

# TIPS OF THE MONTH

## **Richard Littlefair's words of wisdom**

Always take images in RAW as it gives more choice when editing.

Be careful to use the appropriate paper for printing your image. Look at Permajet and/or Fotospeed (Have a look at the Printing Tips – February 2019)

Watch your print quality. Black and white printing is often difficult – many printers produce a colour cast.

There needs to be an aim to the picture. A story is good where appropriate

Make sure you crop to capture the main image. So, what is the aim of the image?

Remember leading lines and the rule of thirds where appropriate.

Try different angles.

Try different times of day.

It's usually better to have people walking into a picture rather than out of it.

Don't over sharpen, but do sharpen

Make sure horizontals are accurate, especially the horizon at the seaside. Think about correcting verticals where appropriate.

Don't cut important parts of the picture off.

Get rid of extraneous objects from an image. Of course, what constitutes an extraneous object is a matter of opinion.

Strong skies are important. They can often be improved quite easily in Elements, Photoshop or Lightroom, or you can import them from your collection of skies.

Pay attention to detail.

Except in special situations, make sure your shadow isn't in the picture.

Bracketing can be a useful weapon in your arsenal.

Be aware that there are different requirements for printed, projected and computer screen images because of the source of light.

Calibrate your monitor – Richard Littlefair does his once a week.

**Some thoughts about making pictures for exhibitions, competitions etc (e.g. the YPU exhibition).**

1 Attention to detail is extremely important – selectors are effectively looking for reasons to reject pictures, so the slightest problem can mean your picture won't be chosen.

2 Pictures which are strong and simple to read are more likely to be accepted – selectors don't have time to spend trying to work out what a picture is all about.

3 You may have spent hours working on a picture to achieve a particular effect, but if it looks as though it could have been produced just by using a filter then that's what the selectors will probably assume and so it may well get marked down.

4 If you put in a picture of a popular photographic subject (e.g. the Angel of the North) then the selectors will possibly, if only subconsciously, compare it with many others they have seen. Moral – unless you're sure your picture is up there with the best then it's probably best not to submit it.

5 Getting feedback on your pictures can be extremely useful, so take full advantage of your fellow members.

**A note from the editors.**

Remember, though, that your images are for you to enjoy.