



Working in low light - long exposures

low light / long exposure photography

- Long exposures - usually refers to shutter speeds of longer than say half a second to several minutes
- This may be necessary to achieve a quality image in areas with very low light levels outside (dusk or night time) or very poorly lit interiors
- In daytime long exposures could be chosen as a way of blurring parts of the scene
- Opportunity at night time to light some areas with a flashgun or LED torch for special effects
- Cameras and mobile phones are much improved with better hand held results in areas of low light but there are still times we want to take longer exposures
- Something cameras can do that mobile phones cannot

Working in low light - my top tips

1. Use a tripod, if not a makeshift support like a wall to keep the camera steady, a small bean bag makes a good prop
2. Set camera shutter to 'Bulb' or Manual 'M'
3. Use a cable release or set camera to 2 or 10 seconds delay
4. Use a low ISO setting to reduce noise if possible
5. Raw format will give you most scope extracting the best result, worth shooting a jpeg as well
6. Choose an aperture suggest f 2.8 - f 5.6 for night scenes and f 11 - f 22 for daytime blurring effects
7. A small piece of black card is handy to cover the lens when unwanted item appears during an exposure

Working in low light - my top tips

8. For long exposures frame up, switch off autofocus and IS (image stabilisation) then manually focus to 'first third' distance
9. In daylight consider applying a ND (neutral density) filter or Polarising filter to prolong exposure time or improve clarity
10. Cover the viewfinder as light leaks can affect your image (some cameras have an eyepiece closure)
11. Estimate your exposures (try the 'Larks' technique) and do wide bracket (1 & 2 stops either way)
12. Night shots of buildings and scenes are best at dusk before it gets too dark (keep shooting for 15 mins)
13. Underexpose and use tungsten setting for convert daytime images to look like night (no need to do this with RAW)

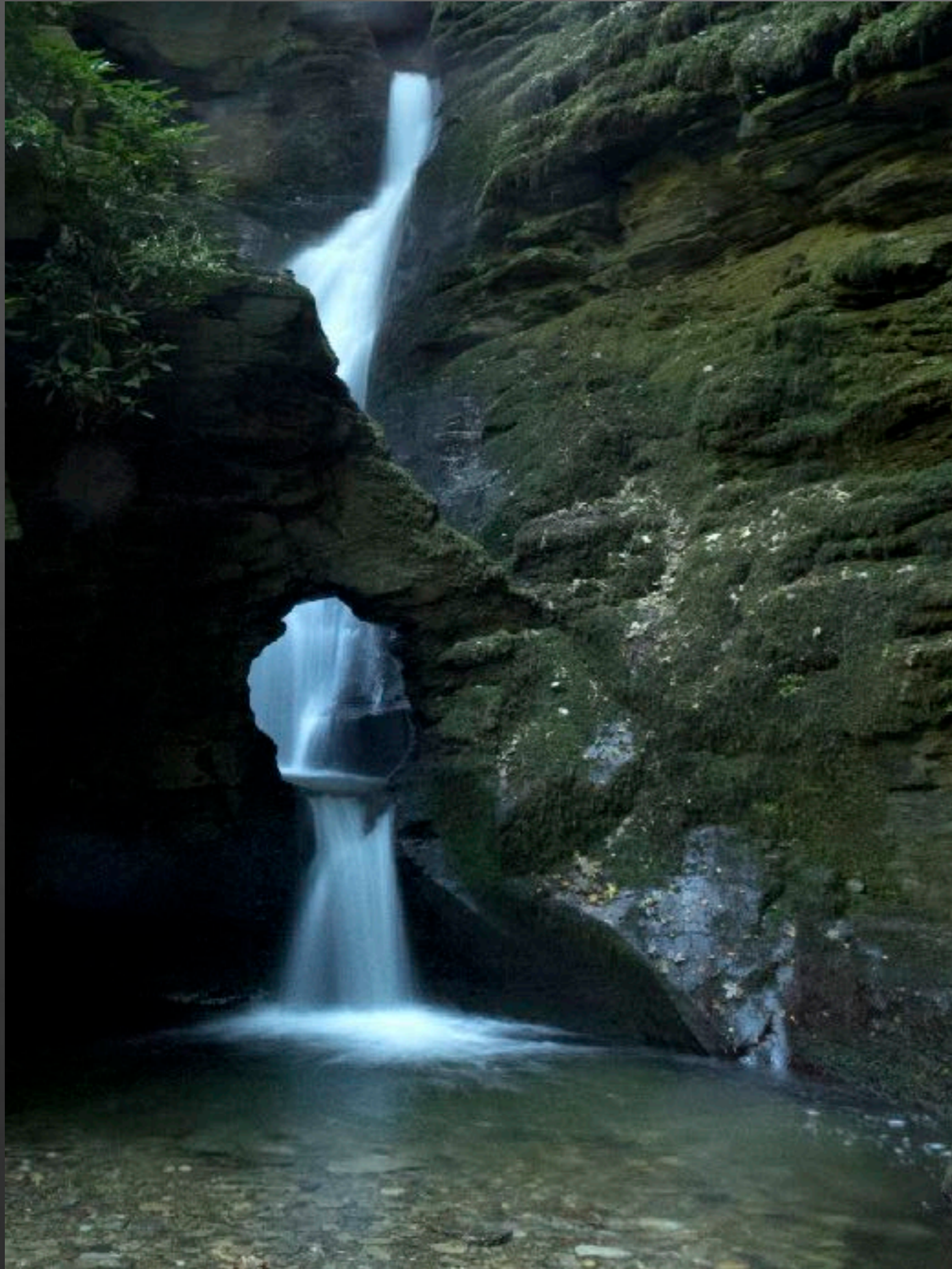
APERTURE AND ISO VARY	0.5 - 2 SEC	3 -5 SECS	8 - 10 SECS	15 - 30 SECS	30 - 60 SECS	1 -3 MINS	5 - 10 MINS	30 + MINS
DARK INTERIORS			<i>Modern cameras with fast ISO can operate with shorter exposures</i>					
WATER WITH TEXTURE								
SILKY WATER								
FIREWORKS						<i>f8 - f11 ISO 100-200 good start settings</i>		
BRIGHT STREET SCENES			<i>Modern cameras with fast ISO can operate with shorter exposures</i>					
CITY LIGHTS								
LIGHTPAINTING OR FLASH								
FAST MOVING CLOUDS								
SLOW MOVING CLOUDS								
NORTHERN LIGHTS								
METEORS						<i>Wide angle f2 ISO 1600 - 6400 good start settings</i>		
SHARP STARS MILKY WAY								
STAR TRAILS						<i>f2.8 ISO 400-800 good start settings</i>		
REMOVING PEOPLE								
CAR TRAILS								
FULL MOONSHINE			<i>f4 - f5.6 ISO 400 good start settings</i>					



