

# Learning Program: Proposal for Margrove Park

## An easy entry into community and social media.

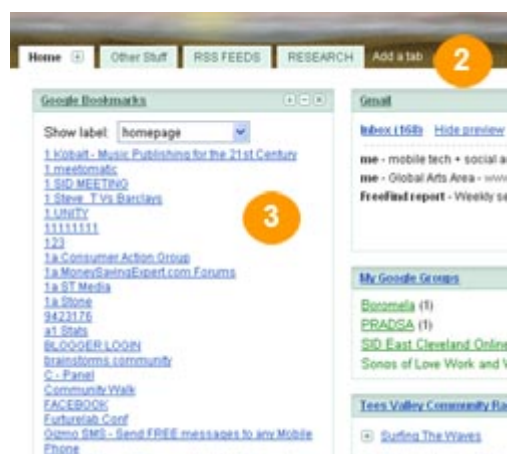
This is a proposal for people wishing to join the website group. It will form the part of Margrove Digital Village we had not yet begun – The Virtual Classroom. The sessions will take place 6pm – 8pm on the dates below but they will also be supported by learning materials and support at [www.margrovepark.com](http://www.margrovepark.com)

It is not proposed that people immediately start editing the Margrove Park website but that they learn to do all these things for themselves in their own websites blogs and wikis (examples are given below) It is possible that content generated in individual web spaces can feed content into the Margrove Park (or other) website just as you will also be able to draw on websites that interest you. You will learn how to draw material that interests you into your own space and how in turn your own material can be delivered to a community website thus forming a community media network.

## Aug 12

### Tools for Learning

In this session we will aim to get around the forgotten password problem once and for all. For the purposes of this course each participant will be asked to create a gmail account. This will stand you in good stead for other parts of the course anyhow. We will show you how to forward this account to your main email of preference so there need be no missed messages whatever system you use. We will show you how to make your web browser look the same wherever in the world you log on. You can have a range of links and resources to handle your entire web experience and this can be your experience wherever you log in (e.g. the library, home, community centre).

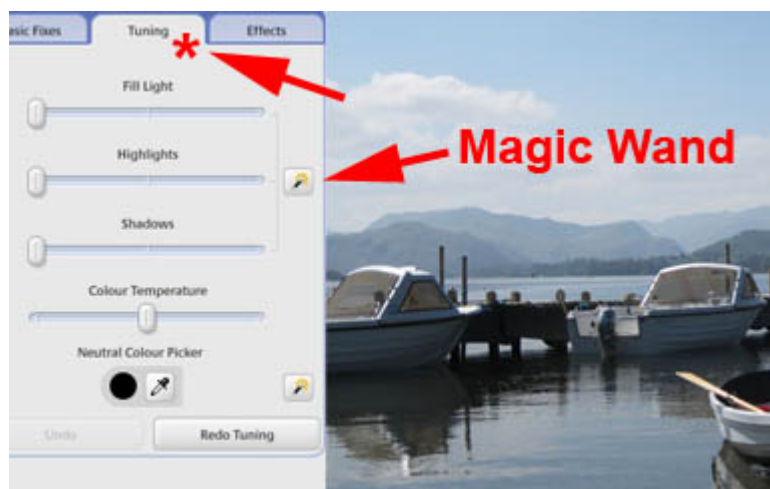


## Aug 19

### Simple Image Editing

It is a fundamental pre-requisite of making any kind of web content that you are able to prepare images for the web. This session is not about learning Photoshop although moving on to Photoshop (the industry standard image editing software) could be a progression route. The things people largely want to do with images at a most fundamental level are:

- Resize, physical size and File Size (most important for the web)*
- Crop*
- Adjust brightness/contrast*



We will touch on other image manipulation tools and online galleries such as Flickr and Picasa

## Sept 2

### Blogs

A "Blog", short for Web Log is basically an online diary which can be private or public, edited by a lone individual or collaborative group. We are going to look at two easy methods of creating a blog, first Posterous then WordPress. These are hosted free by the respective providers. WordPress also offers the option of downloading the software and installing on your own web space and this is how the Margrove Park website runs. WordPress is now so sophisticated that it can run a whole website with a blog (News) section which displays content chronologically plus static pages which are only updated now and then. WordPress is very easy but Posterous is amazingly easy requiring only an email. We'll show you how emailing Posterous can also update your WordPress blog!

Some examples

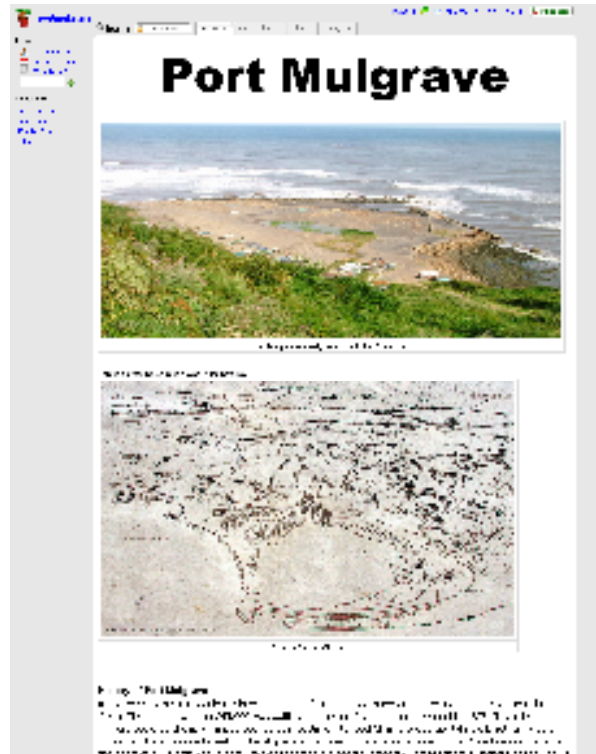
- Blog a journey <http://www.jdasites.co.uk/lightfantastic>
- Keep a video blog of a project <http://www.jdasites.co.uk/masterbuilders/>
- Keep a picture diary <http://www.tvcm.co.uk/story/>
- A picture Journey <http://stmedia.org/index.php/080808?order=ASC>
- Here's a blog that made a difference. <http://tvcm.co.uk/2006/04/afro-becky-2/>

## Sept 23

### Wikis

A wiki is a collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content, Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites and to power community websites. For example, the collaborative encyclopaedia [Wikipedia](#) is one of the best-known wikis. We are going to be using [Wikispaces](#). The support materials for this course are written in a Wiki. The benefits of using a wiki are:

- (i) the rapid creation of new pages
- (ii) the ease of updating pages
- (iii) the ease of interlinking between pages
- (iv) Collaborative writing and design.



Wikis can be used to build learning/teaching resources or just notes or research findings. What we can do in this context is take a look at [www.learninglandscape.co.uk](http://www.learninglandscape.co.uk): The Learning Landscape is a collection of Wikis looking at various Teesside artefacts and landmarks and researching their history.

## Sept 30

### Social Networking

Many of you may already be members of <http://digitalvillagenet.ning.com/> for those who are not we'll get you connected and go through how this could be useful and we'll also talk about things like Facebook, Twitter and MySpace. I'll show you how you can very easily use what we learned in the third session to update all our Internet spaces using a simple email. We'll also look at how you can keep track of all the other participants blogs from these sessions using RSS and what we learned in session one.



## Oct 7

On this last session we'll review all the preceding weeks activity and cover any reminders needed and see if we can consider it a Community Media Network that feeds the Margrove Park website.