

U3A Digital Photo Group – 29th August 2019 Photo Shoot Notes

Thursday 29th Photo Shoot at Rickmansworth Aquadrome

The event went well, and the Members (around 10 of us – so I hope the rest of you were out somewhere else having a good time ☺) who came along enjoyed themselves.

Ian and Robert did a “sterling job” of organising, planning and then guiding the event, and in giving us useful and interesting information as we went first North along the sides of two of the lakes, and then back South along the Grand Union Canal – different scenarios and things to see and shoot!

During the first part we saw a lot of the wildlife – mainly waterbirds (notably herons and grebes) but also insects such lots of dragonflies, which were difficult to shoot because they dart around so much, and “waterboatmen” on tree-shaded water right in front of us.

The second part was rather different because we walked along the towpath past many houseboats (in varying states of “repair”!) with interesting “stuff” on and around them – such as the metallic sculptures (think “dogs” in particular) that one chap makes from parts salvaged from old cars and motorbikes.

There is also an old warehouse that has almost completely fallen down and been “reclaimed” by nature with trees and vegetation all over and inside its walls. Quite a lot of wildlife, including families of Canada Geese with 3-6 nearly fledged goslings – some of which took rapidly to flight when the occasional boat or canoe came along (difficult to shoot, but I did some with one very lucky “point and shoot” shot!).

Then, to the relief of several people who were getting quite hungry, we had a late lunch in the Aquadrome café, which serves an unusual range of (mainly) home-made dishes, before most of us then headed homewards at around 4pm.

Special thanks must go to Ian who booked and drove the Minibus which took a few of us there and back, and he will tell us the price at the September meeting, so that we can then pay our shares of the costs. *In that context, I would add that, if you “booked” a place on the Minibus but were unable to use it for some reason, then I would still urge you to “pay your share” because the booking was based on the number of people who said they wanted to use it rather than the number which were actually able to on the day!*

Anyway, many thanks again to both Ian and Robert for all the effort that they put into making the photo shoot a “good place” to be – especially on that very sunny and warm late August day ☺

August “Your Shot of the Month”

Obviously, as there was no formal meeting at the Church, we did have this competition!

Monday 23rd Sept Meeting Reminders

The Prints competition

- I *thought* that we had decided the theme for this competition at the July meeting, and that I had mentioned it in the Notes to that meeting – but (*at least from my scribbled notes at the time*) neither of those things actually happened, and thus for which I must now apologise! ☹
- Therefore, I suggest that – as the Photo Shoot had two slightly different themes of “wildlife” and “landscapes” - we should use those themes as categories in the Prints competition as that will give everyone – whether or not they came along on the Photo Shoot – a chance to enter appropriate shots.
- Thus the two categories are “**Wildlife**” and “**Landscapes**”

“YOUR Shot of the Month, ANYTHING goes”

Your shots must **have** be taken **between 22nd July & 23rd September - but please send them to me by 19th September to give me time to put them into the presentation for the 23rd !**

NB: PLEASE ATTACH your shots to your email – DO NOT insert them so that the images can actually be viewed when I open those emails (for the reasons explained in the July meeting Notes!)

Meeting Presentation Themes

More info on the above will follow shortly.

Monthly meeting Diary Dates for 2019 - the 4th Monday of each month

(EXCEPT for some on Thursdays as indicated below)

Mon 23rd Sept, Mon 28th Oct, Mon 25th Nov, **Thrs** 19th Dec

PS: We would very much appreciate "Apologies" emails/phone calls if you can't attend any of the meetings!

John

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