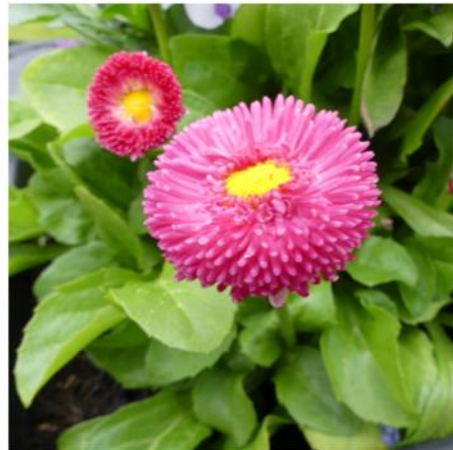


Newsletter for week ending 20th May 2023



Collage created using PIXLR app

Plagiarism of my User Manuals on Amazon

I was alerted to the fact that my Panasonic Lumix FZ80/82 User's Manual had been copied and issued for sale as an original work by Akira Asahi.

Not only was this wholesale plagiarism but also copyright theft of my images in the book.

I opened a copyright infringement case with Amazon. The response I received left me angry and wondering what "muppets" were being employed!

Having cited the text and images that were clear illustrations of this infringement their response was that **I could not copyright protect a books' title!**

If I wanted to pursue the case further, I had to submit another claim!

I then went to great length to highlight the exact sections from his book that were copied from my book. I also highlighted the images that were also copied.

The response again left me totally flabbergasted! **They don't have the time to compare the text and images and if I wanted to pursue the infringement – open another case.**

I was so angry that I responded with the same text and images as previous with bolder text and underlining.

The response: *We are not removing the book from sale!*

I was so enraged at this point that I went onto my Facebook page to vent my anger.

Quite a few people responded and wrote reviews of the book that stated that this was copyright theft and that they should go for the real book (which was cheaper).

Others rang Amazon and complained.

Unfortunately, this has had no affect and his book is still for sale!

Looking at his other books it is evident that he has copied many other authors works and passed them off as his own!

I normally don't let things like this bother me but this has really had a dramatic impact on me.

I spent over 3 months photographing the images and writing the content for that book, often for 8 hours a day. To have this stolen in such a manner was like having your house burgled and your treasured possessions stolen.

I haven't recovered from this yet. I went out to film the final episode of my FZ80/82 guide for absolute beginners but I just could not concentrate so packed up all the kit and returned home.

A few days later I tried an easier topic to film about the dangers or 3rd party lithium ion batteries but again the kit is still on my desktop I just can't face making another video at the moment.

Even writing this newsletter is really hard this time, my ability to concentrate and become motivated has gone.

I now understand how the victims of crime feel when the perpetrator goes unpunished or receives a very minimal sentence.

Here's his book of just 77 pages (all copied of course) note the spelling mistake as well. Even the book description is pirated from mine! The camera image is copied (badly) from Panasonics website for the camera.



PANASONIC LUMIX FZ80 USER GUIDE: THE LATEST EDITION

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO MASTER THE PANASONIC LUMIX DC-FZ80 Paperback – 10 Nov. 2022

by AKIRA ASAHI (Author)

3.0  3 ratings

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This title and over 1 million more are available with [Kindle Unlimited](#)
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1 New from £15.84

The Panasonic LUMIX DC-FZ80 is a bridge camera on a budget. It delivers a great deal of value for the price, with a wide zoom range and handy added functions such as 'Focus Stacking,' but it has a poorly constructed feel. Its tiny sensor limits picture and video quality, hence it is best suited for shooting outside in very light settings where a large zoom is useful.

This is a well illustrated user guide for the Panasonic Lumix FZ80 camera covers both the basic camera setup in full auto (intelligent auto) and all additional semi-automatic and manual shooting modes. This camera's manual contains several pictures and demonstrations of the impacts of the control settings, as well as substantial background information on the image-taking process. Advise on how to shoot photographs in every setting, as well as capturing video and audio with this camera, including advice on lighting and external microphone selection. Access to additional lessons and web-based resources, as well as practical advice for increasing your photographic skills.



