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Greetings on a beautiful but cold day in Derbyshire

The birds are singing and the sky has been blue for 2 days it must be an early Spring!

[Landscape Photography Courses](#)

Lake District, Peak District and Yorkshire Dales Locations

Our courses are for a maximum of 5 people and there are 2 tutors, me (Dave Butcher) and my wife Jan. I work exclusively in black and white using Mamiya film cameras but using Photoshop extensively and Jan is exclusively colour and digital (currently using a Nikon D90 but previously using Canon cameras).

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 as well as colour. 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.

Lake District course

The next Lake District 3 day course starts on 20th March 2011. There has been a late cancellation so we now have 3 places left. There are 2 options, with or without accommodation. 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. Alternatively, the cost is £400 for 3 days of photography without accommodation.

March is a good time for landscapes in the Lakes. There are lots of things for to photograph with big mountains, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, beaches and lots more. Usually, one day is spent in Eskdale, one in Wasdale and one on the coast between Ravenglass and St Bees Head. On one of the days we may spend an hour or two using Photoshop for simple image editing and going over image evaluation, image quality - what makes a good print, etc.? There is a lot more information on the [web site photo courses page](#). Contact me soon if you are interested.

Yorkshire Dales - Dales and Waterfalls course

New for 2011 and the 2 day course is on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May 2011. 3 places still available at £300 without accommodation. We will be based in and around Grassington, north of Skipton (we are staying in the Black Horse Inn in the centre of Grassington if you want to join us). 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, we always do, even on our doorstep in the Peak District!

Peak District 1 day courses course

The 1 day courses in the Peak District are booking up. The March 26th course had a cancellation so there is just 1 place available.

April 16th is fully booked but I had sufficient interest to justify adding an extra date for which there are just 2 places left on Friday April 15th.

If you had to book a later date than you would have liked and would be able to swap to the 26th March course then please contact me as soon as possible so that we can confirm the change. It's first come first served for this though, so don't delay.

Darkroom Printing Courses

If you want to learn how to make black and white prints in a traditional darkroom I'm your man! There are courses every month or two through the

year 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. If there are 2 of you then we can arrange a date to suit you for £300 in total.

The next group course is Sunday 27th March. I am one of only 7 Ilford Master Printers and will help you quickly improve your printing. All paper and chemicals are provided free of charge by Ilford Photo.

New Huge Print Products - Silver Prints

I have been working with Ilford Lab Direct (a Harman Technology service) over the last few months to produce silver gelatin prints larger than I can print in my darkroom. We have sorted out the image adjustments so that the prints are close to what I would produce in the darkroom and these are now available for most images on the web site that were taken on medium format film, 35mm can't be enlarged that much.

In order to do this each negative is scanned at high resolution and edited to look as close as possible to what I believe I could achieve by making a print in the darkroom. This digital file (saved in Tiff format to retain all of the quality) is then sent to Ilford Lab Direct at the Harman/Ilford factory in Cheshire that makes the Ilford film and paper that I use, and they print it using our previously agreed settings. The printing is done with a Lightjet laser exposing system onto Ilford Multigrade paper, a resin coated version of the paper that I use for my hand prints except I use the fibre based form. Silver gelatin resin coated prints have an expected lifetime of 50 to 100 years.

So far the largest size is 70 x 70 cm, or 70 x 50 cm if the image is not square. However, it is possible to go larger than this to 100 x 100, 100 x 50, 100 x 70, 80 x 60 cm, etc. (depending on image format) by special request. We are also using this route to reduce variations between my small prints (for 30 x 24 cm frame size) and the larger prints. These have been hand printed by me in the darkroom up until now but the short exposure times of around 1 second mean that I cannot adjust the exposures at the printing stage like I can with larger prints so they look slightly different compared to my larger hand prints. These will be switched to the new system and should now look similar to a larger darkroom hand print.

Silver prints are also available with or without borders. For information, all of my Original Prints are mounted and have a window matt so they are closer to the 'with border' format for Silver Prints. Also, all of my pictures use standard frame sizes so that you don't have to use a framing shop to mount and frame them before you can hang them on the wall, just buy a ready-made frame.

