

1. Artistic Winter Flowers (daffodils)
Is this an improvement on the original – see next photo?
2. Winter Daffodils
Better. In fact, good: sharp backlit petals fringed in snow. Background out of focus is good and still emphasizes winter.
3. Winter snowdrops
Unfortunately not very wintry, but clear and sharp and nicely framed. Also, well exposed – can see detail in the white petals.
4. Too cold to open
Intriguing but personally I don't find it a pleasant image, but images don't have to be pleasant. Technically a little bit of over-exposed top right and a large area of dull, featureless petal.
5. Frosty leaf
It does say winter. The light dusting of frost makes an attractive picture. Do the imperfections add or detract? Background is well blurred but I would have preferred the rear leaves to have been more in focus.
6. Low winter sun
Found it difficult to make up my mind on this one. Much to admire (wintry trees bordered by fences, mist hills in the background) but the bird table doesn't seem to "fit", mainly because it is in the shade. Cropped image?
7. Walking on water
Another image difficult to judge
8. Desolation of winter
A familiar sight for those of us who walk along the river. Desolation or not might depend on how one is thinking at the time. The tree is broken, the main branch is dead, but the trunk might grow again. The winter landscape is brown and dull but there is blue sky and winter won't last forever. Well exposed and colour and texture on the branches.
9. Trees in winter
Quite a dark photo, in fact a bit under-exposed.
Composition is good and definitely "winter"
10. Autumn is Over
A good use of colour popping meaning that the leaves have been made to stand out from the background. Well controlled exposure – the highlights on the leaves are not burned out.
11. Winter Sunshine
Winter, but the colours make it a good photo. Everything sharp and detailed, especially the patterns in the snow. The perspective and lead-in lines draw us into the photo – there is no confusion about where the eye should go. There is an interesting

“tunnel” effect from the branches in the distance.

12. Footprints in the Snow

At first glance similar to the previous photo but here the colours do not work so well and there is no arching of the trees overhead.

13. Winter Morning in Newcastle

As we see, another trees and snow photo. Here there are no colours so the “winter” message is stronger. The composition of the path leading between strong dark tree trunks is good and there is a little texture in these trunks. The two foremost trunks are equally spaced from the sides though the road on the left compared to the fence on the right is a bit unbalancing. I’m sure we all might think it would be better with that post removed! But note that there is a figure in the distance.

14. Selfie at the Wall

Note the title of this photo. The selfie subjects and the wall are all on the right. Does the LHS contribute much? Do we need it all? And the foreground? Zoom in for a different photo.

15. Winter Murk

A bit different from “the usual”. Not obviously attractive but is it interesting? There is a problem – the lightest area is top left and the eye is drawn towards it. You know what I am going to say – crop it, and tweak the levels.

16. Rail

Also not the usual. The background is nicely out of focus while the subject is sharp, but there is a technical problem – the tops of the snowy bits are over-exposed and have lost texture.

17. Misty morning

The photo does convey the feeling of a misty, winter day. There are lead-in lines going towards the bridge but they are blocked by the foreground. The foreground vegetation is almost half of the photo. Crop it? I imagine the author tried it in mono. Is this better?

18. Snowfall in Sunderland

First sight is this has impact, there is a lot of detail in the trees. But then it asks the question does this look natural? Has it been over-sharpened? Is the sky a problem? Again, would it look better in mono? This would get around the “problem” sky.

19. Winter morning at the bridge

No mist this time and no distracting foreground. But a difficult task of not over-exposing the strong reflections on the water while not under-exposing the dark stonework of the bridge. This has been achieved and there is some interest in the sky.

See website for the winners.