

They are pictures of often familiar sights – but they make you look twice.

The challenge in the fourth photography competition organised by Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust (HEART) was to find “Alternative Angles: A new perspective on Norwich’s heritage”.

And photographers of all ages eagerly accepted the mission, seeking out fresh ways to interpret such city landmarks as The Forum, market and castle and sending in more than 420 images.

Their work will now take centre stage in a free public exhibition which will tour several Norfolk venues this year.

Rebecca Croucher, 18, of Kingsway, North Walsham, won the under-25 category with her photograph “Angle of Mystery” and Alan Bennett, 46, of St Ives, Cambridgeshire, won the over-25 category with his image “Boating Pond at Eaton Park”.

City College student Rebecca, who is studying photography, chose to picture a tree near Cow Tower, close to the bank of the River Wensum.

She said: “It is close to the home of my boyfriend and we go there a lot. I had taken a few shots of the tower itself, but I thought everyone would do that.”

Judges, who included Archant photographer Sonya Duncan, praised Rebecca’s “unusual and innovative interpretation of the competition brief”.

They said: “She used an interesting technique and the lens hood frames the tree well. This image expresses our landscape heritage and offers a different perspective on a modern sculpture – merging the new and the old via an angle of Norwich we hadn’t seen before.” Professional photographer Alan, who won last year’s over-25 category with a picture of St Bartholomew Church ruins, this time photographed Malcolm Jay at Eaton Park model boating pond.

He said: “It was a warm April day and I went to the park to do a sunshine picture for a news agency I work for in London.

“I photographed Malcolm, who is 80, as he watched and controlled his model sailing boat. Speaking to him, I discovered he had first watched

Under-25 category winner: Angle of Mystery, by Rebecca Croucher, pictured inset bottom left.



this scene as a 12-year-old with his granddad in the mid 1930s.

“After the Second World War he became a member of the Norwich Model Boat Club and has been actively involved ever since with the club’s activities.”

The judges said Alan, who lived in Old Laundry Court, Norwich, until his move last year, had “really caught our attention both technically and emotionally”. They remarked: “It uses a lovely human, reportage style and shows the human condition to its fullest.

“As a viewer of the image, we get to experience the

photographer’s perspective and the perspective of the subject. It tells a story of heritage on a number of levels.”

Lindsey Roffe, communications manager at Norwich HEART said: “This year’s theme was perceived in many different ways and the judges had a very tough task shortlisting just 30 images for exhibition.” Winning and shortlisted entries will go on display at a public exhibition in The Forum from March 5 to March 15 with further venues to be announced.

Both winners received a £150 Chapelfield gift card.



Winner: Boating pond at Eaton Park, by Alan Bennett, pictured inset left. Below, runners-up
Through the lens, by Spencer Purkiss, and
below right, Angle Management by Nick Stone.