

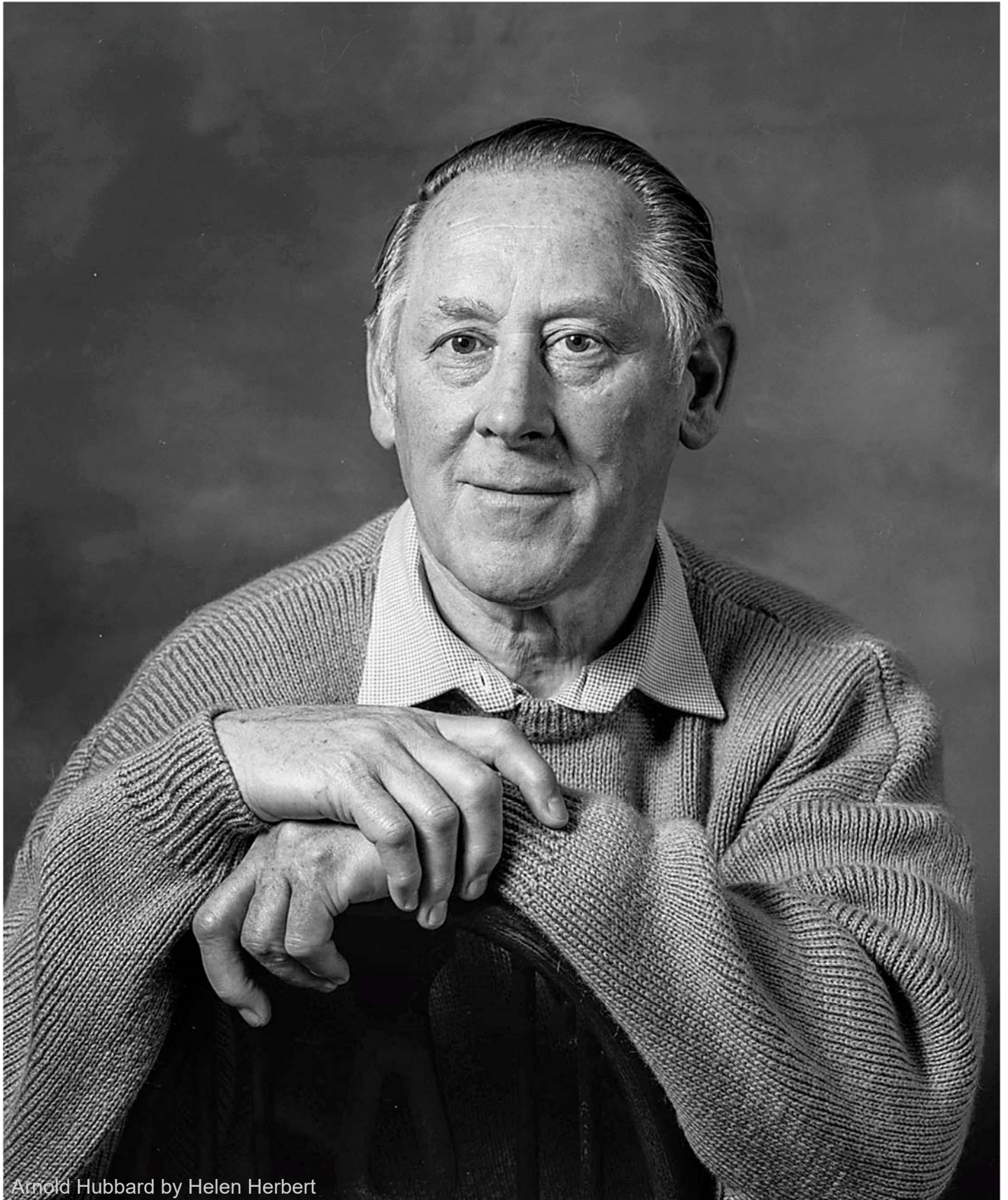
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# e-news

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Arnold Hubbard by Helen Herbert

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# ARNOLD HUBBARD FRPS EFIAP APAGB

(This article was published in the "Personal Profile" series in the NCPF Northern Focus magazine in Sept 2006)

Arnold first became interested in photography during his service in the RAF. As he described it himself, "Imagine the scene - 1947 in an RAF billet, we pushed three beds together, draped them with blankets, crawled under the beds and watched in amazement as a friend developed a quarter plate negative using a little packet of Johnson's developer." This event caused Arnold to become interested in photography and had a profound effect upon him.

The following year he was moved to the desert in Egypt and like many others before him he had a Box Brownie camera with which he took many pictures of aeroplanes, people and a few places, though the latter was dangerous, Arnold still has the photographs today. They were developed in the station darkroom on RAF paper in RAF chemicals, so it must have been good stuff!

