

Phoenix Photographic Group

Newsletter from Meeting of 10th December 2018

Introduction

Seventeen people turned up for today's meeting, at which a new projector was being used for the first time.

News Items

We had quite a miscellany of items this week (all interesting):

Bob Bell has purchased a new projector from eBay for £85. At the moment we are borrowing this from Bob, it appears to work fine and the likelihood is that we (PPG that is) will purchase this from Bob in due course.

Great celebrations that next week you'll not be listening to Ian or myself droning on, you'll be tucking into a slap-up meal at the Rag!

Bob Southall has posed a challenge to all PPG members. He's taken a photo of a dark room in an old property (NT or similar), simultaneously captured in both RAW and .jpg formats. It's horribly underexposed for the most part and cries out for a bit of work to turn it into an acceptable image. So, he's gone to work on the RAW and turned out an image that does come up to scratch. Alongside this Newsletter – as attachments – you'll find his effort ... but he's saved it as a .jpg file. You'll also find the ORIGINAL .jpg image. The challenge to you all is to manipulate that original .jpg to bring out the detail ... make it lighter ... get to a result that looks like Bob's own effort. I have had a go. You have to do better than me to win the secret prize! At a future session Bob will show us exactly how he manipulated the RAW image to bring out that detail. Please mail any attempts to Ian.

It was noted that the last Coffee Morning of the year is a week on Thursday at Lea Hall at 10 am

Rob Cross gave us information on the public consultation and subsequent plans regards redevelopment of the Power Station site ... with a country park alongside the river and the lake being retained. He wondered at cars from 2000 homes all leaving via two roundabouts at rush hour! Next consultation at Ravenhill Village Hall on 30th January.

Harold alerted us to the (indoor) Modern Christmas Trees at Shugborough, which are worthy of photographing, but you can't use flash.

Geoff Setterfield proposed a vote of thanks to those who regularly 'did stuff' for the PPG .. such as Alan, Geoff A, Bob B, Ian and Joe etc. It was also proposed that we should thank everybody who contributed to meetings by giving presentations, bringing slideshows, movies etc etc etc.

Plus a note: PPG Crossword Solution is at the end of the Newsletter

Activities

Frank Gill took to the stage/took the mouse/whatever and took us on a journey into photo-composition. He kicked off comparing the effectiveness of rule of thirds with the golden ratio, illustrating this with his own and others' photos. The golden ratio led into spirals that are based on the Fibonacci sequence, because these two are related like ham'n'eggs. Frank started to show us photo's he'd taken of sections of sea shells, sunflowers, fir-cones, galaxies and many other naturally occurring phenomena ... pointing out the spirals that are fundamental to the way they have been formed. There's no agreed reason as to why spirals appear so frequently, though obviously it's an efficient 'packing' solution for seeds in a sunflower.

In photography the 'spiral arrangement' is a cue to leading the eye in addition to giving the viewer a sub-conscious feeling that it's 'comfortable' or 'right'. Frank went on to seamlessly share photos of buildings etc that he'd taken in Birmingham, collages he'd made from fragments of these and then more, stretching from a some straightforward snaps to real Alice in Wonderland kaleidoscope compositions.

It was a great journey. By the end I think we all felt that either we, or Frank, or maybe both, were on drugs.

But a damned good afternoon's entertainment – Thank You Frank!

Next Meeting

Next Monday 17th Dec we'll all be at The Rag!! For member's Pics

Topics

OPEN

Anything goes, as long as it's the members photo, is legal and decent.

Please send your images to: -

ianchalstead@yahoo.co.uk

And now, a selection from Frank's presentation:









