



Technical development

It is hard to believe it is late summer already, seems like only last week we were returning from a late January shoot in Norfolk.

This year I seem to have been occupied with technical evaluations and testing. In early Spring I was fortunate to be able to test the Nikon D810A; this was Nikons debut entry into the night/astro photography market. I was impressed and the full review can be read in the BBC Sky at Night magazine March 2016 issue.

Nikon interviewed me for their InFrame profile which proved to be great fun and rather enlightening. Amazing how a candid off the record comment can make its way onto the worldwide web for posterity. The full profile can be viewed [here](#)

<https://nikoninframe.co.uk/behind-the-lens/nigel-a-ball-astrophotographer>

I attended Solarsphere 2016 an event that continues to grow and this year there appeared to more people than ever. It is a great location just north of Builth Wells. My talk this year was on the techniques and equipment I use to produce nightscapes and even included switching between Windows tablet and iPad live on stage! There are still a few places left on courses should anybody wish to learn the basic techniques involved, read more below on the content. A few have been purchased as surprise Christmas presents for partners :-)

Clear skies!



Padstow Harbour just after sunset

I was fortunate to have a week's break in a beautiful cottage just outside Tintagel back in July. Although there was only a few hours of clear skies during the week, the hour after sunset, known as 'blue hour' often gives an ordinary scene an additional dimension. Walking around Padstow Harbour inspired me to set up the panoramic head and experiment for an hour before enjoying a fresh hot chocolate from a local café.



On the drive back from Cornwall I took an overnight stay in the seaside town of Burnham on Sea. The town boasts not one but three lighthouses. This shot is of the oldest situated at the Northern end of the beach and is proving to be one of our best sellers

The Perseids meteor shower this year was quite spectacular and I decided to watch, and hopefully photograph it from one of my favourite locations, Castell Dinas Bran just outside Llangollen. Although the light pollution from Llangollen below in the valley can be troublesome the architecture does provide lots of great composition opportunities. As so often happens the majority of sizeable meteors were occurring just out of frame so I sat down to just enjoy the show. Just as I was about to pack up and leave a meteor streaked perfectly into frame and the shutter was actually open!



A meteor streaks over Llangollen from Castell Dinas Bran

Tuition

I've received a number of enquiries recently about whether I offer tuition and courses, the simple answer is yes I do!

I offer the following on a one to one basis

- Star trails
Learn how to create a star trail image from the basis camera settings to the finished processed and framed image
- Night scape photography
Learn the technique used to produce magazine quality night scape images

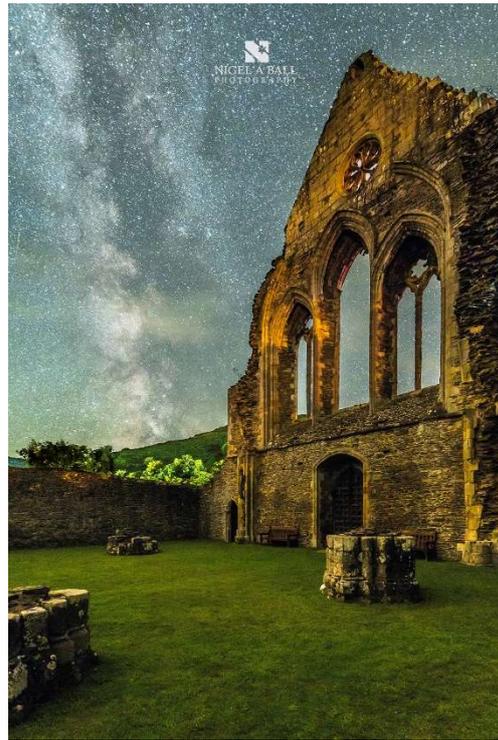
Both courses follow a similar format, 2-4 hours field work followed by a 2 hours processing tutorial

Every attendee will receive a framed print of their work

<http://www.nigelaball.com/contact.html>

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http://www.nigelaball.com/latest_images.html