



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: August

7th Pending Info

14th Pending Info

21st Pending Info

28th Pending Info

Looking for Inspiration

Whatever the style or type of photography you like, whether it is macro, landscape, nature, etc., you may at times need some inspiration. Even in club competitions you may want to find some inspiration that gets you away from the run-of-the-mill photography, but how do you get this?

Inspiration is often seen as the driving force behind every great photograph. It's the catalyst that can drive your imagination and ideas. In reality, when it comes to photography, there's no 'one-size-fits-all' solution for finding inspiration, each one of us is moved by different things, and what inspires one person can have little effect on another, ask a judge! I find that trying new ideas is the best way to discover my inspiration, which in turn will help me to create new images.

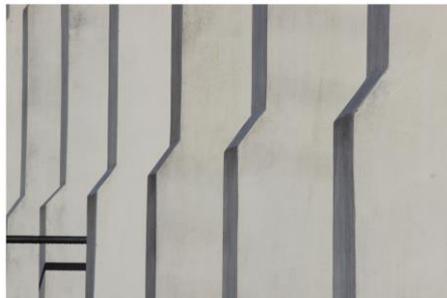
Therefore, if you find yourself in an unimaginative tunnel, maybe the following are some ideas that may help you get out of this, and recharge your inspiration to new heights.

Take a Walk - In a previous copy of the 'The Image' you may remember that I suggested taking a walk and photographing anything every one hundred yards or so. Well, this is often a great way to find inspiration. It may worthwhile if you don't take your camera, and you may well see quite a number of photo opportunities and say to yourself "I wish I had my camera with me!" Take in the scenery around you, looking both up and down, and try to pay special attention to the details around you; it may be architecture on a

building, or the shape of trees, etc. This may well help you see things in a different way, and make you think about how you would have composed your image if you had your camera with you.

Looking at Other Peoples Photography – This is often a great way to get ideas for your own photographic adventure. There are a number of ways to do this, your choice! It may be browsing the Internet (e.g. use Flickr), in books, photography exhibitions, or perhaps even museums. I know I mentioned the Internet, but if you are like me, there is quite nothing like seeing photographs in print.

Seeing Subject Differently – Inspiration is often there, sometime we don't see it too clearly, in other words, we look but we don't see. Try looking for a new way to photograph familiar and everyday subjects. One example of this was the fact that I passed our church hall almost every day, until one day I happened to look at it as I was passing the side of the hall and hey presto, this was the result. A different view of what is really a building I thought devoid of inspiration.



Why don't you make it your goal to capture a standard subject in a completely new and unconventional way! You may be surprised at the results.

New Skills are Out there to be Learnt - It's easy to lose inspiration when you're using the same technique day in and day out. If you want to stay inspired and keep your photography fresh, it's important to learn new skills; don't just 'point and squirt'. Have a look at the books of well-known photographers, and look for photos that you appreciate or stand out for you. Then have the desire to understand the technique used get this photograph and learn how you can replicate a similar photograph, whether it is straight out of your camera, maybe using some attachments or in post editing.

A New Photographic Style – Similar to the previous idea trying something new is another great way to find inspiration. Maybe you have thought about trying a new style of photography, well why not go for it! Maybe you have wanted to try street photography, or perhaps cityscapes, try with light trails, particularly second curtain flash technique. In other words, look for a challenge, especially one that may take you out of your comfort zone.

A new Place for that Inspiration – Very often we go to the same place for our photography, maybe

it's the Marina, or the city centre. Basically it's the same/similar images that are the end result, so why not try somewhere different. It may simply be a different part of the Marina, or a different part of the city, try and venture away the usual, go exploring.

Photographic Challenges – Again going back to the inspirational ideas that I included a few months back, why not attempt a photographic challenge, such as a themed challenge. This is actually a great way to find that inspiration that you may yearn for. Maybe you can join a group, or set up a group that gives a specific them or word to interpret on a regular basis. Photo challenges are often a great way to obtain new skills and also

Photo challenges are an excellent way to stretch your skills while continually nurturing your inspiration. By being part of a group helps you to summon up that motivation that can lead to new ideas and inspiration.

New Equipment – Of course, one certain way to find inspiration is by obtaining a new piece of kit, whether it is extension tubes, filters, etc. *Perhaps I don't have to give this idea to one member of the club; I wonder who that could be ☺*

A new filter can open some new and sensational long exposure options, or perhaps a diffuser for your flash or a reflector that will make a big difference to your portraits. Maybe use some of the new Lightroom presets to use in post-processing. Having these new tools at your disposal will help you to reconnect with your creativity.

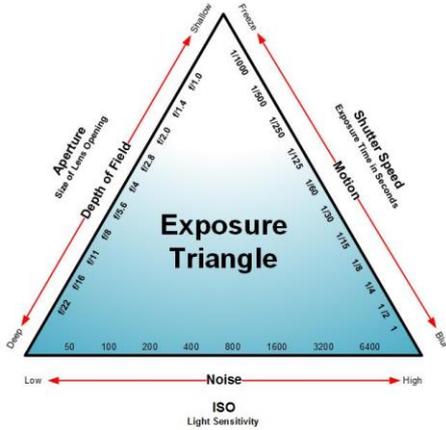
Remember Your First Camera – Do you remember how great it was when you got your first camera? Just think back to those days and try to reconnect with the passion and desire you had then. What was it that got you interested in photography back then? Reconnecting

Remember how exciting it was when you got your first camera? Try to reconnect with that pure and simple enjoyment that you once had. Think back to when you first started with photography – what was it that got you into photography in the first place? Reconnecting with that first interest may well help you get some more inspiration.

So, as you can see there are a number of ways that you can obtain inspiration, so choose one or more of the above and give it a go.

One Exposure, Three Ways

There are three camera settings that enable you to control the exposure of a picture, namely: aperture, shutter speed and ISO. These of course are all part of the 'Exposure Triangle' as shown below:



All three elements need to be balanced to produce an acceptable exposure. This is where thinking about exposure in terms of stops helps, as you will see in the example shown below, sometimes referred to as 'Exposure Math's'.

The three exposures below would produce three separate images that have the same level of overall brightness; however, each will look slightly different to the other two.

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/2.8	1/30	3200
f/4	1/60	1600
f/5.6	1/125	800
f/8	1/250	400
f/11	1/500	200
f/16	1/1000	100

This setting offers a reasonable depth of field with some risk of visual noise.

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/2.8	1/30	3200
f/4	1/60	1600
f/5.6	1/125	800
f/8	1/250	400
f/11	1/500	200
f/16	1/1000	100

Increasing the aperture to f/4 means the shutter can be open for less time.

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/2.8	1/30	3200
f/4	1/60	1600
f/5.6	1/125	800
f/8	1/250	400
f/11	1/500	200
f/16	1/1000	100

Alternatively, a slow shutter speed means a small aperture is possible.

.....and finally

Two photographers walking along a street and they pass a beggar sitting with his hat up-ended on the pavement, begging for money. One guy keeps walking. The other stops. Later when they catch up with each other the first guy says to the other.

"Hey I saw you stop for that beggar. What did you give him?"

"Oh" says the first guy, "1/125th at f5.6"