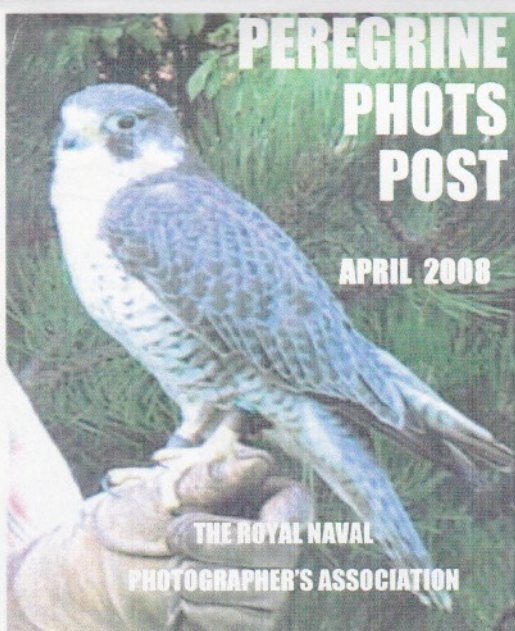


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Chairman's Report

In the very capable hand of the vice-chairman/Social Secretary/all round super organiser, preparations for our Mega Reunion on the 7th June are well advanced and the response from ex-photos wishing to attend seems to be going very well. I look forward to seeing you all on the 7th. On a personal note I have just spent 2½ weeks in hospital, having had some heart trouble (Ironically I decided to give up booze for Lent and I expect my heart showed its disapproval for the lack of alcohol !!!). I'm not too bad now and I await a visit to Southampton hospital for surgery

JAC



Secretaries' Report

Golly, gosh and shock horror it's him again. There are going to be some small changes to the make up of the committee. No firm details as yet but we will keep you posted. (these changes will not affect your statutory rights). You can still submit articles, photos etc to be seen by the masses of people who read the Peregrine Post. For example how many "snaps" have been photographed outside or inside their phot section in their usual working attire.

... And that brings me back to the Peregrine Post. Get your "Going Ashore Best" out of mothballs, put June 7th in your diary and you will be able to pose in the drill shed at Whale Island as part of the party that is to be the photos get together 2008.

So think about what you can submit for future editions. You may not realize it but there are people out there who would love to know what you did after you last met in 19????? And at whale island this year you can tell them person to person THEN submit a joint article.

No more from Peregrine base for now. See you in June

Yours Aye

Blondie & Val

RNPA Committee

President : Lt. Cdr. Mark Singleton RN

Chairman :
John Cunningham 02392 780806

Vice Chairman/Social Secretary :
Lt Cdr Stuart Antrobus, BEM, RN

Secretary/Editor :
Brian and Val Robertson 01274 530982
Valerierobertson@hbosplc.com

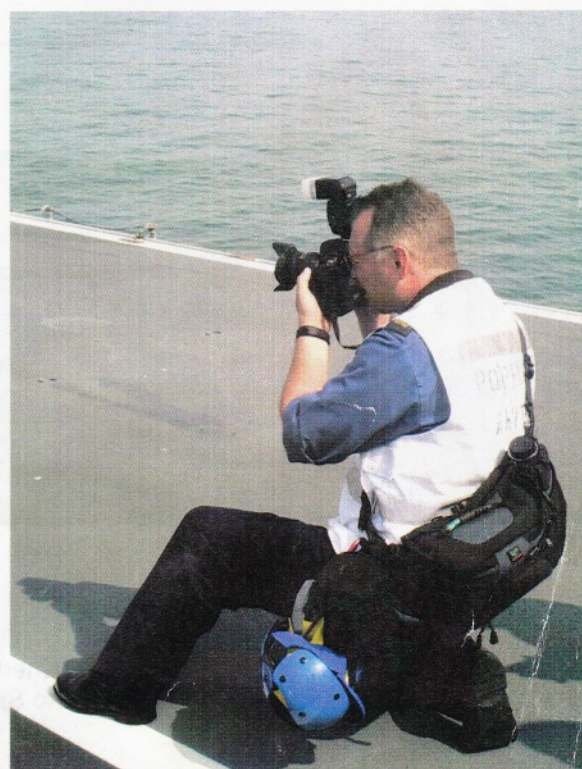
Treasurer : Richie Moss
Webmaster : Paul Cowpe RN - www.rnpa.org.uk

Historian : Maurice (Jan) Larcombe, jandor@which.net

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Northern - Blondie Robertson 01274 530982
Midlands - Danny Du Feu 0116 289 8725
Southwest/Wales - Ian Gutteridge 01326 564514
South John Flack 01329 235325
Southeast - Ray Whitehouse 01903

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**RNPA/RN
Photographic Branch
Party and Reunion
6-8 June 2008
EDITION**



Things Historical

TO SERVING MEMBERS

YOU TOO WILL SOON BE HISTORY

Reading through Navy News I realise how soon things and people change. I left the RN in 1990 and over the years recognise fewer and fewer people by their by-lines on the photographs. A few of those who went through Cosford when I was there are still active but most have now left the plot.

