



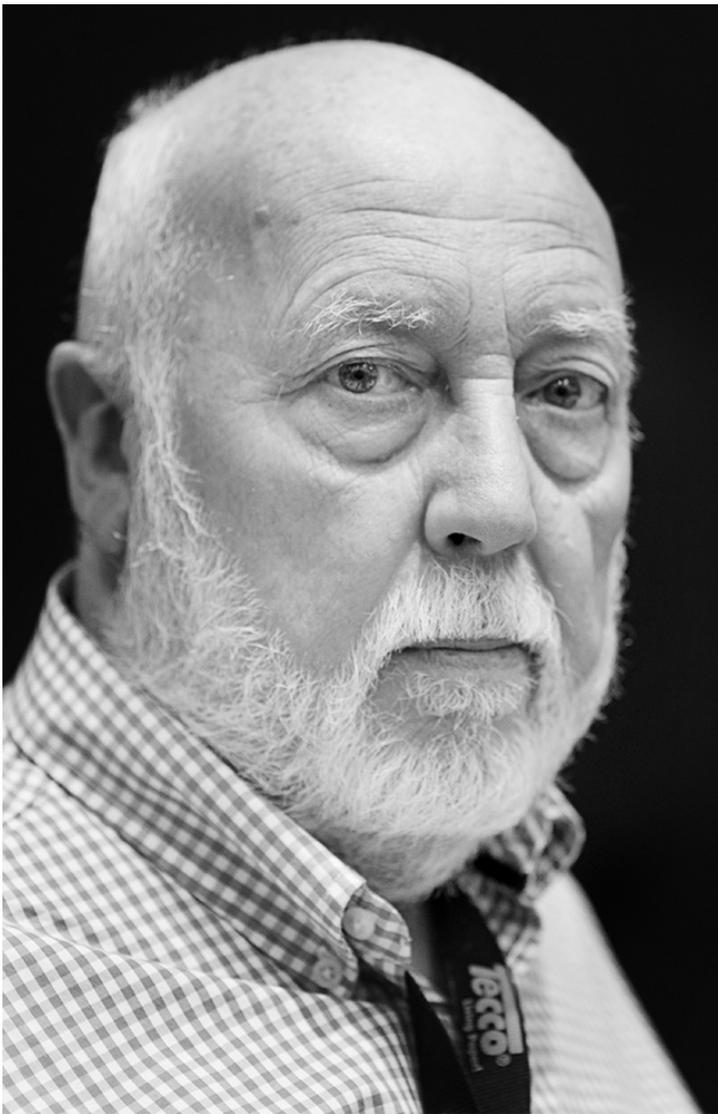
e-news

from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

Issue 201 extra. 14 Feb 2018

GRAHAM HODGKISS MPAGB ARPS AFIAP APAGB

Graham Hodgkiss died peacefully at Worcester Hospital on Christmas Eve 2017. His partner, Jane, was with him.



Graham at NEC, Mar 2014, by Richard McCleery

On joining Erdington District Photographic Society in 1966, Graham embarked on his life of serious photography. Quick to enter competitions, and to participate in all club events, he became the EDPS President in 1971. He helped found Aston & Erdington PS, via a merger and was elected as their President in 1982, with his services later recognised via an Hon. Life Membership.

Eager for more, he joined Solihull P.S. in 1981 and earned his ARPS in 1982. With a passion for landscape and monochrome printing, he helped organise many events and he was elected to the MCPF Council, where he soon rose to become the MidPhot Portfolio Chairman and, by 1986, the Chairman of the Midlands Salon.

In 2005, Graham joined Cheltenham C.C. and continued to enjoy success, now as a digital printer, receiving sponsorship from Tecco Papers. Widely known on the photo circuit as a judge of both National and International Salons, in 2007, he was awarded the APAGB for his services to photography.

At Cheltenham Camera Club, Graham stood out as a highly experienced photographer, adept at monochrome and winning most of the trophies. In particular, twice winning CCC's coveted premier trophy - The Lloyd & Gregory Cup, for best in show during Annual Exhibitions 2007 and 2009, a double win equalled by few. Graham was self-effacing in success and gracious in defeat. He remained a target to beat for many members and was one of the first to congratulate a rival's success.

Graham was a larger than life character with a booming voice, rarely needing to use a microphone. He delivered multiple solo print lectures and contributed to many other different Club sessions, providing welcome advice or critiques to help other members.

Outside the Club Graham gained his AFIAP and the much prized MPAGB in 2009. He often provided members with one to one advice on preparing images or entering external competitions.

Graham was a founder member of the Cheltenham Camera Club Salon and one of the inaugural judges in 2013.

