



6_Summer_09 NEWSLETTER

Digital Photography/Digital Art & Training News

• News about Photoshop Elements • News about training • News about digital cameras & local digital services.

Photoshop Elements 7

Lots of my clients are now using this version and all report that they like it. I certainly do. If you have version 6 it only offers a few additional features but you may consider that some of these are well worth having, not least of all for the Guided Edit option where you learn as you edit and apply some new special techniques to your photos. It's also a great solution if you ever struggle with finding or backing up your photographs. Although storing a very large number of photos on a PC's hard drive is not to be recommended, my main PC Notebook has nearly 8,000 photos on it. However, at the click of the mouse button, in less than 1 second, Elements will find and display any of these photos. This is just wonderful and amazingly quick & easy. Also, of course, I can very easily add to my catalogued collection at anytime, again only taking seconds, or I can move photos to CD/DVD or back them up onto another (external) hard disk drive.

If you are interested in upgrading to version 7 of Elements there are some issues to be aware of concerning the recommended processor (microchip) for your PC and the amount of RAM (memory) required. See Newsletter 5 for the full details. Also included are details of a recommended seller on Amazon Marketplace where you can buy the software for a substantial saving. If you no longer have Newsletter 5 you can read it (as all previous edition of Newsletters) on my website. If you like shooting RAW files then visit www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftpID=4365 to find the download version of Adobe Camera RAW for Elements. From this page for **Camera Raw 5.3**, you will find how to identify the full list of cameras supported, as well as information about other versions of Camera Raw to use with Elements 3, 4 or 5.

Training Opportunities

FREE digital photo surgeries & demo sessions at the Exmouth Festival

Once again, over the **Whitson Bank Holiday weekend**, as part of the Exmouth Festival I will be exhibiting my own photos in the Wesley Hall as part of the **Image 8 & Guests Photographic Exhibition**. This year part of my approach is to show some 'before & after' prints alongside my exhibition work. Also, I am showing photo-calendars. This will all be taking place in my own room off to the back of the Hall where my digital projector, will also be projecting images. I will also be available for **drop-in photo surgeries and demonstrations** aimed at sharing hints and tips about improving digital photos. For full details, see the Festival Programme (last but one page). So, when you visit the festival, please take the time to drop in. It will be lovely to see you! Refreshments will be available in the Wesley Hall, along with the Exmouth Ceramic Group's Exhibition.

Telephone Tutoring

Now you can telephone me for help and training without feeling guilty. At the suggestion of some of my clients, I now offer a Telephone Tutoring & Help Service for those people who have had some previous training with me **and** have Elements 6 or 7 on their PC. Very reasonably priced, you pay me an advance amount and then top that up when necessary. Several clients have used this service already. It's also proved useful for ensuring that Elements is correctly installed and set up, for tweaking various preferences to make it work better. Also, for specific training, brushing up on some part of the software, or learning a new skill or particular feature of Elements 6 or 7. We can even arrange to have the same image open on our PCs, as we work step by step.

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

There are only a few places left on next month's residential course. Last year the course received 100% "excellent" evaluations. "Taking Better Pictures With Your Digital Camera" runs **Monday June 15th - Friday June 19th** at the **Ammerdown Retreat & Conference Centre**, located in idyllic Somerset countryside near Radstock. It's 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. New for this year, if it rains a lot, we will make use of my professional lighting kit for indoor work. 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 and enjoying viewing 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 me, or the centre: www.ammerdown.org Alternatively, phone **01761-433709** or email centre@Ammerdown.org. This course represents excellent value for money - it really is an unrivalled price!

Accompanied photoshoots

My training service includes accompanied photoshoot opportunities during which time I am on hand to help advise with camera settings, techniques and composition. My TOMTOM SatNav system now has quite a resource bank of Photoshoot locations but if you fancy a local photoshoot subject that I haven't already identified, I will seek one out! My website includes client's images captured on local photoshoots.

Illustrated Talks and Demonstrations

If you know of, or belong to, a club or organisation that uses after lunch/dinner speakers or arranges a programme of events with guest speakers, then please consider recommending hiring me! I offer illustrated talks based upon digital photography with digital slideshows making use of a digital projector that I bring with me. Good value, good entertainment and good ideas for those who enjoy digital photography!

