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Happy Christmas to you all and best wishes for a successful 2011!

The Peak District has a light covering of snow at the moment and temperatures of -12C so looks like we could have a white Christmas. We will be in Colorado with our good friends Rob and Annie for the New Year so a white New Year is pretty much guaranteed. Whatever you get up to, enjoy yourselves.

Christmas Orders

I have printed and shipped all orders and they should all be delivered in time for Christmas. I know there are some delays from the bad weather with Royal Mail in particular but hopefully they will be cleared and all delivered by Christmas Eve. The last book orders and course gift vouchers shipped last week by 1st class mail and photographs are shipped using next day tracked delivery and these have all been delivered or a card pushed through the door on no reply. It was a little tricky this year as I had bronchitis at the busiest time which lost a few days here and there.

[Refurbished Briarwood Gallery](#)

The gallery at Briarwood, here in Tunstead Milton, has been extended and refurbished. This is just one of our three display areas at the gallery. We will refurbish the other areas next year. There is a [new page on the web site](#) with several more pictures but these images will give you an idea of what it is like. You can also reach the new web page through the [Home page](#) and the [Gallery page](#). If you would like to visit just telephone or email for an appointment to make sure either Jan or I will be here if you are making a

special trip. If you are passing by you are welcome to call by on the off-chance that we are here. There is lots of car parking just outside.

We always have around 150 hand printed framed photographs on display and another 500 mounted prints in various sizes in six browsers with prices from £15 to £2000. We also stock frames and can frame any mounted photograph in just a few minutes so that you can take away a finished picture.





Landscape Photography Courses

Lake District, Peak District and Yorkshire Dales Locations

2011 Dates:

Lake District course

The next Lake District 3 day course starts on 20th March 2011. The cost is £400 without accommodation for 3 days of photography. If you would like to book high quality bed & breakfast you are welcome to join us in Stanley House with en-suite rooms to the equivalent of 4 star hotel standard and the total cost is £535.

March is a good time for landscapes in this area as the mountains are the highest in England and usually have snow on the tops at this time and the light is fantastic. There are lots of other things for you to try too with lakes, rivers, waterfalls, beaches and lots more. On one of the days we usually spend an hour or two using Photoshop for simple image editing and going over image evaluation - what makes a good print, etc.? There is a lot more information on the [web site photo courses page](#).

Yorkshire Dales - Dales and Waterfalls course

This is a new area for 2011 and the 2 day course is on 7th and 8th May 2011. We will be based in and around Grassington, north of Skipton. Lots of opportunities here for photography in the Dales with big views, limestone pavements, waterfalls, fast flowing rivers and lots of trees scattered across the landscape and I'm sure we will find more as we wander around the locations. Last winter they had several feet of snow in this area which lasted through into May so we could have snowy pictures here too!

Peak District 1 day courses course

The 1 day courses in the Peak District are booking up. The March course is fully booked but there are still places in April and later in the year. We visit 3 or 4 locations for a wide variety of subjects so you will be able to try your hand at lots of different things.

All photo courses are suitable for both digital and film camera users of any ability, and will help you capture pictures that work well in black and white but if you can do this then your colour work will improve too. Small groups of 5 people, with my wife Jan and I as tutors, and lots of help with the technical and artistic side of photography. The cost for 1 place on group courses is £150 for 1 day, £300 for 2 days and £400 for 3 days.

Private courses are always available, on dates to suit you, for a more personal course. These are £300 for 1-to-1 tuition and £500 for groups. It's a good way of making rapid progress.

All courses are supported by Ilford Photo / Harman Photo.

Darkroom Printing Courses

I run darkroom printing courses for individuals and groups of no more than 2 people. They are £150 for a place on a group course and £300 for a 1-to-1 course. Ilford Photo provide all paper and chemicals free of charge. The next group course is Sunday 27th March. I am an Ilford Master Printer and will help you quickly improve your printing. All paper and chemicals are provided free of charge by Ilford Photo.

Events

Art Fairs and other events

Our next event is a trade fair; the Spring Fair at the NEC Birmingham on the 6th to 10th February 2011. We have stand D21 in Hall 3 (Art and Framing).

Our next retail show is the [Craft in Focus show at RHS Wisley](#) on Friday 29th April to 2nd May. This is a big show with over 40,000 visitors over the 4 days.

Course Images

The [gallery for images](#) taken on courses continues to expand. The gallery is located on my [Flickr area](#) and all the images can be viewed here directly of through my web site. You can make comments on the Flickr site if you wish.

