



Beginners session – notes

- Welcome by Janet
- Introductions by all – name, bit of background, what you hope to get from this session
- **Exercise one - Loosen-up - take some photos with your camera in the library as you would normally use it ... Discuss results**
- Andrew takes lead. Can't cover everything in detail today. This is mostly going to be about helping you to understand and use your camera better
- What is photography?
- What is a camera? Types of cameras - advantages and disadvantages. The best camera is the one you have with you at the time.
- What is a lens? - what are focal lengths? Focal length choice. What is a 'fast' lens
Primes versus zooms. A framed view of our world compared with how we see or 'scan' with our eyes. Importance of composition.
- The exposure meter - your camera has one of these built-in - probably a scale with an indicator or coloured lights - but your camera 'sees' the world as averaged mid-grey.

The exposure triangle: ISO; aperture, shutter

ISO settings

- What is ISO? What is Auto ISO?
- **Exercise two - find a setting on your camera that controls ISO and set it to 800 ...**
- **John shows picture of high ISO (Roxy Magic) – discussion**
- What is an aperture?
- What is a shutter?
- Full auto; auto everything! - auto flash - the last thing you want for photographing stars in the night sky!

- Limitation of 'pictogram' modes (mountain, headshot, flower symbol etc) on your camera dial
- The relationship between aperture and shutter - explaining 'stops'

Program mode

- **Exercise three - find the Program mode or 'P mode' setting on your camera and set it to this. Then find the meter and notice the camera has decided and 'locked' the 'correct' exposure for the current light conditions. Take a photo. Change between different pairs of 'stops' and take a series of photos of the same subject each exposed to the same amount of light. Discuss how the results vary**

Aperture priority mode

- Depth of field (DOF): is affected by distance to subject; aperture, focal length and sensor size variables.
- Aperture priority: gives more creative control over DOF - portraiture; subject isolation / differential or selective focus - 3D effect. What is bokeh?
- **Discussion – John to show examples of shallow DOF (macro shot) and deep DOF (landscape).**
- **Exercise four - change your camera to aperture priority mode and take one photo demonstrating a shallow DOF and one photo demonstrating a deep DOF. Discuss results**

Shutter priority mode

- Shutter priority: gives creative control for freezing action and movement blur
- Subject movement - the time the shutter is open, camera shake - holding the camera steady
- Panning a moving subject; zooming a static subject
- **Discussion – John to show examples of long (waterfall) and short (cricket) exposures**
- **Exercise five - change to 'S' (shutter) or 'TV' (time value) priority and take one photo of a moving subject demonstrating a fast shutter speed and one photo demonstrating a slow shutter speed. Discuss results**

Other areas to briefly discuss:

- What is RAW versus JPG?
- White balance
- Exposure compensation in aperture priority or shutter priority modes
- Manual mode: when might you use it?
- Auto-focus versus manual focussing - Focussing assistance - single shot; continuous modes etc
- Compositional 'rules'
- Aspect ratios – square, 10x8, panoramic
- Macro photography
- Tilt and shift - what is it?
- All about sensor size: what is 'full frame'; APS-C? Medium & large format?
- Flash
- Vibration reduction lenses and IBIS
- Support – correctly holding the camera, tripods and monopods
- Camera phones: very small sensors = large depth of field. Software and electronic processing take over. Depth control and miniature tilt/shift effects ... what are the disadvantages and limitations compared with traditional digital cameras and optics?
- Photoshop manipulation / darkroom dodge & burn - the camera never lies?
- Computer screens versus printing – saving photographs for future generations

Andrew's session ends

- Conclusion by Janet - practice – Join us on a photo walk?

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