

St James Photo competition #1 30th
March 2020

WEEKLY
PHOTO COMPETITION

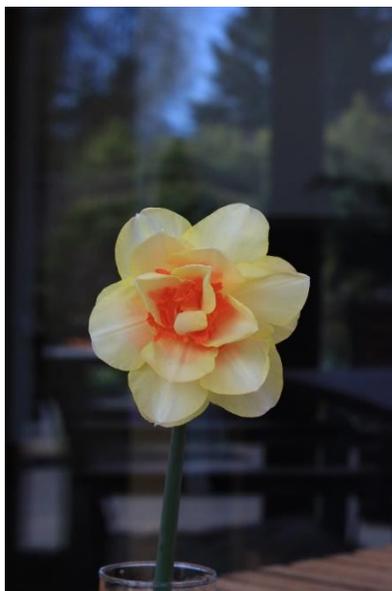


Happy Monday everyone

For the first week of the competition, we've gone for a simple and hopefully easy to find subject – flowers. This could be a single bloom, a bunch or a flower or flowers found naturally in nature during our one exercise session, or in the garden (if we are lucky enough to have one).

At the risk of teaching everyone things that they already know here are a couple of tips...

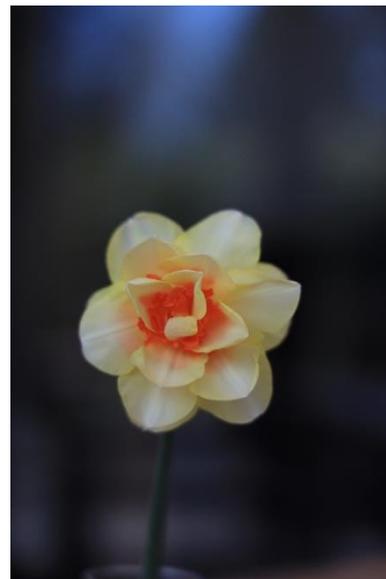
For those with cameras, rather than camera phones, try exploring what your camera can do – you might even consider reading the manual (it goes without saying not if you are a bloke of course!). If you can control the aperture – that is the size of the hole that the light and image pass through when you take a picture, you can have some control over what is in focus – and for something like a flower, it would normally be important that the picture is in focus (unless you are deliberately playing around for effect). A small aperture gives a greater depth of focus – ie more of the picture – particularly in a close up – will be in focus, while a large aperture restricts the depth of focus – sometimes to the extent that only part of the subject will be sharp.



This photo was taken with a small aperture

The whole of the flower is in focus and while it is out of focus you can get some idea of what is going on behind.

SMALL Aperture f:22



With a wide aperture only the centre of the flower (where I focussed the camera) is truly in focus, while the background blur removes distraction and concentrates the view onto the flower.

LARGE Aperture f:4 – yes, I know that a larger aperture has a smaller number – there is an explanation, but for now it just does!

It is very important to remember that aperture is just one of the factors that affects exposure – the others are film or sensor sensitivity (in a camera – probably best to leave on Auto) and exposure time – ie how long the light is allowed to pass through the aperture. If you are using a very small aperture there is always the danger that the exposure will be too long for a steady hand and the photo will be blurred through camera movement. Generally try to keep the exposure to 1:60 sec or faster if you are not using a tripod!

Those of you using a phone camera will probably have much less control... This was taken on a iPhone 7....



Much more in focus, but still a good representation of the flower

So we can see that there is more of a challenge for the phone camera in choosing the background and setting of the photo – remember that a number of professional photographers use phones as their camera these days, so don't be daunted – you will be able to produce results that can win!

Don't forget that you can 'enhance' your photo – camera phones usually have some editing software built in, and there are a lot of free apps available – my favourite is 'Snapseed' by Google.

Have fun, be silly if you want (daff in the ear anyone?) and spend time looking before you snap- we are blessed to live in a beautiful area and we now have time to appreciate it – and photograph it!

Good luck!

Peter