If you have been on one of my courses and would like to see your images on this new area just send me some and I will make sure they are added.

New Course Images web link

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New Flickr Gallery web link

Photo Trips

Planned Photo Trips

The New Zealand trip flew by in October/November. I took 195 rolls of 120 and with 10 shots on a roll that's a bit under 2000 images taken in 32 days. I had 99 rolls of Ilford FP4 film processed in New Zealand and the remaining

96 rolls on our return by the [Ilford Photo processing lab](#) at the factory in Mobberley (which is really good!). Unfortunately, I have been unable to do anything with them because of filling Christmas orders. Looking at the negatives I can see that I have lots of cracking new shots of both cities and landscapes. Lots of trees, ferns and coastal shots too. I now have images of Hong Kong including the skyline at night, Sydney, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch plus landscapes of snow-capped volcanoes at Tongariro in the north island, the Fox Glacier, Milford Sound with Mitre Peak reflected in the fiord, Mount Cook on a blue sky day, Moeraki boulders at high tide, the Banks Peninsula near Christchurch and lots and lots of beaches with various bits of driftwood and other features. We also completed the [Tongariro Alpine Crossing](#) that goes high up between 2 volcanoes and climbed a snow-capped Mount Tongariro, Alex Knob and Mount Somers to get a bit more exercise. Such varied landscapes in one trip, it was amazing!

We are off to Boulder in Colorado after Christmas for 3 weeks skiing and snowshoeing. Hoping for some low temperatures and seriously frosted trees for Christmas cards and big prints. We are hoping to ski 8 or 10 ski areas including Telluride, Aspen and Snowmass for the first time. We also have plans to snowshoe the odd 4000 metre peak and some forest trails (no glaciers or crevasses in Colorado), weather permitting. At the moment the UK is recovering from recent snow and there is lots of ice around so we are hoping that this clears in time for us to fly out.

That will be the last overseas trip until we drive to the Alps in September (Bavaria and the Dolomites).

[Photo Tips](#)

Seasonal Notes from Derbyshire

The winter has arrived early over most of the UK. Here in the Peak District we don't have much snow (although it is snowing as I write this on 23rd December) but it is cold and everything is white so it's great for black and white photographs. Snow has a sort of cleansing effect on the landscape by covering up a lot of things that would normally be a distraction. It works in cities too. Don't just look for big views, there are lots of small subjects that make for interesting photos. Look closely at ice and snow formations, and shadows if the sun comes out. Don't point your lens at the sun if you want to avoid flare (distortion) in your images. With digital cameras you can see this as soon as you take the picture but with film cameras you need to remember to point the lens down or shade the lens from the sun with your hand, taking care not to include it in the shot!

Metering can be a problem with sunlit snow. Film users have to remember to give an extra 1 or 2 stops of exposure. If in doubt give 2 stops, even better take 2 or 3 shots at different exposures to make sure you have at least one that is correct. For digital camera users you can see how the meter is being fooled by looking at the screen on the back of the camera. First look for gross underexposure (too dark) and make some adjustment to the shutter speed or aperture (using exposure compensation settings) and use the histogram function to move the spiky curve towards the right axis, but not touching it (or you will lose detail in the brightest areas). For digital slr cameras you can only do this after taking a photo but digital compact (pocket-sized) and cross-over cameras (like the Canon G10, G11 and G12) you can do the adjustment of the histogram while composing your picture and then you press the shutter knowing the settings are right.

Photo Lectures

Lecture bookings

I now have 6 lectures so if you would like me to come to your club you have lots of choice. They are all a mix of cities and landscapes, with snow shots in every one of them. Every print is hand printed on traditional silver gelatine papers.

If you want to book me check my [web diary](#) first to see dates that are available.

Blog, Facebook and LinkedIn

Dave Butcher News and Keeping in Touch

I have a blog on Google that I add my latest news to every few days, or every day on photo trips. There is an RSS feed if you want it to automatically drop my blogs into your email system, etc. Whatever I put on my blog is picked up directly by Facebook, with a delay of about half a day. I am also on the networking site [LinkedIn](#). If you want to keep in touch use one or more of these.

Next Newsletter

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My newsletters appear every month or two.

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter then please pass it on using the button below and they can subscribe by [signing up through my web site](#).

You are receiving this as a customer, newsletter subscriber or someone who has given email details at a show or other event. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter click the unsubscribe link at the bottom, it's all done automatically by iContact, the company I use for sending out my newsletters.

Dave Butcher 23-December-2010