

# Husborne Crawley Camera Club

12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

MEETING 3



# December Meeting

- ▶ Storing and Organising your precious photos
- ▶ Archiving
- ▶ Printing
- ▶ Quick Recap of previous meetings
  - ▶ Composition
  - ▶ Exposure
- ▶ Break and practical – Christmas decorations, printing postcards
- ▶ Review of submitted photos

# Storing and Organising

- ▶ Photos are precious, they remind us of times past. Happy events, key life moments, historical records or just Art. All are important and worth protecting.
- ▶ What if: you lost your phone or camera? your 'cloud; backup service stopped or just wasn't working? Your computer was hacked or the hard drive crashed?
- ▶ The photographer's golden rule is: "on-line, off-line and off-site".
  - ▶ On-line: available on your computer or device. The working copy.
  - ▶ Off-line: stored on a device or media that is not connected to the internet or a network. (cannot be hacked or accidentally deleted)
  - ▶ Off-site: stored on a device or media in another physical location. Can't be stolen or lost in a fire or disaster.
- ▶ Do some of this and you should be ok.



Clouds can evaporate

# Archiving

- ▶ The most enduring archive method so far invented is paper
- ▶ Remember floppy disks? CD roms? USB memory sticks? What is the likelihood they will work in 100 years? Or have a device that can read them?
- ▶ One approach used by photographers is to review each year's photos and select the best couple of dozen. Then either produce quality prints in an album or have a photobook produced from them.
- ▶ Remember prints exposed to daylight will eventually fade, especially if printed using dye based inks. Pigment based inks and chemical printing are best for archiving.



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# Organising



- ▶ Photos are of little use if you cannot find them easily. There are many ways of organising your collection and doing it will pay dividends later. This is what I do..
- ▶ File structure: Calendar Year
  - ▶ People, Places, Travel, General, Animals and For sorting. Each then has as many sub folders as required
- ▶ Star Ratings: most editors and organiser programs allow you to assign a 1 to 5 star rating to each photo. Use this when first reviewing your batch of photos. You can then select your best photos very easily. This makes searches easier.
- ▶ Keywords: Adding keywords can also help you track down photos but it's much more work and requires consistency to work well.
- ▶ The most important thing is to do something!

# Printing Good Photos

- ▶ The goal is to keep as much information in your image as possible, so:
  - ▶ Use low compression JPGs or better still RAW files
  - ▶ Save phone images as 'actual size', any smaller increases compression
  - ▶ Only crop at the end of your processing and don't over crop.
  - ▶ Use 'sharpening sparingly!'



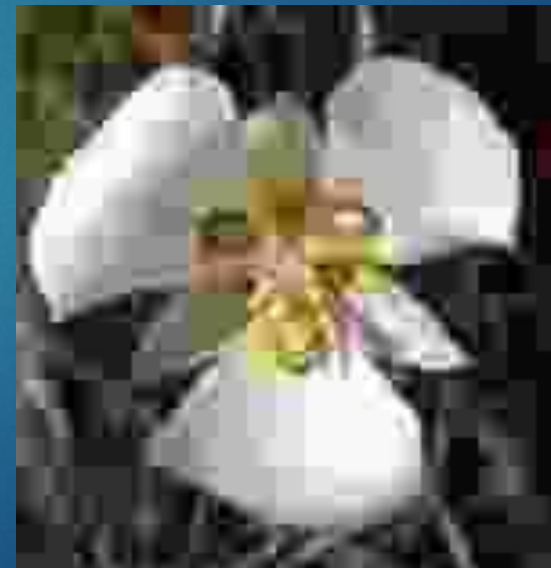
Soft



Sharp



Oversharp



Over compressed, JPEG artifacts

# Paper Types

- ▶ Laser copier paper: Very poor for photographs, especially inkjet. Colours are washed out and fade quickly
- ▶ Premium Inkjet paper: Better saturation but still not photo quality
- ▶ Photo paper, matte, silk and gloss: Good saturation, good resolution, dynamic range greater. (Blacker blacks and Whiter whites)

