

U3a DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

DATE: 14th FEBRUARY 2024

VENUE: LOUISE HOUSE

1. Apologies

Received from Mike Etchells, Nick and Heather Hall.

2. World Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition Exhibition

The Exhibition could be seen at the Shrewsbury Museum until 15th February. It was a coup for the Museum to have been picked as one of the few venues for the Exhibition on its tour around the country. Their display facilities were somewhat restricted but that did not spoil the viewing experience. Most members of the Group had taken the opportunity to visit the Exhibition ahead of the meeting.

At the meeting, the Group viewed edited highlights of the Exhibition led by Alan and Mike (referring to the Commemorative Portfolio (33) which displays all 100 pictures awarded in the 2023 competition, together with their background stories). We discussed the selected images, the challenges for the photographers, the emotions they generated and the stories they told. The photos clearly illustrated both the beauty and drama of the natural world as well as our conflicted relationship with it. The background stories also gave details of the equipment used and the camera settings selected – useful information to help the Group improve their own techniques.

The Group felt that this had been a valuable exercise and noted their appreciation of the efforts of the Museum in procuring the Exhibition.

3. 2024 Programme

We discussed the 2024 group programme, setting up a schedule of activities through to July's field trip to the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter.

4. Field Trips

It was agreed, weather permitting, that the April meeting date will be used for a visit to Port Sunlight. Several members of the group, who have already been there, proposed to make a private visit of their own to photograph some of the local coastal locations. A U3a risk assessment for the Port Sunlight trip will be needed as usual.

ACTION – DSF

Shrewsbury Castle was suggested as a bad weather fallback. Gail undertook to follow this up for the next meeting

ACTION – GR

The July field trip will be to the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham. Mark undertook to investigate this and report back at the next meeting

ACTION – MN

Another location is needed for the October field trip – to be discussed at the next meeting

ACTION - DSF

Other rainy-day options suggested were Coleham Pumping Station and Chirk Castle

5. Organisational Issues

Mike Tyler announced that he was stepping down as coordinator with immediate effect. David agreed to be the next coordinator and Mike agreed to act as his assistant until he felt confident enough to proceed. The group generally added their support to help him settle in and “learn the ropes”.

The meeting wanted to pass on their thanks to Mike for all the time and effort he expended in the role and the effective leadership he provided.

Mick agreed to continue as Treasurer and reminded everyone that subs of £5 were due.

6. Next Meeting

In addition to discussing / finalising the details for the April field trip, we will be reviewing members photos received for the Bridges topic. There is still an opportunity to submit or revise photos – but please let me have any additions or changes by 6th March.

ACTION - ALL

Dic and Alan offered to make a short presentation on their Bridge Building experience to support the topic.

ACTION – DB / AE

We will need a new quarterly theme following the March meeting. Please come armed with your ideas

ACTION – ALL

7. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be on 13th March 2024 in Louise House between 1400 and 1600hrs

In the January Meeting Minutes, Mike pointed out that, ideally, we need to identify four training topics for the year. He suggested a list of technical subjects & camera skills and asked everyone to review it and provide feedback on their preferences / priorities (anonymously if you prefer).

It will be picked up as a discussion item in the May meeting. Meanwhile, any early feedback (to Mike or I) would be helpful

ACTION – ALL

For reference, the list was

- Sharper images - choosing camera focus modes and lens focal lengths. Software sharpening adjustments.

- Basic RAW image editing workflow - Brightness, Contrast, Levels, Shadows and Highlights, Whites and Blacks.
- Hands-on camera help outdoors (mini field trips at the Quarry park or local nature reserves).
- Composition - rules and beyond.
- Portraits - Posing and Composing.
- White balance
- RAW or not - have modern JPEGs become editable enough?
- Night Photography
- Street Photography

Best wishes / regards

David

U3a Digital Photography