Before he left Egypt in 1949 Arnold bought a "better camera" a Super Elgy, although he found it was totally useless, the camera even had its own size of film!

Arnold became involved with club photography when he joined Sunderland P.A. in 1950. He left after one year, his love of many different sports was greater than photography in those days! But photography was not forgotten, as he did hundreds of weddings, children and baby photography to support a growing family. Arnold was also in a postal portfolio, so he did keep in touch

In 1970 when his knees gave up he went back to his one and only photography club Sunderland Photographic Association.

During his time at Sunderland Photographic Association Arnold has held the post of President, he was Programme Secretary for fourteen years, and has been a committee member for thirty years. He is now Hon. Vice President. (*written 2006*).

His photographic career has steadily developed since 1970. During the late 1970's he started to do some lecturing and judging. He gained ARPS, in 1980, followed by a very busy decade for him. He was a founder member of the Images Group and was invited to join Gamma Photoforum. Arnold was awarded AFIAP in 1985, followed by an award of EFIAP in 1988 (This was the first EFIAP in the North East). Arnold taught photography at evening classes. He gained his FRPS in 1993. Arnold has been an International Exhibiter in prints and slides from 1980 to the present time.

Arnold has never used anything unusual, as he is not the person to be constantly changing his gear. He has used Mamiya medium format twin lens reflex cameras since 1969, but he has never had a single lens medium format camera.

Arnold has always been interested in both slides and prints, but he is sad to see the current decline in slides. As most people realise, his very first love without a doubt, has always been mono prints. Arnold's main photographic interests are landscape, people, still life, infra-red, Lith printing and toning. He is very interested in his computer and especially in getting darkroom quality mono from it. Arnold's outstanding quality prints are well known worldwide.

Arnold does not have any personal dislikes in photography. When I asked Arnold about how important competitions are to him, he thought that it is a greatly discussed and controversial question. He admits to being very competitive indeed. Competitions can encourage people to take photographs, to improve their photography, to have something to aim for, to give a measure against other photographers.

He has tried his utmost to look at and attempt to understand all kinds of photography by visiting hundreds of exhibitions and lectures over the years. Being competitive helps as International and National exhibitions are still thriving as are club competitions in most clubs. All photographers however must enjoy their photography in whatever way pleases them the most.

The competition results which have given him the most satisfaction are a Japanese competition with 10,000 entries, 137 accepted images and he got one accepted and winning the Kentmere Awards Open section for professionals and amateurs.

One of the most satisfying photographic moments for Arnold occurred one October day when he stood in Rydal Water in his wellies at 9.00 a.m. on a beautiful misty day, exposed a roll of 120 FP4 and on developing it he found that all twelve frames had a "black sun". He has asked all over the country and only found one other person who has experienced this effect - oh! and Ansel Adams did also. Prints of these were very successful. Another satisfying event was having a print of his requested for inclusion in the RPS Tyng Collection.

He has always looked upon his Winter photography, Infra-red photography and lately his unfinished Lith printing as projects. Arnold feels that it is always a good idea to have a few projects, large or small in mind to help your photography along.

Photography is Arnold's main interest and he manages to take some wonderful images. Although Arnold has no long-term objectives he hopes to keep on enjoying his photography and finding out what to do with all his prints stored in a wardrobe which he fitted out to retain them.

Over the years there have been quite several unusual occurrences that have happened to Arnold. The story of the mistaken identity on Santorini which was published in the last edition of the Northern Region RPS Newsletter is one.

Arnold also remembers the time he was photographing rocks on the seashore at Maryport and a chap leaning on the promenade railing shouted, "Is it safe to swim in there?" Arnold's reply was "I do not know but it probably is" He then said, "You should know, you are from Sellafield, aren't you?" "No, I am not from Sellafield" Arnold replied. "Well what's that you have got there?". Arnold had his Mamiyaflex camera in his hands. "It is a camera" he said. "Oh" said the man and walked away!

.....  
**Sadly, Arnold Hubbard passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> November, after a short illness.**

He was a gentle man in every sense and was much respected and revered as a photographer over many years. His interest in photography started in 1948 whilst on National Service in Egypt using a Box Brownie. Since then, he has spent many hours in the darkroom producing beautiful Mono prints of a high quality. Many years later he reluctantly made the transition to digital, when his health prevented him from spending long hours standing, but he still maintained the same high quality. He loved all genres of photography, but his passion was landscape and Infra-Red, the latter of which he has been doing for over 30 years, originally using Kodak IR film. On retirement from teaching, because he was in great demand, he travelled the length and breadth of Britain judging and lecturing at clubs, Internationals and Seminars.

