

PHOTOGRAPHY

If you look in the current Handbook you will see that there are nine photography groups. The group that I run is simply called Photography and I started it in the dark (pre-digital) ages of 2002. Not long after I joined the U3A it was proposed to hold an Art Exhibition. I asked if this would include photography and found myself on the organising committee. At that Exhibition there were just two of us exhibiting photographs. Soon after that it was suggested that I might like to start a Photography Group. I agreed to do so but didn't expect anyone to be interested. I was wrong! Three signed up, and I am pleased to say that they are all still active members of the Group. The next year eight more were added to the list.



We concentrate on trying to take better pictures, leaving the technical stuff to others! Our aim is to learn to use our eyes to spot a subject before we even involve our cameras, though one of the rules is to have your camera to hand – it's not much use in your pocket or rucksack, or worse still left at home!



We meet in different locations with our cameras, and discuss the results later; we visit Exhibitions; and we have a challenge each year. In 2008 we produced a Calendar, a copy of which was given to each U3A member. Each month's photograph was taken by a different member of the group. We were also involved with an Arts project at Ightham Mote, helping six- and seven-year old children learn how to 'Think, Point & Shoot' – their results were wonderful. Another year we photographed the same view four times to illustrate the Four Seasons.

This year we have quite a challenge – we have been asked to collect images for use on the new Website, to illustrate each Group activity. For various reasons the photographs should not show people who can be identified, while images from the Internet cannot be used for possible copyright reasons. We have divided up the group so that each of us has seven or so subjects to cover and it is proving interesting and difficult – one member told me of her idea for 'Current Affairs' but I think she is on the wrong track!! So look out for the new Website and see how we are managing to record our U3A.

Mary Allwood