

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2005

SPRING

ISSUE 8

Editor: Peter Newton, 147 Meadow Road, Worthing, West Sussex. BN11 2SA email: fawnewton@aol.com

EDITORIAL

It seems as if it was only the other day that we had our reunion, it was an autumn weekend in 2004, that was two seasons ago. We are now coming into spring 2005 and in another two seasons we will, hopefully, be jetting off to our next reunion, probably in Malta, if plans go well and if we have sufficient numbers interested.

Photographs of the Bournemouth Reunion are still coming in and I'm sure you would like to see them, so I am including some from Jules Anderson in this issue.

Members seem to enjoy reading the profiles of their colleague's time in the Andrew and thereafter, as it often touches on their own service life. We would be pleased to read more of your profiles, many members have indicated that they would contribute to this section of the newsletter. However, it seems to have slipped their memory, don't worry about the grammar or spelling, as I will do the editing.

Serving photographers/IA's, in years to come you will make up the majority of the membership when the old hands have passed on. Why not get involved now? We old f**ts would like to learn more about life in the modern navy. How about you telling us? You can do this by writing in this newsletter, any subject of your choice will be welcome. Petty Officer (Phot) Flo Foord (FRPU Tipner) will be pleased to pass on your contributions if you do not wish to send them direct to me. Flo has started by introducing himself in this issue and CPO Laurie Cooper has submitted some interesting and most welcome info. More from me later in this issue, when I wear my Secretary's hat.

Editor

Pete Newton

RNPA COMMITTEE

President: Lt. Cdr. Martin May-Clingo RN

Chairman: John Cunningham 02392 780806

ViceChairman Lt. Stuart Antrobus, BEM. RN.
. O.I/C. FRPU Tipner. 02392 547112

Secretary: Peter Newton. 01903 219996
email: fawnewton@aol.com

Treasurer: Lt. Richard Moss, BSc. (Hons) RN
023 8026 5212 email: rnpa@rnac.com

Webmaster: W/O Paul Cowpe

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

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Serving:- PO(Phot.) Flo Foord FRPU Tipner
02392 547113

Scotland & N. Ireland:- John Berrecloth.
01382 457601

Northern:- Ray Pogson 01226 763167

Midlands:- Danny Du Fue. 01162 241974

Southwest/Wales:- Ian Gutteridge 01326
564514

South:- John Flack. 01329 235325

Southeast:- Ray. Whitehouse 01903 77090

RNPA LAPEL PINS



Order from Peter Newton
£3.50 + P&P £1.50 Cheques or P.O's with
order, payable to F.A.W.Newton

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am looking forward to the 2005 Reunion, not only because I am, with other committee members, actively involved in organising the event, but also because I am looking forward to meeting members and former colleagues once again for another memorable and enjoyable event. I sincerely hope that all of you who are able to, will support this venture and subsequently enjoy the week in Malta with old mates.

More of the 2005 reunion later in this issue. However, now I would like to thank the team that is our committee for their active participation in our continued progress. I also thank our members who have shown their support, many of whom frequently contact members of the committee.

The RNPA is in good hands and has a bright future.

John Cunningham

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have managed to go through most of the documentation I inherited since I became Secretary and am constantly updating the information, which is an on going operation. The database will soon be up to date when we have received, from our bankers, the full list of the members who have paid their subs.

May I remind those members who do not pay their subs by standing order, that subs were due on January 1st and should have been paid by now. If it has slipped your mind, please send in your cheque **now** to avoid being taken off the RNPA members data base and mailing register. **The subs are £10 for Members, or, £15 for joint membership.** Some members have not changed their Standing Order instruction with their Bankers and are still paying £5 single, or, £7.50 for joint membership, it is important that membership subscriptions are updated immediately.

Unfortunately, we have to finally draw the line on those who do not pay their subs on time, these names will be deleted from the

VISIT OUR WEB SITE : WWW.RNPA.ORG.UK

register and mailing list forthwith, so, if you have not paid to date, you will no longer receive any further contact from the RNPA, or, be able to participate in any of our activities.

Since becoming Secretary, several members have contacted me by phone, email and letter for various reasons and I hope I have responded promptly and informatively. This is a good sign, as it indicates that members are interested and actively aware of progress.

