



# The Peregrine Phots Post



The Royal Naval Photographer's Association

Spring  
2011

Issue 25

## Hi from your Editors

Sorry for the delay in sending out this Newsletter but Steve & I have been on our travels catching up with our friends in Australia one being Alan (Chick) Fowler - as you can see in the photo. Alan has been treated for cancer and is now recovering from the radiotherapy and doing well.

The other was Jean & John Rossiter, Jean is the sister of the late Tony Wilson & like her brother she was a photographer.

The Edinburgh trip sounds a great success, we are sorry we missed it, full story by Ray Pogson & pictures by Ray Whitehouse & Pete Thorne. Ray our social secretary has been busy organizing the Gibraltar trip in October visit details page 9. The Midland trip has been put back till next year.

The next Newsletter will be in July a full report on the Aden withdrawal will be included anyone who can add to this please send in your stories or photos thank you. Happy reading.

Hilary & Steve King



## All Aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia



Ann & Bill Porter, Steve Collinson, Jan & Pete Pinnock, John Berrecloth Ray & Pam Whitehouse Mary Gilbert, Angela Pogson, Mike Gilbert, Angela Thorne, Maureen & Doug Manning, Peter Thorne, Ray Pogson

full story Edinburgh visit page 2

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## Edinburgh visit voted a success By Ray Pogson

A briefing room on HMS Illustrious - Britain's last aircraft carrier which is currently under refit - was an appropriate setting for a party of RNPA members to hear about the construction of the two new super carriers being built at the former Royal Navy dockyard at Rosyth.

The 20-strong party were making the association's first social visit to Scotland designed to involve members living north of the border, although some members had driven up from the south coast or flown into Edinburgh from London and Belfast.

Scottish rep John Berrecloth was supported by locally-based members Ray and Anne Pugh and Mike and Mary Gilbert. Others, who had travelled greater distances included social secretary Ray Whitehouse and his wife Pam, Mike and Jean Keeling, Doug and Maureen Manning, Pete and Jan Pinnock, Bill and Anne Porter, Peter and Angela Thorne, Ray and Angela Pogson and Steve Collinson.

The party stayed three nights at the Brooks Queensferry Hotel at North Queensferry and organised a car-sharing scheme to transport members between a well-crafted programme of events. After being individually photographed for visitor passes and watching a health and safety video at Babcock's reception centre the party was escorted onto HMS Illustrious by Lt Cdr Keith Taylor, senior weapons officer, who acted as guide during a tour of the ship that took in the engineering, operations and warfare departments, and the hangar and flight-deck, plus a brief explanation of the ship's 'goal-keeper' anti-missile defence system.

Following lunch in the Wardroom, the party then heard a detailed presentation by Platform Commissioning Engineer Brian Glennie of BAE Systems on the concept, design and progress of the £5bn programme which will deliver HMS Queen Elizabeth, the first of the two 65,000-tonne carriers, into service by 2016.

## Edinburgh visit voted a success By Ray Pogson .... Continued from page 2

Five different shipyards around the UK are currently building massive individual sections that are being towed to the Rosyth yard and lifted into place by a gigantic crane which arrived in the Firth of Forth recently from China.



Dinner that evening was at the renowned Hawes Inn in South Queensferry, a watering hole frequented by Robert Louis Stevenson who wrote part of *Kidnapped* whilst staying there.

Steve Collinson, Mike & Jean Keeling, Ginge Ball, Pam & Ray Whitehouse, Mary & Mike Gilbert, John Berrecloth Anne & Ray Pugh

Next day Edinburgh's dockside district of Leith was the first port of call for a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia, now a very popular and well-organised attraction for visitors to the city.

Fears that Britannia was not being well maintained can be discounted. Mike Gilbert BEM, who served on Britannia from 1967 to 1970, is a Royal Yacht Association member and one of a number of 'yachties' who spend a week each year chipping, painting and polishing to keep Britannia in pristine condition. "We don't get paid but the parties are great fun." said Mike.

After lunch in the Royal Deck Tea Room the party headed south west of the city to Glenkinchie Distillery at Pencaitland for a tour of the production department followed by a tasting of the 'water of life' in the hospitality suite.



Mike & unknown visitors to Britannia



The Bridge



Pam & Ray Whitehouse, Jean Keeling, Maureen & Doug Manning



Mike & Mary Gilbert - Mike who served on RY Britannia talking to a member of staff.



## Edinburgh visit voted a success By Ray Pogson .... Continued from page 3

Glenkinchie is part of the huge Diageo drinks organisation and was chosen by the company to represent the Lowlands area in its six-strong Classics Malts Selection. Fortunately, some of the ladies in the party were not whisky drinkers (more for me), and I can confirm the Edinburgh Malt went down a treat, as did the dram of Royal Lochnagar that followed it.



Mary Gilbert, Mike & Jean Keeling



Angela Thorne, Pam Whitehouse, Mike Gilbert, Staff, Mary Gilbert & Maureen Manning



Bill Porter & Ray Pogson



Ray & Pam Whitehouse



Bill Porter & Angela Thorne



Anne Porter feeling the worse for wear.



