

The Group's 2nd Zoom virtual meeting went well and with 14 members attending "on-line", and apologies from another.

The Presentation: "How I developed 3 or 4 photos into their final versions" – Brian Hillier.

Brian bravely "stepped into the breach" at almost the last moment (after Malcolm was unable to complete preparation of his presentation) with a presentation on how he created several themed birthday cards for friends using the "Affinity Photo" software package.

He showed us how he inserted the themed photos into an A4-size sheet of photo paper and then added appropriate words of greeting.

He also including a very interesting series of shots of his classis model "Schweppes Delivery Van" showing how he took a shot of that on the top of a pillar in his front wall, and then resized the vehicle and "moved it upwards" so that it was on the road in front of a more modern vehicle on the opposite side of the road. He then adjusted the texture of the road surface to make it appear that that was "realistic" and that both "vehicles" were roughly the same size - the resulting image was very realistic (the "camera never lies" – well, in this case, Brian thoroughly "disproved" that!)

Brian has agreed to send a shortened pdf version of his presentation to Tony for our website pages, and so it should be on there in a few days' time.

I would like to, again, thank Brian for developing this presentation at very short notice, and *also* to Andrew and Tony for the considerable assistance and guidance that they gave him before and at the meeting to make it possible for us all to see it. 😊

Review of the VE-Day Celebrations TV shots.

We reviewed the two sets of shots on Google Photos, with each of the submitters (apart from Ian who could not join us) outlining how they took their shots and why they submitted those particular ones.

Unfortunately some of the shots didn't have the titles that the submitters had intended, and that was because they didn't get to me with the titles already part of the file names, or else there was little or no clear information in the emails to which they were attached to allow me to rename them correctly myself.

Therefore I then asked everyone present, *and I'm now doing the same again, to, in future, either:*

- Rename your image files **BEFORE** they are sent to me.

OR

- State the required titles **very clearly** in the emails to which the image files are attached.

After the reviews (and after later having been "reminded" that this had been forgotten!), the 4 winning shots in each category were announced, and they were:

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group May 2020 -VE75 Celebrations - 1945 – Shared

1 st	No 1	- "1945 war end 1" ("Is this my Daddy?")	- Rayner Heyd
2 nd	No 14	- "WC Speech"	- Malcolm Barwick
3 rd	No 12	- "VE-Street Party -1"	- Brian Hillier
4 th =	No 6	- "Street Party 9-5-1945"	- Ian Brown
&	No 11	- "VE Street Party -2"	- Brian Hillier

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - May 2020 -VE75 Celebrations - 2020 – Shared

1 st	No 9	- "VE 75 - Street Party"	- John Bentham
2 nd	No 4	- "VE 75 – Banners"	- Brian Hillier
3 rd	No 6	- "VE 75 Singers"	- Brian Hillier
4 th	No 1	- "VE 75 Flypast!"	- John Allen

The 1st & 2nd shots in each category will now be forwarded to Eirwen for the U3A Monthly Slide Show, and to Tony for our website pages.

The Question and Answer Session

“What is Image Stabilization?”!

Jothy came up with this real corker of a question to be answered at very short notice!

Well, I did my best to explain that, historically, and before “Image Stabilization” (“IS”) was developed, any movement of the camera whilst the shot was being taken and the shutter was open, could cause the image to be blurred due combinations of too-slow shutter speeds, long focal-length lenses and “operator” error – collectively generally described as “*camera shake*”.

Two routes to reduce the effects of this issue were developed:

- **“In Body Image Stabilization” (“IBIS”)** is where the image sensor in the camera body is supported on a set of “flexible” mounts and with tiny “motors” which can push/pull the sensor to one side or the other, and/or up and down, so that the incoming light beam lands in the position on it that it would have if there had been no camera/lens movement. The “motors” are controlled by the camera’s microprocessor, which gets its inputs from gyroscopic motion sensors similar to those fitted in mobile phones, and they “tell” it which direction(s) to move the sensor to correct for the camera movements.

