

# Corley and Fillongley Photographic Club



March 2016 Issue 27

## February – Back to Basics



Last month's meeting went particularly well with the back to basic evening. There was a lot of interacting and comparing cameras, and that's what it's all about, sharing knowledge and helping each other. We are all surprised with how much we really do know. It was great to see a few more new members and I know we will all make them very welcome.

### A few things to look out in the coming months.

#### The Nuneaton Festival.

This is an exhibition held at the Riversley Park, Museum in Nuneaton. It's an photographs entered by the general public which are displayed for two weeks and the photographs will be judged and awarded, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category. You will need to frame your photos and take them to the museum (there is a small entrance fee) 13/14 March is the deadline. Over the years a few members have been winners and Dawn has walked away with the trophy! All the information has been put into a booklet, so take one and have a go. You can enter each category, which are:

Free choice	Still life	Black and White	Portrait	Landscape
Humour	Action	Street Life	Autumn/Winter	Animal life

**Photography Show.** This is held at the NEC on 19 – 22 March. We usually, as a club go on Sunday 20 and meet up for a cup of tea at an agreed time (not compulsory).

**Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition.** At the Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry 5 Feb – 10 April.

This exhibition is well worth a trip, the photographs are amazing – even if you are not a wildlife photographer.

**The Mercia Group.** The Mercia Group of Photography Clubs are an amalgamation of The Bedworth & Exhall CC, Coventry Photographic Society, The Grange Photographic Society and the Jaguar.

These four Clubs, have joined together to enable them to afford “more expensive” speakers. The speaker coming to the group meeting on Wednesday 16 March is Valentina Koulagina, with a talk entitled “Confessions of a Bad Photographer.” The talk starts at 8pm, and everyone is welcome. There is an entry fee of £3.00. The Venue is the Copsewood (Coventry) Sports and Social Club, Allard Way, Coventry CV3 1JP.

**Photographic Exhibition of work by Janet Mendelsohn.** Around 3000 photographs taken around Balsall Heath in the 60's. At the IKON Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS from 27 January – 3 April.

## Camera Angles: 5 ways to add impact with unusual perspectives

*Sometimes you can dramatically alter your photo composition just changing your perspective. This quick guide to using camera angles more effectively will help you take pictures you can be proud of. Below we'll show you 5 simple techniques you can use to alter your camera angles for dramatic effect.*

The search for a new angle in photography is a never-ending challenge. Showing everyone how we see the world around us from our own perspective is often the driving force for photographers.

Unusual and quirky angles are the mainstay of images with impact. We'll show you how to get past the usual 'record' shot and compose a picture with instant wow factor.



### Ideas For New Camera Angles: Shoot straight up

You've probably seen plenty of shots like this before. Why? Well, it's an unusual angle that creates bags of impact and shows you the forest canopy from an arresting perspective.

It offers a 'worm's eye view' of the world and works extremely well with wide-angle lenses. Spend time looking for the 'perfect' subjects.

If you find a reasonably symmetrical pattern, such as here, then keep it central. If it's just a hole in the canopy, try placing it according to the rule of thirds



### Ideas For New Camera Angles: Get down low

This unusual shot, taken from ground level, is a



clever way to pep up your photography and add a new dimension to everyday images.

We don't usually see life from this angle so taking the shot adds tons of impact. It's a lot like a 'worm's eye view'.

Place the camera on or very near the floor and compose to include some of the foreground close to the lens to add a sense of depth.

This is one shot where you'll really have to get down and dirty, because it's essential to check the viewfinder to see if there are any background distractions.

### Ideas For New Camera Angles: Twist the camera

The main problem when taking shots of tall, thin objects, such as this, is the amount of space that surrounds them.

It can look strange and un-artistic if the subject's placed in the centre of the frame while you shoot upwards – fine for the pages of a scientific journal, but we want to create an artistic image.

Twisting your camera so the subject takes a diagonal line through the frame is ideal for a pleasing, unusual composition.

Twisting gives instant impact to most pictures. Try it!



### Ideas For New Camera Angles: Exaggerate features

We've all seen pictures of famous places and landmarks. Usually they're taken as a 'record' shot and rarely differ from photographer to photographer.

Why not stand out from the crowd and do something special?

Composing to include and accentuate a well-known feature of your

location is always worth a try.

In this image of Clifton



Suspension Bridge in Bristol, UK, a wide-angle lens has been used to emphasise the suspension rods that hold the bridge up.

By composing right next to the rods and twisting the lens, the lines 'lead' the eye into the picture. This angle is full of impact and is a powerful compositional tool.

### Ideas For New Camera Angles: Kneel down

Everyone takes pictures from head height. Make your photos stand out from the crowd by crouching down and shooting low.

Bending or kneeling to take pictures isn't as extreme as a 'worm's eye view', but it does allow you to shoot towards the floor with a pleasing angle of view.

Shots like this one are appealing as they illustrate the quirky nature of life around us and it's only possible to compose it by kneeling down.



# The British Wildlife Photography Group

If you like British Wildlife Photography, there is a “closed” group on Facebook which is “The British Wildlife Photography Group”. Just ask to join and they will accept you, and then you can see some fabulous photographs, and upload your own. They answer questions on how the photographs are taken, and equipment and lenses they have used, and best of all, usually give the location of the photographs. They can also identify birds, as I found out, when I queried whether a bird I had photographed and uploaded was a Sparrow Hawk or a Kestrel. Not only did I hear back that it was a Kestrel, but also that “it” was a female. Also, if you have never seen Short Eared Owls before, and I certainly hadn’t, then you are certainly in for a treat. Just a couple of photographs to whet your appetite. (Ann)



Taken by Michael J. Anderson



Taken by Gordon Ellmers.