Before everyone disappears could I ask that anyone who has details and/or pictures of their course groups lets me have the details so that I can add them to the RNPA collection. This starts in 1937, include all I know about from then until about 1992 but gets very patchy after that.

All the Course Group pictures I hold can be seen at <http://www.users.waitrose.com/~jandor/>. But am still trying to find the pictures that were shown at the Bournemouth reunion and any others not included on the site.

As ever I am always on the lookout for pictures of Photographers at work or play. Newsletter, interesting dits on photographers etc. In particular I am missing Issue No 7 of the current newsletter series and would be grateful if anyone



who has one would make contact by email.

Mystery Picture

Fort (?) Resistance.

This probably has nothing to do with photographers but just in case. Part of an unnamed collection of photographs which look like they were taken at Whale Island and Phoenix. Anyone know what it's all about and

Jan Larcombe
jandor@which.net



Quick Quiz
Where and When?
Thanks to Spike for the originals

Memories of R.N.S.O.P

(2nd Installment of Bob Lomax's recollections)

... the story continues

We were instructed on the Watson camera by Jack Barber, who thought it important to know how to find out the focal length of a lens if wasn't marked on it. Somebodys law he called it and meant we spent a day in the fields at the back of the school focussing two marks on a ground glass screen on distant fence poles, lines drawn on paper under the cameras baseboard and the point they intersected measured from similar marks on the paper was the focal length of the lens!

A fact that was on the lens barrel!

You know in nearly fifty years in professional photography I never came across a lens without its focal length being on it.....but at least it was a nice break in the sun.

Loading glass plates was another trick he passed on, to check which was the emulsion side he told us to put the corner of the plate in your mouth!!! The side that stuck to your lip was the emulsion and the class were walking around with purple lips from the backing that was on the reverse of the plate.

There were four types of emulsions available, fast Pan at 4000 H&D, slow Pan at 2000 H&D, fast ortho-chromatic at 2500 H&D and Blue Sensitive for copying at 50? H&D.

Hurter and Driffield was the speed rating system taught before ASA became standard and Jack explained we had to give the prevalent light an "actinic value".... Dividing the "A" value into the H&D rating gave you your exposure at F8!!!! Magic when you knew how to rate the light, but as most of us developed our plates

by inspection, and with Farmers Reducer available we usually came up with a printable negative.... its gradation was a matter of luck. But eventually we got used to the system and it was in practice until light-meters became available.

Interiors were a different kettle of fish, and required consulting our "magic card", a series of numbers on a square grid, not unlike sudoku. If memory serves me right we noted the aperture at which the darkest object on the focussing disappeared, this was transposed on our card to another figure which was the exposure at F8!!!! True it worked. I had three cards for the different pan emulsions and fast ortho. Sadly it didn't work for copying and that meant lengthy calculations also taught by JB.

Mike Adams on 5 course had the first exposure meter I ever saw, ..a Beemeter (?) and I had him check my estimations until his course left Ford.

Certain subjects became standard for Watson work and most of us did the interior of Climping church as our test. Once somebody got the right exposure info was passed on. The vicar of Climping must have had 100's of prints given to him.

When we got hold of the VN press camera we really thought of ourselves as photographers. With one classmember riding a bike along the lane outside the school we'd practice "action shots"..... getting a sharp bike with a blurred background through panning?. We were very lucky in so much as there was no limitation on materials, so we tried until we got a decent shot. Only at exam times our plates were limited by

having an instructor sign them in the darkroom prior to exposure.

We were allowed a fair bit of freedom which led to 3 of us getting Commander's Report. We had gone into Littlehampton to practice with the VNs. It was an excuse to take pics of the local girls, with caps flat-a-back in Jolly Jack style we roamed the streets looking for local talentonly to be confronted by the Station Pay-bob complete with escort going to the Bank to collect money! Suitably "bollocked" by the Pay-bob we were to be reported for being "improperly dressed" and placed on Commanders report. We confessed to P.O. Brown on our return who immediately went bonkers and said he would see what could be done.

