



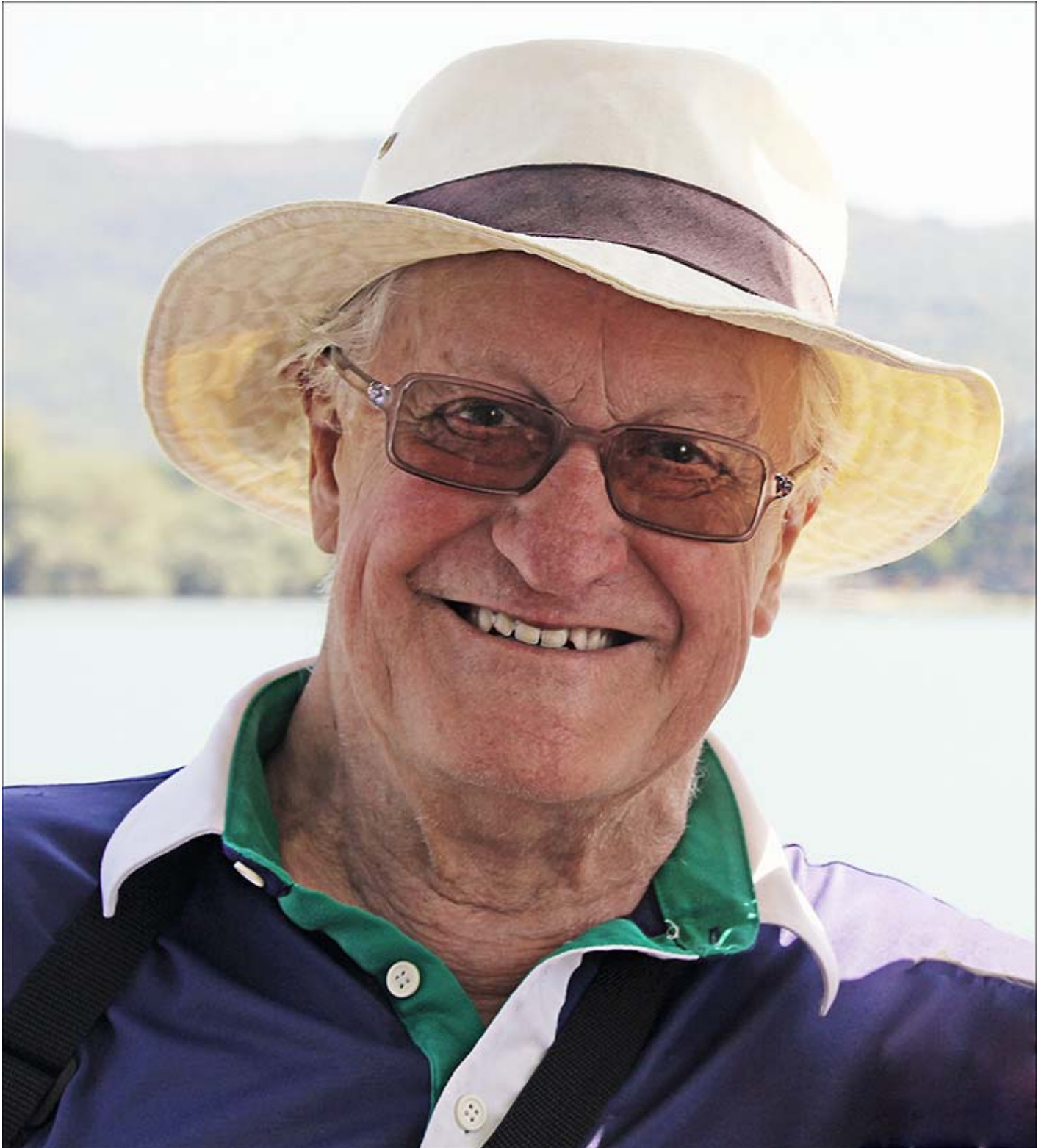
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# e-news

from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

## DON LANGFORD CPAGB LRPS HonPAGB

March 2017. Peacefully at Bryn Beryl Hospital, 88 years. Beloved husband of Christine, dear father of Joanna, Patrick and wife Ulli, Clare and husband Mark, proud grandfather of Michael and Scott.



