

Corley and Fillongley



Photographic Club

Newsletter

Issue 1 6th Jan 2014

Next meeting 3rd Feb 2014, 7.00 – 9.00pm

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to welcome everyone to the first meeting of the Corley and Fillongley Photographic Club.

Along with the rest of our committee members who set out on this adventure with me some months ago, I can assure you that we will give all we can to make this club a successful and above all a friendly club where like minded people, photographic enthusiasts encompassing all skill levels and experience can attend in the knowledge that this is their club, a place to meet and exchange some of the knowledge we all have no matter what level we are at.

We will endeavour to have a varied calendar of events with guest speakers, hands on evenings with photo shoots indoors and out, time to discuss any problems individuals may have with their own camera settings etc.

We want everyone to feel welcome in our meetings and will encourage members to contribute in any way they can. Participation is essential to make this club a success.

We will have competitions but this club will not be led by competitions and a must win attitude.

Hopefully we can all learn from each other and have some fun whilst making new acquaintances and friends.

Richard.

How it began for me

My earliest recollection of taking photographs was with an Ilford 'Sporti' camera which I used back in 1959/1961 days when I was a boy entrant of the 37th entry, RAF St Athan. Then, I mainly took photos of the aircraft that I came into contact with, and one or two of my RAF colleagues. From that period until recent years I have only taken a few photos, from time to time, with a Zenith 'B' camera. They had all the composition of a seaside holiday snapshot!

What really started me off with photography as a regular hobby was when my brother-in-law, Richard, invited me to go with him to a National Trust property for a day to take a few photos, that was about four years ago, other trips were to follow. At that time my camera was a Kodak DX6490, not very powerful by today's standard but I, with my limited knowledge, thought it was 'the cat's whiskers'. However it did not take me long to realise that there were much better things around and I progressed through an Olympus E520, which I still have, to my Canon 40D camera.

I learned a lot with my trips out with Richard, although I think he was a little too polite when he saw my earlier efforts at photography – he's possibly still polite about today's attempts, as I've only ever placed once in competitions. One day, perhaps, I'll take 'the photo' that has thus far eluded me. The main thing is that I have grown to love photography and the highlight for me, is the photographic outings to look for subjects to enter for the competitions. Thanks Richard!

Colin

Places of interest worth visiting

BRANDON MARSH

My favourite place to visit is Brandon Marsh. In case you don't know it's a nature reserve and it's situated off the A45 (turning just after the petrol station, approximately a mile along the road, entrance on the right). As a member of the wildlife trust, I get in free, but its £2.50 for adults and less for Senior Citizens and children and it's worth a visit. There are large lakes, ponds, marsh and wooded areas. It's a lovely walk on good paths in dry weather (although in the winter take your wellies, it's called marsh for a reason) You can take long or short routes around the reserve and its excellent if you are interested in taking pictures of birds, but not exclusively as I've seen rabbits, toads and to be honest there's always something interesting to see.

There are plenty of bird hides around the lakes and ponds that are ideally situated to get the best views of the water birds. I couldn't name you any birds that visit other than Canadian geese, swans, ducks and herons – all the twitchers out there screaming at me – I apologise.



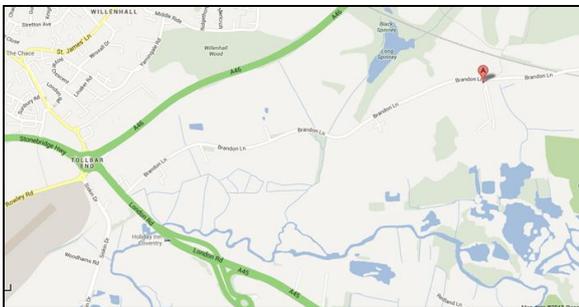
Best time to visit – in my opinion, would be winter. That's when the trees are bare and you can see the

birds sitting on the branches. The robins are always looking for something to eat and will come and eat bird food from your hand. I've seen Blue, Great, Long Tail tits and brightly coloured Jays.

Not to dismiss the summer, I have recently seen a Kingfisher posing and fishing. There's also the variety of amazing butterflies and stunning dragon and damson flies. In the spring there are carpets of

bluebells and woodland flowers in sun dappled woods.

There are benches situated around the site and more importantly there is a wonderful tea room that serves drinks, hot and cold food, and cakes.....umm cakes, where was I?, ah yes, tea room....which is great for thawing you out in the winter months.



Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Brandon Lane, Coventry CV3 3GW
Tracy Mair

Websites, books, mags of interest etc

<http://www.faststone.org/download.htm>

FastStone Image Viewer is a free, fast, stable, user-friendly **image browser, converter** and **editor**.

It has a nice array of features that include image viewing, management, comparison, red-eye removal, emailing, resizing, cropping, retouching and colour adjustments.

Request for advice topic

If you have a specific query, email it to one of the committee members and we will include it where possible in the newsletter.

Camera subjects – tips and tricks

If you're new to digital photography, it can be a little discouraging when your photos don't turn out correctly.

However, keep in mind that photography is like any other skill: Practice makes perfect.

Ten Basic Photography Tips that hopefully can help you have some quick success.

Four rules to follow. Before taking your digital camera out for a photography session for the first time, be sure you've followed these four rules:

Have the batteries charged, have plenty of space on your memory card, figure out the basic commands for the camera, and take a few practice photos around the house. You don't want to be fumbling with unfamiliar buttons when a photographic opportunity could be lost.

