

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP 2016

JANUARY 2016: Still Life Table Top and Macro Photography

Our January meeting was held at the Fire Station. We concentrated on still life table top and macro photography. We set up three tables for the table top work, using angle poise lamps. Our subjects were vases, old telephones, small scales and stones amongst other things. We also had a table with three sets for macro work, which gives a one by one picture of the subject – showing great detail of a small area.

Fifteen members attended and every one enjoyed the experience of different styles of photography. We ended the session looking at what Adobe Photoshop can do to help to improve or alter a scene.

We will be continuing with Adobe Photoshop in our February meeting – the subject will be portraits, hopefully some of the members will pose for the camera, and seeing how the portrait can be enhanced by software.



FEBRUARY 2016: Portraits

We had some studio lights set up at the Fire Station and we took it in turns to take photos – we weren't short of models! The two hour session just flew by. We also tried taking portraits with the flash on our cameras. We hardly had time to look at photos that people had taken over the last few meetings.

We ended the session looking at how the professionals digitally enhance the models pictures – smoothing out skin with Gaussian blur, taking off moles and blemishes, along with stray hairs; brightening and sharpening eyes and hair. We all thoroughly enjoyed the time and look forward to our next meeting.

APRIL 2016: Papplewick Pumping Station

April's outing saw 20 of us off to Papplewick Pumping Station, built in 1881-1884. We had a guided tour of the buildings, starting outside by the reservoir, which we learned was the water used for the boilers. The next part of the tour took us inside to the two big beam engine pumps and to admire the extremely ornate decor.

The guide explained to us how it all worked and that each engine could pump over a million and a half gallons of water each day from the bunter sandstone below, up to a reservoir on the hill above the pumping station. There is a lot of copper work in the building and we were intrigued by the copper kettles which the guide explained were full of oil for lubricating the beam engines!

The guide next took us into the boiler room where there are six big boilers and explained that there were only three were used at one time when it was full capacity. Each would burn 2 tonnes of coal per day.

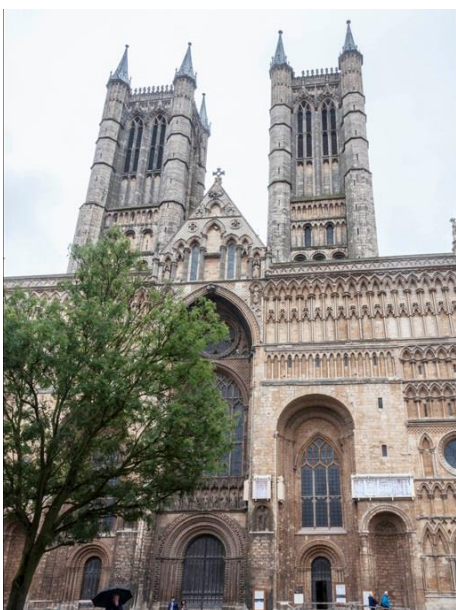
We were amazed at the amount of detail in the architecture and interior decor for an industrial building way off the beaten track. It was an excellent outing, which we all thoroughly enjoyed and we took many photographs!



JUNE 2016: Lincoln

The Group went to Lincoln in a mini bus – the weather proved not to be brilliant, which seemed to be par for the course this year! On arriving, as some people wanted to visit different things and with time constraints, we decided to go our separate ways and meet up later. The majority went the aptly named 'Steep Hill' to the Cathedral and Castle quarter, taking photos between showers.

Lincoln is a very interesting city and it's a pity we couldn't do it justice on this occasion, but several of the group said they would like to visit again. Apart from the Castle and Cathedral it is quite interesting photographically down by the canal. Here's hoping for better weather next time!



JULY 2016: Nottingham University Jubilee Campus

The July meeting of the Photography Group took us to the new Nottingham University Campus between Ilkeston Road and Derby Road, the site of the old Raleigh Bicycle and Sturmey Archer Gear works. Our walk started at the Ilkeston Road end of Triumph Road - John Player's Bonded Warehouses. This had been painted white at some point after many years having had camouflage painting from the war years, which surprised many of the group as the architecture of the building appears post war.

As we entered the University site Tom explained how the windows and vents opened automatically to control the temperature. The designs of the buildings are quite futuristic and ECO friendly with sedum covered roofs and some had wood cladding. The Library seems to float on the lake and spiralled up four floors with the windows revealing the incline. Water features a lot on the campus with lakes, ponds and fountains. Some of the buildings had steel frames outside them and red glass was favoured in a few buildings reflecting the red of the central sculpture which resembles a torch. The visit was rounded off by a coffee in the onsite Starbucks.





SEPTEMBER 2016: Civil War Trail

Twenty six of us set off on a joint trip with the Local History Group in two minibuses on our Civil War trail to Shelford and Southwell.

A report and photos can be found on the ***Local History 2016*** page.

OCTOBER 2016: Rock Cemetery

The October meeting took us to the Rock Cemetery on Mansfield Road, so called because it is hewn out of the sandstone and originally was a quarry. It was opened in 1856 and at the time was outside the boundary of Nottingham. There were originally thirteen windmills along Forest Road and three were knocked down to provide four acres for the cemetery. It was later extended to thirteen acres.

We began by going straight down to the lowest part of the cemetery which was allotted to the paupers, this being 20 feet below the main cemetery. The paupers had mass graves – some had large stones on top with 20 names inscribed on. Although there were 14,000 graves all together, there were actually 43,000 people buried there. A lot of the graves had very poignant messages on, one being for a baby “five minutes old” and some urging the reader to consider their own mortality. Many of the group were sombre as we looked at these inscriptions.

On a lighter note – for a change, it was a nice sunny day! It only drizzled for a few minutes. We hope this is a sign of things to come after some of the wet outings we’ve had this year!

Photography wise, it was a great opportunity with a lot of subject matter with the tombs and some Edwardian statues. This was the main graveyard for the Victorian/Edwardian era and there were some notable names on the headstones, such as Danks, Mundella, Fothergill Watson and Hines, also Marriott Ogle Tarbotton whom you may not have heard of, but at the age of 24 was appointed Borough Surveyor of Nottingham and designed the City’s sewer system. He built new housing to clear Narrow and Broad Marsh and was the designer of Trent Bridge.



DECEMBER 2016: Photo Editing Software

We had a fascinating session on using different picture editing software to improve our photographs on a computer. The software included most of the more widely used systems: Picasa, Nik Effects, Photoshop Elements and Windows 10 Photo. Mike Pointon led the session with contributions from John Berry and Graham Palmer. We learned how photos could be quite drastically changed and how the camera can indeed lie its head off! Photoshop seemed to be the most sophisticated software, but it does cost money, while the other pretty useful systems are all free.