Richard McCleery



Taking a Break by Graham Hodgkiss

One of the biggest characters in our photographic world

On Friday 19th Jan we said a sad but very fond farewell to one of the biggest characters in our photographic world, Graham Hodgkiss ARPS MPAGB AFIAP. Graham was larger than life and you got what you saw, a man who enjoyed life, enjoyed his family, and was generous with his time and knowledge. He travelled all over the country, to judge and lecture at many camera clubs and exhibitions and only retired last June, after 34 years on the judges and lecturers' lists, when even he had to admit, it was becoming too much.

If you cut Graham in half it would read, like a stick of rock, Aston and Erdington PS. Graham known as "Mr A&E" first joined Erdington District PS in 1966, and was soon involved with club activities, entering competitions, supporting social events and being elected onto the committee as Librarian in 1967 and as President in 1971.

He was instrumental in the merger of Aston with Erdington and in 1972 was one of the founder members. He served on A&E's committee from 1972 until 2006, and was President 1982-84, 1993-95 and 2000-02. In 1991, he was made an honorary life member, for services to the club. One of the things that A&E PS were known for, was their trips, particularly to Cwmorthin, which became known as A&E Valley.

In 2013 he rallied his A&E troops together and took on the Presidency again to steer the club through some tricky times.

Graham joined Solihull PS in 1980 and was soon involved with the committee from 1981-87. He was part of the team behind Solihull Open Exhibition of British Photography. It was whilst at Solihull that he joined forces with seven other photographers, including Bob Moore, Jerry Wooldridge, Alan Millward and Ray Spence, calling themselves the Midland Dimension, "a highly respected group of original thinking photographers" whose work was exhibited around the country including at the RPS.

In 1982, Graham was elected onto the MCPF Council and was part of the Midland Salon sub-committee and Chairman of the Salon in 1986. Other roles were; MidPhot liaison officer, member of the Judges Committee, and Photofolio Chairman, stepping down from Council in 1989. In 2007 Graham was re-elected to Council to organise the MCPF's entry into the PAGB Inter-Fed competitions. He took great pride in this, working alongside Jane. He not only looked at the work accepted into MidPhot and the Championships but also at work that had just missed the cut off, and when he was out and about he kept an eye out for work worthy of consideration. Lesley Betts of Stourport PS, recalls one year receiving a letter from Graham informing her that she had an image used in the final submission. She got back to him saying that the photograph had not been accepted in MidPhot. Graham's reply, "I look at all the work submitted regardless of whether or not it was accepted, and if I think it worthy of entry then I will use it." It was always his aim to have as many clubs and authors as possible represented in the entry.

In 2007 he was awarded the APAGB for services to photography and enrolled on the MCPF Roll of Honour, and, in 2009, he achieved his MPAGB in prints and AFIAP. Having moved to the Cotswolds in 2004, with Jane, he joined Cheltenham CC and, you've guessed it, was soon involved with the club, being invited to join the International Exhibition committee.

Graham was also involved in the production of two books. In 1987, he was Midland regional organiser of the "One Day for Life" project, which raised money for Cancer Research and the, "Portraits of Aston & Erdington 2000", which was a visual record of life in the Birmingham suburbs, photographed by members of A&E and sold in aid of the Stroke Association. Graham was never one for faint praise and his support was 100%.

He donated two trophies to the MCPF, one for the best overall monochrome worker in the Midland Salon, which has now been adopted by MidPhot for the best monochrome portraiture print, and one for the best projected landscape, which has a hand-painted tile incorporated into it of 'A&E Valley'.

**You heard him
before you saw
him....**

Whoever you talk to about Graham, a common theme comes to the fore. He was loud! You heard him before you saw him.

It was my honour to present Graham with his leaving present from the MCPF Council and little did we realise that would be last time many of us would see him. I will make no excuses for using some of the words that I used on that occasion again.

“Undoubtedly Graham’s best skills were photography and talking, and not necessarily in that order. Graham was passionate about photography and he loved nothing better than sitting down and discussing it with whoever would listen to him. He was a raconteur and would often have us in fits of laughter with his stories of the things that have happened to him. No one can doubt his love of photography. He was honest and forthright in his opinions and was respected throughout the photographic community. His lectures were always entertaining and informative, second to none for content and quality. His judging was fair and constructive. He has given us his time and energy. It was his enthusiasm that came across, if you were willing to learn, then Graham would teach you. He was a proud man, proud of his work and achievements, proud of his photography, but most of all, Graham was proud of Jane and his family. In his own words “Looking back over the last 57 years, it would not have been possible without the support of my family and fellow photographers. I would like to thank Aston and Erdington PS, Solihull PS and Cheltenham CC for being the vehicle to make it possible”.

