

PHOTOGRAPHY 2017

January 2017: 3D PHOTOGRAPHY

At the January meeting we had a guest speaker, Greg Foster who is a Convenor of Arnold U3A Photography Group. His passion is 3D photography and he gives demonstrations to interested groups. He explained that it was in the late 1500's, people were doing 3D drawings and he showed us examples. I have no doubt everyone will have seen the stereo scopes that were invented in 1849, where you put pictures in a slot and viewed them – remember the 'end of pier viewing machines'?!

He brought along cameras that were able to take 3D photographs and contraptions where two cameras coupled by a bar and electrics did the same. His equipment included two projectors that projected images onto a screen and we all sat with special glasses on to appreciate the 3D effect. The meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

February 2017: NOTTINGHAM PAST & PRESENT

The Photography and the Local History groups had a joint meeting at the Richard Herrod Centre. As we thought the subject would be of interest to other members of C&G U3A we invited all members and 46 attended. The first half of the programme in the early 1900's, showed photos of the Market Square, Parliament Street, Mansfield Road, the Castle Gatehouse (in a very bad state of repair), the Riding School on Castle Road and a troop of cavalry riding through the town, among the many others showing the costume and transport of the time, and long forgotten alleyways. Friar Lane was just a narrow lane.

The second half was of photographs taken in the 1950's and 60's, although these were in living memory of the audience, not all of whom were Nottinghamians. It was surprising how much Nottingham has changed over the years. There was no Maid Marion Way at the time! There were those horrible under passes on Friar Lane, Derby Rd and Theatre Square.

Keith Hucknall who presented the programme and took many of the photos is Convenor of the Burton Joyce U3A Photography Group and must have gone to a great deal of trouble taking the pictures trying to find the exact spot where the original had been taken, which sometimes meant standing in the middle of the road where there was once pavement and if there was someone or something in the original pictures, he tried to replicate it, even to the extent of where the original Boots shop on High Street (the shortest High Street in the country) had the staff standing outside! He went down to the Square and rounded up the group of youths that always seem to hang around there and got them to pose outside Boots. He was meticulous in matching the shots, working out the exact focal length used by the original photographers and looking for clues to where they were taken from, such as a bit of stone wall to match up!

How's that for dedication!

March 2017: GEDLING COUNTRY PARK







April 2017: HIGHFIELDS & UNIVERSITY PARK







May 2017: RUFFORD ABBEY



December 2017: BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

Our December meeting at the fire station was entitled “Black & White Photography” which started with two artists - an Englishman, Henry Fox Talbot and a Frenchman, Louis Daguerre. Fox Talbot produced his first photograph in 1835 and promptly went off on the Grand Tour of Europe. By the time he'd returned, Daguerre had produced his first photograph and was enjoying financial backing from the French Government to develop his process – which produced a positive photograph.

Fox Talbot then set about trying to make his procedure commercially viable, although he was without any financial backing on this. He eventually succeeded and his process became the one that we came to know to produce a negative from which multiple prints could be obtained.

We then went on to look at examples of black and white photography or more properly known as monochrome which is not necessarily black and white. We've seen examples of sepia photographs which are also monochrome.

At our January meeting we are having a talk on pinhole and infra-red photography. Our Guest Speaker is Eddie Coxon.

In February, we will be looking at post processing, discovering what you can do to a photograph after it's been taken, using the popular 'Photoshop' software – to see how you can recover a photograph that's badly exposed or take out distractions.

Mike Pointon