

U3A Digital Photo Group - The Meeting on 23rd January 2017, & the Future

A few significant General points from the Jan meeting:

We discussed, and “voted” on, several questions on how the meetings are to be run in future, and here are the results:

- o Group Members photocard: showing members’ photos and email addresses (but no more info unless members specifically ask for their phone numbers to be added) – Len has kindly agreed to take the shots, and he will probably begin doing that at the March meeting (probably not at the Feb one because he is presenting that day). Cost for the laminated copies will be £2 each (payable directly to Len) because of the high cost of the printing inks involved.o
- o Seating layout?: We tried a slightly more “U” shaped arrangement to allow more people to sit closer to the front and the projector screen – maybe not as much as we could have but it’s limited by where we have to put the projector, the shape of the room and the numbers of members attending (around 20’ish today). Will try a slightly different layout next time.
- o Tea break: This appeared to “work” and so it will be done again – Adele & Margaret will look after us the Feb meeting **but we need volunteers for March onwards!**
- o Monthly Themes & Competitions:
See below for what is proposed for the next few months **but, as we continue to plan ahead, we would much appreciate your suggestions for both** – preferably linked to each other so that a Theme at one meeting leads to the Competition at the next.
Submitted Competition Photos: agreed that these should have been taken very recently (preferably in the month before the competition!), be somewhere between, roughly, A4 & A5 (half-A4) size, and with a note on the back with the photo details – **see Slide 10 of the attached presentation for the info required, and how/where to find it.**
- o Hillingdon U3A Website:
I will now be exploring ways of adding the monthly presentations to our Group page on the website, and will keep you informed of the progress.
- o Local Photo Meets – Locations & Days/Dates?:
 - § Locations: We asked for suggestions for venues (preferably not greater than 5 miles or so from the Church for transportation reasons), to add to the following which were suggested at the last Committee meeting: ***Uxbridge Civic Centre, local churches in Uxbridge, Eastcote House Garden, Ruislip Lido, local canal/river-side venues like the Coy Carp in Harefield.***
 - § Dates/Days: Again, we discussed this at the Committee meeting and concluded that it would not be a good idea to have them on the afternoons of the normal 3rd Mondays of each month because that would mean no monthly meeting at all for members who could/did not want to come along. ***Therefore, suggestions for other days of the week, and some dates, will be welcomed.***
- o The Photography Show, Birmingham NEC, 18th-21st March: Would anyone be interested in going to the 2017 show – the website is <https://www.photographyshow.com/>.? Adult tickets are £13.95 each, but you can get discounted tickets for £10.95, with code PNTPS16 at the checkout screen, and we would go by rail, and look for discounted tickets for that as well.
As I mentioned at the meeting, many other shows happen there at the same time, notably “MCM Birmingham Comics Con”, and that means that means hundreds of “appropriately dressed” (think Starwars, Spiderman, Avengers, etc.!) people in the public areas who would probably be very happy to be photographed in their outfits! See

<http://www.thenec.co.uk/whats-on/mcm-birmingham/> for some idea of what you could see!

- o **Photographic Questions:** As previously mentioned, if you have questions which cannot be answered at meetings, or which you think of at other times, please mention them to a Committee Members or email them direct to myself.
- o **Diary Dates – Monthly meetings:** Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, Jun 26, Jul 24, Aug - No mtg, Sep 25, Oct 23, Nov 27, Dec 18.

The January Meeting Presentation, & the Competition Winners:

- **Presentation** “What you can do with your camera” Presenters Jothy Rainbow and myself:
 - o This was an interactive exploration of the facilities likely to be present on most cameras and camera-phones – with ideas of what to look for, and how you might be able to change the settings to achieve better/different results. It was originally intended to help mainly people who have not previously explored these facilities, but we also found that many reasonably experienced photographers found out a few things they did not know &/or understand, or else they re-visited some that they may have tried before but had since forgotten about.
 - o The presentation is attached in PDF format, and includes some highlighted links on Slide 5 on which you can click to reach the relevant website pages
NB: I have updated it in several areas to clarify various things and to add those links– and so it is not quite identical to the printed sheets that were handed out on the day.

Competition: “Christmas” winners

- § 1st Margaret Mayes
- § 2nd Jothy Rainbow
- § 3rd Alan Mellors (Welcome back J!)
- § 4th Margaret Mayes

As previously, please email your photos (no larger than 5Mb!) to hillindonu3a.pictures@yahoo.com - give your name, the Competition and the place(s) that you achieved.

Forthcoming Meetings, and what we aim to address:

- **Feb:**
 - o **Meeting Theme:** “Close-up” & “Macro” photography. Presenter: Len
 - o **To Bring along On the Day:** cameras, charged batteries, memory cards, and any close-up kit such as backgrounds, suitable lights/torches, etc., “simple” reflectors, small tripods, close-up lenses etc., and some small objects to photograph.
 - o **After the Tea-break Work groups:** We will split into several groups to explore and try out some of the techniques that Len showed us earlier.
 - o **Competition Theme for the day:** “Weather” – *maybe you could try out some of the new facilities that you found on your camera during/after the Jan meeting?*
- **March**
 - o **Meeting Theme:** “Nature” with the emphasis on the coming (we hope!) Spring, and what makes both “good” and “bad” shots. Meeting Presenter *TBD*
 - o **To Bring along On the Day:** *TBD at the moment – but maybe some “old” shots related to today’s Theme for discussion and to generate new ideas?*
 - o **Competition Theme for the day:** “Macro/Close-up” shots, *possibly using some of the techniques introduced by Len at the Feb meeting*
 - o **After the Tea-break:** Discussion of ideas for “Nature”/“Spring” shots to give you some ideas on what you could do for the April competition

- April

- o Theme: "Storage of Images – locally and online/"in the Cloud" – Presenters: John & A.N.OTHER
To Bring along **On the Day:** information / pics / screen-shots showing where/how you store your images – especially if you already use some sort of on-line storage
(IF POSSIBLE – please email them to me A WEEK BEFOREHAND so that we can add them to the Presentation where appropriate)
- o Competition on the day: "Nature" / "Spring"
- o After the Tea-break: Discussion of the problems that you have had in storing & retrieving your images, and what you were able to do about that – or where you unfortunately failed!

- May

- o Theme: "Architecture / Ecclesiastical Architecture" (based initially on existing photos sent in for U3A WCH meeting rolling Powerpoint presentations). Presenter: Judy & A.N.OTHER
(volunteers requested – especially anyone who is also a member of the Ecclesiastical Architecture Group!)
- o To Bring along **On the Day:** Samples of interesting architecture shots
- o Competition on the day: "Containers"
- o After the Tea-break: Discussions of your architecture shots, and of where /why / how you took them

Cheers and see you on the **27th Feb**

John

And on behalf of the other members of the Steering Panel: Adele Franklin, Judy Peddie. Len Fenton, Jothy Rainbow