

U3A Digital Photo Group Virtual Meeting – 27th July 2020

Good afternoon

Monday's Zoom virtual meeting went well and with 14 members attending "on-line", and apologies from another 3.

NB: a further email will follow with the possibilities for an off-site photo shoot in late August (as briefly discussed below).

The Main Presentation: " Where on earth did digital sensors come from?" by Andrew Longhurst.

Andrew's presentation was a brief history of how, and by whom, the concept of the digital sensor was developed up from the first very basic experiments in the 19th Century, through a number of dead ends and false start until the end of the 20th Century when it began to become a viable prospect for professional and "well-heeled" amateur photographers.

It began to become a reality in the 1920's and 1930's with the development of "primitive" television, but, apart from some primitive military applications during and after WW2, it was the invention of the transistor in Bell Labs in the US in the 1950's that made the concept viable – *eventually!!*

After that, some of the development team were recruited to another company (Fairchild, IIRC) which actively pursued the development of various devices (*I seem to remember using some early Fairchild "operational amplifiers" at Uni in 1969!*). It successfully developed them for both military and civilian use in the period during and after the Vietnam War (i.e. the early & mid 1970's), and that including solid state optical sensors used in both weapons and industrial machinery.

Fairchild later developed into a commercial relationship with the EASTMAN KODAK company which was interested in developing a digital camera for photography, and which resulted in the very first self-contained such camera developed by Peter Sasson in 1975 - It weighed 8 pounds (3.6 kg) and had only 100 × 100 resolution (0.01 megapixels). The black-and-white image was recorded onto a cassette tape and this process took 23 seconds (*you can find a lot more info on that camera on the internet, if interested!*)

After that, KODAK did develop some further cameras of its own, but then formed a partnership with NIKON to produce the first DSLR, the DCS100, based on the NIKON F3 professional 35mm SLR, in 1991, and produced several similar models after that. However, it would appear the NIKON "learnt all the right lessons" from KODAK, and then went on to produce its own very successful ranges of DSLRs (*whilst KODAK effectively faded away and went bust some years later*).

The earliest advanced "consumer price-level" digital cameras arrived in the early C20th from various manufacturer's (Andrew bought his first one around 2002-2003) – and, as they say, "after that, the rest is history" 😊.

Unfortunately, whilst the slides that Andrew showed were interesting, he gave the commentary live and included many anecdotes, and thus the two go closely together – but without the commentary, it's not really worth trying to put that presentation on our website pages as it might make little sense to many people.

The Second Presentation: Judy Peddie – "Photographing Buildings and Architecture"

Judy reprised her presentation on the above from early 2017, and showed and commented on many shots that she has taken on her travels over the years on, as well as some shots gathered from the internet to demonstrate certain techniques for composition and framing. Unfortunately, the commentary was again "live", and without that, to out her presentation on our website would probably not make a great deal of sense.

Competitions

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Due to the “problems” that some members’ emails with entry shots have been causing me (*believe me, that’s actually quite a lot - which are **very** time-consuming to fix after errors have been identified ☹*), I’m asking some of you to change how you send shots to me from now on, thus:

1. 3 (max) entries for each competition, no file size limits, & please give the titles for each shot – preferably as parts of the file names - in the emails with the shots.
2. **NEW:** *If you forget to include either the image files or the titles in the first email, then please **RESEND the WHOLE email with BOTH the image files AND the titles in it** (I’ve had to try to match titles in 1 email with shots in another – that’s difficult, time-consuming, and has led to several unfortunate errors!).*
3. **NEW: Separate emails for the entries in each competition**, i.e. **ONE** email for your entries in the monthly “themed” competition, and **ANOTHER ONE** for entries in “Your Shot of the Month” = **TWO emails!**
4. **NEW:** If you, as some people do, submit entries for other people as well as yourself, then **SEPARATE emails for the entries from each person** – thus, if two people are submitting shots for both competitions then that’s = **FOUR emails!**

NB: **The entry deadline for the August competitions is Wednesday 26th.**

August On-line Competition – “Post Lockdown Adventures”

Now that members are getting “out and about” more (hopefully, a lot more), opportunities for shooting photos outside your houses and gardens should be getting more frequent and wider – therefore take the opportunities to get shots to send in.

(BTW: please try not to send in “very similar” shots for this competition and the one below!)

August “Your Shot of the Month”

“Normal rules” – “anything goes” as long it is well composed and executed.

The August Meeting

Given that we can hopefully get out and about more this month, I proposed that we try to organise an **off-site photo shoot sometime just before the August Bank Holiday**. I sent out an initial email on this subject just after the Monday meeting, and will follow that up with another one over this weekend.

Future Meetings

We still have no idea yet when actual physical meetings at the Church (or elsewhere?) will be possible, and so we will assume for the time being that the August one will be the off-site photo shoot, as above, and that the September one will be another on-line “virtual” one on Monday 28th.

If you think you have a subject of general interest and are able to put up a suitable presentation for the 28th then please “step forward” with your ideas
(we will help/mentor / review/ practice via Zoom /etc., with it if asked!)

Monthly meeting Diary Dates for 2020 - the 4th Monday of each month

(EXCEPT maybe for some on Thursdays as indicated below – some may be virtual, whilst later ones will hopefully be “real ones”!)

On the basis that the meetings will normally – *wherever possible* – be on the 4th Monday of the month, here are the dates **at the moment: Sometime in the week of Monday 24th - Sunday 30th August**, September 28th, October 26th, November 23rd, *Thursday* December 17th (***)

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We have previously discussed the above dates, and provisionally agreed the following:

- *****December** – Xmas Day is Fri 25th and so we provisionally booked Thursday 17th, but Judy will check on whether that is still viable, given the “total fiasco” on the 19th of December 2019!

Well, I think that’s all for the moment, and so hope to see you on the **off-site Photo shoot at the end of August when the place and date have been agreed** (*and then on MONDAY 28th Sept at the next Virtual Meeting!*).

John

And on behalf of the other members of the Steering Committee: Judy Peddie, Brian Hillier and Andrew Longhurst!

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