

Phoenix Photographic Group

Newsletter from meeting of 3rd April 2017

Introduction

Joe opened the meeting, welcoming both the 18 current members attending and a new member, Ian Averill. He outlined the activities for the afternoon.

News Items

There were no specific news items as such. However, as a group, we discussed a number of important issues before moving to the activity "Members' Pics".

PPG funds

We have over £700 in PPG funds which should not be left for a long period as simply cash in the bank. It is there to support our activities and raise the bar in terms of what we can do. The group discussed a list of suggestions regards items these funds might be spent on. Several were discarded; those that everybody agreed necessary included:

- An audio speaker unit for presentations
- A new extension lead
- Application software (Photoshop Elements, Corel, ACDSee etc that will be necessary when our laptop has to be replaced. But not MS Office (see below)

The replacement of the laptop raised other issues because this may need to be done imminently ... the current device is living on borrowed time. The group felt that Phoenix should replace this asset when necessary – having at one point agreed to do so – and also because it was felt Phoenix have sufficient funds to establish an asset replacement policy for all existing assets. But since there is currently no guarantee, no policy, that gives the group confidence a broken laptop would be replaced, the PPG leaders were asked not to spend any PPG funds until that issue has been resolved.

The required specification of a new laptop was discussed at length and agreed. It is likely to cost around £450 - £500. The way to get a good deal however is the monitor sites such as e-Buyer and act quickly when an appropriate deal becomes advertised.

Group Photo Date

We could do with a new group photo as the current one includes Anthony Eden, Robert Baden Powell etc etc. To be used for the Phoenix web-site and other publicity material. Obviously we'd like to find a date when the maximum number of members can attend.

May 8th looks propitious so far. Please can members mail Ian to confirm they're able to be there on that day?

Future Meeting Topics/Activities

A round the table discussion generated some great ideas and suggestions:

- A led workshop on repairing damaged prints
- A session looking at holiday snaps that make you laugh
- A presentation by Roy on safari photography techniques and his results
- A discussion regards night photography
- A presentation of photos from 'The Tunnellers'
- A visit to Blake High School video studio, probably after 4pm, not Mon or Thursday
- A sports photo shoot at Sandon Point to Point, Stafford 3 Day Eventing or at the Tennis Club
- A discussion about printers

And a future monthly photo topic Canals & Waterways was suggested:

Christmas Lunch

Not actually discussed during the meeting, but mentioned to me by Rob .. we should start thinking where/when etc about now! Will discuss next Monday.

Activities

Ian then displayed all the Members' Pics that he'd been sent; there were discussions about many of them. Spookily Sandra Turner had sent a couple of photos of her bridesmaids that had been taken by our new member Ian Averill.

Next Meeting - Catching the moment



10 April 2017 at Etching Hill Village Hall. 1:45 start. Bring cameras, tripods, remote trigger devices



The meeting aims to facilitate some practice for taking photos of transient occurrences that do repeat at intervals. Ideally we'd have you snapping cricketers' bails falling ... but we can't afford the team. So, instead, it'll be "Drips" and suchlike things. Objective – to get the most impressive "in flight" image!

Don't forget the continuous "monthly photo challenge". We rely on sack-fulls of images being mailed in to make the monthly sessions interesting. Current topics are, from now:-

Facial Expressions
Architecture
Wildlife

Plenty of scope here knock yourselves out!
Please forward any photos you wish to display during "Members Pics" or with the news letters to ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk.

Members Pics



Architecture – your Starter for 10 - Joe



Facial Expressions (apparently!)

John Turner



Bob Southall

Visions in Red



Ian Halstead

Silhouettes



Bob Southall

Silhouettes



Tiny Bits of Red

Joe

Using Club Funds

Our club laptop

The group agreed that the new laptop requires a suitable array of I/O ports – USB, HDMI connectors etc. A meaty processor such as Intel Core i7 4790K or AMD A6 7310. At least 8GB memory, 16GB if poss. Motherboard graphics are adequate. A good manufacturer – Fujitsu, Toshiba, Dell, HP, Asus. It was agreed that we don't actually need Microsoft Office but can tolerate Libre Office on this laptop.