The committee have recently met and the various members will be reporting their activities in this newsletter, so I will not preempt their reports.

I will be calling on the committee to meet once a quarter prior to the newsletter publication, to enable reports on their activities to be published on a regular basis. Should you be in touch with any former colleagues who are not already members, pass your newsletter on to them when you have finished with it, hopefully it will show that we are worth being a part of and would welcome their support and participation.

I hear that for some reason, or other, many serving Photos are not able to get their hands on a copy of the newsletter, one of which is sent to every photographic unit in the RN. We have now decided to rectify this by ensuring that every serving Phot will receive their own copy, (perhaps on disc), of all future newsletters.

We thank you all for your support.

Peter Newton

REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

It only feels like a couple of weeks since we were enjoying each other's company at the Savoy Hotel in Bournemouth. I'm glad that you all enjoyed the weekend and felt that it was worth making the effort of travelling the distance that some of you did.

The planning for the '**RNPA Malta 2005**' trip is now in full swing and the details will be

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



coming out on a separate flyer very soon. The Chairman has managed to negotiate a very good deal with an independent tour operator and details may be found in John Cunningham's report on Malta Reunion 2005, in this issue. Details of the hotel facilities and all the extra's that make a holiday more attractive will be on the flyer; watch the post!

In the meantime a couple of visits have been arranged for May and June.

PLYMOUTH

Our association web-master Warrant Officer Paul Cowpe, who is also the South West Regional Photographic Officer, has very kindly agreed to host a visit to his unit at HMS DRAKE and the Naval Dockyard in Plymouth on Thursday 5 May 2005. With the help of CPO Paul Smith (ex HMS INVINCIBLE) and members of their staff, they are promising a fantastic visit. A tour of OCEAN, ALBION or BULWARK is also on the cards as well as a visit to the naval museums. They suggested we finish the day in a local hostelry that serves good beer, fine wine and quality food. In case I forget to mention it at a later date, ladies please consider wearing trousers and flat shoes for going onboard the ships; it will make you feel more comfortable. Please write to me at the address below as soon as possible as there are **only 15 places** for this trip.

FASLANE

Our third Regional Photographic Officer, WO Ian Arthur is very keen to see association members visit his unit at Faslane. Whilst security is always very tight at the Clyde Submarine Base, Ian is confident that he will be able to put on a visit that will be both memorable and fun. The number of places for this visit is limited to 10 so please get your bids in early. Date to be confirmed.

LONDON

Brian Jackson, *our man from Del Monte*, has asked if any of our members would be

interested in visiting a Film Production Studio in Central London. This visit would also include a small social get together at the Victory Services Club in London on completion. Date to be confirmed.

For all visits **please write** to me Lt. Stuart Antrobus BEM. RN at: FRPU (East), PP3, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 3LR.

Stuart Antrobus.

TREASURER'S-REPORT

by Lieutenant R M Moss BSc Hons Royal Navy

A telephone call from the then Secretary come Treasurer Stu Antrobus over 8 months ago asking if I'd like to take on the role of treasurer reunited me once again with the Phot Branch. I spent 11 years as a photographer serving on HMS Illustrious, Fleet Phot Unit, RNSETT Video Production Unit, as Second Sea Lord's photographer and I had a very, very brief but highly enjoyable spell in Bosnia; I damaged my knee so severely I was sent back to the UK leaving just 3 months to get physically prepared before joining Dartmouth as a Lieutenant in 2003. Now working as the Training Media Development Officer at HMS Collingwood I essentially deal with the procurement and production of all in-house and externally produced Computer Based Training software for the Maritime Warfare School which includes HMS Collingwood (including all legacy Training Units from the now closed HMS Dryad), Defence Diving School, School of Physical Training at HMS Temeraire, NBCD School at HMS Excellent and the Hydrographic School at HMS Drake. The last eight months or so have been very busy in terms of collating all the information and building upon all the hard work Stu put in to construct the members database. With this active document it means that Committee

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



members can, at a touch of a button, access all the information pertaining to each and every member. What does this mean for you? Well, it means that we can track to ensure members are paying the right subs at the right time (by the way, if your standing orders are still set at £7.50 or £12.50 for membership fees please amend the standing order and send me a cheque for £2.50.....you know who you are!!!) It also means that we can send out newsletters or other information knowing that it will get to the right address. We can also monitor payments for other things....trips to Malta for instance. At the present time the club has £2112.01 in the account. This includes the large influx of January payments (many thanks to all of you filling out the Standing Order forms) and the few debits that have come out of the account over the last six months.