IBIS was first used in consumer/“light professional” DSLR cameras from Pentax, and then by Sony in many of its various designs of DSLR and Mirrorless cameras.
 - Advantages of IBIS include that it should work with any lens attached to the camera body, which is great for using old lenses on modern bodies – and thus a “cheap” way of getting IS for all of those lenses.
 - Disadvantage is that, on its own, it is less effective with very long focal-length lenses than other IS methods (see below).
- **“In Lens Image Stabilization” (“ILIS”)** is where each lens has its own built-in motion sensors and controlling microprocessor which control tiny motors to move an internal group of lens elements (in similar directions to IBIS) to correct the directions of the light beam so it hits the correct place on the camera body image sensor.
 - Canon and Nikon adopted ILIS for some of their DSLRs, and some of the “Micro Four Thirds” manufacturers adopted it for their Mirrorless Interchangeable Lens Cameras (“MILC”).
 - Advantages include the motion sensors/ microprocessor/ motor combinations within each lens can be “fine-tuned” to get the best performance out of that particular lens design.
 - Disadvantages include that, as each lens needs its own internal motion sensors/ microprocessor/ motor combination, it is much more complicated to design and manufacture – and thus a lot more expensive, and sometimes heavier – than non-stabilized lenses that can be used with a camera body with IBIS.
Also, camera bodies without IBIS (which includes many “consumer-grade” DSLRs/ MILCs!) work little, if any, better with non-stabilised lenses than designs dating from pre-IS days!
- However, as Andrew pointed out in his presentation last month, the sophistication of camera and lens integration and electronics has increased very rapidly over the last few, and so, now, the newer medium-high end DSLRs/ MILCs often use combinations of both **IBIS AND ILIS** – and, together with modern very high optical designs in the lenses, can produce very impressive images!
- Nevertheless, there are circumstances where any form of IS can be detrimental to image quality. The oft-quoted example is when the camera is being used on a tripod, and the motion sensors and microprocessor “sense” minute movements which they should not (e.g. the shutter opening) and try to move the sensor or lens motors when they should not. Therefore the standard advice is to switch all IS OFF when the camera is on a tripod.

“Your Shot of the Month” for May 2020

As you will remember, we reinstated this competition after the VE Day Celebrations ones had closed, and so we now need your shots for this competition. They can have been taken at any time since the last meeting on 27th April and **should be sent to me to arrive here by this coming Friday, 29th May.**

I will then put them up on Google Photos over the weekend and send out the link and voting form – **with all votes to reach me by Friday 5th June,** so that Brian and I can sort out the winners by Sunday 7th June.

The Miscellany!

The presentation and competitions prompted various “talking points” afterwards, including notably:

“RAW versus JPG?”

Someone asked what are the advantages of shooting in the RAW versus JPEG file formats, and various opinions were given by several people as to why they do or do not use RAW.

However, for more info I would refer you back to the September 2018 meeting Notes which outline what Len told us in his presentation on “Camera “RAW” files – what they are and what you can/can’t do with them”, and those Notes can be found on our webpages here:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/h/hillingdon/docs/u3adigitalphotogroup-24thseptember2018notes.pdf>

“How to find out the image properties?”

Some wondered how it is possible to find out when, with which lenses and with which shutter speed / aperture / ISO setting a shot was taken.

As I said, all (well pretty much all!) of that data is in the “Exchangeable image file format” or (“Exif” or “EXIF”) data which is embedded in each image file – and it can be read via various routes, such as:

- In “FastStone Image Viewer” by opening the file, and then right-clicking outside the lower right corner of the image and then clicking on “Image Properties (EXIF...)” and “File Properties” and then on the “Details” tab of the latter (you need to look at both to get the full info).
- “How to See an Image’s EXIF Data in Windows and macOS” <https://www.howtogeek.com/289712/how-to-see-an-images-exif-data-in-windows-and-macos/>
- For more detailed info see Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exif> (*but take a couple of aspirin before you read that!*)

The 22nd June Meeting

The agenda for the next virtual meeting will hopefully be announced it as soon as possible at the end of the first week in June

PS: Volunteer presenters would be most welcome” – so please “step forward” if you think you have a subject of general interest and are able to put a suitable presentation together (we will help/mentor / review /etc., with it if asked!)

Monthly meeting Diary Dates for 2020 - the 4th Monday of each month

(EXCEPT maybe for some on Thursdays as indicated below – some may be virtual, whilst later ones will hopefully be “real ones”!)

On the basis that the meetings will normally – *wherever possible* – be on the 4th Monday of the month, here are the dates **at the moment: Mon June 22nd**, July 27th, Aug 24th (**), September 28th, October 26th, November 23rd, *Thursday* December 17th (***)

We have previously discussed the above dates, and provisionally agreed the following:

- ****August** – The Church is completely booked throughout August and so not be available on Mon 24th and so we decided to aim for an off-site photoshoot on the same day – although, again, where and by whom it would be organised is TBD
- *****December** – Xmas Day is Fri 25th and so we provisionally booked Thursday 17th, but Judy will check on whether that is still viable, given the “total fiasco” on the 19th of December 2019!

Changes in the Steering Committee

I'd like to announce a couple of changes within the Steering Committee:

- Len is stepping down after several years of giving us many useful presentations based on his extensive experience of photography and image processing. He will be sorely missed on the Committee, but I am sure he will still be making considerable contributions to our activities. **MANY THANKS, LEN** 😊
- Andrew is now joining us on the Committee – but he only agreed to that after I solemnly promised him that he won't have to do any more than he already has been, and is, doing by way of presentations and, most importantly at the moment, of setting up and running our virtual meetings! **WELCOME, ANDREW** 😊

Well, I think that's all for the moment, and so all the best and see you on **MONDAY 22nd JUNE at the next Virtual Meeting!**

John

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

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.!