



3_spring_08 NEWSLETTER

Digital Photography/Digital Art & Training News

About the Newsletter

Colour coded for **news about Photoshop Elements**, **news about my training courses** and **news about digital cameras and digital services**.

Elements 6

Elements version 6.0 is so much better than all previous versions for a beginner or for anyone wanting to move on. To help you get started, or ease the switch to version 6, I have developed a specially priced "Elements 6.0 2-hour introductory session" - **see Training Opportunities**. Expect to pay between £59-£69 for a boxed copy of the new version. However, I am pleased to announce that bargain priced copies of Adobe's PSE 6 are now reliably available from the **Amazon Marketplace** (www.amazon.co.uk). Look out for **WARREN-M Software**. This is where quite a few of my clients, as well as myself, have purchased our copies of Elements. There is often a choice of new or used copies, either are OK and can be registered with Adobe. You won't get a manual but even the one that comes in the boxed edition is barely adequate. Support, plus a 30-day return guarantee, applies to Warren-M purchases.

To check if your PC is capable of running PSE Version 6, look in the **FREEBIES** section of my website where you can read or download "**Digital Photo Software_www.pdf**" or "**Digital Art Software_www.pdf**" listing the required specifications.

Training Opportunities

Make a course of training a special gift

Following the success of my Christmas Gift Voucher Courses, **I have extended the gift voucher scheme to provide for all special occasions**. If someone you know has a birthday or anniversary coming up, why not consider giving a course of my training as a really special and personal gift. Alternatively, you could ask someone to give a course of training as a present to you! Gift Voucher courses are a doubly special gift idea; a personal gift made up of a personalised course. As gift voucher courses are paid in advance they attract preferential rates too (see my website). I provide a printed and personalised gift voucher, so you have something tangible to give on the special day.

I will be happy to put together a tailored package that could be a 2-hour introductory or 'brush-up' session in digital photography or creative digital art or some starter lessons in using a digital camera. One of my recent clients came to me through being given the gift of a camera with one of my gift vouchers in the box to help set up the camera and get going with digital photography. Other gift vouchers given have included some starter lessons in PSE Elements, a next steps type of course, and a combination of camera-shoot projects linked with critical appraisal. Managing photos with Elements Organiser has also proved popular.

Further enhanced travelling laptop service

I now have a choice of laptops that I can bring with me for clients who wish to take advantage of 2-person training sessions. Now I can bring a laptop running under Microsoft Windows Vista or Windows XP. This really is a bargain service since **I don't charge anything extra for using one of my Laptops (and software)**. Savings all-round! 2-person training can be a nice social way of learning with a like-minded friend or client. All that is needed is a large enough kitchen or dining room table to sit around with 2 laptops.

Of course, we can always use your own laptop(s) rather than mine. All the training material is included too which includes easy to follow video training sequences depending upon what we are learning. Why not speak to a friend so that you can get started. Alternatively, get your name on my list to put people in touch to form a 2 person-training group.

Walkthrough Sessions

To provide for the interest in PSE 6.0, I am offering **special one-off, 2-hour 'walk through' transfer sessions** on the main differences between your previous version and the new version. There is a special price for this of **only £17.00**. 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. This is an unbeatable price for a really interesting session too. Don't hesitate - get in touch.

Combine a short break with five days of digital photography in Somerset, June 2008

Thinking about a break in early summer? Then consider this 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. A day's out accompanied photoshoot is also planned. Good food, good accommodation, a varied and interesting day and evening programme of events, plus the enjoyment of interesting company. This is a brand new course, details of which are available from the centre: www.Ammerdown.org or, if you are interested in receiving a brochure send an email to centre@Ammerdown.org. Alternatively, I can provide you with a copy of the brochure as well as answer most questions that you may have.

Digital Interest Groups

Looking for a group way of getting together to continue developing your interest in digital photography or digital art? Why not join one of my monthly **Interest Groups** and meet in the home of one of the members to share latest images and ideas etc. along with some in context/by request demonstration PSE training. We might arrange some photoshoots too. **Email me your interest**, if you are interested in a daytime or evening Digital Photography or Digital Art Interest Group. Get your name on a list for me to form according to interests and numbers.

FocalPoints and Photoshoots

Check out the special FocalPoints section on my website aimed at photoshoots and which includes new photoshoot images. If you are interested in a photoshoot with me on your own, or with another person, then visit www.digital_photography.talktalk.net (Don't forget the underscore!).

