



Herefordshire  
Photographic  
Society

Newsletter | Issue 3  
Winter 2020

# SNAPSHOT

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## *Getting Festive!*

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Although our face to face club meetings have taken a back seat for now, we've still all managed to get to grips with Zoom and carry on with our monthly photo challenges and outings (whilst social distancing of course!) Christmas celebrations will soon be upon us and with that in mind we're sharing some creative projects and photo tips with you this time round and also setting some photo challenges for you too! So, if you'd like to know how you can create your own still life back drops, improve your composition skills, use colour combinations to create impact in your photos, and lots more - just read on.....

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## *Get Snapping*

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**Our first challenge for you is** to create your own photo A-Z of Christmas! You can photograph food items; items that resemble the letters of the Alphabet, still life, anything linked to Christmas - (only one rule - each letter of the Alphabet must be represented by a different festive subject) perhaps you could make a photo book afterwards? Just let us know how you get on.....

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## *Get Creative*

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**Have a go at ICM - (Intentional Camera Movement) or Light Painting.**

They're really easy to set up and it's fun to create abstract images. ICM - No



need for a tripod - just open up your aperture - this photo was taken at F4.0 on a full frame camera. Keep the ISO to 100 and slow the shutter speed down (ie 2.6 sec). As you press the shutter release button rotate your camera slowly

from right to left or in a straight upward motion and see what you get! It takes a bit of practice but the secret is to ensure that your subject has a good range of colours. Use your decorated Christmas Tree as a starting point.



**Light Painting** - no tripod needed either this uses an

LED torch suspended from the ceiling - we used the ceiling light. You'll need Bulb mode or Live Composite mode set on your camera and a cable release if you have one. Place your camera on the floor and focus on the light fitting above. Simply turn off the lights, switch on the torch, hold the torch to one side and let it go so that it can swing freely from side to side whilst the camera shutter is open. Once your pattern is complete simply end the exposure.

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### *Composition Tip*

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**Make composition a little easier by** creating your own viewing card. If you're faced with a mass of flowers or a forest of trees it can sometimes be difficult to pick out the best composition for your photo. By using a viewing card (which is simply a piece of A4 foam board with a rectangular hole cut in the centre ie 8 x 6cms - or you can use an old 35mm slide frame) you can concentrate on finding the best composition before you even pick up your camera.

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### *Create your own backdrops*

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**Keep those old rolls of wallpaper and non-glossy sheets of wrapping paper** and use them to cover A4 or A3 sized pieces of cardboard to create your own still life backdrops. Spray mount is a good option to use to stick the paper to the cardboard. Don't forget that you can photograph out of focus grass, leaves or foliage too - print the photo off and attach to your cardboard backing. Create this in A4 and you have a portable back drop that fits in your camera bag. If the background behind your subject is untidy you can use your pre-made version to capture your subject perfectly.




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### *In Full Colour*

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**The use of Primary and Secondary colours and understanding how they relate to each other can have a real impact on your photography.** All complementary colour pairs sit opposite each other on the colour wheel ie red and green, yellow and purple, and blue and orange. The opposite Secondary colours are cyan, magenta and yellow and if you combine a primary colour with it's opposite secondary it can create real contrast. The August Issue No. 232 of Digital Camera has a full article which goes into great depth about the science of colour and is well worth a read. Ready for your A-Z of Christmas challenge! You can take a look at a few sample pages at:



<https://issuu.com/futurepublishing/docs/dcw232.issuu>

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**A.O.B** **Kit Insurance** - remember to check that your kit insurance is up to speed (especially if you're planning a trip abroad during 2021). If you've recently upgraded your camera or purchased a new lens then it's worth telling your insurance company so that they can keep their records up to date. (Just ensure that your chosen insurance supplier is both authorised and registered with the Financial Conduct Authority\*).

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## Phototips

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If you've gathered a number of free photo tip cards (which you can get free with some photographic magazines) but don't know how to keep them neat and tidy - just punch a hole in one corner and then thread the cards onto a keyring. Just pop them into your camera bag to keep them safe and at your fingertips at all times!

**Mobile Clips** - remember to carry a couple of clothes pegs in your camera bag. Not only can they be used as a prop for your camera but are also useful to carefully clip together any overhanging foliage to keep it out of sight whilst you're working on your wild flower portraits in the field.

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## HPS News

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[www.herefordshirephotographicsociety.co.uk](http://www.herefordshirephotographicsociety.co.uk)

**Don't forget to visit our website** for updated news and details of new shoots and outings as they are set up. If you are new to the club or a prospective member you will be most welcome to join us: we support each other and strive to improve our work to take it beyond what social media can offer.

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY (& SAFE) CHRISTMAS!**



**\*NOTE:** *The information and articles above have been provided in good faith and we would emphasize that as Laws and Customs can change it is always worth checking directly with a Legal expert should you have any specific queries or concerns about your rights or responsibilities as a photographer on this subject.*