



5_Autumn_08 NEWSLETTER

Digital Photography/Digital Art & Training News

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

Photoshop Elements

A new version 7 of Elements has recently been launched. This is a very nice and relatively easy program to use, although it only offers a few additional features to version 6. There are some issues to be aware of; the recommended processor (microchip) for your PC or PC Notebook (laptop) should be **2GHz or faster** and the RAM (memory) should be **1GB**. However, if you are running Windows Vista then you really should be running at least 2GB of RAM (if not 4GB), so RAM won't be too much of a problem. In questioning the processor specification with Adobe technical experts before Adobe had released its new version, advice from Adobe in the UK was that whilst the software engineers had designed it for the recommended system requirements they thought that it should be fine with less powerful processors (especially if they are Dual Core/Core 2 Duo Processors) but some features may be a little slow to respond. This looks to be sound advice, as my copy of version 7 seems happy enough to work on a dual core 1.8GHz processor. I have yet to test it out on more or less powerful processors.

So what do I recommend? Well if you are still using any earlier version than version 6, and your PC will run version 7, then make the switch. If the specifications of your PC (processor or RAM) mean that it can't run it **but** will run version 6, then now is the time to buy a copy of version 6 as it won't be around for much longer. If you are **not** using version 6, you are missing out on many new features for storing, backing up, editing and printing better images. Also, the easy use of both versions 6 & 7's "guided fix" editing option provides really useful step-by-step editing adjustments used whilst working on your actual photos. The look, design and feel of 7 is very similar to version 6, which was a major improvement on version 4 or 5.

If you are upgrading to Elements 7 from any other version, then you can buy an Upgrade Version of 7 from Amazon.co.uk and save some money but you will need your software's serial number to be able to install an upgrade. However, you can save a lot of money on version 6, or some savings on version 7, if you buy a copy securely over the Internet from **Amazon Marketplace** (www.amazon.co.uk). Look for **WARREN-M Software**. This is where several of my clients, as well as myself, have purchased copies of Elements. Listed 'used as new' copies, this 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. Incidentally, you can download a time-limited, free trial version of 7, from the Adobe website. If you do this, I recommend that you uninstall it before you install any copy that you later purchase. If you would like my help getting you started, or ease the switch to version 6 or 7, then take advantage of my specially priced "Elements 6 or 7, 2-hour introductory session" which includes checking your software's settings and preferences etc. All that costs is £20!

Training Opportunities

A unique & special gift for Christmas

Christmas is coming! 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 Christmas day.

Importantly, as gift voucher courses are paid in advance they attract preferential rates too (see my website). If you would like a brochure, then email me and I will get you one or if you are near Exmouth Library, Devon Cameras, Exmouth Photo Services, pick one up there. This is a really great opportunity to tailor your learning needs and buy this from me benefiting from a great range of discounted prices.

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 getting going with it. Alternatively, the voucher could be just to help improve skills or awareness in digital photography. Some of the other popular options last Christmas was short demonstration sessions when I take along a PC Notebook and/or a camera.

If Christmas brings a new digital camera, then maybe learning to use it on accompanied photoshoots appeals?

Please remember that my training service includes photoshoot opportunities during which time I am on hand to help advise with camera settings and composition etc.? With the help of my TOMTOM SatNav system, I am continuing to build up a resource bank of Photoshoots - so if you fancy a local photoshoot subject, if I haven't already got it, I will seek one out! My website includes client's images captured on local photoshoots.

FREE digital photo surgeries & demo sessions in the New Year

It has just been agreed that I will be in the Devon Camera Centre early in the New Year offering **drop-in mini-surgeries** involving digital photography. Once dates, times and details are confirmed, I will email you to let you know more, although there will also be information available from the shop. This is a new venture, which it is hoped will benefit my training business whilst promoting and possibly demonstrating some of Devon Camera's products and services. So take the time to drop in!

Combine a short break with five days of digital photography in Somerset, June 2009

Last year's residential course received 100% excellent feedback and as a result, the centre is offering two courses for 2009. Booking has recently opened for my **residential course** at the Ammerdown Retreat & Conference Centre, located in idyllic Somerset countryside near Radstock. **"Taking Better Pictures With Your Digital Camera"** runs Monday June 15th - Friday June 19th. Aimed at learning how to make more use of a digital camera through introductory sessions that are followed by photoshoots around the really beautiful and picturesque grounds of Ammerdown Park (which boasts its own stately home). A half-day out, accompanied photoshoot is also planned - in 2008 we went to Wells. This course really does combine good food and good accommodation with an interesting programme of events, plus the enjoyment of interesting company. Last year was just a joy with everyone getting on so well together enjoying seeing the images that were being shot each day. Ammerdown also welcomes private guests whilst a partner is enjoying their course, so like some people did last year, you could book your partner in who would join us at meals and breaks etc. Alternatively, whilst my course is running, a Watercolour Painting course is also being offered. The Brochure with booking forms is available from the centre: www.ammerdown.org Alternatively, phone 01761-433709 or email centre@Ammerdown.org.