[See all 2 images](#)

[Follow the author](#)

I have lost all respect for Amazon, its customer service and its ethics.

It is people that make a successful business and if they cannot identify plagiarism and copyright theft when it is substantially illustrated to them then in my opinion they should not be employed in that position!

If anyone, particularly in the USA, has any suggestions about getting Amazon to remove this book I would be truly grateful.

A new (old) lens for Canon EFS cropped sensor cameras (DSLR/Mirrorless)



So this is the Sigma 18-35mm F1.8 Art lens fitted here to my Canon 90D DSLR camera.

The Sigma 18-35mm F/1.8 Art lens is a high-quality, versatile lens that is perfect for a variety of photography genres. It is sharp, fast, and well-built, making it a great choice for all photographers.

One of the most important feature about the Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 Art lens is its sharpness. It is sharp across the entire frame, even at f/1.8. This makes it ideal for shooting in low light, as you can still get great results without having to raise your ISO.

The lens is also very fast. It has a maximum aperture of f/1.8, which allows you to create beautiful blurred backgrounds and let in more light. This makes it a great choice for portraits, street photography, and other types of photography where you need to control the depth of field.

The Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 Art lens appears to be very well-built. It is made of high-quality materials and its construction feels solid and durable in your hand.

It is also weather-sealed, so you can use it in all kinds of weather conditions.

The lens also has a Hyper Sonic Motor (HSM) for fast, quiet autofocus although it doesn't have optical image stabilisation.

Overall, the Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 Art lens, I feel, is an excellent lens that is perfect for a variety of photography genres. It is sharp, fast, well-built, and weather-sealed.

If you are looking for a high-quality lens that can do it all, then the Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 Art lens is a great option.

Some sample images taken mainly at F1.8-F2.8







So it also works well with EOS M cameras using the EOS EF/EOS M adaptor and I have just started to use it on my micro four thirds system using an EF to M4/3 adaptor.

This give me a 36-70mm equivalent focal length on the M4/3 system against the 28-56mm equivalent using on the Canon EFS/EOS M cameras.

It is a heavy lens when combined with the DSLR body and unlikely to make my camera bag for my upcoming holiday back to St Ives in Cornwall.

My Canon EOS M6 mk2 and a couple of lenses plus the Canon G7X mk3 are most likely to be the only camera plus the Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra and the Google Pixel 7 smartphones. My drone, the Mavic Mini 2 is also going to be airborne for aerial videos.

I still haven't arrived at a conclusion regarding the smartphones sometime the Pixel returns excellent images and on other occasions the Samsung beats it hands down. I may have the opportunity to do a lot more comparisons whilst away.

The Canon G7X Mark3 as a viable travel camera?



The Canon G7X Mark III is a compact camera that is perfect for vlogging and anyone who wants to create high-quality content on the go.

It has a large type-1.0 stacked CMOS sensor, a 24-100mm equivalent f/1.8-2.8 lens, and a vari-angle touchscreen display.

The G7X Mark III can record 4K video at up to 30fps and HD slow-motion video at up to 120fps. It also has a built-in microphone and microphone jack, and it can connect to your smartphone via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth.

The G7X Mark III is a great camera for anyone who wants to create high-quality content on the go. It's small and lightweight, making it easy to take with you wherever you go. It has a large sensor and a bright lens, so you can take great photos and videos in any lighting condition.

In almost the 3 years that I have had this camera I have not had any issues with dust ingress into the lens – unlike with my previous Panasonic travel zooms!

Here are some sample images taken mostly at F4 ISO 200



Bolton Le Mans Crescent – a very popular filming Location

Several film companies have used Le Mans Crescent – such as seen in *Peaky Blinders*. The town hall has been used as a Russian embassy and other local films have been shot here.





Bolton Town Hall



Churchgate

I do like using this camera due to its great image quality and the fact that I can put it in my coat pocket and it is handy for those unexpected scenes that sometimes pop up whilst you are out and about.