And finally, some training reminders about: -

- **Travelling laptop service** is when I bring a laptop with me 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 session.
- **Digital Interest Group: DIG** - becoming part of a **Digital Interest Group** for a modest membership fee 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 using a digital projector. Photoshoots are included too. If you are interested in a daytime or an evening DIG, email me to get your name on a list to form according to interests and numbers. The ideal number for a DIG is 6 persons. My first DIG has an exhibition booked for April 2010 at A la Ronde
- www.digital_photography.talktalk.net - remember the underscore! The **FOYER** is where you can choose to enter photographic and creative digital 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. At present developments are in hand for an online slideshow, and additional showcasing photos. Checkout **FREEBIES** and **LINKS** too.

What's New in Digital Cameras & Digital Services?

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

A number of new cameras have come on the market since the last Newsletter. In the Devon Camera Centre you can see two of the very latest new Digital SLRs (DSLR). Fresh in, is the **Canon 500D** which is the replacement for the Canon 450D (the 5th generation of this camera since it was introduced as the 300D in 2003). This model boasts more pixels, up from 12 MP to 15.1 MP, and its 3" LCD screen is now high resolution for better viewing of the photos that you are about to shoot (using Live LCD View) or have shot. The LCD has dual anti-reflection and 7 brightness levels. With several tweaks to its specification, this camera is driven by Canon's Digic 4 processor (another improvement). In many ways the 500D benefits from the features of its more expensive and larger big brother, the **50D**. As this camera is aimed at those interested in moving up to a DSLR, one of its new features includes Optional Face Detection and, brand new for a Canon SLR, a movie mode that captures video recordings at 1080p (the same high definition quality as the top HD resolution of HD Ready Flat Screen TVs). If you have one of the earlier generations of the 500D and have purchased some additional or upgraded lenses, you might consider that this is the time to upgrade.

Sony's alpha 350 with its slide & tilt 2.7" LCD (with live view) probably has a fight on its hand with a brand new model recently launched from Nikon, the **Nikon D5000**. In the same way as Canon migrates some top end features down to their more affordable models; Nikon has included some of its **Nikon D90** features onto the D5000. 11 auto-focus points are included and it also has a movie mode but unlike Canon's 500D, this is not 1080p but 720p (the standard definition of HD ready TVs), so this may not bother many people. The real innovation for Nikon is the tilt and swivel 2.7" LCD that has obvious benefits if you want to view and frame what you are shooting through the LCD or may be shooting from a position not suited to looking through the viewfinder and lens. It's a pity that Nikon have chosen not to give the D5000 LCD the higher resolution of their D90 but like Canon, Nikon have chosen to make this camera attractive to those moving up to a DSLR by adding to the number of scene modes and providing some in-camera retouching. As a 12.9 MP DSLR, it's well worth checking out this camera. The Sony is still a great camera to consider; as its Live View is different from other Live View DSLRs. Sony's approach uses a second, smaller, sensor mounted in the viewfinder tunnel to make it fast. There is also an **Olympus E-620** to compare. This camera's side mounted, flip out, tilt and swivel LCD, is probably more flexible than that offered by either the Sony or the Nikon.

Canon's **G10** 'bridge-type camera' continues to do very well. There is great news if you have already bought Canon's new 20x Optical Super Zoom, 10 MP, **PowerShot SX IS**. Canon has issued a new FOC firmware (downloadable) software upgrade that adds the option of RAW shooting. This is an excellent development. If you don't fancy a DSLR but like the idea of a 2.8" widescreen tilt and swivel LCD and want to benefit from the massive, built in, 20X SuperZoom (for shooting close-up distant subjects) as well as a camera driven by Canon's latest Digic 4 processor, then the SX IS is a must to check out! This model also features 1080p HD movie recording and has a CMOS sensor (as used in DSLRs). For a cheaper alternative, if the movie feature, CMOS sensor, RAW shooting or a very slightly smaller, 2.5" LCD screen, are not important for you, then check out the **PowerShot SX 10 IS**, which is otherwise very similar. Hurry though, as until **3rd June**, **Canon is offering £50 cashback** on these and some other PowerShot Compact Cameras.

For more detailed information about these and many other cameras, visit **LINKS** on my website where you can go directly to a very good and detailed source of camera tests and reviews.

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 7 will be out during Autumn 2009