

Fred Wigston 2020 – Theme:-Architecture (PDI)

Hartlepool Camera Club – August 2020

Comments and Notes from Peter Yearnshire

Whenever I have to view photographs for any club I view all of their pictures at least 3 times prior to putting them into any sort of ‘placement for the camera clubs’.

What am I looking for:-

- A good composition of the photograph, has it got balance, and does it feel right visually in the overall image - Some photographers utilize the rule of thirds to compose their image for visual display.
- Is there a good use of natural lighting, or studio lighting to illuminate the image and bring the image ‘alive’.
- Colour or monochrome images – is the colour saturation and contrast correct in the image? Definitive and clear range of ‘tones’ are important in monochrome images.
- Has the picture got ‘impact’, something that grabs ones attention, and sets it apart from other images?
- I look for good focus, is the image ‘pin sharp’. Particularly on landscapes and portraits. Has the photographer shown good technique and demonstrated technical skills to achieve their image. Cropping images can enhance a picture, bringing smaller images to good effect in the frame.
- Get to know the controls on your camera, especially with digital equipment. It isn’t as though you are wasting money compared to the ‘film days’ when experimenting cost you money to process images. (No cost with digital)
- Practice using the full range of aperture options (F-Stops), and occasionally using the manual settings on a camera can work particular well when wanting to throw the background out of focus in close up work. (Lower number on 'F' stop)
- Equally some landscape photography may benefit from being in focus all the way through the image, thus requiring a (Higher 'F' stop) allowing the image to retain clarity and detail throughout the picture.

All in all there was really no ‘bad images’ from Hartlepool Camera Club members, but I am aware that there appears to be a range of highly competent workers and one or two less experienced members.

That is the very nature of camera clubs that is why it is important to gain experience and try to do one’s best. Ask questions, try out new techniques, experiment with ‘new’ situations, pass on tips to one another and discuss your experiences with other likeminded people in a safe environment.

Getting back to your clubs competition entries, this section is the placed images.

H/C’s – Sue Tyerman

Hungarian Parliament Building (Image 5)

This image is ‘pin sharp’ from front to back, good technical skills evident, and well presented. Plenty of information and interest in the image. Clarity, detail in all of the structure, this being the windows, towers, together with the various steeples and magnificent dome. The people in the image give this structure a majestic sense of scale. Good composition and the ‘whole picture’ is well presented.

H/C’s – Lynne Shaheen

Cast Iron Staircase (Image 17)

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This image is presented in monochrome to good effect. I like the tone of definitive black and whites with complimentary greys. The people in the picture add interest and indicate that the structure is still in working order. It may enhance the photograph more if the signage on the top right hand side was cropped as it is a little distracting, but that is me being picky. Good quality image with impact, and interest throughout the image.

H/C's – Sue Tyerman

Angkor Watt Temple (Image 11)

This is different and I found it striking, and effective in its story telling. Essentially a record shot with a difference, unusual and well presented. Tightly framed image which captures all of the essential detail and atmosphere of the building with in its environment. The people in the scene seem awe struck with the structure, as was I. Good use of technical skills, and good composition.

H/C's – Alan Musgrove

Steeley Skeleton (Image 44)

This image shows good use of natural lighting, illuminating all of the framework and throwing lovely reflections on the wet sand. This image has impact, it is well balanced with good colour saturation.

(3rd) Third Place – Liz Butterfield



The Sage at Night (Image 47)

I have seen many different variations of images of this beautiful building on Gateshead Quayside from the Newcastle side of the water, it is always stunning Day or Night!

This image hasn't disappointed me, well seen, well recorded and the elements have been in your favour when you took this picture. Good use of technical skills, evening or night time photography can be hit or miss at times. (Please tell me you used a tripod, with a high 'F' - stop 22 at a long exposure)

(2nd) Second Place – Phillip Yuill



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Bolton Abbey at Dawn (Image 14)

Plenty of information and detail in the whole picture, and pin sharp throughout.

Sky has been particularly well handled, which blends in very well with the monochrome presentation. The natural lighting is evident in some of the reflections in the windows, and which brings to life all of the stonework of the structure itself, and the surrounding gravestones.

Excellent work and a very well composed and presented image.

(1st) First Place – Michelle Thomas



Zaanze Schans – Holland (Image 55)

The author has presented an image with nice clean lines, good exposure with a good composition.

A trio of windmills, all similar but different, and pin sharp throughout the whole image.