It would be nice to have an EVF for those bright sunny days but it is no different in that respect to using a smartphone!

The flip up screen is useful for those vlogging situations or getting some low angle flower images.

The Importance of the correct white balance when taking images.

White balance is important in photography because it affects the overall colour of an image. When you take an image, your camera records the light that is reflected off of the scene in front of it. This light can have different colours, depending on the type of light source. For example, sunlight is typically white, but older fluorescent light is often green. If your camera does not adjust for the colour of the light, your photos will have an unwanted colour cast.

White balance is also important because it can affect the mood of an image. For example, a photo with a warm white balance will look more inviting, while a photo with a cool white balance will look more dramatic. By choosing the right white balance, you can control the overall look and feel of your images.

There are a few different ways to set white balance in photography. Most cameras have a number of pre-sets, such as "Daylight," "Cloudy," "Flash" and "Tungsten."



Canon Camera white Balance pre-sets

You can also set a custom white balance by taking an image of a white object under the same lighting conditions as your subject. Some cameras automatically set the white balance directly from this, others like with Canon, you have to tell the camera to set white balance by reviewing the image captured.

White balance can be set with a white card designed for this (often white paper has a blue whitener added which may bias your white balance point towards a more warmer tone) or from an 18% grey card designed for exposure setting.

You may find that in sunshine the white card may result in an exposure that the camera cannot set the white balance on so I always recommend the grey card method.



A set of typical white balance cards

Experiment with different white balance settings to see what works best for you. There is no right or wrong answer, and the best setting will vary depending on the scene you are photographing.

Diffraction, what it is and why should you care about it?

Diffraction is defined as the bending of light as it passes through a narrow opening or around an object.

In photography, diffraction can cause images to appear soft and blurry, especially when the lens aperture is stopped down to a small F-stop.

Diffraction is caused by the wave nature of light.

When light passes through a narrow opening, the waves interfere with each other, causing the light to spread out.

The amount of diffraction is inversely proportional to the wavelength of light, so shorter wavelengths of light, such as blue light, are diffracted more than longer wavelengths of light, such as red light.

Diffraction can be reduced by using a wider aperture or by using a lens with a larger entrance pupil. However, there is no way to completely eliminate diffraction, as it is a fundamental property of light.

Diffraction can be used to create interesting effects in photography. For example, it can be used to create a soft, dreamy look in portraits. It can also be used to create starburst effects around lights.

Diffraction is also a limitation in photography. It can cause images to appear soft and blurry, which can be undesirable in some cases.

With smaller sensor cameras diffraction occurs at even the larger apertures so shooting at F8 will be well into the “diffraction limited resolution zone”.

Of course because of the crop factor (which is about 5 stops in typical 1-2/3 inch sensor cameras) the widest F2.8 aperture gives the equivalent depth of field as F13 on our full frame equivalent cameras.

With micro four thirds cameras F8 is beginning to show the results of diffraction.

Whilst it is F11 on APS-C and F16 on full frame cameras.

So for best image quality it is desirable to understand the impact that diffraction can have on your images and how to balance the need for depth of field against image sharpness when taking images like landscapes which traditionally require maximum foreground to background sharpness.

Using an aperture before diffraction occurs and focus bracketing could be a better solution in this situation.

How are smartphones impacting global camera sales?



Smartphones are having a major impact on traditional compact camera sales. For example in 2010, global compact camera sales reached 103.3 million units. By 2020, that number had fallen to 37.2 million units and according to CIPA in 2022 it was only 8.36 million units. This decline is largely due to the increasing capabilities of smartphones.

Smartphones now have high-quality cameras that can take great photos and videos. Collaboration between smartphone manufacturers and lens makers is also helping to further image quality of smartphones. Hasselblad and Leica are now popular lens systems for high end smartphone cameras. Smartphones are also very portable and easy to use. As a result, many people are choosing to use their smartphones for photography instead of buying a dedicated camera.

The impact of smartphones on compact camera sales is likely to continue in the future. As smartphone cameras become even more capable, they will become even more attractive to consumers. This could lead to even further declines in compact camera sales.

