



9_Spring_11 NEWSLETTER

[Digital Photography/Digital Art & Training News](#)

• [News about Photoshop Elements](#) • [News about training](#) • [News about digital cameras & local digital services.](#)

[Software News](#)

[Photoshop Elements 9](#)

There is nothing to add to what I reported previously about PSE 9 except to say that its price has dropped to around £50, which is a good saving. I recommend buying it online from Amazon.co.uk.

PSE 9 comes on a CD with Windows PC and Apple Macintosh computer versions. Apple users now have the Organiser included. PSE 9's new additional features includes **Layer Masks** which can revolutionise image-editing work. This feature, for some, has made Elements 9 an essential purchase. However, if you have any version from 6 to 8, a third-party download is available to provide this massively useful feature. (For more details contact me)

If you are not using a version that includes the choice of **Guided Photo Edit**, **Quick Photo Edit** and **Full Photo Edit**, you are greatly limiting your use of Elements. PSE 9's Guided Photo Edit includes a wide choice of semi-automatic ways to edit and improve photos. For example, the Photomerge modes include Photomerge Exposure; Photomerge Style Match; Photomerge Groups and Photomerge Panorama. Each of these is great. Fun Edits which includes Out of Bounds, Pop Art, and Reflection, are really, really good features too. See **Newsletter Edition 8** for more on Elements 9 including some useful Adobe Internet links about PSE.

If you fancy the latest new features, and want to move to PSE 9, follow this link to make sure that your computer is able to handle it: -

<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelwin/systemreqs/>

If you would like some introductory training or some specific help for getting the best out of any version of Elements, please contact me. Given a little boost of training, you could soon be expertly using Elements to improve and manage your photos whilst discovering new ways to enjoy and share the photos you capture.

[Course News](#)

[FLASH, BANG, WALLOP...what a picture!](#)

With finances being tricky these days, it's difficult to fill courses. This March, my weekend course had to be cancelled due to low numbers. The first time ANY course of mine has not run! Currently, my **June residential course at the Ammerdown Centre** near Bath has places available. If you would like to enrol for a very good five-day photography course in a most wonderful location, with all your creature comforts provided for, there is still time to do so. The course is suitable for complete beginners and for those who are more familiar with their camera but want to learn more about it. Maybe you could pass details to someone for me about this course? Follow these links for more information: -

http://www.digital_photography.talktalk.net/residential2.html

<http://ammerdown.org/FlashBangWallop...WhatAPicture.htm>

Photoshoot Workshop at the National Trust, A la Ronde

A very special new event for those living or holidaying in Devon is a **one-day photoshoot workshop in July at A la Ronde**. For anyone who does not know it, this location on the edge of Exmouth is unique and fascinating. This is a great opportunity to be involved in a photoshoot workshop and enjoy shooting photos inside, as well as outdoors in the interesting grounds of this eccentric 16 sided-house. Follow these links to get more information or send me an email to request a brochure.

http://www.digital_photography.talktalk.net/oneDay.html

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-alaronde>

AUTUMN PHOTO TIME AT AMMERDOWN – a unique opportunity

Another first, last year's creative photography course at Ammerdown was most successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all. As a result, it is **being offered again for 2011**. Distinguishing it from my other courses, this one provides some concentrated time on developing a creative and personal approach to photography. This course could also be attractive to those working in a variety of art forms to change what's possible in art. For more information follow these links: -

http://www.digital_photography.talktalk.net/residential3.html

<http://www.ammerdown.org/AutumnPhotoTimeAtAmmersdown.htm>

Personalised Training

My thanks for support goes to all my current clients as well as to those who have previously taken up a course of training with me. To everyone reading this Newsletter, especially for the first time, I would like to point out that I offer a wide range of training opportunities, **all of which are tailored individually to match the client's needs**. **My courses provide very good value for money**. Visit my website to see what is on offer but in the meanwhile, these are some popular forms of training: -

