THE GOAL
To Take A Picture With A Blurred Background (to accentuate the subject)

How To Do It
Set the camera to A (Aperture Priority Mode) by turning the top mode dial, use the back control wheel to dial in an aperture setting of f2.8 to f4. Set the camera Zoom to X24 using the top zoom lever (or side lever if programmed for zoom) ISO should be set to the minimum the lighting level which will support a shutter speed of at least 1/250 second. Use centre weighted exposure metering mode. Use AFS Focus Style and Single Point AF Mode then use the focus button on the lens barrel to allow you to set the position and size of the target by using the cursor buttons and the rear control dial. If Using the AF mode closest focus is 2 metre (6ft 6in) or 1 metre (3ft 3in) if using AF macro mode. Move as physically close as you can get to the subject and try to position the camera so the background is the plainest or least obtrusive when viewed on the LCD screen.

Notes: extra zoom can be achieved by turning on digital zoom but do not go beyond x36 on the scale to prevent image quality loss. Digital zoom cannot be set with RAW format.

© Graham Houghton 2013