

**John Wilson Cup  
Gravestones and/or Churchyards Competition**

**Wooler and District Camera Club**

Many thanks go to our Judge - Keith Archer

**Thank you for asking me to judge your competition. I am sorry that I cannot be with you in the flesh as I feel written comments seem so formal. It is much more difficult to write comments than to deliver them face to face so I hope what I have to say is appropriate.**

**Keith Archer**

# **Gravestones and Church Yards**

**A difficult subject but you have come up  
with some very good images**

# **The Picardy Stone near Insch. Aberdeenshire**

**Helen Collinson**

**A well taken image showing all the detail on the stone. It obviously had a meaning to someone in the distant past. I won't hazard a guess. I would like to see it zoomed out a little so we could see the context of the stone in relation to its surroundings.**





# Embleton Church

**Fiona Grant**

**A very nice image with lovely side lighting hitting the church and adding stripes to the grass. It is sharp and well exposed with lots of detail and wispy clouds in a pale blue sky.**



# **A Grave Mistake**

**Hazel Rathbone**

**Impossible to correct an error when it is carved in stone. I am not sure if it is an error or a medieval spelling. Which ever is the case congratulations to the author for spotting it and making me smile. Again I would like to have seen a bit more of the stone and its surroundings.**

# **Ahnwick Graveyard**

**Jill Thomson**

**The diagonal side lighting adds dimension and interest to this image. The shadows are deep but still full of detail. I like the way the branches of the trees make a frame for the gravestones.**



# The Kirk

**Barbra McFall**



**An interesting image. The only true vertical is the back end of the church. Everything else is at an angle. The grave stones appear to have sunk into the soft ground. The red door at the back of the church draws in the eye. There is detail in the sky which could have been brought out more by darkening it.**





## **Cairn Holy Neolithic Burial Cairns**

**Jim Bird**

**A well composed image. It works well in mono with deep shadows bright highlights and lots of textures. The top of the cairn takes us to the wall and onward to the horizon, all well exposed and sharp. On the other side of the picture the standing stone takes us up to the sinister black cloud at the top. HIGHLY COMMENDED.**



# Leonardo da Vinci Grave, Amboise

**John Miller**

**A straight forward record shot of this monument. The wide range of highlights/shadows has been well handled and all the background foliage is well exposed. I like the framing by the conifers and the symmetrical flowers in the fore ground add some colour.**



# 106 in 1793

**Mike Allport**

**I'm afraid the title baffles me but no matter. A well executed shot of an interesting gravestone. The man appears to be well to do with fine clothes and his bag of money. His faithful dog sits at his feet. I like the texture of the stone and the colours of the lichens. There is sufficient border around the stone to give it context.**



# Gravestones and Daffodils

**Pat Young**

**A well taken shot of the church from an interesting angle. The building is well lit despite overcast skies. There is detail in the stones and the bright daffodils lift the sombre scene. The grey sky complements the roof and seems to warm the stone of the church.**

# **Memento Mori - Headstones Laid Aside**

**Paul Burrows**

**Set aside and almost lost. The image shows only a portion of a grave stone but leaves us in no doubt as to the subject. The ivy stems clinging to the stone work give depth and dimension to the image. The contrast between the grey lichen at the bottom and the green stone above adds to the image.**



# Leaning Stones

**Pat Young**

**A very well spotted view point emphasising the various angles of the stones. It then leads us to the tree and beyond up the hillside. The mono choice was a good one as it brings out the texture of the stones and does not allow the colours of the fields to intrude. The shadows are handled well. HIGHLY COMMENDED.**





# Three Generations

**Tommy Rathbone**

**Here the author has honed in on the story attached to these stones. The front stone appears to commemorate a soldier lost in the Great War. The varying tones have been well handled with no overexposure of the bright tops of the gravestones.**



# Grave Stones

**Mike Young**

**Two unusual arched stones and the author has cleverly lined them up to lead us further into the picture. The high contrast mono makes a very good effect with deep shadows and bright highlights. HIGHLY COMMENDED.**



