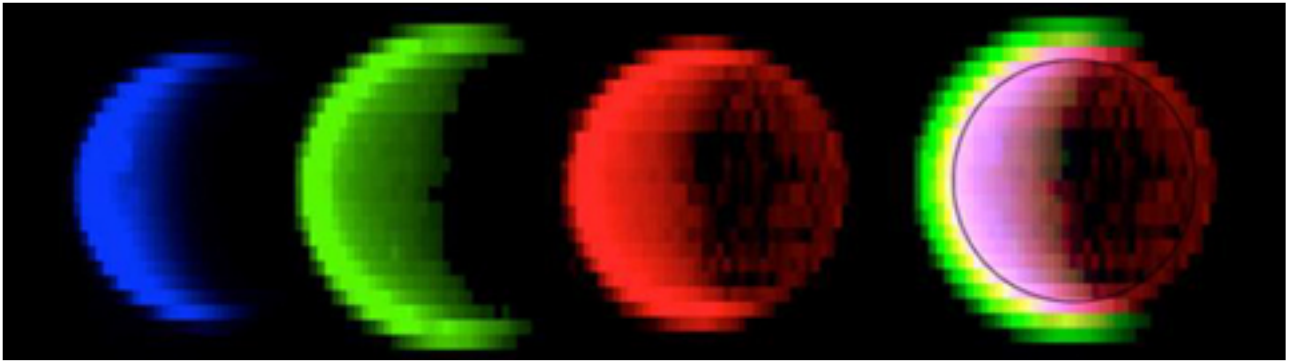


Digital Resource Development Team
MAY 2006



HI ALL,

MAY...

(strongly resisting the temptation to add "force" anywhere into the sentence).

SPRINGTIME...

(strongly resisting the temptation to sing whilst thinking of jackboots).

I'm guessing by all the daffies 'n' stuff that mother nature's trying to tell us to watch out closely for our two days of summer which, like our three days of spring, will no doubt scheduled sometime mid-week just before I take any holidays. Still I'm sure the midgies will manage to breed vigorously. Oh yes, guess who's stuck in a grim office whilst the sun's shining on the glad to be unwashed and unemployed.

CH, CH, CH, CHANGES

You're favourite website is



currently undertaking a bit of a change but, with a bit of luck, the only real change you'll notice is an increase in ease of adding or editing material. As mentioned in our last newsletter we're moving away from using Mambo as our favoured content management system and switching to Website Baker.



Images on this page from the US Fisheries & Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

I'm sure a few of you will have heard us singing its praises in the past and, in fact, we've helped set up a few of our partners' websites and internal displays using this very system. Just like Mambo it's free but it's also easier to use and can be instantly set up without tables.

WHAT IS HE DOING WITH THOSE CANDLESTICKS?

Where did the Challenge Fund go to this time?

Congratulations to the following: LMA will soon have a temporary part-time digitizer/tutor to help with the continuation of the Remember When site; Crawford Arts Centre has gained the equipment necessary to add and display a crucial digital element to accompany a touring exhibition; the Scottish Fisheries Museum will soon have the ability to fully exploit their huge photographic archive.

For those who were unlucky this time and for those who'd like to apply our next deadline

is the 17th of July. It should go without saying but feel free to contact us (the project officers) with any enquiries you may have about the Challenge Fund. Our advice is impartial – we don't make the decisions we just want your application to have the best chance possible.

ROLLING, ROLLING, ROLLING...

Get those doggies...

Our touring exhibition is really beginning to come together – we're forecasting a launch early next year and have a number of partners helping piece it together. It even has working title, "Through the eye of a needle".

Think you can do better? Any further offers of samplers for potential inclusion out there? Drop us an email or better still send us an image and any relevant text and we'll include it on the forthcoming touring exhibition website regardless of whether it'll be a feature of the tour or not. We're offering training on all the digital aspects of the exhibition to any of our partners and, thanks Victoria and Mary, the Regional Museums Training Development Project project are hoping to offer specific training on the organisation of touring exhibitions from a non-digital perspective.

Details, including those of the accompanying web-site, very, very soon.

SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE

We got our toys! Huge, huge smiles on both of our faces. We've pieced together yet another extra-value for money system to run audio/visual editing and image manipulation software.



To accompany this there's an external video capture device that will allow you to capture then edit analogue video too. Should you want to shoot brand new footage we've acquired a top-notch high definition digital video camera and for those of you interested in digital stills photography - particularly for panoramas – there's a



beautiful Canon SLR complete with a fisheye lens. Stunning results almost guaranteed.

On that note we're just about to purchase some high-end panorama creation software with the ability to add hotspots to your panoramas – something that was fiendishly tricky using the free panorama software we've been assessing for you.

TOP SITE

Sometimes it's handy to know stuff... We reckon Wikipedia's as good a place as any to start.

<http://www.wikipedia.org>. Information about most things imaginable. Can't find what you're looking for then find out from elsewhere, return to Wikipedia and add the information yourself for the planet (and others?) to see. Don't like the information you find there or spot some mistakes then edit the information yourself. Of course this does lead to numerous, some well publicised, cases of misinformation but the truth is out there and there's a lot more of it than fiction.

THIS MONTH'S SOFTWARE FAVOURITE

We've been accused of constantly harping on about metadata (data about data) and the ability to include this within various files, especially

image files. One of the best pieces of software for doing this in Windows is PixVue and it's free. For more detailed information try <http://www.pixvue.com>. For instance it'll allow you to add searchable (from the normal Windows Search tool) keywords, notes and copyright information into any Tiff or Jpeg file.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHAT ARE PHP AND MYSQL?

PHP (PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor) is an open source, server-side programming language which is used for dynamic web content. PHP files (you'll see them appearing in the form of a document with the .php

Top notch cameras pix from NASA, the US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and the 1960s



extension - such as our contact URL below) sit on a web server until they are accessed by a web browser. They then run through the code performing any pre-programmed tasks then

output the relevant web page. This allows for a huge amount of versatility, functionality and interactivity on a given web page. Many Content Management Systems use PHP including both EzPublish and Website Baker.

MySQL (MySQL: Structured Query Language) is a server-side database component. It is free software made available under the GNU General Public License. MySQL is used to create, modify, retrieve and manipulate data from an object-relational database management system. Basically, MySQL is a system for managing data on a web server that can be used by server side programming languages such as PHP. Many Content Management Systems use MySQL to dynamically store information for easy retrieval.



If we've confused you too much or you'd just like to shout at us anyway our contact details are only a click away:

<http://www.digitalimages.org/wb/pages/contacts.php>.



We're off... burning rubber for your amusement.

PHP - Beware the Flying Teapot!

