

HPS Photography Competition 2012

Trevor Walton

The weather in 2012 gave photographers a few problems but, though lack of sunshine and an abundance of rain may have limited opportunities, some members made use of these conditions to good effect.

Category 1 – an individual plant, whole plant or close-up – was won by Kelly Baldry for an unusual image of *Osteospermum jucundum* entangled with a grass. The opening bud is in sharp focus helping to isolate it from the background. The out-of-focus flower adds to the strength of the flower in the foreground. Runner-up was Ruth Baumberg's classic plant portrait of *Iris lutescens* with the sunlight helping the flower to stand out. Third place went to Ilja Smit-Kroon for an image of *Inula hookeri* in bud, backed by an open flower.

Category 2 – a plant grouping, border, garden view or HPS event – was won by John Silk for his *Pondside* image of *Iris sibirica* and *I. pseudacorus* with *Thalictrum*. The flowers and foliage go well together, there's a good array of colour within the image, and the background flowers are nicely out of focus. Runner-up was Karin Proudfoot's *Contrasting Forms*, with the lighting helping to accentuate the different shapes. Third place went to June Skinner, with a contrast between the aconitum and the moisture-laden fennel.

In **the children's/grandchildren's category** the winning entry was Naomi Aldridge's *Echinacea* 'Sundown', with the centre of the flower highlighted by the out-of-focus petals. Second was Susie Holliman's close-up of a dandelion, emphasising the detail that a camera can reveal. Third was Anna Evans-Haynes's Shasta daisy, and Lauren Evans-Haynes's hemerocallis was commended.

My thanks go to our two expert judges, Gerry Simpson and John McCormack. I hope this is a timely prompt to focus on the 2013 competition! You'll find the competition rules in the July Newsletter; there are some slight alterations from last year, so please read them carefully.

Category I



Kelly Baldry: *Osteospermum jucundum*



Ruth Baumberg: *Iris lutescens*



Ilja Smit-Kroon: *Inula hookeri*

Category 2



John Silk: Pondsides



Karin Proudfoot: Contrasting Forms



June Skinner: *Aconitum* and *Foeniculum vulgare*

In the children's/grandchildren's category



1st Naomi Aldridge: *Echinacea* 'Sundown'



3rd Anna Evans-Haynes: Shasta daisy



2nd Susie Holliman: dandelion



Commended Lauren Evans-Haynes: *Hemerocallis*