

HOPEFULLY HELPFULFUL HINTS: 2

What is Photography?

The word **photography** derives from the Greek *photos* ("light") and *graphe* ("drawing") and literally means "drawing with light".

Photography is

1. The techie answer:

The art, application and practice of creating durable images by recording light or other electromagnetic radiation, either electronically by means of an image sensor, or chemically by means of a light-sensitive material such as photographic film.

2. The not so techie answer:

A blend of science and art that uses a camera to create something visually stimulating, to either simply record, be creative, educate, inspire, enjoy, and in truth, often be frustrating.

3. For most of you reading this:

It's a hobby, plain and simple but that means different things to each of us in the club and why we've joined which may include an opportunity to

- see other people's pictures
- show our pictures
- take pictures
- be creative
- learn
- be inspired
- inspire
- be competitive
- etc, etc

At the end of the day it doesn't matter. What does matter is that the club tries to accommodate everyone's expectations - a difficult task

The trouble is photography relies on something we can't actually see - light.

What is Light?

Light is a type of energy. It is a form of electromagnetic radiation of a wavelength that can be *detected* by the human eye and allows us to see.

It is a small part of the electromagnetic spectrum and radiation given off by stars like the sun. Animals can also see light, but often differently to us.

We can't feel it and we can't smell it, but we know when it's not here (its dark!) and that when it's around it can vary in intensity;

For instance, natural daylight can be:

bright and intense (on a sunny day),
soft and diffused (on a cloudy bright day)
or just plain dull (on an overcast and rainy day)

Equally its colour can change (daylight changes according to the time of day and ambient conditions)

In addition to natural daylight (ie from the sun) artificial light is also available (think light bulbs, torches, car headlights, candles, etc), in a whole variety of "types" (flash, continuous, LED, fluorescent, neon, etc), intensities (often measured in watts) and colour (daylight balanced, warm, cool, coloured, etc)

But as far as we're concerned what we want to do is know how to use it in conjunction with our cameras - to make pictures ☺.

Unfortunately to do that we need a balance between:

- a bit (but fortunately not necessarily a lot) of knowledge about technical stuff and
- arty and dare I say creative ideas

An interesting combination.