Since I am not printing each image I have been able to reduce the cost compared to my hand prints - look for the term Silver Prints in the drop down menu (under each expanded image) with the size and price information. My hand prints are now called Original Prints to differentiate them on my web site and at shows. So if you are a collector of my work and it is important that I made the print then you need to buy an Original Print. If you just want an image for the wall or as a gift and the way the print was produced is less important than the price then Silver Prints are probably better for you.

The [price list and explanation of the print range are described here](#) in more detail.

Events

Art Fairs and other events

Our next event is a trade fair; the [British Craft Trade Fair](#) at the Harrogate Showground, Sunday 3rd to Tuesday 4th April.

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

If you want to catch us at a show near you here is the [list of 2011 retail shows](#), we are doing 11 retail shows this year as well as 3 trade shows, full details are on the web [Exhibitions](#) page:

Buxton (4 shows - July, October and December)

Stonor Park near Henley on Thames (August Bank Holiday)

Richmond (October)

Sevenoaks (October)

Glasgow (October)

NEC Birmingham (November)

RHS Wisley Christmas Show (November)

New Photographs

New images added to www.davebutcher.co.uk/gallery/recent

The first batch of our New Zealand trip photos have been added to the web. They include Hong Kong, Sydney and lots of places in New Zealand. Over 100 new images in the [Recent Gallery on the web site.](#)

Sydney Opera House Roof

Copyright © Dr David W. Butcher 2011



Sydney Harbour Bridge

Copyright © Dr David W. Butcher 2011



Hong Kong Skyline at Night

Copyright © Dr David W. Butcher 2011

Copyright © Dr David W. Butcher 2011



Milford Sound Reflections, South Island New Zealand. I was bitten to death by sand flies taking this shot!

