

# Creative Ideas for Smartphone Photos

'Lungs of the City' is a challenge to use our smartphones to take photographs of the trees within Portsmouth– to open our eyes and see nature's ability to recover from man-made development in our own neighborhood. You are invited to start taking photographs now, so here are a few practical tips:

## **FORGET the apps, filters and effects**

Smartphones offer all sorts of software to 'enhance' images, which can easily start looking unreal. Nature is powerful enough and lens quality on modern phones is good enough to avoid the need for such treatment. We just need to open our eyes to what is actually there.

## **Take A LOT of photographs**

When something does catch your eye, don't just take one or two photos and move on. Take more than you think you will need, trying different angles and compositions. It is surprising how the best image stands out when you scroll through them all back at home.

## **Does the image fulfill THE BRIEF?**

When sharing photographs with friends and family, we often explain, '*this is a photograph of ...*' But our project is trying to share ideas about the power of trees within man-made development. Will your photograph get this story across to the viewer?

## **Get yourself CLOSE to the subject**

You might know what one of your photographs is meant to be about. But if there is a lot of irrelevant detail around the main subject, then this will distract the viewer and weaken the image. So, even if it seems a bit strange, get in close to the subject matter.

## **Photography is about LIGHT**

By definition, a photograph involves drawing with light. So, try to use lighting that adds something to your image. Soft lighting can create a sense of gentleness. Strong lighting and back-lighting can add drama. You might even choose a scene with very little light.

The collection of photographs will be published as a free on-line photo book, and a selection of these will be exhibited during the Mental Wealth Festival in October.

**Submit photographs to [paulw@photographer.net](mailto:paulw@photographer.net)**

**Free drop-in workshop** during Mental Health Awareness Week on May 19th

**The Good Mental Health  
Cooperative**

