

## Bright and Bold Commentary

| Image Title              | What I Liked  | What Didn't work Quite as well   | Considerations  | Placing   |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|-----------|
| <b>Xmas Nutcrackers</b>  | Fits the brief with some nice detail on the figures   | Struggling to find a point of focus, so my eye wanders all over the image and doesn't find a place to rest   | Perhaps identify a key figure and use a radial filter to highlight its face and at the same time apply a vignette. This will help draw the viewer's eye to the key part of the image  |           |
| <b>Indian Market</b>     | I liked this image. A nice composition. Good vibrant colours with detail throughout   | I might have cropped the right side in just a little   |   | Commended |
| <b>Autumn at Bled</b>    | Very vibrant indeed and compositionally it is quite good with the reflections   | There are several challenges with this image though. Firstly it looks like it has been over saturated in processing and it is a little soft. Also not sure about the colouration of the trees  | The softness indicates the shutter speed was a little slow. It says 1/15th sec on the metadata and if using a 70mm lens then these should at least match to get a better result (ie at least 1/70th sec if handheld). So next time just try and be aware of this, or indeed use a tripod. Be careful in processing as it is very easy to overdo it. |           |
| <b>Fushia Ballet</b>     | Compositionally this is great and the flower configuration is indeed ballet like. Good colours too                                      | Unfortunately this looks a little soft. And to be really picky there is a black spot just above the fushia on the right which my eye keeps getting drawn to.   | Watch your focussing  |           |
| <b>A Flush of Colour</b> | What a jolly shot, plenty of vibrancy even if in an unusual location. Made me smile   | This looks like its been taken with a widish angled lens because if you look at the grouting lines at the far end they seem to go a little distorted. I would consider cropping a little tighter and bringing in the far right side to take the column out | Try using 'Transform' in your processing software to straighten the verticals.  |           |
| <b>Flower Power</b>      | A very bright sunflower with good detail. The foraging bees make a nice addition. Good aperture control in blurring out the background. | It's unfortunate that the sunflower is encroached upon by some of the leaves. Also we have a lot of space on the right doing nothing.  | Might consider shooting from a lower position, if that was possible, to get a cleaner vision of the sunflower. Crop some of the right hand side out, or recrop completely using a square format as this will frame the flower better I think  |           |

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| <b>Ladybird</b>           | A really good shot of this Harlequin ladybird. Nice detail and sharp on the head area where it needs to be, Beautiful colours.  | This looks to me like it has been over sharpened which is a pity as it appears to lose the 'naturalness' if there is such a word  | Go back and reprocess it if you have the RAW file because there is a gem in there.  |                  |
| <b>Egyptian Goose</b>     | This is a very nice shot with a lovely balance to it. The head placed to the left of the picture allowing the eye space to look in to. Good detail with the bright and bold being provided by that piercing eye   |   |   | Commended        |
| <b>The Eyes Have It</b>   | A classic picture of a peacock which is always an amazing bird when in display. Naturally bright and bold colours and fairly sharp through out  | The aspect that bothers me in this image is the roadway or path on the right hand side which I find a little bit of a distraction.  | Could this shot have been taken more full on so we had the display plus the chest and head only. Or was that taking a steep to far? |                  |
| <b>African Queen</b>      | What a beautiful butterfly and as I couldn't find it in my butterfly app I'm guessing this wasn't taken in a back garden near Lutterworth.....or am I wrong?<br>Lovely colours and sharp where it needs to be sharp. I particularly like the colour matching from the stems of the flowers to the wing of the butterfly. Good control of the background allowing us to focus on the subject clearly |   |   | Highly Commended |
| <b>Tulip Tree Flower</b>  | Must admit I was struggling with this image a little bit. It meets the brief but I couldn't form any real relationship with the image   | It is soft in places  | Just watch the focussing or aperture control  |                  |
| <b>Church of St Salva</b> | A fascinating image. Well captured detail right through the image. Nice and crisp and it is a good symmetrical shot. You journey through the picture from the cross at the front to the gate at the back and ending up at the painting on the ceiling.  | The lighting looks like it has burnt out a little which is a shame. Do we need a person in the picture? Discuss! Not knowing the lighting etc in the church, is the white balance a little to warm? | Would the author have been able to do a bracketed shot which in post processing may have removed some of the highlight burn out?    | Commended        |

