeting was very “busy”, and covering a lot of ground as below:

**Nevertheless, there are FIVE Questions below to which we would really like your replies and comments, and so please email those to me ASAP - In the format: “Question 1 =.....your answer” (and so on).**

## General discussion on the future of the Group – and call for new Committee members

Prior to the meeting, the Committee had decided that these subjects needed to be aired and discussed again, as it was felt that a number of different things are impeding the progress and development of the Group.

Therefore we had a wide-ranging discussion with much input from the Members present, and here are some of the major points raised:

### A call for new Committee Members

Unfortunately Adele decided to step down from the Committee (and from the Group) and therefore it was decided that we needed some “new blood”, as mentioned in my meeting reminder last week, and so Brian Hillier has now “stepped up to the plate” to help us – WELCOME! ☺

However, we would also like *at least 1 more* new Committee Member and so the invitation to join still stands.

### Getting more Expert Critiquing of the Members’ photographs

Prior to the meeting, Tony Kemp contacted the Committee with the following suggestion, which he then outlined to the Members present:

- He had met an old work colleague who belongs to a Camera Club in Ealing and they swapped information on format and activities, and he learnt something that he thinks would be of great interest to our Group.
- The Ealing Club belongs to the CACC, which is The Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs (<http://www.thecacc.org.uk/wp/about-us/>). This association is a collection of photography experts who provide support to member camera clubs, supply speakers/lecturers for the member clubs to book and have a list of Judges for the clubs to call on to help judge competitions and provide an expert critique of the work submitted - something which Tony (and the Committee) know members have wanted more of.
- Tony believes we meet all their criteria to apply, but there is an annual subscription fee (£58 for 2018) to be considered and visiting speakers / judges would require their expenses to be covered.
- This raised the question as to whether U3A Hillingdon would cover the costs, and Judy commented that it is unlikely that it would cover the membership costs, but might cover some of the speakers’ costs on an “occasional” basis. – leaving the remainder (i.e. at least the £58 annual membership, plus some of the additional costs of the speakers) to be raised by the Group Members.
- Whether these additional costs would be acceptable to the Members was then discussed, and an informal proposal was made for making a £1 per Member charge for each meeting attended. Judy commented that she could see no reason for that to be unacceptable to U3A Hillingdon, provided that the money raised was formally accounted for, and directly targeted at the intended use as above.

**QUESTION 1: Is a proposed charge of £1 per meeting attended acceptable?: Yes or No?**

### A Suggestion to change the name of the Digital Photo Group

Tony also suggested that we should consider changing the title of the Group to something like the “Digital Camera Club” to try to make it more “inclusive” – in the same way that he and John Martin have named their new group the “Computer Club” – and Judy could see no objection to such a change from the U3A Hillingdon perspective.

(NB: Tony actually suggested “Camera Club”, but that could imply including film cameras and equipment, which are outside the current scope of the Group’s activities)

**QUESTION 2: Do you like the idea of a change of Group Name?: Yes or No?**

### **Attracting more new Members and making them more welcome at events**

As with many Groups/Clubs, attracting and keeping new Members is an ongoing issue and task, and so the following steps were suggested, and we now aim to put them into practice:

- To liaise with Rodney Fox to have a table and display at a monthly WCH meeting with the aim of attracting possible new Members and showing them what we do, and have done – therefore I will speak to Rodney and see what can be arranged, and when.
- It was commented that some new Members have attended only once or twice, but maybe not thereafter because they felt somewhat out-of-place. It is fairly clear that part of the reason for that is that there is currently no-one to “spot” such people, make them welcome, introduce them to existing Members and generally explain how the Group operates. Therefore the Committee members, and any others who offer to help us, will take it in turns to fill that gap in the “system”.

### **What to do when the Monthly meeting dates fall on Bank Holidays?**

Group meetings are normally held on the fourth Monday of most months (August and December being long-standing general exceptions) but, twice this year (*and Tony Kemp pointed out that it will happen three times in 2019*) the fourth Monday has been a Bank Holiday, and so we moved meeting dates to the third Monday. However, that causes issues because that is the regular Computer Club meeting date – and so Members of both had to choose which meeting to attend.

*(NB: a Joint Meeting was held in March, but it is considered that this is not the way to go in the future because it involves too many compromises on both sides).*

Therefore the Committee, in consultation with all the Members, will consider what to do in future in such circumstances, and the current options appear to be on the table (in order of currently perceived general acceptability!):

- 1) Where there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Monday in a month, then move the meeting to that date.
- 2) Move the meeting from the Bank Holiday Monday to another day (in the same week wherever possible)
- 3) Have a meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, regardless of it being a Bank Holiday
- 4) Cancel the meeting for the month in question altogether!

