GUIDES TO 'PROPER' PHOTOGRPAHY

RAW not JPEG

RAW versus JPEG – What's the Difference?

As we develop our photography we need to ensure that our great compositions are of high technical quality. Using 'RAW' rather than 'JPEG' is fundamental to this.

What is RAW versus JPEG?

- A RAW file taken in your camera, is all the information that your sensor recorded, untouched. This is a huge amount of data and with this you will be able to significantly adjust much about the image, in post processing.

- A JPEG is a version of this information where the colour and light have been altered automatically within your camera. You have no control on the changes – they are done by preprogrammed devices within your camera. Another change made is to significantly simplify the information and thus a JPEG file is much smaller than a RAW. So a JPEG is a useful quick output of the image which can easily be sent to others. However, the ability to edit a JPEG file in post processing software is extremely limited.

Why use RAW?

With the growing sophistication and ability of post processing programs such as Adobe Lightroom, there is much that can be done with a RAW image to change it in many ways:

- Light levels of the image overall and each colour within the image
- Colour balance
- Cropping
- Noise removal
- Adjustments to each part of the image
- And many more

So RAW is good for 'Proper' photography because it opens up a whole new World of possibilities for what you can do with your image.

Why use JPEG?

It is perfect for snapshots that you want to share or with images where you don't have the time to post process. Modern cameras do a great job especially where the light is good. Also JPEGs are small files – so you can store more of them on your SD card and computer.

Even if you shoot in RAW you have to convert the image to JPEG to share it with others… BUT that would only be after you have developed the image to be the best it can be – though your own artistic expression.