These are:-

Antrobus	4/10/04	£38.56
postage		
Newton	4/10/04	£29.92
Inks		
Antrobus	1/11/04	£621.63
RNPA AGM anniv		
Wenden	12/12/04	£29.88
newsletters		
Newton	12/12/04	£100.91
Paper/ink		

The accounts are healthy and the club is doing extremely well. I am in the process of researching an online banking system to make it easier to keep track of all incoming and outgoing funds. This should be up and running within the next two months. Finally, so that I can update the database, if you haven't provided the committee with an email address could you send me a note to the following address:- rnpa@rnac.com

Keep up with the support.

Many thanks.

Richie Moss.

MALTA REUNION 2005



Having made several enquiries with regard to a suitable venue and appropriate travel arrangements, I presented the committee with a couple of alternatives, which, were discussed at great length at our recent committee meeting. The outcome of the discussion was that a venue was agreed and you should all by now, have received a letter from Social Secretary Stuart Antrobus.

The hotel in Malta which we have selected is the Qawra, a 4* hotel in the town of Qawra. The cost is £222 per person, half board and the departure date will be 10th November 2005, probably an evening flight from Gatwick. Transport is provided on arrival from Airport to Hotel and likewise on departure, on 17th November You are responsible for making your own way to Gatwick. You will also be responsible for arranging your own travel insurance.

In order to confirm this booking at the quoted price, we would require a deposit of £50 per person now, so, if you have not received a letter by the time you get this newsletter and you wish to book, please send your booking details and deposit to Lt. Stuart Antrobus, BEM.,RN.,Social Secretary RNPA, C/O, FRPU,PP3, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3LR Cheques or PO's payable to RNPA.

I am trying to arrange a banquet /gala night at the hotel for RNPA members and will let you know further details in due course.

It looks as though we will have a good turn out going by all the phone calls various members of the committee have had.

Hope to see you all in Malta.

John Cunningham.

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



NOT SO MUCH A PROFILE, JUST SOME MEMORIES FROM LES BRAND 80 THIS YEAR

Les was 18 years and three months when he was called up to serve his country. At the time he was working for the Admiralty in London and in Bath as a photographer, so it was natural for him to ask to join the R.N. as a Photographer. His request was granted and he did his seamanship and square bashing at HMS Bristol.

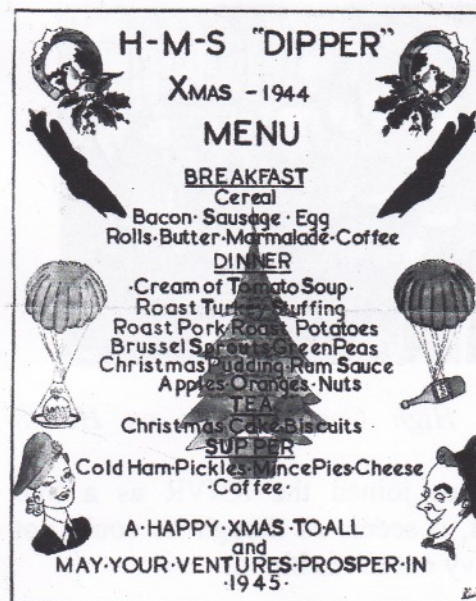


Course photograph 1944 (Les 2nd from left Middle row)

His Photographic training was provided when he was posted from HMS Bristol to the School of Photography at Felfham near RNAS Ford. Les recalls that the RNSOP caught fire when someone threw a cigarette out of a window and sent the thatched roof up in flames. Les and his mates, not only got busy retrieving equipment and films etc., but he also got very wet in the process and managed to get a new uniform issued as a result.