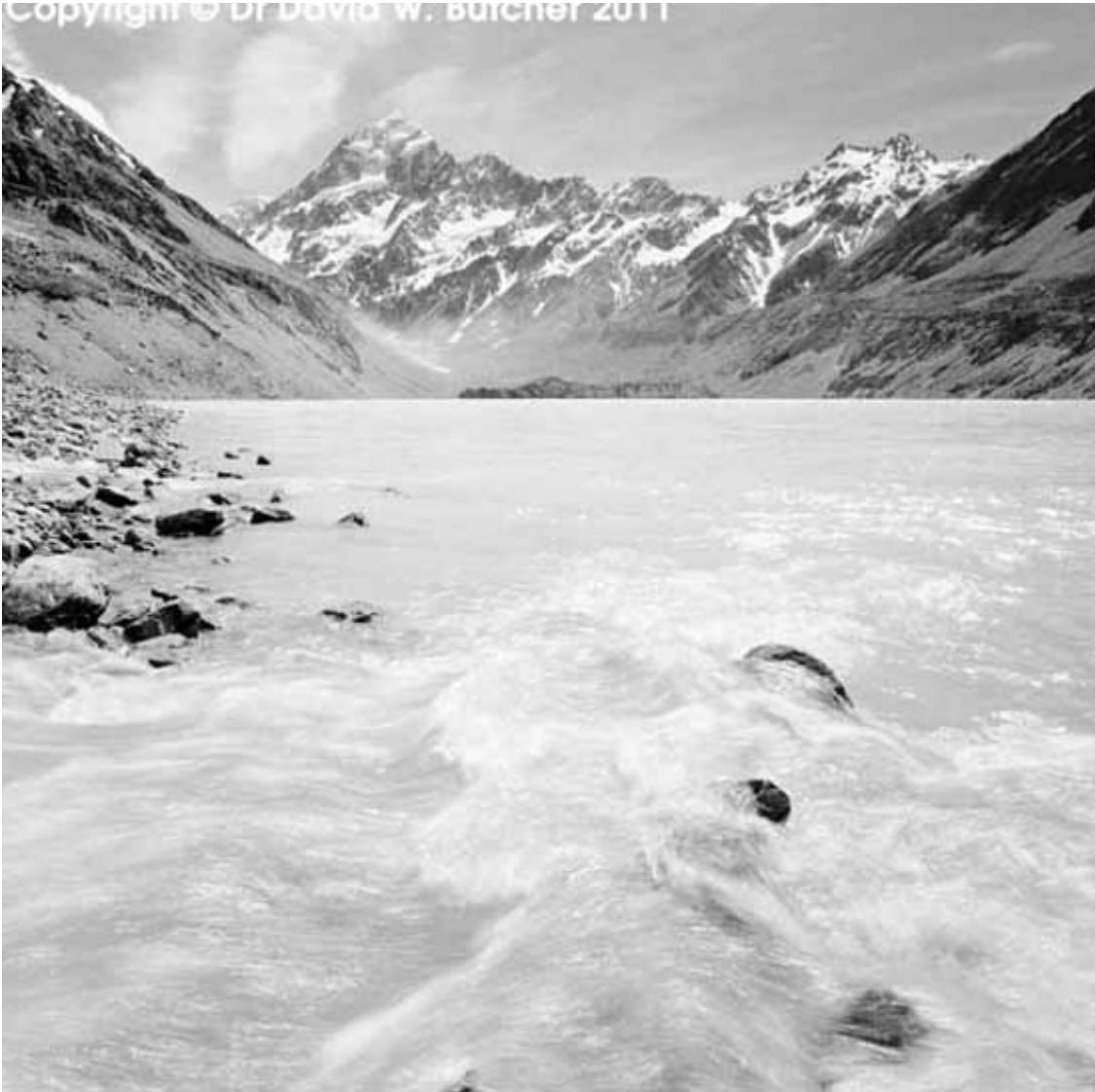
Copyright © Dr David W. Butcher 2011



Mount Cook and Hooker Lake, South Island New Zealand

Copyright © Dr David W. Butcher 2011

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Moeraki Boulder, South Island New Zealand

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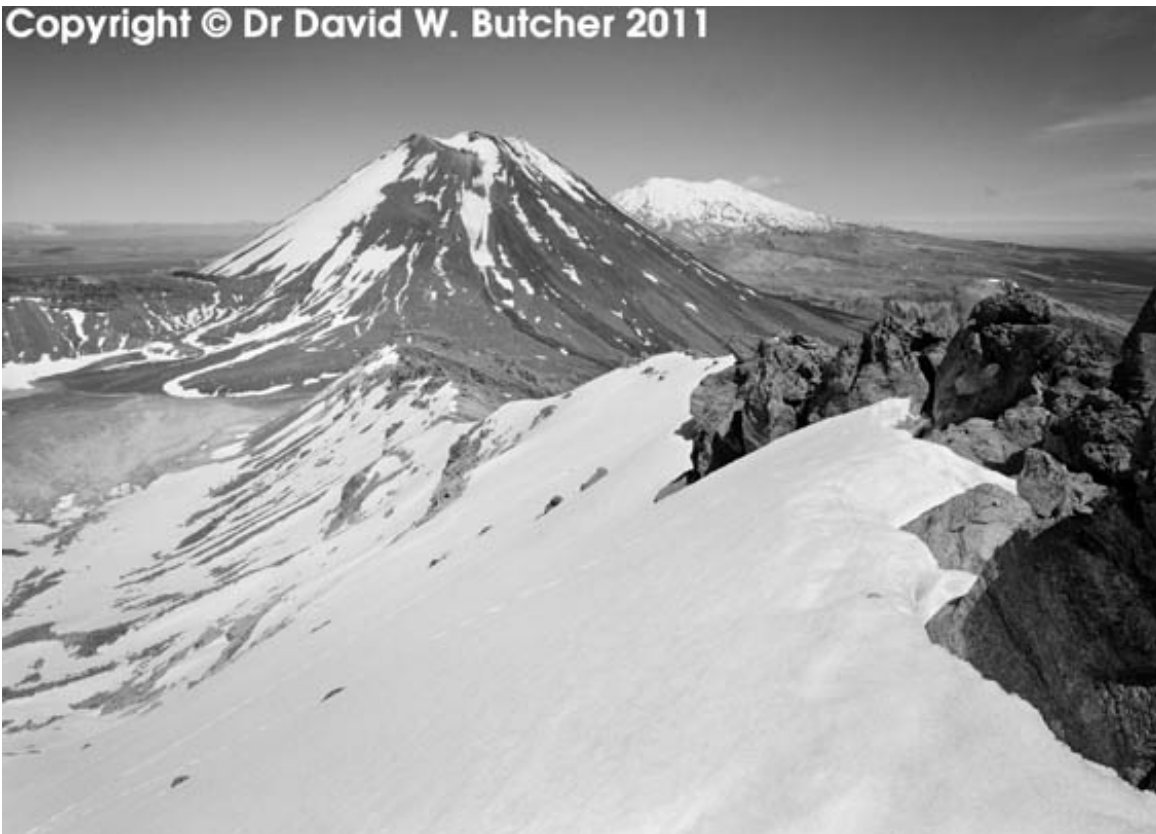
Moeraki Boulder broken open, South Island New Zealand

Copyright © Dr David W. Butcher 2011



Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Ruapehu from the summit of Mount Tongariro, North Island New Zealand. All 3 are volcanoes.

