

Title	1st Open Adv Prints
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Image No	Title of image	Score	Position	Comments
1	61-Adv-Sleeping_Rough_Under_The_Empire	22		The print just actually says "Under the Empire" only which I think is a better title - we'd get the sleeping rough bit anyway. I like the way the photographer has used the lights from the signs and billboards to isolate the main subjects in the image and the reflections in the street lend a sense of cold and wet to the scene. I could have wished for the lower Empire sign and the 2 figures to be slightly brighter (and sharper), but other than that a very good image.
2	19-Adv-Ready for Work-gpg			Interesting candid shot of a fisherman about to set off. The image is tightly framed but the action of pushing the boat and the equipment staked on board tell us everything we need to know. Unfortunately, the figure is slightly soft and as he is the main subject of the image, this is a slight issue, which is a pity.
3	10A-Poppy-GPG			The flower is very detailed and the square format of this image heightens the impact of it. Nevertheless, I would like to have seen a little more attention given to de-emphasising the background of poppies and greenery because although they have little space, they still distract slightly.
4	23 Adv- Saltburn Pier-GPG	21		Famous local landmark, often photographed. The challenging lighting conditions and shot into the sunset(?) are well handled and I like the way the red hue from the sunset catches the white of the railings. Image is very sharp throughout and takes our eye on an unusual journey, first right and then left. Very well executed.
5	61-Adv-The_Ultimate_Warrior-GPG	25	COMMENDED	An interesting and bold idea and challenging photography to create this image. I'm particularly impressed by the way the doll figure seems to be depressing the top rope prior to springing into the ring and by the sidelighting also in the image. The head and hair have very good shadows and highlights and the shoulders are also well defined - the rest of the figure less so. Because the figure is everything to this image, I would have liked to have seen it slightly better lit and sharper throughout, but well done for a very creative image.
6	15 A - IS IT A TREE - GPG	27	HIGHLY COMMENDED	Well framed and exposed image, perhaps at the Yorkshire Sculpture park. Clever choice of viewpoint allows our eye to be focused by the sculpture to the tree beyond, which, because it's in the title needs to be well defined and sharp, which it is. Beautifully presented image, improved by the thin black border around the inner frame. Very accomplished technically and artistically.
7	15 A Rain in FIVE GPG	20		Interesting monochrome treatment of a landscape. The strong shadow from the trig point against the bright rocks risks tripping our eye up before we get through to the darker landscape beyond and the approaching rain cloud. I would like to have seen a little more balance between light and shade in the image for this reason and perhaps a small crop of about an inch off the bottom, but an arresting image nonetheless.
8	22ADV-ACHILLIAN PALACE CORFU-GPG	20		There's a sense of tranquillity coming from this image and of a hot summer's day. The colours and sharpness of the building and vegetation are good and on this occasion, strong contrasts between light and shade do support the title and intent of the image. There quite strong converging verticals and I wonder if something could have been done to correct? The high gloss paper used for this print is a good choice.
9	21 Adv The dark side of the moon gpg	20		Interesting portrait image of the moon, presumably taken with a telescope so a technically challenging image for someone to make. The use of light and shade is excellent - only the upper right corner of the image is sharp, but the rest of the detail is sufficiently good to still create a high impact. In fact, the majority of this image is actually totally black, but our brains still help our eyes to appreciate the overall impact of the image.
10	21 Adv The Plough	20		Another astronomical image, again very well handled. The author has picked out the stars forming the Plough very well so that even an astronomical dunce like me can get it. However, he/she has also given us interest in the light bouncing from the street lighting onto the clouds below as well, but these are only bright enough to support the main subject. very well handled.
11	57-ADV-He Never Rings Me -GPG	28	THIRD	Very well observed and amusing piece of street photography. This photographer has an eye for the quirky and unusual - I guess he/she spotted the mural and then waited for the right moment. Technically, the image is well exposed and framed and I like the way the mural is "in advance" of the figure. V. good image.
12	9A-Egglestone Abbey-GPG	18		Very sharp and very detailed image of the Abbey and exposure is very well controlled in bright lighting conditions. Every stone in the foreground and background is well picked out and I like the way the author has left trees on either side dark so that we are not distracted. Perhaps taken with a wide angle lens, there is a slight curvature to the horizon which could be corrected via photoshop/lightroom and right lens profile.
13	43 Adv Silhouette GPG	22		A lovely image caught in challenging circumstance. Backlighting on this scale is always difficult to capture but by clever use of exposure and viewpoint the author gives us lots of detail, lovely colours in the sky and sufficient detail in the sculpture to make for an arresting image overall. There is a little bit of a halo and some diffraction in the upper third of the image, but still a good image
14	9A-Diver-GPG	19		Unusual portrait of an action figure. The head is well placed on the third and there is just enough detail in the face to support its size within the image. The equipment has sufficient detail to support the title and the surrounding bright water defines the head well.
15	58. Male Banded Demoiselle. Adv GPG	29	SECOND	Well framed and impactful image. Every detail of the insect is sharp and the background is suitably muted and soft, so that we focus on the insect. Colours are beautiful and no area of the body is in shadow. Good image
16	52 Adv Transporter Sunset GPG	20		An iconic Middlesbrough landmark very well caught in this sunset shot. The bridge structure is very well defined against the evening light and none of the electric lighting is strong enough to pull our attention away from the lovely sunset colours. I could have wished to see the right hand bank a little brighter as it might have made a better leading line towards the bridge structure and the reflection, which is important to this image, is almost cut off along the bottom, so perhaps a camera slightly more tilted downwards might have created a more powerful image overall? Nevertheless, a beautiful image
17	34-Adv-Highgate Angel GPG	22		Interesting composition of a memorial in presumably Highgate Cemetery - well done for resisting the normal image of Karl Marx! The use of light and shade in the upper part of this image is very good - the figure is nicely isolated from the surrounding foliage. However, the grasses and flowers in the lower half and centre are very bright and in more than one or two cases blown out. I think when you have shot of a static object like this it does pay to get the details right

