

EPSOM GARDEN SOCIETY



‘HAVE A GO AT A SHOW’ PHOTOGRAPHY CRIB SHEET

1. STILL LIFE

If you are shooting still life, not landscapes, consider the subjects background. Think about how the background works with your subject. Do you have items in the frame that have no bearing on the subject? Is the subject the focal point of your shot, doesn't have to be central, if it's not, the background has to be complementary. Use depth of field to emphasise your primary subject. Remember if you can control your camera's aperture, you can throw the background out of focus. Wide aperture gives a shallow depth of field (the bit of the photograph in focus). Make sure you consider light, avoid shadows on your subject, flash will often create shadows and you won't know what you have taken until you see the result. If you are unsure, use a tripod and a slow speed to gain exposure but watch that you don't produce a grainy shot.

2. LANDSCAPES

What's in the shot is important; a lovely landscape can easily be spoilt by a waste bin or pylon in the shot. Just move the camera position slightly to the left or right and you may find the offending article is out of shot. Again, try to avoid hard shadows unless you purposely want them. Sunrise, sunsets and misty conditions can really make for great photographs.

3. PEOPLE

Almost all of us, over the past few years, have experienced 'selfies', so are comfortable in front of a camera phone, but get out a camera and everything changes. Try to capture people at their best, relax them and engage with them, don't shoot upwards when taking a portrait as it will accentuate the neck and chin.

4. PRESENTING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

Remember to read the schedule, check you have the right size photographs / mount. If you are able to mount the photographs, choose a mount that will complement the photographs, it is surprising what a difference this can make to the overall effect and bring everything together.