Clean the camera lens. Many problems with poor images can be fixed pretty easily by just cleaning the camera lens. Smudges and fingerprints on the lens will cause you to have problems with your photos. Clean the lens with a dry microfiber cloth and you'll be much more pleased with your images.

Find the grid. Many digital cameras include a superimposed grid or on-screen level line on the LCD that can help ensure your photos are aligned correctly and the camera is level with the horizon. The grid won't appear on your final photo, so it makes a great guide.

Avoid LCD glare. Many inexpensive digital cameras force you to compose your photo by using the LCD screen, because they don't include a viewfinder. However, some LCD screens can suffer from significant problems with glare, especially when used outdoors in bright sunlight. This glare can make it almost impossible to see the image on the LCD. To combat glare on your LCD screen, increase the brightness setting on the LCD, shoot from a shady location, or carry a towel or umbrella that you can use to create some shade for the LCD screen.

Stick with auto mode. As you're learning about photography, use the digital camera's automatic settings to ensure good exposure and results from the photos. As you learn a bit more about photography, then it's time to make the most of some of the manual control features your camera offers.

Pre-focus. By holding the shutter button halfway, you can have the camera pre-focus on a subject. This allows the camera to work more quickly, because it won't have to spend a fraction of a second trying to find the right focus. You can't pre-focus in every type of photo because you may not have the time, but when you can, pre-focusing can help you avoid blurry images.

Invest in a tripod. Zoom lenses are great, but using it at the maximum level can cause your image to be a bit shaky. If you must zoom to the maximum setting, be sure to use a tripod or lean against a wall or tree to steady the camera. Blurry photos from camera shake are common with large zoom lenses fully extended.

Stay in the flash's range. If you must use the camera's built-in flash unit to improve the lighting available in a particular photograph, make sure the subject is close enough to receive some benefit from the flash. Know the flash range for your camera model, and move closer, if needed. The flash range will be listed in the camera's user guide or in the specifications list.

Learn how to edit photos. Although it's a good idea to delete obvious mistakes among your photos as soon as they're shot to help preserve storage space on the memory card, try to get into the habit of keeping photos that are border line in quality. It's possible that you might be able to save borderline photos with photo editing software. Using photo editing software later to crop and reconfigure photos can help you improve your photography skills too, as once you learn about which types of photos you want to end up with after editing, you'll have a better chance of creating those photos from the start.

Keep quiet. Finally, to keep peace with those around you, figure out how to mute the cameras sounds. Few things are as annoying as an obvious digital camera novice whose camera is making loud beeps and simulated shutter sounds as you're trying to listen to a musical performance at school, for example.

Member Profile

Hi, I'm Paige Shirley;

I'm 16. My hobbies are photography, I play Xbox so I'm an online gamer and I also play piano and more recently getting into horse riding again. I go to college so recently photography isn't getting my main attention. At college I study Ancient History, Archaeology, English and Media. I have in the past year got into photography. But as a kid I was always the one with the camera so I was always a photographer from a young age. But since I've got into photography my first camera is a Nikon D3000 which I adore. It is so light and easy to use but only recently I've learnt what each setting does so now my photos should be in focus.

One of the main things I love to photograph is animals and by animals I mean dogs and by dogs I mean pugs. I have two pugs; one black and one fawn these two are kind of like my test dummies when it comes to different lens or different editing styles. They are very photogenic and beautiful dogs to take well focused photos of.

Along with my camera my laptop plays a big roll when it comes down to my photos. I have a Mac book Pro which is my pride and joy. When it comes down to software I have Photoshop Elements 10 and Adobe Flash (but that's more an animation software).

I enjoy taking photos because it's like capturing a memory, by taking a photo its remembering that memory every time you look at that photo. Therefore it's like the photo coming back to life again inside your mind.

My dream camera would be my camera because like I said it is simple and easy to carry around but instead of my 18-55 lens I would have a macro lens of some sort or a fish eye lens. I am hopefully going to get a lens of this type sometime soon. So I will be able to take more focused, up close photos.

There's everything, Thanks Paige



For sale and wanted

A colleague at work has a Canon EF 70-200mm f2.8 L USM Lens for sale, (not IS version) he has had it for around 2 years; he has used it about twice, I borrowed it on a recent trip to Donna Nook, it is a cracking bit of kit.

Inspection welcome, £600.00 ONO, Costs around £959.00 new. Thanks Richard

Stop Press

From February we will be publishing the winning photographs in the newsletter, can the winners of both Colour and Black & White competitions please ensure they send me a copy of their winning shot within 2 weeks from the winning date. Email rh50@talktalk.net

Competition Themes for 2014

03.02.14	Transport	Club Competition	1 b&w, 1 colour
07.04.14	People in everyday life	Club Competition	1 b&w, 1 colour
02.06.14	Animals or Birds	Club Competition	1 b&w, 1 colour
04.08.14	Close up/Macro	Club Competition	1 b&w, 1 colour
06.10.14	Celebrations	Club Competition	1 b&w, 1 colour
03.11.14	Photograph of the Year	Best Photographs from the monthly winners	
01.12.14	Autumn Landscape	Club Competition	1 b&w, 1 colour

Committee email addresses

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