Hon Editor: Rod Wheelans MPAGB MFIAP FIPF HonPAGB HonSPF. [rod@creative-camera.co.uk](mailto:rod@creative-camera.co.uk)

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**I first knew Don Langford when, in 1995, he was elected to the PAGB Executive Committee as the member from the North Wales Photographic Association.**

Later, I learned that he had attended Queen's University in Belfast, as I had - though not at exactly the same time! Later, when Don and I shared long telephone conversations on some aspect of PAGB affairs, it often deteriorated into reminiscences about life in Belfast, Queens University, and the world as we had known it.

He became President of the NWPA in 2000 and thus, between club, Federation and the PAGB, he devoted a considerable amount of time and effort to photographic administration, so that, when proposing him for an APAGB award in 2001, those nominating had no difficulty in presenting a Record of Service that more than justified the Award. Almost at the same time I had decided to resign as Hon. Treasurer of the PAGB, an office I had held for several years. When approached as a potential successor to me, Don willingly agreed.

At that time the Executive shared a communal meal on the Saturday evening at a London restaurants. We were regular customers and were seated in a private room, which we entirely filled on each of our triennial visits. As there were no other diners to annoy us, we all got to know one another socially and easily. Don enjoyed these occasions immensely and was always wonderful company.

Don held the office of Hon. Treasurer from 2001 until 2008 when he was elected to the post of Vice President of the PAGB, becoming President from 2009 to 2011.

In 2016, Don, for truly exceptional service to the PAGB, was awarded the J.S. Lancaster Medal, with the post nominal HonPAGB, the highest award for service that the PAGB can bestow.

Over the years, Don had become a firm friend and I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing. I really do miss him.

*John Hill HLVP HonPAGB ESFIAP, NIPA*

Don and I first met when we were members of the same UPP Circle, producing A3 monochrome prints. He was a gentleman then, and continued to be so until the end. His warm but dry humour will be greatly missed, as will his advice, which was based on many years of great service. I for one will miss him a good deal.

*Clive Tanner DPAGB FRPS, KCPA*

It was one of those cold, sunny crisp days in November and Jill and I were staying in Llandudno, where I was presenting the Welsh International Salon to a North Wales audience. Before the presentation that afternoon, Christine, who had made all the arrangements, and Don met us at a lovely pub where we had a light lunch. Don was on good form, with his usual dry humour, but I had no idea that it was to be our last meeting. Jill and I treasure that time together.

*Peter Young CPAGB AFIAP APAGB, WPF*

Don was a fine gentleman with a subtle sense of ironic humour. He could, when needed, promote a cause with determination, particularly if he felt that deficiencies needed to be corrected. Yet even this was done with a smile.

*Robert Albright. FRPS, RPS*



Don Langford, PAGB President 2009-2011

**1986-1997**  
**President, Potters Bar & District P.S.**

**1994**  
**Awarded LRPS**

**1995-2000**  
**NWPA Delegate to PAGB**

**2000-2002**  
**NWPA President**

**2001**  
**Awarded APAGB**

**2001-2007**  
**PAGB Treasurer**

**2008-2009**  
**PAGB Vice-President**

**2009-2011**  
**PAGB President**

**2013-2016**  
**RPS Regional Organiser North Wales**

**2016**  
**Awarded the J.S. Lancaster Medal**

**We have known Don & Christine for over 20 years and, in that time, we have been away with them on holiday for at least one week every year. Our last time in November when we stayed in their Keswick time-share.**

An early holiday was a break at the Holiday Fellowship property in Malham, North Yorkshire. In those early days, we were a party of about 7 couples. We went walking every day, taking photographs en-route. Don always arranged where we were to stop for lunch and by coincidence it was always a pub that sold real ale!