A weekend opportunity in March to improve your digital photography using editing software

This brand new venture for 2009 is the second of my courses available at the Ammerdown Centre. All the contact details are the same as for the week's course, along with many of the benefits of getting away to a lovely place albeit, very early spring and for just a weekend. This course runs from Friday evening 13th March to after tea on Sunday. It's aimed at those who enjoy taking digital photographs and want to improve their images by learning to use and get more out of Adobe Photoshop Elements. At the end of the weekend, the course should have helped build confidence to use and explore the software on your own (with accompanying handouts and Step By Step checklists etc). It won't involve taking photos but instead will concentrate on using Elements version 6 or 7 on PC Notebooks (laptops) which can be your own or one of mine. Again, if you wanted to book in a private guest to just enjoy some peaceful time at Ammerdown or pursue another course over the same weekend, this would be very welcome. Incidentally, both of my courses would combine very well, so you might consider booking a place for both March & June!

Illustrated Talks and Demonstrations

If you know or belong to an organisation that uses after lunch/dinner speakers or arranges a programme of events, around guest speakers, then please consider recommending hiring me! I now can offer illustrated talks based upon digital photography/digital slideshows during which I make use of a digital projector that I bring with me. Good value and good entertainment!

And finally on training, reminders about: -

- **Travelling laptop service** is when I bring a laptop for training use - I don't charge anything extra for using one of my Laptops (and software).
- **2-person training** with a like-minded friend - all that is needed, is a large enough kitchen or dining room table to sit around with 2 laptops. Speak to a friend so that you can get started or alternatively, get your name on my list to put people in touch to form a 2-person training group.
- **Digital Interest Group: DIG** - becoming part of a Digital Interest Group is an informal way of getting together to continue developing your interest in digital photography. Meeting monthly, DIGs meet in the home of one of the members to share latest images and ideas and to receive advice. With an agreed programme of photographic themes, I provide some in context/by request demonstration training including using a digital projector. Photoshoots can be included too. If you are interested in a daytime or evening Digital Photography Interest Group, email me to get your name on a list for me to form according to interests and numbers. The ideal number for a DIG is 6 persons.
- **www.digital_photography.talktalk.net** - remember the underscore! The **FOYER** is where you can choose to enter photographic and art areas according to type of work or your interest. This includes showcasing some recent work of my own and my clients. The **FocalPoints** section is the place to visit if you are interested in a photoshoot with me on your own, or with another person. This also provides an additional route to photoshoot images.
- **Training rates** are always available from www.digital_photography.talktalk.net >Training>training rates. Alternatively, to have a print out, click on the **FREEBIES** section and download the **Training Rates.pdf**

What's New in Digital Cameras & Digital Services?

News about digital cameras & the Devon Camera Centre (DCC), Exmouth

We may have a credit crunch but the number of new cameras coming on the market has continued at a pace. The impressive **Canon 40D** is still available but the **Canon 50D** is its eventual replacement. With more features than the 40D & a higher resolution LCD, it's a good camera to consider if you want a faster and bigger sized DSLR than the **Canon 450D**. There is also a choice now between the **450D and 1000D**. **Sony's alpha 350** continues to offer very good value for money and its slide & tilt 2.7" LCD (with live view) is still pretty much unique (remember Sony DSLRs benefit from Minolta's engineering). Sony has a cashback deal until 31/12/08. Nikon cameras continue to offer great products and value for money. Their **D300** is very highly regarded & there are offers on the outgoing **D80**, now replaced by the **D90**. Regarding compact cameras, at present, the purchase of a Nikon Coolpix, along with a digital photoframe of your choice, gives a £50 cashback as payment in full or towards the digiframe. Canon, Nikon, Olympus, Fuji and Sony all has new compacts out. The **Canon G10** has received rave reviews. Its previous model, the **G9** is available for £299.99 in DCC. Models offering 18x or 20x optical zoom are common. DCC has an offer on the **Nikon P-80** compact 18x zoom, 10MP for £249. 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. Along with the refurbished DCC customer accommodation and the extension to services and display items, comes the opportunity to run in-store events. My own surgeries and demos have already been covered above. **LowPro** should be in the DCC all day on **Dec 20th** showing their Giottos range of tripods & other LowPro products (tel. 275016 to confirm). **The Devon Camera Centre sells 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!**

NEWSLETTER 6 will be out during Spring 2009