

U3A Digital Photo Group – 23rd July 2018 Meeting Notes

General

Monday's meeting was another very "busy" one, and covered a lot of ground – more-or-less, per the Draft Agenda I sent out last week:

Five Questions about the future of the Group

The summary at the end of these minutes shows the responses to the five questions posed in the June Notes – so please take a look to see the details, but, essentially, they resulted in the following:

Q1: £1 a meeting contribution towards Chiltern Association of Camera Clubs to fund membership and guest judges and speakers?

Whilst many members were happy with the concept, a few were not and considered that U3A should be able to be "self-sufficient" in these matters – therefore I have been asked to, again, contact the main U3A Photography activities co-ordinator for any guidance he (now possibly she?) can provide on these issues, and thus any possible charges will be delayed until the outcome of that investigation.

Q2: A Suggestion to change the name of the Digital Photo Group to something else (possibly a "Club")?

Again, whilst many members were happy with the concept, a few were not, and so it was decided to not consider any such change in the immediate future.

Q3: What to do when the Monthly meeting dates fall on Bank Holidays, with the following options?

- 1) Where there is a 5th 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 4th Monday, regardless of it being a Bank Holiday?
- 4) Cancel the meeting for the month in question altogether?

Opinions varied on this issue, but, as the attached summary shows, the majority seemed to plump for Option 1, with the fall-back of Option 3 when that was not possible, and very few wanted the monthly meeting to be cancelled entirely – the Committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to consider this (amongst other things) as it affects the room bookings that we make for 2019.

Q4: Do you like Off-site Photo-Shoots?: Yes or No?

Everyone who responded to this question answered "Yes", and so there is a clear mandate for off-site photoshoots in the future.

Q5: Have you suggestions for suitable Off-site Photo-Shoot locations?

A number of definite (as opposed to general) location suggestions were made, notably:

- Nature sites reasonably close such as the Aquadrome in Rickmansworth (Ian Brown)
- Uxbridge - Windsor Street, Fasnidge Park, (Brian Hillier)

- Ickenham - St Giles, Swakeleys Park (Brian Hillier)
- Burnham Beeches in autumn; Stockley Park (Margaret Mayes)
- Canal / river in Harefield, Ruislip Woods (Judy Peddie)

We will now discuss the above with those who made the suggestions so as to more clearly understand what there is to see and shoot at those locations, and the best times of the year to visit them – and then, wherever possible, to integrate those ideas into the programme for the remainder of 2018 (maybe!) and in 2019.

June Question Time Responses

The agenda changed slightly at this point as no-one had actually brought a camera along for assistance on how to set it up, and so we brought the Tea-break /review of the July Competition “Out and About” prints forward a little – but whilst that was happening we carried on as below:

Basic Editing for Beginner’s, by Beginners,

Robert, a new member, had brought a long a USB stick with some shots with which he needed editing assistance, and Janet also had some editing questions – and so Len kindly helped them to understand some of the relevant functions in PhotoShop Elements (and possibly FastStone Image Viewer, but not sure about that!)

Voting on the “Out and About” Prints Competition

We had about a dozen prints on a variety of subject on the table for review during the Tea-break, and so these were briefly shown again, and then voted on after the Tea-break – the problem then being that we had a 1st and a 2nd, and then 4 in equal 4th place! So we voted again on the latter to choose the “best” two to make up the four to be submitted for the PowerPoint at the next WCH meeting (*on Aug 6th – not the 13th as would normally be the case*).

So the 4 winners were:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--|
| - 1 st | - John Allen | “Little girl & mother” |
| - 2 nd | - Margaret Mayes | “7 Italian Models” |
| - 3 rd | - Tony Kemp | “Columbia Rd Market Browsers & Blooms” |
| - 4 th | - Margaret Mayes | “Drinking Companions” |

The Winning Members should send the image files for those shots to the **new** email address (hillingdonu3a.pictures@gmail.com) - giving the Competition name, the photo position number, their name and the photo name (as above).

NB: On advice from Tony Kemp, there is now to be a reduction in the image file sizes from 5Mb to 1Mb MAX.

The New Monthly Competition – “YOUR Shot of the Month!”

