

# U3A Digital Photo Group Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

## General

Good Afternoon

The Steering Committee had to **CANCEL the planned meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** due to the spread of the Coronavirus.

This decision is based partially on our personal and collective views on the situation, and partially on Pat McAlpine's statement to Group Leaders yesterday, i.e.:

*'In view of the present developments re the Virus and as most of our members are within the age group most affected i think it would be wise to advise all group leaders that if they are not comfortable in holding their group meeting and would be rather cancel or postpone that would be best to do at the moment and review depending how things develop.*

*I have heard this morning that a few group leaders have already taken this view'.*

**However**, we do still wish to maintain as much "Group momentum" as possible until the situation becomes safer and more predictable, and so here is what we are currently aiming to do during the likely absence of regular meetings at the Baptist Church.

## Competitions:

We think it is feasible to try to continue holding the "Your Shot of the Month" and "Prints" competitions, - but using the online "cloud storage" website "Dropbox" (at least to start with) and by using separate Dropbox accounts for the two competitions, and thus:

- As I already have a Dropbox account, and you have been sending me your Shot of the Month images for a long time, then you should continue to that and I will then upload those to my Account.

Thus please keep sending **Your Shot of the Month** entries for the period since 24<sup>th</sup> February to **me** at [john-e1-allen@virginmedia.com](mailto:john-e1-allen@virginmedia.com).

*PS: I will also try to set up separate Dropbox folders for the Shot of the Month periods preceding that one, i.e. for November-to- January and for January-to-February for which we never found the opportunities for the members to view and vote on those!*

- Brian also has a Dropbox account, and he will deal with the themed "Prints" competitions entries as this will be as near as we can get to having "real prints", *since you will send him the digital files that you would have used to prepare those prints (and please limit the image file sizes to 10-12Mb maximum).*

The **March Prints competition is "Close-up and Macro Photographs"**, and thus please send the digital files from which you would have made your prints to **Brian Hillier** at this email address [bhillier75@gmail.com](mailto:bhillier75@gmail.com)

- We still have to work out and test the processes for then uploading and viewing of those files in our Dropbox accounts, and also how we can set up separate "voting" forms on which you can hopefully register your votes.

However, as that will take some time to sort out and we are no longer tied to having it all in place by 23<sup>rd</sup> March, **we are extending the submissions deadline dates for both competitions until Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**, and we will aim to inform you about the viewing & voting by around Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, and to release the voting results on or just after Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**HOWEVER, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES to Brian and myself A.S.A.P to give us time to sort out our uploading, viewing and voting processes well before the deadline date – by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March would be very helpful for us if you can!**

- It is then likely that the same process will be used for the April competitions, although, of course, we have yet to decide on a theme for the April Prints competition – **So Please Send Me Your Suggestions for the April “Prints” Competition Theme.**

### **Meetings:**

- We won't have a meeting at the Church in March and are also unlikely to have one in April, but we did decide at the February meeting to aim to have an off-site photoshoot on Thursday 28th May because the 4th Monday is a Bank Holiday anyway.

Therefore we would like to try to still achieve that target of an off-site shoot on that date because it would be outdoors, and members could arrive by their own transport (or off-peak public transport = fewer passengers) – and so we are asking again for volunteers to select and organise an event at a suitable local venue.

**Please contact me ASAP or any other Committee Member if you feel that you could help do that for 28<sup>th</sup> May.**

- or even for other dates later in the year as we may “need” more such shoots to ensure that we can still have at least some “real” events this year!

### **A.O.B.**

If anyone has other suggestions or ideas on how to make sure that the Group continues and thrives, then please mention those to any member of the Committee.

NB: this whole “situation” might ideally be dealt with by the “webinar” (*a tele-conferencing seminar with online participants, rather than actual “bums on seats”*) approach as that could allow for presentations to be made and for discussions to be had, but I don't know how we could do that without incurring substantial costs.

OTOH, if anyone does know of ways in which we could do that relatively cheaply, then let us know ASAP as then, maybe, we could put together a suitable proposition for the U3A committee on the basis that some of the costs would be offset by not having to hire venues like the Church.

**John**

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