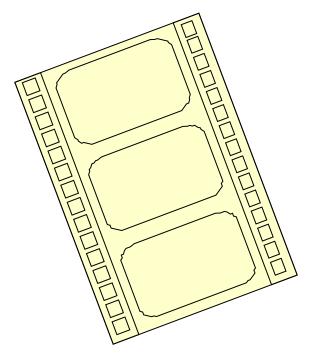
Post Processing

Sue Fifer & Molly Warrington

What is post-processing?



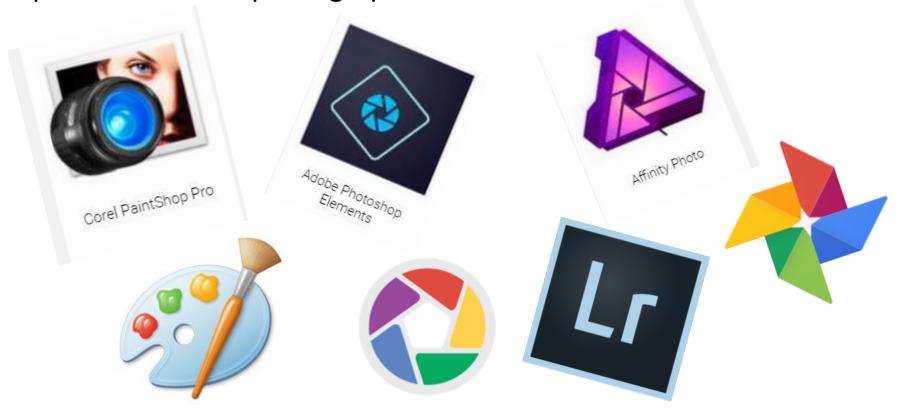
In the old days of film, there were several stages after the taking of a picture:

- 1 Developing the film
- 2 Making prints/slides from the negatives
- Using the image in various ways: books, illustrations, card, prints in different sizes.

Some people did one or more of these processes themselves (in a dark room) or had professional companies perform these services. This could be time-consuming and/or expensive.

Digital post-processing

Digital post-processing uses software such as Lightroom, Photoshop, Affinity and other programs to give control of these processes to the photographer.



Benefits of DIY approach

- 1 Much cheaper
- 2 Quicker
- 3 You're in control
- 4 Mistakes can be corrected
- 5 Huge variety of effects can be achieved

Downside is that there is often a steep learning curve if you want to cover everything.

Best thing is to decide what you want to do and then focus on the tools that help you achieve this.

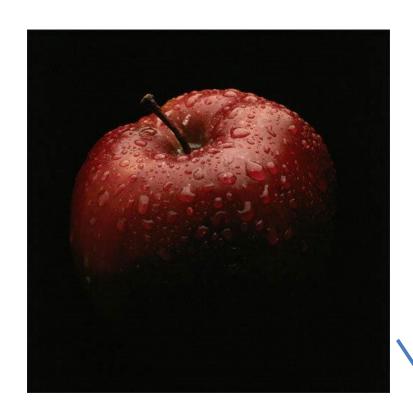
What might you want to do?

- Straighten a picture
- Crop a picture
- Add something an object or text
- Lighten or darken part of the picture
- Change the colour, contrast or make a monochrome picture
- Apply changes to selected parts of image
- Save for different purposes: printing, web



