

HOPEFULLY HELPFUL HINTS: 1

An Introduction to our Cunning Plan

A series of bite sized snippets to in the main assist those new (and maybe not so new) to the club progress beyond the Programme Mode on their camera and take control of their photography.

We'll try and explain everything in a simple way (even techie stuff).

To start with - a few basics.

1. First and foremost - **enjoy your photography.**
2. If you don't already have them - **buy a spare battery and memory card(s) - and take them out when you go taking photos**
3. It may seem daft to have to say this but - take pictures of things you like and which interest you.
4. Somewhere along the line someone will tell you to "take control" which normally means taking your camera off Programme Mode and shooting RAW instead of JPEG, **BUT:**
 - Lets try to walk before we can run.
 - Modern cameras have loads of settings and bells and whistles and can be a bit daunting.
 - If you are new to photography everything can appear a bit confusing and complicated, so if you're not familiar with your camera and things like aperture, shutter speed ISO, etc, simply set your camera to a Programme Mode which means that the camera will make all the important techie decisions for you.
 - If you're not into or ready to delve into the delights of post processing in computer, set your camera to JPEG
 - Just go out and take plenty of pictures. Cameras are so good nowadays that you should get correctly exposed high quality images in most conditions.
 - Don't get too bogged down with techie stuff - there's plenty of time for getting geeky later - and you will know when you want to progress further ☺.
 - **Don't forget - this is supposed to be fun**
 - Having said all that, don't be afraid to experiment with camera settings though - you can't break the camera by changing settings and if you get in a total muddle you should be able to do a "2 button reset" to take the camera back to the manufacturer default settings.
 - You'll see below that "Taking Control" actually comes quite down the pecking order of the Hints!

NOTE: if you really can't wait:

- a. Aperture, shutter speed and ISO and their relationship with one another are dealt with in Hints 5 and
- b. The main differences between RAW & JPEG are dealt with in Hints 8

5. Come along to as many club evenings as you can, even if you think the subject matter doesn't interest you; we can all often be pleasantly surprised.
6. In particular, come along to competition evenings even if you don't feel confident to enter or think that competitions aren't your thing.
 - You'll be able to look at other members work
 - Listen to what the judge has to say.
 - If you have any queries on what you see, images are titled and the results list shows people's names so either simply discuss with other members or if you want direct feedback just ask the person who took the image.
 - If you're not sure who anyone is just ask a committee member who can point you in the right direction.
7. When you feel more confident:
 - enter competitions and
 - take control of your camera
8. **Don't forget - this is supposed to be fun 😊**

The Hints aren't meant to be read in any particular order but do follow a sort of logical progression. Regardless, just jump into them as you see fit - or not at all!

Depending on your current confidence/knowledge you may know some (or all) of the above. That's not the point - this is for those who don't know - and maybe feel a bit reluctant to ask.

If this happens to be you, don't be afraid - we've all had to learn, so VERY IMPORTANT - if you have any photographic queries and/or the Helpful Hints pose more questions than answers don't be afraid - have a chat with any club or committee member who should be able to either assist or point you in the direction of someone who can.

As a club we haven't tried this approach before so we need your feedback on what we're doing

- Are we hitting the mark or really off target?
- Is the info helpful?
- Too detailed or too simple?
- Is there anything else you want to be covered? The whole can of worms that is post processing (including printing) is an obvious one...
- Do you like the format?
- Is there anything that you would like covered in more detail, either as a further Helpful Hint or as a talk/discussion/practical on a club night?