I believe this image has impact and was a contender from the get go for this competition.

1. **Cathedral Sunset**



This has the potential to be a good photograph, I like the lighting which illuminates the detail in the towers and the stone work. The framing is good and it is a lovely record shot. However on closer inspection the picture is out of focus and this detracts from the overall image.

2. **Stetley Pier Mono**



This monochrome picture does not have the full impact of the subject because of poor lighting. It may be worth going back to recapture the image on a brighter day.

3. Don't Push Me



This is a good record shot of a trip to New York. Good clean lines and shapes throughout this image. I also like the iconic skyscrapers, with their pleasing reflections in the windows. At first sight the building in the foreground looks a bit unsteady but I am sure it has been standing solid for a number of years.

4. Fountains Abbey



A familiar scene from a familiar landmark, I found this image too garish and with variable contrast. The high lighting has taken away the natural appearance of the picture. In the far and side windows, the detail has been burnt out and this detracts from the image.

5. Hungarian Parliament Building – Highly Commended



6. Reaching for the Sky



This sky scraper looking up leads your eye to the sky but although the towers are well seen there is no focal point at the end of the towers, except infinity and beyond!

7. Temple of Minerva



This is a good record shot, it is a stark image, and the bright light has washed out some of the detail.

8. The Lift Isle of Wight



This is a place I have visited numerous times, a welcome lift that saves a long walk to the beach at Shanklin. There is a lovely sky and cloud formation. The image gives a feeling of times gone by. There is good composition, this isn't a winning entry but is one I enjoyed looking at and reliving happy memories.

9. Tunstall Court (Image 9)



Author has chosen to present this image in a monochrome format – good choice, it works to an extent, however I feel if this image had 'better lighting' it could have been up there with the placements. This is a 'run down' building with lots of information to convey. It shouts decay, dirt and in need of help – all in all telling a story of how things can go downhill without any love and attention.

10. Amsterdam Weighhouse



I like the sky, the lighting, the central subject and the reflections in this image, however the foreground - I presume some sort of street market – was too cluttered and busy, and I found this distracting.

11. **Angkor Watt Temple– Highly Commended**

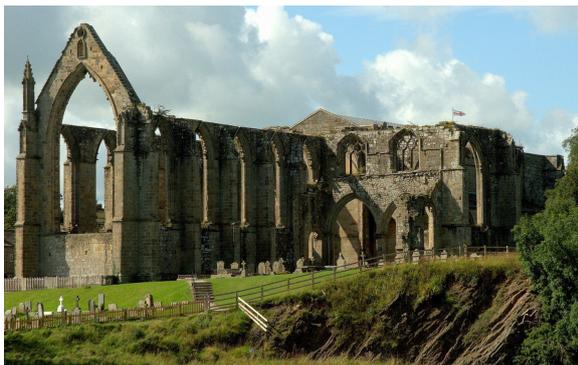


12. Back in the Day



I like this image, it was in contention for a placement but It fell away as there were other images that I thought more deserving, and it slid down the order. This is a retrospective look back to an earlier age. This is a nice shop frontage display. It is a quality image, no distractions, well balanced and good composition and subject matter. It holds your interest and was nicely seen.

13. Bolton Abbey



A place that I would like to visit, loads of details in the brick work, the light and shadow high light the structure. The image nicely fills the frame. This is fundamentally a record shot, a competent piece of work.

14. Bolton Abbey at dawn - (2nd) Second Place



15. Brent Alpha



This is a good industrial record shot. It conjures up memories of the North Sea Oil boom. I don't get any idea of scale but the image raises questions about how the platforms were constructed in the middle of the sea and how men were able to live and work there.

16. Brick and Steel



I love the lighting on this image, it is a good image with lots of detail. You are drawn into the picture through the frame of brick work, the full bridge is visible. The barrier of the metal fences does not block the image rather it enhances the industrial feel of the photograph.

17. Cast Iron Staircase – (Highly Commended)



This image is presented in monochrome to good effect. I like the tone of definitive black and whites with complimentary greys. The people in the picture add interest and indicate that the structure is still in working order. It may enhance the photograph more if the signage on the top right hand side was cropped as it is a little distracting, but that is me being picky.

18. Church

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A monochrome image with a good sky. The angle gives a feeling of the church building being stretched and squeezed upwards where the gable ends converge. The image is pin sharp but some of the detail has been washed out with the bright lighting.