One evening, the meal was arranged for 7.00pm at a suitable restaurant but all the male members went into the village to the pub for a drink of real ale, as, according to Don, the restaurant only sold rubbish beer. He had also arranged for the pub to open at 6.00 as they did not open normally until 7.00. When we returned, just a few seconds before the restaurant opened, one of the other guests asked, "where have you lot been?" Don replied, "**for a leg over**" which caused great mirth to all the others who were waiting for the doors to open. The real ale drink had in fact been one with that name.

We have many fond memories and photographs of the various holidays, not only in the UK, but also to the south of France, Paris, Strasbourg and La Rochelle, to name just a few. His memory will linger on.

*Brian & Shirley Davis*

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017, I said goodbye to an old friend of many years standing. Although I have lived in the south of England for much of the last 40 years and Don lived in north Wales, were members of the same photographic club!

Don, Christine and myself enjoyed the considerable benefits of the major postal photographic organisation, United Photographic Postfolios, (UPP), where, unlike the more conventional club that usually offers only one person's opinion on your competition entries, we had anything from 10 to 15 different 'judges'. This approach gives a much better balance of the merits (or otherwise) of any given photograph.

Although never part of the same group, or Circle, we met regularly at the UPP Annual Conference, and often spent a most pleasant hour in Don and Christine's motor-caravan, passing the time of day and enjoying a 'wee dram' or two. Indeed, Don's partiality to the Scottish water of life was a frequent conversational topic, as we compared the merits of various single malts. On one memorable occasion, when Don & Christine were visiting the sunny south, Patti and I took them out for a lunch and then we repaired to our home to sample a special treat. I had, some years earlier whilst visiting Skye, purchased a box of 8 different malt whiskies. I had never opened the box, other than to review its contents, because I was waiting for the right person to share the experience with. That person turned out to be Don, and our wives can verify that the tasting went on for a considerable time, until we finally settled on a favourite, amid much laughter and camaraderie. In case the readership is interested we gave full marks to Lagavulin, a peaty drop of delight from Islay. We both bought a bottle of the stuff shortly afterwards, and quite a few since.

A few years ago, my wife organised an 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday bash for me in Swanage. Don and Christine delighted us by coming all the way down to share it with us, together with many other people from the world of club photography. Later that evening we put on a modest buffet for the UPP members who had come, and the Islay drink was sampled by many.

Don was always excellent company socially, with an inexhaustible fund of stories and jokes. I will always have the fondest memories of a good friend, now sadly, no longer with us. And, as promised at the social get-together after his funeral, upon returning home I toasted Don with a dram of the Lagavulin, and wished him 'bon voyage'.

*Ian Platt FRPS MFIAP HonPAGB HonEFIAP*



*Don at Castlerigg*

<< "Olive Trees"  
by  
Don Langford  
CPAGB LRPS HonPAGB

Llyn Gwynant



Impressions of Honfleur



Yorkshire Winter



Pictures by Don Langford

## The Celtic Challenge

Don Langford, with Sean Casey from Ireland and Rod Wheelans were the co-founders of the Celtic Challenge when the “Celtic countries”, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, North Wales, Isle of Man, Cornwall and occasionally Brittany, get together over a weekend of friendly competition and “craic”. Sadly, we have also lost Sean, but the event lives on, with the next one hosted in Scotland. As well as the competition itself, the weekend normally features a lecture by the Judge, an opportunity for some photography, with an organised outing or two, and a dinner to present the awards. Don and Christine attended the very first in Dublin, and virtually all of them since, over the last 20 years.

I've reached that time of life when I seem to be losing friends and acquaintances on a regular basis and I certainly considered Don to be a good friend. Our thoughts are with Christine.

