Dear Member,
The meeting was well attended with 14 in the hall, 2 on Zoom and 1 apology.

1. General Points

- The competition theme for 23 March is **"Portraits"** and **"Shot of the Month"**

  – "**Canva"** is offering free software for Mac and Windows **"Affinity"** which combinesthe previous three Affinity applications - Photo, Designer and Publisher
    - Go to https://www.affinity.studio>download
    - You can download it then Canva will send you a code by email to activate it.

2. Presentation – "Portraiture" by Brian Hillier - Covered the following topics
Sihlouettes Portraits were very popular before photography
– An artist sketched the outline of the sitter's shadow with pencil
– A pantograph reduced the large sketch to between 3 by 2 or 5 by 3 inches

Based on the website of"Jill Waterman" a well known photographer website.
Her eight important points to consider in taking portraits -
– Suitable background, well lit, put subject at ease, props, blur background, expose for face, avoid distorting face with short focus lens and focus on subjects eyes.

Sir David Bailey, his photographic career started in the 1960's and continued for 60 years
– His photos captured the excitement of the "Swinging 60's"
– Many famous and infamous people wanted to be, and were, photographed by him
– His mantra was "It is not the camera that takes the photo it is the photographer"

Brian showed a the photos of several renown photographers A serious of photographs
– One can search the Internet for many well-known photographers and their work
– It is worthwhile to see their work as it can offer inspiration
– Members are encouraged to search for "Julia Margaret Cameron. She is considered to be one of the most important portraitist of the 19th century1

Some times a portrait is more effective in Black and white

3. Competition Results - "Winter" - Entries 27
"

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - FEB 26			
Photographer	**Winter**	**Pos**	**Tot**
Denise Buckingham	Frost bite	1	14
Mark Buckingham	A Rainy Night in Soho	2	12
Brian Hillier	An Oak in WInter	3	11
Jackie O'Dowd	Windscreen art - Jack Frost	4	7
Denise Buckingham	Winters day by the sea	4	7
Karol Schlachter	Having Fun	5	6
Steve Brinysh	Lovers in Winter	5	6
Andrew Longhurst	Thames in Flood at Clifton Hampden	5	6
Jackie O'Dowd	A snowy walk	6	5
Elisabeth Curran	Gluhwein	7	4
Sue Finch	Berries for Birds	8	3
David Beaston	I get the impression it is raining.	8	3
Karol Schlachter	A Cover of Snow	9	2
Ian Brown	Another rainy day in Ruislip	9	2
Andrew Longhurst	Bessingby Park Early	9	2
Mark Buckingham	Early Crocus delight	9	2
Norma Shirley	Protected from hungary 'beaks'	9	2
Margaret Dorigan	An extra coat for winter walks	10	1
Elisabeth Curran	By the Thames	10	1
Norma Shirley	Attention to detail		0
Gowan Clews	Flowers in Winter		0
Margaret Dorigan	Muddy Walks		0
Ian Brown	Rain drops in Puddles		0
Steve Brinysh	Rainy Winter Twilight		0
Sue Finch	Windsor Castle		0
Brian Hillier	Winter soon be over		0
Gowan Clews	Winter Weather		0
			96

4. Competition Results - "Shot of the Month" - 26 Entries

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - FEB 26			
Photographer	**Shot of the Month**	**SOTM**	**Tot**
Andrew Longhurst	A Carpet of Croci	1	10
Jackie O'Dowd	Hello Gorgeous	1	10
Tony Mitchell	Scooters get everywhere	1	10
Margaret Dorigan	The promise of spring	1	10
Ian Brown	Feeding the Humble Sparrow	2	7
Elisabeth Curran	Down the Road	3	6
Norma Shirley	Snowdrop. view from below	3	6
Denise Buckingham	Walk on the wild side	3	6
Jackie O'Dowd	Farming on the edge	4	4
Mark Buckingham	Looking out	4	4
Mark Buckingham	Beautiful Kew	5	3
Gary Cooper	Mysore Palace	5	3
Gary Cooper	Palace Arches	5	3
David Beaston	Towers of London	5	3
Karol Schlachter	Denham Weir	6	2
Karol Schlachter	Just Fishing	6	2
Denise Buckingham	New beginnings	6	2
David Beaston	Travel in style	6	2
Margaret Dorigan	A blue sky at last		0
Sue Finch	Fear and Gibson, Bronze European Dance		0
Sue Finch	Fireworks New Year's Eve Lisbon		0
Norma Shirley	Glow amongst the weeds and decay		0
Elisabeth Curran	Paint it Red		0
Brian Hillier	Photina, Red Robin		0
Andrew Longhurst	Resident Egret in Yeading Brook (January 2026)		0
Ian Brown	Ring Necked parakeet winter plumage		0
			93

5. Our next meeting 23 March 2026

- Presentation - ***"Shadows"*** by Steve Binysh
  - Themed competition -> ***"Portraits"*** *and* ***"Shot of the Month"***

6. **Technical problem with Google Photo Competition Albums**

- One projects the comp Albums by first clicking on the email links to each album.
- We were about to start presenting ther Comp "Winter" when by pressing the wrong key we lost the connections to both albums
- We were able to recover quickly by going to Google, Clicking on History were there were shortcuts to the two required Comp albums.
- So our thanks to Brian Page who showed us the way to recover the albums quickly.

7. Our thanks to

- Brian Place and Andrew Longhurs for setting up Projector and computer
- Andrew Longhurst for chairing the competitions
- Margaret Dorigan for taking the register
- Anna Hillier and Denise Buckingham for making teas and coffees
- Tony Kemp for maintaining our website with winning photos and presentations

Kind regards,
Brian Hillier
Photography Group Leader