

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Hi and welcome to the new quarterly issue of our Royal Naval Photographers' Association newsletter. Hopefully, it will be informative, interesting and will keep members updated on the activities of the RNPA and its members and more importantly, all members will be receiving regular copies every quarter, commencing with this first issue.

The elected committee have recently met for the first time since the AGM and are beginning to get the RNPA on track once more, after the period of unfortunate, but, unavoidable hiatus. We are pleased to announce that Lt. Stuart Antrobus has accepted the onerous task of Secretary while Lt. Cdr Ian Wrightson (RNR) is now Treasurer and I am certain he will be chasing up those overdue subs in the near future.

We now have Area Representatives, who, I am sure, will shortly be getting their respective area members participating in local and national activities. It is hoped that as soon as the transfer of administration documentation is complete, the representatives will be supplied with the relevant information pertaining to the membership within their areas.

I have taken on the task of compiling, producing and distributing the quarterly newsletter and will be asking for your co-operation in making it an interesting and informative publication. I would be pleased to receive news items, letters and photographs from members, you may email, or, write to me and I will include your contribution in the newsletter.

I sincerely hope you will welcome this publication, your comments and suggestions would be appreciated.

Peter Newton.

RNPA ELECTED COMMITTEE 2002/03+

President: Lt. Cdr. Mike Mitchell RN. Fleet Photographic Officer *(Honorary position only - no voting rights)

Chairman: John Cunningham 02392 780806

Vice Chairman: Peter Newton. 01903 219996

Secretary: Lt. Stuart Antrobus, RN. O/C Training JSOP at RAF Cosford. 01902 372393

Treasurer: Lt. Cdr. Ian Wrightson RNR. 07779 898843

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Serving:- PO(Phot.) Richard Thompson DNR Portsmouth

Scotland:- John Berracloth. 01382 457601

Northern:- Ray Pogson 01226 763167

Midlands:- Danny De Feu. 01162 241974

Southwest/Wales:- Ian Gutteridge 01326 564514

South:- Talbot Percy-Bell. 01329 834203

Southeast:- Roy Penny. 01634 241071

N. Ireland :- William Porter. 01232 381251 ext.290

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I was very pleased to meet so many old friends at our last AGM and like Ian, I too was disappointed with the poor attendance. I hope we will see a lot more old friends in 2004.

I was saddened to hear that my long time friend David Evers had passed away. I had the pleasure to serve with him on several occasions, he will be sadly missed by his many friends.

I look forward to working with our new committee and would like to see a 100% increase in membership.

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

John Cunningham

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

RNPA WEB SITE

Two of our serving members are currently working on setting up a web site for the RNPA and as soon as this has been completed and goes on line, you will be informed. It is hoped that the newsletter will eventually be published on the web site and those members who have access to the internet will be able to read the newsletter by accessing the site.

A NOTE FROM THE OUTGOING SECRETARY. Ian Wrightson.

Dear members

Happy New Year and I wish you well for 2003 and hope to see you at an event over the next two years.

As you will see in the results of the AGM, I have handed over the reigns as secretary to Lieutenant Stuart Antrobus RN., who is OC at the Joint School of Photography at RAF Cosford. This is a great bonus, because, if you know Stuart, you will know that he will get things going for the NPA and see it through the next phase. I have, since leaving the service in 2000, have found it very difficult to devote the time the association deserves and requires and I know many of you have been frustrated, but very patient with me. With the new committee now set up, the RNPA should go from strength to strength. I will, however, be acting as Treasurer, so you have not got rid of me yet.

This year's AGM/Reunion was held again in Portsmouth and I was delighted to see so many familiar faces, but a bit disappointed that quite a few members could not make it. However, I hope to see you all in 2004 at the 85th Anniversary of the formation of the photographic branch.

Regards and best wishes.

Ian Wrightson

Dit from a member - Reunion 1999

Hilary Cramphorn wrote to say thanks for the

reunion. As a result of the 1999 bash she met up with Steve King after 30 years and they were married in 2001, after a honeymoon cruise on the QE2.

Congratulations and all the best to both of you from the NPA.

PS ----- They both attended the 2002 AGM/Reunion.

A NOTE FROM THE INCOMING SECRETARY. Stuart Antrobus.

Dear Members,

After ten busy years as Secretary, Ian Wrightson will hopefully, now get a chance to relax and enjoy the slightly less stressful role as our new Treasurer. As your new Secretary, I would like to start by encouraging more communication between our members.

Warrant Officer Paul Cowpe, who has recently joined the association, has constructed a web site for the association over the last few weeks and is now just about ready to start populating it with information. Amongst other subject areas, I would like the membership of the association to appear under one of the pages. What I would like to do is include all your email addresses alongside you names, but, NOT your private addresses. You will then have the option to either reply, or, delete any messages you may receive.

Instructions telling you how to forward information and details, to the Webmaster, Paul Cowpe, will be published on the website titled, www.rnpa.gov.uk or, in a private letter to those who do not have emails.