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| <b>The Sunset</b>          | We get enthralled with sunsets in this country but when you get beautiful colours offsetting a silhouette you can see why. Compositionally this works with the figures and the boat in the foreground.   | The difficulty with sunset shots is obviously fading light needing longer shutter exposure. So if this isn't done on a tripod the chances are very high that you will get a soft image..which is what has happened here.  | Use a tripod in this circumstance. Might also want to consider cropping the image a little to remove part of the foreground |                  |
| <b>Pollenfeast</b>         | A lovely well balanced shot. I like the fact that the bee has been captured covered in pollen and we have a sense of movement in the blurring of the wings. The bee is sharp as is the centre of the flower but the sharpness falls away then to produce a nice bokeh  |   |   | Highly Commended |
| <b>Go Kart fun</b>         | A good action shot tightly focussed into the one go kart. Good colours and the composition works.  | Action shots can either be frozen in time, higher shutter speed giving a crisp image, or panned shots where the subject is broadly sharp but with a blurred background. The latter is normally best achieved when something is side on. With the head on image panning is not really an option so you need a crisp image and I haven't got it in this case...it is a little soft which would say to me the shutter speed is to slow | Try increasing shutter speed to a minimum of 1/1000sec or more if needed.   |                  |
| <b>In the Candle Light</b> | This is a really interesting image but not one I would do myself. There is an aspect about this that keeps drawing you in but I don't know why. It is all pin sharp and the detail and the glow from the brass candlestick is lovely. Good composition and I like the square crop. This is an image that asks me questions. What is the relationship between the mask and candle? Is the mask really a person? |   |   | <b>WINNER</b>    |

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| <b>The Naked Lady</b>  | In its way this is a very striking picture. I like the juxtaposition of the very clear sharp and well photographed statue against the multi coloured lights. Not something in my mind that would necessarily work but it seems to. Nicely cropped.   |   |  | Commended |
| <b>Talisker</b>        | I like the colour palette in this and the colour intensity that has been obtained. The reflections are strong and powerful   | But this is a frustrating image. If you are going to capture such strong reflections make sure you get them all as the stopper in this picture either wasn't captured or has been cropped. If the stopper reflection isn't in the file I would consider cropping this to the liquid level. Also the daffodil seems a strange shape which looks a little odd | Have a look at the crop especially if you have the RAW file as this jpg looks low on pixel count so might not take much more manipulation. |           |
| <b>Magnolia</b>        | The shape of the magnolia is very nice and I like the side lighting. There are some nice textures in the flower and the bottom bud mimicking the angle of the petal is a benefit.  | I feel the colours are a little muted for the title of the brief and also feel that the image is just slightly soft. The metadata gives a 1/250sec shutter speed with a 400mm focal length which if hand held might be a little to slow.  |  |           |
| <b>Orange Tip Tryp</b> | This is a nice idea and brings a different dimension to displaying the images. The butterfly gives a very vibrant colour and great contrast with the flowers. The positioning of the butterfly in a similar position across all three frames is good but it recognises the ideal set up for a tryptich, left side looking in, right side looking in and the middle, well, in the middle. | For a greater balance across the images I would have liked to have seen the right hand image with more purple flowers to bring it in line with the other two frames. It also looks like there has been a very narrow depth of field used, certainly in the left hand picture, which means the important bit of the butterfly, the head, is soft.            |  |           |

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| <b>Glorious Day for a Walk</b>         | This is a very pleasant landscape image which is very bright, but I'm not getting the bold. Good leading line from the towpath taking you into the distance and some nice textures in the building   | There is just something missing in this image, it is a very gentle picture but no wow factor. Just need to watch the highlights in the clouds as they are starting to blowout a little.  |  |                  |
| <b>Brindled Beauty - Plated</b>        | I didn't realise that a new traffic sign had been introduced into the Highway Code! Again this is a juxtaposition between opposites which I think works very well. A very simple backdrop providing great contrast and the moth is well photographed giving texture, clarity and sharpness and I love the 'moustache'. |  |  | Highly Commended |
| <b>Red on Blue</b>                     | A very effective contrasting colour image. It appears sharp throughout apart from the building on the left handside. Good detail   | The blurred building on the left handside is an area which foxes me. As all the rest of the image is sharp, I am presuming that this is a post production addition. In my view I find it a little distracting. I also think the image lacks contrast | I would like the author to consider leaving the left hand building in a sharp state, if it is, and use a combination of vignette and a greatly boosted contrast. This will make give greater colour intensity and make the building and car stand out.   |                  |
| <b>Male Orange Tip on Lady's Smock</b> | All in all a reasonable effort at photographing this butterfly. Composition works well with good detail and texture in both butterfly and flower. Background is blurring out which helps bring to the fore the butterfly and flowers.  | The butterfly is a little soft on the wing edges but sharp enough on the antennae  | The author might like to look at increasing the contrast a touch as this darkens the green background making the subjects stand out even more. I would also experiment with increasing the general vibrancy a little as well as increasing the saturation and reducing the luminance on the flower colour. All these steps will add greater punch to the image |                  |
| <b>Male Orange Tip</b>                 | Very similar to the previous image with good composition and sharpness. Background blurring out, pushing the butterfly to the fore   | The butterfly looks a little flat and 'dirty' in colour, which it may well have been. But it looks a little underexposed and might benefit from an increase in exposure and contrast   |  |                  |

