

2018-19 Welcome group – Follow-on challenges

Great photographs often look as if they have just captured a special moment, but behind that, there is usually much trial and error. Patrick Lichfield's refrain was "If I get one good image from a roll of film of 36 images then I'm happy." With digital cameras of course, we can click away and simply delete the ones that we're not happy with.

Experimentation is an important way to develop photographic skills. It helps you hone the core technical skills so you're ready when the moment comes. Equally importantly it allows you to be creative: to discover what you like, what interests you.

So, to accompany the mini-workshops in the Welcome programme we're also suggesting some challenges for you to try as well, to encourage you to get out with your camera and have a go. Pick out two or three of your best results and share them on our [Extra events Flickr page](#).

[Session One: Shutter speed](#)

Shutter speed is about capturing movement, sometimes you will want a fast shutter speed to freeze the action; sometimes you will use a slow shutter speed to blur the movement. Here are some challenges that you could try on your own to experiment further

Splash

Capture the moment when a sugar cube drops into a cup of tea. As the cube hits the surface it will create a reaction in the liquid. Can you capture that? What happens if you use different shutter speeds. (Use the shutter priority setting on your camera and then increase or decrease the speed eg start at 250th of a sec then 125th - 60th - 30th – 15th and so. How do the images compare?

You may need to make your 'tea' in a bowl. Liquids with some viscosity (eg milk or cream rather than water) work well.

Check out [harold edgerton photos milk](#)

Children in the playground

If you have children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces then take them to the park and take photos of them in a playground. It could be a simple traditional style place with swings, slides, a roundabout.

Box Hill stepping stones

Experiment with creating different effects of water. Go to the stepping stones at the base of Box Hill and photograph the water flowing at different speeds. Fast speeds will freeze the action; slow speeds will create a very silky effect. How slow do you need to go to create this? How slow can you go?

Evening and night photography

Evening photography will require slow speeds and a tripod for steadiness. Pick a subject that is still - maybe a lovely building or a tree near a streetlight - and try to photograph it. Dusk is a lovely time to try this.

Alternatively, try capturing streaming car lights – coming or going. Bridges are useful for this – you could try the bridge over the A217 at the top of Reigate Hill. You may need a 30 second exposure for this.