

Big Local Gateshead Photography Challenge

Theme: 'Inside'

Hi,

My name's Damien Wootten. I'm a photographer and I've lived in Gateshead for over 30 years. I'm always interested in working with community groups to create new photographic work - and in sharing the results. Chris, from Big Local, and myself, thought it would be a great idea to set you a photographic challenge or two!

Using your mobile phones, or a camera if you have one, I would like you to respond to the theme 'Inside'.



During lockdown, I'm sure you've all spent enough time inside to discover your surroundings, and each other, in a far more intimate way - for better or for worse!

Now think about how you might photograph those things or people that you know so well.

'Inside' does not just have to mean the inside of your home - it may be inside another place. It could even mean your 'inner' thoughts and feelings/emotions. How could you communicate these with a photograph? How could you portray feeling isolated - or just bored.



Our homes are a very personal space, full of objects that we have chosen or been given. Some of these will be more important to us than others: a framed photograph of a loved one perhaps. Some objects we use everyday without thinking about it - but they can still be interesting to photograph.

Many of us have made paintings and slogans during lockdown to put in our windows. You could photograph these - or make some new ones to photograph.



If you live with other people, how could you photograph them in the home - or how could you take a picture of just yourself? Think of ways that could show their, or your, personality (you could even dress up and create characters).



You could show people's interests. For example, if baking got you through lockdown, then photograph the process - and the result! If you've had a bad 'home haircut' it would be great to see!

Many of us are wearing protective masks that we have bought or made ourselves - it could be interesting to use these to make portraits of your family or yourself.

Portraits can show people in their surroundings or they could be against a background - for example a plain sheet or a wall.



You don't always have to have someone smiling or looking at the camera in a portrait. A portrait is not just of someones face and it could be of more than one person.

Always ask permission to take someones picture and tell them how the photo will be used. If they are under 16 then you should also seek consent from their responsible adult.

Remember there is no right or wrong way to respond to the theme, so just take your time, plan, and try things out. You can take as many pictures as you like and you can be as experimental as you want!



On a separate sheet I will give you some tips on how best to achieve the best results using your phones. Also how to adjust your photographs once you have taken them, using some basic edit tools to improve how they look.

There is also another sheet which shows you how other photographers have responded to the 'Inside', just to get you thinking.

If you are happy to, and with the consent of others, it would be great to share some of your photographs on the Big Local Gateshead Facebook page. There might even be a future exhibition!

I'm looking forward to seeing the results!
Damien

