

WHITBY NATURALISTS' CLUB

Photographic Competition, 2026

The Club's photographic competition is an annual event. The aim is to celebrate our Club's interests, particularly in natural history, and there is a limit of 15 entries per person. Each year, there are two prizes, each a book token. One is for the best photograph. The other is for the best photograph entered by a Junior Member. If that Junior Member's photograph is also the best photograph overall (and this has happened), then it gets both prizes.

Rules

1. Entries may only be submitted by Club Members, who must have taken the photograph themselves.
2. Photographs must be taken between 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026, either within the Club's recording area [www.whitbynaturalists.uk/1_2_about.html] OR with some other clear connection to Whitby.
3. Entries are invited for each of the following categories (themes covered by Club Recorders and other Club activities):
 - amphibians & reptiles,
 - archaeology,
 - birds,
 - conservation,
 - freshwater fish,
 - fungi
 - geology (including fossils and soils),
 - insects (butterflies & moths),
 - insects (except butterflies & moths),
 - invertebrates (freshwater & terrestrial, except insects),
 - lichens
 - local history,
 - mammals,
 - meetings of the Club,
 - microbes & protists (freshwater & terrestrial),
 - plants,
 - sea & shore life,
 - weather (including astronomical phenomena),
 - young naturalists (education & outreach).
4. In taking photographs, competitors are expected to avoid unnecessary damage or disturbance of the organisms being photographed. Animals photographed using microscopy should, where possible, be returned to their habitat. Where someone features prominently in a picture and is identifiable, prior permission to submit the image should be obtained from that person. Images of minors can no longer be accepted.
5. Entries must be submitted digitally (in JPEG/JPG format) as e-mail attachments to photocompetition2026@whitbynaturalists.uk. For each photograph entered, the text of the accompanying e-mail must clearly indicate the competition category, the name of the photographer, the date and location of the photograph, a short description of the subject matter, and a title for the image.
6. Editing of digital images is discouraged. The Club reserves the right to exclude any image where it believes editing has adversely affected authenticity.
7. The closing date for entries is 31 December 2026.
8. One entry for each category will be shortlisted by the appropriate Recorder (Club recording themes) or the Vice-Chairman (other categories). The Vice Chairman will also shortlist one entry from each participating Junior Member. For all entries, a re-sized copy with a maximum dimension of 1200 pixels will be used for shortlisting. If, for any reason, shortlisting cannot be done by the person responsible, the Chairman will delegate that job to another Member of his or her choice who has no entries in the category in question.
9. The Club will produce an A4-sized paper print of the original of the winning entry. These will be displayed at the Club's AGM in February 2027. A panel of three Judges appointed by the Competition Organiser will select the overall winner and the best entry from a Junior Member, and each will receive a prize.
10. The decisions of those shortlisting and of the Judges will be final.
11. Judges are not permitted to submit entries, and those shortlisting are not permitted to submit entries in categories for which they are responsible.
12. Submitted images may be used by the Club (for example on its website, in its Annual Report, in other publications, as publicity material, and to produce a Club calendar).