As you may remember, I suggested this new competition because 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!

Ten image files on a variety (as was the intention for this competition☺) of subjects from wildlife to plants to people were received, and I showed them on-screen via FastStone Image Viewer, and then we voted on what were considered the “best” – which was very subjective and personal, given the variety of subjects.

So the 4 winners were:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| - Equal 1 st | - Janet Nicolas | “Flowering tree” (sorry can’t remember the variety!) |
| | Len Fenton | “Heron” (in his back garden!) |
| - Equal 3 rd | - Judy Peddie | “Wild water rafting” (not that Judy was in the raft ☺) |
| | - Margaret Mayes | “Young model with sunglasses showing reflections of other people” |

Unfortunately, we won’t be able to submit those shots for the WCH presentation – but I do aim to send them to Tony (*who now looks after the U3A Hillingdon website*) in the hope that he can put them into a new “Your Shot of the Month” category on our Group website pages!

After that, I asked if the Members thought that the idea of this new competition was a good one and should be repeated in future – and there was very strong support for that suggestion, and so it will continue!

Thus, please send me up **to three (3) digital images** of your “best shots” each month – ***doesn’t matter what the subject is, providing the shot is interesting, and well composed & executed*** (and give the date and location where it was taken, if possible).

NB: shots must be taken between the current meeting and just before the next meeting: so that means shots for the September meeting must be taken between 24th July and the actual meeting on 24th September – but please send them to me by around 20th Sept to give me time to put them into the presentation for the 24th!

The September Competition “Trees”

Having asked the Members what the theme should be, several suggested “Trees” and that was supported by the others present.

The competition will be for **up to three (3) 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 (should have been taken less than 12 months before the date of the next meeting, i.e. **no earlier than 26th Sept 2017**)
- 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)

As has been the case for many years, **there will be no Group meeting in August**, and thus the next meeting will be

Monday 24th September (and then, after that, Oct 22nd Nov 26th, **Dec 17th**)

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

All the best and see you on **MONDAY 24th SEPTEMBER!**

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. There should also be links to the winners of the main Monthly and the new “Your Shot of the Month” competitions.

John

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

U3A Digital Photo Group June 2018 – Summary of Responses to 5 Questions

<u>Question 1</u>	<u>Is a proposed charge of £1 per meeting attended acceptable (to fund the cost of membership of the Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs and thus to get access to external judges and speakers)?: Yes or No?</u>	<u>Response</u>
John Allen	Yes	Yes
Andy Austin	Yes	Yes
John Bentham	Yes	Yes
Ian Brown	I would have no problem paying £1 or a little more if needed (=Yes)	Yes
Len Fenton	I am not in favour of joining the Chilterns association. I believe in the spirit of U3A we should be able to look after ourselves. Consequently I join with Margaret against the charge for the reason I have just given.	No
Jim Hall	Depends if we are going more towards camera than pc. Also if we are going more 'professional'. Generally it is outside the tenet of the U3A to pay for outside help.	????
Brian Hillier	Yes	Yes
Alan Mellors	Yes	Yes
Tony Kemp	Yes and Yes to occasionally needing more for special events.	Yes
Margaret Mayes	No	No
Janet Nicholas	Charge of £1.00 per meeting would be acceptable	Yes
Judy Peddie	Yes	Yes
Jothy Rainbow	Yes	Yes

<u>Question 2</u>	<u>Do you like the idea of a change of Group Name to Digital Photo Club/Camera Club?: Yes or No?</u>	<u>Response</u>
John Allen	Yes, I think Digital Photo Group” would be appropriate – given that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital photos can be taken with cameras, phones or tablets - We haven’t ever recently considered film cameras, & that would require quite a new approach & support 	Yes
Andy Austin	Yes. I think "Digital camera club" would be ok.	Yes
John Bentham	No	No
Ian Brown	Yes a club sounds more friendlier.	Yes
Len Fenton	What is the purpose of changing the name? I personally cannot see the point of it.	No
Jim Hall	Yes (what's in the name?)	Yes
Brian Hillier	Yes	Yes
Alan Mellors	Yes (drop the digital)	Yes??
Tony Kemp	Yes and my vote is for “The Camera Club”	Yes
Margaret Mayes	Yes	Yes
Janet Nicholas	Change of name would be acceptable	Yes
Judy Peddie	All (I think) our groups are called groups so I would prefer it stayed as a group.	No
Jothy Rainbow	Yes	Yes

