Four of your Best
October 2026

Signs of Change

“This month we look for clues that something is moving from one state to another.”



October is a month of transition. Summer is fading, autumn is taking hold, and nature is busy preparing for what comes next.

As photographers, we're not simply recording what we see. We're searching for evidence that something is changing. Sometimes the change is obvious, such as leaves turning gold and red. Sometimes it is almost invisible, revealed only by careful observation.

This month's challenge is to become detectives of change and transition.

What Counts as a Sign of Change?

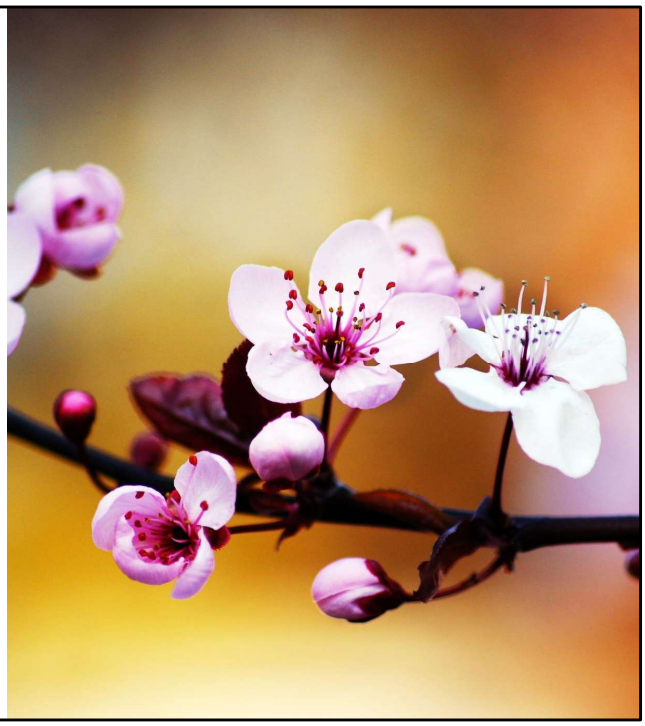
"A sign of change can be subtle - a hint, not a headline."

Seasonal Change
- Leaves changing colour - Shorter days - Migrating birds

Weather Change
- Gathering clouds - Morning mist - Approaching storms

Growth or Decay
- New shoots - Fading flowers - Rust and erosion

Human Activity
- Renovation – Demolition - New construction



Many members initially wonder what qualifies as a sign of change.

The answer is surprisingly broad.

Change surrounds us constantly. A freshly painted door replacing peeling paint. A field after harvesting. A tree losing leaves. A building being extended. A child's outgrown bicycle resting against a wall.

The best photographs often reveal a small clue that encourages the viewer to complete the story themselves.

How to Capture Change

- "Photograph the moment where two states meet."

Look for Contrasts

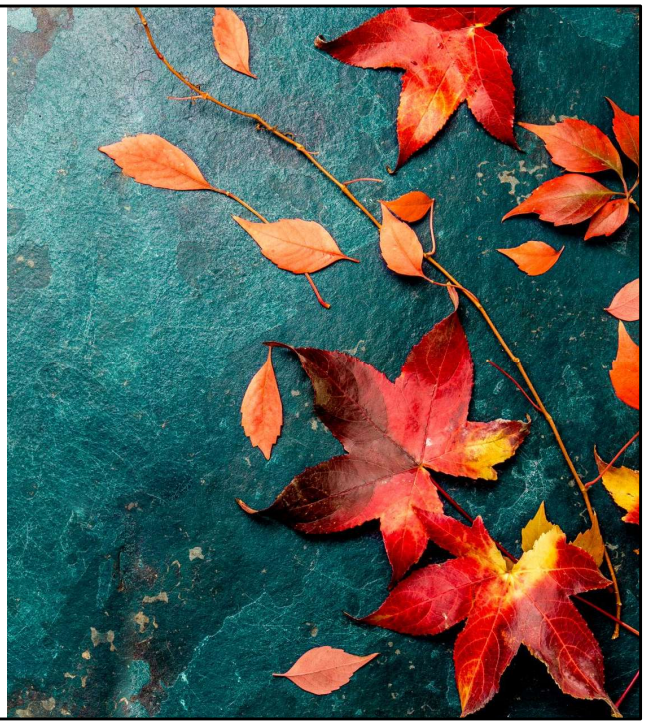
- Old vs new - Bright vs faded - Full vs empty

Watch for Clues

- Footprints - Fallen leaves - Weathered surfaces

Tell a Story

- What happened before? - What might happen next?



Rather than photographing the end result, try photographing the transition itself.

Photographers often become stronger storytellers when they learn to recognise moments of change.

An abandoned shop beside a newly opened one.

A fading flower beside a fresh bloom.

An old sign standing in front of a modern building.

These contrasts create visual interest and

encourage viewers to stay with the image longer.

The Four Categories

Human World
- Renovations and construction
- Changing streets
- Ageing machinery
- Signs of use and wear
- Community activities

Natural World
- Autumn colours
- Migrating wildlife
- Seasonal landscapes
- Weather changes

Mono
- Texture and contrast
- Shape and structure
- Light and shadow
- Weathered surfaces

Close Up
- Decaying leaves
- Seed heads
- Rust patterns
- Details that reveal change

Each category offers different opportunities to explore our monthly theme.

The Human World category invites us to look at changes made by people.

Natural World focuses on seasonal and environmental transition.

Mono strips away colour and allows us to concentrate on form, texture and contrast.

Close Up encourages us to find the tiny details that often tell the biggest stories.

The challenge is not simply to photograph a subject but to reveal evidence of change.

Your Four Challenges

- **Find Change in the Human World**
  Building work, repairs, replacements or renewal.
- **Show a Seasonal Shift**
  Capture evidence of autumn arriving.
- **Create a Strong Mono Image**
  Use texture, shadow and contrast to suggest change.
- **Get Close**
  Reveal a small detail that most people would overlook.



These challenges are designed to encourage observation more than travel.

Most can be completed close to home, in a garden, local park, town centre, or even indoors.

Remember that the strongest photographs often come from familiar places viewed with fresh eyes.

We're not necessarily looking for dramatic change.

Sometimes the smallest clue can tell the biggest story.

Look carefully, think creatively, and enjoy the process.