**MORE ARTICLES NEEDED!**  
**Come on, tell us your news,**  
**Show us your photographs.**  
**This is YOUR newsletter.**  
**[spoonandsprout@ntlworld.com](mailto:spoonandsprout@ntlworld.com)**

## Composition

**The Rule of Thirds.** When you look through your viewfinder or at the LCD screen, imagine if your camera doesn't have them, a grid over the scene. These gridlines are a guide to help you frame your image and won't show up in your final picture. Notice where the lines intersect. The rule of thirds suggests that these points are the best places to position your subject. Doing so will generally result in a pleasant and balanced composition. Try moving your camera so your subject appears where two of the lines meet. The subject doesn't have to be directly on the intersection but somewhere close to it. Try a couple of different compositions to find the one you like best. These same gridlines can help you to keep your horizons level and the vertical elements in your photo straight.



**Leading lines.** When photographing buildings or other strong linear subjects, compose your image so that the architectural elements lead the viewer's eye through the photograph. These “leading lines” lead your eyes through the image—sometimes even out of the image. These lines can be the main subjects of the image, or they can be used to lead your viewer to a specific area within the photo that is an important focal point. In addition to straight lines, curves also make interesting compositions. They serve a purpose in bringing the viewer's eye throughout an image. Curves can be the main subject, or as with leading lines, they can be a means of leading the viewer to different subjects within an image.



Most people aren't thinking about composition when they look at photos, but they do know when a photo is pleasing to look at even if they don't know why. To improve your composition skills spend some time looking at the photos taken by people whose work you admire. Pay attention to how they've positioned their subjects within the frame, what their backgrounds look like and what was included in the image and what might have been left out. Now, review some of your own photos and ask yourself how you might have made the picture better by changing the composition. These guidelines are just a starting point. Remember, for every rule there is an exception. Don't be afraid to step outside the box if it makes for a better photo.

(Source: Diane Berkenfeld)

## Marchs Monthly Challenge

This month's challenge is to take a photograph with the subject title '**Something Red**'. It's just for fun and is it **not** a competition. It's to get you out there with your camera. Print your picture off roughly 6 x 4 in (it's really up to you) and bring it with you to the next club meeting, where we will set up a table and members can have a look during the evening, and get some ideas and tips.



Amusing photographs of cats with captions quickly became (and remained) viral on the internet. Apparently this is nothing new. One of the first photographers of cats in amusing poses was English photographer Harry Pointer during the 1870s. He began his career taking natural pictures of cats, but soon realised that his photography had more success when the cats were in ridiculous poses. He even added captions to the images, such as 'Happy New Year', 'Five o'clock tea' and 'Bring up the dinner Betsy' as he found this made the images more successful still. Source: [photohistory-sussex.co.uk](http://photohistory-sussex.co.uk)



**Anyone wanting to take photos at the Bubble Rush at Coombe Country Park on Sat 2 April, please let Martyn know.**



Q: Why can't you take a photograph of a man in Australia with a wooden leg?  
A: You need a camera to take a photograph!! (Margaret)



### **This is my photo – Kestrel**

This is a Kestrel which was using the fence to perch on whilst looking for her next meal. I do enjoy taking photographs of birds and wildlife and this photo was taken on Manual, F stop 5.6, Exp 1/100 sec, ISO 200. The bird was quite some distance away, and it would have been better to use a tripod, but I didn't have time to set the tripod up. I used spot metering and tried to keep it on the birds face. Hope you like it. Ann

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2016**

18 April	7.00	Brett Lawrence 'High Speed Photography'	9.00
16 May	7.00	Practical Workshop 'Movement'	9.00
6 June	7.00	Portrait practical with Kim and Jake	9.00
4 July	7.00	Speaker Dick Prior 'The Golden Road to Samarkand'	9.00

### **COMPETITIONS ARE ALL PROJECTED IMAGES THIS YEAR**

4 April	7.00	Night Time Photography - Deadline for Entries 25 March	9.00
2 May	7.00	Unusual, not the norm	9.00
20 June	7.00	Sport and Movement	9.00
1 Aug	7.00	Wonders of the Natural World	9.00
19 Sept	7.00	Macro and Close Up	9.00

### **Committee email addresses**

Martyn- [martyn@martynblair.co.uk](mailto:martyn@martynblair.co.uk) Dawn - [dawn.burgess@fsmail.net](mailto:dawn.burgess@fsmail.net) Brent - [brentthompson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brentthompson@hotmail.co.uk)  
Tracy - [spoonandsprout@ntlworld.com](mailto:spoonandsprout@ntlworld.com) Barbara - [bstynes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bstynes@hotmail.co.uk) Ann - [annotoole1@aol.com](mailto:annotoole1@aol.com)  
Pete - [p.wrighton@btinternet.com](mailto:p.wrighton@btinternet.com)

[www.corleyandfillongleyphotographicclub.co.uk](http://www.corleyandfillongleyphotographicclub.co.uk)

Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Midland Counties Photographic Federation