

**General**

This was the first (probably of several!) “Virtual meeting” using the Zoom video conferencing App, and it went surprisingly well and with 18 members attending “on-line”, and apologies from another – there were a few minor issues for a couple of people, but these will hopefully be ironed out by the next virtual meeting in late May. 😊.

**The Presentation: “Digital Camera Devices - Interchangeable Lens, Fixed lens & Phones Compared - Differences, Myths and Opinions” by Andrew Longhurst.**

This was a “first” for the Group in that Andrew:

- was able to “share” his PowerPoint presentation in “full-screen” mode with everyone logged in
- had recorded commentaries that were automatically played to the viewers as each slide was displayed

He recounted how he became interested in, and intrigued by, the various forms of “digital camera devices” when, some years ago, he bought a Nikon DSLR and several lenses at the same time that Freda bought a Canon “Bridge camera” – and then found, somewhat to his chagrin I think, that in many instances the latter seemed to produce “better” images than his DSLR!

He explained some of the underlying common design features of both types of device and that are, in fact, also common to phones and tablets with cameras – notably the basic design of the pixels in the sensors.

He commented that rapid development of phone camera sensors and especially the associated “integration” of the s/w in those, and in bridge cameras, has driven the development and complexity of the sensors for *all* types such of devices. The results of which have been that these “integrated solutions” allow for much closer control of the complex electronic and optical systems in than is the case with cameras (*both DSLRs and Mirrorless Interchangeable Lens Cameras or “MILC”*) where different lenses, often from many manufacturers, can be fitted.

He showed examples of what is possible with such highly integrated devices, and that the results can often surpass those of DSLRs & MILCs – but that there are “pros and cons” for each type of device, as outlined near the end of his presentation, as follows:

**Strengths and Weaknesses (as at 2020!)****- Interchangeable Lens Cameras**

1. Fast taking picture via less taxed processor and hand operated zoom
2. DSLR versions use natural light to give a peerless (get it!) viewfinder
3. Less need to use the menu to access functions
4. Integrated processing currently very expensive

**- Fixed lens “Bridge” Cameras**

1. Massive optical zoom
2. Integrated processing makes the picture “Pop” (to use the American term)
3. Half the cost of a DSLR and equivalent high zoom lens
4. Usually lighter to carry around than a DSLR
5. Greater need to access menu makes some adjustments fiddly
6. Viewfinder and screen often poor in bright sunlight

- Phone Cameras

- 1.Can deliver high definition pictures
- 2.Liable to camera shake unless voice control activated
- 3.Limited poor light performance
- 4.Only top models have built in optical zoom via multiple built in lenses

Andrew is currently making a few changes to his presentation, but you should soon be able to view it on our website pages after he and Tony Kemp have worked out the best way to do that.

I think everyone both enjoyed and learnt from Andrew's presentation, and I know from the thoughts subsequently expressed by many of those who viewed it that it has made them think again about what "new kit" they might considered getting in the future – budget, of course, permitting! Therefore many thanks are due to him for putting so much effort into both the research behind, and the preparation of, his presentation – and to Tony for the help he gave during the training session last week, at the meeting itself, and for putting all the stuff on our website pages in the near future 😊.

BTW: Since the meeting, I've received further comments from various members to say how impressed they were with the presentation and how much work Andrew must have put in to complete it 😊

I think we collectively learnt a number of "lessons" about preparing, giving, and watching presentations in this manner – notably, I think:

- Presentations can be successful, and where possible, "sharing presentations" in full-screen mode does work, but take time and effort to prepare and practice
- We need to have "programmed breaks" at appropriate points after each group of (*maybe 4-5?*) slides so that members can comment on, and ask questions about, what they have just seen and heard.
- Both presenters and the "audience" need to understand how & when – *and when not to!* – to speak during on-line meetings to avoid too many disruptions &/or people trying to "talk against each other".
- OTOH, all that said, it's actually quite easy to run, and to participate in, these sessions without much in the way of "equipment" or "technical knowledge – and thus I/we hope this will encourage those who **didn't** join in on Monday to do so next time. (NB: we/I will be happy to run short Zoom "familiarization" sessions in the next few weeks for anyone who feels "intimidated" by the thought of participating!)

### The May Meeting

We discussed if, how and when – *given that the "lockdown" will most likely be still in-place this time next month* - we could have another virtual meeting, and so:

- Malcolm Barwick is preparing a presentation on "Light" (*Yup, I know little more than that about the content!*) for the end of May.
- We discussed the possible dates of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May (*the "now nominal" Late Spring Bank Holiday*) – and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May which was a possible off-site photoshoot day, (*a meeting at the Church that day would have been unlikely*), but that is also now unlikely due to the lockdown.
- Malcolm then said he could give his presentation on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> but could not guarantee to do so later in the week; and therefore a vote of "on-screen hands" confirmed that the next **virtual meeting will be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May.**

**The Miscellany!**

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

- The need to get to know your “digital photographic device” so as to get good results from it, and the problems caused by most devices not coming with easily understood printed manuals (*even if they do, those have been written by “techies”, are full of detail and likely difficult to carry around and read*) or a pdf or htm document that has to be downloaded from the manufacturer’s website and printed out yourself if you want a “hardcopy”.

Freda responded by producing a printed copy of the manual for her latest (and very large!) Nikon Coolpix P1000 camera, which she got from OTC Ltd at <http://www.otcworld.co.uk/> - and, having now looked at that site myself, it appears that *they also provide printed copies of manuals for smart phones and tablets – and even from pdf files that you send to them!*

- Robert mentioned a site (<http://biofos.com>) of interest to Olympus camera owners – but this now appears to be mainly an enthusiast-site for older models.
- For us Pentax users, the official Ricoh Pentax manuals are here <https://www.ricoh-imaging.co.uk/en/operating-manuals-download.html>, BUT there are far more “user-focused” model-specific manuals for the DSRLs, by a Canadian guy called Yvon Bourques, on the US Pentaxforums.com site <https://www.pentaxforums.com/forums/> (*you have to join & that’s free, but you have to buy manuals*) <https://www.pentaxforums.com/forums/donations/?act=ebook&loginrequired=1>
- Nevertheless, I also dug around on the internet and found a few more sites (*apart from manufacturers’ own ones*) from where you can download manuals for all sorts of “devices” (*make sure your antivirus s/w is up to date beforehand – and be careful of hidden charges for doing that*), such as
  - o “CENTRAL MANUALS” <https://www.central-manuals.com/>
  - o “DEVICEMANUALS” <https://www.devicemanuals.eu/>

Be aware that sites like these have manuals for a vast variety of “things” and not just cameras etc., and so you will have to “explore” before (hopefully) finding a manual for your device!

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, here are the dates **at the moment: Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May**, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Aug 24<sup>th</sup> (\*\*), September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup>, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, *Thursday* December 17<sup>th</sup> (\*\*\*)

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> and so we provisionally booked Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, but Judy will check on whether that is still viable, given the “total fiasco” on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2019!

Well, I think that’s all for the moment, and so all the best and see you on

**MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY at the next Virtual Meeting!**

John Allen

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

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.!