- ❖ **Gift Vouchers** given as presents, sometimes given with the gift of a new camera
- ❖ **One to one training** in the use of a digital camera or Photoshop Elements
- ❖ **Top up training** as a refresher or to help with specific parts of Photoshop Elements, or camera functions
- ❖ **Telephone Tutoring** used by those clients who live further away or those locally who want to be able to call on me for help when they encounter difficulties or need some particular help. Telephone Tutoring includes the use of free software to quickly see and share files.
- ❖ **Accompanied photoshoots** learning about using a camera on an photoshoot with me on hand to help advise with camera settings, techniques and composition
- ❖ **Putting photos into AVs (slide shows)** to share with families and friends

Special training options include: -

- ❖ **A travelling laptop service** 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 to cut the cost of training - all that's needed is a large enough kitchen or dining room table to sit around with 2 laptops.

Digital Interest Groups (DIGs)

Becoming part of a **D**igital **I**nterest **G**roup for a modest membership fee is a cost effective and informal way of getting together to continue developing your interest in digital photography. Meeting bimonthly DIGs meet in the home of one of the members to share latest images, ideas and to receive advice. With an agreed programme, I provide some in context/by request demonstration training using a digital projector. Photoshoots are included too. If you are interested in joining or forming a daytime or evening DIG, speak to other interested acquaintances. Email me your name(s). I need about 5 or 6 people to form a DIG.

Talks & Demonstrations

Armed with a PC Notebook (laptop), screen, projector and a carefully chosen set of images, for a very modest fee, I provide personalised illustrated talks & demonstrations about digital photography to clubs, societies & other organisations. Recent examples have been to Gardening Clubs and Probus Groups aimed at their membership making the most of digital photography. My presentations range from how to shoot successful photography through to examples of what to do with photos including their use in audiovisual slideshows. Please pass my contact details on to anyone or any organisation that you know whose members might be interested in a talk or demonstration. (Thanks)

My Website

In addition to providing information about all the different kinds of training I can offer, and the galleries showcasing my own, students' and clients' photos, my website has some good links to follow. Use this link to see what's available: -

http://www.digital_photography.talktalk.net/index.html

Exmouth Festival 2011

Drop-in digital photo surgery

Fast approaching for those readers living near Exmouth, Devon, is the opportunity to take advantage of my free of charge, drop-in sessions, at the Exmouth Festival. During the holiday weekend 27th - 30th May, as usual, I will be in the Wesley Hall, Tower Street, answering questions about digital photography and demonstrating Elements. Follow this link to download the Festival Programme and plan your drop-in time.

<http://www.exmouthfestival.org.uk/>

Young Photographers (8 - 15 years)

If you know someone aged 8 - 15 years who enjoys taking digital photos, then through the festival I am running a great project; giving the opportunity to be an official festival photographer. This year it is being sponsored by **FULJIFILM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EXMOUTH PHOTO SERVICES**. Follow this link: -



<http://www.exmouthfestival.org.uk/> or for an application form, email: Chris@exmouthfestival.org.uk

Digital Cameras News

News about digital cameras & the DEVON CAMERA CENTRE (DCC), Exmouth

Nikon, Canon, Panasonic, Sony and the other camera manufacturers continue to bring out new cameras. Canon has recently launched their replacement mid-range DSLR camera with the **EOS 600D**. Brimming full with 18 megapixels, for the first time, this model has a fully articulated (swivelling) 3" LCD. This LCD design has been introduced, Canon say, to improve the camera's use for capturing Full HD Movies. I reckon it is a significant feature for other uses too - macro shooting and live view being obvious examples.

Nikon have just released their mid range rival to the Canon, the 16 megapixel **D5100**, which also has a similar type of LCD. This time Nikon have hinged it from the side of their camera (like Canon) rather than as the model it replaces, the D5000, which had it attached from the bottom back of the camera. A definite improvement but of course the D5100 also offers better technical specifications improving the quality of the photos (or movies) that it captures.

