

PHOTOGRAPHIC HINTS & TIPS

Below are my top hints and tips for better and more enjoyable photography:

- **Join Your Local Camera Club** Camera clubs are not necessarily for everyone, but you will not know until you give it a try. Although they are not primarily teaching organizations, a lot can be learned by joining one. Meeting people with a similar interest can really give your photography a boost from the encouragement and inspiration you will receive. You can find details of one close to you from the Photographic Alliance Of Great Britain (PAGB) website.
- **Equipment** You will need a certain amount of equipment, but having the latest most expensive camera is not essential. Having an eye for a picture and knowing your current equipment is more important.
- **Know Your Camera** Get familiar with your camera's controls and settings so that using it becomes second nature - your camera will then become an extension of yourself to enable you to concentrate solely on the subject.
- **Know Your Subject** Having an in-depth knowledge of your subject will greatly enhance your photography. With landscape, for example, knowing the best time of day - and sometimes even season for a particular view will mean you will get that ultimate shot. Sometimes you can just get lucky, but luck is often planned!
- **Visual Awareness** Take time to look at other photographers images and artists paintings, then analyze why they work and why you like them. By doing this you will gain a 'visual awareness' of composition, lighting and what elements are needed to create a strong image.
- **Style** Try and develop a style of your own. A good photographer's work should be recognized as theirs just from the style.
- **Photographic Distinctions** Both the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) and the Photographic Alliance Of Great Britain (PAGB) offer the opportunity to gain photographic distinctions. Going for a distinction will give your photography a sense of purpose and a feeling of great satisfaction when achieved.
- **Build Your Own Website** It is not as difficult as it may first appear, there are many templates and creation programs available to get started. A website of your own can be the ideal spotlight for your images and photographic philosophy.