Correct red eye problems



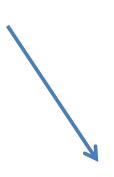


Bring out the highlights where a picture is underexposed





Straighten the horizon







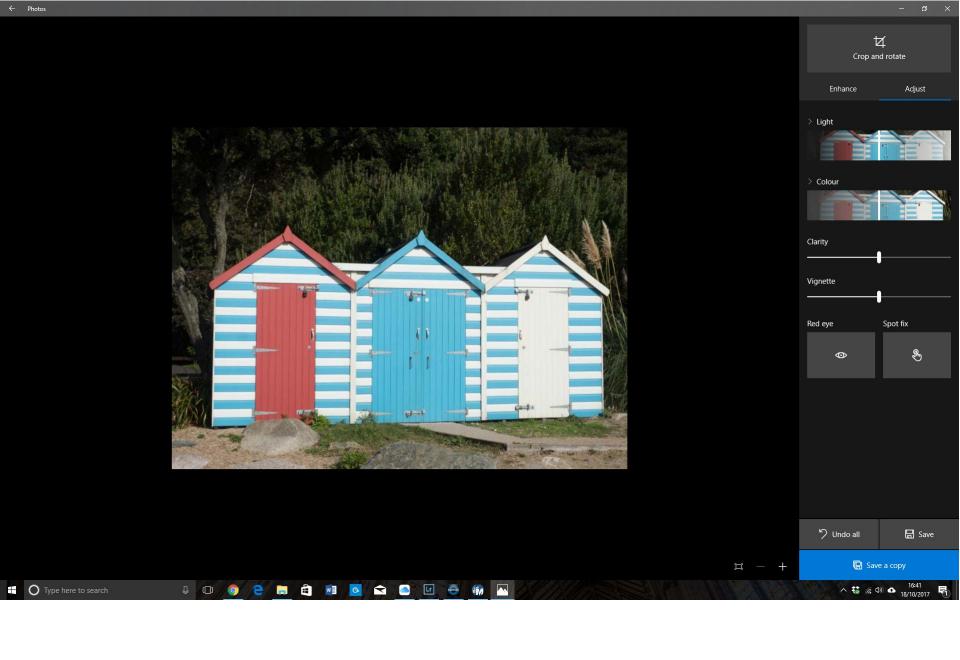
Combine various tools to undertake projects such as photo restoration – great for family historians.





Photo editing packages

- Basic photo editors such as Windows Photos collects photos and allows basic edits such as cropping, changing light and colour, adding filters
- Free downloadable software such as Paint and Gimp (described by whatdigitalcamera.com as 'a free version of Photoshop')
- Purchased software such as Photoshop Elements, Lightroom, Photoshop, Aperture (Apple) –more sophisticated image processing
- Plug-ins for Adobe products and Aperture, eg Google Nik collection

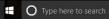




← 20171004-PA040077 (2).jpg - Photos



















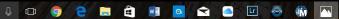














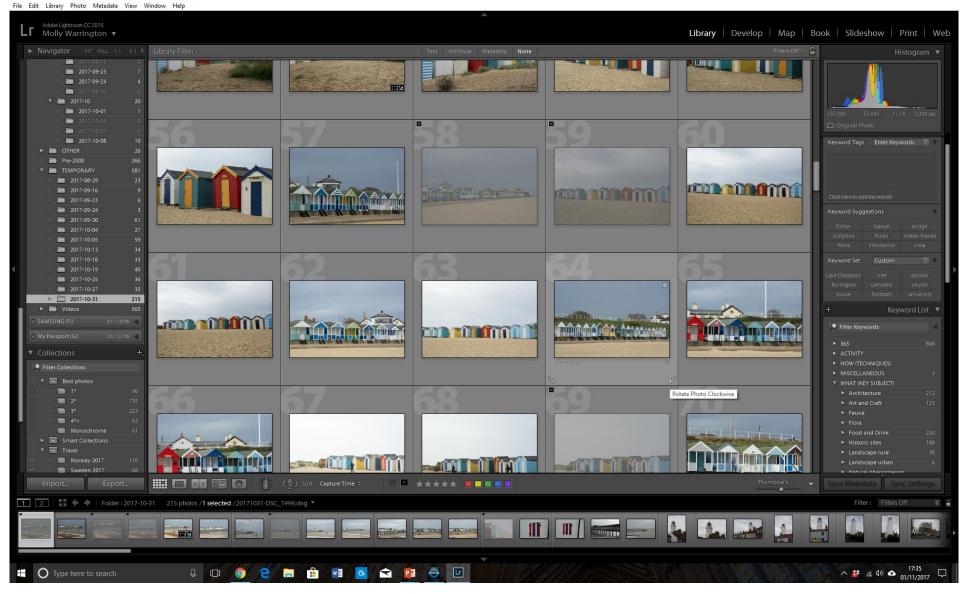


Shooting in RAW

- A RAW file is a digital negative, capturing all image data recorded by sensor
- Non-destructive editing can adjust and process as many times as you want
- Easier to correct problems (eg WB, under/over exposure)
- Better quality images because more levels of brightness recorded
- But do need to process files are also LARGE files
- Processed files exported as JPEG or TIFF format

How I use Lightroom

- Import RAW files straight into LR; convert to DNG as second step in import process
- Download as temporary files in date order
- Compare and delete duplicates or non-starters, then work down processing menu in systematic way
- Batch processing
- Keywords, rating
- Move from temporary to permanent date ordered files (which mirror hard disc)
- Back up (several times!)
- [Export into Google Nik or Photoshop]



