

Rules for RSPB Guildford and District Local Group Photographic and Art Competition 2026

1. The subject for the competition is Wild Britain, Wild World and covers birds and other wildlife, landscapes and plants. The theme is open to individual interpretation, but entries must reflect the natural world and the activities and interests of the RSPB. Entries need to have been photographed or captured on paper or canvas.

2. Exclusions:

- X Pets and garden plants, or captive animals, birds and insects (as in Zoos and Safari Parks).
- X Farm animals or birds, and cultivated plants or crops (except as background).
- X Images that are primarily urban scenes or of people.

3. Entry categories: There are five categories: -

- Birds in Britain
- Birds outside Britain
- Beasts and Beasties (both UK and abroad) – i.e. anything that can walk, run, swim, crawl, slither, or even fly, but is NOT a bird
- Flowers, Plants and Fungi (both UK and abroad) - anything that grows, including wild flowers, plants, trees, fungi and lichens
- Landscapes (both UK and abroad)

4. Maximum number of entries and fees: Entrants can submit up to six photos or photographic images of artworks, in colour or black and white. There is a maximum of two entries in any category. The entry fee is £1.00 per photo (thus the maximum entry fee is £6.00).

5. Timescale and geographic limits: Photographs must have been taken, or artwork created, between 1st April 2025 and 30th April 2026. Britain is the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

6. Closing Date: All entries must be sent in by 10th May 2026.

7. Format: Entries must be in digital format, JPEG or GIF files, with a maximum file size of not more than 5MB. The use of a camera trap or trail camera is permitted, providing the siting has been done solely by the entrant.

8. Restrictions on photo editing: For photographs, the faithful representation of the captured image at the time the shot was taken must be maintained. Digital adjustments are only acceptable if limited to minor cleaning work (removing dust spots), levels, curves, colour, saturation and contrast work. Sharpening and cropping are allowed, although retaining an aspect ratio of 7:5 is recommended. We will not accept composite images, multiple exposures, sandwich shots or double exposures. Adding or removing animals, parts of animals, plants, distractions, people etc. into or from the image is not allowed.

9. Who can enter? The competition is open to all paid-up members of the RSPB who are additionally paid-up members of the Guildford and District Local Group.

10. Entries and Formats: Email your entries to Ian Taylor at competitions@rspbguildford.org.uk

Please name your entries in the following format: Your Name-Category-Image Title-Location-Date Taken (format DDMMYY)–Your email address. For example: John Smith-Beasts and Beasties-Frogs-Shalford-160126-johnsmith1956@gmail.com. Please limit the Image Title to 15 characters.

11. Payments: There is an entry fee of £1.00 per entry. You will be sent an email with payment instructions. Payment must be received before the AGM.

12. The Judges: Entries will be projected as part of a PowerPoint presentation at the 2026 AGM.

Members of the RSPB Guildford and District Local Group attending the AGM will be invited to vote for the entry they like the best in each category. Prizes will be awarded to the entry in each category receiving the highest numbers of votes. In addition, the KONIOTES AWARD will be presented for the entry receiving the highest number of votes in the separate vote for the best picture across all categories. The prize is as awarded. There is no cash alternative and it cannot be transferred.

13. In the event of a technical problem or evidence of impropriety with regard to the viewers' vote, the Group Committee shall have the final decision. If the members' vote results in a tie, the category winners will share the category prize equally, while the winners of the Koniotes Award will share the trophy until the next competition is judged.

14. The Group Committee's decisions will be final and no correspondence can be entered into.

15. Copyright: All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. The entrants must be the sole owner of copyright in all photographs and artworks entered. Further, entrants must not have breached any laws when taking their photographs. If your photograph or artwork features any person or people, they should be aware that they are being photographed and permission should be obtained from all involved (or permission of their parents or guardians if under 16) for their photograph to be submitted in the competition.

16. Entries must not have been offered for sale, been published, or have won an award in other competitions. Prior to submission, entrants must not have offered any of their entries for sale or been paid for the publication of their entries. Neither should the entries have won, or been a runner up in, any other photographic or art competition, either individually or as part of a group.

17. Entrants will retain copyright in the photographs and artworks that they submit. By entering the competition all entrants grant to the RSPB Guildford and District Local Group the right to publish and exhibit their photographs and artworks in any form of publication and/or exhibition associated with the group. This includes the further rights to publish and exhibit their photographs in print, on their respective websites or in any other media in connection with publicity for any form of publication including competition entries or exhibitions. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses. While we make every effort to credit photographers and artists, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee that every broadcast use of the photographs will include the photographer's or artist's name.

18. By entering, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules and the RSPB Guildford and District Local Group reserves the right to exclude any entry from the competition at any time and at its absolute discretion if the RSPB Guildford and District Local Group has reason to believe that an entrant has breached these rules

19. The RSPB Guildford and District Local Group reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter any of the rules at any stage if deemed necessary in its opinion or if circumstances arise outside its control.

20. These rules for this competition are governed by the laws of England and Wales. This competition is administered by the RSPB Guildford and District Local Group.