Dear Member,
The meeting was well attended with 18 in the hall, 2 on Zoom and 1 apology.

1. General Points

- The competition theme for February is **"Winter"** and **"Shot of the Month"**

- The company "**Canva**" is offering for free the software called **"Affinity"**
  Previously, there were three Affinity applications - Photo, Designer and Publisher
  These are now combined in the new **"Affinity"** software for Windows and MAC

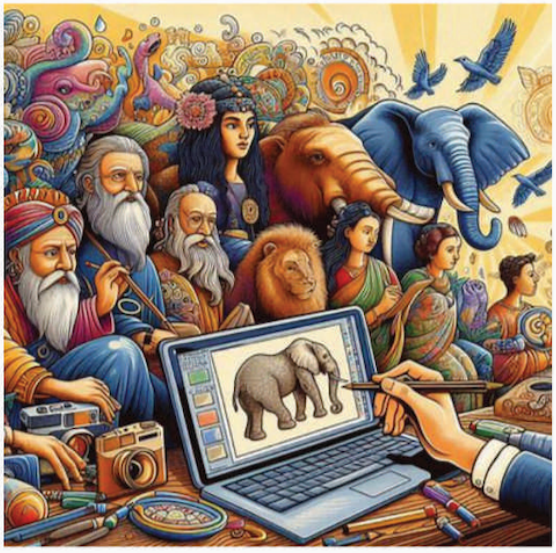
  - Go to https://www.affinity.studio>download
  - You can download it then Canva will send you a code by email to activate it.

2. Presentation - "Pictures from the Stone Age to the Digital" by Andrew Longhurst

Andrew presented many pictures from the Stone age to the most recent times that very clearly showed development of perspective, emotion and photo-realism.

Cave painting was done probably using fine coloured earth and ash.
Andrew used AI to create a picture showing images from the Stone Age to the present day.

64,000 year-old Neanderthal cave painting



"AI" composition illustrating the title of this talk

Significant moments in pictures through the ages.

- The accepted rules of composition
- Purpose of painting, Communication, Ritual/Spiritual beliefs, Story telling
- The development of painting styles, Perspective and photo realism.
- Mathematical harmony, Framing
- Middle ages, 500 - 1400 AD, Emotion begins to be depicted
- Renaissance, 1400-1600, Symmetry and balance, Focus, oil painting and figures
- Baroque, 1600s, Drama, emotion, rich dark colours, evil forces
- Rococo, 1700s, Playful, ornate, decorative, light-hearted (response to Baroque)
- Neoclassicism, 1750-1830, Order, logic, Roman/Greek ideals, civic virtues
- 19th Century, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, post-impressionism
  - Photography, Reality
  - Impressionism, (Monet), Capturing light fleeting moments
  - Post-impressionism (Van Gogh, Cezanne) experiments with colour and form

2. Competition Results - "Bottles" - Entries 17

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - Nov 24			
Photographer	**Bottles**	**Pos**	**Tot**
Brian Hillier	10 Green Bottles	1	19
Andrew Longhurst	Passed by the King	2	16
Anna Hillier	His 'n hers	3	11
Denise Buckingham	Bin Day!	4	9
Sue Finch	Cruise Ship Bar	5	8
Mike Briskman	Ready for the party	5	8
Jackie O'Dowd	All lined up in Oxford	6	7
Karol Schlachter	Ancient and Modern	7	5
Margaret Dorigan	Just Chilling	7	5
Karol Schlachter	Take Your Pick	8	3
Margaret Dorigan	Happy New Year	9	2
Sue Finch	Red Wine Cellar	9	2
Mike Briskman	Just below the 008 limit	10	1
Norma Shirley	Bottles on a Window Sill		0
Andrew Longhurst	Gin Palace		0
Gowan Clews	Slimming Menu		0
Denise Buckingham	Time for a tipple		0
			96

"10 Green Bottles" - How the photo was created

- Camera was on a tripod, and one bottle was photographed in 10 adjacent positions
- From each of 9 photos the bottle was outlined, cut and placed in the first photo
- The assembled photo above was exported into a single "10-Green-Bottles.jpg file"

3. Competition Results - "Shot of the Month" - 19 Entries

U3A Hillingdon Photo Group - 26 January. 2026			
Photographer	**Shot of the Month**	**Pos**	**Tot**
Mike Briskman	Curious about the world	1	32
Jackie O'Dowd	Ready to set sail to the misty isles	2	17
Jackie O'Dowd	Reflections in the mist	3	8
Denise Buckingham	Dipping your toe!	4	7
Brian Hillier	Lanterns at Blenheim Palace	5	6
Sue Finch	Herring Gull	6	5
Andrew Longhurst	The Library	7	4
Margaret Dorigan	Have an ice day	7	4
Alan Stack	It's a Miracle	8	3
Norma Shirley	Blooming..on the Last Day of 2025	9	2
Steve Binysh	Like sticks of Rock	9	2
Karol Schlachter	Tradition	9	2
Denise Buckingham	Frosty Morning	9	2
Norma Shirley	Autumn Leaves	10	1
Karol Schlachter	Chalk Hill Blue		0
Steve Binysh	Covent Garden by night		0
Andrew Longhurst	Evening Shadow		0
Sue Finch	Ice Carving		0
Margaret Dorigan	Reflections (1)		0
			95

Curious about the world

Ready to sail to the misty isles

4. Our next meeting 23 February 2026

- Presentation - ***"Portraiture"*** by Brian Hillier
- Themed competition -> ***"Winter"*** *and* ***"Shot of the Month"***

5. You can view Andrew's presentation, and previous presentations on our U3A Website

- Web links in pdf documents tend not to work, so type these links in your web browser
- https://hillingdon.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/photography/
- -> Photography presentations
- -> 2026
- -> Pictures from Stone Age to Digital - Jan 26

6. Our thanks to

- Brian Place and Malcolm Barwick for setting up Projector and computer
- Andrew Longhurst for his presentation
- Steve Binysh for chairing the competitions
- Tony Mitchell for taking the register
- Anna Hillier and Carol Mitchell for making teas and coffees
- Tony Kemp for maintaining our website with winning photos and presentations

Kind regards,
Brian Hillier
Photography Group Leader