Traditional camera manufacturers like Sony, Panasonic and Canon have largely abandoned the lower end consumer market and now are concentrating all their R&D efforts into full frame mirrorless cameras intended for serious amateur and professional markets.

With the introduction of periscope cameras in smartphones zoom range is now becoming one of the deciding factors for average users – much like it did with cameras like the FZ80/82 with its massive 1200mm equivalent focal length!

Here are some of the reasons why I think smartphones are impacting traditional compact camera sales:

Price: Smartphones are typically much cheaper than high end dedicated cameras. This makes them more affordable for consumers who are looking for a way to take excellent photos and videos.

Portability: Smartphones are also much more portable than dedicated cameras. This makes them easier to carry around with you, so you can always be prepared to take a photo or video.

Features: Smartphone cameras are now equipped with many of the same features as dedicated cameras, such as zoom lenses, image stabilisation, and high-resolution sensors. This makes them capable of taking high-quality photos and videos.

Convenience: Smartphones are very convenient to use. They are easy to operate and can be used to take photos and videos quickly and easily.

As a result of these factors, smartphones are becoming the go-to device for many people who want to take photos and videos.

What to photograph on holiday?

As we will be going back to a little town called St Ives in Cornwall shortly I thought about a checklist for holiday images that might be useful if you are planning a holiday break.



Here are some of my ideas to photograph on a holiday:

Local landmarks: This is a must for any holiday. Be sure to capture the iconic landmarks of your destination. A little “Googling” beforehand might help here.

Street scenes: Wander around the streets of your destination and capture the everyday life of the locals. This is a great way to get a feel for the culture of your destination.



Nature: If you're visiting a natural destination, be sure to capture the stunning scenery. This could include mountains, forests, beaches, or even deserts. Circular polarising and ND filters might be something to think about taking with you.



People: Don't forget to capture the people you meet on your travel. This could include locals, other tourists, or even animals.

If you are photographing the locals here's a few things to bear in mind.

Look for interesting people and interactions. This could be anything from a couple holding hands to a group of friends laughing.

Pay attention to the details. This could be anything from the way someone is dressed to the way they are carrying themselves.

Experiment with different angles and perspectives. This can help you to capture unique and interesting images.

Don't be afraid to get close. This can help you to capture intimate and personal moments. This might make you feel awkward at first but most people are now used to tourists pointing cameras everywhere. However It's important to be respectful of your subjects and not to make them feel uncomfortable.

Be patient. Street photography can be unpredictable, so it's important to be patient and wait for the right moment.

Here are some additional tips if you want to try street photography:

Use a wide-angle lens. This will help you to capture more of the scene in your frame.
Shoot in manual mode. This will give you more control over your exposure settings.
Use a fast shutter speed. This will help to freeze motion and avoid blurry images.
Use a low ISO setting. This will help to reduce noise in your images.



Food: No holiday is complete without trying the local cuisine. Be sure to capture the delicious food you eat on your travels. Many people love to share these images on social media.

Activities: If you're doing any activities on your holiday, be sure to capture them. This could include hiking, biking, swimming, or anything else you enjoy doing.

Memories: Finally, don't forget to capture the memories you make on your holiday. This could include photos of you and your loved ones, or even just photos of the things you did.

These are just a few ideas to get you started. The most important thing is to have fun and capture the things that make your holiday special.

Types of microphones for recording great audio with your camera



Choosing a microphone to attach to your camera to give great audio can be a difficult choice.

Here are a few of my suggestions to help you decide on the correct type of microphone for your needs.

On-camera microphones (short shotgun)

On-camera microphones are the most popular type of microphone for mirrorless and DSLR cameras. They are small, lightweight, and easy to use. They can be mounted directly to the camera's hot shoe mount, some models from Sony do not require any additional cables or adapters however most will connect to the camera using a 3.5mm plug audio cable.