He was a member of Sunderland Photographic Society for over 30 years for which he received Life Membership. A Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, he received a Service Award which entitled him to Life Membership of the Society. He has been accredited with FRPS and EFIAP distinctions which is indicative of his high standard. He was a long-term member of United Postal Portfolios and for the past 3 years was a member of the Photographic Society of America and a member of its Infra-Red Study Group.

Although failing in health over the past few years he has doggedly continued to enter Internationals, with successful results and continued his membership with the PSA G35 Study Group and Circle 11 postal portfolio as he greatly valued interaction with fellow photographers.

He will be greatly missed.



**Stu Bacon (PSA Group 35)**

I feel that our IR group are more than photographers but are like family. Even though we are miles apart and don't meet in person, we have a common "love" of Infra-Red. Arnold's passing is like losing a member of the family.

**Ken Breare**

We were so sad to hear of Arnold's death and have fond memories of our times with him and sharing his wonderful photographic images. Last time we met him he showed us some books he had compiled and he was so proud of them.

**Peter Clarke**

I am very sorry to hear the sad news about Arnold. I used to enjoy his company and went on lots of outings with him especially when I lived in Northumberland. He was such a gentleman and was always willing to share information. His snow landscapes were superb and seemed to have life even when my own efforts, taken in the same conditions, seemed to turn out grey and dull!



**Upper Teasdale by Arnold Hubbard**

### **Nelson Charette (PSA Group 35)**

Very sad news. He was such a great photographer. Arnold will be missed. I'll miss seeing his photos

### **Paul & Christine Damen UPP (Circle 11)**

It has been a great privilege to have known Arnold as a good friend for the past forty years. A quiet, gentle man who came alive with enthusiasm whenever he was in photography mode. He was the life and soul of UPP Circle Eleven gatherings, always with an enthralling story to tell about his photographic exploits. He was an eminent amateur photographer whose images never failed to impress with the love and skill that he put into them.



### **Paula Davies**

Arnold Hubbard FRPS was such a lovely man. A great photographer, darkroom printer and digital printer. A great loss to the photographic community

### **Irene & Gerry Froy**

Arnold was a perfect gentleman and a brilliant photographer. We were very fond of him and photography has lost another leading light.

### **Eric Hall UPP (Circle 11)**

I was deeply saddened by the news of Arnold's death. In fact, I can hardly bring myself to accept its actuality. There was an easy affinity between us. I well remember a C-11 rally in a complex of cottages near Malvern. When we arrived Arnold commandeered Gaenor and whisked her off to see his cottage ---to my surprise --- and relief when he returned her safely. Since then, we have both felt an endearing attraction for him. We had regular interchanges, mostly about the tribulations of old age, which we shared. I have one of Arnold's prints, which he gave me, mounted on the wall of my study. It is a print full of life and joyous exaltation ---for me that is a fitting way to remember him.

### **Clive & Gill Haynes UPP (Circle 11)**

It's very sad to learn about the death of Arnold. He was an inspiration to many, a well-loved teacher and a stalwart supporter of pictorialism. He'll be missed, and his passing is a particular loss to C11.

### **Bill Herbert**

Being a very good, close, friend for many years, I will cherish the time we spent together, and will miss his stories, sense of humour and photographic advice.

### **Peter Herbert UPP (Circle 11)**

I heard the very sad news about Arnold late last night. Although I never met Arnold personally, we exchanged frequent e-mails and occasional telephone calls and I shall greatly miss him. He generously gave me his Fay Godwin book of the Forest. I was amazed to find it was a signed copy.



### **George Ledger, Hexham & District PS**

Arnold visited our club on numerous occasions over many years as both judge and lecturer and was a true friend of all Photographic Societies and Clubs in the area. He will be truly missed.

### **Terry Richards, Hartlepool PC**

Arnold Hubbard will be sadly missed in the photographic world, a great photographer and printer who inspired many, including myself, over the years.

### **David Trout**

Arnold was an inspiration to us all. Like so many of the big names from my early days in club photography, who earned great respect but who are no longer with us, he will remain in my memory.

### **Colin Westgate**

I have known Arnold for many years - he was a photographic 'icon' in the North East and will certainly be much missed. As you know, he was profoundly deaf for many years, but kept going as enthusiastically as ever with his photography.

### **Brian & Brenda Whiston UPP (Circle 11)**

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Arnold's passing. We have known him for a very long time, possibly since the 80's. Arnold was such a lovely man and we both looked forward to seeing him on circle rallies and at the UPP AGM. He seemed such a quiet man until you got to know him. He was always full of fun. Many years ago, I invited him down to Kent to give a talk to Tonbridge Camera Club. I was a little bit nervous as he was such a quietly spoken man, but my fears disappeared when he started to speak. Suddenly he had such a commanding voice and his presence was felt right across the room. The quality of his photography was outstanding, and people still remember him to this day. At one of the rallies, Brenda wore a pair of leather trousers, which sent him into raptures; he always looked forward to seeing her at other rallies and was most disappointed if she didn't wear them. They were great days, unfortunately in later years he could not hear us, and we used to pass written notes to him. Still the memories will live on and we will miss him.

