

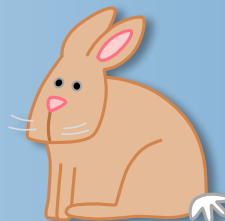


The Peregrine Phots Post



Spring
2015
Issue 41

The Royal Navy Photographers Association



Ahoy Shipmates

Hope you are all enjoying your Easter Weekend Steve and I are having a quiet one as he had his op 3 weeks ago and slowly does it, he is improving each day.

We have a mixture for you in this newsletter, page 3 Ray has outlined the reunion at Chatham on Friday 9th October 2015 more details to follow after committee meeting at the end of the month as things are confirmed. Brian Cartwright has sent in article which I'm sure you will all enjoy and a poem from Nick Mewton which you olde' sea dogs should relate too.

Our usual Things Historical from Jan and the mystery Photo. I have had another muse through the Peregrine Trophy 2014 and themed it with the Antarctic and Arctic there are so many good photos its a shame I can't cram them all on the page. Hope you all enjoy this newsletter please keep the articles coming in, we would like to start a photo page so send in your photos - see page 2.



Best Wishes for Happy Easter



The Peregrine Trophy 2014 & page 6

HMS Protector Hydrographic Vessel Antarctic,.

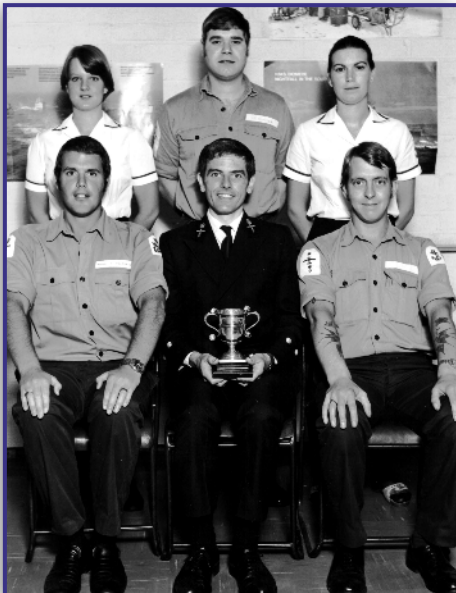
Photo by LA(Phot) Vicki Benwell

Where do the crew have their Christmas Dinner? - find out on page 6

RNPA COMMITTEE

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Photo Corner



HMS Drake Interdepartment Sports Winners

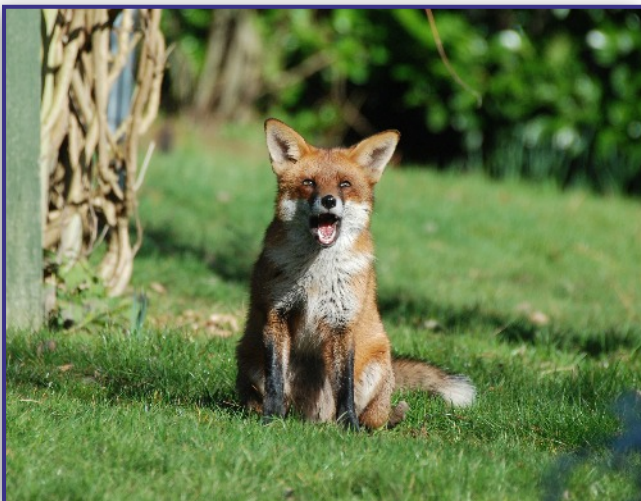
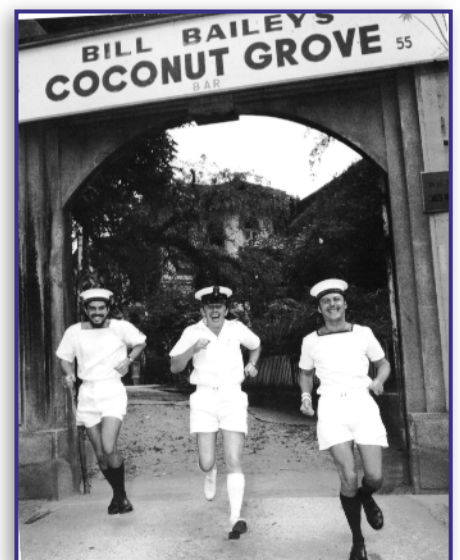
Caroline Whyntie, Tab Hunter, Tiz Brennan

Front row

Pete Holdgate, Brian Cartwright, Pete Simcock.

PR Photos at Bill Baileys Coconut Grove

Brian (Ben) Cartwright, PO
Jamie Jamieson, Dave Menaul



A visitor to Pete Thorne's garden - Wishing Pete a speedy recovery when he has his op.



