

David John Marsh FRPS, Hon. PAGB 1934 - 2010

David Marsh, who died suddenly on Sunday 18th April following a stroke, aged 76, was the best known amateur photographer, certainly in the North West and probably throughout the UK

He was renowned not only for his mastery in the darkroom but also as a successful international exhibitor (under all the subject headings). A Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and a highly respected lecturer and judge, Dave was a great ambassador for the hobby, wholeheartedly supported by his wife Audrey. For a while the darkroom doubled up as a kitchen.

Dave's interest in photography was not confined to self-achievement and, for half a century, he willingly dedicated much of his time to the administrative side of the hobby. He served on the Executive Committee of the L&CPU and also on the PAGB Committee in many capacities and was instrumental in setting up the PAGB Public Liability Insurance scheme. He became President of the PAGB from 1991 to 1993 and was invited to serve as L&CPU President, not just once in 1980, but for a second time during the Centenary Years of 2005/6. He could never say no to any job that fell vacant and thus he was awarded the APAGB, a Hon. PAGB and the J.S. Lancaster Medal for excellent service to the PAGB. His name was placed on the L&CPU Roll of Honour in 1991.

His skills also extended into journalism, when for a number of years he was the Editor of both 'Focal Points' and the PAGB Newsletter. He took on the mammoth task of researching and producing the L&CPU Centenary Book in which, with his usual self-effacement, Dave refused permission for his own achievements to be recorded.

Whilst researching the book he spent many hours down at the L&CPU Archive in Manchester and took upon himself the job of organising the re-boxing and re-cataloguing of this huge collection.

He took an active part in the planning, installation and subsequent removal of the Centenary Exhibition at each and every venue on its two year tour around our region, attending every Official Opening and also giving his illustrative talk on the History of Photography.

Every year he copied the 200 slides required for the L&CPU folios with such skill that they were often difficult to tell from the originals. Other Federations and the PAGB noted this and before long he was also hard at work producing their sets of Exhibition slides.

As a member of Lytham St. Annes P.S. for fifty years he was always willing to help those wishing to learn more about photography; the quality of every type and brand of equipment, (e.g. "pieces of bottle") and how best to use them.

An alliterative description of Dave? A fanatical fund of photographic fact.

Whilst Dave accepted the inevitability of the digital revolution, having at his fingertips all the skills necessary for a very successful photographer on film, he felt no need to embrace the new technology; nor to learn new techniques or to buy what, in the early days, was very expensive apparatus. So he resolutely stayed with film.

Eventually Dave decided that he had accomplished everything he had striven for in photography. Competition no longer held any appeal. He had served his time in the administrative sphere and

quietly retreated from all associated activities. He returned his L&CPU regalia to the Union together with a few prints for the archive just a few weeks ago. A premonition?

But photography was in his soul and he recently treated himself to a small digital camera, a notepad and Photoshop Elements – purely for his own experiment and as an aide to Audrey's artistic endeavours.

This is a just a brief summary of Dave's life in the context of photography and all who knew him will have many memories of him beyond those put together here.

Dave will be very greatly missed for his dedication to our hobby and for his friendship.

Doug. Couzens
Lytham St. Annes

John Smith
L&CPU Communications Officer