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| <b>Moon Dancer</b>     | A very unusual but effective image. I like the composition very much. I have no interest of whether this is an 'as is' image or if it is a composite. The figure is razor sharp with some lovely fine detail in the wings. The sky is very effective and the moon, although a little isolated, does help tie the image together                   | The only thing that slightly irritates is the halo around the moon, I think it is just a little too dominant  |   | Highly Commended |
| <b>Cock Pheasant</b>   | A well taken image with lovely detail and texture. Compositionally it works. Good use of depth of field.  | The image looks very slightly underexposed  | The author might like to consider increasing the exposure a touch along with the contrast. This will give greater punch to the bird and make it stand out even more |                  |
| <b>Felt Tips</b>       | A very clever image which took me a little while to work out. I am assuming that the reflection is on a mirrored surface, but however it was achieved it gives a nice conundrum of an image.. Good composition, sharp through out and very colourful. But how were the pens held together?  | I can't decide whether I like the starbursts on the pen tops or if they irritate me. I think on balance they make the picture work  |   | Highly Commended |
| <b>Barge Buddies</b>   | A fun picture which has a nice composition. Well photographed   | The two bits which grate a little are the tree on the right handside and the edge of the green seat on the left handside. Both these might have been improved if the author had changed position slightly.                    | The author might like to consider increasing the exposure and opening up the shadows a little as currently I think this is a little underexposed.                   |                  |
| <b>Popping Poppies</b> | This image gave me a little bit of a conundrum as I couldn't decide if this is a stylised rendition of the poppies or over processing. I'm taking it as the former. So good colour and indeed they are popping poppies. Some nice texture and lighting the latter giving some nice focus as you progress down the image from the top left corner. | I think poppies are notoriously difficult to photograph. The challenge I have is there is no natural place for the eye to rest in this picture I am wandering all over the place and that is why it doesn't quite work for me |   |                  |

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| <b>Sunrise at Eastern Beach</b> | This has a lovely soft colour palette. A beautiful reflection complimented by the silhouette of the middle and distant shoreline   | The thing that is missing for me is some foreground interest to help bring the picture alive  | The author might like to consider changing the crop ratio to a 16:9 and I wouldn't be 'hell bent' on ensuring that the beach line comes out of the corner. This will reduce the beach area somewhat and also the sky. We don't necessarily need all the sky you have given us to know that this is a beautiful sunset.   |                    |
| <b>Summer Meadow</b>            | A traditional image of a poppy field which we are used to seeing. Good bright vivid colours and I particularly like the random occurrence of cornflowers(?) If that is what they are.  | I'm afraid there is more in this picture that doesn't work for me than does. I have no point of focus so my eyes are wandering all over the image with no place to rest. And the sky, although it depicts a beautiful summers day (and we should be thankful for that) isn't very inspiring | The author might like to consider changing the crop to 16:9 and cropping right in taking out all of the sky. You could then take a radial filter to highlight just one poppy and then reduce the overall exposure of the image. This will make one poppy stand out and give somewhere for the eye to rest. All this will work better if you have the RAW file. |                    |
| <b>Peony</b>                    | A very bright flower commanding the centre of the composition. Fairly symmetrical with some nice detail and texture. Good use of depth of field  | The light looks like it was quite harsh when taking this and although that has been fairly well controlled there are blown out highlights. I would also darken down the greenery on the right handside as this is a little distracting  |  |                    |
| <b>Treading Carefully</b>       | What a cracking shot! I love the juxtaposition of the ladybird on the flower head (please let me know what this is). Great detail in the flower head and the ladybird is pin sharp. The background ensures that all the detail of the subjects can be seen |   |  | <b>THIRD PRIZE</b> |

