

U3a DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Notes of Meeting on 13th March 2024

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Etchells

2. Port Sunlight Field Trip

John made a presentation on the arrangements for the April field trip. The plan is to visit the Museum first, followed by the Village and then the parkland. Lunch will be at the Bridge Inn. After lunch we intend to visit the Lady Lever Gallery, however an Industrial Dispute might mean it is closed – John was advised to ring the day before to check the situation.

ACTION – JL

Photographs are allowed at both venues and the houses offer a variety of interesting styles.

Travel by car is both quicker and cheaper. The indication at the meeting was for 6 people making the visit. We will need to confirm numbers nearer the time and David will send out a note asking everyone to say whether they are going. This info will be passed on to John for lunch reservation.

ACTION - DSF

Mike and John offered to drive. There was some discussion about the Insurance implications of passengers making a cash contribution to the driver. Any contribution is totally at the discretion of the passenger – U3a (and the Government) have issued guidance on what might be considered appropriate (in the case of Port Sunlight it would be £12.70 based on mileage).

We will need a meeting point on the morning of the visit. The obvious place would be the P&R car park at Meole Brace – to be confirmed

ACTION – MT / DSF

It was agreed that David will check the weather forecast on Sunday evening prior to the trip and message everyone with his view on whether it should go ahead.

ACTION – DSF

A copy of John's presentation will be mailed out with the Minutes

ACTION – DSF

Mike took the meeting through the Risk Assessment he has produced for the visit and this was discussed in detail. Since the visit (like other field trips) is a Group agreed activity, there is no need to inform the Group Category Coordinator.

It is important for everyone going on the trip to have Next-of-Kin details easily accessible. This can either be in the Emergency Contacts section of mobile phones or on a Next-of-Kin card available from U3a. Mike undertook to bring along a number of the latter

ACTION – MT

It was agreed that the car park nearest the Gallery would make a suitable Assembly point in the event of anyone getting lost.

It would be useful to review the Contacts List that was last updated in 2023. Peter will follow this up on an individual basis

ACTION – PF

3. Wet Weather Back-up

Mike undertook to investigate a visit to Shrewsbury Castle as a wet weather alternative

ACTION – MT

4. Quarterly Theme

As a precursor to our Bridges topic, Alan gave two interesting presentations. The first outlined his involvement in the Midland Link Motorway project. The second gave details of the construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge (and his experience climbing to the top of the arch!).

The meeting reviewed and commented on the 72 photographs submitted by members on the theme of Bridges. Subjects even included a handbag!

A new topic is required for the next quarter. Following the meeting, one has been selected at random from the electronic list. It is 'Uniform' – which should give considerable opportunity for interpretation as a noun (e.g. distinctive clothing) or an adjective (e.g. character/size/shape). It is also the code word for the letter "U" in the phonetic alphabet.

5. July Field Trip to Birmingham Jewellery Quarter

Time did not permit us to cover this. The presentation prepared by Mark will be refreshed and discussed at the June meeting

ACTION – MN /DSF

A Risk Assessment for the visit is in progress

ACTION – MT

6. AOB

- a. U3a organisational changes have transferred Digital Photography from Hobbies to the new Creative Arts category. Our Group Category Coordinator will be Richard Pearson.
- b. The Image Consent Form was last visited in 2023 and should be refreshed. Copies distributed at the meeting should be signed and returned next time
ACTION – ALL
- c. After discussion, it was agreed that the maximum membership number for the Group should be raised to 15 (vs. current of 13) – limited by space and the need to have everyone seated at the table. This will be confirmed on Arda and the two people currently on the waiting list should be invited to join
ACTION – DSF
- d. John suggested that at some future meeting we should discuss the issues surrounding the use of AI in photography. This will be picked up later in the year.
ACTION - DSF
- e. Philip presented Mike with a gift and card on behalf of the Group to thank him for the leadership he has provided and the time he has expended in his role as Coordinator over the years.

Regards, David