



# 4\_Summer\_08 NEWSLETTER

Digital Photography/Digital Art & Training News

## About the Newsletter

Colour coded: news about Photoshop Elements, news about training, news about digital cameras & digital services.

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## STOP PRESS

Over Whitson the Exmouth Festival is featuring some special opportunities involving digital photography - photographic exhibitions, slide shows, digital surgeries & demos. Also, unique photoshoot opportunities, for those aged between 10-12 & 16-18 years. See pages 1 & 3 of the Festival Guide or [www.exmouthfestival.org.uk](http://www.exmouthfestival.org.uk)

## Photoshop Elements

If your PC is capable of running version 6.0 and with bargain priced copies around, now is a good time to make the change. If you are using a version less than 5.0, you are really missing out on many new features for storing, backing up, editing and printing better images. The latest version's "guided fix" editing option offers step-by-step editing adjustments working on your actual photos - just one really helpful part of version 6.0.

Remember that you can save a lot of money if you buy a copy securely over the Internet from **Amazon Marketplace** ([www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)). Look for **WARREN-M Software**. This is where several of my clients, as well as myself, have purchased our copies of Elements. There is often a choice of new or used copies; both can be registered with Adobe. Support plus a 30-day return guarantee applies to Warren-M purchases. Before upgrading check 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 for your PC.

If you would like my help getting you started, or ease the switch to version 6, I am continuing to offer a specially priced "Elements 6.0 2-hour introductory session" which includes checking your software's settings and preferences etc. - [see Training Opportunities](#).

## Training Opportunities

### Free digital photo surgeries & demo sessions over Whitson Bank Holiday

As part of the Exmouth Festival I am running **drop-in mini-surgeries** to answer questions about digital photography in the Wesley Hall. Also, I will be offering a programme of short, simple **demonstration sessions**, using a computer-linked projector. Please visit me in the Wesley Hall where there will also be some great work on show from Exmouth's Image 8 Photographers.

### Take advantage of the summer weather to brush up your photoshoot techniques

Evening photoshoots have now taken over from those grabbing early morning sunrises and other moody seasonal shots taking advantage of winter light. Focussing on the bluebell season, I have been out and about helping clients visualise and shoot successful images of woodlands. How about giving yourself and your camera a photoshoot opportunity during which time I am on hand to help advise with camera settings etc.? With the help of my TOMTOM SatNav system, I am currently engaged in building up a resource bank of Photoshoot Points of Interest - so if you fancy a local photoshoot subject if I haven't already got it, let me know and I will seek one out! Visit my website to see images captured on local photoshoots.

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

If you are thinking about a break in early summer, then a limited number of places are still available on my **residential course** at the Ammerdown Retreat & Conference Centre, located in idyllic Somerset countryside near Radstock. **You need to be quick to be sure of a place.** The course runs June 16<sup>th</sup> - June 20<sup>th</sup>. It's 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](http://www.ammerdown.org). If you would like further information, I will have some brochures with me over the Exmouth Festival. Alternatively, phone 01761-433709 or email [centre@Ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@Ammerdown.org).

### A special gift of personalised training

If you know someone with a birthday or anniversary coming up, please consider giving a course of my training as a really special and personal gift. Alternatively, ask someone to give a course of training as a present to you! Gift Voucher courses are a doubly special gift; a personal gift made up of a personalised course. I provide a printed and personalised gift voucher, so there is something tangible to give on the special day. As gift voucher courses are paid in advance they attract preferential rates too (see my website).

If you know someone getting a new camera, please suggest that one of my gift vouchers is included in the box to provide help setting the camera up and to get going with it. Alternatively, the voucher could be just to help improve skills or awareness in digital photography. Gift vouchers like this are proving popular. Others have been for personal starter lessons in PSE Elements, next steps types of personal course, and a combination of camera-shoot projects linked with critical appraisal. Managing photos with Elements Organiser has been another idea.