0.5 sec f1.6 ISO 3200
iPhone



1 sec f4 ISO 400



1 sec f8 ISO 400



1 sec f2.8 ISO 200



1/8 f4 ISO 1600



1 sec f8 ISO 1600



13 secs f16 ISO 400



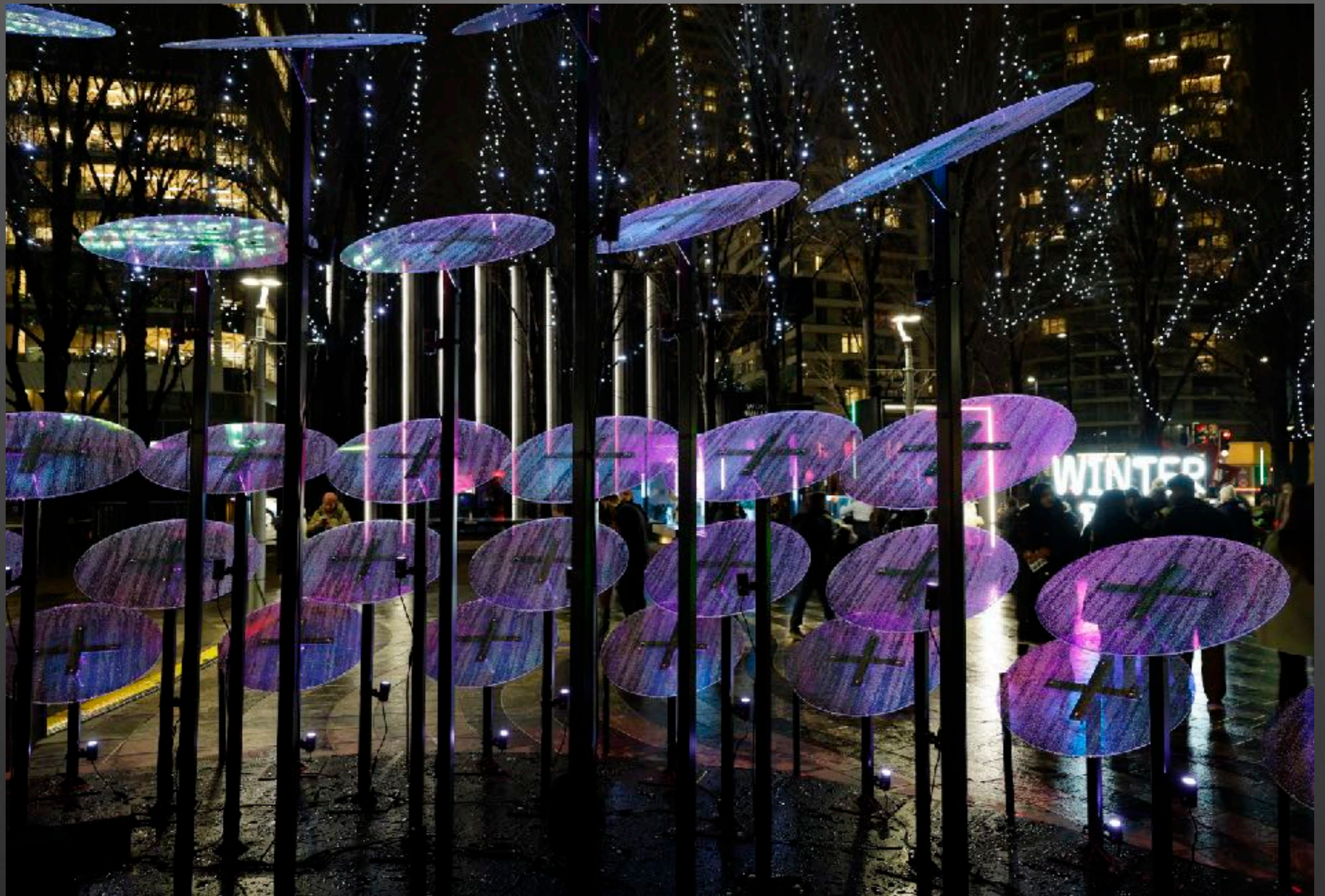
10 secs f11 ISO 160 + flash



30 secs f8 ISO 3200



30 secs f16 ISO 2000 + flash



1/5 f5 ISO 1600 with IS



1/30 f5.6 ISO 6400

To make a daylight image look like taken at night...



...add a blue colour filter and darken exposure



**Now onto next month's theme for
members images???**

**What have these images in
common?**









365 KNP

S4P BSAU 145d



Have you got it?

The theme for next month is...

One dominant colour



That's all Folks!