That is all I really want to say in this newsletter. I look forward to meeting you at one of the many functions planned for the future, hopefully starting with a visit to RAF Cosford in May,

Very best wishes to you all.

Stuart Antrobus.

TREASURER'S TASKS

A message from your new Treasurer

As I take over from Andy Baverstock as Treasurer, there are a number of areas that require updating. Most importantly are the outstanding subs that go back to 1999, which I shall be endeavouring to sort out and I will shortly be contacting those members whose subs are overdue. The other task is to remind every one that at the last AGM it was agreed that the subs will now be £10. I realise that to some, this may seem a lot, but the fact is that the subs have remained at £5 since 1993. We now have a reserve of funds to enable us to hold events.

A STANDING ORDER FORM WILL BE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS TO BE AMENDED ACCORDINGLY.

Ian Wrightson. (Treasurer)

AGM-REUNION 2002

This was probably the last AGM/REUNION to be held at HMS NELSON, as the venue does require over 500 people to feel right. The numbers attending the 2002 AGM/REUNION, were well down on the 1999 figures, nevertheless, every one had a good time. The 8 bottles of Pussers rum went down too well at the AGM and some of the minutes were a little blurred. At the next meeting, we will arrange for drinks to be 'supped' after the AGM, as quite a few members didn't make it to the evening event, having over indulged before and during the AGM !!!

We raised £139 on the raffle, the prizes were mostly won by John Cunningham. It was not a fix, so he says, apparently he was given a number of tickets because he was desperate to win the huge teddy bear for his grand daughter.

UPDATE FROM THE FLEET PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER Lt.Cdr. Mike Mitchell, Royal Navy.

The big change this year has been the Fleet First initiative. This has brought together all type commanders, ie. FOSM, FOSF, COMNA etc., under one large organisation centred on

Portsmouth. So CinCFLEET now has the capacity to control all aspects of naval business, from the Royal Marines to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary's. For the Photographic specialisation this has meant that, rather than having the Head of Branch located at COMNA, Yeovilton, my job has moved to Portsmouth as part of CinCFLEET. The most evident aspect of this change is the new job title, Fleet Photographic Officer, which brings us full circle, as the job title existed up until six years ago.

We continue to build the number of Image Analysts (IA's) within the specialisation. As a result of the loss of the Sea Harrier in 2006, the requirement at sea for IA's has now risen to satisfy the demands of the GR7 (RAF Harrier) and the Joint Recce Pod. Therefore the CVS (carrier) jobs have been dual hatted as IA/Phot, and as a result, the Specialisation is even more heavily committed to the provision of intelligence at sea. This sits neatly alongside the increasing importance and value of media ops, which is at long last receiving the attention from Senior Officers that it deserves. Indeed as a measure of its value, a 4 ring Captain now runs Fleet Corporate Communications (DPRN) or PR to give it its old name.

Fleet has also allowed us at long last to consolidate the Specialisation under one command. With effect from 1st November 2002, both Faslane and Drake will leave their current masters, DLO and join Fleet. This means that we all largely work for the same master, at long last.

The Peregrine Trophy has been delayed this year due to the introduction of a new event, The Joint Services Photographic Competition. Entry to the Joint competition depends on winning a category in the single service competition, so we have had to delay the Peras until February to fit in with the Joint one in March. Lord Robinson the NATO Secretary General will be distributing the prizes for the Joint competition, and as we all know that the RN has the best photographers, we hope to be

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in receipt of several awards.

Branch members remain around the 85 mark, and as recruitment is vibrant with new photos training this year and a further 18 next year. This large intake is the result of a successful recruitment campaign to address the shortfall in numbers within the Specialisation. This means that in excess of 50% of the L/A Photos will have less than a years experience at the end of 2003. However, changes in training at RAF COSFORD are bringing us bright, enthusiastic Photos who have the potential to secure the future of the Specialisation for many years to come.

I am sorry that I am unable to be there with you, however, next year I intend to read this statement. Have a good evening.

Regards, Mike Mitchell, Fleet Photographic Officer

OBITUARIES

David James 'TAFF' EYERS (NPA144) - David joined the Royal Navy in 1947. After initial training he went on Photographers course No.2. He joined the THESEUS in 1950 and was involved in the Korean war and served 22 years in the R.N. He was very proud of his Welsh heritage and rugby played a big part in his life. He was a Welsh trialist, captained the FAA team for several years and played for Wasps and finally Winchester. During his latter years in the Navy, he toured South America with Admiral Louis Mountbatten and in civilian life worked for BAE in Saudi Arabia. He died on 4th November 2002 and is sadly missed by his beloved wife 'Mo' and his many friends and colleagues.

David BERRISFORD - Former Photographic Officer who died unexpectedly just before Xmas 2002.



Your Chairman (second from right) and his mates, are waiting for 'Happy Hour' (circa early 50s)



1999 AGM, Ian Wrightson with Jo and Mike Adams and Duncan Reid on the far right



An idea for a blazer badge.

LETS HAVE YOUR IDEAS !!!