

U3a DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Notes of the meeting held on 12th June 2024 at 2pm in Louise House

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from John, Alan, Nick, Heather and Sallyanne

2. Review of Themed Photos

The collection of 60 photos on the theme of Uniform(s) were reviewed and critiqued by the Group. There were some very good examples showing an imaginative interpretation of the theme.

Once again, the issue of the use of AI tools and techniques for editing was raised – the intention is to set aside time in a future meeting to discuss this properly and to establish some ground rules for the Group. A video on the subject has been received from SPS and can be used as a basis for the discussion.

ACTION - DSF

It was agreed that the next quarter's theme will be BOOKS, a subject that offers wide scope for interpretation. The photos will be reviewed in the September meeting – note that only those taken in the 3-month period (starting today) will be accepted

ACTION - ALL

3. July Field Trip

Mark presented the detailed arrangements for the field trip to the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham on 10th July – his slides will be circulated with these Minutes. The plan is to meet for the 09:30hrs train from Shrewbury, returning on the 15:30hrs leaving Birmingham New Street. The visit will include two Victorian Graveyards which offer some interesting photo opportunities.

A map showing the proposed route has been produced and will be included with the Minutes

ACTION - MT / DSF

Mark needs to confirm numbers for lunch as soon as possible. A note will be circulated to Members asking them to confirm whether they will attend the field trip and whether they require lunch

ACTION - DSF

A draft Risk Assessment for the trip had been circulated for review, in advance of the meeting. Apart from comments about the level of detail (necessary for U3a Insurance purposes) no issues were raised.

4. Review of the 2024 Programme

Such a high proportion of our meeting time is given over to field trips (4 per year), photo reviews (field trip, themed subjects, annual competition) and Christmas that there is little room in the programme for learning sessions. The proposal to take the field trips out of our annual calendar and arrange them on separate days was supported. The Group will be consulted on whether to apply this change for our October trip – and if so, to identify a suitable date.

ACTION – DSF / ALL

5. AOB

Mileage Rates

Peter has asked U3a to provide definitive guidance on how travel costs should be treated. Their response has been disappointing, basically leaving it up to individual Groups to decide – within the proviso that there should be no profit element arising from any arrangement.

There was some discussion of rates used by the Ramblers Association (£1 per 10 miles) and HMRC (45p per mile for business usage). There was also discussion on whether payments made / received should be voluntary or obligatory. The issue of the travel costs to recce a field trip was raised. It was agreed that Peter and David would pull together a proposal for review & discussion at the August meeting

ACTION – PF / DSF

6. Next Meeting(s)

The next ‘meeting’ will be the field trip on 10th July.

The next meeting in Louise House will be on 14th August 2024 at 2pm

Regards, David

13th June 24