

Forest of Galtres Camera Club

Monday 11th November

Two Club Competitions

Mike Barnard, member of F.ocus Photographic Group, Bridlington, was guest judge for the evening. He was here to consider the thirty plus entries for each of two competition titles: Trees and Close-Up. Each entry could receive up to the maximum of twenty points. Mike is an experienced photographer with a great portfolio of images to justify his standing as a judge. Each image was considered for its merits and advice was provided in most cases to indicate how the image might have achieved greater impact. Advice might indicate technical applications at the point of taking the image or later editing.

When there is a specific title, it is important to keep it in mind. For the title Trees, it is not always enough to have trees as part of the overall image if something else is equally dominant e.g. a couple of photographs were taken in bluebell woods. Yes, the trees were there but the viewer was drawn more to the bluebells on the woodland floor. Mike emphasised the importance of looking around the image at the point of pressing the shutter and later, when post editing. Some areas of an image might need toning down to prevent the eye being drawn there away from the key subject. Intrusive shapes may need removing. Mike said more than once that close-up photography needs a tripod to ensure sharpness as the depth of field available is very small.

As Mike said, lots of plants and insects were submitted for the Close - up competition. There were enterprising photographers too. Rebecca Marshall, for one, captured bubbles brilliantly on the edge of a lemon in a gin and tonic. Pam Pope scored 19 points for her entry of a beautiful butterfly. Kamal Antoun scored the maximum 20 for Fuchsias.

Carole Smith scored 19 points for Light on the Tree. Mike liked the evening light coming in from the right of the image and the dusting of snow emphasising the structural elements of the tree. Jill Dobson scored 20 points for Looking Up.

Well done to all those who entered the competitions. Many thanks to Mike for travelling all the way from Bridlington to judge for us. Next week, will be a club workshop – Still Life.