He will be missed for his support in all the things that he was involved in, and he will be missed for his bear hugs. Lu Duckett. Hon. President Midland Counties Photographic Federation

His print talks will live in my memory

Graham was a great character, full of fun and life, his print talks will live in my memory. I first got to know him in the early 80’s in Solihull, when he helped me with my LRPS print pane. I’m glad to say he and Lou Bergonzi did a great job, and I managed to get my first photographic set of letters. He taught me a lot. Thank you, Graham.

One time he was booked to give a talk to Cannock when he was delayed by work commitments and traffic on the M6. Thinking he would be late, he drove on the hard shoulder to the exit. Only problem, he was spotted and got fined! But there was no way Graham would have any money from the Club. What a star that man was, and he will be sadly missed by all at CPS plus all the clubs in the MCPF.

The last time Graham judged for Cannock PS was the annual Staffordshire 13-way print comp in 2016, even though he was not a well man and had to use a portable oxygen tank to allow him to talk. What a job he did for the 100 or so fellow photographers present on the night to see a master at work, giving a first-class judgement that went down well even with the clubs who did not do well - the mark of a special judge. John Cartlidge

Great fun and a lot of leg pulling

We go back as friends to the early eighties, as members of A & E and both serving on committee and both being Presidents. Dinah & I and Graham were made Life Members of the Society. We used to have many group visits to North Wales, Blackpool and Whitby. We always had great fun and a lot of leg pulling! We will remember his humour and his wisdom. John Hartshorne



Pictures by
Graham
Hodgkiss
MPAGB
ARPS
AFIAP
APAGB



Deep booming voice and Enthusiasm.

Graham Hodgkiss was a one-off!

He was the sort of guy who is the backbone of organised club photography. Without the dedication of members like Graham, club photography would disintegrate.

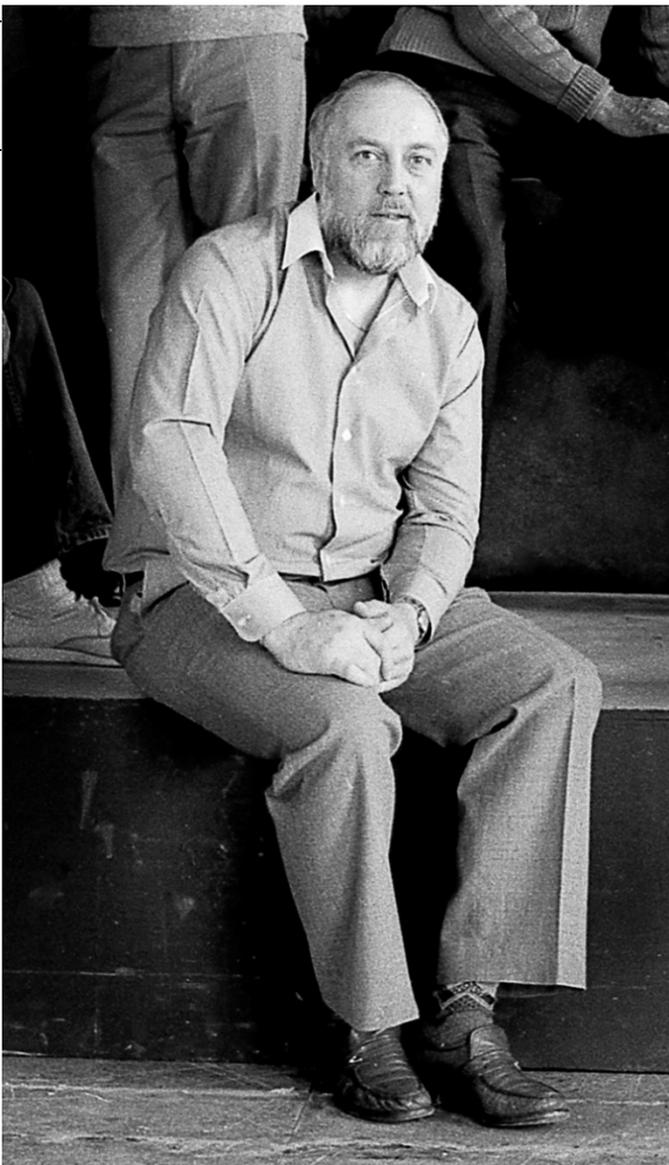
I first met Graham many years ago when he was an active member of Aston & Erdington P.S. We became friends. Graham was always ready to get involved with the nitty gritty of club photography. Never short of an opinion he would try his hand at anything including the difficult job of Chairing the Midland Salon of Photography.

