



The Peregrine Phots Post



Autumn
2012
Issue 31

The Royal Navy Photographer's Association

Ahoy there!

It's your Editor

Another great reunion in Portsmouth at the atmospheric Square Tower - the weekend started with a social at The Still and West PH. On the Saturday morning a visit to HMS Warrior - well done Ray to organise a great weekend & Davey Jones as a tour guide! A lively AGM followed in the afternoon with Tony Darbyshire being elected as the new chairman details on page 2. Chairman's report page 6. The weekends photos on pages 3,4,5 & 7. - Happy reading

Happy Halloween Hilary King

All Aboard HMS Warrior



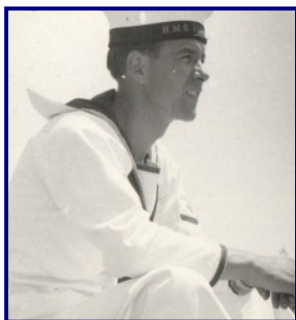
Your Editor wearing the latest
RNPA Fleece



L - R Tony Brailey, Bill Stenning, Tony Darbyshire, Ray Whitehouse, Val Darbyshire, Paddy Purcell, Doug Manning, Bill Simpson, Peter Bunting, Pam Whitehouse, Bridget Bunting, Steve King, Davey Jones (tour guide) Rose Stenning, Tony McDevitt, Hilary King, Jan & Doreen Larcombe, Ann Simpson, David Adams, Mary Manning.

RNPA COMMITTEE

Chairman	Tony Darbyshire	01753 892260 e-mail tony.darbyshire@gmail.com	Newsletter	Hilary King	01926 334190 e-mail h.king2@sky.com 14, Parsonage Close Bishop's Tachbrook CV33 9SD
Vice Chairman	Paul Cowpe	07768235708			
Acting Secretary	Maurice (Jan) Larcombe.	e-mail jandor@which.net	Webmaster	Paul Cowpe	e-mail paul@cowpe.com
Treasurer	Lt Richard Moss. Bsc. (Hons) RN.	023 8026 5212 e-mail richris95@googlemail.com	Historian	Maurice (Jan) Larcombe.	e-mail jandor@which.net
Membership Secretary	Steve King	01926 334190 e-mail h.king2@sky.com	Serving Members	Amanda Reynolds	e-mail aj.reynolds@ukonline.co.uk
Social Secretary	Ray Whitehouse	01903 366505 e-mail ray@chilston.com	Honoraray Associate	John Cunningham	



Farewell to a Shipmate

"Todd" Edward John Slaughter aged 82 yrs has died at home in Lee - on-Solent in April 2012. I remember Todd as my chief at FPU Fraser Gunnery Range & then on Whale Island where he became our first Fleet Chief I know this because I sewed on the badges & his sleeves up so he could not get his jacket on. He was a fine chief who always looked after his photographers. I remember a phone call from him when I was in DPRN, he was in Plymouth & had to select a wren for the department - my next draft. I have no information about his career even after many phone calls. Photo care of Bob Lomax

AGM 2012



The AGM was on Saturday afternoon 25th September 2012, where the Rum Tub was used for the first time it was agreed that a £200 donation to The Hero's Fund would be given as payment - thank you to Ian Hooper for arranging the making of the tub.

The Newton Bell has now been assembled and rung every time a Tot was drank - a lovely sound.

Tony Darbyshire was elected as chairman, Jan Larcombe remains as acting Secretary with help of the minutes from Val Darbyshire. Ray Whitehouse remains as Social Secretary everyone else remain in post.

The next social will be in the Spring with a memorial service at the National Memorial Arboretum Ray is arranging times & dates, he is also arranging next years Reunion in Bournemouth 4 - 6 th October details to follow - keep this date open.

Steve King showed members the fleeces with the RNPA logo & took orders, he informed the meeting that the membership data base was now up to date. It was suggest that every member of RNPA send in their service career to help with the newsletter - thank you to those that have done this already, it will help in the future newsletters.

Hilary King





RNPA Reunion Portsmouth 2012

Another most enjoyable reunion which started on Friday 28th September at The Still and West PH, with a social evening - good food & great company.



Bill & Anne Simpson Paddy Purcell, Tom Brailey Tony McDevitt, Jan & Doreen Larcombe, Pete Bunting.



John & Moira Cunningham, John Flack & Andrea, Pam & Ray Whitehouse, Hilary King, Ann & Bill Simpson, Paddy Purcell, Pete Bunting Tom Brailey, on right Nick & Rita Mewton.



