

# Digital Resource Development Team JULY 2006



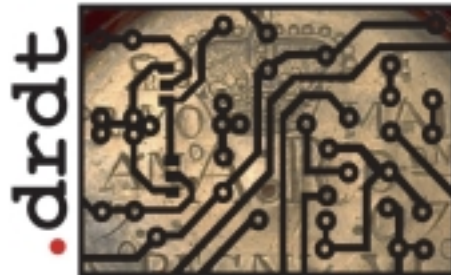
HI ALL,

All the groaning about shivering my shoulders off and finally the heat of a thousand volcanoes and the stench of gallons of sun oil. I even hear reports of topless bathing in Portobello – not the cleanest waters around the British Isles I'm sure – and who wants to see a bunch of perfectly sculptured men frolicking in the sun anyway? At least there's thick fog in Dunbar to diminish the chance of a repeat exposure here.

## WHAT'S BOOTSY DOIN'?

In this small snapshot of a digital mage's life we thought we'd concentrate almost the entire issue on what some of the successful applicants to our Challenge Fund have been getting up to and what we've actually be doing out in the field. {And no, please don't cue up any Gary Moore... ever! Although, I suppose that should you feel the field was flat I could be persuaded to listen to [Bauhaus](#) – in fact I rarely say no.}

For some, it's taken a little while to purchase equipment either through a shortage of



supply or a change in specifications – more about these projects in the next issue or even on our website should these partners wish to contribute. For others it's been somewhat easier.

Let's start with Remember When or even City of Edinburgh Council as they were the particular partner awarded the minuscule amount of funding applied for. Remember When received an award to cover the purchase of a [WYSIWYG](#) editor for the free content management



system [eZ publish](#) This enabled them to very simply and quickly set up a complicated multi-user website, [www.rememberwhen.org.uk](#) after just a little bit of training using that particular CMS and some basic training on the free, open-source image manipulation package Gimp. More recent work has involved creating panoramas of the Rainbow City exhibition which took place within the City Arts Centre. Interim versions of the panoramas can be seen here. The final version will see them all interlinked with various extra information available for many of the objects on display viewable by clicking on hot-spots... An almost finished example lurks on our own site.

In addition to helping them with these initial panoramas we'll also be showing them the best ways to take more around Edinburgh using some of the equipment we bought as a shared resource for all the project partners. These new panoramas will feature many of the sights highlighted in their LGBT Paths booklet which details walks and sights of interest around Edinburgh.

One big bonus of their first application to the Challenge Fund and their enthusiasm for using their website: a second related application made by Remember When's parent organisation, the [Living Memory Association](#), for funding to enable a temporary position for a person to maintain and update their site whilst digitising many of the exhibition's artefacts.

Digitising exhibitions for posterity can be accomplished in a number of different ways and our work with Remember When didn't stop with stills and panoramas. There were few lights and very little action but we did make a short video to document the exhibition. As before this was entirely made using the pool of equipment available to all our partner organisations. This time we used our lovely wide-screen, high-definition video camera to capture the footage – which even included some basic animation – and our copy of Adobe Premiere Elements to edit it and output the finished version to DVD. Further instruction on using this package will follow as we are going to add some voice overs, change the music and slightly re-edit the footage.

[Linlithgow Union Canal Society](#) are another partner organisation with a successful bid to our Challenge Fund. In return they acquired a PC, scanner, image manipulation and video editing software. The main use for the equipment they bid for was update their existing TV and

VHS based visitor display. Their new visitor display will be much easier for staff to configure and update as well as, very importantly, more interesting to different audiences. The fact that the



Only here coz I love them.

Raleigh Shopper, Stowaway & Twenty.

This was my first. It now looks rather different but retains the lovely basket!

I'm rather fond of Moultons too...

equipment can and will also be used for other tasks such as creating content for the display, digitising and distributing their image collection in conjunction with other administrative tasks such as managing their website or book-keeping was a valuable bonus.



What's the traffic cone all about?

It's the VLC Media Player logo.

No idea why!

WE'VE BOUGHT IT SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO.

In addition to their own equipment they've also had training on some more of the project's shared equipment which they borrowed. We have at our (and your) disposal an external video capturing device which allows the capture of analogue video sources onto almost any Mac or Windows machines with any type of [Firewire](#) card (which only cost about £5 should you require one and have a spare [PCI](#) slot in your PC). This capturing device has allowed LUCS to capture then re-edit some VHS presentations which will soon be used within their visitor display and for various outreach work. The device is really simple to use not even requiring any drivers when using Mac OSX or WinXP. Both Apple's iMovie and even Microsoft's Movie Maker are happy to suck in the footage and allow simple editing.

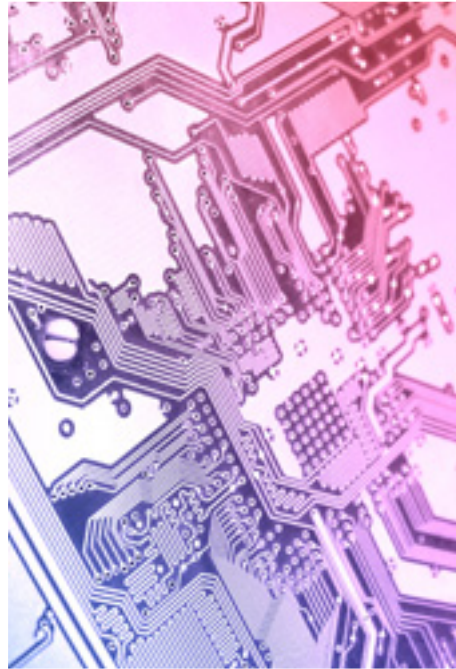
Now over to [Hopetoun](#). In the first round of our Challenge Fund they managed to score a PC/touch-screen system to form a visitor display allowing visual access to parts of the house to which wheelchairs cannot easily go. We set up the system with a CMS built with [Website Baker](#) – the very same system used for our own website – and since then the display has constantly been added to. This includes a huge number of images of the house and collection, panoramas of some of the least accessible rooms and may soon include some video

re-edited from the original analogue tapes. In addition we've recently been out with Elizabeth Henderson from West Lothian Council to take some photographs of their carriage collection which is kept at Hopetoun. Expect to see them and perhaps some interesting games featuring them soon.

The next deadline for the Challenge Fund is the 16th of October and we would be very happy to assist in any way with any application you're thinking about so please let us know as soon as possible.

#### SOFTWARE PICK OF THE MONTH.

Direct from [www.videolan.org](http://www.videolan.org) we present the VLC Media Player (available for almost any operating system you can think of). You may think that a



digital mage has a massive number of audio and video [codecs](#) on their machines. You would be right but not on all our machines – some we prefer to leave in a fairly unadulterated state – possibly much like your own. VLC Media Player allows you to play a huge array of audio and video formats including a lot

of streaming media without having to load anything new onto your PC. It's also perfectly happy playing CDs, VCDs and pre-recorded DVDs too. There's also a portable version which you can store on a USB stick so you're never stuck without a decoder in an alien environment. We like it loads.

#### WEBSITE OF THE MONTH.

It has to be [www.revision3.com/system](http://www.revision3.com/system). There are lots of great video how-tos but you'll need broadband to download them. We particularly liked the detailed instructions on MythTV, podcasting and, of course, the making of your own high-quality A/V – they may have been preaching to the converted though. Check their links for interesting cooking tips too.



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

<http://www.digitalimages.org>.

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

Aye, the nights are fairly drawin' in...