Panasonic have upgraded their much-acclaimed **G2/GH series** of their smaller sized 4/3rds DSLRs and Panasonic's reputation for excellence marches on.

Now a plug for the **Interchangeable Lens Camera** that I purchased for myself! This is the fantastic **Sony alpha 55 (a55)**. The 18-55mm SAM kits lens that comes with it provides superb image quality for capturing anything from wide(ish) angle shots, down to close ups that are almost macro close-ups. All Sony's have SteadyShot image stabilisation built in to the body of the camera, rather than image stabilisation in the lens. Apart from making the lenses cheaper as you don't need image-stabilised lenses, I am finding Sony's body-stabilisation very reliable. Scarily so, for used with the other lens that I purchased, a Sigma 70-300mm APO DG Macro, it never ceases to amaze me how I can shoot close up or distant shoots often without the need for a tripod. The really stunning feature of the Sony a55 is its inventive use of a static, translucent mirror that unlike the moving mirrors on traditional DSLRs it stays in position all the time, allowing the image to be captured through it. This has several benefits but the three that I rate most of all are the constant live viewing with fast live auto-focus, the fast frames per second speed (10 fps) that the camera can operate for shooting bursts and the camera's smaller size and lighter weight that this technology brings about. The a55 has a slightly cheaper sister camera, the **a33** which is well worth considering. I chose the a55 due to its faster frame rate, slightly longer lasting battery life between charges and for its additional megapixels (16.2 mp compared with 14.2 mp). Both models represent exceptionally good value for money across the Sony range, as well as compared with the other main manufacturers.

It is important to bear in mind that if you already own a DSLR made by another manufacturer, unless you want to start again with buying new lenses, changing from one camera manufacturer to another is expensive. Canon-fit lenses, for example, won't fit a Nikon or Sony etc. However, if you have been holding back on moving up to a DSLR, now is a great time to make such a move. But don't take my word for it, just call in to the DCC and check out all the new models! This is worth doing as there are entry-level DSLRs below the models mentioned by me e.g. **Canon EOS 1100D/Nikon D3100** which are excellent value for money too. There are also DSLRs above the mid range level including full frame DSLRs. DCC, whose prices are always competitive, will be able to advise you on any camera to match your budget with your needs.

On the matter of budgets and models to suit needs, **Compact Cameras, Bridge Cameras and Super Zoom Cameras** may be what you would prefer? There is a great choice available. Super Zoom cameras continue to offer amazing zoom ranges. I tried out, and really like, the **Canon SX30** with its massive 35x optical zoom. This ranges from wide-angle views, down to a zero focussing distance when used at its macro end! **Travel Zooms** (smaller, compact-sized, cameras) continue to grow in popularity. These feature a conveniently sized camera for holidays that have higher optical zooms than the standard 3x, 4x or 5x optical zoom. The Canon **G12** Bridge Camera, with swivelling LCD, launched at the time of the Autumn Newsletter, is now available.

Camera manufacturers often have cash back offers. DCC will be only too pleased to inform you about these. Currently, Canon is offering cash back on selected models including the **EOS 550D** DSLR. DCC have their own offers too and if you are looking for an underwater camera that is also excellent for keen walkers, then check out their offer on the underwater Compact Camera **Fuji XP 30**. This 14 megapixel camera is waterproof to 5 metres, has a 5x optical zoom, is shockproof to heights of 1.5 metres, freeze proof to -10°C, dustproof and has GPS built in. You get a whole lot of camera for your money. Another good offer to check out is the **Nikon Coolpix P300**. This conveniently sized 12 megapixel camera has a 3" LCD, 4x optical zoom with a wide angle lens that can particularly well cope with low-light shooting conditions.

If you haven't yet bought yourself a high class, lightweight tripod, check DCC's offers on Velbon carbon fibre tripods.

Want to know more? Visit the Devon Camera Centre where they sell at Internet prices. Make Exmouth's Devon Camera Centre your first and only point of call. Support your local camera shop.

NEWSLETTER 10 will be out during summer 2011