

u3a

Beccles U3A
Digital Photography Group 2

Meeting Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Here's another 3 signs.....



Guess the year (1955-85) & its best selling single

See if you can guess which year this is. Bonus mark if you also identify the song

Clue 1 : Neil Armstrong becomes first man to walk on the moon

Clue 2 : Concorde makes its maiden flight

Song Clue : A fun hit for a band based on an American comic strip. You might say the singer is SWEET on a girl...



It was “1969” and “Sugar Sugar” by the Archies

Digital Photography Group 2 – looking ahead

16th June – John – Abstract Landscapes

7th July – Members' Photos session

21st July – Kevin Sawford (Professional) – Introduction to Garden Bird Photography

4th August – Members' Photos & Exhibition Prep

18th August – some of Edward's Navy Photos & Post Exhibition chat

1st September – Members' Photos session

15th September – John – Photo Editing #1 – Windows Photos

6th October – Members' Photos session

20th October – John – Photo Editing #2 – Lightroom Classic

Digital Photography Group – feedback

Many thanks for your feedback about Group 2 ! The results.....

1) You want keep the subs at £3 and to use any surplus for speakers/group equipment etc

2) Some of you would like to visit the Plantation Gardens, but you don't want to go on a tour.

3) Some of you would like to have a photo walk with Dominic.

Please let me know if you prefer Tues 8th or Tues 22nd September !

4) Quite a few of you can attend the picnic in August -
we now have enough members to go ahead ! 😊

“Click & Chat” – is on next week !

Next walk Tuesday 9th June.

Another visit to Beccles Quay. Meet in the Quay car-park NR34 9BB at 11am. This is the big car-park off Fen Lane.

As usual, this date is weather dependent !!

Note Click and Chat has moved to TUESDAYS



Group 1 – next walk

A visit to Thrigby Hall wildlife park NR29 3DR with Graham and Group 1 on Thursday 11th June.

Meet at the entrance at 11am.

If you want to go, buying your ticket online in advance is cheaper (cost £17.50 per person).

Please let Graham know if you're coming.



Group 1 – walk schedule

This is the current schedule of walks planned by Group 1.

NB – these are provisional dates and may be changed.

Please check with Graham before setting off !

Destination	Date
Thrigby Hall	11 th June
Thornham Walks – Early Summer	18th June
Grp2 - Plantation Gardens	26 th June
Camel Park, Oasis – or Somerleyton Marina	2 nd July
Gt Yarmouth Seafront – or Lowestoft Seafront	16 th July
Bressingham – or Norwich Market	6 th August
Grp1 & 2 Party Time	27 th August
Thornham Walks - Autumn	3rd September
Henham Steam Rally (Sat/Sun)	19 th September
Strangers Hall, Norwich	8 th October
Lowestoft High Street	22 October
Engineering Exhibition Lowestoft (Sat/Sun)	31 st October

Group 2 – next walk

A visit to the Plantation Gardens Norwich NR29 3DR with John on Tuesday 23rd June.

Meet at the entrance at 11am. Honesty box entry £2 per person.

Again, this walk is weather dependent !

Coffee afterwards in the RC Cathedral Narthex café

Please let me know if you're coming !



Digital Photography Group – future walks

Suggested “Big Walks”

Thrigby Hall with Group 1 - 11th June

Thornham Walks with Group 1 – 18th June

Plantation Garden – 23rd June

Local walks

Click & Chat – 9th June

Click & Chat – 14th July

Later in the Summer

Henstead Exotic Garden – TBA

Lowestoft Maritime Museum – summer

Group Picnic at Nicholas Everitt Park – 27th August

Walk with Dominic (Professional) - September

Summer Picnic...

We're going to meet as a group for a summer picnic **at Nicholas Everitt Park, Oulton Broad, on either Thursday 27th, or Friday 28th August if the weather is bad.**

If you haven't already, please can you let me know if you'd be interested in this ?

So far, I have interest from....

Edward, Helen, Karens C&M, Liz, Netta, Nick, Steves C&M, Sue B & Vince, plus Tony from Group 1



Digital Photography Group – exhibition news

After listening to your feedback, the Exhibition Committee have decided to revert the exhibition categories back to the same ones as last year :

- Human World
- Natural World
- Monochrome
- Close-Up

Please ignore all previous instructions about the categories.

The new categories match our monthly challenges, so it should be easier for you to find suitable images from your back-catalogue.

NB - there is no longer a Wildcard category, so all images must be mounted using cream mounts.

Internal competition - Reflections

I would also like to draw your attention to the internal competition being held alongside the exhibition on the theme of “Reflections”

Please send 1 image in JPG format to Graham by 1st July !

Members will be asked to vote for their favourite image from the combined entries from Groups 1 and 2.

The winning image will be offered as the 2nd prize in the exhibition raffle.



Local Art events....

COUNTER POINT

Exhibition of work by artdepotnr3



St. Margaret's Gallery
St. Benedict's St

Open 11am to 5pm daily
Thursday 4th to Sunday
14th of June



Suffolk
Open Studios

The logo for Suffolk Open Studios, featuring a yellow hand with fingers spread, an eye, and a sun on a blue background.

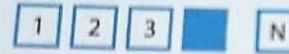
FREE

ART DIRECTORY 2026
Your Essential Guide to SOS Artists, Makers and Galleries

Visit **FREE** during our Open Studios weekends in **JUNE** and **NOVEMBER**
AND at our large group exhibitions across Suffolk - details inside!

