

Notes from the Photography Group meeting of 7 August 2015

Survey Results

To 'receive suggestions on how to improve your photos' was the clear winner with a score of 6.32. This is something we have not done too well in the past. In future we will ask a small panel of more experienced members to comment on the images shown in the 'Set Subject'.

'Talks or demonstrations on photographic techniques' was second with 6.07. We've had several suggestions for suitable topics and will try to cover them in the coming months

'Show your photos of a set subject' scored 5.52. While the majority wanted us to retain the set subject, others would rather have freedom to show the pictures that interested them. We will have a free 'set subject' every third or fourth month to keep everyone happy.

'Group photo shoots at places of interest' 4.61. We will have occasional trips out but these will not replace the regular meeting but be on a different day. The fifth Friday was suggested.

'Group projects, leading perhaps to a small exhibition' 4.07 and 'Talks on famous photographers and their work' 3.54 had little support. These will be left for now and maybe revisited later.

'Talks on taking photos for absolute beginners' 2.74. Although this had little support from the majority we feel it is important to cater for beginners and help them become more experienced. So we will try to have regular slots for suitable topics though it will take some time to cover everything. However, beginners should always feel free to approach any of the more experienced members with any questions or for any advice they may need.

News

The Bucks County Show takes place on 27 August in Aylesbury. This will present many opportunities for photographers, especially to gather material for next month's set subject 'Agriculture'. More details at <http://buckscountyshow.co.uk/>

Amersham Photographic Society hold their annual exhibition in the Barn Hall from 28 to 30 August. All the images from the winners of the 'Camera Club of the Year' plus lots more from beginners to international competition winners. Free entry. All welcome. <http://www.amershamphotosoc.com/>

The 'Travel Photographer of the Year' exhibition is being held at the Royal Geographic Society until 5 September. Great photography and plenty of inspiration for your holidays. <http://www.tpoty.com/exhibitions>

Guru told us about photography days at Waddesdon and Cliveden, held in association with Panasonic. Description of the event - It says it is all FREE http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/article-1355901172631/?campid=email_central_newsletter_august2015_Yr2SenCommericalArticleCTA

The Road Show - venues and dates:

<http://www.panasonic.com/uk/National-Trust/Lumix-Event.html>

Cliveden: Tues 18 Aug

Waddesdon Manor: Sat/Sun 29/30 Aug

Set Subject - Rain and Sunshine

We had another good crop of images with about 16 contributions from members. This time everyone stuck to the limit of four images each and stuck pretty well to the spirit of the set subject. Few people managed pictures of rain AND sunshine though we did have 2 or 3 magnificent rainbows. David P, Tony W and John H did their best to comment on contributions from each author, with suggestions including:

- Crop uninteresting parts of the image
- Try using only a small part of the picture if it is stronger
- Watch the background and adjust your viewpoint to avoid distracting objects, particularly wires, fences or horizons cutting through main subjects
- Consider whether an image might work better in monochrome
- Clone out or darken down distractions (such as highlights or bright objects) in the background, especially near the edges or corners.

Tutorial - Visit a Country Show

Brian Dunn told us about the photographic opportunities at various types of show - local fetes, country shows, county shows and game fairs. All have lots going on and offer a great day out (especially if the weather is fine). Shops, businesses, local organisations, competitions, vintage cars, farm animals, domestic animals, show jumping, motorbikes, food, drink, clay pigeon shooting, fly-tying - it's all there and everyone is welcome.

The Bucks County Show is on in three weeks' time - see the link above.