Photo Management Presentation Summary

Dave started by explaining that his talk was based on his experience managing and editing photos using Nikon free software and Adobe Photo Shop Elements. Dave does not have a Nikon camera and this software was the best free software available many years ago and he has stayed with it, other free alternatives are now available.

Dave explained that all his photos are contained in his File Manager/Finder Pictures folder under appropriately named basic folders e.g Days Out, Holidays, Merchant Navy etc. The subfolders in these basic folders are all named and date prefixed for easy sorting in this format e.g. 210116HMS Belfast. Dave explained that his object is to edit and title his photos into slide shows which continuously cycle in his lounge on a Digital Photo Frame.

All his photo files are held in three subfolders, Originals, Slide Show Untitled and Slide Show. This is because he believes it essential that original photos and basic edits are retained as a backup, learnt from bitter experiences!!. Original photos are copied from the camera, SD card or phone to the Originals folder and from there to the Slide Show Untitled folder where rubbish and surplus photos are deleted. The remaining photos are cropped and edited as appropriate in Adobe Photoshop after which they are copied to the Slide Show folder. The photos in the Slide Show folder are then sorted and the file names renamed in ViewNX-i after which the photos are titled using Adobe Photoshop. When renaming the photo file name the original file names are retained and suffixed with A,B,C, etc as a folder designation followed by 001, 002, 003 etc designating the photo number followed by the original file name e.g. T003P1090683.JPG, T008 20191221_095506.jpg.

If photo files are loaded as folders to a Digital Photo Frame or to an SD card to be used in a Digital Photo Frame they are unlikely to display in the correct order, so Dave loads them as individual photo files, hence the suffixes. A,B,C, etc to ensure that all the photos from that holiday are shown together and 001, 002, 003 etc ensures that the photos for that holiday are displayed in that order.

The Nikon software comprises ViewNX-i, Nikon Transfer 2 and Capture NX-D all three can be downloaded from this link https://downloadcenter.nikonimglib.com/en/download/sw/183.html

Dave demonstrated transferring pictures from an SD card to computer using Nikon Transfer 2 explaining that when a camera or camera SD card is inserted or connected to your computer the Nikon Transfer 2 dialog will automatically open. Many options are available in the dialog, selecting the files to be transferred, the destination, renaming files and preferences. Files transferred will not override copies of files already in the destination folder. The Start Transfer button starts the transfer and opens ViewNX-i. Detailed instructions can be viewed or downloaded from this link https://nikonimglib.com/nvnxi/onlinehelp/en/index.html

Dave then demonstrated Nikon ViewNX-i showing how the left hand pane of the dialog shows a copy of the file structure in File Manager/Finder which makes it very easy to select particular folders and files. He went on to demonstrate browsing files and folders, the layout of the dialog, thumbnail size, number of files, file number, slide show production with or without music, map view to remind you where the picture was taken, and full screen view. Next he went on to explain sorting and renaming files uploaded from from a camera, SD card or phone. Full instructions for

using Nikon File Transfer and Nikon ViewNX-i can be viewed or downloaded here
https://nikonimglib.com/nvnxi/onlinehelp/en/index.html

Dave then demonstrated Adobe Photoshop Elements and gave a brief explanation of how he edits and titles photos.

Next Dave gave a brief demonstration of Nikon Capture NX-D a photo editing programme. Full instructions for using Nikon Capture NX-D can be viewed or downloaded here
https://nikonimglib.com/ncnxd/onlinehelp/en/index.html
Dave then demonstrated transferring photo files from Android smartphone to computer using Android File Transfer a Mac only programme available here
https://www.android.com/filetransfer/other similar programmes are available for PC.
We then had an introduction to other free/cheap photo editing software.

- Gimp https://www.gimp.org for PC,Mac or Linux
- IrfanView https://www.irfanview.com, PC only
- PIXLR https://pixlr.com, online
- Paint.net https://www.getpaint.net/index.html, PC
- Adobe Photoshop Express, Mobile devices only, App Store, Google Play
- Pixelmator https://www.pixelmator.com/pro/,Mac, Free trial $39.99

Gimp is considered to be the best of the bunch, it is feature rich, but complicated and difficult to learn. A basic demonstration of Gimp was given which generated some discussion.

Mike Burton then demonstrated transferring files from iPhone to computer and Pixelmator.
He started with a quick look at how to transfer photos from iPhones to PCs or Macs using firstly the "AirDrop" feature which works well for a few pictures on a good WiFi network. We also saw the Lexar lightning to MicroSD adapter and app, which is faster for large numbers of pictures and effectively provides a plug-in USB stick for iPhones.

Mike then showed us an app he uses called Pixelmator a photo editor which is very similar to Photoshop. It is only available for Mac so not much interest to PC users. He did however highlight some useful features of Pixelmator that would apply to other apps, like adding text and "bringing it to life" using gradients rather than solid colours, and the "clone stamp" tool which lets you "rub out" part of a picture (such as a flaw or crease in a scanned photo) by over-writing it with nearby sections of the picture rather than a specific colour.

Before Pixelmator Mike was using the Gimp app which used to be quite clunky, but it is now much better and runs on Mac, PC and Linux. Another benefit of Gimp is the zero price compared to Pixelmator's £20-£40 price tag. There is a bigger learning curve for Gimp compared to paid products like Photoshop, but he concluded the effort was worthwhile, at least as a trial.

We should always take care with such edits and improvements though and as Dave said keep the original just in case you need to refer back to it.