



Competition: Food

Well, this topic has certainly encouraged many readers to think slightly outside of the box when composing their entries. As usual, there was a stunning collection of interesting interpretations of the theme

First place (above)

Season's feast by Chrys Hopkins

Olympus C-370 Zoom

This picture really brought a smile to our faces when we opened the envelope and it popped out. We like the cheeky charm of it – the rosy red cheeks and the bright, contrasting colours. The photographer, Chrys Hopkins, is relatively new to photography and this is the first photographic competition that she has ever entered – well done Chrys!



Second place (left)

Arachnid at dinner
by M C Wilson

Olympus C-765 UltraZoom

This is one of three great pictures by M C Wilson of a spider eating its lunch. The picture demonstrates good close-up photography and is a clever and interesting take on our food theme.



Third place (below)

Food in window
by D Froud

Olympus C5060 WideZoom

This is certainly an intriguing photograph. Scenes on top of soap packets? This is one of those odd photos that has the viewer trying to puzzle out the

story behind the photo – the more you look at it, the more you want to know where it is and what's going on. Is it a grocer's? Is it a junk shop? Look closely and you'll see a coach reflected in the background and there is a Euro's sign in the window – is it on a tour route? The plot thickens...

WIN!

1st prize
Olympus SP-550 UZ digital camera



2nd prize
Olympus FE-240 digital camera



3rd prize
WS-320M digital voice recorder and music player



New competition: portraits

Portraits are among the most common type of photography – friends, family, and even pet portraits form a significant part of many photo albums. A good portrait shot should tell us something about the character of the person being photographed as well as capturing the essence of a moment.

Send your images to:
Olympus User competition, Archant Dialogue, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE by Monday April 16, 2007.

toptips

- Make sure there isn't an unsightly background that will take the focus away from the person being photographed
- Try to keep the atmosphere relaxed and put your subject at ease
- Do not force a pose from your subject – they are not puppets!
- For flattering photographs, find a camera angle that hides the weaker or less attractive parts of the face and try to focus on the eyes
- Good lighting will help define bone structure. A much-used form of lighting is a concentrated beam of light placed at 45° to the side and 45° above the subject's head. A light which puts half the face in darkness can also cause dramatic shadow effects.

Format: Entries must be submitted as prints. Digital photographs should be submitted as prints as well as on disc for reproduction. If you would like your images returned, please enclose a suitable stamped self-addressed envelope. While every care will be taken, we regret that we cannot accept responsibility for any material lost or damaged in transit, or in handling for reproduction. While copyright remains with the photographer, submitting a photo is taken as permission for Olympus to publish it.

Competition rules: Winners will be notified of their win by post. Alternative Olympus products of an equivalent value may be requested, though the decision to award these remains with the Editor. Cash alternatives will not be possible. Where images are successful in any Olympus User competition, they will not be accepted as valid entries for any subsequent competition in any circumstances. Readers may submit up to three photographs for any competition, but only one image will qualify for a prize. With regards to all aspects of competition entry, the judges' decision is final.