Type here to search







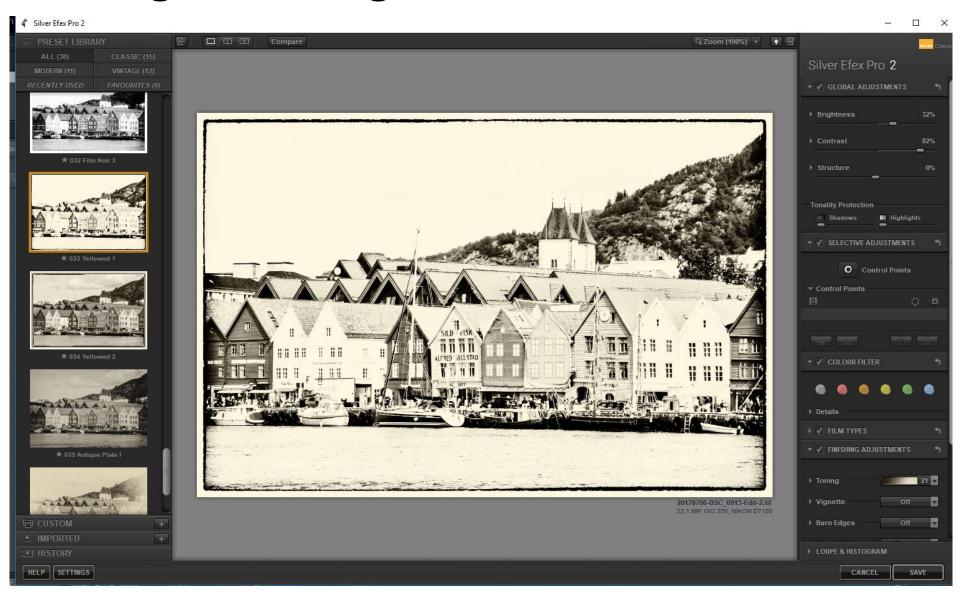
Adjustments:

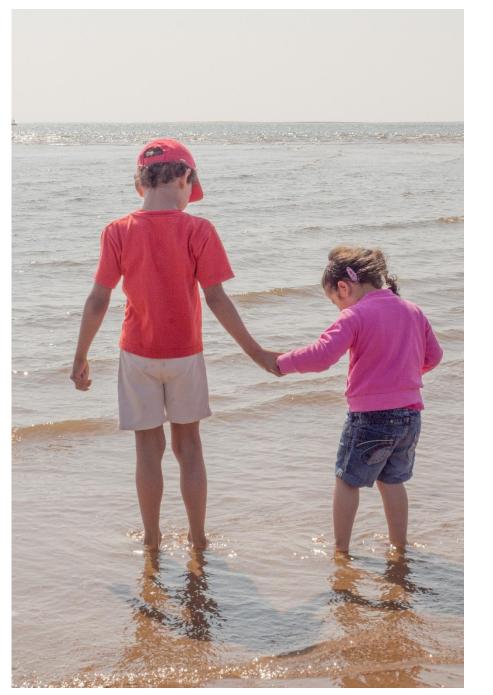
- white balance
- cropping
- exposure increased
- contrast increased
- highlights down
- shadows slightly opened up
- tones adjusted
- sharpened

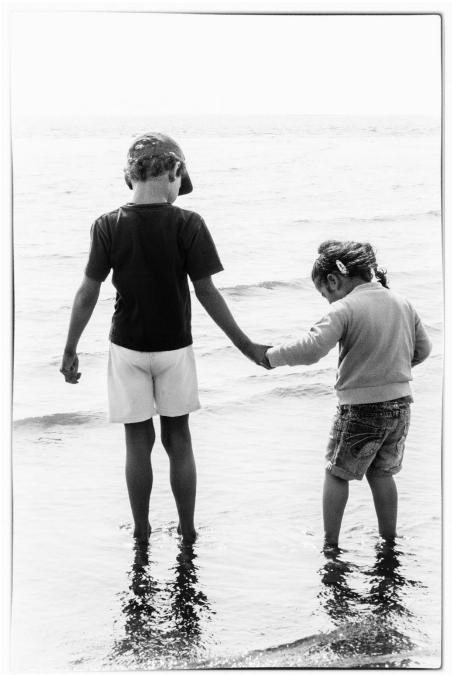




Plug-ins: Google Nik: Silver Efex Pro 2







Pre-sets
eg HDR: 3 photos
bracketed to cope with
dynamic range
Combined in HDR Efex
Pro 2