# Printer Types and Options

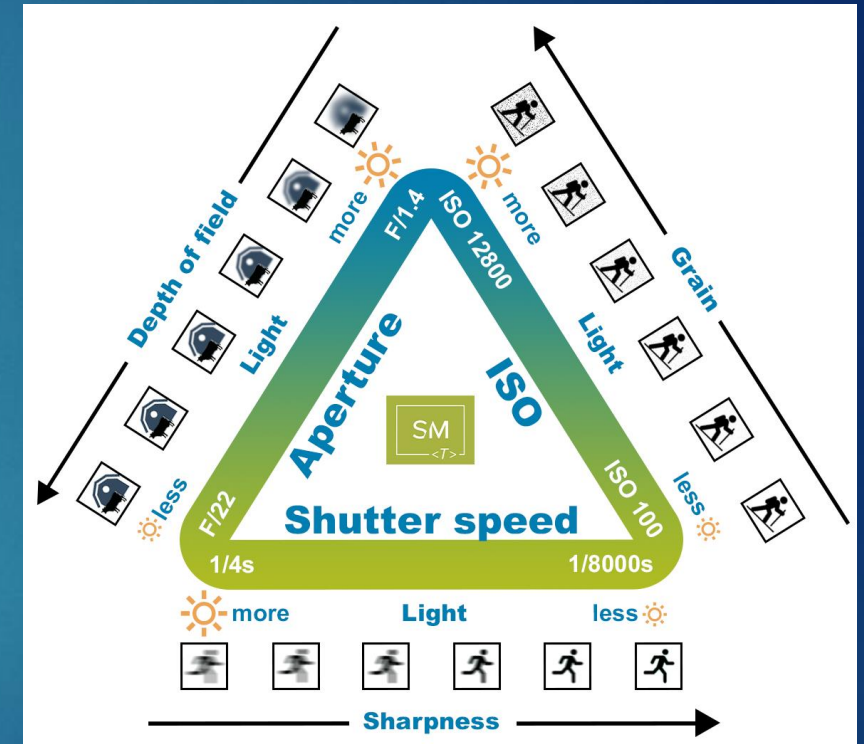
- ▶ Typical A4 office printer: low cost, reasonable results with photo paper but remember to select photo paper, if an option
- ▶ 6x4" postcard printer: dedicated to photo printing. Often uses dye sublimation for higher quality. Typically £100/ 30p per print
- ▶ A3 and large format: High quality and large prints typically uses pigment inks for fade free images. >£400, ~£1.50 for A4 print
- ▶ On-line printing: No initial outlay. Typical 10x8" or A4 print around £1.25, plus postage. You do have to wait a few days or go to a High St store. Most use pigment-based inks for fade resistance



# A Quick Recap - Exposure

# Exposure – Just like Goldilocks, getting it just right

- ▶ 3 things control the amount of light reaching the sensor, Aperture size, Shutter speed and Sensitivity of the sensor
- ▶ The aim is to get the exposure right so that there is detail in the shadows and the highlights (HDR is for another day!)
- ▶ Most smartphones control these 3 automatically so there is little choice than adjusting the exposure up and down.
- ▶ Most cameras do offer automatic modes but allow you to prioritise which one. This allows you to be more creative.



# Camera Controls – A, T, P, M, B

- ▶ A = Aperture priority. Set the f-stop and the camera will set the shutter speed (and maybe the ISO speed)
- ▶ T = Shutter speed or Time. Set this and the camera will select the aperture
- ▶ P = Program. With this the camera will choose what it thinks is best given the light levels and the lens attached.
- ▶ M = Manual. As it suggests, you are on your own. You set all the controls and maybe use a standalone light meter
- ▶ B = Bulb. An archaic term for manual operation where you use the fire button to control how long the shutter is open. It dates back to the use of flash bulbs!