*1944 Fire at Felfham RN School of Photography
Les was drafted to HMS Dipper in May 1944 having passed his Phot's course exams.*



HMS Dipper Xmas 1944 Mess Menu

He did, in his own words, "a fair amount of flying armed with a F24 camera." In August 1945, Les found himself at HMS Meganser in Scotland attached to the Royal Canadian Navy's 825 squadron and he recalls being flown to Belfast whilst based at Ormskirk to photograph the new carrier HMCS Warrior and the High Commissioner who was welcomed aboard for the event.



Les armed with F24 camera

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

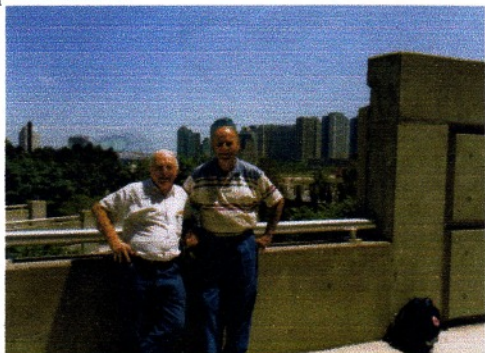


Canadian High Commissioner on HMCS Warrior

In 1953 Les joined the RNVR as a Sub Lieutenant, it seems as though he could not get the Navy out of his blood.



Les visited Canada in 1997 and made a few enquiries to try and locate any shipmates who may still be around, he contacted the Canadian Legion who publicised his request. This produced a result, an old shipmate Bruce Porter phoned Les and invited him and his family to have a three week stay with him in Toronto in 1999, which Les accepted. They spent a lot of the time reminiscing and still keep in touch.



Les reunited with old shipmate Bruce Porter in Toronto.

RUPERT WEBB ALSO RECALLS THE FIRE AT RNSOP IN FELPHAM

New member Rupert Webb has sent me his observations of that eventful but traumatic day.

The fire at Strand House, Felpham, Sussex happened one afternoon when it was assumed that someone had thrown a cigarette end out of an upstairs window expecting it to fall to the floor, however, a gust of wind blew it up onto the thatched roof and set it ablaze.

I was in the upstairs room at the time, (I hasten to add it was not me who threw the cigarette), when I heard the crackle and saw the flames above, I ran down the stairs to the rear of the building and on to the lawn. Three colleagues followed me just as blazing thatch came sliding down the roof, two of the men ran on to the lawn near me, but the third sheltered up against the building probably thinking the blazing thatch would slide past him, but a gust of wind blew it on to him.

It was a terrible sight because he was burning to death as we stood there watching, because there was nothing anyone could do to save him. He was taken to hospital with 100% burns and died soon after.

I went back into the building after the fire had been brought under control, by the Bognor Fire Brigade. We managed to salvage a lot of equipment, cameras etc. which we passed through a downstairs window. All these items were placed on the front lawn and quite a bit was stolen by onlookers.

I recall a big splash of molten lead came down on my head, fortunately I had my cap on, which got ruined. My uniform was also burnt, but , the RN at first refused to replace my kit but later I was issued with new kit.

I don't remember the RN thanking us for going back into a burning house to save equipment, not even an extra tot.

A PROFILE OF NORMAN GRANTHAM IN HIS OWN WORDS

Royal Arthur then Implacable for sea training followed by Peregrine for a Phot course. My original intention of becoming a Rating Pilot

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



was thwarted by hospitalisation with a bad case of appendicitis in Lossiemouth.

After Ford a brief sojourn to Tipner harassed by Pricky Hart and a rather strange GI who ran the range. Both pursued us young lads especially the NS photos who were unfortunately drafted there.

Then 1 CAG and off to RAF Celle in Germany with 801 Squadron. Indomitable and RAF Topcliffe followed for some exercise or other, then on to Drake to join L/Phot Arnott White to run the FPU (if that's what it was), for the Home Fleet!

Met my first wife who was a L/Wren at HMS Raleigh. We used to cross the border into Cornwall, to take group photographs of the young stokers, I think they were.

My next girlfriend was commissioned resulting in our runs ashore necessarily being surreptitious, NAIs and 3Os don't mix.

Then on to HMS Ladybird for the Korean war. Shared a cabin on the Dilwara with Alan Oliver and Les Cox. Didn't get to Ladybird however (a Yangtse Gunboat I think), but to the USN base at Sasebo. That's where we had our photographic section next to the Chinese laundry. We were paid in HK dollars, needed BAFSV's to visit the RN canteen in Sasebo, Scrip Dollars to enjoy the luxury of the American facilities and Yen to enjoy the other! We were ripped off in every exchange of money we made.

