

## Margaret Collis ARPS HonEFIAP DPAGB AFIAP APAGB

30/11/1934 - 17/07/2022



Margaret first became interested in photography as a teenager, developing films under the stairs and printing them in a frame in the garden by sunlight.

She joined her first club, Kingswood Photographic Society, in 1973. Then, in 1997, she joined Bristol Photographic Society, eventually becoming its chairman. From taking mainly slides, she subsequently adopted Cibachrome printing in its very early days, which led her to experiment with derivative techniques such as solarisation and lithe printing in black and white.

She joined the Western Counties Photographic Federation executive in 1984 serving as Exhibition Secretary for what might be a record 7 years. In 1992 Margaret gained her ARPS with a set of colour prints. In those days submissions were meant to show a range of work and her panel included moody landscapes (her first love) and some graphic shots.

In 1993 Margaret was elected WCPF President and their representative on the PAGB. It was while President that she started the WCPF landscape weekends – the first one being held at Two Bridges on Dartmoor, to be followed by many more.

She edited the PAGB Handbook for 3 editions and was involved in the first FIAP biennial organised by the PAGB and this led to her joining *Images sans Frontières*, where she enjoyed the symposiums held in France and met many European colleagues. Her fluent French and German were an obvious asset and helped bring the UK closer to the international photographic community. It was at this time her love of travel and people were added to her enduring love of landscape photography. Through these contacts she was invited to join the FIAP Directory Board. She became President of the PAGB in 2007.

Following her discovery of the far east at the FIAP conference in Chengdu in China, in her 80's Margaret visited numerous countries, including taking a river trip down the Mekong River, and particularly enjoyed the way that photography brought people together and created lasting friendships.

As her son, I'd like to add my thanks to all her photographic friends and colleagues; her friendships made through it were always a great source of joy to her, and inspired me to take up photography too, when I was 11, helping her turn the old Leitz enlarger on and off with the help of a stopwatch!

*David Milne.*

After such a long and influential life in photography - I simply had to approach some members of camera clubs which Margaret belonged to ask for some anecdotal asides for more personal memories of her life amongst us.

**Bill Aven : WESTERN COUNTIES PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION:** *Years ago, when Margaret was the President, it was the routine then to meet at the President's home for the Executive Meetings. Margaret always provided lunch - which finished with a delicious Raspberry Pavlova! This made it a hard act to follow!*

**Jenny Byram : WAVES AV Club.** *"I remember meeting Margaret for the first time in the toilet at Cyst St Mary at one of the WCPF occasions. She was a bit put out by the fact the toilet wouldn't flush. I'm not a plumber - but I lifted the cistern lid and noticed a wire had become detached. Hooking it back in place - the toilet flushed! I think I gained a bit of admiration then?"*

**John Chamberlain : Bristol Photographic Society.** Margaret was good host usually after apologising for the 'clutter'. She hosted various RPS group meetings and she was Chair of BPS willingly accommodated and fed visiting speakers. In that regard she was very generous.

**Peter Weaver : HANHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.** *She was a fiercely intelligent lady with a strong personality Margaret was a good photographer who supported camera clubs on a local basis as well as nationally. She was often a judge and speaker at Hanham PS and she and her then husband Peter joined Hanham PS on some of our social trips when we went away for a few days in the 1990's. I judged at her clubs at Backwell & Bristol and she had no hesitation in telling me if she disagreed with any of my comments but I was always invited back! Margaret's cooking was good restaurant standard!*

A very small sample of some of Margaret's moody landscapes from around the world.



*Inch Strand, Kerry, Eire*

*Waterfall*



*Dunstanburgh Castle, Northumberland*

*Angkor Temple, Cambodia*

