



Success story

A “quirky” photographic competition

This briefing tells the story of Ripon Civic Society’s Photographic Competition called ‘Quirky Ripon’ for young people up to 18.

Background

The competition was looking for images to illustrate the theme of Ripon’s quirkiness. The photographs could have been of anything – odd details of buildings, unusual happenings or events, nature, people – that captured something quirky about Ripon and the surrounding area.

There were two categories – up to age 11 and 12 to 18. Winners in each section received a digital camera, and runners up were given a cash prize.

There was no charge to enter the competition and entries were accepted on disk, memory stick or by email. The entries were judged by a panel of keen photographers from the Civic Society.

Ripon Civic Society then had a display of the winning pictures in Ripon to mark Civic Day on Saturday 25 June 2011.

Why

Ripon Civic Society wanted to encourage young people in Ripon and the surrounding area to take notice of their built environment. The competition also provided an opportunity to put the photographs of Quirky Ripon on public display and promote them in the local media to encourage others to take an interest too.

Involvement

Although only a small number of entries were received, the initiative generated a selection of good quality pictures. Beau Roddis (11), who goes to Kirby Hill Primary School, won the junior section with her amusing photographs of hens on a picnic bench, taken in Kirby Hill. Winner of the senior section was Izzy Edwards (17), who goes to St Aidan’s School in Harrogate and lives in Ripon . Her picture, ‘Barefoot at Barefoot Street’ was judged to be ‘amusing and spot on target’ by the judges.



Press Coverage

Ripon Civic Society managed to achieve good coverage in the Ripon Gazette, The Press (York) and the Northern Echo.

David Winpenny Chair, Ripon Civic Society says, ‘We hoped that our local young people would capture something of the quirky spirit of Ripon, which visitors often remark on. The pictures that

Beau and Izzy took were particularly good, and we are pleased they were able to come and receive their prizes at our meeting. Thank you to everyone who entered.'

Wider civic movement

Ripon Civic Society is not the only society who organised a photography competition for Civic Day. Blackburn with Darwen Civic Society and Hornsea Civic Society have both had success in using this method as a way to engage with a wider community and find out their views on what is happening locally. More information on how to start a photography competition is available via <http://bit.ly/rIjBvN>.

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