# Cotswold Churchyard

**Jim Bird**

**An ornate and beautiful building. I like its central setting in the frame and its stark uprightness contrasts with the angles of the gravestones. The ivy growing over the wall on the right keeps us in the picture and the walls demarcate the grave yard. The colourful bouquet of flowers in the centre adds more interest for the viewer. A dark sky contrasts well with the brighter foreground.**





# Who Lies Beneath

**Jill Thomson**

**An interesting gravestone with lots of detail. The colours on the stone are nicely shown and there is enough space around the stone to give us an idea of its position. Several authors have chosen to take a full frontal view of the gravestones and I wonder if shooting from an angle would add more interest.**

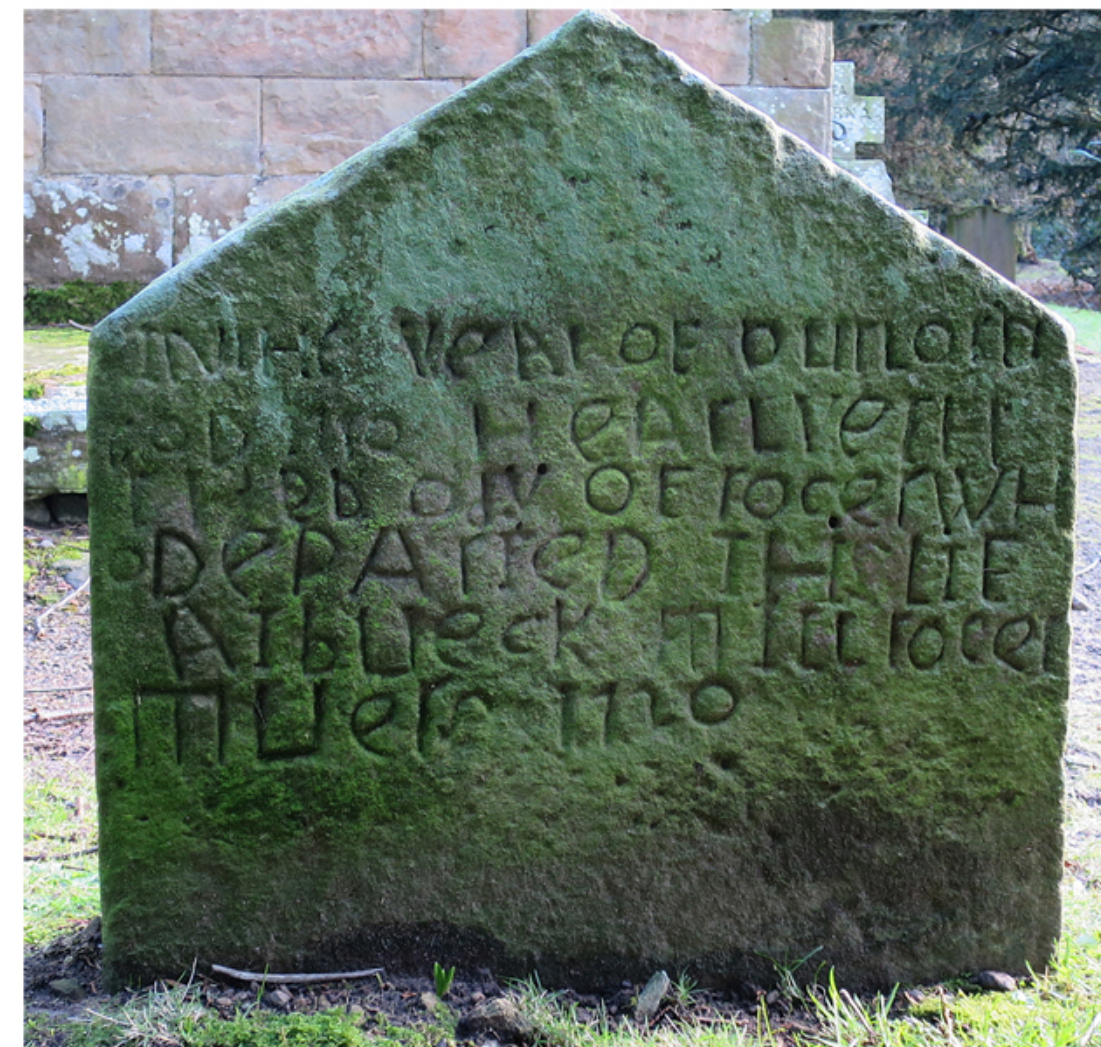
# Two faces of tomb at Old Bewick

**Helen Collinson**

**Two faces of the old tomb in Old Bewick Holy Trinity Church Yard.**

**Obviously a very old stone with rough carving which has stood the test of time. A good record shot well taken.**

**East and West faces of the old tomb in Old Bewick Holy Trinity Church Yard**



# Ford Church

**Fiona Grant**

**We have seen this church before. No daffodils this time. The mown path takes us to the church door. It is as if we have turned up before they were tidied up and ready for us. The author has not been blessed with the best lighting conditions but I think the dark stones could be lightened and the sky darkened to show the detail that is obviously there.**



# The Weathered Gravestone

**Barbra McFall**

**It certainly is weathered. Who is buried here. Could be a pirate. The tones and textures of the stone show up well and the red brown earth with leaves adds colour and a base for the picture.**





# Rowan - St Mary's Churchyard

**Janeen Burrows**

**The author has not had to travel very far to find this pleasant picture. As with the previous image colourful vegetation has been used to lift the sombre stonework of the grave stones. The berries and branch form a good frame for the bottom of the picture.**



# Vabres l'Abbaye Cemetery

**John Miller**

**From a warmer climate. A striking church taken at a good angle. The warm stone of the church contrasts with the cold grey stone of the graves. The sky has some lovely clouds and the flowers bottom right catch the eye. The top of the blue van showing over the wall also catches the eye and could easily be cloned out.