Along with several other prominent Midland photographers he helped create 'Midland Dimension' in the 1980's, a group of like-minded Midland photographers who were ahead of their time.

He was awarded his MPAGB with a panel of traditional and creative prints. He was, quite rightly, extremely proud of his achievement.

Graham was a leading light in Midland photography, he'll will be sorely missed. I have no greater tribute than to say he was a mate. I'll miss him, his deep booming voice and his enthusiasm.

Bob Moore



Graham Hodgkiss by Bob Moore. Circa 1985
Scanned from a 120 B&W negative



A more recent picture, courtesy of John Kellet



Swimming Pool by Graham Hodgkiss

Graham 'Whiskers' Hodgkiss

I first met Graham, years ago, at an exhibition. We hit it off immediately, sharing the same anti-establishment humour and the same love of darkroom photography.

As the years ticked by, we met up and passed the time of day at many photographic events, some which we were both selectors at, some that we were both talking at. Graham's ability was one of communication. He had his own style, both in the work he produced, which was full-on, harsh and powerful, and in the rich baritone Birmingham accent he employed to great effect. That voice and accent carried him a long way, endearing him to every audience, because it showed so much character. He was in many ways 'louder' than life, so much so that if he was lecturing in Solihull you could hear him in Hall Green!

He gave many hours to the Midlands Photographic Federation and was an avid exhibitor.

He steered Aston & Eardington CC through some great times and some of its more difficult periods, as a father figure. Graham was one of the members a group called Midland Dimension, a highly respected group of original thinking photographers that included Bob Moore, Jerry Wooldridge, Alan Millward and Ray Spence. He deserved to be in that company.

He laughed his head off when he saw me in a suit! He loved a good joke and he was full of great stories. We both rallied at the chance to tear into 'phoney' images.

Graham was not your average club member, he was more than that, he stood out. He was affectionately known as 'Whiskers' because of his well-groomed facial hair. Beyond that he was always approachable, always held an opinion and would always engage with you after you'd given a talk.

Photography has thrown up some real characters in the years I've been involved and none more so than Graham 'Whiskers' Hodgkiss. Certainly, we'll all miss him, not just in the Midlands, but countrywide and his photography will be missed on the exhibition walls, and, sadly, we'll never hear his dulcet 'Brummy' tones again. Leigh Preston

lots of prints to display and space was short

I recall Graham relating the story of his involvement with an exhibition in which one of Alan Millward's prints had been accepted. Alan searched the exhibition looking for his print. Finally, he asked Graham where it was. Graham replied that clearly Alan hadn't gone to the loo yet. Well there were lots of prints to display and space was short!

When asked at a lecture did he use a tripod for his landscapes - Graham replied 'yes', not to put the camera on but as something to help him climb back up with his hip. In the mid 1970s he was 'Mr A&E' and issued visas for photographers wishing to visit 'their land' at Cwmorthin. John Kellett

You're going the wrong way!

Some years ago, Jill and I were away for a long weekend with Smethwick PS at the Worms Head Hotel on the Gower Peninsula. We were walking back to the hotel for dinner and were surprised to see Graham heading towards us at a rate of knots. "You're going the wrong way! You'll miss dinner!" I called as he powered past. "Yes," was his rejoinder, "but look at that light!" He disappeared towards the Worms Head and the prints that he made have ended his print presentations for several years. Better than dinner, eh?

Peter Young

The cameras were saved!

We used to have an inter club with Wrekin Arts and Graham used to wind them up by calling them Country Bumpkins. So, one year they came dressed as farmers and bought a duck with them

The inter club with Dudley camera club Graham would talk them into buying a barrel of beer. Graham usually tried to drink the most!!

When we went on out of our trips Wales he talked a member into buying bottle of whisky at the pub. But Graham had got there first and made sure that the landlord said he only had an extra-large bottle. The person buying ended up paying £40 for the whisky but see the funny side and joined in with the joke.

Graham did not drive on our Wales weekends and made sure we all put our cameras in the boot, however, he kept his handy and would jump out take his picture before we could get ours out.

During a wet week end in Wales. Graham crossed a stream, the person following had not seen how Graham had crossed and asked if it was ok to jump across. "Yes" Graham answered. So, he jumped and finished up to his waist in mud. I had never heard this person swear, I have now.

When in group walking, one of the party shouted he was falling. Graham in his normal way just shouted, "quick throw me your cameras!!" The cameras were saved.

Recollections from Bob Mason



<<< Nan by Graham Hodgkiss



Evicted by Graham Hodgkiss