

# HADLEIGH CAMERA CLUB – STORIES COMPETITION COMMENTS SHEET

JUNE 2021

1	<p><b>A Hug is all you Need</b> A very good story told here and simply too. Particularly so after the restrictions of the past 18 months. We are all missing hugs even now. The picture is very well exposed with detail in the blacks and white areas as well as texture of the clothing. I like the inclusion of the clear wording on the green bag – Happy Inside is very pertinent to this moment!. I would crop the right hand side to remove the white rail and other distractions not necessary for this story. The uploaded image size is rather large – makes it difficult to see the whole image at full size.</p> <p><b>Highly commended</b></p>
2	<p><b>Any more crab Madam?</b> Wow – that is some meal, though I actually suspect this lady has not eaten all those large crab legs. Taken inside, presumably with natural light and good detail in the whites too. Like the evidence of fizz in the glass. I am not sure what is happening in the background – I assume by the young lady’s wader outfit that she may be one of the boat crew, but she does seem to have a badge of some sort. Interestingly the calendar shows 1996?</p>
3	<p><b>Blind Date</b> A very good storyline here – indeed it is possible to make up several. It is all about the expressions on the faces and their stance too – complete with respectful Social Distancing. The young lady certainly looks dressed for the occasion – very smart and well manicured. The “date” quite the opposite, but that could of course be a sign of the times. A long time since I dated....!!!</p> <p><b>THIRD</b></p>
4	<p><b>Fishing Friends</b> Industriously setting up their lines – I like the angle of the two on the left propped up against the railings. Shame the third line runs out of the frame. The figures are interestingly placed compositionally, though it is difficult to see the detail. I would crop the base to lose the light areas and give the picture a stronger format too. This again is a very large image, that when zoomed into does not display fully on my screen and there seems to be no way of moving the images across either</p>
5	<p><b>Haunted House</b> Many a story could be told at this location and I feel the monochrome view adds to the atmosphere as do the damp conditions. I get the feeling that the photographer hesitates to get any closer, but leads us up to the building via the pathway with the reflections for added detail. A very strong and vignette has been used, that is rather heavy for my liking. I feel here that I really need the image to go in closer to the old building and gives us more detail from which to create our own story.</p>
6	<p><b>Husband’s Bench</b> Bright, colourful and full of fun, this bench looks big enough for the husband to lie full length, smoke his cigarette (tell tale butt underneath) and give his wife some peace – but by the first line of writing I wonder whether she is ever allowed to sit here? So I hope the wife is indeed happy!! Very strong sun with dark shadows that suggest the bench is ideally placed under a canopy too. Slight problem with exposure as a result on the lighter areas. I am unsure whether the top left hand side is simply burnt out or whether it has for some reason been painted with a white streak.</p>
7	<p><b>It’s Been a Long Walk</b> Well exposed and there is clearly a story here, but I do find it a confusing and struggle a little to find it. The title gives a clue but I am unable to read the words on the T shirts – appears to be .....Bank. All the animals are huskies that do look weary and I like the way they are all standing within the paving lines. The background is busy – not too many spectators, as most of them appear to be showing little interest in what is or has been going on.</p>
8	<p><b>Just Between Sisters</b> This picture brought a smile – I guess the young sibling thought she was keeping out of the picture of her older Sister – little realising that her expression adds to the whole scene. A lovey country Garden setting with a very good Foxglove display. The curled brim of the hat softens the portrait and we can just see colour in the eyes. I wonder what the full message was on the T Shirt – Kids will,,,,,, We are left to guess the rest.</p>
	<p><b>Leisure Time</b></p>

