

Dear Member,

The meeting was well attended with 19 members in the Hall, 2 on Zoom, and 5 apologies.

1. Announcements

1.1 Competitions for 26 August

- Main Theme - *"Use Graphic Design to create a Book cover or Record Sleeve"*
- and *"Shot of the Month"*
- Submit entries by midnight Sunday 18 August
- Submit votes by midnight Saturday 24 August

1.2 Important Dates - 28 AUGUST - PHOTO SHOOT IN WINDSOR

- Themed comp will be *"Windsor"* - and *"Shot of the Month"*
- Submit entries by midnight Sunday 15 September
- Submit votes by midnight Saturday 21 September

2. Technical hitches

- 2.1 Andrew was to present first, but his laptop failed to connect to the projector so Brian's laptop was attached to the projector then connected by Zoom.
- 2.2 On Brian's laptop it was necessary to turn its Microphone and Speaker OFF, as it was causing feedback on Andrew's laptop.
- 2.3 The common problems when presenting by Zoom is there are too many options and
- The Zoom Controls, e.g. Share, etc can become obscured by a presentation screen
 - Then it becomes awkward to minimise the gallery of those on Zoom,
 - and to change from one application to another.
 - Well, we eventually get there.

3. Presentation - *"Graphic Design"*

There were two presentations on Graphic Design.

Brian using Affinity Photo and Andrew using Microsoft Publisher.

The general consensus was that Affinity Photo is far too complicated for most users, and that Microsoft Publisher was far easier to use and had all the tools that most photographers would ever require.

If one wanted to use and learn Affinity <https://www.Affinity.com> are offering a 6 month free trial of their three products Designer, Photo and Publisher. At the end of the trial period you can buy any of these products for about £60 each and be entitled to upgrades probably for the next 2 or 3 years.

3.1 **"Graphic Design"** by Brian Hillier using Affinity Photo

The Presentation's opening slide



An explanation of this opening slide

- There are three coloured panels,
- Centre panel is a *"Flood fill of yellow"*
- Left panel is a *"Graduated fill of cyan"*
- Right panel is an *"Graduated fill of Magenta"*
- The Perspective tool has stretched the two separate words "Graphic" and "Design"
- The Mesh tool has modified the shape of the text "Brian Hillier"

Brian's final demonstration was to create a leaflet advertising "The Photography Group"

The image shows a leaflet with a yellow background. At the top left, the text reads 'Hillingdon - U3A - Photography Group'. Below this, it says 'Meet fourth Monday every month 2 - 4 p.m. Baptist Church, Hercies Road, UB10 9LS'. Further down, it says 'Join friendly photographers in a pleasant social gathering for Presentations, Competitions with tea and coffee'. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a skeleton holding a camera. Below the photo, the text reads 'A Photography Group Member waiting for the perfect moment'. To the right of the leaflet, there are six horizontal lines pointing to different parts of the design, labeled 'Layer 1 - Background Flood fill - Yellow', 'Layer 2 - Text - 1 line', 'Layer 3- Text 2 lines', 'Layer 4 - Text 3 lines', 'Layer 5 - Picture', and 'Layer 6 - Text 2 lines'.

3.2 "Graphic Design " "Using Microsoft Publisher" - by Andrew Longhurst

Andrew demonstrated how easier it was to use Microsoft Publisher to create a book cover and called his book cover called

- **"The hound of the Baskervilles"** by *"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"*

Andrew, First inserted a Photo then applied lines of Text.

This photo is somewhat similar to, but not as excellent as, Andrew's version.



4. Competition Theme - Z - chaired by Andrew Longhurst

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - 22 July 2024 - 22 Entries			
Photographer	Title - "Z"	Pos	Tot
Margaret Dorigan	Looking Skywardzz This roof over the British Museum was a lovely collection of Z's	1	16
Gary Cooper	InternalStructure2 A well observed scene of Z's in the steelwork.	2	11
Karol Schlachter	So where's the Zebra? An attractive photo of a street scene	3	9
Ian Brown	Z is for Zebra Simple photo that fully answered the Z theme	3	9
Brian Hillier	Zed Pathway	4	7
Denise Buckingham	Ziggy Star Dust	5	6
Mark Buckingham	Zippers	5	6
Denise Buckingham	In the Z Zone	6	4
Steve Binysh	This-is-not-a Zip (1)	6	4
Steve Binysh	Z is for Zig-Zag (1)	6	4
Ian Brown	A little bit on the side	7	3
Carol Mitchel	The Potting Shed Door	7	3
Margaret Dorigan	Trolleezzz	7	3
Freda Longhurst	Zinnia Quality Control Officer	7	3
Sue Finch	Zero sugar	8	1
Mark Buckingham	ZipiZape	8	1
Brian Hillier	BUZZZ and buzzz		0
Gary Cooper	Garden Shed		0
Norma Shirley	See it with flowers		0
Sue Finch	Z for Zigzag		0
Karol Schlachter	Z is for Zebra 2		0
Andrew Longhurst	Zonked Out!		0
			90

5. Competition results - Shot of the Month - Chaired by Andrew

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - 22 July 2024 - 23 Entries			
Photographer	Title - Shot of the Month	Pos	Tot
Denise Buckingham	After a hard day in the garden An absolutely gorgeous photo a of a lovely garden. We must ask Denise if it was her garden.	1	15
Mark Buckingham	Ceramic Spy Holes An intriguing collection of spy holes.	2	12
Margaret Dorigan	Solitude This photo really had a sensation of solitude.	3	11
Janet Nicholas	Concentration The photo captures the harpist concentration.	4	9
Andrew Longhurst	Incredible Marbled White at the Lido	5	7
Ian Brown	Nidd Parish Church, West Yorksire	5	7
Karol Schlachter	The Causeway at Freshwater	5	7
Mark Buckingham	Totally Captivated	6	5
Karol Schlachter	Sunset at Colwell Bay	7	4
Denise Buckingham	Going Green to the extreme!	8	3
Sue Finch	Peonies	8	3
Sue Finch	Please Don't Sit on Me	8	3
Norma Shirley	Up Up and Away	9	2
Norma Shirley	Barra Airport	10	1
Janet Nicholas	A June Garden		0
Andrew Longhurst	A Strawberry Moon Eastcote 22nd June		0
Carol Mitchel	Blue on blue		0
Brian Hillier	Bugatti		0
Margaret Dorigan	Fun on the River		0
Gary Cooper	Huddle 4 warmth		0
Ian Brown	Magpie on feeder		0
Gary Cooper	Out of season on the severn		0
Brian Hillier	The wood be Fox		0
	Total Votes		89

6. August 28 Photo shoot venue

The 28 August has been chosen as the main date to attend.

If you cannot come on this date then visit Windsor either before or after.

In the preceding week I will send members a short info sheet about Windsor.

7. Thanks to

- Andrew and Brian for their informative presentations
- Malcolm Barwick for taking the register
- Anna Hillier and Judy Peddie for making teas and coffees
- Andrew Longhurst for chairing the competitions
- Tony Kemp for maintaining our website with winning photos and presentations

Kind regards,

Brian Hillier, Photography Group Leader