

Title:	Cheviot Cup 2020-21 Gardening and Gardens			
Image	Title	Place (1st/2nd/3rd or HC) comments		
	Cornish Palms	This certainly gives a warm glow and a desire for warmer summer days. I like the use of strong vegetation in the foreground but feel that these palm fronds are a little large in the image. I can guess at why the photographer has used a portrait composition but feel this is a very tightly framed image and possibly a landscape format would give a more pleasing image.	David	
	A Peaceful Corner	3rd place - A classical landscape in miniature. The photographer has shared to us a small corner of a garden. They have used soft colours against the green background, a strong frame with the trunk on the left and a great lead-in of the path but where does it go? The colourful flowers make sure the viewers eye doesn't wander out along the path but the unanswered question of where does it go and what lies around that corner remain in the viewers mind. A great story telling image.	Fiona	
	Summer Garden	As the name suggests a typical summer garden even down to the puddles on the surfaces! Great colours in the flower beds, great use of strong lines to take us into the image and a dominant position of the red geraniums - this has obviously been taken by a photographer and is not a snap of someone's back garden.	Barbra	
	Crocuses at Wallington	One of the most photographed lawns in the North East. This image has great colours and wonderful golden light but I feel that the photographer hasn't made the best choice in viewpoint or timing of the shot, the people are important but I feel there are too many and not in the most sympathetic coloured clothing (Lady in red in top left corner in particular)	Charlie	
	Seaside Garden	Red Hot Pokers are certainly colourful and deserve to dominate this image, I think the photographer has used the seaside backdrop very well, slightly blurred and the colours recede into the distance in comparison to those of the flowers. My only niggle is that the blooms have been cut at the top of the frame - was this really necessary? Only the photographer knows the answer, its easy to say zoom out, step back a few feet - we've all heard judges say this but its usually said for a good reason.	Hazel	
	Buscot Park Long Garden	A great view down the long garden to make the most of two colourful borders. The image looks slightly dark for a very sunny day and would benefit from a little enhancement, but I do think that the photographer has chosen well to step to one side to change from a true symmetrical image and reduce the impact of the large group of people at the end of the path.	Liz	
	The Path Home	This one suffers from its sequence in the competition following a very similar image and could have very similar comments. I do like the colours in this image but feel that the slatiness washed out sky detracts from the overall image. It's placement in the competition also allows for the debate - are people a distraction or an enhancement in an image? You be the judge!	Pat B	
	Where's the gardener	I'm not one for title's but one's that ask questions should be encouraged. For me - they are either in the shed or nipped out of the gate - further answers on a postcard please? This is a simple but well constructed photograph with centrally placed subject and strong lead-in lines.	Barbra	
	Sparrows' Bath Time	A pleasing image and one that we'd all like to look at out of our kitchen window. It appears slightly over-exposed and slightly blurred. I'm guessing this is due to the sparrows moving and not a fast enough shutter speed being used.	Helen	
	Cottage Garden - Sissinghurst, Kent	Colourful, well exposed image. I like the portrait format and overall composition, there is interest from front to back in the image. Do we need the tree branches in the right of frame? Please see previous comments about stepping back / right/ left!	Janeen	
	Howick Bog Garden	Another very colourful image, the balance of colours from front to back work well and naturally take the eye through the image, however the photographer needs to be careful about the crop - strong colours on the edge of frame really attract the eye. The red flowers on the left of centre, are distracting. I think this would only work if the whole flower head was shown.	Fiona	
	From The Top Of The Garden	I like the elevated viewpoint on this to try and open up the view above the hedge but feel that it wasn't high enough. The bench and hedge would make interesting images in close up but are not strong enough to hold the viewers attention, but the glimpses of the view through the leaves are what I'm intriguing about.	Jill	
	Garden Colour	I like the idea of this image, its narrow field of view and use of out of focus foliage to frame the main subject should work, however the out of focus leaves are a little too dominant in the image and detract from rather than enhance the overall view. I do like the placement of the flowers to have red in foreground and blue further away is a classic composition tool.	David	
	Berwick Fortification Garden	HC - A very interesting view and a well taken photograph. I love the tones and colours within this image and enjoy the unusual back wall to the gardens that the photographer has shown us. If I was a finicky judge (?) I would say that the birds should be flipped to make them fly into the picture and not out of it but hopefully I'm better than that!	Jim	
	Lodeve Cathedral Cloister Garden	Great use of frame within a frame to concentrate the viewers eye. The overall colours are great, very warm and gentle despite bright sunlight. I feel that if the image was cropped a little to remove the view around the arches it would be a stronger composition and would have loved to have the whole of top of the arch in the image.	John	
	Welcome	Another frame within frame image, this one benefits from the inclusion of the door (left open - but in a welcoming position) and the fact nothing is visible outside the frame. The view inside the garden is tantalising enough to leave the viewer wanting more. A little tweak to the perspective control in Photoshop would straighten the image up and make it even better.	Mike Y	
	Garden In The Yard	A tightly cropped image can be a very strong image. This one (apart from the missing head of the daffodil) works well. There is more than enough interest in the colour and form of the plants not to need anything else to make a pleasing image.	Charlie	
	The Topiarist	HC - A humorous image which is needed by all of us in these strange time. This is all about 'Capturing the decisive moment' which the photographer has done very well. The pose and expression on the gardener are so genuine and could never be staged!	Hazel	
