



Sandhurst Gardening Club – Autumn Show 2025

Classes 85, 86 & 87 – photography

Class 85 – A Gardener at work

Sally Bennett

1st place

This works well as a portrait print, it adds to the structure of the plants, as well as these two gardeners really getting stuck into their pond clearance. For me this image really does tell the story of gardeners at work. Well done



Beverley Morgan

2nd place

You have really captured the title here, total concentration on the job in hand. I also enjoy the basic two-colour palette, green and blue. The light has also been well controlled to keep everything nicely exposed



Helen Harding

3rd place

I think the strongest part of this image is the colour. The gardener is well positioned and the yellow bucket adds some context to the activity. The glasshouse is very bright and our eyes have to fight to keep away from it. Cropping it out would be an option and could also lose some of the sky. Overall, a very descriptive shot.



Jane Heritage

Highly commended

A fun image and well composed. The dampness has increased the contrast which has caught my attention. My attention is drawn to the 'hands' on the various tools. Well done



Lydia Stonestreet

An image that fits the title well. Keeping the main subject large in the image works. The quality of the image lets it down, I wonder if this has been caused by the transfer software? The saturation of the colours is good, but a little more contrast may help. Pleased to be able to see the face.



Rachel Parker

Again, this fits the title well, you have chosen a close-up approach with only flowers and the path within the frame, taken on a very bright day. The only distractions for me is the vibrant pink handle, and a somewhat strange filter-like effect on the garden in the background. The gardener is well positioned, which adds to the composition.



Graham Harding

We have action captured in this image. Possibly it would have been stronger with a lower viewpoint. I encourage you to look for minor distractions within your photos, and if possible eliminate them e.g. the bin in the top right and perhaps the blue bag in the foreground, does the top third add anything to the story? There is just a little blur on the hands, which really shows the movement in the shot.



Julie Sheppard

Perhaps a few too many distractions in this image. Our eye is naturally taken to the brightest part of an image, which is the green leaf sculpture and the gardener's forearm and my eye flicks between them, the 3 glass shapes are also beautifully in focus and drew my eye. Think about a slightly different viewpoint to really frame your subject.



Glyn Carroway

I'm not sure this really fits the theme of 'Gardener at work', maybe it is more 'Gardener at rest', nevertheless you have composed the shot so that our eye is drawn into the image through the gap at the bottom, and we are almost signposted to that table by those long, forked leaves. I find the edge of the white chair somewhat distracting, and could have been cropped out, but a pleasing atmospheric shot.



Class 86 – ‘Oakinspiration’ –
inspired by an oak tree

Glyn Carroway

1st place

You have composed this image well, the sign stops our eye from dropping out of the bottom of the image and keeps our attention on the oaks in the rest of the frame, which I feel sure is what you intended. It also gives us information about the location, whilst the position of the owl leads us into the photo. Well done.



Sally Bennett

2nd place

I confess it took me some time to spot the link in this one, but once seen it all worked. The idea of an ancient walkway, lots of ancient oaks perhaps inspired you to do this walk. Generally, images with words don't work but I think that here it adds to the story.



Graham Harding

3rd place

The strongest part of this image for me is the story, that the 'older trees are inspiring this sapling into growth'. One thing to consider is the separation of objects within an image, perhaps just a few inches of camera movement would have given just a little more separation between foreground and background. The trees on the horizon work really well too.



Oaklands Junior school

Highly Commended

A fun and novel idea of creating the words from acorns. The addition of the leaves gives it a further plus. The image itself is attention grabbing, particularly against that slate-coloured background.



Julie Sheppard

Highly commended

Clever use of a few props to tie this image together. If you try this again you might want to make the branch more diagonal and start from the bottom left corner; I think that would make the composition stronger. However, the square format suits it well.



Lydia Stonestreet

An interesting detail shot of the oak tree bark which I enjoy because I want to touch it and feel that rough texture.



Helen Harding

This is an ambitious image. A clever idea of leading our eye from the acorn to the mighty oak, just a little let down by the lack of clarity of the oak itself, but a good attempt at trying something different.



Beverley Morgan

This infra-red image has converted this oak into what appears to be white blossom. It's an interesting technique and has been well executed. To improve the image, I think that an isolated tree against that atmospheric sky would possibly have worked better, and allowed it to really stand out. However, we don't always have those choices. Great to see something a little different.



Class 87 – Street life

Sally Bennett

1st place

My attention was immediately drawn into the colour, chaos and confusion within this image. It immediately transports me, I can hear the sounds and smell the atmosphere. My eyes just leap around the image, no one thing holds my attention but as an illustration of street life it really works.



Beverley Morgan

2nd place

The photographer has increased the drama in this shot by presenting it in monochrome, thereby removing the distractions of too many colours. I also feel significant tension, the lack of eye contact by the girl on the right and also the way the light bag is being held in two hands. I really want to know more!



Helen Harding

3rd place

You have done a great job to capture both the sitter and the portrait, together with the interest from the passers-by. To improve the image, I think the photographer could present it in a square format, losing 10% off the bottom and about 25% of the top would give a much more impactful image and force our eye into the subject. Well done.



Julie Sheppard

Highly Commended

There is a lot to catch our eye in this Street scene and make us look again. The two saxophones, that somewhat Bohemian clothing, the boots that seem to be disconnected, and the very hopeful suitcase for donations. There is just enough background to give us some context, and the story is clear.



Lydia Stonestreet

Commended

The Morris Men action has been well captured with an unobstructed view down the road; the action has been frozen with many feet off the ground. It is a good documentary shot, as far as I can see no one is aware the shot is being taken.



Graham Harding

*It intrigues me what is happening here.
The midday light has created deep
shadows removing some of the details.
You have chosen an interesting low
viewpoint.*



Glyn Carroway

A pleasing descriptive image of this village, however for me it needs a little more 'life'. The image is well exposed and composed but doesn't fit the title as well as some of the others.