Doug Manning

Next stop was nearby Rosslyn Chapel, made famous by being featured in Dan Brown's 2003 book *The Da Vinci Code* and subsequent film of the same name starring Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou.

The interior carvings were attracting 30,000 visitors annually but the recent publicity has increased this number to nearer 80,000. Despite *No Photography* signs being displayed, Ray Whitehouse talked the guide into allowing a RNPA group shot, and compounded matters by getting the young lady to use his camera!



### **Rosslyn Chapel**

L to R:

Peter & Angela Thorne, Bill Porter, Ray Whitehouse, Jean Keeling, Anne Porter, Ray Pogson, Mike Keeling, Angela Pogson, Doug Manning, Mary Gilbert, Maureen Manning, Mike Gilbert & Pam Whitehouse.



Former photographic officer Roy 'Ginge' Ball, who had joined the group for a drink during the initial meet and greet session, arranged dinner for the party at Tapa, an Edinburgh tapas restaurant off Princess Street.

Overall, a most interesting visit which was made all the more enjoyable by social secretary Ray Whitehouse's first-class organisation throughout, and he received a vote of thanks from everyone attending.

Catching up since their last meeting on the Albion in 1959 Roy Ginge Ball, Ray Whitehouse Mike Keeling. Also in the phot Jean Keeling



### **Cecilia Philbrick talks to Hilary King**



Reading about the visit to Edinburgh reminded me of the reunion we had last year and a conversation I had with Cecilia Philbrick 86 yrs about being a wren working in photography.

Cecilia joined the WRNS in 1943 and was trained at the Observer School HMS Condor Arbroath & Billeted at Letham Grange. She learnt to process & print, making photographic maps for the observers, know what to do when the motor on the camera stopped and to work it manually. Cecilia met her husband Fredrick a Army Officer in Brechin whilst on a make & mend, they married in 1944.

One of her fondest memories was that of her friend Joan who worked in the stores and was told the tot was being stopped for a time till after the war and it to had to be poured down the sink, so they were were dispatched to find any containers and Joan returned with her hot water bottle which caused some amusement. A true wren.

It was a pleasure meeting Cecilia & getting the feel of working in photography in 1943, where as it was 1969 when I joined the photographic branch & photographed everything within 50 miles of Lossiemouth on film in black & white, our instructor was Bill Smith. My first draft was to Frazer Gunnery Range before FPU was transferred to Whale Island Portsmouth .



A new angle on the fire at Strand House, RNSOP Felpham c1944. This photograph was sent to photographer John Cook on a carrier in the Far East. (Anyone know of John Cook).

There are two versions of how the fire started. Douglas Rendall in his 1980 article for the BJP says that it was a V1 bomb but other think it was accidental. I plan to get to Chichester to look at the newspaper records as soon as I can but, to save a trip, can anyone supply a definitive answer



**Felpham Again.** The RNSOP staff in 1945. The only one identified at the moment is Molly Chaplin (back row 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) who reportedly took the Fire pictures with a hand held F24 camera.  
Anybody know anyone else



And still on Felpham (sort of) In 1940 the schools own dedicated RN Photo flight was formed initially with Ansons, Sharks and Seals but later with just four Ansons. These flew from RAF Ford and were administered by Daedalus and stayed at Ford when it became an RNAS. During the build up to D Day Ford was so busy so they the moved the photographic flying training to Cowdray Park near Selham in West Sussex. Ray Pugh recalls that, later, the aerial training also moved to Tangmere while new runways were being added to Ford. Is there anyone left who did, or knows anyone that did, fly from Cowdray Park or can recall any further details of flying from Tangmere.

Tantalisingly the phot who wrote the article at Hist103 was on course and did his training at Cowdray Park. I am still trying to find out who wrote it????

I am currently visiting the Fleet Air Arm Museum to try and get more detail on the RN Photo Flight. The Museum hold some 1500 pilots log books and we may just get some info from them if we can get at the pilots names.

## Things Historical continued....

Finally, and as usual, any photographs of photographers or reminiscences about your time in the branch are always wanted and, of course, will form part of the history of the branch. Don't let your children or grand children ditch them!

Jan Larcombe      jandor@which.net

### Membership Secretary's - Danny du Feu

Just to remind anyone whose membership is due to get in touch - Thank you.

RNPA Membership Secretary  
Email: danny@ddf-photography.co.uk  
07891 660715  
57 Westover Road, Leicester, LE3 3DU

## In Memoriam

### Joe Mendoza

Joe died in Cornwall on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010. He was a founder member of the RNPA having served in the editing section of the RN Film Unit, based at Tipner, from 1942 to 1946. Like most of the film units' personnel he was recruited from the film industry and did no Naval photographic courses. After the war he became an award-winning director, writer, executive producer and producer on a wide range of films. He made documentaries about everything from chocolate to cement, salesmanship to submarines, oil rigs to diamonds, Junior Leaders to Red Cross workers and travelogues for Africa and Northern Ireland, working all over the world. He also made children's films and wrote two Opera Libretti.

