

May: Wild Flowers

Judge: Ann Miles. *FRPS, MPAGB, EFIAP, FSPE*

1. **Wild Bunch.** Like this idea with the flowers against a black background giving the feel of a sunlit clump against a dark hedge. Very good depth of field and nice arrangement of poppies. As all was in photographer's control perhaps same to have cut through flower on base
2. **All alone** Another dark background but I feel here the exposure has not been managed so well with the brightest bloom off to the left. It feels very cramped in a horizontal frame – would have been more comfortable in portrait perhaps. Like the one central floret in flower
3. **Birds Foot Trefoil** Certainly a photo with impact getting in really close to a Birds Foot Trefoil. Lighting is a bit uneven and I wonder if there was a more interesting angle to view the flower. Good colour rendition and very sharp
4. **Blown Away.** Original take on the subject and we do have a few dandelions still in bloom to meet the title. I find the image has an overall green tinge and wonder if it would be more striking with the dandelion clocks pure white
- 5 **Bluebell Planet.** Whether a Fish eye lens or a digital creation, this image really works well making the bluebells very much the central theme of the composition. Good rendition of the blue and interesting arrangement of trunks
- 6 **Bluebell Wood.** Classic shot of a bluebell wood with the deep blue hues of the flowers and the vibrant green of spring leaves. Chosen portrait mode with almost half and half subjects. Wonder if landscape mode might have been even more successful as would allow the sky to be left out.
- 7 **Bull rushes.** A different subject for Wild flowers – certainly bull rushes have flowers and here we have the seeds bursting out of the heads. I do feel you needed to give us fewer heads and more detail of the seeds to do well in this category
- 8 **Buttercup.** One of my favourites – your chosen presentation with a central flower sharp and the others with a degree of blur plus the blurred vignette really makes one feel right in the meadow as if an insect view 2nd David Hall
- 9 **Catkin.** This has worked very well with the back lighting and a hint of the pollen being shed. There is some loss of detail in the white areas but a very successful image
10. **Cherry Orchard Wildflower** This is Salsify. Lovely choice of viewing angle giving this symmetrical pattern, very sharp with good colour rendition and even a spider's web to complete. In some areas, the background shows artefacts which do distract a bit.
- 11 **Daisies in Woodland.** Another image where the author has got right in among the flowers, which are Greater Stitchwort for future reference. There are a number of distractions in this photo which detract from the flower subject – the very light sky areas and the sunlit trunk in particular
- 12 **Island Beauty** A different image giving us several different plants. Always difficult to get a good composition with an image like this – where to make the edges without having distracting light areas and what plants to include and exclude
- 12 **Deep Red wild flower** Again a naturalised species often covering large areas of walls and meadows – Valerian. Works well with the single spike in focus and the rest out of focus backdrop. The light top is a distraction and could have been cropped off. I also find the white 'fogging' at the bottom spoils my enjoyment of the subject
- 13 **Fairy Dresses** Lovely title for his Comfrey image. Generally a good exposure and arrangement of flowers – always difficult to know how to crop such an image
- 14 **Four o'clock** Dandelion seed head is always a popular subject. Good exposure and interesting specimen with some seeds flown to reveal the cushion. I do feel it could be a bit sharper and composition-wise a bit more space on the left
- 15 **Foxglove** A habitat shot that works well showing a preferred growing spot for foxglove. My only thought is that by getting lower, you could have avoided the empty area of stream and made a more interesting composition
- 16 **Green winged Orchid.** Lovely combination of colours with this orchid in a buttercup meadow. A couple of things slightly distract – the blade of grass from the left that cuts into the orchid spike and the fact that this is not a very 'good' specimen with damage to some flowers
- 17 **Hockley Bluebells** Beautiful image – sharp right through the flowers and great colour rendition showing the range of blues through to purple H/C Don Mchugh
- 18 **Island Beauty** A different approach to the Wild Flower subject showing us a range of species on a wall. An attractive image but the composition could be stronger ie choosing what to show on the edges of the frame
- 19 **Moth Eaten** A dandelion clock in situ with attractive lighting. The subject is sharp but I do feel the composition could be a little tighter with fewer distractions
- 20 **Pink delight** Bramble is a common hedgerow plant but, surprisingly, not often used for flower studies. Here we have all the stages from the closed bud. Unfortunately the sunlight has given the author problems with contrast and the point of focus is not on the main floral area.

21 **Poppy** Poppies are such an attraction to photographers. This is a very attractive and technically good image with the point of interest very sharp. Red is well controlled.

3rd **Phil Stepney**

22 **Standing tall** Another poppy – this time in habitat with a supporting daisy cast. Attractive image but I do feel the flowers are a fairly minor part

23 **Water Hawthorn**. Great image with lots of interest including a spider and a reflection of the blooms and spider. Well exposed with detail in all the white. As you have chosen to include the reflection, it could be processed a bit brighter – at the moment it is a struggle to make out the details **H/C Graham Mee**

24 **Wayside Stitchwort**. Very good group of subjects chosen with three open flowers and a bud. Reasonably sharp. I do feel the processing is a little harsh for such a delicate flower with the high contrast resulting in some areas of white lacking detail and some dark halos on the edges of petals

25 **Wild and Free** A favourite insect of mine – the Swollen-Thighed Beetle shown well on a contrasting yellow potentilla. The darker vignette works well to concentrate our attention on the flower and its guest.

26 **Wild Carrot**. A very well executed photo technically and an interesting composition. The variation in the colour of the developing seeds adds to the beauty of the image **1st David Hall**

27 **Wood Anemone** Another glimpse of life in the woodland showing a wood anemone with cobwebs. Very realistic green tones in this image, the leaves just tinged with red on the edges. The white top to the image does take the eye a bit – you might try a letterbox presentation cropping just above the out of focus leaf on the right. **H/C Laura Llewellyn**