**

# **William Leggat, a mentally handicapped “kenspeckle Born in 1718**

**Mike Allport**

**I had to look up kenspeckle. It means easily recognisable or conspicuous. Presumably this poor man was well known in the neighbourhood to the extent that he warrants a statue as a gravestone.**

**Well captured showing the details of the figure. How unfortunate he has a patch of white lichen covering his eye.**





# Old Kirkyard

**Mike Young**

**A very sombre building. It looks cold and uninviting. Here the stones are more or less upright. The Kirk is nicely framed by the wall and bush. I feel it could be improved with a little bit more exposure to whiten the Kirk walls and allow more detail on the stones. The sky could be darkened a little to make the clouds stand out.**





# Wooler Parish Graveyard

**Tommy Rathbone**

**A much warmer and friendly cemetery. The Autumnal colours warm up the picture. The gravestones are sharply portrayed and our eyes are led through to the hedge on the horizon. The central bowl of flowers brings the eye back to the middle.**

# **At The Going Down Of The Sun - St Mary's Churchyard, Lindisfarne**



**Janeen Burrows**

**The churchyard is bathed in pale pink evening light making a very restful picture. Our eyes are drawn through the gravestones to the castle on the horizon. The colours on the priory walls work very well but perhaps the sky could have been darkened a little to add more impact. THIRD PLACE.**



# War Graves at Netley

**Hazel Rathbone**

**Well done to find this picture. The colourful flowers break up the rows of white slabs of grave stones without taking anything from the seriousness of the subject. The sunlight on the stones at the left top of the picture gives some warmth and depth to the image. SECOND PLACE.**



# **Ephesians 5-14 - St Ninian's Churchyard, Wooler**

**Paul Burrows**

**Which came first? The text or the picture. The two go wonderfully together. I love the angle of the church tower and the cross and the starburst of the sun works wonderfully. The highlight on the shrub bottom right complements the starburst and balances the picture. The subtle vignette gives the effect of a halo.**

**A well deserved winner. FIRST PLACE.**