

NPA NEWSLETTER - FOCUS - JULY 1999

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Many apologies for the delay since the last newsletter, in 1998. I hope that events planned for 1999/00 come to fruition and that I will get the chance to see more of you. On a more personal note, I have decided that after 28 years in a blue suit, that it was time I did something else. Therefore, I take up my new position as a riverkeeper and estate manager, on a stretch of the Itchen, in March of 2000. I am, as ever, most keen to pursue the challenge of getting the NPA into a stronger unit, and would hope that I can continue as secretary until then.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - I would hope that as many of you as you can come along to the 'do' in November. I hope that our membership increases, as a result, and that the regional meetings become fixed in everyone's diary. See you in November! Ian, the sec, is always looking for help. If you can spare some talent, and time, give him a ring.

PROJECTS -

1. A roll of honour of all deceased photos.
2. A family tree of the branch since inception.
3. An informal history of the branch, characters, dits etc.
4. Advice on pension/entitlements/charities.
5. Perhaps a network for jobs outside, especially in the photographic medium.

How to achieve it? You will be all getting a proforma to fill out soon. With the variety of time served, we should be able to crack 1,2 and 3. I shall be writing to wives of ex and deceased members for anything they may have to assist us in our research. 4, I have most of that info available now. 5, that is up to you - can you help, or any ideas? Volunteers would be useful.

EVENTS 1999/2000 - 80th Anniversary of the RN Photographic Branch. Much of the organisation is now complete with the venue/meal/band booked. See separate sheet on this subject.

REGIONAL MEETS. It is planned to hold the following regional meetings throughout 2000. This will give you a chance to visit a local phot section, get an update on the branch, and of course see old friends. Basic plan is below, but subject to confirmation by Dec this year. Any regional reps out there to liaise with me and the committee?

Feb 00 - FOCUS, NEC Birmingham. Tickets for show and displays.
May 00 - Scotland, Faslane Photographic Section and Naval Base.
June 00 - Midlands, RAF Cosford, Joint School of Photography.
July 00 - Yeovil/Plymouth, HMS Heron/Drake phot sections, Airday/Navy Days
Sept 00 - London, DPR (N) Phot Section.
Oct 00 - Bradford Museum of Photography, tbc.
Nov 00 - Peregrine/Ports/Reunion bi-annual.

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OBITUARIES - Mr Ken Simmons, Norman Gryspeerdt & LA (PHOT) Wolfie Wilkinson. Cards were sent from the NPA. A donation towards a joint phot branch & NPA wreath for the service funeral of 'Wolfie'.

NEW MEMBERS - Good news is that the Navy News advert brought in membership enquiries. Still not joined? Please get in touch.

N F Grantham	Peter Pinnock	John Berracloth	Peter Newton
Alan Ferguson	David Thexton	Bunny Warren	Jane Grimley
Andy Collier	David Hunt	Colin Burden	Peter Arnold
Chris Dalby	Wiggy Wigfield	T E C Johnson	Hon Harold
Gill T C	Savage Jane	Freeman Barry	

RETIRING - A few more stalwarts have decided its too late. I thank them for their support and I do hope they can make it to this last reunion. These are:

George Dickie	Ian Duff	Charles Garden	John Grant	WR Gray
Joseph Mendoza	KE Moxley	Francis Saunders	R Stafford	
HAR Thompson				

BRANCH NEWS - We have a new Honorary President of the NPA. Lt Cdr Gordon Ford has now taken the chair from Terry Hogan, who moved on to BATH. We look forward to working with him. Thanks to Terry, and his wife Cath, for all his/her support over the last 2-3 years.

There will be a branch presentation and overview on the Reunion weekend. Be there and see the changes! There will be complimentary drinks as well!

COMMITTEE - The committee still stands. See attached sheet. If you would like to take an active part, especially for the areas I've mentioned for next year, please let me know. I could do with some help.

AGM 98 RESULTS - Keeping it very brief, the attendance was poor. I think the ring of an AGM sends shivers down your spine. It was agreed to hold it at a function, and perhaps attendance would be better. Hence this years will be in November, at the Reunion, with a tot beforehand. Most of what was discussed and proposed is happening. If you want a copy of the minutes - please ask and send a SAE.

FUNDS - Currently standing at £1465. Membership by Standing Order is working great for me. If I've returned your cheque, because it's out-of-date, could you please send me another one. I do prefer standing orders - form enclosed.

AOB - Items for the AGM are to reach me by 1 October 99, so I can pre - empt the committee, or investigate your request.

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BRANCH TIES will be vogue for November. If you want one they are still only £7 each. Navy blue with the old camera branch logo - very smart.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS. New membership cards are being produced as I write. Small, white, with both the old & new phot branch logo's, sealed in stiff plastic. Should be ready to send with the Reunion info packs.