Photo: Brian (Ben) Cartwright of a beautiful Heron.

**Wanted more of your photos
Come on Photos!!!!**

From Ray Whitehouse Social Secretary

Reunion & AGM Chatham Friday 9th October 2015

I am working on the following programme but still waiting for information from Chatham with regard to costing's etc.

Friday 9th October	pm	Members arrive & register at Bridgewood Manor Hotel	
	pm	Welcome drinks	
	pm	Social event at the hotel including Dinner (details to be decided) Bridgewood Manor Hotel	
Saturday 10th October	am	Depart hotel for Chatham Dockyard. Tours and free time to explore the Dockyard, exhibits and ships	
	1230	Light buffet lunch	H.M.S. Gannet
	pm	Continue visit of the Dockyard & H.M.S. Pembroke*	
	pm	Drinks Reception Venue & Programme to be decided	
Sunday 11th October	1015	Coffee & Tea	Bridgewood Manor Hotel
	1030	RNPA AGM	Bridgewood Manor Hotel
	pm	Organised visit to	Leeds Castle
	pm	Table d'hôte Dinner**	Bridgewood Manor Hotel

* HMS Pembroke was the old Chatham Barracks and is now the local University; it is possible to go around the outside of the accommodation blocks, wardroom and church some of which are the oldest naval building in the country... it still looks like a Naval establishment but isn't, hundreds of scruffy students wondering about!

** The basic weekend is for two nights i.e. the Friday and Saturday but several members have expressed a wish to stay on until Monday so I am including the Sunday night within the programme.

Hopefully I will have all of the details, costs and options available for consideration at the committee meeting when we can make our final decisions and then send out the final proposal.



Brian Cartwright. RN & Civilian.



MFO Medal parade - Spot the sailor

On August Bank Holiday Monday (5th) 1963, I, together with 100's of holiday makers travelled by train from London to Plymouth. At Plymouth station a friendly Leading Regulator greeted those bewildered lads and directed us to a waiting blue 'RN' coach in which we were transported to HMS Raleigh, Torpoint, Cornwall.

Whilst undergoing my basic training I came to realise how fortunate I was to have been brought up in the Catholic faith. On the first Sunday parade, before prayers, the order was given 'Fall out the Roman Catholics'. We doubled to the drill shed for a chat and a smoke until we had to rejoin the parade! I remained, on paper, a Roman Catholic until my demob.

Following HMS Raleigh came basic Airmanship at RNAS Culdrose where myself and Ray Nicholls were selected to go on to Lee On Solent, HMS Aerial, to await a photographic course.

Here I was to meet PO Tony Fisher who educated me in the correct method of mixing P(RN)Q. For those of the digital age this was Phenidone Hydroquinone, the developer for prints. Over the next 20 plus years I must have mixed 1000's of gallons of the magic liquid, I'm not sure that every bucket was mixed in the 'Fisher' method.

During my basic phot 2's course (No 4), the school transferred to HMS Fulmar at Lossiemouth. On completion of phot 2's I went to Fraser Gunnery Range for a year under the eagle eye of CPO Wally Donkin.

After this short break it was off to Chatham to join the Survey ship HMS Vidal. Part of my joining routine was to collect my bedding, a hammock and blanket from the bedding store. The killick 'jack dusty' said I was entitled to an extra blanket as I was victualled in the forward stoker's mess!? All soon became clear as daylight, well that is what I could see from my mess. On her way back across the Atlantic, Vidal was involved in a collision at sea (nothing to do with the phot on board at the time 'Benny Lowe'), but Vidal was put in to dry dock and had the front part of her bow removed for repair/replacement.

An interesting first sea draft, after repairs it was off to Norway and the Northern Lights and a few weeks surveying the ice floes. A short break back at Chatham then off to the Persian Gulf to chart a deep water channel for oil tankers followed by some beautiful 'banyan' months at Diego Garcia. At that time the island was a large coconut plantation. A French overseer with his family and a number of native workers were the only inhabitants, now it is home to many 100's of U.S. servicemen and civilians.

At the time of our surveying, 1967, there was a constant Russian presence just outside of the atoll, watching and probably listening to all our workings, now I know why.

Leaving HMS Vidal I spent a year at Fraser before a short move across to Lee On Solent for another year.



**Reykjavik Iceland 1966
HMS Vidal alongside HMS Hydra**

Brian Cartwright. RN & Civilian. Continued....

In February 1969 my first daughter, Tracy, was born and in the June of that year she accompanied my wife Jean and myself to Singapore, HMS Terror.