On-camera microphones are not the best option for recording high-quality audio, but they are a good option for basic audio recording. They are a good choice for vloggers, YouTubers, and other content creators who need to record audio while they are on the go. Good examples of this are the Rode video micro and the Boya BY MM1 (both of which I have reviewed). These tend to be electret condenser mics which are powered by the bias from the camera input circuit.

Shotgun microphones

Shotgun microphones are designed to pick up sound from a specific direction. They are often used for recording dialogue in video. Shotgun microphones are typically mounted on a boom pole, which allows the microphone to be positioned close to the subject without being in the shot.

Shotgun microphones are a good choice for recording high-quality audio in a variety of settings. They are a good choice for outdoor, as they can help to reduce wind noise. They are also a good choice for recording dialogue in noisy environments, as they can help to isolate the sound of the subject from the background noise. I have reviewed the Boya BY1000 and Sennheiser K2.

Lavalier microphones

Lavalier microphones are small, unobtrusive microphones that can be clipped to clothing.

They are often used for recording interviews and other types of audio where the microphone needs to be hidden from view.

Lavalier microphones are typically wireless, which allows the subject to move around freely without being tethered with a microphone cable.

They are also a good choice for recording audio in noisy environments, as they can help to isolate the sound of the subject from the background noise. I have reviewed several wired and wireless versions including the Rode Wireless go and Go II system as well as Comica and Hollyland systems. 2.4Ghz frequency is licence free but can suffer interference so UHF frequency is preferred however in the UK radio microphone frequencies are limited to channel ISM 70 (863- 865 MHz) and channel 38 (606- 614 MHz).

Condenser microphones

Condenser microphones are the most sensitive type of microphone. They are capable of picking up a wide range of frequencies, and they can be used to record high-quality audio in a variety of settings. Condenser microphones are typically used in professional audio recording studios, but they can also be used with mirrorless and DSLR cameras.

Condenser microphones require phantom power, which is an electrical current that is used to power the microphone. Phantom power can be provided by the camera or by an external power source.

Condenser microphones are a good choice for recording high-quality audio in a variety of settings. They are a good choice for recording music, as they can capture the full range of frequencies in the music. They are also a good choice for recording dialogue, as they can capture the nuances of the human voice.

The best microphone for you will depend on your individual needs and preferences. Consider the following factors when choosing a microphone:

The type of audio you want to record.

The environment you will be recording in.

Your budget.

