



2_Autumn_07 NEWSLETTER

Digital Photography/Digital Art & Training News

About the Newsletter

It's designed so that you can easily skim through to find **news about digital cameras**, **news about Photoshop Elements** as well as **news about my training courses**.

The BIG news is that Elements 6 has replaced Elements 5

[Adobe have revamped and upgraded Elements to a new version 6.0](#)

Can you believe it but barely one year since Adobe introduced PSE version 5.0, now comes version 6.0. Of course, I have it and it is good although there are not that many differences involving the editing options over version 5.0. I particularly like the way that subtle changes have been made to several parts to use more obvious descriptions and provide more obvious controls and sliders. Also, if you liked it, the Undo and Redo Icons have been brought back! The main difference and a big one is the way Elements now looks on screen, which also changes how large parts of it work. Adobe has completely redesigned the look and feel of version 6. The desktop is now a very smart dark and light grey design, with neater icons and the workspaces (Editor and Organiser) introduces some new options that make Elements more logical and therefore easier to use.

So is it worth buying? Well, if you have any version before 5.0, then definitely it is worth it. With 6.0 you will get more features, easier options and a very powerful and useful package. If you are contemplating buying a PC running under Microsoft Windows Vista, again it is worth changing to PSE 6.0 but of course it works equally well on XP too. If you use PSE 5.0 then it is an improvement but maybe only if you are interested in specifically making use of Element's new photo-editing parts or using its new easy "Sharing Centre" section. 'Quick selection' has come from Element's big brother, Photoshop CS to offer a new, very quick and easy way to make selections of part of an image prior to copying or adjusting. Cloning has a very nice new option to help its use. There is also 'Photomerge' a new photo-blending option for taking the best facial expression from a series of group photos and combine it into another! (To improve a family photo where one person was captured with their eyes closing or looking slightly in the wrong direction or perhaps when someone's expression is not what you or they wanted and spoils the group image). The 'Sharing Centre' makes sending images by email, including as slides shows or online galleries, quick and easy. Most of the Sharing Centre directly links with your PC's email package.

If upgrading to PSE 6.0 does not appeal at the present time, then maybe you should carry on with PSE 5.0. It is better than version 5.0 and is more user friendly but possibly the greater simplicity is less important to a current user. For example, now under the new "FIX" tab there are 3 editing options; Full Edit (which is what you will have used with me on my courses), Quick Fix, and Guided Edit. Quick Fix was there before but not Guided Edit. This provides step-by-step assistance on how to perform common editing tasks e.g. cropping, rotating, straightening photos, correcting skin tone, and performing colour corrections. The idea is that you use Guided Edit as you work on your photo but you can switch and move on to Quick Fix or Full Edit at any time. So Elements version 6.0 could be very good for a beginner or for those of you who want to move on from one of my First Steps courses and who haven't been trained in the more advanced use of Elements. See **What's New in Training** for special training opportunities regarding PSE 6.0. Also the Adobe website for further information as well as an online video about PSE 6.0 - follow the routes to Elements 6.

Looking for a cheap copy of Elements 5 (or 6)?

[A reliable and bargain priced copy of Adobe's PSE 5 from Amazon Marketplace.](#)

See Edition 1 of my Newsletter for reliable details of where to purchase a copy of Elements 5 for a really low, low, price. If you go to the **FocalPoints > Newsletters** section of my website you can read or download Newsletter 1.

I have been in touch with the WARREN-M Software about their availability of PSE 6.0. Currently, they are not expecting to be selling the latest version for a couple of months but this may change. If you want to buy a copy now, then the price of the full package is £69.00 but for those already with a full copy of PSE, then you can go for the upgrade package for £59.00 and save £10. There is no difference between what you get for your money, both are full packages but the upgrade will require a previous serial number.

Remember that you must have a PC capable of running PSE Version 5 or 6. If you don't know this information, then in the **FREEBIES** section of my website you can read or download "**Digital Photo Software_www.pdf**" "**Digital Art Software_www.pdf**" listing the specifications. (Recently updated for PSE 6).

If you intend or are running PSE 5 with **Windows Vista** then you also need a free download software patch from the Adobe website. There is a link for this upgrade patch on the **LINKS** page of my website.

What's new in training?

[Laptops will travel](#)

Remember that I now have two laptops that I can bring with me to take advantage of group training sessions. I don't charge anything extra for using one of my Laptops (and software) - the rates remain the same - so there can be savings all-round! (For more about this see Newsletter 1)

[PSE 6 Walkthrough Sessions](#)

To meet interests in PSE 6.0 I am offering special one-off 2-hour 'walk through' transfer sessions on the main differences between your previous and new version 6.0. There is a special price for this of £15.00. As I use a laptop running PSE 6.0, this session could also be tailored as a taster for someone considering making the change to PSE 6.0

[Make a course of training your special Christmas gift](#)

With Christmas presents in mind, why not consider giving a course of my training as a special gift. Alternatively, perhaps you could ask someone to give you a course of training with me as a present to you! Either way, I will be happy to put together a tailored package that could be a course in using PSE Elements or in using their digital camera, or a combination of both. In other words, a doubly special gift, one that is personal as well as being made up of a personalised course. I will provide a personalised gift voucher. Gift voucher courses purchased by previous clients (including ACL) come at the same preferential rates as used for "follow up" lessons (see website).