## GPG Monthly competition

18	74-Adv-Chain Link- GPG			
19	34-Adv-Splash-GPG	30	FIRST	I think this is a beautiful image - the use of light is exemplary in that it defines all the sand channels extremely well. The author has resisted the temptation to brighten the figures, deciding rightly in view that it's their stances and the relationship with the splash in the water that makes the image. The droplets from the splash are bright and catch the eye and I'm impressed also by the range of light, dark and tone in the pool of water. There are highlights in the figures' hair and the overall composition is very powerful. A very good image.
20	52 Adv Saltburn by the sea GPG	19		A lovely sunset image of a well known landmark. The impact of the image is all in the colours and in particular by the way they are reflecting off the little sand channels in the lower half. There are figures silhouetted on the Pier and I wonder if a slightly closer vantage point might have created more interest ?
21	29-Adv-Miners Remembered-gpg	18		The 2 figures in the image have lots of detail and the shades and tones of the iron sculpture are well caught in this image - I find myself slightly frustrated by the fact that their faces are slightly obscured either by shadow or a cap and wonder if a lower viewpoint might have paid dividends. Also the background buildings are equally as sharp as the figures and so, because they are also of a similar shade, tend to distract from the main image of the figures
22	43 Adv Water Lilly GPG			
23	19-Adv-Seated Man-gpg	18		Well known landmark near castleton - the colours and exposure are well handled and the figure is well placed in the landscape, but compositionally this is an unusual choice given the strength of the features of the face and there is little to suggest the scale of the figure which is where I think the impact comes from.
24	22A-NATURE'S SYMMETRY-GPG	26	COMMENDED	Interesting image. I'm particularly intrigued by the title as there is little symmetry in this image, but that is perhaps the point the author wants to make. The use of colour is very interesting, moving green, to yellow to orange/red, back to yellow again and then green blue. Highlights and shadows are very strong, but again I think this is fine on this occasion. The colour treatment of the insect is again unusual. Artistically and technically a very strong image - I'm a tad mystified by the intent, but recognise it's quality.
25	29-Adv-Fish eagle-gpg	19		These are magnificent birds and this is well caught in this particular image. The chest and neck feathers have lots of detail, the beak area is sharp and the eye is very well defined. The feathers on the crown are slightly blown and lack just a touch of definition - normally these birds are photographed "full body", so a tighter frame like this is of course fine, provided all details are sharp and well defined.
26	10A-Snowy-GPG	18		I'm guessing the title refers to the surroundings and not the cat! Quite a subtle image actually, as it takes you a minute or 2 to realise the paw prints in the snow are there, hence I'm guessing, the title. The central figure of the cat is quite deeply shaded in areas and I would like to have seen more attention given to picking these out a bit more and the pattern of the patio distracts slightly.
27	67 Adv Colosseum Rome GPG	17		Well framed image of this famous landmark in a typically hot Italian summer day I'm guessing. The shadows in the columns suggest the tourist trade is already up and running. Overall, however, the building is just a bit soft everywhere as are the figures, which although they lend scale to the image, are also slightly soft.
28	51-Adv-Lend Me Your Comb-GPG	22		Strong monochrome portrait of a gentleman who doesn't have a baldness problem!. Although only the central portion of the head is sharp, there is sufficient detail elsewhere and good lighting control to support the title of the image and we don't need to see the whole head to know what it's like. If I was nit-picking (and in a field of this quality you have to), then I could have wished for a stronger catchlight in the right eye, but otherwise a very competent and well observed image
29	51-Adv-In The Shallows-GPG	20		An interesting image, compositionally and framing wise. The positioning of the 3 figures creates a sort of "top to bottom" journey for the eye and the contrasts in colour between them and the surrounding sea and stony sea- bottom also creates impact. Think a slight vignette at the top in particular helps to focus interest.
30	Broken Links	27	HIGHLY COMMENDED	Accomplished and unusual framing of a sculpture against a threatening sky. The detail in the arms of the sculpture is very good, with lots of light and shade contrasts to help pick out the sinuous shapes. Interesting use of light and shade - overall a very strong image.
31	The Wonder of Nature	21		Wonder indeed - fantastic details and subdued colours make for an unusual image. The main bud sharpness is complemented by tiny droplets of water along the petal edge on the left. The background is soft and subdued and the lighting falls off well to the edges, so that nothing distracts from the central flower. Strong image.