<u>Question 3</u>	<u>QUESTION 3: ref the proposed date changes (for 2019, at least),</u>	<u>Response</u>
	<u>Option 1)</u> Where there is a 5th Monday in a month, then move the meeting to that date?	
	<u>Option 2)</u> Move the meeting from the Bank Holiday Monday to another day (in the same week wherever possible)?	
	<u>Option 3)</u> Have a meeting on the 4th Monday, regardless of it being a Bank Holiday?	
	<u>Option 4)</u> Cancel the meeting for the month in question altogether?	
John Allen	Option 1 or Option 3.	Option 1 or 3
Andy Austin	Option 1, but I can see it's tricky because Easter moves about.	Option 1
John Bentham	Option 1	Option 1
Ian Brown	Option 1 if there is a 5th Monday if not option 2 would for me favourable.	Option 1 or 2
Len Fenton	Option 1	Option 1
Jim Hall	Option 1 or Option 4.	Option 1 or 4
Brian Hillier	Option 1 - Where there is a 5th Monday in a month, then move the meeting to that date.	Option 1
Alan Mellors	Option 1 or 2 depending the way the dates and bank holidays are falling	Option 1 or 2
Tony Kemp	Option 1) and option 3). I think for 2019 move April to option 1 and keep May & August to option 3.	Option 1 or 3
Margaret Mayes	Option 1 or Option 3.	Option 1 or 3
Janet Nicholas	Option 3 would suit me	Option 3
Judy Peddie	Option 3	Option 3
Jothy Rainbow	Option 1	Option 1

<u>Question 4</u>	<u>Do you like Off-site Photo-Shoots?: Yes or No?</u>	<u>Response</u>
John Allen	Yes	Yes
Andy Austin	Yes	Yes
John Bentham	Yes	Yes
Ian Brown	Yes I did like the Off –site shoot it was most enjoyable for both shoots.	Yes
Len Fenton	Yes	Yes
Jim Hall	Yes	Yes
Brian Hillier	Yes	Yes
Alan Mellors	Yes	Yes
Tony Kemp	Yes. I think they are a good idea even if they are not always for me.	Yes
Margaret Mayes	Yes	Yes
Janet Nicholas	I enjoyed the off-site shoot I attended and would attend others if possible	Yes
Judy Peddie	Yes	Yes
Jothy Rainbow	Yes	Yes

<u>Question 5</u>	<u>Off-site Photo Shoots - Have you suggestions for suitable locations?:</u>	<u>Response</u>
John Allen	Having reviewed all the suggestions below, unfortunately I don't have any further ones because I don't actually know the area that well ☹️	
Andy Austin	We should probably stay within Hillingdon Borough.	
John Bentham	Ruislip Lido, Denham	
Ian Brown	Is a little more tricky as there is a vast different areas of interest. mine for example is wild life and as such there are a few nature sites reasonably close such as the Aquadrome in Rickmansworth , however it is a fair walk round but has several hides on the way round. it would also perhaps require two different routes around the site depending how many attended. and so the question is what are the majority of members interests	
Len Fenton	Collect options depending on time of year.	
Jim Hall	Collect options depending on time of year.	
Brian Hillier	Uxbridge- Windsor Street, Fasnidge Park, Ickenham - St Giles, Swakeleys park	
Alan Mellors	Locally essential if held on a meeting day	
Tony Kemp	For me anywhere (e.g. even the gardens or carpark of the hall) so long as everyone takes the same shot so you can have a session to compare pictures against each other with an evaluation process.	
Margaret Mayes	Burnham Beeches in autumn; Stockley Park	
Janet Nicholas	It was my suggestion to include the Manor Farm Complex – I shall try and think of other areas	
Judy Peddie	Canal / river in Harefield, Ruislip Woods	
Jothy Rainbow	Uxbridge	