Next day before going in front of the Commander he told us we to say we had to push our caps back so we could get our eyes close to the viewfinder and that, having promised his Tot, the P.O. in charge of the escort would agree we were taking photographs. When we gave this excuse the Commander asked if this was so, to which the P.O. gave a very good impression of somebody using his hand to see through the waist level viewfinder of a box camera!! We nearly fell about laughing....but still got away with it..... it cost quite a few pints to both P.O.s.

We progressed to more applied photography and the first highlight was to cover a gun shoot with the Low Angle Marking Camera. A monster of a camera, body of cast iron, tripod of solid steel with a "Pendulum" with a cast iron weight swinging between the tripod legs. It came in three wooden boxes which required a man each to car-

ry them, and it only used 120 roll film *(or 70mm).

Our party travelled down to Portsmouth the night before the shoot in the charge of CPO Biffer Nash who deposited us on the towing tug HMS Antic, the last coal fired vessel in the RN, berthed at Vernon steps, while he disappeared home to Tipnor.

As most of the tugs crew were "Rationed ashore" we were left to sling our hammocks wherever we found space. I didn't fancy down below so decided the small bridge was a healthier space, until about 6.0am in the morning when the skipper, an ex-lower deck Lt. came aboard, found me, tipped me out of my hammock and said I should go below and act as cook-of-the-mess and get the breakfast ready for the crew and those "b..... photographers.

Trying to redeem myself I opened the tins of Herrings in Tomato, laid them out beautifully on a plate, buttered the bread and laid it all out on the mess table, and went off to wash and shave.

On my return every cockroach in Pompey had decided to come to the party and the table and all the food was covered with the creepy cockroaches. I tried picking them off and throwing them on the deck, when the crew returned they wanted to know why all the cockroaches on the deckhead were covered in tomato sauce, I hadn't the heart to tell them!!!! Nobody went down with the plague and were none the wiser until I told the rest of my fellow phots. on our return to Ford.

More about 'passing out, 'aerial photography' and 'The Movies' next issue.

Many thanks Bob

RNPA and RN Photographic Branch Party and Reunion 6-8 June 2008

With time passing so quickly June will soon be here and the 2008 Party and Reunion weekend will be in full swing. There's been a huge amount of planning activity over the past three months and the following brief will hopefully help you all plan for a great weekend.

Firstly though, the most important message that needs to get out is what this event is all about and who can attend. Well the answer is quite simple;

THIS PARTY AND REUNION IS FOR ANYONE WHO HAS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ROYAL NAVY PHOTOGRAPHY.

Serving RN and retired Photographers and members of the Naval Photographers Association and their families obviously come at the top of the list, but there are no pre-conditions and everyone is welcome. Retired and serving photographers from the Army, RAF and the Civil Service who have a connection with the RN are also welcome, as are photographic sponsors, suppliers and associates. The event is designed to bring friends and colleagues back together again for a few hours to reminisce and catch up.

The plan is to make Saturday the focal point for the weekend but with so many people coming from all around the country, and further away, we thought that there should also be something available on both Friday and Sunday.

On the Agenda

Friday 6 June

The weekend will start with an informal gathering on the Friday evening at the recently refurbished Royal Maritime Club (previously The Home Club) on Queen Street, Portsmouth. www.royalmaritimeclub.co.uk The Nelson Lounge has been booked from 1900 through until 2359. Those who are travelling from further away can join friends and colleagues throughout the course of the evening as they arrive in the Portsmouth area. It also gives everyone the opportunity to get together and catch up in a more familiar venue.

If it gets a bit crowded we can always overflow into the Victory bar, which is adjacent. Just round the corner from the Royal Maritime Club is the Ship & Castle pub, which offers discount to RN identity card holders, (for those who no longer have an ID card make sure you hook up with a serving photographer if you want to have a cheap night!).

Several other pubs are close by and a selection of wine bars, pubs and restaurants are a short walk away at Gunwharf Quays www.gunwharf-quays.com.

Saturday 7 June

The plan for Saturday is to transform the Drill Shed at Whale Island into a fun venue for the evening but I won't elaborate as it may spoil the surprise.

Alongside the RN Peregrine Trophy Photographic exhibition there will be a variety of displays on show provided by the numerous sponsors that have been invited. There will also be a selection of stills and video material from past years projected continuously throughout the evening.