WINGS CARDS. The FAA museum in Yeovilton, Somerset, has kindly given me some cards for you the members/partners, to visit the museum free, a saving of £'s. These are valid to Dec 2000. There is an 80th Anniversary display 'Through the Lens' on at the museum on the photographic branch - it will also be at the reunion, hopefully in November.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW - please look at the list enclosed. If you have contact, an address, phone no, etc please let them or me know:

ROGER RYAN	CHRIS NORTH	STEVE PRATT	ERIC ROOKE
DON SIDEBOTTOM	BOB STANYARD	JOHN SIVETER	GINGE TUTTLE
GEORGE WICKS	ERIC STRANGE	LLOYD WELLS	BRUM HAYWARD
KIETH GIBSON	ERIC PULLESTON	LES HYSO	ROY FORDHAM
SLINGER WOOD	APPELBY GORDON	ARNOLD PETER	
ATTERSON ALISTAIR	BEASON PAUL	BEECH CHRIS	BUNTING PETE J
CATON JOE	CHETTY JOHN	COX EJ	CURTIS MARTIN
DALES ROBERT	DERBYSHIRE E	GOOD PAUL	HARVEY BOB
HORNER ROBERT	HUME ALAN	JEFFRIES KEVIN	JONES FRED
KIETH MR	LOCKLEY MR	McDEVITT J	MOONEY BRIAN
MORRIS DAVE	MORTIMER RALPH	OLDFIELD J R	OLIVER ALAN
PURCELL W	STUBBINGS SYDNEY J	TOYER RICK	CARVER RE
FLOWER ROBERT	PETERS BRIAN E	HERBERT LYNN	SOUTHWAY FRAN

CAMERA AT SEA - The latest book on the photographic branch. Put together by ex-Po Phot Joe Mercer, covers the history of the branch with a personalised overview. It is good and Joe was very kind to donate a copy to the NPA. If you would like a copy the details are: 'Camera at sea' by Airlife Publishing. Cost £24.95. ISBN 1-85310-889-8 (Airlife 01743 235651)

HELP. Newsletters are boring. I require stories, anecdotes, facts, photographs (not photocopies) and adverts for the next issue - post reunion.

Finally, could you spare a couple of evenings to jot down your memoirs for research? Mrs Hilary Roberts of the Imperial War Museum is seeking information on the people who made up the RN Phot branch from inception. This is a long project, but anything you can remember with dates, names, ships and equipment, would all be welcome.

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Ladies & gentlemen,

The Anniversary and Reunion of the RN Photographic branch will be held on Saturday 20th November 1999 in the Victory Club, within HMS Nelson, Portsmouth. Tickets are restricted to 350 and since this is the first reunion since 1994, turnout may exceed demand. Please get your order in early to avoid disappointment. I expect a good turnout from the serving branch and I would hope a good few people who are not on my books, come along too. It is open to anyone connected with the branch, so pass on the news.

The cost of tickets will be £12.50 each, (£15.00 non-members). This includes the food, band, and one complimentary booked raffle ticket, which will be sent with your ticket allocation. For those of you worried about the music, I have instructed the DJ to play a good mix, and the group, they come highly recommended, comprises of ex-Royal Marine Bandies who are known to be good. The food is the top-of-the-range buffet. The display areas will be available for talking and seeing old friends. I hope to colour code/name tally you all, to make it easier for recognition.

I have also approached the Photographic officer at Tipner, the SFPU, and he is prepared to open the section to visitors late on Fri 19 Nov for a tour and update on the branch. (See booking form). Please reply quickly.

It is a big event and to that end look at the programme so far.

Friday 19 Nov 99:

1400 - 1600 (tbc)	Visit to Tipner Phot Section	OIC
1930 - 2300	Victory Club open for meet and greet NPA Committee	

Saturday 20 Nov 99

1000 - 1130	Ship visit - CVS (tbc)	Host Phot section
1300 - 1400	Up Spirits - Victory Club	Commodore HMS Nelson
1415 - 1430	Phot branch presentation	Lt Mike Mitchell
1430 - 1530	AGM - Victory Club	NPA Committee
o/c - 1730	Meet and greet/Peregrine/Reunion, Memorabilia area available. Bar open.	All
1945 - 0100	Buffet/dance (raffle) - Victory Club	NPA
	Raffle/auction/prizewinners	

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Sunday 21 Nov 99

1000 - 1300	Naval Heritage visit, Historic Portsmouth. With guides.	Dockyard Portsmouth
1500 - 1600	Club for farewells. Afternoon tea New members sign on	Victory club, NELSON

1. If you are attending I would like you to send me any of the following:

- a. A photograph of you at work as a photographer. Preferably so I can see your face. Or group etc.
- b. A photograph of any old phot sections, ashore/afloat, that you may have.
- c. Memorabilia. i.e. Flying log, work book, kit, clothing, old section Xmas cards. Anything that may be of interest.
- d. Camera equipment. Anything that you worked with. If not list the equipment in the Reunion application.

ALL ITEMS SENT MUST HAVE YOUR NAME, MEMBERSHIP No ON THEM. THESE SHALL BE RETURNED IN NOVEMBER. THE PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE COPIED ONTO DIGITAL FORMAT AND NOT BE DAMAGED.

PLEASE SEND A SAE WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION. IF IT IS VALUABLE, PLEASE USE THE REGISTERED POST.

RAFFLE PRIZES - Do you have anything suitable for donating? The NPA shall be providing the main prizes, but if you want to bring something along, let me know on the attendance form - I'd be grateful, and it all goes towards our funds for future do's.

INFORMATION PACK - On receipt of your booking form and payment I shall forward an information pack. This will include:-

1. Programme of events etc.
2. Who is attending.
3. Tickets. (including raffle no)
4. Accommodation details.
5. Map of the area.
6. Receipt of payment.
7. AGM agenda.
8. Receipt of payment.
9. Membership cards.

Information packs will be forwarded by end of AUGUST