Advice: Photography Section, Summer 2024

Your entries don't need to be perfect. Don't be afraid, just 'have a go'!

The more entries the better the show.

➢ **Check that your entries comply with all the requirements mentioned in the schedule.**

➢ Please don't hesitate to ask the Show Secretary if there is anything that you don't understand. breamgardeningsociety@gmail.com

➢ Photographs taken in the last 12 months preferred, ideally taken specifically for this show.

➢ Unless otherwise stated, basic digital enhancements only.

➢ Maximum print size A4, printed on photographic paper. Please get in touch if you need assistance getting your images printed on photographic paper.

➢ Mounts and frames are not permitted.

➢ **Photographs must not have been exhibited at a BGS Show before.**

Judge's Top Tips

Make sure that your horizons are level and your verticals are straight.

Crop carefully.

Look carefully at the edge of the image - make sure there is nothing unsightly protruding into your image.

If possible remove unwanted items in the image (e.g. coke can).

BGS Photography Workshop notes available to members - contact the Show Secretary.

Basic Digital Enhancements

Exposure: Faults may be improved: in camera, by your own post-processing (e.g. Photoshop), or by the processing house.

Sharpening: Improvements may be made: in camera, by your own post processing (e.g. 'clarity' function), by the processing house, or using a soft pencil.

Cropping: Composition may be improved: in camera, by your own post-processing, by the processing house, by cutting the print, or by covering an area within the print.

Cloning: May be used to remove artefacts (e.g. coke tins) and image faults (e.g. white spots caused by dust). Adding to an image or moving parts of an image is not allowed.

White balance: May be adjusted by any method to remove a colour cast.

Levelling a horizon: May be undertaken by any method.

Title: A title may be included on a white border at the bottom of the image.

Hints on the primary judging criteria

Interpretation

➢ Does the subject of the photograph fit well with the theme of the Class Title?

➢ Does the interpretation of the Class Title show creativity?

➢ Does the image capture the viewer's attention?

➢ Does the image tell a story? This can often help to hold the viewer's attention.

Composition

➢ Subject and background:

- Does the subject stand out from the background?

- Does the background conflict with the subject?

- Are there any particularly bright or colourful areas that are drawing the eye away from the subject?

➢ Cropping:

- Have you cropped to place the subject in a strong position in the image?

  Avoid placing the horizon, or any other features, in the middle of your image.

  Place your subjects on the intersection of thirds lines or use the 'Golden Ratio' or even try placing some subjects into a corner of the image.

- Have you cropped out marginal distractions?

- Are there areas in your picture that do not enhance the overall image which could be cropped out?

➢ Which parts of your composition should be in sharp focus?

➢ Have you captured areas of both light and shade within your image?

➢ Odd numbers of objects in a picture often work better than even.

Technical

➢ Is the photograph in focus?

➢ Is the image sharp? Key parts of the image should be very sharp. However, do not over-sharpen the whole image and create pixellation and outlines around objects.

➢ The judge will appreciate that sometimes it is not possible for the whole subject to be perfectly in focus. For example, this may be a problem in macro-photography or when capturing moving wing tips.

➢ Is the photograph properly exposed? Avoid overexposed white-out.

➢ Sometimes creative decisions may be made to deliberately soften or overexpose an image.

➢ Is noise a problem, particularly in the shadows and darker areas?

➢ Are there spots on the image that could be removed? Are there any other distractions that could be removed from your image?

➢ Consider the contrast in tone and colour within the image.

➢ Avoid over-saturation.

➢ Is the horizon level?

Presentation

➢ Would your image look better in monochrome - B&W or toned (e.g shades of blue and white or sepia)?

➢ Maximum print size is A4 but your image may look better printed smaller than this. Can you see pixels in your print? It is often better to print smaller so that your image appears sharper.

➢ Have you chosen a suitable paper to print on?

➢ Remove colour casts. These are best identified by viewing your print in daylight or under a daylight bulb. Colour casts are particularly noticeable in B&W photographs.