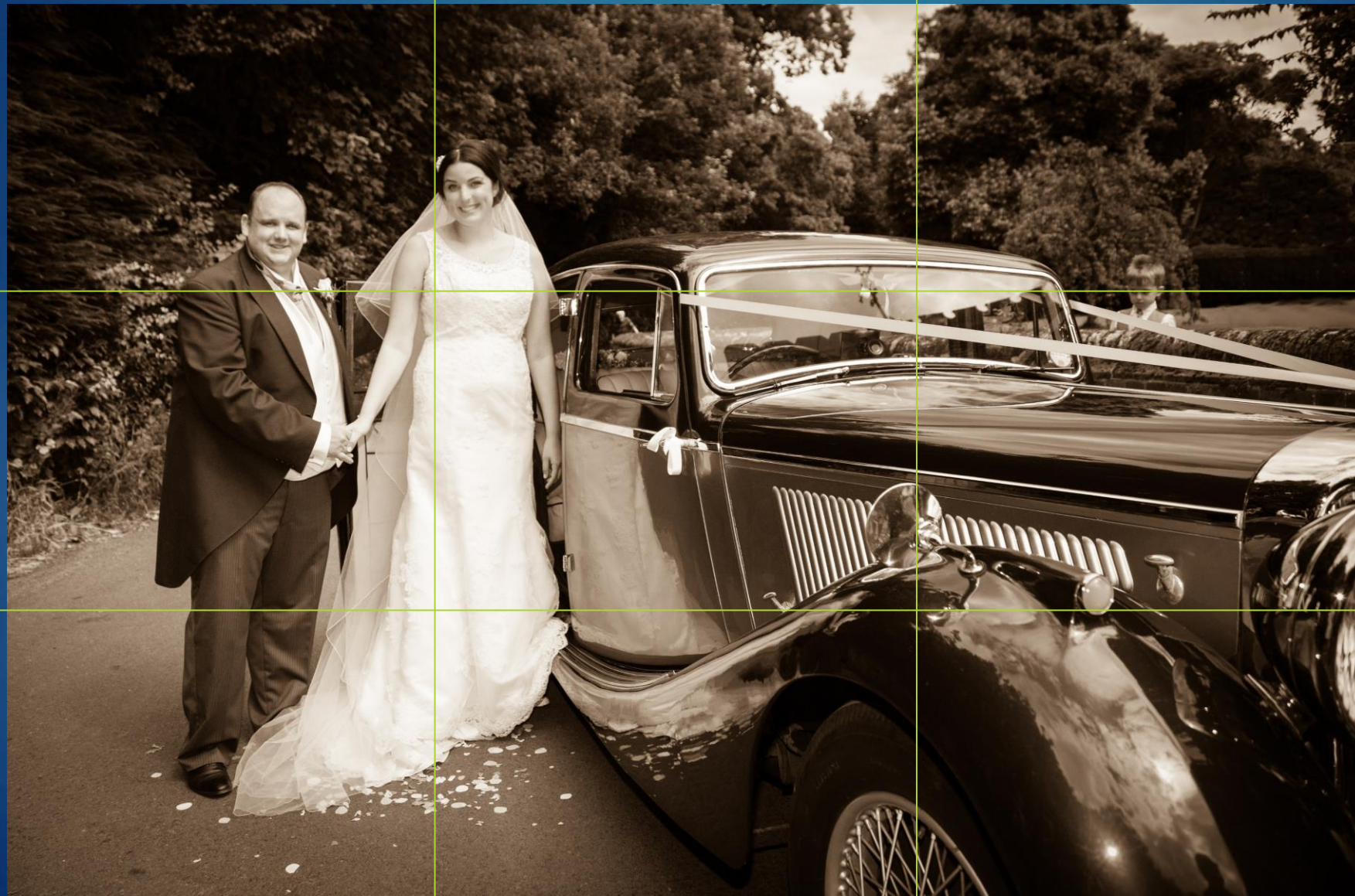
# Exposure Compensation

- ▶ Somewhere on your camera you find a control like this.
- ▶ This allows you to shift the exposure value chosen by the camera up and down for more creative control.
- ▶ For example, for snowy pictures increase the exposure compensation otherwise the image will have grey snow and dark subjects.
- ▶ For night shots, try decreasing the compensation so that the lit objects are not over exposed.



# Re-cap Composition Ideas

# The rule of Thirds



# Leading Lines



# Horizontal Horizon



# Include a Focal Point



# Frame within a Frame



# Symmetry



# Diagonals





# Time for a break

Photograph some Christmas decorations and then try and print one