Copyright © Dr David W. Butcher 2011



Christchurch Cathedral, South Island New Zealand (November 2010). This was badly damaged in the February 2011 earthquakes.

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Photo Trips

Planned Photo Trips

We did a lot of skiing and snowshoeing in Colorado after Christmas. It was jolly cold (-20C) so lots of ice formations and good snow. Even had snow and blue sky at the Great Sand Dunes National Park (by contrast it was a blizzard when we visited here last year). We skied Wolf Creek, Durango (used to be called Purgatory), Telluride, Aspen Highlands, Aspen Mountain, Snowmass, Beaver Creek, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin. Lots of new shots in mostly good weather. Haven't done the contact prints yet but Ilford Lab Direct processed all of the films and the negatives look good.

We have just returned from a 3 day trip to photograph parts of London near the Thames, a spur of the moment decision prompted by lots of gaps in my photograph library. We covered a lot of ground and I took a lot of photos, 34 rolls in fact. Quite a few locations looked like building sites; preparation for the Olympics in some cases apparently. I will have to go back when they have finished.

I'm walking with an old friend between St Bees to Shap over 5 days in early July. This is the first section of Wainwright's Coast to Coast walk. I have done it before but it's a good walk and takes me to some excellent places for photographs. I'm really looking forward to it and just hope the weather is kind to us.

The next overseas trip will be driving down to the Alps for 2 weeks in

The next overseas trip will be driving down to the Alps for 3 weeks in September (Bavaria and the Dolomites). Lots of walking and shapely mountains for me to photograph. I expect we will stop in the Pfalzerwald or Black Forest en route as well, that's a good days drive from Dover and both are good places for pictures.

Photo Tips

Seasonal Notes from Derbyshire

We had a reasonable winter with quite a bit of snow before Christmas and deep drifts on the tops. Unfortunately, I had bronchitis so was unable to be out and about taking any photos. Sounds like the snow has returned in the north as Inverness Airport is closed because of snow today (9-March-2011). If you are taking snow photos metering can be a problem, especially with sunlit snow. Film users have to remember to give an extra 1 or 2 stops of exposure, or just meter off the lighter shadows as usual. 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 will let you make good prints. 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.

Here in the Peak District it is cold and showery with good sunny spells. We had a mixture of sleet and hail earlier this morning, so it's not quite Spring yet. Being clear it has been great for long views, there is no haze obscuring the views. The skeleton trees are still good for photos. It's windy today so you would need a fast shutter speed to stop the movement or a slow one to make it an integral part of your picture. If you pick a substantial tree the main trunk and large branches will be pin sharp and the smaller branches and twigs will show a lot of movement. Could make for interesting shots.

The important thing is to get out there and try a few things. Good luck.

Photo Lectures

Lecture bookings

I have 6 lectures so if you would like me to come to your club you have lots

I 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, Twitter and LinkedIn

Dave Butcher News and Keeping in Touch

I have just started using Twitter for quick posts where I don't have much to say. You can find me as @monodave or click the Twitter link in the header. Not sure what I'm doing yet and it hasn't become a habit so there are a few gaps between Tweets but I'm sure I'll soon pick it up. My Tweets and blogs are also picked up by LinkedIn.

My Google blog remains my main route for letting the world know what I'm doing while passing on a few photo tips and thoughts as we travel around. Whatever I put on my blog is picked up directly by Facebook, with a delay of about half a day. Occassionally I put something on Facebook directly. I am also on the networking site [LinkedIn](#).

If you want to keep in touch use one or more of these, don't be shy - just click add, follow or whatever to add me to your network.

Next Newsletter

My newsletters appear every month or two. Sorry this is a long one, will try and do better next time!

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](#).

Previous newsletters are [archived by iContact here](#).

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newsletter emails

NEWSLETTER EMAILS.

Dave Butcher 9-March-2011