The Drill Shed doors will open at 1800 and the bars will also open at this time serving Lager, Bitter and Guinness on tap as well as a selection of wines and soft drinks (no spirits will be available). Guests who want to be there from the very start should arrive at HMS Excellent Main Gate from 1750 and will have their tickets and identity checked against a master guest list. Guests arriving by taxi will be dropped at the main gate only and will also be required to show tickets and a form of identity (drivers licence, passport)

Directions to the Drill Shed will be clearly displayed and when you arrive at the Drill Shed main doors you will be given a small name badge (just in case you forget who you are!!) The first couple of hours will be for meeting

and greeting and to give everyone the opportunity to look at the photographic displays and sponsor boards. At 2000 a Core of Drums from the band of HM Royal Marines Portsmouth will perform the ceremony of 'Mess Beatings' to open the event. On completion we plan to have an informal group photograph taken just outside the building on the parade ground (time and weather permitting)

From 2100 Nando's Outside Catering will be set up and ready to grill! A selection of Peri-Peri chicken pieces and burgers served with a selection of breads and buns accompanied with a varied salad selection will be available. (Please remember that this is a snack party menu and not a substantial meal) A vegetarian option will also be available.

On the music front one of Portsmouth most popular DJ's, Chris Oshea, will be providing the evenings entertainment and dancing for all will definitely be encouraged. The evening will start winding up at 2330 and we all have to be on our way off Whale Island by midnight.

Sunday 8th June

The plan for Sunday is for all those who still have stories to tell, or friendships to renew, to meet at the Irish Club in Southsea for beer and a pasty. Our Chairman John Cunningham will be arranging temporary membership of the club for the day to run from 1200 on the day.

There will be other announcements made as the time draws closer and I will get any information to you as it happens. If you know of any retired RN Photographers who may be out of contact due to moving home/location or change of contact details then please pass this information on to them as soon as possible.

This is the Party & Reunion that everyone has been asking for since the early 90's so let's make it a really great weekend.

TICKETS priced at £10 each are now available directly from the membership secretary. Please fill in the attached form and send a SAE and cheque made payable to 'Naval Photographers Association' to the following address:

DANNY DU FEU
57 Westover Road,
Leicester,
LE3 3DU.

Email danny@ddf-photography.co.uk

Home tel: 0116 289 8725

Mobile: 7891 660715.

HOTELS

We have tried to negotiate some special deals with one or two of the more exclusive hotels in Portsmouth and the details are below. Some suggestions of smaller hotels along with recommended guesthouses are also listed below.

Express Holiday Inn (130 rooms)– Gunwharf Quays – 02392 894240

25 rooms have been allocated to the RNPA Reunion Weekend at a rate of £97.50 per room per night inclusive of continental breakfast and taxes. Free car parking at the Gunwharf for 24 hours, thereafter £2 per day. These rooms will be held until 1 month prior to the function. If all 25 rooms go quickly the reservations manager will consider releasing more rooms at the rate above. All bookings must be confirmed with a credit card. Quote RNPA Reunion Weekend when booking.

Hilton Portsmouth (118 rooms) – Eastern Road, Farlington – 02392 219111

25 rooms have been allocated to the RNPA Reunion Weekend at a rate of £104.50 per room including breakfast. These rooms will be held until 1 month prior to the function. If all 25 rooms go quickly the reservations manager will consider releasing more rooms at the rate above. All bookings must be confirmed with a credit card. Quote RNPA Reunion Weekend when booking.

Holiday Inn (165) – Pembroke Road, Southsea – 0870 4009065

25 rooms allocated to RNPA Reunion Weekend at a rate of £85.00 per room including breakfast. (I am currently waiting for a booking reference number but if guests want to go ahead and book immediately please Quote RNPA Reunion Weekend when booking)

Ibis Hotel – Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth (144 rooms)– 02392 640000 – From £55 to £65 PP B&B
Portsmouth Marriot – Southampton Road, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth (174 rooms) – 0870 4007285 – From £74 B&B
Royal Maritime Club – Queen Street, Portsmouth – 02392 824231 – From £30 to £70 per room B&B
Seacrest Hotel – South Parade, Southsea (27 rooms) – 02392 733192 – From £45 per room B&B
Travel Lodge – Kingston Crescent, North End, Portsmouth (108 rooms) – 02392 639118 - £71 per room.
Market House Tavern – Mile End Road, Portsmouth (11 rooms) - £25 PPN B&B
Premier Inns – Southampton Road, North Harbour, Cosham – 08701 977213 – From £60 per room.
Hamilton House – Victoria Road, Portsmouth – 02392 823502 – From £29 to £35 PP B&B
Waverly Park Lodge – Waverly Road, Southsea – 02392 730402 – From £25 to £40 PP B&B
Victoria Court – Victoria Road, Southsea – 02392 820305 – From £25 to £35 PP B&B
The Woodville – Florence Road, Portsmouth – 02392 823409 – From £25 to £58 PP B&B
St Margaret's Lodge – Cranswater Gate, Southsea – 02392 820097 – From £50 to £70 PP B&B
Everley Guest House – Festing Road, Southsea – 02392 731001 – From £25 to £66 PP B&B
Acer Lodge – Waverly Road, Southsea – 02392 291122 – From £25 to £40 PP B&B

RNPA Treasurer's Report (Period covered Sep 2006 – Jan 2008)

By Lt Richie Moss RN (RNPA Treasurer)

This report covers the period Sep 2006 to Jan 2008. A full breakdown of all RNPA account transactions is at Annex A.

