
Jim Harrison

PDI competitions started at Crewe PS in 2003 and soon replaced slides as the projected medium for our work. In 2005 we held our first annual competition and it seemed appropriate to dedicate it to member Jim Harrison who, at 98, had picked up his first digital camera and was one of the club pioneers in digital photography.

Jim sponsored a cup and so the Jim Harrison Trophy was born. At the end of the season, in April 2006, Jim was approaching his centenary and the Awards Evening for 2006 became a very special event with a presentation of a commemorative gold medal to Jim by David Marsh (President

of the L&CPU) and Christine Widdall Christine was representing Jim's original club, Oldham PS, where he was a member for 43 years.



Jim was born in Oldham on 13th March 1906. He grew up to be a talented musician and played saxophone with the Ron Taylor band. The band were successful in many dance band competitions and Jim also won awards as an individual player too. He could have well had a career in music but his father had died at just 29 and Jim was the family breadwinner, so instead became an instrument maker at Ferranti.

In 1994 Jim and his wife Phyllis moved to Crewe to be nearer to their daughter, Jean, and he continued his interest in photography by joining Crewe PS. His technical abilities soon saw him mastering the difficult art of colour printing. No surprise then that he was such an early convert to “digital”.

Jim was always neatly dressed and, when Howard Edwards made his portrait it had be entitled *Gentleman Jim*.

Sadly, Jim did not make his 101st. November 2006 saw us all at his memorial service where our Chairman paid tribute to a fondly regarded and respected member.

(Photo of Jim at his medal presentation, 20th April 2006 by Les Simpson)

AJR March 2022

Eulogy by CPS Chairman at the thanksgiving for the Life of Jim Harrison held at West St Christian Fellowship 13th November 2006.

I feel very privileged to say a few words about Jim because we really treasured Jim Harrison at Crewe Photographic Society. Now the empty chair on the front row and the silent piano will remind us and we will miss him very much indeed.

It was only a dozen years ago that he joined us though – he was actually a member of Oldham PS for far longer (over 40 years) and they are still very proud of him over there and there are members of Oldham here today to pay their respects.

Last April we had the opportunity to show Jim how much we thought of him. We enjoyed a special event to mark Jim's 100th birthday – he was awarded a specially struck Centenary Medal by the L&CPU.

The L&CPU is the Federation which serves over 100 photo clubs in the North West. The president, David Marsh and Secretary, Christine Widdall came over to present it and, of course we all made little speeches about Jim.

But then Jim surprised us by making a speech himself.

This what he said....

Thank you all for being so kind and having so many friends at Crewe and Oldham.

I never expected to get to this age - I must be making up for my father who died at 29.

I remember the German Zeppelins coming over during the First World War and we used to get under the table for cover.

I think photography and playing in dance bands must have helped me because my step-father used to say to my mother "That lad'll kill himself with his late hours" – but here I am! Thank you all!

Yes, we were proud of Jim, but not just because of his great age.

He attended most of our meetings and was always very smartly dressed and dignified, sitting on the front row taking it all in - still an enthusiast after all these years.

He took an interest in the other members and asked after them if he noticed they were missing.

He still entered our competitions and one of his slides was recently selected for the PAGB national competition.

He would sometimes "Play us out" on the piano at the Library at the end of a meeting. This was a reminder of his dance band days – Jim could easily have become a professional musician but family commitments forced a safer career.

He was so young at heart and forward looking – he was one of the first in the club to buy a digital camera and he sponsored our newest competition for digital images – the Jim Harrison Trophy – now our special way of remembering him.

Smart, dignified, amicable, caring, talented, a great enthusiast.

Goodbye Jim, a true gentleman.



