

PHOTOGROUP - THEME SHEET

COMPOSITION : Is it really important ?

Monthly theme

Each month we will have a 'theme' that we discuss and action where possible.

This month's theme is COMPOSITION. This is the first part of our HOW TO TAKE A GOOD PHOTOGRAPH initiative.

There will be a 'Theme Sheet' sent out, usually as part of, or with, the newsletter.

Recent Events

This will be the first event for this newly created group.

Upcoming Events

Our first meet-up will be on Monday 27th April (10:30 to 12:30) at Ashlett Creek, near Fawley.

This will be a '**Photo Session**' so please bring your camera or smartphone with a fully charged battery and spare battery where possible.'

The next meet-up will be on Monday 11th May (10:30 to 12:30) at Waterside GP Surgery (meeting room) This will be an **Editing Session**.

Improving your photography

A good starting point would perhaps be a brief analysis of 'why it needs improvement' , what in particular don't you like, or do you feel is wrong or 'not working' ? This may of course not be obvious and need a 'deeper' look.

Photography is considered to be a "creative art' by many. As such it is open to opinion. If someone else doesn't like your image does that mean it's bad ? If you like it then, unless you have been asked or commissioned to produce it, then maybe that's all that really matters?

In the 200 years since the Frenchman Joseph Niepce invented the camera, professional photographers and teachers have developed a number of compositional 'rules' to help. We will look at a few of these later but initially we will consider some simple tips, some of which can be used before you take the image (*preparation*) or after (*editing*).

Before you take the image:

Have you ever looked at an image taken by a professional photographer and thought "Wow that's so much better than mine is or would be" ? If so you may just have thought that it is 'because they are a professional, and it should be better' or 'its because they have a much better camera'.

Firstly it's not just because they are 'professional' , it's because of what they do, as a professional, in the image taking process that most amateurs do **NOT** do, and that's what makes the difference. Let's call this 'preparation before the shutter button is pressed'. That preparation is through learned behaviour, acquired through experience, observation or training.

We will look at some of these simple tips on our photo sessions



Image Editing

- Most people edit their images in some way. Even if they just crop them it is still considered as an edit. Basic editing may be changing the brightness or clarity of all or part of an image for example.
- Most smartphones have an inbuilt editor for at least basic editing. Some of you that use digital cameras may edit your images on a tablet (eg. an Apple Ipad) and may use apps or programs such as Adobe Lightroom or Photoshop.
- Depending on what you wish to do with the final edited image we will discuss file formats for electronic display such as web, social media or family sharing, and for printing

Editing sessions

- We intend having at least 1 editing session per month.
- We will cover a number of different editing subjects and it will provide an opportunity to edit images taken on the photo session together.

Secondly I will suggest that it rarely has much to do with the camera quality as most digital cameras and smartphones have been capable of capturing good quality images for many years.

Editing the taken image:

Some of you may already edit your images before you show them to others or perhaps print some of them. This is also known as post-processing, a term still used for digital images, though its roots come from the days of negatives and film development. We will look at some simple tips during editing that will enhance your taken image.

The premise of this piece is that by doing some of the things that professionals do in that 'preparation' you can dramatically improve the quality of your *taken* photograph *and* during the 'editing' process you can improve (enhance) the taken image to produce the *final* photograph if required.

Don't worry it doesn't mean that it will be taking you half an hour to take a photo of that cosy cabin across the lake in front of that mountain, a number of things that you can do before will take just a few seconds of your time. The editing need not take much time either, but could make a noticeable difference.