19. Circle of light



This is a circle of light, the statue in the foreground appears to be looking up towards that light. The image is well balanced and well seen. Has some of the colour saturation in the lower part of the image been lost as a result of pointing the camera upwards?

20. Cragside Chimney Pots



A nice local image focusing on the chimney pots and the black and cream mock Tudor facings. This image demonstrates how Cragside has evolved through the ages.

21. Cragside Monochrome



A well-known local scene, a strong image with nice lighting. The whole frontage of the house at Cragside is illuminated with detail throughout the stonework and the chimney pots. There are no distractions in the sky. I warm to this picture as it is a place that is familiar to me. The whole image has an imposing Gothic feel to it.

22. Cromer Church

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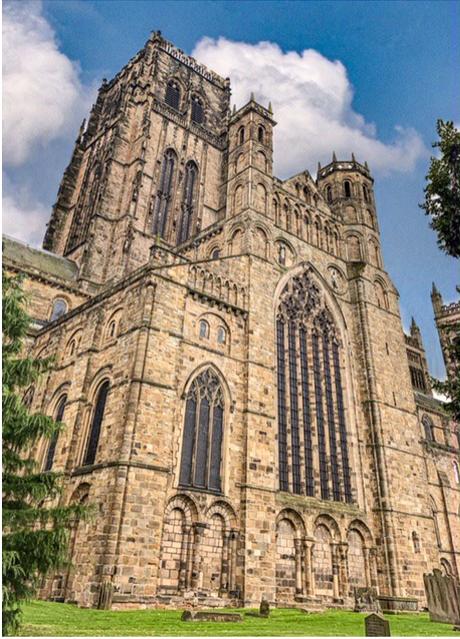
This image portrays to me, a typical English Church interior. There is a nice lead in with the light coming in through the windows illuminating the altar. It is a clean image with nice patterns, lines and balanced synchronised shapes.

23. Dragon



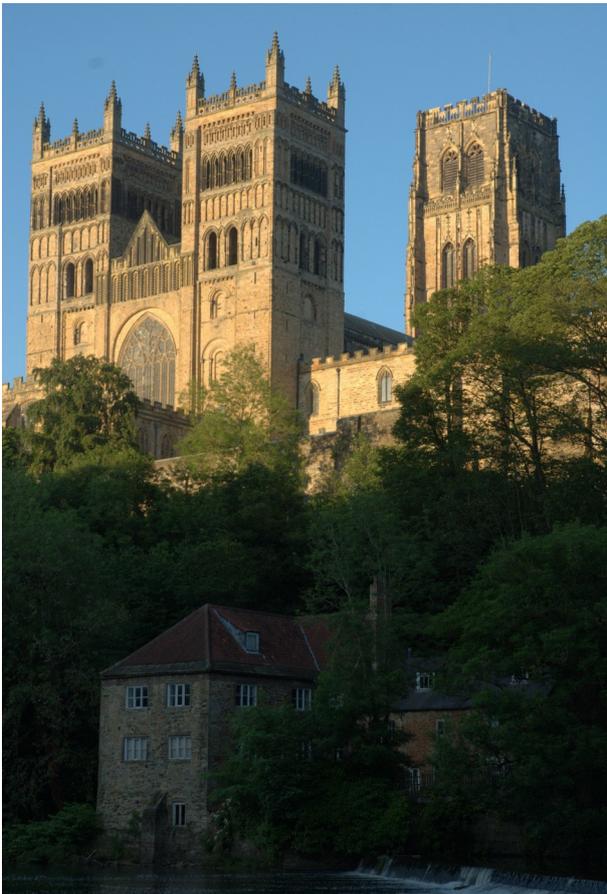
I have no idea where this is. Is it something to do with Harry Potter or a film set? The image has been captured well. There is good detail in the dragon and the sky is not too imposing, the clouds add to the interest.

24. Durham Cathedral



This is a nice clean image of Durham Cathedral. This is a good presentation, a compact image that sits tight in the frame. There are no distractions of note. There is detail throughout from top to bottom and side to side. The elements and the natural light have all been in your favour.

25. Durham Cathedral Sunset



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This is a picture of two halves. The top and the bottom. The uppermost picture is light a clear a good record of a familiar view of the cathedral. The bottom of the image is too dark to compliment the image.