[Five days in Somerset, June 2008](#)

With Summer 2008 in mind, advanced news of a special opportunity. I am booked for June 16th - June 20th for a residential course at the Ammerdown Retreat & Conference Centre, located in idyllic Somerset countryside near Radstock. This course in digital photography is aimed at learning how to make more use of a digital camera through a number of photoshoots around the beautiful grounds of Ammerdown House and the locality. This is a brand new course, details of which will be available soon from the centre in their 2008 Brochure or from their website: www.Ammerdown.org. If you are interested in receiving a brochure send an email to centre@Ammerdown.org

[A reminder for those who would like to be trained with someone else](#)

If you want to take advantage of training in your own home and like the idea of doing this with another person, (or maybe fancy the discounted rates) then email me **your name, your training interests (including any days in a week that would NOT be possible)**. As soon as I have a matching, I will contact all parties to

•Personalised individual or small group training •top-up training • short course training • photoshoot on-location training • interest groups
see if I can arrange training for you. I will also need to know if you can offer the necessary space to accommodate another person to learn alongside. If you don't have the space, but are willing to travel to the other person's address, then still email me to get your name added to my Client Waiting List.

Digital Photography Interest Groups

A group way of getting together to continue developing interests in digital photography or digital art

The previous Newsletter included an item about some of my ACL students who had decided that they wished to continue to meet together with me to further their interests in digital photography. We formed a monthly **Interest Group** that very kindly meets in the home of one of the members to share their latest photos and share ideas etc. along with some in context/by request PSE training. Despite the difficult weather, we have managed a number of photoshoot nights too. If you are interested in forming a daytime or evening Digital Photography or Digital Art Interest Group or getting your name on a list for me to form according to numbers, then once again, **email me your interest**.

FocalPoints and Photoshoots

A special section on my website aimed at photoshoots

If you are interested in a photoshoot with me on your own, or with another person, then you will find details of this on **www.digital_photography.talktalk.net** (Don't forget the underscore!). Have a look at the new **FocalPoints** section of my website which includes lots of photoshoot images as well photoshoot ideas and information.

Can't remember how much Bryan's training costs?

Training rates are always available from www.digital_photography.talktalk.net >Training>training rates

See my range of fantastic value rates in easy-to-read-grids in the **TRAINING** section. Alternatively, go to the **FREEBIES** section and download the **Training Rates.pdf** to print out.

What's new in digital cameras?

News about digital cameras and about the Devon Camera Centre, Exmouth

Development in cameras has not stopped and just in time for Christmas there is a mass of new models hitting the market. Following on from Olympus introducing a range of new Digital SLRs that have a live-view LCD (to frame your image on the LCD before capturing), Canon has upgraded their 30D to the 40D and that now includes a live-view option. The 20D upgraded to 30D and now upgraded again to the 40D comes with a fantastic reputation for quality of build, great features and excellent photographic quality. This is Canon's middle of the range D-SLR. Maybe the cheaper but also very highly regarded 400D will be next to get live-view? Talking of which, the next trend is probably already here with the launch of the Panasonic L10D D-SLR that features live-view with an LCD that rotates out 270 degrees. Visit the **LINKS** section on my website and click on **dpreview** for detailed and trusted information about most digital cameras.

There is some great news close to home concerning the Exmouth Devon Camera Centre. It is to get a thorough revamp that on completion will not only double the size of the shop but will mean that special events and new services can happen. Jerry Coles tells me that he hopes, for example, to offer Canon and Nikon demonstration days attended by Canon or Nikon specialists and linked with special deals. Talking of deals, in case you didn't know, the Devon Camera Centre these days is selling at Internet prices. So stop going in to find out about products only to buy elsewhere on the Internet, support our local digital store (Exmouth needs it!). Another interesting development involves printing. An A1 printer will enable specialist printing services, such as large prints and prints on canvas. Roll on the refurb! Finally, in this sweep of local news, a reminder about Christmas presents - why not ask for a Tripod? In particular, the Manfrotto Modo 785B (the model used for my training). It's small and easy to carry (using the handle like an umbrella), quick to set up to use - just the tripod for capturing rock-steady shots. Available from Devon Cameras.

NEWSLETTER 3 will be out January 2008 with news about my increased involvement in the 2008 Exmouth Festival.

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