

U3A Digital Photo Group - 24th April 2017 Meeting Notes

The meeting was based around my presentation on Local and On-Line (“Cloud”) Image Storage, and I will arrange for it to be put (courtesy of John Martin) on the U3A Hillingdon website in the next couple of days - see <https://u3asites.org.uk/hillingdon/page/61662> and click on the “Digital Photography Meetings” link near the top on the right hand side of the page to see all the recent ones.

For me this was quite a challenging presentation to prepare and give because the short questionnaire that I sent out a couple of weeks ago to find out how members currently store their images showed the complete spectrum from a basic lack of understanding to how, and where, to store image files to some people with quite extensive local, and occasionally on-line, storage set-ups. Therefore trying to cater for everyone in one short presentation did pose some issues, but I hope I managed to be relatively successful and it did generate quite a lot of discussion and explanations/comments as to the pro’s and con’s of both local and on-line storage.

The main points that came out appear to be:

- Most members do use USB and similar hard drives, in addition to their PC hard drives, to store their images
- Some use straightforward copying methods and others use dedicated “backup” software – but a few people expressed their dislike of the latter because it can then be difficult to locate specific images later on.
- One member already uses on-line storage, but has encountered the problem of the limited “free” capacity of their specific storage provider, and the presentation and discussions highlighted the fact that similar issues were a common factor across most of the on-line providers – and that to get more space it becomes necessary to pay monthly of a few pounds and/or annual fees around £80.
- Also, it has been found (as I had before the presentation) that uploading a lot of images can take a very long time, and does not always work successfully
- Others using on-line storage (notably iCloud) have run into the issue that deleting an image on one cloud-synchronised device then deletes it on all the other synchronised devices – there appear to be ways around this, notably using other folders in which to store images.
- As I said during the presentation, I have “dumped” a lot of info on on-line storage providers – both free and paid-for – into a WORD document, *and if you would like a copy then please email me to that effect.*

The Competition on the Day: “Nature/Spring”

There was a good number (17) of entries, and many of them – especially the “winners” - were extremely well composed and printed (and mostly A4 size, or thereabouts!)

The votes were as follows:

- Joint 1st Carol Lathwell) (11 votes)
Len Fenton)
- 3rd Len Fenton (8 votes)
- 4th Ian Brown (4 votes)

As previously, please photos (no larger than 5Mb!) should be mailed ASAP to hillingdonu3a.pictures@yahoo.com - giving your name, the Competition name, and the place(s) achieved.

BTW: A correction to last month’s competition results – 1st place should have been John Bentham and not John Baker, and so my apologies to both of you.

Diary Dates – Monthly meetings – the 4th Monday of each month

- **May 22**, Jun 26, Jul 24, (Aug - No mtg), Sep 25, Oct 23, Nov 27, Dec 18.

BUT, as I mentioned in the “Reminder” email last week, the Church will be closed for heavy maintenance work for the last 2 weeks of July – and that means that we won’t be able to have the planned meeting there on 24th July.

This appears to leave us with three options:

- Try to find another date in the first 2-3 weeks of July to have a meeting whilst the building is still available (probably somewhat unlikely to be able to do this due to prior bookings there)
- Use the 24th July date for a local "Photo Meet" at a venue to be discussed and agreed – as previously mentioned, the following locations have been suggested ***Uxbridge Civic Centre, local churches in Uxbridge, Eastcote House Garden, Ruislip Lido, local canal/river-side venues like the Coy Carp in Harefield*** – ***or can you think of any others?***

PS: I know that several people have already expressed an interest in doing something like this, and my choice would be Ruislip Lido because of all the bird life around it – but that's just a personal preference.

- Have no meeting at all on that date (and, of course, there won't be a meeting in August as normal)
- Unfortunately we did not have time to discuss the options yesterday, but PLEASE email me as to whether you would, or would not, like to participate – and if you would then what your choice of venues would include (maybe give several?).

The Theme for the 22nd May Meeting: "Architecture"

Judy will be giving a presentation on the above, based, I understand, on some of the trips that the Ecclesiastical Architecture Group has made recently – so that should be quite interesting.

The Competition for 22nd May: "Containers"

Given that the April meeting theme was about storing images, we thought that this would be a "difficult" theme for a competition, but that if we widen the competition to the general concept of "**Containers**" then that gives plenty of scope for imaginative shooting (*ship in a bottle, bird's nest with chicks in it, basket of fruit or flowers, mother carrying baby in a sling, etc. etc.....?*)

As before, all prints to be between (roughly) A5 & A4 size with the following info on the back (a post-it will do):

- Date (and so we will "know" if you start submitting very old shots for the Competitions :))
- 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
- Image type ("jpg"/"jpeg", or "RAW")
- 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. |

Cheers and see you on the **22nd May.**

John

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

PS: we would welcome anyone else who would like to think about joining the Committee because it's aim is to take a "collective" approach to what we do, and how we do it – so please do consider helping us!