26. Durham Roof tops to Riches



This image offers nice clear lighting and shapes. The pattern in the foreground leads into the riches of the Cathedral. You can follow the chimney pots as they lead their way through the image to the spires on the Cathedral rooftop, complimenting one another. The image is tightly framed and is a good composition. It is a very creditable piece of work.

27. Edfu Temple



A Temple over 2000 years old and famed for its hieroglyphics. This record shot of a visit is well seen and well recorded. There is lots of detail and the image is pin sharp throughout. The crowds add to the general feeling

of wellbeing and anticipation of the visit, as well as giving an idea of the scale of the temple. Another one to visit on your bucket list.

28. Egyptian Temple



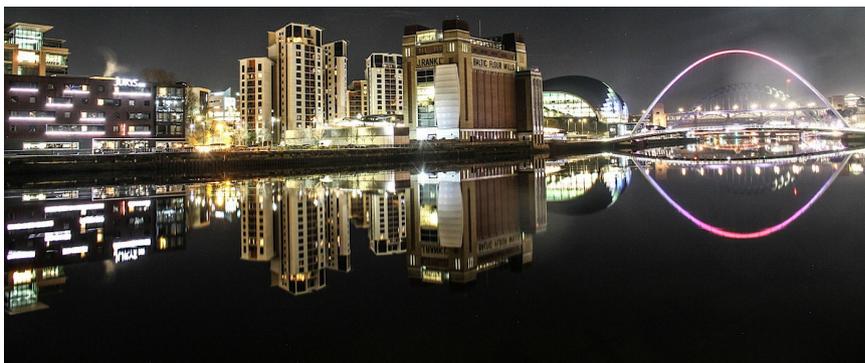
A record shot of the temple, it looks colourful and inviting from the outside, it is juxtaposed with the more modern building on the right with TV aerials and satellite dishes – the old and the new.

29. Framwellgate Bridge



The bridge offers a lot of interest in the brickwork, the archways and the supports. It is very pictorial with the railings and an alternative view of the Cathedral in the distance. Possibly a model of a (Cat / Dog/ Person) in the lighted foreground may have enhanced the image but never the less an image I enjoyed looking at.

30. Gateshead Riverside



Lots of lovely reflections looking across the river to Gateshead. There is possibly too much information and light in the picture. Cropping the Millennium bridge could have removed the light flare in the blinking eye and Tyne Bridge area to give a more tranquil and serene photograph.

31. Gothic Arches



There is good definition throughout this picture, I like the framing and composition. There is detail throughout. There does seem to be a slight loss of colour saturation which means you can't see the colours of the stained glass windows, it is notoriously difficult to get an even balance of light in the dark surroundings.

32. Kittiwake Hotel



This image does what it says on the tin, there is evidence of Kittiwakes nesting all over the building. I like the detail on the building, it is nicely framed, nicely seen and the building is most interesting, the kittiwakes nesting enhances the interest.

33. Leeds Civic



This monochrome presentation is nicely framed and well composed. There has been good use of the available lighting and there are definitive tones throughout the image.

34. Light and Shade



The dark sky doesn't distract from the overall appearance of this image. I like the composition and framing, I see pin sharp clear shapes and lines in the patterns. I like the contrast and detail in both the shadows and the light areas. The reflections are also visible. A good photograph.

35. Lower Manhattan



A very impressive presentation of the New York Skyline. Well done for getting it all in without any major distractions in the foreground. A good clean image, pin sharp all the way through.

36. Modern day Leeds



Another good image of a striking building. The model in the foreground gives a sense of scale. There is good use of light and shadow. I find the tree branches on the Left hand side slightly distracting. There is a science fiction feel to this image.

37. Northern Goldsmiths



A mainly monochrome image with a touch of subtle colour in the lettering. I like this presentation. It has a feeling of Christmas time about it. Exiled Geordies would enjoy the nostalgia attached to this image. It appears to have been taken on a slow exposure, the blurred car headlights give a base to the building. The only distraction is the street signage (I know this cannot be avoided). On closer inspection, the image is not pin sharp – was a tripod used? I do like the overall effect.

38. Red Shed



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The peak of the shed compliments the peak of the mountain in the background. This is not the type of shed I was expecting when I saw the title. The skyline is being blocked by the low cloud detracting from the image, so you do not get any idea of place or position. As a concept it is a good idea that may have worked better if the elements had been more favourable.