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| <b>Sherco Rider</b>  | A good capture of this rider with sharpness and clarity throughout. I like the textures in the rocks and the detail in the tyre tread plus the concentration in the rider's face. The fact that there is tape marking the way is unfortunate but it is an inevitable consequence of this type of event, I would imagine.                            | What you don't get in this image is any sense of movement. For all I know the bike could be being propped up behind the rear wheel. But I'm sure it isn't. | Perhaps the author might like to experiment with a slower shutter speed and panning with the bike just to get a sense of movement in the wheels  |         |
| <b>Wheely Trying</b> | Unlike the previous image you do get a sense of action in this picture with the rider wrestling with the bike. Sharp through the image with a good composition featuring the rider and bike slightly to the right of the frame thus still allowing them to move into the picture.   | The bit that needs addressing is the little chap in the background. If he was looking at the action of our bike it would probably be OK, but he isn't      |  |         |
| <b>Ferry Meadows</b> | A fairly well balance picture and I like the leading line of the canoes taking you to the far end with the people and swans. The far bank is roughly on the third with a more interesting summer sky where the highlights in the clouds look to have been well controlled. The image is sharp throughout giving some good detail in the beach area. |  | It might be worth the author considering the crop on this as I think there is too much beach. Look at a 16:9. Although this will take the far bank from the third to the centre I think the image will still work. |         |
| <b>Rose Seat</b>     | A very quintessential garden picture. Calmness and serenity prevails. Nice composition and sharpness throughout. Looking closely there is some nice detail in the roses.  | The light looks quite harsh when this was being taken giving some slight highlight blowout on the cushions   | I think the picture might be further improved by actually replacing the cushions with a cat or dog as that might be a better point of interest.  |         |

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| <b>Roses</b>                 |   | <p>I must admit that I am struggling for a connection with this image. The picture was obviously taken in bright sunlight which has caused some highlights to blow out thus losing detail in the flowers.</p> <p>Apart from some of the leaves at the front the image seems a little soft and once again I have no single place where the eye rests naturally. So a little bit of work to do on this one.</p> |   |         |
| <b>Honeybee on Lavender</b>  | <p>This is quite a clever picture realised by the composition. I like the contrast between the lavender and the background making the subjects very clear but quite stark. The position of the bee with its head buried into the flower has been well captured.</p>   | <p>Not sure the bee is totally in focus, perhaps a very narrow depth of field has been used.</p> <p>Unlike a previous image with the ladybird on the flower, which had a similar presentation as this, and looked very natural, for some reason this doesn't look quite right.</p>  |   |         |
| <b>Polish Cranberry Beer</b> | <p>A bit of a different shot which makes you smile. The composition works. It is well photographed with the can being sharp with the butterflies just going out of focus a little. I like the red of the butterfly compared with the can and the 'loose canon' butterfly in colour terms which balance things out. Just a pity that the pink stripe on the board wasn't red</p> |   | <p>The author might like to consider changing the pink stripe to the same red as the can and also increase the contrast to give the can extra punch</p> |         |

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| <b>1960 Ferrari GT</b>                 | <p>What a great picture. A beautiful coloured and vibrant car. I like the way that the lens used has elongated the bonnet depicting the passenger area as tiny.</p> <p>Normally you would associate a car like this with power and aggression but the way this has been photographed makes it look like it has a "Wallace and Gromit" grill. Lovely.</p> <p>I don't even mind the spot light reflections in the paintwork...it is what it is and I think the black background sets the car off beautifully</p> |  |  | <b>SECOND PLACE</b> |
| <b>Beach Huts - Wells Next-the-Sea</b> | <p>Nicely captured with three contrasting colours. Good detail in the beach huts and the trees behind. Nice and sharp all the way through and I like the fact that a Common Gull has photobombed the picture</p>   | <p>A picture taken in bright light which has had the effect of blowing the highlights certainly in the front part of the sand. The two bare tree trunks in the background are an irritant and I would remove these as for some reason my eyes kept wandering up to them.</p>   | <p>The author might like to consider just cropping the image slightly to remove some of the over exposed beach. Or possibly equally effective and keeping the picture balance as is, use a graduated filter and reduce the exposure.</p> |                     |
| <b>Brixham Harbour</b>                 | <p>On the face of it this is an interesting sunset scene over the harbour.</p> <p>Compositionally it is good, distance shoreline on a third and we have foreground interest.</p> <p>Nice colour tones too with interesting light reflections. I like the starbursts on some of the lights.</p>   | <p>"Night shots" can be quite difficult . This image I am assuming was taken hand held as it is a little soft. The camera ISO looks as though it was quite high too as you can see a lot of colour noise in the boats and the harbour wall.</p> <p>A tripod is the only sure way to photograph a scene like this</p> | <p>If the author has the RAW version of this it might be worth investing in a 7 day free trial of Topaz Denoise AI and Sharpener AI which I think will go along way in sorting out the issues I have described</p>                       |                     |