

## Digital Resource Development Team July 2007



Hi Folks,

Bet you're wondering what we've been up to. No? Well, even if you haven't we've got some news that may encourage a few of you to try some new things.

We've just ordered tons of new equipment for the partners to play with and borrow. As ever, all the training you'll need is only a phone call or an email away and included purely by your signing of the Partnership Agreement. Don't worry if you've already done some training with us in the relevant fields. We know that unless you get a chance to use that training you'll lose some of the skills we've taught. Get that refresher course from us now! You may even find you can get a head start by taking a peek at the tutorials available within the Help & Advice section of your website – <http://digitalimages.org>.



What have we got to interest you?

High Definition Video sound (look) good to you? Well, we have a magnificent Canon HDR-HC1E mini-DV camera and to make life that bit easier we've even gone so far as to purchase two extra batteries for the beast to give you enough power to shoot till the ow come home. We now have Adobe's Premier Elements 3 installed on a shoebox-sized PC for you to borrow whenever you like as well. Even better, though, we'll soon be taking delivery of the best Apple laptop money can buy and have a copy of Final Cut Express HD

already waiting to be installed should you wish to travel down the Mac route (which I thoroughly recommend). We've even purchased a decent external microphone for you too. A truly portable production studio – it may even come with a bag. Those of those who know us well will already know we've used this equipment a lot – evidence on You Tube

<http://www.youtube.com/museumservice>. Those of you wanting to know how to encode your own videos for YouTube hosting need look no further than our Help Section again or better still give me a shout and I'll pop along and demonstrate the process for you whenever you want.

Old Tat?

Of course some of you may have old video or even film you'd like on disc or DVD. As I'm sure you've probably guessed we can help you there too. For instance, we have a Canopus ADVC-110



which is an external piece of hardware that allows easy conversion of analogue video sources to a digital format. Simply plug your video player into one side and run a firewire cable into your PC open up a video capture application, even those as basic as iMovie or Windows Movie Maker and you're away.

## Still Game?

If you're wanting to take some great stills then we have a beautiful Canon EOS 350D digital stills SLR. It's absolutely fab and even in fully automatic point 'n' shot mode takes wonderful pictures. Play with the settings – should you wish – and you'll be amazed. For your amusement (and panoramas) we've also purchased a high quality fish-eye lens adaptor as well as the tri-pod and remote release you'd expect of us. I know the camera has just been replaced by the slightly higher specified 400D (which a few of you have purchased after trying ours) but it's a classic amongst digital cameras and we know you'll love it - just give us a shout. As with the video editing, there's a system just about to be loaded with Photoshop Elements 5 as well as Gimp so you've no excuse not to play.



## A Bunch of Hoods?

Scanning becoming a chore? Loads of transparencies (both negative and positives) and only a dull old flat-bed scanner? Why not borrow one of our top-notch Epsoms with a lovely tranny hood? It's even suitable for batch digitising your transparencies and is happy with most medium to large format trannies as well as the more common 35mm ones. Not allowed to load the software or even attach the hardware? Not a problem... borrow the scanner and one of our PC's loaded with all the stuff you'll need.

## Loud and Proud?

Want to give your visitors a little easy listening both in the flesh and virtually? We can certainly offer you easy audio recording, editing and output. What a splendid Sony MZ-RH1 mini-disc recorder I have in front of me you can't get better. It records uncompressed audio, transfers over USB and this time it's not my own one – lovely though that is. You now have the next generation and really there's no easier way to record someone's recollections, voice-overs, music or, as we did last month, the sounds of birds, car-horns and filing cabinets being kicked – all for displays and websites to accompany exhibitions in the both the Dunbar Town House and John Muir's Birthplace museums. To accompany this recorder we have the most comfortable headphones of all time – a pair of Beyerdynamics mighty fine DT100s and to capture that sometimes difficult sound, a beautiful, uni-directional, Audio-Technica ATR55 which even I haven't played with yet. As most of you know there's always the amazingly easy to use Audacity to edit your audio with... Downloadable museum tours, audio diaries documenting school visits, pod-casting, whatever. It's child's play.

Digital Resource Development Team  
Tons of Toys - Come and Play!  
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[www.simplysamplers.org](http://www.simplysamplers.org)