### Travelling laptop service

If it helps, I can bring a laptop running under Microsoft Windows Vista or Windows XP for training use. This really is a bargain service since **I don't charge anything extra for using one of my Laptops (and software)**. 2-person training attracts discounts and can be a nice social way of learning with a like-minded friend. 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 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

For a special price of **only £17.00 a special one-off, 2-hour 'walk through' transfer session** is available covering the main differences between your old version and your new version 6.0. 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.

### Digital Interest Group - DIG

Becoming part of a Digital Interest Group is a great way of getting together to continue developing your interest in digital photography or digital art. Meeting monthly, DIGs meet in the home of one of the members to share latest images and ideas and to receive advice. I work out an agreed programme of events and photographic themes, as well as provide some in context/by request demonstration training. Depending upon the interests of the members of a DIG, some photoshoots can be included too. If you are interested in a daytime or evening Digital Photography or Digital Art Interest Group, email me to get your name on a list for me to form according to interests and numbers.

See the work recently added to the **GALLERY** section of my website arising out of my first Digital Photography Interest Group that is now in its second year.

**My Website** - [www.digital\\_photography.talktalk.net](http://www.digital_photography.talktalk.net) - remember the underscore!

### **The Galleries**

My website continues to be developed. The **GALLERY** section has begun to be reorganised to start with a **FOYER** where you can choose to enter photographic and art rooms according to type of work or your interest. Refurb of the Gallery means that there is new scope to extend the showings as new work is added to the site. I am really pleased that this includes some recent work of my own but also, most importantly, the developing work of my clients. Don't worry; no work has been deleted, so if your work was previously on the site, it's still there but maybe in a different place or viewing area off the **FOYER**. Let me know what you think of the change or about any rooms you would like to see added.

### **FocalPoints**

If you are interested in a photoshoot with me on your own, or with another person, then visit the **FocalPoints** section of the website. Then click on **Photoshoots**. Aimed at providing photoshoot information this also provides an additional route to certain images.

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

Training rates are always available from [www.digital\\_photography.talktalk.net](http://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.

## **What's New in Digital Cameras & Digital Services?**

### **News about digital cameras & the Devon Camera Centre, Exmouth**

Having a "Live-view LCD" on a Digital SLR to view the image before capturing is fast becoming established as one of the 'must have' features on DSLRs. Following on from **Olympus DSLRs**, the **Canon 40D** and the **Nikon D300**, there is now a new, upgraded, **Canon 450D** and new **Sony's** like the **alpha 350** each offering Live-view. The Sony's even slides and tilts. If you are interested in the **Sony a350**, then get down to the Devon Camera Centre where there is a brilliant electronic feature running 24/7 in the shop window. Also, on offer, is the **Sony H9** "bridge camera" (a cross breed between a compact & DSLR). Featuring a massive 15x Optical Zoom (31mm - 465mm lens), image stabilizer & remote control, at an excellent price, this could be the camera for you. Visit the **LINKS** section of my website and click on **dpreview** for detailed and trusted information about most of the digital cameras that you may be interested in buying.

Exmouth Devon Camera Centre's refurb is now complete. Offering better customer accommodation, more space to browse and more products stocked. If you haven't already done so, check it out! Nikon users will find a new Nikon area featuring cameras and lenses. There are more Canon products too. Next week, a new 24" (A2) printer is being installed to introduce large printing in store including onto canvas. **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 Camera's Winter Photography competition was won by Sheila Haycox, Secretary of the Exmouth Photo Group and nicely meant that from across Devon, Exmouth grabbed the first prize of a Canon 400D.

Check out [www.devoncamera.co.uk](http://www.devoncamera.co.uk) for information and downloads. This is where you can find out about and download free updates for camera firmware etc. Have a look to see if there is an update for your camera.

Congratulations to Lesley Weeks, one of my ex-ACL students & now a DIG client. Voted by Express & Echo Readers, a photo by Lesley has won a page in the Hospicecare Calendar for 2009 - for the 2nd year running!

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**NEWSLETTER 5** will be out October 2008