Initially he started writing scripts with Tony Skene also from the editing section of the film unit. They worked for Sidney Box on scripts and directing and writing screen tests. They encouraged Sidney to see Dirk Bogart and Kenneth Moore having seen them both in a London play and they wrote and directed the test for Bogart.

Joe worked as a director and scriptwriter with Green Park/Film Producers Guild and went freelance in the early 50s. He retained his interest in editing and always worked closely with the Editor in the cutting room. He retired in the early 1980s.



Photograph of the RN Film Unit editing staff taken outside the cutting rooms at Tipner.

L-R

**Back Row. Unknown, Tony Skene, Joe Mendoza**

**Front Unknown, Nancy Noble, Hazel Wilkinson (I/C section), Terry Bevan, Unknown**

## In Memoriam

### Peter 'Jock' Dale

A superb photograph of a Supermarine Scimitar firing a Bullpup missile over the Benbecula ranges in the early 1960's by Peter 'Jock' Dale, who died in April, confirmed his reputation as a fine Royal Navy photographer.

Flying in a Hunter T-8 and using a Rolleiflex camera, Peter's shot of the missile just feet from the armament pod easily won the unofficial competition with other Lossiemouth-based photographers during the Bullpup firing programme.

"There was a blinding flash and I pressed the shutter release button..." Peter told me at the time. It was a cracking photograph.

Peter was born in Linlithgow, West Midlothian on November 13, 1936 and joined the Royal Navy aged 19. He was a member of the ground-breaking No 1 Phot 111's course which included Phil 'Sharky' Ward, Mike Keeling, Brian 'Ginge' Harris and Colin 'Noddy' Blunden.

His nine-year service included drafts to HMS Gamecock, HMS Peregrine, HMS Condor, HMS Owen, HMS Fulmar, HMS Eagle and a stint at DPRN in London.

He married wife Ann on July 31, 1965 at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. She survives him with daughters Nicola, Dawn and three grandchildren.

After leaving the Navy Peter set up two printing companies but suffered a severe stroke 20 years ago from which he made a reasonable recovery. In the last year, however, he became quite ill and subsequently died.

His funeral took place at Cambridge City Crematorium on May 10.

Peter was a proud Scotsman, so a highland bagpiper played the lament *Flowers O' the Forest* as his body entered the chapel and *Going Home* from Dvorak's New World Symphony as the service ended. Whisky was served to toast his memory at a gathering of family and friends afterwards.

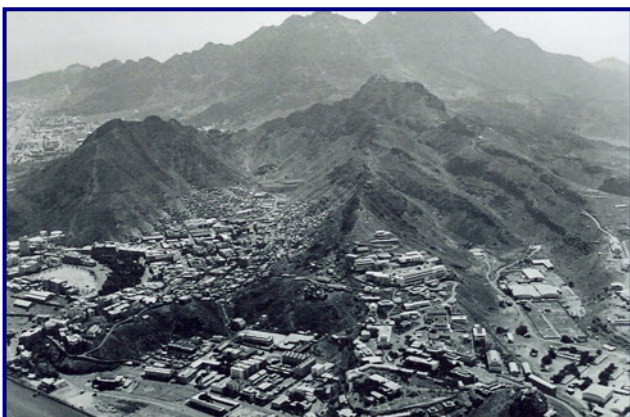
When told of Peter's death, fellow Scot and RNPA member Ian Paterson, who worked with him at RNAS Lossiemouth, recalled: "What a nice guy. He had a great sense of humour." Obituary by Ray Pogson who also served with Peter at RNAS Lossiemouth and who attended

#### Back row

Colin (Noddy) Blunden, Mike Keeling, ?

#### Front Row

Pete (Jock) Dale, Phil (Sharky) Ward, Brian Harris.



### Next Newsletter - July.....

We will be running a report on the Aden withdrawal with the help of Paul Yockney's Photo album. We would like to hear from anyone who took part, have you photos or stories to tell?

Ma'alla Tawahi & Steamer Point Aden  
Photo Paul Yockney





PHOTOGRAPHERS  
ASSOCIATION

# **RNPA SOCIAL EVENTS 2011**

## **RNPA REUNION GIBRALTAR**

**FRI 28th Oct - 30th Oct**

### **ROCK HOTEL and QUEENS HOTEL**



#### **Package price.**

##### **Rock hotel**

Three nights Bed and English Breakfast

Reception and Gala Dinner

Costs per person not including flights

**£200**

##### **Queens Hotel**

Three Nights B & B

Reception and Gala Dinner at Rock Hotel

**£140**

#### **Flights and information available from Ray Whitehouse**

**From, Heathrow. Gatwick Luton etc It is important that if you are interested in attending to let Ray know as soon as possible**

**Contact Ray Whitehouse Social Secretary on 01903 770906**

**or email to [ray@chilston.com](mailto:ray@chilston.com)**

**Midlands visit** will now be next year due to the late reconstruction of the FAA memorial and the further delay in final design of association plaques. Hopefully this will be resolved in October's meeting and a new date set.

**Please visit - The RNPA web site: <http://www.rnpa.info>**