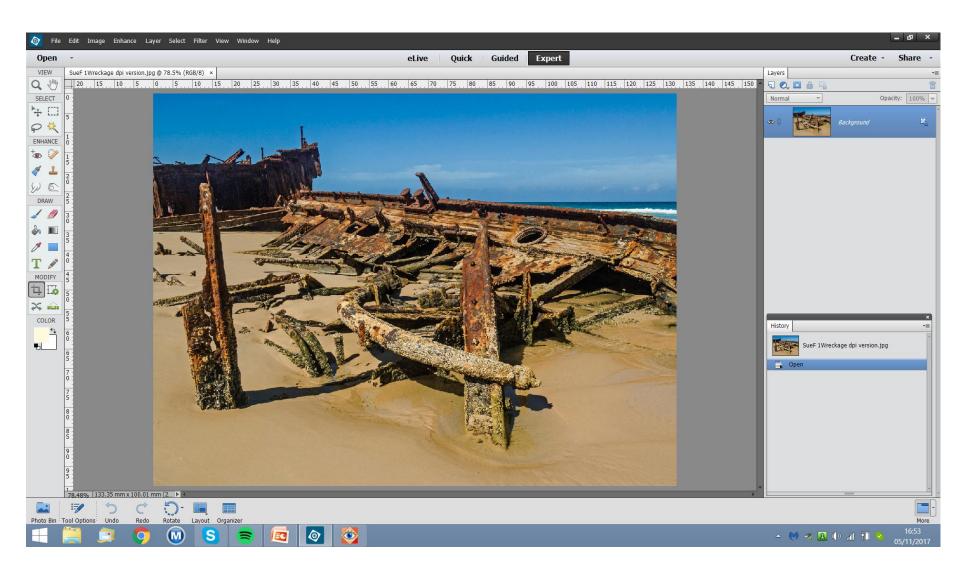




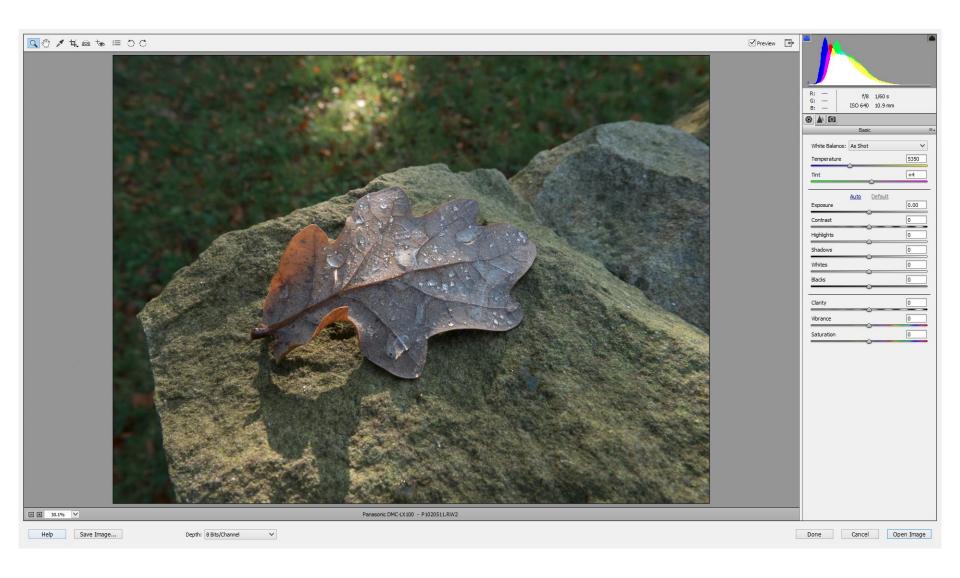


Colour Efex Pro 2

Photoshop Elements – main editing screen



Photoshop Elements – RAW editor



Having fun with unpromising shots



This was created using the "picture stack" option in the Guided Edits section of Elements. You can also do jigsaws and "pop art" amongst other effects.

Layers – a key concept

- Layers are like digital transparent acetate sheets that you can overlay in a stack.
- You can edit each layer separately and turn them on and off to achieve different effects.
- Editing in layers means you don't risk spoiling the image you are working on and having to undo lots of steps if you decide you don't like something.