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 this **TRAINING** section. Alternatively, go to the **FREEBIES** section and download the **Training Rates.pdf** to print out.

Exmouth Festival, 2008

Weekend 23rd - 26th May & ending 30th May

The Festival lasts a week this year. During the festival **weekend** in the Wesley Hall, Tower Street, alongside an exhibition of some of my recent images, I shall be offering **drop-in mini-surgeries** to answer questions about digital photography. Also, I will be offering a programme of short, simple **demonstration sessions**, using a computer-linked projector. The other part of my festival work this year, which is very exciting, involves daily briefing sessions for '**Junior Festival Press Photographers**'. These will be 10 - 12 year old participants who also must have access to a digital camera and be accompanied during the photoshoots by an adult. The idea is that these youngsters become a photographer for a day capturing festival images. Where appropriate, special access will be made to get close up to the action etc. It should be great time. Later in the week, a slide show will be publicly shown of a selection of the Press Photographers' work. This will include

images captured by the other group of Press Photographers I will be working with (**Senior Festival Press Photographers**, 16 - 18 year olds). This group will have been shooting the Festival X Factor event. Application forms and full details will be available in due course from the Festival Office. If you know anyone who might like to become a Junior or Senior Festival Press Photographer, please tell them about this opportunity. Please visit the Wesley Hall over the Festival weekend where there will also be some great work on show from Exmouth's Image 8 Photographers.

What's new in digital cameras?

News about digital cameras, software wizardry & the Devon Camera Centre, Exmouth

Live-view LCDs on Digital SLRs to view the image on the LCD before capturing is clearly going to be the 'must have' feature on most, if not all, DSLRs. The new **Nikon D300** is one such camera. This DSLR is getting fantastic reviews. Nikon appear to be mounting quite a challenge for the other camera manufacturers. Whilst the new **Sony A700** DSLR does not offer live-view it is getting good reviews. If you are considering a small compact, then take a look at the **Canon Powershot A650IS**. This is a terrific little camera with 12.1 megapixels, 6X Optical Zoom, offering anti-shake and a swivelling 2.5" LCD. Visit the **LINKS** section on my website and click on **dpreview** for detailed and trusted information about most digital cameras.

Not available yet as it is still under development but there is a new angle involving face recognition software around the corner. Fuji are developing face recognition software that will not only improve the automatic 'point & shoot' capture of group shots but will also enable the camera to identify who has been snapped. This will involve a kind of built-in visual database within the camera, so that when it recognises a face, it will include this in the file information of the picture to enable a quick, search and find, selection for images of named persons (in the camera or when downloaded onto a PC). Apart from its use for better managing photo-collections, the security industry is very interested in this kind of development as it may offer ways to identify people as they are seen on camera. Casio is working on bringing the fastest-shooting camera to the market. Capturing shots at 60fps (frames per second) and movie at 300 fps, this camera will actually record images faster than the human eye! Good for Casino to be working on such a development, for it was Casio, back in 1995 that were the first company to launch a digital compact camera with an LCD screen. Obviously, Casio are still seeking to push boundaries.

By the time you read this newsletter. **Exmouth Devon Camera Centre's revamp** should be underway. It's likely to take about 6-weeks, so none of the special events or new services mentioned in the last newsletter can happen until after then. **Please remember that the Devon Camera Centre is selling at Internet prices. Make Exmouth's Devon Camera Centre your first and only point of call. Support our local digital store - Exmouth and you need it!**

Devon Cameras currently have a great **Winter Photography competition** underway (closing date 5 pm, Thursday 31st January). Simply submit your favourite "Winter in Devon" photo and you could win a Canon 400D DSLR that comes with an 18-55 lens kit. Entries should be a 6" x 8" print and unmounted. You could even get yours printed in the shop, so it's really easy to enter. Don't delay, look out your favourite entry or get out shooting!

Incidentally, www.devoncamera.co.uk is worth checking out for information and downloads. For example, this is where you can find out about and download free updates for Canon camera firmware. Have a look to see if there is an update for your camera.

Available from Devon Cameras is a great little item known as the **Joby GorillaPod**. The legs of this highly flexible and versatile mini-tripod can wrap around all kinds of difficult fixings to secure your camera in place to take that shot that would otherwise be difficult to shoot. GorillaPods come in three sizes; Compact, SLR and SLR Zoom.

NEWSLETTER 4 will be out April 2008