Bridget Bunting, Doug and Mary Manning, Tony & Val Darbyshire, Nick Mewton & Rita



John & Moira Cunningham, John Flack

Sunday Lunch at The Dolphin



Pam Whitehouse, Tony Brailey, Paddy Purcell, Tony McDevitt, Tony Darbyshire, Pete & Bridget Bunting, Val Darbyshire, Hilary & Steve King.

HMS Warrior



Saturday morning we were all aboard HMS Warrior 1860. When she was launched she was the largest, fastest and most powerful warship in the world.



Davey Jones, Mary Manning, Hilary King, Pam Whitehouse, Jan & Doreen Larcombe.



Jan Larcombe, Mary Manning & Ray Whitehouse



On the Gun deck where the crew also slept.



Down in the engine room.



David Adams, Doug Manning and Davey Jones

RNPA Reunion 2012 The Square Tower Portsmouth



Tony McDevitt, Paddy Purcell,
Tom Brailey & Ray Whitehouse.



Ann & Bill Simpson



Jan Morgan and John (Paddy)
Cunningham - catching up.



Rose Stenning, Dave Morris
& partner Sharon



Michael Lay, Steve King
Rod Safe & John Flack.



Michael Lay & Hilary King



Mike & Jean Keeling & Ray Whitehouse



The Square Tower
had a lovely
atmosphere



Dick, Bill Stenning, Paddy and Ray

Dave Morris & Dick Churm
A ex-journalist who used
to work with Dave. He
popped in to say hello on
hearing there was a
"RN Phot Do"



Chairman's Report by Tony Darbyshire

At the AGM of our gathering in Portsmouth at the end of September I was elected to be the new chairman of your association committee. I feel honoured to take on this important job, and hope that I can do our association the justice it deserves. I just hope that flogging and keelhauling for naff chairmanship skills has been abolished. Time will tell.

In taking on this job I'm conscious that my role will be crucial to help us through a further period of change. When I left the navy, back in 1974, the service was already shrinking. I don't quite remember what the numbers were, but it was considerably less than when I joined in January 1965 - which was the day after Winston Churchill died, so that's easy for me to remember.

Since my time the size of our armed forces has been steadily declining, and our branch has been subject to downsizing too. Maurice Larcombe gave us some interesting figures at the AGM about branch numbers. It seems that, since the formation of the branch around hundred years ago, we've had in the region 1200 photographers go through training.

In my time, during the sixties/seventies, the branch complement was probably in the region of about 120 or thereabouts. Now, with the advent of digital photography, it seems that there will only be around forty full-time photos in the branch in the future. This is because anyone, with a little training, can pick up a camera and take a half-decent photograph. The age of the Internet now allows a picture to be sent electronically from anywhere in the world instantaneously. The darkroom is a thing of the past, along with the smell of dope and fixer. Computer software can now do the job of making even an under-exposed, or over-exposed image look pretty good.

So, it seems, the need for a full-time photographer on a ship's complement is getting less, and the task is being delegated to a sailor who has another full time role. Very sad, but true, and the Photographic branch is probably destined to shrink still further. As Alvin Toffler said in his book 'Future Shock' many years ago, *constant change is here to stay*. We may not like the changes very much, but it makes no difference whether we do or we don't. Change will march on.

What does this mean for our association? In simple terms it means we have to encourage as many of our old colleagues to join the association as we can. Otherwise a speedier decline in numbers is inevitable. The advantage of serving in a small branch was the feeling of camaraderie and exclusivity. Even though we didn't get to meet some of our colleagues we felt that we did know them. But the downside of that exclusivity is that we have to work harder to keep our membership numbers up. Not easy.

Thankfully we're all living longer and it was good to see so many ex-colleagues at the reunion, some of whom go back to the Second World War. Meeting with Doug Manning and his wife Maureen, was very enlightening, and Doug had even handled bigger cameras than the trusty old Watson.

It doesn't take a genius to work out that relying on our more senior friends to prop up the association is not enough. Therefore making contact and encouraging the more recent branch members, including serving photographers, is crucial to our cause.

Part of my role as chairman will be to help in a continuing recruitment drive. But, as I'm sure you all know, I won't be able to do that on my own. Your help in locating ex-photos is most important. If you know of any old friends, who are currently not members of the association, can I ask you to get in touch with them and ask them to consider joining us? It seems that many of the more recent branch members, who've now left the service, are not members. The Data Protection Act hampers our efforts to make contact with many of our old buddies, so the grapevine through personal contact is crucial.



Tony Darbyshire showing the latest technology to Nick Mewton

Chairman's Report - continued.....