Most of the time it was a holiday, tropical routine, then to the pool for a few 'Tiger beers'. There was however a reason for us photos being there. The 'towed target' filming in the South China Seas. HM Tug Typhoon was home to many a phot, lovely sunshine, clear blue skies and of course the odd 'splash' from a 4.5 to be captured on film for later analysis by the WRNS in the building adjacent to the dockyard phot section. There were a couple of downsides to these holidays at sea, living in the Chinese crew's space with their 'temple' and joss sticks, and the Captains love of tripe and onions!

In Singapore there was time to relax, as well as parties there was Pete Grigsby's wedding where I have never seen so many photos in white uniform gathered at one place.

Back to the UK and Lossiemouth for No22 phot 1's course followed by another year at Lee On Solent, then to HQ Cdo Forces RM Plymouth. Not long into my tour with the Booties I was summoned to the Colonel's office. Unbeknown to me my mother (all my family emigrated to Queensland whilst I was in Singapore) had written to the Admiralty asking if I could accompany Prince Charles on his forthcoming trip to Aussie? The Colonel politely informed me that I could tell my mother that I would not be part of the Royal visit!!

I could not get away from the booties, I left HQ CDO FORCES to join HMS Hermes in her role as a Commando Carrier and here I did get to meet Prince Charles who was embarked in his role as a Wessex helicopter pilot. During my time on Hermes I was loaned to HMS Royal Arthur for PO's leadership course, followed by the dreaded Black Mountains weekend 'hike'! If you recall 1976 was the year of the hot summer and heath fires. In readiness for us on the mountains dying of thirst, at each mountain peak check point a 5 gallon drum of fresh water was placed for us. That was probably the only weekend in the whole summer where it rained almost continuously!

On leaving HMS HERMES I stayed in Plymouth as the CPO Phot HMS Drake.

A change of location led to a two year draft as an instructor at JSOP, RAF Cosford, followed by a 'branch change' as an Officer of the Watch on the main gate at HMS Heron, Yeovil, Somerset. This two year stint included the period of the Falklands conflict which made the job busy but interesting. Whilst serving as O.O.W. I had a phone call from drafty (Lt Cdr Charlie Wines) who asked me if I wanted to be the first RN Phot to join the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO SINAI) in the Sinai desert. Another holiday paid for by the Government. As the Force photographer I had to visit Cairo, Tel Aviv and Sharm el Sheikh. No work at weekends from 1200 Saturday so one was 'forced' to go to the private beach on the Mediterranean! If you survived the six month tour they presented you with a medal, which the British contingent, of the 13 nations represented in the Force, were not allowed to wear by orders of HMG.

In February 1984 I returned to HMS Heron as CPO Phot for the final 3 years of my career.

What to do in Civvy Street?

I sat the Civil Service entrance exam at Bristol and scraped through as an EO (Executive Officer), after 24 years in the RN they posted me to the Logistics Executive (Army) at Andover, the reason I now live in Andover. The job was boring, the department was overstaffed and underused but at least I knew something about some of the kit for which I was responsible, the Army photographic equipment.

Fortunately my lifelong hobby, philately, came to my rescue. I went for an interview at Phillips the fine art auctioneers in Bond Street. I was offered a job in their stamp department as a specialist and auctioneer. I spent 7 years there before moving on to Stanley Gibbons in the Strand as a British Commonwealth stamp specialist.

In 1985 I was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society.

For the past 8 years I have been working in a stamp, coin and medal shop in Salisbury.

Photography has remained my hobby and now I am semi-retired I spend my spare time as a volunteer for TARCA (The Anton River Conservation Association) and also at the Hawk Conservancy just outside Andover.

The Peregrine Trophy 2014 & page 6



Xmas Dinner for crew of HMS Protector -
Hydrographic Vessel

Right Antarctic Ocean Base Inspection
Photos of HMS Protector by LA(Phot) Vicki Ben-



28 Squadron Artic Circle
winter training

Phot: U/K



HMS Protector Antarctic Ocean Brabant Island



6 Mediterranean HMS Montrose on board a Lynx - Photo: L(Phot)) Alex Knott

Things Historical

Jan Larcombe - jandor@which.net

Those of you at the Belfast reunion will recall Brian Jackson who joined the team at the The Pontefract Castle. Still active he was in a recent Gucci commercial which can be viewed at <http://www.gucci.com/uk/worldofgucci/iframe/holiday-2014> The themes of the commercial is based on the Concierge in the beautiful film, *Grand Budapest Hotel*.

Norman Grantham sent this picture which is now on the website and asked for any info on John Clayton. There are other Photos in the picture so if you recognise anyone please give Jan the names



Taken at Culdrose c.1958/59 of a group outside the newly opened Seahawk Club. The occasion was a Tramps Ball and shows a few Photos with other odds and sods.

