

Corley and Fillongley



Photographic Club Newsletter

Issue 13 – 5th January 2015

Next meeting 2nd February, 7.00 – 9.00pm

December Competition (Autumn Landscapes) Results

Colour:

1st Mark Woodward



2nd Tracy Mair



3rd Rebekah Mason



Black & White

1st Trevor Long



2nd Richard Hammersley



3rd Bob Eales



A big thank you to Brian Green who gave up his time to come along in December to judge the above competition, Brian gave an honest, maybe harsh at times opinion on the night, his views were also constructive and hopefully we all enjoyed the evening and didn't take any of his comments too personal.

Camera subjects – tips and tricks

10 TOP IMAGE EDITORS YOU SHOULD TRY

1. Faststone Image Viewer (I have been using this for about 5 years or so, very good)

Full featured image browser, viewer converter and editor with an easy to use interface and a nice array of features, that include resizing, renaming, cropping, colour adjustments, watermarks and more. It also includes an intuitive full-screen mode that provides quick access to EXIF information and thumbnail browser via hidden toolbars that emerge when you touch the edge of your screen with the mouse. Other features include a high quality magnifier and built-in slideshow with 60+ transitional effects, as well as lossless JPEG transitions, drop shadow effects, image frames, scanner support, histogram and much more. FastStone Image Viewer supports all major graphic formats including BMP, JPEG, JPEG 2000, GIF, PNG, PCX, TIFF, WMF, ICO and TGA as well as digital RAW formats including CRW, CR2, NEF, PEF, RAF, MRW, ORF and DNG).

2. Gimp

First appeared way back in 1996, and has been regularly updated ever since, so it's no surprise that the package is the most powerful free photo editor that you'll find anywhere. There are tools to correct colours, enhance contrast, brightness and more; sharpen or blur an image, fix perspective problems, remove red-eye; add special lighting effects, turn a photo into an oil painting, and create an animation. The paint tools alone are amazing, there's full layer support and lots of ways to extend the program. All this power does mean GIMP takes a while to learn, but don't let that put you off - if you've any previous image editing experience then you'll be doing useful work within minutes.

3. Paint.NET

It may not have anything like the power of GIMP, but there's still plenty to like. It's strong on image editing basics, with options to resize and rotate your photos, a good range of selection and paint tools, and some excellent special effects. Support for layers means you can apply your edits to part of an image only, and the program can be extended with plugins. Best of all, though, it's clear and straightforward interface means it's very easy to use, even if you're a complete graphics novice.

4. PhoXo

Has been around for almost 10 years now, and it's grown into a very useful editor with something for everyone. Kids can play around with the clipart, customising images with cartoon cats; practical types will enjoy options like the ability to add a custom watermark to an entire folder of images; and everyone else will appreciate the drawing and paint tools, image transformations, effects and more.

5. Funny Photo Maker

Has no layer support, no smart selection tools, no paint or drawing options. But that doesn't matter, because what it does have is an amazing range of effects which you can apply in seconds. So you can add someone's face to a movie poster, magazine cover or a dollar bill; transform a still image into an animation; add rain or snow to a photo, apply some excellent frames, and turn your photos into a collage, amongst many other options.

6. Photo Pos Pro

Its tiny toolbars and dated interface mean this doesn't look too promising, but begin to explore and you'll soon be impressed. There are plenty of selection options, a wide range of paint tools, colour corrections and more. You get reasonable support for layers and masks, lots of effects (all extremely configurable), and a scripting tool which helps you automate many editing tasks. And the program offers some fun touches, too, like a set of "Magical" effects which help you add fireworks, bubbles, stardust or similar decorations to an image.

7. IrfanView

As its name suggests, mostly about viewing images, but the program also includes plenty of editing power. You can rotate and resize an image, tweak its colours, brightness and contrast; add text captions or watermarks; sharpen your photo, remove red-eye, and apply a range of special effects. If that's not enough, though, IrfanView can be extended via its support for 8Bf (Photoshop), Alta Lux, Filter Factory and Filters Unlimited plugins. All in a compact free tool which requires less than 2MB of space.

8. Picasa

A digital photo organizer and editor which has improved considerably since its first release. Picasa is excellent for beginners and casual digital shooters who want to find all their pictures, sort them into albums, do quick edits, and share with friends and family. Folks with very large photo collections and advanced editing needs should look elsewhere. Picasa 3.5 no longer bears the "beta" designation, adds excellent people recognition technology, and improves the geo tagging, import, and keyword tagging features.

9. PixBuilder Studio

A useful mid-range photo editor with a strong focus on solid, practical features. So instead of cartoon clipart and arty effects you get sensible features like crop, resize and rotate options, plenty of colour correction tools, sharpness and blur filters and some capable print tools. There's not a lot of fun here, then, but PixBuilder Studio is great if you just want to make your photos a little better (and 8BF filter support means the program can be extended if necessary).

10. Chasys Draw IES

Look past its odd name and it proves to be a very capable photo editor with a stack of essential features: extensive paint and drawing tools, strong layer support, lots of smart special effects, plenty of colour and lighting adjustments, Photoshop plugin support, and more. You can also use it to create animations, CD or DVD labels, icons and cursors, or even capture videos of desktop activity. With a RAW file processor, image viewer and converter also included, Chasys Draw IES really is an amazingly versatile package.

If the Devil should cast his net

Team photo 12 months on, 1 or 2 missing but don't they look gorgeous



A bit of fun. 20 Questions.

Name – Carol Davey

1. Where were you born? **Banff, Scotland**
2. When did you get your first camera? **Didn't have one of my own until I met my husband. Then I shared his until the first digital cameras came out.**
3. Can you remember what it was? **Minolta SLR. Then a Canon compact digital.**
4. Money no object, what camera would you buy? **I am quite happy with my Canon cameras that I have at the moment. (a Canon 50D and a Canon IXIS compact) I would need to be considerably better to justify a more expensive camera!**
5. Did anyone in particular inspire your interest in photography? **No one in particular, I just liked capturing moments, people, places to look at in the future**
6. Best photo you have taken. **Probably a sunset from our apartment in Majorca. The sky was thousands of colours of orange and red!**
7. Favourite photo subjects. **Flowers but also exotic places**
8. Favourite all time TV programme. **House**
9. Favourite current TV programme. **Downton Abbey**
10. Favourite type of music. **Vast and varied**
11. Favourite song. **The Man who can't be moved – The Script**
12. Favourite singer. **Bruce Springsteen**
13. Favourite film. **Dirty Dancing**
14. Favourite actor. **Toss up between Tom Cruise and George Cluny**
15. Favourite place in the UK. **North East corner of Scotland**
16. Favourite place anywhere else. **I love Majorca as I have been going there for 30 years but I also love visiting new and exotic places. The most fascinating so far was Hong Kong.**
17. Favourite photographic season. **Spring – for the flowers and lovely bright green leaves**
18. Traditional or modern photos? **Both**
19. Do you have any pets? **No**
20. The one thing you would like to photograph anywhere in the world. **Sydney Harbour Bridge**

Coming Months

05.01.15	7.00	AGM	9.00
02.02.15	7.00	Workshop – to be announced	9.00
02.03.15	7.00	Competition – projected image – subject 'OPEN' (anything)	9.00

Competition Themes for 2015

02.03.15	OPEN	Club Competition	1 b&w, 1colour
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