SUFFOLKOPENSTUDIOS.ORG

70.
SUE O'BRIEN
Mixed Media



I love drawing, watercolours, photography and printmaking. I investigate the relationships between natural forms and the human body.

36 Darby Road, Beccles, NR34 9XH

*London Road to St Georges Road, R. into Darby Road.
Bungalow on right just past Kemps Lane.*

Please support Sue at this local Art event

**Please support Caroline at
this Art exhibition in Norwich**

Local Photo Competition....

I'd like to share a local photo competition being run by East Suffolk Lines & Beccles Town Council.

Please send them a large Hi-Res image file, as the winning images will be enlarged to poster size.

I suggest you send a JPG, so it can easily be viewed by the judges.

Send your entries to the email address opposite.



Community
Rail
Partnership



**BECCLES
CAPTURE YOUR
TOWN!**

**PHOTO
COMPETITION**



PHOTOS FROM EVENTS, WILDLIFE,
BUILDINGS, LANDSCAPES & HAPPY
FACES - SHOW YOUR TOWN AT ITS
BEST!

CONTEST
DEADLINE

**JULY 30
2026**

WINNERS
CHOSEN BY

**Beccles
Town
Council**

WINNING
PHOTOS
PRINTED ON
VINYL AND
INSTALLED ON
THE TRAIN
STATION
SHELTERS!



SUBMIT CLEAR, HIGH-RES PHOTOS ONLY -
THEY WILL BE ENLARGED!

IF FACES ARE INCLUDED, YOU MUST HAVE
PERMISSION GRANTED.

SUBMIT PHOTOS TO
PHOTO@EASTSUFFOLKLINES.CO.UK

GIVE US YOUR
BEST SHOT!

ENTER TODAY!

Digital Photography Group – fortnightly challenge

“Stairs or Steps” - up to 3 Photos Please send in a maximum of 3 images !

This challenge is all about finding creative ways to photograph stairs & steps.

You can shoot in colour, or B&W.



Please return your photos to John **by Sunday 14th June** to jsdpg2@gmail.com

Fortnightly challenge help

Some ideas :-

- 1) **Leading Lines:** Use the staircase to guide the viewer's eye through the frame.
- 2) **Different Perspectives:** Shoot the same stairs looking up from below , looking down from above and looking side-ways on.
- 3) **Use symmetry / repeating patterns** – works really well on spiral staircases.
- 4) **Get in close to focus on the detail / texture of individual steps.**



Digital Photography Group – creative challenge

“BOKEH”- 2 Photos For our **7th July** meeting, I’m setting you another creative challenge !

This challenge is all about using “Bokeh” in your images.

You can use colour, or B&W. The subject can be anything, but there must be some “Bokeh” somewhere in the image.

Please enter a maximum of 2 photos.

Please return your photos to John by **Sunday 5th July** to **jsdpg2@gmail.com**



Creative challenge help

“Bokeh” is a Japanese word meaning a soft, out-of-focus blur. In Photography circles, the word has become associated with **pleasing blurry points of light in a photo**.

The key point is the blur should be pleasing to the eye.

The word can be pronounced in different ways, but if you say “Bokay”, this sounds like a lovely bunch of flowers and it will remind you to look for pleasing blur.



Creative challenge help

Bokeh is achieved by

- **Setting a shallow-depth-of-field (using a wide aperture) to introduce blur in the background of your image.**
- **Having points of light further away from the camera than your subject. If you focus on the subject, the points of lights will then be blurred.**

Due to the way cameras work, the points of light will look larger and softer in the image, than we would see with our own eyes.



Creative challenge help

You can achieve Bokeh on any camera, but smartphones can work really well !

General settings

- 1) You need a light source/sources in the background – fairy lights, car lights, dappled sunlight etc
- 2) You need a subject which is close to the camera and have at least a few feet between the subject and the points of light.
- 3) Get really close to the subject, to maximise the blurry background.
- 4) If you can, set your aperture to a wide setting f2, or below.



Creative challenge help

For cameras, you'll need to be in Aperture Priority, Program or Manual mode to do this.

In phones, you'll need your "Pro" mode. Not all phones allow you to set the aperture, but most phones already use a wide aperture by default.



Smartphone settings

5) You can also get a "blur" using your phone's Portrait Mode and its in-built software.

6) Depending on your phone, the blur may be stronger on the 2x or 3x telephoto lens.



Creative challenge help

Some Videos....

Bokeh Photo Tutorial (7 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFziBE1oNqQ>

7 tips for creating Bokeh (3 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXVDO31vbG0>

Creating Bokeh effect using sun and Canon camera (6 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXZyc36gkMU>



Digital Photography Group – monthly challenge

There are 4 categories – You can enter 1, 2, 3 or 4 categories, but only 1 photo per category

(This challenge runs during all of June)

The categories are...

- 1) Human World - any photo with a person, or where the subject has been created by a person or persons.
- 2) Natural World - any photo where the subject is from the natural world, including landscapes.
- 3) Monochrome - any photo in a single colour, or black and white, of any subject.
- 4) Close-up - any photo where you have focussed on part of an object.

Please send your photos to me by **Sunday 5th July** to jsdpg2@gmail.com

Members photos...part 1 !

Your May monthly photos



Tea Break

Members Photos

“ICM” Creative Challenge

“Square Yard” Challenge

Videos... if we have time, or to watch at home

Steps and Stairs – short video

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/5p0TH3WrM4M>

2 Staircases in Italy (Architectural Photography) – 19 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpvK0b39d3Q>

The next meeting.....

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th June, at 10am in the Quaker Meeting Rooms, as usual.

Web-page : https://beccles.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/digital-photography-2/