Layers – first stage

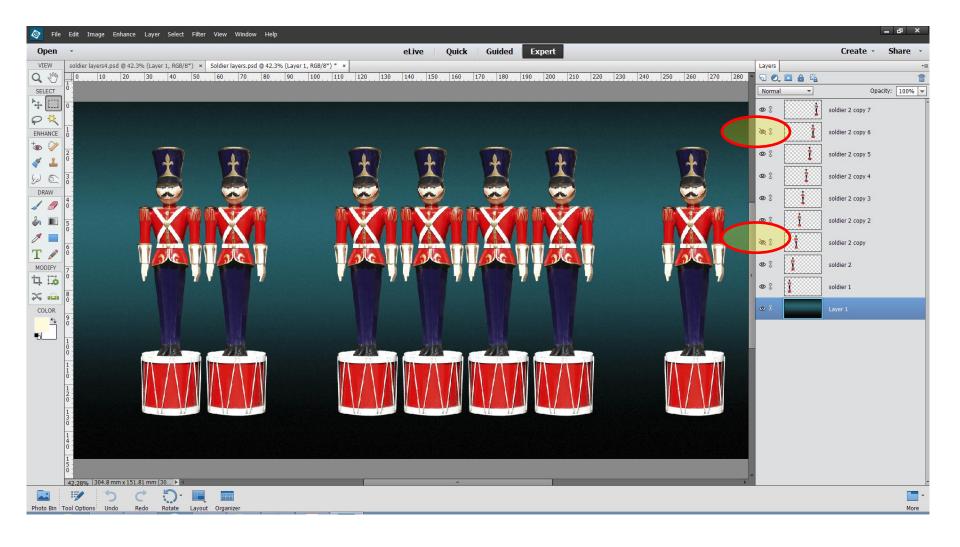
Create an image – this was cut out digitally from a photo taken in a toy store (acknowledgements to Beckham Digital)



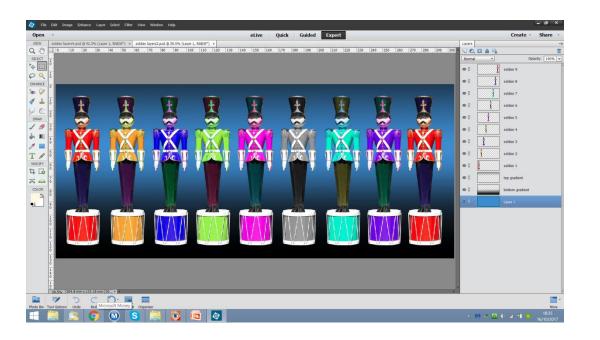
Copies of this were made onto separate layers in Photoshop elements. Each layer could be moved separately to achieve the following effect



List on right shows one layer for each soldier and one layer for the dark background.



Turning off two layers instantly creates a different effect (Harry Potter and the Invisibility Cloak)

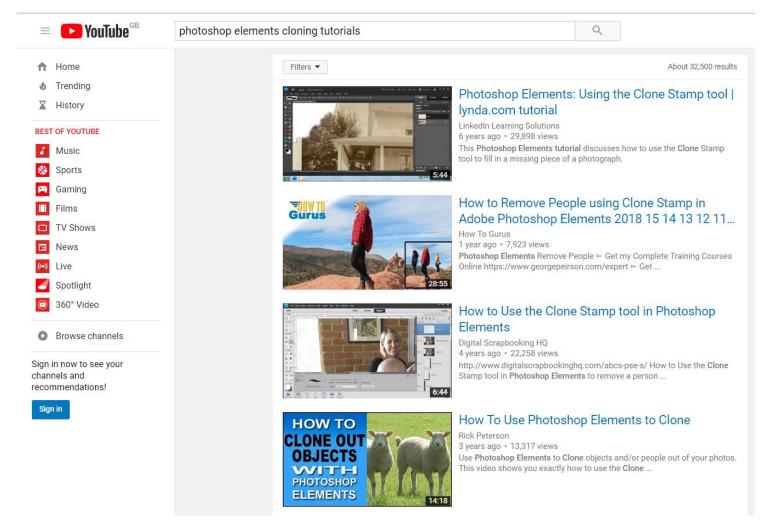


You can change size and colour on different layers and mess about to your heart's content!

Each combination can be saved as a complete image and you can still go back to the layered version



Most of the major packages have videos and "how to" guides on the web. Put in the name of a package and a feature on YouTube and see what comes up.



Thank you – over to you!

- 1 What package(s) do you use?
- 2 Which features do you use most?
- 3 Which features don't you like or find hard to use?
- 4 Is it really "cheating?"