The Phot on the left is John Clayton who had recently returned from 18 months on Protector in The Falklands. Does anyone know what happened to him?

He had made a lot of money on Protector and had a newish white car to prove it. He told me that apart from the usual rabbits, he was the sort of official photographer ashore doing weddings and covering the social events. Some retired Admiral was writing a book on birds and John found himself following strange birds around the Islands. Not only did the Admiral pay him, but

the Publishers were very generous as well. Bill Barrett was the boss at that time and I recall standing outside the Phot Section as Moose Marriott drove off in his Morris Minor, I think it was. My black A30 was next to John's splendid white one leaving a gap where Moose had driven off. Bill said to me in that droll Yorkshire way of his. Looks just like the keys on a NAAFI piano—One black one white and one missing.

Mystery Picture

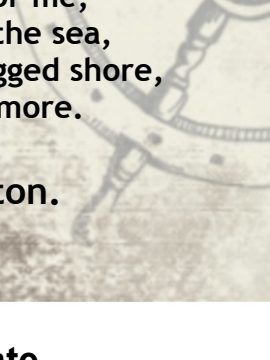
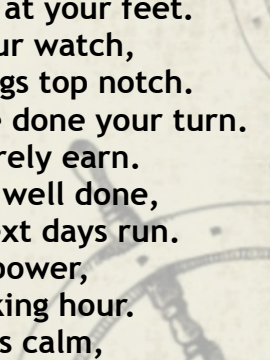
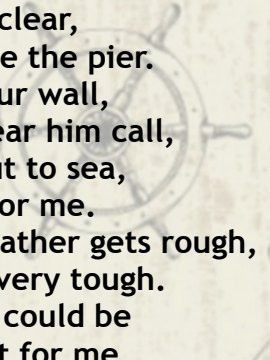
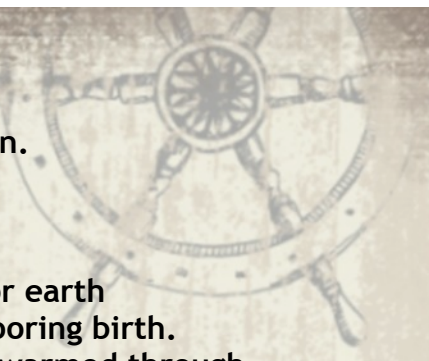
This from Army Bill Bain Fulmar club 1968/9. I think I recognise Roger, Les and Danny. There are some army but anyone got anymore names?



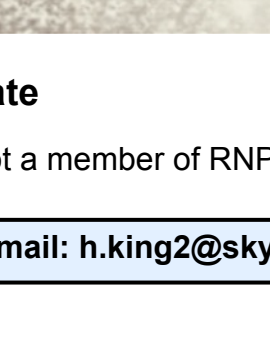
I have looked at this phot and think that sitting down 6th from left is Diane Walker and 2nd from right is Anne ? I know she married a midshipman & had a baby they were in DPRN with me in 1972/3 I will check my records

Hilary.

A SAILORS DREAM
By George (Nick) Mewton.
R.N.Phot.Retired.



The greatest thrill over sea or earth
was when we slipped from our mooring birth.
The throb of the engines as they were warmed through,
The call of the Mate to the awaiting crew,
“Let go forward”, we hear him shout,
Slow but sure the bow moves out.
“Let go aft”, the call rings clear,
“Slow ahead both”, and we leave the pier.
As we slowly leave the harbour wall,
The Captain takes over and we hear him call,
Half ahead both and we are out to sea,
this is the time that is best for me.
We crash through the waves, as the weather gets rough,
to walk down the deck becomes very tough.
Rough was rough, and tough it could be
but however rough it was great for me.
You get used to the roll and pitch in good time
and soon you just sway and walk as in rhyme.
You go down to the mess attempting to eat,
Hold on to your plate! Else it lands at your feet.
The regular rota of keeping your watch,
keeps the Ship running and all things top notch.
When your watch is over and you have done your turn.
a good nights sleep you will surely earn.
Your hammock is slung and all is well done,
you are rocked to sleep till the next days run.
I love the sea; I respect its power,
and it was not rough every waking hour.
As we cruise along when all is calm,
We can rest a while in its cooling balm.
Around dipping bow the Dolphins play,
and Seagulls dive in the wake all day.
So when I die, don't weep for me,
Just return my body back to the sea,
Then waves that crash on the rugged shore,
Will remember me for evermore.



By George (Nick) Mewton.
R.N.Phot.Retired.

Farewell to our Shipmate

Clem Oliver I have no further details he was not a member of RNPA.

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