Don was fundamental to the NWP, the PAGB and, of course, for those involved in the creation of the Celtic Challenge - always a busy person with a delightful sense of humour. He and Christine helped keep relations between the NWP and the WPF at a friendly level, following some disquiet when we broke apart, and, thanks to their efforts, all is good now. Rest in Peace Don!

*Roy Thomas APAGB HonFWPF*



Pictures of Don by his long-time friend, Brian Davis



Peter Cheetham, Don, Christine & John Walker at a N&EMPF weekend



Don & Christine and a special presentation at the 2016 Print Championship

We lost a very good friend when Don passed away. We met him frequently at all the usual photographic events and Carol and I have holidayed often with him and Christine, us in our caravan and them in their Motorhome. Lunches were regularly in a local pub, where the food came second to the fact that they served Real Ale, which needed to be dark bodied to satisfy Dons palette.

He always had a fund good stories and jokes to tell, which passed the time very quickly, as we sat together, generally putting the world to rights.

We had our last lunch with Christine and Don a few days before Christmas, as we were on Anglesey for the holiday, as we have for the last 3 Christmases. Although he was not in good health, he had not lost his humour or his wit.

We will miss him.

*Peter APAGB and Carol CPAGB APAGB Cheetham*

Many people pass through our lives and a few of those leave a deep footprint on our hearts. Don was one of those.

*Howard Tate MA(Phot) ARPS AFIAP*

I met Don first in the mid 1990s and we got on very well from the very beginning. He liked a laugh, a joke, real beer and Scotch. What wasn't to like?

Don was born in Cork and spent his early years in Dundalk, eventually moving to Belfast, where he attended Secondary School and, later, Queens College. One year, when the Celtic Challenge was hosted in Dundalk, we stayed in a small hotel which had been created by joining several houses into one. When he and Christine were shown to their room, Don realised that he was in his parent's lounge in the house where he grew up!

He went to work for ICI where, according to the reader at his funeral service, he was "a leading light in the development of plastic bags". I'm not sure that the vicar expected us to chuckle. Later, as he put it himself, he committed financial suicide and retrained as a teacher of Mathematics, a job he dedicated himself to, until retirement.

I met him and Christine regularly at PAGB meetings and at various events in North Wales and around the UK and we enjoyed dinner and a drink together many times. I considered him to be a good friend and it is strange to think I will not be seeing him again at my next PAGB gathering.

He and Christine attended the very first PAGB Inter-Club Print Championship, at Pershore in 1996 and soon, they became an integral part of a great team, especially when we moved to Connah's Quay in North Wales. Don was the "title reading voice" of the Championship for many years, occasionally interspersed with gentle amusement.

He also assisted at several Awards for Photographic Merit Adjudications and, during his term as PAGB President, showed himself to be an excellent front man, engaging the audience with his relaxed good humour. I always admired his timing and pace, especially cracking a joke. PAGB Executive Committee meetings, under his Presidential chairmanship, were light hearted but efficient, benefitting from his gentle, but firm, touch.



In his later years, he became rather stiff of limb and found it a bit difficult to walk. Because of his rather lurching gait, I would sometimes call him Robocop, which he accepted in good spirit. I'm not sure that Christine was so impressed.

Together with others from the PAGB EC, plus many friends from photography and golf, I attended Don's funeral service at St Pedrog's Church in Llanbedrog and he was later interred at Bwlch New Cemetery.

Afterwards we repaired to a local hostelry where a good number of people took turns to make spontaneous speeches, recounting their memories and their regard for Don. Whilst it was a difficult occasion for Christine, I hope she took some comfort from the many warm sentiments expressed. Don would have been in his element.

We will miss Don but we hope that Christine will continue to be involved in our photographic world and that we will see her at many PAGB events in the years to come.

*Rod Wheelans MPAGB MFIAP FIPF HonPAGB*

**Christine has asked me to say that she "has been overwhelmed by the huge number of cards and messages of support and sympathy which she has received and which are very much appreciated".**