I know that all of us have very fond memories of our time in the branch, and meeting up every year or two is a nice way to enjoy the company of people we knew all those years ago. I met with several people in Pompey who were just names (perhaps legends even?) to me, as I'd not crossed their paths during my time as a phot. But meeting with them was a joy and sharing memories, and stories, and meeting their spouses, was a delight.

I hadn't seen Jan Morgan since I left Lee-on-Solent for my 2's course in October 1965. (Jan was a demi-god to me, as I'm sure he'd agree). Finding out what he'd done after leaving the navy was really interesting. And reminding Jan that it was me who left the Lyon's ice cream A-board advertising sign in his married-quarter garden, after a night out with Geoff Sellers, brought back a memory for us both. Actually it was Geoff's idea to do it, not mine; I was just a raw gullible young sailor who went along with it after drinking too much ale. That's my side of the story anyway! Thankfully Jan hasn't held a grudge against me for all these years. I do seem to remember that he did ask us to take sign back from whence it came. Getting it back to shop we took it from was probably a lot tougher than nicking it in the first place. I wonder if Geoff remembers this little escapade? The pub we went to was the Swordfish...and I'm sure some of you reading this will remember it.

I'd love to meet up with old friends I served with, and get to know the newer photos I've not yet had the pleasure to meet. I hope you would like to do that too?

So, please help us to encourage more ex-photos to become members and we can continue to meet for many years to come.

Your association needs you! (Where have I heard that phrase before?)

Tony Darbyshire

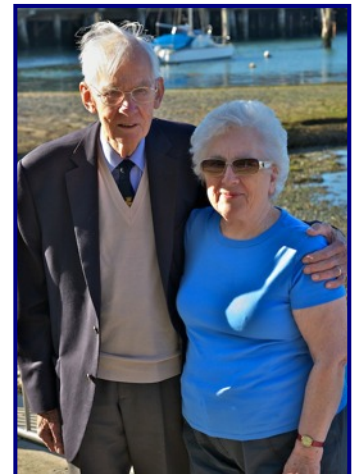
A few additional photo's of HMS Warriors visit taken by Tony



Val Darbyshire, Pete & Bridget Bunting



Bill Stenning, Paddy Purcell, Pete Bunting



Doug & Mary Manning



Ann Simpson, Paddy Purcell, Pam Whitehouse
David Adams



Have you got them all in the shot

Things Historical

by Jan Larcombe

Tipner

I was a bit surprised at the reunion to be told by an ex phot that he had never been drafted to or even visited Tipner during his time in the Branch.

A sort of spiritual home the Naval Photographers association with Tipner goes back to 1919 when the Branch was formed and a Photographic school established. With a couple of breaks this association continued until the Fleet Photographic Unit /Surface Flotilla Photographic Unit moved into Whale Island in the Mid 1990s leaving Tipner unoccupied.

Travelling into Portsmouth on the M275 for the reunion I look over toward the "FPU" and it had gone so a short diversion to have a look resulted in the following pictures



Main Gate



Stills Section on the right with
Sound Studio in background



Old Cine processing/Stand
Easy/ Changing rooms building.

It looks like its going to be a Park and Ride area and the full redevelopment scheme can be viewed at <http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/8781.html>

Any stories about Tipner most welcome

Sideways Entry, Were you the first?

Sideways entry into the branch was officially introduced in 1961 with No 1 Phot 2s course at Lee on Solent. The Instructor was Bob Walton and a picture of the Students can be seen at Hist770 linked from the website at <http://www.users.waitrose.com/~jandor/>

But, Nick Mewton joined the branch on 26th January as a LM(E) and relinquished his rate to become a N.A.2, doing his Airmanship course at Condor and qualifying as a Phot 3 in June 1960.

And I (and not many people know this) was a sort of sideways entry but never actually qualified in another trade. When we finished our airmanship course at Condor they did not want any photographers so I was told that I was going to be in Safety Equipment. Disappointed, as Ginge Bromellow, sporting a camera badge on his lapel, had taken our course group, and I thought that that would be a good job. I travelled down to Lee and spent three months awaiting SE course, working in the Nile Raft section and agitating to be a phot. I don't recall but there must have been a Captain's requestmans at some stage. Eventually they gave in and sent me off to Ford where I spent another couple of months waiting for a 3s course and eventually qualified in October 1959.

Surprisingly, although they did not want Photos from our original Airmanship course, Bill Stenning, Dave Drescher, and Dave Buckingham all entered the branch on the sideways entry system.
Any advance on 1959/60?

by Jan Larcombe jandor@which.net