



# The Image – Monthly NEWSLETTER

## The Abertawe Photographic Society –

Based near the heart of Swansea, Abertawe Photographic Society is an established, friendly and welcoming club, who's members both amateur and professional all share a common interest, in all aspects of photography.

Whether you are a complete beginner or a seasoned snapper, interested in digital techniques or 35mm film, there is a warm welcome by a likeminded group of people sharing in the search for the perfect image.

By sharing, not only our enthusiasm but also our skills, techniques and knowledge, we all grow as a club and by trying new things we all get the opportunity to stretch our boundaries. All members are encouraged to take part in club events.

The Society meets every Tuesday at:  
**Greenhill Community Centre**  
Chapel Street, Dyfatty,  
Swansea.SA1 1NB.

## This Month's Events: December

6<sup>th</sup> Marina Photo Shoot (TBC by Mike E)

13<sup>th</sup> Xmas Dinner Swansea Yacht Club

20<sup>th</sup> No Club

27<sup>th</sup> No Club

Deepest Sympathy to Jane Emery, on the loss of her father. Our thoughts are with you Jane and your family in this moment of grief.

## The 10 Rules of Photography

- 1. Rule of Thirds** - Imagine that your image is divided into nine equal segments by two vertical and two horizontal lines. Try to position the most important elements in your scene along these lines or at the points where they intersect. Doing so will add balance and interest to your photo.
- 2. Balancing Elements** - Placing your main subject off-centre, as with the rule of thirds, creates a more interesting photo, but it can leave a void in the scene, which can make it feel empty. You should balance the weight of your subject by including another object of lesser importance to fill the space.

3. **Leading Lines** - When we look at a photo our eye is naturally drawn along lines. By thinking about how you place lines in your composition, you can affect the way we view the image, pulling us into the picture, towards the subject, or on a journey "through the scene".

4. **Background** - The viewpoint has a massive impact on the composition of your photo, and as a result it can greatly affect the message that the shot conveys. Rather than just shooting from the eye level, consider photographing from high above, down at the ground level, from the side, from the back, from a long way away, from very close up, and so on

5. **Background** - The human eye is excellent at distinguishing between different elements in a scene, whereas a camera has a tendency to flatten the foreground and background, and this can often ruin an otherwise great photo. Thankfully, this problem is usually easy to overcome at the time of shooting – look around for a plain and unobtrusive background and compose your shot so that it doesn't distract or detract from the subject.

6. **Symmetry and Patterns** - We are surrounded by symmetry and patterns, both natural and man-made, they can make for very eye catching compositions, particularly in situations where they are not expected. Another great way to use them is to break the symmetry or pattern in some way, introducing tension and focal point to the scene.

7. **Depth** - Depth can be created in a photo by including objects in the foreground, the middle ground and background. Another useful composition technique is overlapping, where you deliberately partially obscure one object with another. The human eye naturally recognises these layers and mentally separates them out, creating an image with more depth.

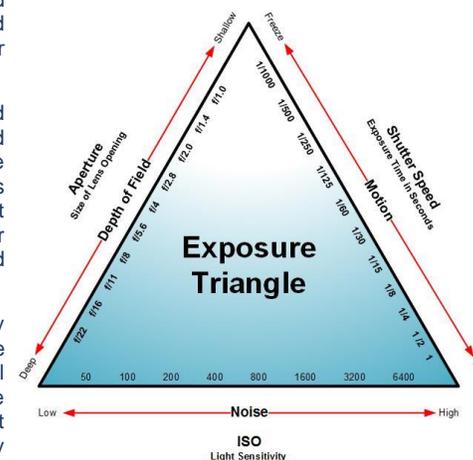
8. **Framing** - The World is full of objects which are perfect natural frames, such as trees, archways and holes. By placing these around the edge of the composition you help to isolate the main subject from the outside world. The result is a more focused image, which draws your eye naturally to the gain point of interest.

9. **Cropping** - By cropping tight around the subject you eliminate the background "noise", ensuring the subject gets the viewer's undivided attention.

10. **Experimentation** - With the dawn of the digital age in photography we no longer have to worry about film processing costs or running out of shots. As a result, experimenting with our photos' composition has become a real possibility; we can shoot a multitude of shots and delete the unwanted ones later at absolutely no extra cost. Take advantage of this fact and experiment with your compositions – you never know if an idea will work until you try it.

## The Exposure Triangle

The Exposure Triangle is a "tool" that all photographers should be aware of and use. It is comprised of three camera features, i.e. Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO. These three features of your camera decide how a successful image can be produced.



**Aperture** dictates the depth of field, the smaller the aperture opening, e.g. f/22, the deeper is your depth of field, subsequently, the larger the opening, e.g. f/2.8, the shallower is the depth of field.

**Shutter Speed** relates to the exposure time in seconds, the faster the speed, 1/1000 of a second for example freezes the motion, whereas a slow speed such as 1/2 a second will blur the motion.

**ISO** is the light sensitivity and dictates the amount of "noise" that will occur in your photograph, An ISO of 6400 will give you a high proportion of "noise" in your photograph, whereas an ISO of 100 will give you a low proportion of noise in your photograph. You may note that some cameras have a "Noise Reduction" facility, and by activating this it will reduce your image "noise".