With the reunion in Coventry in 2007 the account has been quite active, with a lot of transactions coming in and going out of the club. Here is a breakdown of the figures:

Funds in:

Subscriptions	£815.00
Members' payments for Reunion*	£4517.50
Pete Newton Trophy	£265.00

Funds Out:

Brian Robertson – Stationery float	£100.00
RNPA Web Hosting fee	£110.00
Brian Robertson - Travel expenses for Committee meeting	£30.50
Hotel Deposit	£880.00
Hotel Final invoice (inc. Accommodation and Menu Supplement and Wine Balance)	£4010.45
Hotel Bar Bill	£77.80
Brian Robertson – PDF Software	£178.00
Richie Moss – Postage	£6.00

*A payment of £97.50 was credited to the account in April. The committee is uncertain about the reason for the payment but it is thought to be an early payment for accommodation in Coventry. A Committee meeting to be held in March 2008 will hopefully clear this up.

Obituary Mark Hipkin

FAREWELL:

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Petty Officer Photographer Mark Hipkin who was tragically killed in a road traffic accident at Bere Regis in Dorset in February.

Mark started his naval career as a Stoker and joined the photographic branch in 1992. Having worked in a number of units over the years, which included HMS

tography was expected but, as many a student will tell you, the journey to the end of the course would always be fun.

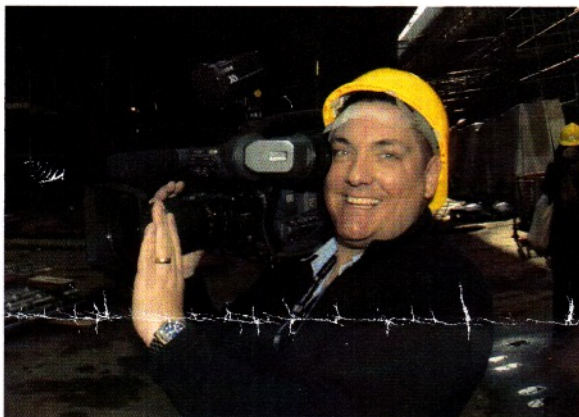
By the end of the 1990's Mark started charting a course that would lead him to the job that would bring him the most pleasure professionally, Defence Public Relations(N) in London. Travelling to all corners of the world covering both hostile and peaceful assignments, he went to great

of Condolence' Mark was a real giant of a man. When he came into a room it really did light up and his personality really was like a rainbow, he was certainly larger than life and he will definitely always be a legend.

He was an enormously happy person who was devoted to his lovely wife Julie and the many relatives and friends dotted all over the world. He always said that his life was like living a dream and I think that all those who were lucky enough to have known him can confirm that he certainly did that.

Farewell dear friend..... gone but not forgotten.

Composed by
Stuart Antrobus



Heron, HMS Gannet, Naval Base Faslane, CTC LYMPSTONE, his endless dedication went everywhere with him. He always worked extremely hard and whether it was stills or video his enthusiasm would remain the same and the end result always excellent.

Mark started travelling early in his career and used the role of Fleet Sea Deployable Photographer as his ticket to the world.

Volunteering to go on global deployments was a regular occurrence and he was always warmly welcomed each time he joined a ship. He was very sociable and fun to be around and everyone who met him would agree that he was the life and soul of the party.

As an instructor he was in his element and popular with both staff and students. Teasing the instructors at the Defence School of Pho-

lengths to make sure he got the right material.

He filmed a number of events while he was at the MOD but his coverage of the evacuation of British nationals from the Lebanon was truly memorable.

The short film that he subsequently produced went on to win him the 'Cameraman Of The Year Award' at the 2007 Royal Navy Peregrine Trophy Competition.

He was thoroughly 'anchor faced', completely devoted to the RN and so proud to be serving in the photographic branch.

Even his registration number N4 VYP was cleverly rearranged to read N4VY P and his faithful Boxer dog was called Nelson, enough said!

As many friends and colleagues have already expressed in the online 'Book