### **Richard Walton**

The signed silver print Arnold kindly gave me, Fairway and Rough, around 15 years ago is one of the most cherished in my collection. It completely changed my way of seeing. Thank you, Arnold.

### **Rod Wheelans and Anne Greiner**

We truly loved Arnold. He was such a gentle man but full of enthusiasm for photography and life. In his day there was no better darkroom printer and he visited Dumfries Camera Club many times. He had a rare ability, as a speaker, to command everyone's attention and he really knew how to work a room. We remember many happy occasions. When we visited Pontefract recently, we were delighted that he came along to see us and to watch the judging. His deafness by that stage meant we could only communicate with gestures and scribbled notes but it was enough. We didn't consider that this would be the last time we would see him. Arnold will not soon be forgotten.



<<< Arnold is pictured, in Pontefract, with Anne Greiner and Libby Smith.

**Mick & Sue Willis**

We remember the wonderful laughs we had at the rallies with Arnold. What a sense of humour he had. I will miss seeing his wonderful images in the 'box'. A sad time indeed.



Isolation by Arnold Hubbard



Country Lane



Wind of Change



Fairway and Rough by Arnold Hubbard

# HISTORY ON YOUR DOORSTEP!

**Arnold Hubbard FRPS**  
looks closer to home and captures  
the end of an era – just in time!

Suppose there are many photographers rather like me who have spent many years wrapped up in club photography with countless hours used in the search for the photograph that will hopefully win in competitions. We even aspire beyond the club – will these pictures do well in NCFP competitions, will they be accepted in National or International exhibitions, could they win awards, might there be sufficient 'good' ones to bring us letters after our names? We're always striving for more and more.

Well I admit that I have always been that way inclined and I would not wish to change it, for I believe that it has been instrumental in giving me the desire to do better, to improve, to learn and be successful. A lot of this attitude has also been aimed at helping to make my one and only club a winning one also. So why am I putting this down in print? Well although I have enjoyed a wonderful involvement in photography over many years, the joy of taking the pictures, the thousands of places this has led me to, all the hours spent in producing as near perfect prints as my ability would allow, the greatest reward of all must be the friends that it has given me, not only here in the North East but all over Great Britain.

Yet I am always troubled by one thought. There are millions more people in the world who don't go to a club, but I've no doubt their enjoyment of photography is every bit as great as ours, possibly even more so, and many of these are happy living up to the title of this page, people like Jim Walker FRPS with his masterful photography of the salmon fishing around his home in Berwick, thousands of pictures taken over a long period of time. Then there is Jimmy Forsyth with his pictures of Newcastle. I can't

imagine that he travelled the world searching for pictures or spending the money on expensive equipment as we do, yet his photography will be around long after much of ours is forgotten. Yes, I have a few pictures of the mining industry, an odd one or two of the shipbuilding, chemical and steel industries that were all around me, but I never gave them much thought or photographed them in real depth before it was too late. The major regret and disappointment in photography will always be the sad fact that I didn't look closer to home.

In 2007 Cliff Banks and I read that the magnificent cranes at Swan Hunters were going to be dismantled and sold to India, this must have brought tears and deep sadness to the thousands of shipyard workers, many of whom had spent their entire working life there. My sister-in-law's husband was an electrical manager



there for many years, yet even though it would no doubt have been possible for me to go to photograph the shipbuilding industry and the workmen, it never occurred to me, not even once to do so. Only when we found a way in on two occasions did I fully realize how vast and great Swan Hunters must have been and what a fool I had been, what an opportunity I had missed. Taking pictures when it was all gone and seeing the cranes as if they were memorials about to be taken away was a sad and very moving experience. It seems that very little will last for ever. It is astounding how quickly things can disappear, but for some strange reason we are perhaps too familiar with our surroundings and assume they will always be there – and suddenly they have gone. Why not look closer to home?

**Postscript**  
The cranes were finally dismantled and left for India this year, a sad day for North East shipbuilding.



Opposite:  
Last Stand  
Top left:  
Doomed  
Top right:  
An Empty Site  
Centre:  
Only Their Homes Remain  
Left:  
Sunk

From the RPS Northern Region newsletter. 2010

<http://www.rps.org/adminuploads/external/images/contactme@georgeledger.co.uk/NL22.pdf>

**Helen Herbert Dear friend, I miss you. Amongst the angels now. Rest in Peace.**