

IN FOCUS

Newsletter of the Lostwithiel U3A Photography Group

Platform Zoom Meeting

The next Zoom meeting is on **Thursday 17th September at 2pm.**

Chair is Heidi

The topic for our pictures is "**Friendship**". Please send your images to

stephaniemthomas@btinternet.com

by **6pm on Wednesday 16th September.**

Photography Extra Zoom Meeting

The next meeting is **Monday 7th September at 5pm.**

This will follow the same format as last time except pairings will be created in the order that members respond to the meeting invitation.

If you'd rather not take part in the critique you're still welcome to join to see what happens.

Field Trips

Future trips are:

- **24th September 2020** - Park Head and Bedruthan Steps organised by Rose
- **22nd October 2020** - Autumn Colours in Cardinham Woods organised by Jenny E

David's photographic story - the later years...

So another 25 yrs passed before I returned to photography, not in a hobby-sense, but merely to record my mountain walking trips with "the boys" and other travel memories. This time with an Olympus "tough" camera because it was small and resilient. However, it was another decade still before I thought I ought to buy another SLR triggered by my niece asking me to take her wedding photos - HELP! By this time the market was digital...Aarrgh!

I found the digital camera world so confusing, very little seeming to relate to my historic, almost pre-historic, camera knowledge. Everything appeared so much more complicated than it needed to be with so many functions to understand. I bought an Olympus E330 supplied with two "standard" zoom lenses and I did, just, survive.



So more time passed...I had subsequently bought an Olympus EPL with two "standard" zooms lenses, but not used it very much. It was not until I'd been retired a couple of years that I discovered the U3A and, in particular, the Photography group! This coincided with me thinking of taking photography seriously again and investing in a new system.

Again, I did my research, online this time! I studied lots of reviews and liked the features and appearance of Fujifilm X series cameras best. I particularly appreciated that they were retro-styled, had control knobs and analogue dials that reminded me of what a camera used to look like!



I happened to make my first U3A photographic platform meeting about then and spoke to Peter Bland afterwards, finding out that he had just changed over to Fujifilm himself, it was the clincher! One "handling/testing" visit to Clemens later I bought a Fujifilm XT10 again with two "standard"

Andrew Ray

We have been on three workshops with Andrew, a professional landscape photographer based near Redruth in mid-Cornwall, with a detailed knowledge of the Cornish landscape. This allowed him to take us to lesser known locations around the coast and in the World Heritage mining area.

Andrew began to take photography seriously 20 years ago studying photography as an evening course at Cornwall College. Since then he has received a number of awards including twice for best landscape at the Bristol International Salon of Photography and Royal Photographic Society Medals for both landscape and wildlife. Andrew has also had articles published in magazines. You may well have seen his work in local galleries and at craft shows.

His images are carefully composed, often taken during the golden hours around sunrise and sunset.



Steph

zoom lenses. We are lucky to have an actual camera shop so close to us. Since then, I have of course, discovered the online Wex Photo Video Store and tripods, bags, filters, more cameras, flashguns, more lenses (I hope Charlayne's not reading this!), memory cards etc have followed over the last 5 years or so. Initially, I justified purchases as getting equipped for our "living with Whales" Alaska trip, but of course that was just an excuse!

What kind of photography do I like? I enjoy landscape and the challenge of wildlife photography. Am I good at it? No, but I'm learning and generally improving which is the main thing isn't it? Access to the excellent field trips and the opportunity to learn directly from professionals has helped me greatly. Isn't it also great mixing with such a diversity of talent that exists within our Photography group? Everyone so very willing to share their knowledge and no question's too silly. We are fortunate to have many gifted and talented individuals in our group (I'll spare their blushes!) who have developed spectacularly and show me what is possible, whilst I'm nowhere near their standard, I'm encouraged to keep on trying.

I find the art and science of taking photos totally absorbing, it takes you over as you have to "focus" completely (I couldn't resist the pun!) which is a great stress-reliever.

Where would I like to get to with my photography? I'd really like to be able to reach down inside myself and reflect this in representing and interpreting what I see through the lens in the final photo. Now that's a BIG statement and risky, scary even! I have to accept it's not more gear that I need, but to develop more skill at using what I have and allow my "buried" creativity to surface, I'm convinced it's there somewhere! Also I'd certainly like to master some post-processing techniques to improve my "interpretational" skills.

On a positive note, and coming back to lockdown, which is where I started, it's given us all time to reflect, to ponder, to learn, to develop and even perfect our skills. For one, it's enhanced my appreciation of photography as an ongoing passion with almost infinite scope for interpretation and development

Finally, and harking back to my brief time processing B&W photographs, I hope that I may "still" become a late "developer"!

Happy Photography, David

