

# TIP OF THE MONTH

*let it snow • let it snow • let it snow*

and we come back with muddy grey, disappointing pictures!

What goes wrong?

Well.

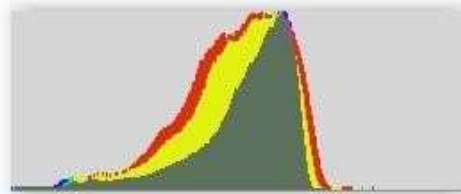
Average photographic scenes contain a mix of light and dark tones that average out as a sort of mid-tone. Camera metering systems are built to deal with these situations, and they generally do it pretty well. However, in snowy conditions, there are (obviously) far more of the lighter tones, but the camera's meter still assumes that overall mid tone (mid-grey) is the right answer, so our winter wonderland looks a bit dismal.

What do we do about it?

We need to make the camera let in more light (increase the exposure) to brighten things up a bit. Either the aperture must increase (e.g. f8 instead of f11) or the shutter speed (Time Value) must increase (e.g. 1/125 sec instead of 1/250 sec). An easy way to do this is to use the "exposure compensation" control - the [+/-] button on the camera. Set to +1 and try again. If the photo is still too dull, try more + compensation until it looks OK. It can be useful to use the camera's histogram



to  
this  
OK.



to check this. This shot was taken with camera metering as normal (it chose f11 at 1/350

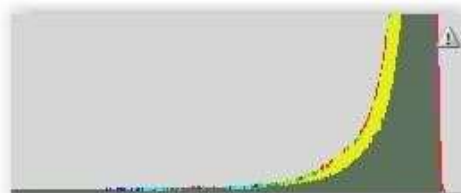
sec) The shot is dull and the histogram is bunched in the middle with no light tones up at the right side, where we'd expect to see the bright snow register.

This time a +1

exposure compensation was used. (f8 at 1/350 sec) and the histogram has shifted to the right, rendering the snow much brighter.



Usually, once the exposure compensation has



been sorted out, it'll be OK for the rest of the

shoot. For instance, for this shot, the +1 compensation still worked well even though it was much later in the day. Of course, if you'd rather get home to the warmth, you can use levels (or curves) (or exposure) in your processing software and get round the problem that way.

Other things to think about snow.

Keep cameras (and batteries) as warm and dry as you can. Coming in from extreme cold can cause condensation on lenses. Allow this to clear before changing lenses. Pictures taken in falling snow can be very effective - experiment with shutter speeds to get the effect you want - there are no rules about this - it depends on wind conditions, snowflake size etc.

If at all possible, get out when the snow is still fresh and tree branches are still covered.

*And summer is coming ..... !!*

Any overall brighter than average situations present the same sort of problems. This shot on the beach at Bamburgh needed 1½ stops extra exposure.

Camera meter suggested f11 at 1/500 sec. but f8 at 1/350 sec gave a better result.



## **IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE**

If you have any particular queries or are looking for advice on any particular topic, please ask around at one of the meetings or email [news@settlephotos.org](mailto:news@settlephotos.org) Perhaps we could cover it on the new Tips section of the Newsletter?

Last month we had a request for advice on taking photos in the snow, so thank you, Margaret, for offering the advice for this month's Tip of the Month.

## **WHAT'S NEXT?**

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### **The Bigger Picture**

We will be looking at aspects of making prints for exhibitions. As well as our Annual Exhibition in August, an exhibition in the Folly and the annual YPU exhibition are coming up.

**No Gallery.**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

## **Ask the Expert**

A video presentation looking at aspects of judging pictures.

## **Gallery: Best of 2018**

A chance to show off your best pictures from last year and to explain what makes them special for you.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 10.30am**

## **Visit to Kirkby Malham Church**

The Church of St Michael the Archangel in Kirkby Malham is an imposing building also known as the "Cathedral of the Dales". If the weather is poor, we have a dry base and The Victoria Inn is only a stone's throw away. Built in 1840, it is an historic Inn boasting open fires, traditional pub food, 6 cask ales and muddy boot friendly. You don't need to walk far and there are proper roads and paths so it's a good venue for those who find some of our venues difficult to access.

## **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

One important thing to notice from the entry below is that images for the YPU are to be submitted in February which is earlier than usual. The second thing to notice is that the YPU Exhibition this year is in Bingley so relatively local. It's a chance to have a good look without having to travel too far.

More information in "The Bigger Picture" at our meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## **YPU 2019 Annual Exhibition and Assembly**

Date: 4th May to 19th May 2019

To be hosted by Bingley Camera Club at Bingley Arts Centre.

Please note earlier handing in deadline:

- Online entries, dpi's and print digital files **Friday 22nd February** - time 23.59 hours
- Print entry handing in at YPU AGM - Carleton Community Centre/Carleton Rd, Pontefract WF8 3RJ **Saturday 23rd February 2019** (morning only)