**QUESTION 3: ref the above proposed date changes (for 2019, at least),**

**Do you prefer?      Option 1? or    Option 2? or      Option 3? or      Option 4?**

### **More Off-site Photo-Shoots, Maybe?**

The above is a “contentious” question –

- The “Pro’s”
  - Some people like them
  - They have been on normal monthly meeting days, *but they don’t have to be?*
  - Can be very sociable events, both before and after the “shooting” sessions
- The “Con’s”:
  - Some people don’t like them
  - Difficult to come to a consensus decision as to where to hold them
  - Risk of bad weather causing late cancellations

So another couple of questions for you all:

**QUESTION 4: Do you like Off-site Photo-Shoots?: Yes or No?**

**QUESTION 5: Have you suggestions for suitable locations?: \_\_\_\_\_**

### **A New Monthly Competition – YOUR “Shot of the Month!”**

This idea was prompted to me by Brian Hillier accidentally sending me some very good shots for the June Competition that turned out to not actually be relevant to that competition!

So, I thought, Members must take many shots each month that don’t relate to relevant monthly competitions, but yet are very good in their own right – so it’s a shame that we don’t get to see them!

Thus, for an experimental period of a couple of months or so, send me your “best shot” each month – **doesn't matter what the subject is, providing the shot is interesting, and well composed and executed** (and give the date and location where it was taken).

**NB: shots must be taken between the current meeting and a week before the next meeting: e.g. *that means shots for the July meeting must have been taken between 26<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> July*** (I need them by the 17<sup>th</sup> July to give me time to put them into the presentation for 23<sup>th</sup> July!)

### **The June Competition “Off-site Photo-Shoot, St Martins Church, Ruislip, 21st May”**

Unfortunately, and probably mainly due to a clash of dates with the Computer Club, not many Members were able to attend the Photo-Shoot at St Martins Church, but those of us who did had quite a good afternoon there, and later over the road in the Manor Farm complex where we continued taking photos – and then having a nice cup of tea or coffee in the Sun!

The Church and churchyard locations were very good – and especially the very obliging squirrel which sat and “posed” for us for about 10 mins! Manor Farm was quite good, if a little quiet, but the pond and wildlife were fairly interesting (but nevertheless spoiled by idiots having thrown drinks cans and so on into it ☺)

We reviewed the shots after I put them into 5 groups (“Buildings & looking Up”, “Essence of St Martins”, “People and Meeting Places”, “Plants & Topiary”, “Wildlife”), and then we voted on the basis of 3 votes per Member but spread across all 5 groups.

The Winners were:

- |                        |              |  |
|------------------------|--------------|--|
| - 1 <sup>st</sup>      | - Ian Brown  | “Squirrel” (close-up with holly & ivy) |
| - 2 <sup>nd</sup> (eq) | - Ian Brown  | “Old House flanking the churchyard”    |
|                        | Len Fenton   | “Gargoyle on the Church Wall”          |
| - 4 <sup>th</sup> (eq) | - Len Fenton | “Church Tower & Main Door”             |
|                        | Judy Peddie  | “Irises on edge of Manor Farm Pond”    |

I have already sent the Winning shots to the **new** email address ([hillingdonu3a.pictures@gmail.com](mailto:hillingdonu3a.pictures@gmail.com)) - giving the Competition name, the Winners’ names and the photo names as above.

### **The July Competition “Out and About”**

Next month’s main competition will be for shots of “people”, “places”, animals, wildlife, etc.

- **BUT with the emphasis on the PEOPLE**, maybe in interesting places and doing interesting things.

To give you some ideas of places to go to get good shots, here are some reminders of websites that may help:

- o <https://www.wherecanwego.com/>
- o <https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g4942047-Activities-South-East-England-England.html>
- o <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out>

The competition will be for **PRINTS**, and as before, all prints to be between (roughly) A5 & A4 size 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” it, etc.) then notes on what was done.

**Reminder: 2018 Monthly meeting Diary Dates — the 4th Monday of each month (except where indicated below)**

- Jul 23, (*Aug – no mtg*), Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 26, **Dec 17**.

All the best and see you on **MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> of July!**

*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 some have clickable links to more info.*

**John Allen**

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