

U3A Digital Photo Group – 22nd July 2019 Meeting Notes

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- There will now be **NO meeting at the Church on Thursday 29th August**, and so the **next** meeting at the Church will be on **Monday 23rd September**
- However, on **Thursday 29th August**, there **WILL be an off-site Photoshoot at the Rickmansworth Lakes**, organised by Ian Brown and Robert Waltz – see further down for details.

Anyway many members were on holiday (lucky them!) on Monday but we nevertheless had quite a good and good meeting as below

The July Meeting Presentations

Len gave a presentation on the theory and techniques of 3D stereo photography, and thus here are some of the aspects that he covered:

- What is stereo photography?
 - o Taking photos which “fool” the brain into seeing objects/people in 3 dimensions because the
- When did it start?
 - o Around the mid-19th Century with plate cameras, and has developed considerably via film and now digital imaging since then, but the basic techniques are still pretty much the same.
- How are stereo images taken?
 - o Typically, 2 images are taken from positions 3”/75mm horizontally apart to produce a slight lateral displacement in the view between the 2 “parallel pair” images to simulate how the human brain gets information from human eyes which are about that distance apart.
- What different types of stereo images are there?

I won't try to interpret what Len said, but would refer you to webpages like this one “Stereoscopic Formats” on the webpage <http://www.sview.ru/en/help/input/> which defines and illustrated some of the many types!

He gave some illustrations of stereo images, including the use of certain types of glasses with different coloured lenses, and also a handout of “coloured dots” where one should be able to see a hidden image if it is held against your forehead and then you attempt to look at it in a “cross-eyed manner” for a short time. (*Apparently there was an image of Saturn there – but I couldn't see it, possibly because I am partially colour blind!*)
- How does 3D video work?

Len outlined the use of the “Pulfrich Effect” which is a technique used in stereo/3D video photography whereby (roughly!) the images are manipulated so that the left and right eyes see the same object from their different directions, but with the image being repetitively switched rapidly (about 25 times/second) from one eye to the other.

There was obviously much more to Len's presentation than that, and so it might interesting for members to follow that up by relevant internet searches if they would like to investigate the subject in more depth.

Thanks again, Len – most interesting and enlightening as usual 😊.

The New U3A Promotional Posters that are being prepared

Following on from last month's request on the above from Rodney Fox, Freda Longhurst prepared a couple of proposed posters, which were then displayed via the projector at the meeting and then discussed by the Members. Since then, and taking those comments into account, she has prepared 4 more "variations" on the theme, as attached, for members to review and comment thereupon.

NB: The pictures are "space holders", and so if anyone has got some good images to suggest then let Freda and Andrew have a look at them.

Please send your comments directly to Freda – her email address is on the **August 2019 U3A Hillingdon Newsletter** (*that came out very recently and so you should have access to it now or soon*) as she is the new Interests Groups Coordinator.

The 29th August Meeting – Rickmansworth Lakes Photo Shoot

It was confirmed that the above will go ahead and will be organised and led by Ian Brown and Robert Waltz . It will provide all sorts of photographic opportunities such as wildlife, a walk by the canal, trees & plants, and so on.

Ian and Robert briefly outlined their proposed route and programme to the members present, will "formalise" that in the next couple of weeks, and then provide maps and the timetable – **which is scheduled to start around 10am and take around 2½ hours**, and end up at a local café for refreshments.

Currently we have between 10-12 members "signed up" to go along, and Ian and Robert now have their contact details, but all other members will be most welcome to come along – therefore I now need to know :

- a) Who is else is interested in the photoshoot on Thursday 29th August?**
- b) Are you interested in car-sharing and/or can take others in your car (and from roughly where in our area) ?**
- c) In both cases, please email me ASAP if you are?**

The 23rd September Meeting

The full agenda has yet to be decided and announced, but that will probably include a presentation from myself on using the autofocus modes and facilities on your cameras because, it seems, that some Members would like to know more about the best modes and options for their requirements.

The July Prints Competition "Wildlife"

We had 21 very good and interesting prints entries for Category 1, and the Winners were ,

- 1) Margaret Mayes “Deer Feeding” (*another shot from her trip to Nepal*)
- 2) Freda Longhurst “Gatekeeper Butterfly”
- 3) Freda Longhurst “Curlew”
- 4) Ian Brown “Swan”

As usual the Winning Members should send the image files for those shots to the email address hillingdonu3a.pictures@gmail.com - giving the:

Competition name – “Wildlife”, the photo position number and the “photo name” (AS ABOVE, PLEASE!!), and, of course, their own name, and image file sizes should be NO LARGER than 1Mb.

(please DO NOT send, or copy them to me)

“YOUR Shot of the Month, ANYTHING goes” – July Competition

We had a very large entry of 31 shots, and, after the review and voting, the Winners were:

1st Equal:

- Janet Nicholas “Self-portrait - Rear view of Head”
- Len Fenton “Chaffinch”

3rd Equal:

- Andy Austin “Greek Sunset”
- Freda Longhurst “Comma Butterfly”

I will forward those 4 images to Tony to add to “Your Shot of the Month” for July.

September “Your Shot of the Month, ANYTHING goes”

As there will be no meeting at the Church in August, the next competition will be for the Monday 23rd September meeting. Thus your shots for that must be taken **between 22nd July & 23rd September - but please send them to me by 19th September to give me time to put them into the presentation for the 23rd !**

NB: PLEASE ATTACH your shots to your email – DO NOT insert them so that the images can actually be viewed when I open those emails, because:

- It take me much longer to save and organise them!
- When displayed on the projection screen they will be VERY SMALL as compared with the rest and will not do them “justice” – we had a couple like that this month and the difference was very apparent!

Monthly meeting Diary Dates for 2019 - the 4th Monday of each month (EXCEPT for some on Thursdays as indicated below)

Thrs 29th Aug, Mon 23rd Sept, Mon 28th Oct, Mon 25th Nov, **Thrs 19th Dec**

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 **THURSDAY 29th JULY at Rickmansworth Lakes, &/or MONDAY 23rd September at the Church**

John

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

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