39. Redheugh Gardens War Memorial, Old Hartlepool



Monochrome presentation, with a nice lead in image in the foreground. The end white house and the light house, in my opinion, conflict with the gentler tones in the brickwork on the left hand side houses. This upsets the overall balance of the picture. I do like the houses on the left hand side of the picture, the detail and light on the windows is spot on. Technically a good photograph.

40. River Runs through it



This image has a nice sky and is technically handled well, however once you have appreciated the archway there is not much else to hold your attention. A fisherman in the foreground or through the arch may have given the image more impact.

41. Roof Top Terrace



I enjoyed looking at this image. It is well presented and well handled. There is good use of light. The lower floor has been, I presume, cropped and this removes any distractions there may have been at street level. I like the chimney pots, the statues and balustrades. The different tones of the stonework do not distract as they all have detail in them. However I did find the lamp post distracting.

42. Sirmione Lake Garda



This image is a nice composition, a record shot of a holiday destination. There are some nice details, shapes and angles, the image has interest but no great impact as there is nowhere specific to focus your eye upon. It is well lit and the author has made good use of the elements.

43. Spaceship Earth Epcot



A monochrome presentation of a geometric form. The shadows are definitive light and dark giving a 3D appearance. The dark palm tree in the foreground adds extra interest and a sense of scale.

44. Steetley Skeleton – (Highly Commended)



45. Stykkisholmskirja



I am pleased I didn't have to pronounce this title!) I think this is a church on a hill. It is a dynamic image of an unusual architectural structure presented in monochrome. There are good tones throughout the image and the skyline is appealing. I feel there would have been even more impact if the left hand side foreground had been more illuminated where the lighting appears to be dull and flat.

46. Surreal Sunset

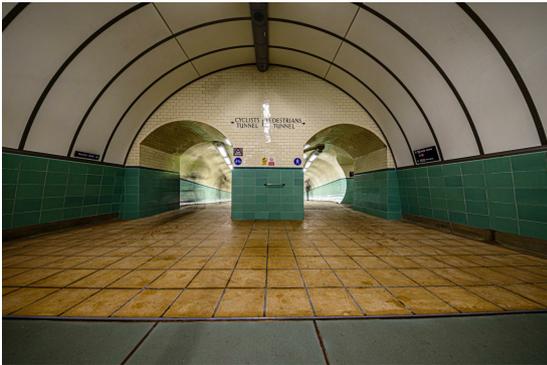


The image has been manipulated to give a Gothic feel to the building. In my opinion there is the potential to give a good representation of the building but I feel it has been over worked in the processing and the colours and finish do not ring true. This image looks unreal and not my personal choice however I must commend the author for trying something different.

47. THE SAGE AT NIGHT (3rd) Third Place



48. Tyne Foot Tunnel



This image is well balanced and an interesting subject to photograph. There is evidence that the author has worked to create ghostly images of cyclists and pedestrians to match the signage on either side. This was perhaps taken with a long exposure time to create this effect. The highlight in the middle of the sign, I feel, does detract from the overall image. However a good attempt at something different.

49. Valencia



I enjoyed this image with its nice clean lines and good reflections of both buildings. I love the curvature on both shapes. The brighter area on the left hand building attracts your attention and this impacts on the overall presentation. Perhaps this area could have been toned down in the computer processing.

50. Valencia Cross



On first impression there is magnificent detail on the surrounding buildings and the cross however only a small area of the image is illuminated, this give the photograph a flat appearance. As always time of day and the position and manipulation of the available light is important when making pictures.

51. Vatican Hallway



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What a stunning ceiling. This photograph has impact, your eye is drawn into the picture and there are no crowds to spoil your image. Increasing the depth of field may have given more clarity and saturation throughout the whole image instead of being in just the top third of the picture. However it is still a very good attempt.

52. Wollaton Hall Nottingham



This is an interesting subject, it is well balanced with nice light and good colour saturation, unfortunately this image is out of focus.

53. Yacht Club



This is a stylish building with nice clean lines. The image is well balanced and there is the added hint of Christmas festivities wrapped around the lamp post. I like the shapes, the squares, circles and triangles of the building. The colours and the clouds in the sky are pleasing to the eye.

54. Yacht Club Lighthouse



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his is an imposing image, your eye is drawn into the converging tower placed with a diagonal presentation, and this enhances and gives the picture a strong impact. Essentially a record shot with a difference, unusual and well presented. A tightly framed image which captures the building details to good effect. Good use of technical skills, and good composition.

55. Zaanse Schans – Holland (1st) First Place

