

FOCUS

Pagham Photographers Club Newsletter



Do It For Fun

December 2020

Welcome to our first online newsletter from Iain Balch

As you will all know we have been unable to hold meetings since March. Our Committee have not been idle though, faced with finding ways of keeping the club going or folding we decided that our members deserved us finding ways to not only continue but to improve what we do.

To ensure we have sufficient resource to develop Pagham Photographers during this trying time, we have taken on two new Committee Members, Richard Ayres and Peter Beavis. The other members are myself Iain, Barry, Jennifer, Nigel, Bev and John. Their contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

We are now holding very successful monthly meetings via Zoom (14 attendees at the last meeting) and these will continue until we can meet again in person. In fact we expect early in the New Year to move to twice-monthly meetings as we did when we could meet in person.

Richard has created a programme of Outings for your enjoyment taking us through until the end of next year. They will run monthly from March onward (apart from the summer break in August). The Outings are extremely varied and we hope will have something for everyone to practise their photographic skills and enjoy the social side of meeting old friends again.

Jennifer has completed a draft of our full programme which will run at latest from September next year for the full year. If we are able to safely restart before September then we will put the programme into operation earlier. She has also now started our technical advice and problem page which will endeavour to offer help and support across the whole range of photographic issues from equipment through composition to editing techniques.

Nigel has given our website paghamphotographers.club a major make-over and is an excellent place to visit for all news about the club, upcoming events, galleries of photographs by members, details of the photo tasks etc. etc. Make this a regular stopping point to keep in close contact with the club.

Peter has launched our newsletter which we hope will give you items of interest, keep you abreast of the club's activities and help you to remain feeling part of the club.

Do also visit our Facebook page where you will find John amongst others is adding excellent photographs on an almost daily basis.

We still have lots of work to do particularly in the realm of content for our Club Zoom meetings next year. We want our meeting to be enjoyable and informative across the spectrum of photographic interest. Each meeting will have three slots covering different aspects of photography and an members' update on club activities and items of interest.

Our club cannot exist without you our members, you can see the enormous effort the Committee are putting in to give you an excellent range of club activities that will interest you and allow you to continue to feel part of a very successful club. Please continue to support and involve yourselves in every aspect of the club so we can meet in person with a better and stronger club.

Our new email is: contactPaghamPhotoClub@gmail.com

A PHOTOGENIC CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Contents

Next ZOOM meeting

Current Phototask

Outings programme

For Sale & Wanted

Photograph evaluation

Jennifer's advice

Committee

Barry: Elder Statesman & Phototasks

Bev: Secretary, information disseminator

Iain: Treasurer & ZOOM meetings host

Jennifer: Programme, technical advice & photo related problem solving

Nigel: Webmaster

Richard: Outings

Peter: Newsletter

John: Chief Photographer



A member's photograph evaluated by Barry Gee

Taken by John Richardson

Curses, what a shot! Two moving planes and the subject is perfect, Everything is tack sharp except for the propeller which is showing movement. There is good separation between the subject and the background but enough detail to show the location. The faces are clear. The image is well rendered and cropped with the image placed perfectly in the frame

This is a photographer who knows his camera and how to use it and is well practised in shooting moving targets. This would be a good shot if the photographer had been stationery let alone being in another craft. Cracking shot!



Please send a favourite photograph to Barry for inclusion in this section by email to: bmg7070@hotmail.com

Technical advice from Jennifer Rowbotham professional photographer

Why do I keep getting blurry photos?

Simply put, blur is caused by motion (it is important to note that blur and out of focus are entirely different things), sometimes it can be used intentionally to creatively show movement of the subject photographed, however most of the time blur is simply an accidental and unwanted byproduct of imperfect/incorrect camera settings when taking a photo.

To some degree all of us shake and consequently just how low a shutter speed a person can hand hold their camera will be somewhat variable and zoom length will also have a contributory role. The general rule of thumb is that your shutter speed should be at least equal to your focal length eg. If shooting at 300mm, your shutter speed should be 1/300 (300th of a second) or faster.

At the most basic level you will end up with blurred images if your shutter speed (also known as TV or 'time value' on Canon) is too slow to freeze whatever the cause of the motion, so what can you do about it? Well the obvious answer is to increase your shutter speed and if you're not confident at controlling multiple camera settings in one go, then shutter priority (S or TV in on your mode selection) will give you full control of the shutter speed while the camera dictates the other settings to give an appropriately exposed image. However, there are a number of different things you can try in order to eradicate blur, depending on your confidence, creativeness or simply what your shooting conditions dictate.

An obvious situation where blur tends to occur is when attempting to take photographs in low light, as your shutter speed won't be able to be anywhere near as fast as during the day, and this could be combated in a number of ways:

- 1 Place your camera on a tripod to eradicate blur caused by the motion of your hands (using a shutter release or putting the camera on a timer will help with this further)
- 2 If your subject is in motion and you want to freeze them, but cannot obtain a fast enough shutter speed then introducing flash will 'solve' the problem
- 3 To increase your shutter speed as much as possible you can increase your ISO (the higher the ISO the grainier your resulting images will be), or shoot at as large an aperture as your lens will allow (this will also have an impact on how much of your image is in focus)

Tip: If you're in a rush or simply lacking in confidence for now, most cameras will have a 'sports' mode on them. Selecting this mode leaves full control of the settings up to the camera, but tells it to give priority to a faster shutter speed as the camera is now aware you're shooting moving subjects.



This 2016 photo taken at Pagham Pram race illustrates two participants moving towards the camera. Their motion was 'frozen' by selecting a fast shutter speed (in this instance 1/640).

This butterfly image shows an example of controlled blur - selecting a shutter speed (1/80 fast enough to hold the camera steady, but slow enough to show motion of the butterfly's wings).

