



HPS Photographic Competition 2015

Brian Hackett,
photo librarian

Cyclamen hederifolium by Richard Ford.

No doubt you'll recall that the weather in the spring and summer of last year wasn't the best. Perhaps that's the reason why entries to the HPS Photo Competition were down on the 2014 record-breaking level! That said, the standard of the pictures was very high indeed, and I'm sure you'll agree that the judges selected very worthy winners.

Category one: individual hardy perennial – whole plant or close-up

Winner: Richard Ford – *Cyclamen hederifolium*

The judges thought this picture a brilliant evocation of a woodland floor: a contemplative, restful image that also suggested something of the mystery of deep woodland. The brown tones of the shaded areas brought great warmth to the picture and offset the light purple colours of the cyclamen flowers, creating a delightful contrast.



2nd Place: Colin Scott Berrett – *Helleborus orientalis*

This picture impressed the judges with its beautiful sense of texture and deep, satisfying colour. The natural dark background contrasts with the intense purple of the flower, producing the illusion that it floats in space. On a technical level, it is beautifully composed and focused.

Helleborus orientalis by Colin Scott Berrett.

**3rd Place: Brian Marshall –
*Tricyrtis hirta***

The team were taken with the subtle elegance of this image, which they felt had a hint of Japanese aesthetic in its composition. The background colour ensures that the eye focuses completely on the detail of this intricate flower form.



Tricyrtis hirta by Brian Marshall.

**Category two: a plant
grouping, border, garden
view or HPS event**

**Winner: Louise Sims –
*Rosa sericea pteracantha***

The judges thought that this was an unusual choice of subject and composition. Also known as the winged thorn rose, it successfully evokes the feel of the garden on a winter's day. The low light of the season's sun has been used to create a raking backlight which makes the thorns and cobwebs shine. The result is very atmospheric.

2nd Place: Kelly Baldry – Kegworth Surgery, July 2015

To the judges, this one seemed to be all about light and movement. Like the winning picture, the subject matter was not an obvious choice, but the carefully considered composition makes it work! The range of shapes and textures creates a flow across the picture, giving a strong sense of light and movement.



Rosa sericea pteracantha by Louise Sims.

**3rd place: Alan Wilson –
Keukenhof, Holland**

The judges were excited by the beautiful tapestry of colour in this well-composed image. Look at the way the diagonal line of orange across the top third of the picture is 'held' by the small orange flower head in the bottom left corner. They also liked the way the vertical lines of the *Fritillaria imperialis* balance the diagonal line running across the back of the field.



Kegworth Surgery, July 2015 by Kelly Baldry

I hope you have been inspired by this year's winning images to submit some entries of your own in 2016 – I'm looking forward to a sizzling summer (a man can dream) and more entries than ever.



Keukenhof, Netherlands by Alan Wilson

Category three: a picture by members' children or grandchildren (16 or under) on any garden subject

Winner: Jamie Duguid -- Howick Hall Gardens, Northumberland (front cover)

Jamie's entry impressed the judges with its overall soft-focus background providing a contrast for the sharp images of the tulips. The vertical lines of the flowers and grasses create a pleasing design, which evokes the wonder of bright spring blossoms against the pale green shades of early season foliage.

Jamie has an impressive record of success in our Junior category, but this will be his last – by next season he will be old enough for the senior competition. A good time then, to encourage any young children or grandchildren to get out of the house and have a go this year!

My thanks once again to the judges, Ruth Baumberg and Barry Sheridan, for their work in sifting out the winners.

The email address for your entries is photocomp@hardy-plant.org.uk. Full details will appear in the July newsletter. 🌸

See these photos in a larger format on the HPS website.