	Gardener At Work!	A quick snap or a thoughtful humorous image, I like the idea and it did bring a smile to my lips. However there are too many distractions within the frame that could have been dealt with at the taking stage. I can live without the gardeners face as the viewpoint is the reason for the picture. The blue plastic sheet, the green and white tubs are simply an obstacle to the photo.	Helen	
	Community Garden Allotments - Berwick Upon Tweed	I think this is so close to being a very good photograph, there is intrigue and detail in the middle distance (allotments) and the background gives placement and adds to the image, however it is missing a foreground. Without an obvious base to the image it looks like its been cropped. I know part of this is due to the elevated viewpoint (is it drone or Berwick town wall?) Its a pity as I did enjoy looking around the allotments and discovering new things each time but it looks like something is missing from the overall vista.	Janeen	
	The Garden in Winter	This would be my garden photo - if there is a lack of colour and plant specimens then cover them in snow! Not so in this picture, the photographer has used the snow to add more structure to the bench whilst still showing us the shapes of plants within the garden behind. I think the blue colour cast works as it heightens how cold it was. The added touch of the falling snow flakes completes the image.	Jill	
	Garden Bird	Always a welcome sight in the garden, the Treecreeper is a great thing to watch and photograph. This one is in a great position in the frame and all of the colours and tones within the picture compliment the bird. The thing that lets it down is that it's not sharp. I think it's camera movement (slow shutter speed) rather than focus issues as the tree is equally affected. There is still detail in the plumage but not as sharp as it should be.	Mike A	
	Roundabout Gardening	There is beauty everywhere if you know how to look. There are some wonderful plants on this roundabout and the photographer has composed the image to show them off well. I think the blue sky works very well against the orange lights as do the tallest plants, the blue keep right arrow (was this taken in Wooler?) also works well with the plants. I admire the low viewpoint but an even lower one (with photographer lying on the ground - another 'stupid' judge suggestion) would have removed the Shop signs which aren't as pleasing.	John	
	Lavender Walk	Another photo that uses symmetry well. I enjoyed the 'crazy paving' that created more interest than a simple unbroken lead-in. I will give the photographer the credit for moving the bench slightly to break the symmetry as its slightly off centre position works in this picture.	Tommy	
	Garden Necessities	We get used to seeing photos taken from around the 5 feet high and yearn for a different viewpoint. However in this picture the standard view works as it has removed the background and we are left with a complimentary lawn to show off the subject. I like the main subject of tools and chair and the poppy (flowers) really add to the image with their saturated colours. I'm less impressed with the poppy buds as they clutter the image rather than add to it.	Pat Y	
	Late Afternoon Sun On Border - Hardwick Hall	2nd Place - Another image that is all about wonderful light, not quite in the golden hour but there is a warm tone to the image that creates a timeless image. The photographer has used lead-in lines to enhance composition, with the wall and the colourful flower but they have also used the building as a 'Visual Stop' to make sure the viewers eye doesn't travel down the border and straight out of frame.	Paul	
	Looking Forward!	First Place - Negative comments first - I do not understand the light rectangular vignette on this image. It distracts and certainly doesn't add to the image for me. That said this image is not about technique or camera settings - its all about colour and lighting and the emotions that they can lift. The photographer has really used the strong back lighting to enhance and saturate the colours. A slight crop or graduated filter, to darken the top left corner would lift the picture even higher!	Pat Y	
	Winter Garden	A very intriguing image as its subject isn't easily recognisable. For me this works not just because of the frost radiating out of the top but by the clever use of the background to echo its shape. In the perfect world the stalk would be hidden or darkened but we have to deal with reality and the photographer has shown this from its best angle.	Mike Y	
	Guilty Mouse	Different from the others but an equally deserved subject. Its certainly frame filling to the point of its tail being cut, there are some nice textures on the mouse's fur but there is also a little blur to bot the mouse and the background - I'm not convinced this is down to camera issues or more likely the size of the crop in photoshop, either way it would have made a nicer photo if it had not been as large in frame and showed a little more of the garden it lives in.	Mike A	
	Open Gate	I really liked the everything about this photograph, the composition works well with the diagonal leading to the open Gate and great use of the background to echo its shape. The colours are all harmonious and slightly desaturated due to the soft lighting. The crop is great only showing us what's important and leaving out everything else.	Liz	
	Shrubbery With Dunedin Sound View	A great garden and a wonderful backdrop, both are linked together well due to the natural looking planting. The colours in the foreground plants are lovely and bright due to the bright sunshine, however this same lighting has caused issues in the sky. There is a graduated darkening from left to right across the sky - which sometimes happens with wide angle views and polarising filters. However it also looks like the photographer has worked on the sky as there is an obvious halo effect around the tree on the left, I'm sure if the feathering of the selection was greater the halo would disappear and improve this good image.	Jim	
	Wild Flower Garden	A very colourful close-up crop of a flower bed, there is plenty of interest to make sure you enjoy looking around the image, however the central placed flowers are all facing away from the camera and the dominant red flowers are all on the edge of frame. I'm sure there were reasons why the photographer couldn't walk around for a more pleasing viewpoint but I feel in this case a slight dark vignette would improve the image.	Tommy	
	Bearded Iris - Vicarage Garden, Clumber Park	HC - Only a brave photographer would put a mono image into a Garden Competition amongst all the other colourful images, however sometimes its good to stand out. They have produced a fine close up of this complicated flower head, relying on the tones and patterns of the petals to create the interest. I'm not a generally a lover of processed frames but here it works and combined with the light vignette works well indeed, even the sole spherical headed flower in the background doesn't challenge the iris for interest.	Paul	