The iPhone for Wild Flower Photography

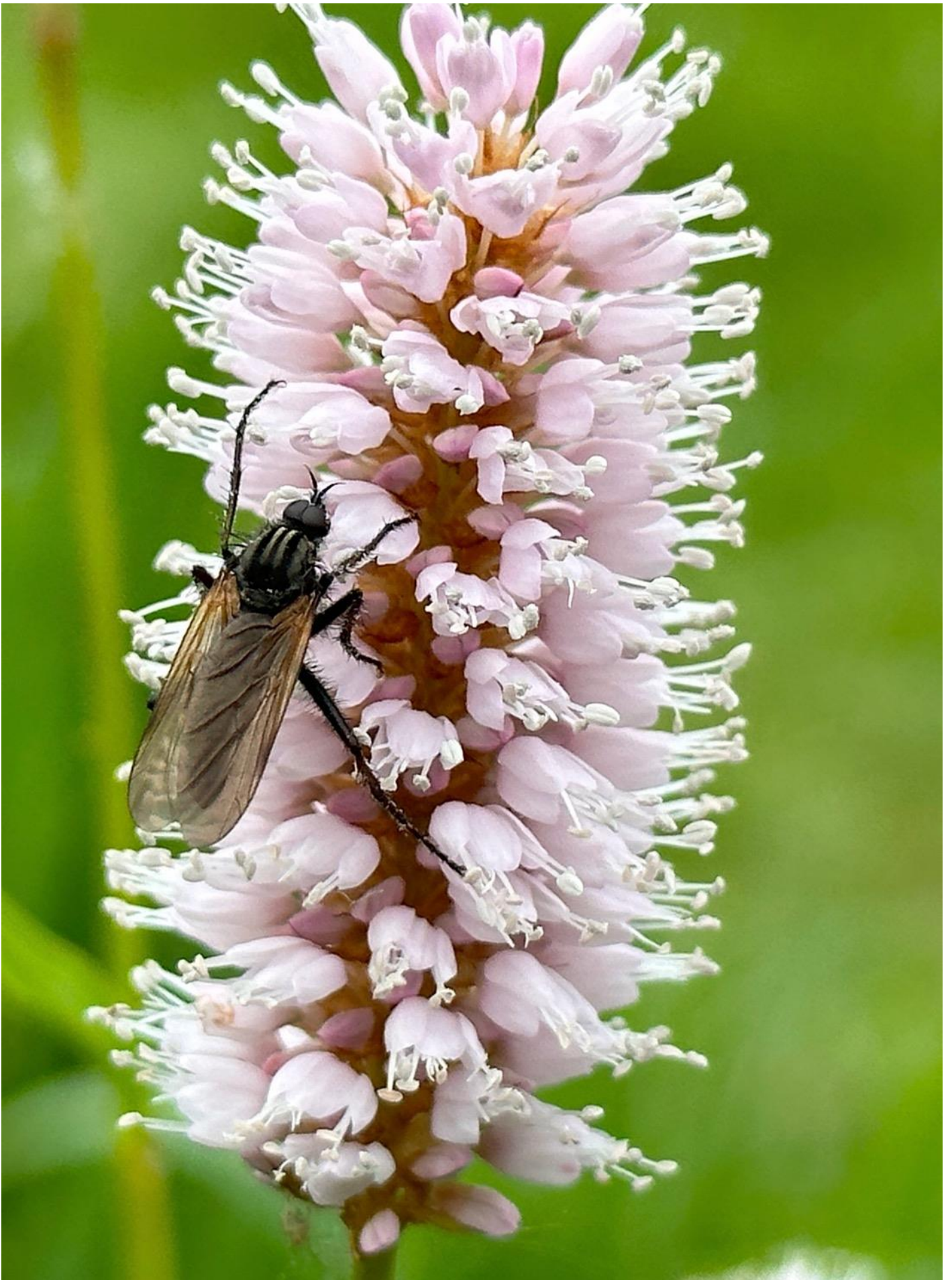


The common Bistort with a Empis tessellate fly on it.

I've been experimenting, with mixed results, taking images of some wildflowers with my iPhone 14 pro. This was to prove to myself whether the close up mode of this smartphone was capable of getting results that would match my traditional camera gear i.e. Canon EOS M6 mk2 with 70mm macro lens.

Certainly looking at the images on the phone screen they look amazing however when you look at them in a little close detail on a larger screen they leave a lot to be desired – for my use anyway.

I've tried the x2 and x3 lenses at the closes focus distance and the x2 seems to give the better results. It gives and equivalent focal length of 48mm. The image taken here on the left was with the 12M main camera and the x3 setting. 1/1199sec, F1.78 at ISO64



The image enlarged



A geranium endressii main lens x3



For this peony the red has oversaturated and I was unable to recover it with any post processing



And this dandelion has turned into a pixelated blob -ultrawide 12M camera x3 f2.2 1/99sec ISO64
The dandelion was taken in much dark conditions but the camera has kept the ISO low at 64 and gone for a longer shutter time.



When viewed on the iPhone screen the image doesn't show the same degree of pixelation. As with all small sensor cameras the amount of light really does impact on the final image quality. A lot of wild meadow flowers are in partial shade and this does cause some problems with getting really good image quality. Learning how to temper the oversaturated reds with this phone will be my challenge. I will try the RAW format to see if that can be the key to overcoming this important issue.

As yet I haven't seen any of the blue/purple colours being affected by InfraRed as sometimes occurs with Panasonic cameras.



Finally the dandelion with strong yellows. It appears to be able to handle this saturation OK.



Well that's it for this newsletter. Hopefully next month should see some normality return and my YouTube videos get back on track. Until then, as usual stay safe and stay well.

Graham