

## PHOTOGRAPHY CORNER

# Spring is in the air

By Darren Crush



**In the first of a new series, professional photographer Darren Crush wades through some of the jargon on camera settings and offers an idea of what to shoot this month.**

With spring just around the corner now is the time to get that camera down off the shelf and venture outside to capture some awe-inspiring images.

Whether you're using a compact camera or a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR), there are a whole host of subjects you can photograph at this time of year. And what better place to start than your garden, which will slowly but surely be coming to life after the cold months of winter.

Let's begin by looking at photographing flowers. Floral photography is best done close-up, and for that you will need to select a macro facility. Many compact cameras possess this mode, and for DSLRs you would require a dedicated macro lens for this purpose. Fear not if neither of these options is available to you, it just means that you will have to get as close to the subject as your camera, or lens, allows.

Most cameras today have four main modes – program (or auto), aperture priority and manual. Some cameras have an auto setting that fires the flash every time you take the photograph, regardless of whether the flash is required or not. Although camera models vary, by and large, these modes can be set by using what is often referred to as the mode dial, located on the top of the camera body. Before I go any further, I will briefly explain what each of these modes does.



By selecting the program option, you will be handing over all control to the camera. All you need to do is point that camera at what you want to photograph, press the shutter release, and it will do the rest. This is often viewed as the failsafe option.

Aperture priority starts to give you more control over how the picture is taken. Without making things sound too complicated, this setting determines how much light is let in to the camera,



and by changing this value you can determine what depth of field you wish your picture to have. Depth of field is the portion of the scene that appears sharp in the images. In terms of landscape photography, you will probably want a large depth of field i.e. everything in focus, whereas if you are taking a picture of one subject, you will want the subject in focus with the background out of focus i.e. a small depth of field. Whatever aperture setting you choose, the camera will select an appropriate shutter speed for you.

Shutter priority gives the user control over the shutter curtain, which is located in front of the camera's sensor. Depending on the setting dialled in, the shutter controls when light enters the camera and for how long. In simple terms, if you select a fast shutter speed, say 1/500th of a second, any movement that is taking place within your image frame will be frozen. Alternatively, if you choose a slower shutter speed, for example 1/30th of a second, any movement will be blurred. As with aperture priority, only the other way around, when you have selected the shutter speed you require, the camera will opt for a suitable aperture setting.

As far as the manual setting is concerned, this option gives you total control over both the aperture and shutter speed. Once you have mastered the previous two settings, the manual option will open up whole world of opportunities. However, always be aware that when you alter one of the settings in manual mode a suitable setting must be selected for the other. For example if you decide to have a large depth of field and choose a small aperture that doesn't allow much light in, be sure to select a slower shutter speed that will let light in for longer to counteract this. If you don't, you will end up with a picture that is under-exposed.

### Happy photographing!

**If you have any questions for Darren on this article, or any photography subject, please email him on [dmjc@crush-associates.com](mailto:dmjc@crush-associates.com) or call 07515 415669.**

**[www.crush-associates.com](http://www.crush-associates.com)**

**Next month Darren will be looking in more detail at how to capture great flower shots.**