9	<p>Was this lady taking a selfie – or looking at something ahead of her? Something for the viewer to decide. Probably the latter is true. It is a good portrait of the lady in red – I am not sure we need the illuminated poster behind as that is very bright and drags my eye to the right who is totally engrossed in her own image. Again this is a very large image that does not display fully when at 100%.</p>
10	<p><b>Lest We forget</b> A good team of Veterans cleaning up this important place – showing respect with their TLC. A strong message well exposed with detail throughout. I do like the inclusion of the officer(?) to the left Hand side standing with his arms crossed – watching the proceedings!!</p> <p><b>Highly commended</b></p>
11	<p><b>Life is Just a Dream</b> This picture certainly brought a smile with the young lady out for her daily constitutional, attracting the attention of the cyclist and mask clad photographer too. Exposure managed well Keeping detail in the lighter areas. Not much detail in the blacks of the main figures' clothes, but that is fine. The title fits the picture's story line very well too. Ideally we would be without the figures in the background, but this is a moment in time and the photographer was ready to capture it. I hope the cyclist did not fall off his bike or run into the photographer,,,! </p> <p><b>Highly commended</b></p>
12	<p><b>Lonely</b> Very pertinent in the current times and expresses for me, the real feeling of loneliness that many of us have experienced over the past year. Monochrome really suits the subject and I like the way the photographer has carefully made use of light on the bench, The highlight on the back and seat take our eyes straight to it and then we look around and appreciate the view across the surrounding countryside. I would have been tempted to reduce the sky as although there are wispy clouds it is not really adding much to the story. There is also a large black sensor spot half way down and on the right hand side.</p>
13	<p><b>Oh Dear!</b> Indeed a situation nobody would want to be in and it also poses a question as to how the landrover became submerged in the first place. The surrounding boats give colour and interest to the scene, as do the reflections in the rippled water. Hopefully the vehicle was strong enough to "live" another day.</p>
14	<p><b>Pondering</b> I am not knowledgeable on the rules of Bowls, but very obviously here the participants are pondering... and by the number of balls I guess it is a crucial point too, The players are well separated and the exposure keeps full detail in not only the whites but the dark areas too. There is also depth in the frame. I like the way the man in the centre of the frame has his arms folded – looking and considering the position and maybe hoping that just one ball will move by will power to resolve the problem.</p> <p><b>SECOND</b></p>
15	<p><b>See Anything</b> Ads will be lads and I can but assume that these massive letters have been placed here for people to climb on, whether it is necessary to do so or not!. The beach beyond seems empty so may have been during lockdown with the lads seeing themselves in place of safety too. A shame the horizon is tilting though fortunately it is tipping towards the right which could be said to link with the lad standing on the letter E!!</p>
16	<p><b>Sharing</b> What better date could there be than sitting on the embankment sharing fish, chips and mushy peas. At this moment the young lady is looking into the distance – the man looking longingly at the chip in hand, The ropes also add to the story here and have been carefully thought about when composing the picture.</p>
17	<p><b>So ... What shall we do now?</b> Putting the little girl and her cockerel playmate in the centre of this place of safety works well, whether it be in lockdown or not. The toddler may not quite be at the stage where she moves far yet – but equally could soon be off at a pace, even if crawling! Focus and exposure good on the main subjects and certainly a precious picture to keep for the family album. I would crop off a little of the foreground grass to strengthen the composition. Once again this picture is over large for the Club's chosen method of display, making viewing of the whole image only possible as the thumbnail.</p>
	<p><b>To the End of the Line</b> A very powerful image in terms of the story it conveys. The elderly couple, hand in hand walking</p>

18	along this jetty and it leads right into the water..... The symbol of life and its pathway is very strong indeed and I like the dark areas as well as the highlights that we see along the way. The walkway also suggests a place of safety through the surrounding quagmire. It is a shame that the image is not quite sharp though.
19	<b>Told You!</b> This picture certainly tells us that the danger sign was once very necessary and I cannot help but wonder what was there and what has happened. Good and sharp but I feel it probably creates more questions than tell me the actual story especially as I have no idea of the location.
20	<b>Trust</b> This image – although a simple and uncomplicated composition tells a massive story. We do not need to see the people behind those hands – they tell us everything we need to know. The tiny, soft skinned fingers gripping the finger of the adult’s hard working hand say it all. Good and sharp – with the red coat creating a bold diagonal that leads us up from the bottom right hand corner.  <b>FIRST</b>
21	<b>Up Up and Away</b> A lovely sense of freedom with the balloons all “socially distanced” In the safety of the great outdoors. Good selection for composition and sharp too. The sky is a little too cyan in colour for me but the tone could be easily adjusted to make the colour more realistic of summer blues
22	<b>Wash Day Blues</b> Thankfully, the washing looks to be dry and that very dark cloud above suggests that the photographers next task may well have been to remove the items from the line before they become wet again. A pity in some ways that the line was not tauter to bring the washing into the light area , but this picture was taken from above, so in practical terms it is probably impossible to have the line any higher in reality ..... Maybe the way to remove the background would be to photograph towards the sky from the garden if you have the chance and time.
23	<b>Well it wasn’t My Fault</b> Re-enactment days are very good for photography and this occasion was no exception, though it would be ideal if there were not so many people about on these occasions too. Here the people in the background are not too intrusive. The photographer has done a good job of leading us along the platform with everything sharp and well exposed. There is clearly some altercation occurring here between the couple in the foreground and the lady does not look at all happy, but I cannot help but wonder what has happened, who is at fault and of what!
24	<b>What’s She Thinking</b> I enjoy the composition here with the three ladies of character sitting on the pavement. We have good detail in each one of them to tell us something about them – just by their demeanour – the young lady to the far right with her tattoos being the most revealing. The expression on the face of the girl to the centre of the group suggests that a not very happy tale is being told. They are clearly sitting outside the bar and we can see through the windows too. I like the way the man has been included – why was he standing there I wonder, but clearly he knows he is being photographed and appears to be hiding his cigarette!
25	<b>Who’s Watching Me</b> Good selection for this composition, with just the hands of cards for most of the players enjoying playing their game outside with pebbles stopping the cards on the table being blown away. Our attention is then taken to the two main subjects – one actually playing – the other apparently surreptitiously looking over his shoulder – hopefully not passing any silent messages to the remaining players! The background boats are very colourful and give us a sense of where the game was taking place without intruding.
	JUNE COMP _ STORIES HEADER PICTURE gives a lovely sense of nostalgia and family warmth. I wonder how many children are read a bedtime story these days and from such a wonderful book too?!