It wasn't long before we joined ships heading for Korea where we recorded the war and photographed members of the crew carrying out their duties. A short article about them was then written and sent off to their local newspapers for publication.

Then to Tamar, the far east FPU, I think it was called. Myself and Ron Bowey, the ex R.M. photographer followed shortly thereafter by Pricky Wyatt. We and an ancient Chinese called Seigoa (Fourth son), ran the place. Our Gevacolour line on the old Hurdy Gurdy attracted a startling number of Wanchai film makers needing to get their naughty films processed. We were blessed, for a mercifully brief spell, with our FPO,

VISIT OUR WEB SITE : WWW.RNPA.ORG.UK

Commissioned W/O Flash Gordon, who seemed to have difficulty remembering which of the Bay class frigates had requested our services. They all seemed the same to him, Mounts Bay – St Brides Bay – what the hell.

On to HMS Newcastle and HMNZS Black Prince to cover a bit of the Malayan conflict. Banditry they called it officially. Then home on the Empire Clyde to Daedalus and Siskin, not doing very much.

HMS Cook beckoned next with 18 months sun-bathing in the South Pacific. Called at Christmas Island en-route to witness Britain's first megaton nuclear bomb, never felt right since!



Britains first megaton Nuclear bomb, Christmas Island

Back home by air, to Culdrose with a few months at RAF St Mawgan to complete my engagement. Tom (Moose) Marriott was there, John Clayton, Duncan (Blood) Reid and Bill Barrett.



Norman outside Phot Section at Culdrose

Bill cost me dearly when I decided to leave early. He had volunteered me to accompany

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



him on a model making course at Ford. The making of models wasn't foremost in his mind however, not plaster ones anyway. My Lords Commissioners charged me dearly for attending that course as I had decided to leave a month early. My present wife who was teaching at Plymouth College came to my financial rescue. Sadly, Bill Barrett died in Australia in September 1983.

I joined the Colonial Service in Central Africa where there was civil unrest and the Governor General was looking for ex-service personnel like me to help out as volunteers. I offered my services and since they had no Navy, I was commissioned in the Army. I stayed on as a volunteer officer when the troubles ended and retired as a Major, first in the Royal Rhodesia Regiment and then the Zambia Rifles.



Norman in Zambia with President Kenneth Kaunda

I then came home to an appointment as Senior Lecturer followed by early retirement and Spain for seven years where I did some voluntary work for SSAFA

Now back in the UK to be nearer my grand children.

By Norman Grantham..

SEA, SUN, SANGRIA ... AND SSAFA



Mr Grantham shows Mrs Trim the Flag Book which lists SSAFA's extensive volunteer network. Now he is seeking her unclaimed medals.

OBITUARY **BOB HIPWELL**

by Norman Grantham

I have just heard that Bob Hipwell has died. Bob served in the R N Photographic Branch from 1938 to 1950. He joined the navy in 1936. Ganges then on to the Iron Duke. He applied to become a Phot whilst on the newly commissioned Glasgow. He was sent to Whale Island then to Peregrine for training. On qualifying he joined HMS Guardian followed by Valiant then Dunluce Castle. April 1941 saw Bob promoted to L/Phot before returning to Excellent as a PO. RNAS Arbroath then Worthy Down before joining HMS London in 1946 for a two year commission. Back to the far east for Bob. This was to be his last ship, as he was seriously wounded on 21st April 1949 during the Yangtse incident. His head injuries resulted in his being transferred to USS Repose, the American Hospital Ship. He was taken to RNH Hong Kong and invalided home on the SS Lancashire. After a slow recovery, Bob joined the Admiralty Research Establishment going on to become Head of Photography at the MOD.

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Bob on HMS London in Hong Kong
He retired to Hook in Hampshire in 1978 and died in 2003 aged 83, having suffered with Parkinson's Disease for many years.
A lovely man, May he rest in peace.

SERVING MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE



Serving Members Representative
POA (Phot) Flo Foord

I now have the privilege of being the Serving members Representative to the RNPA, and for those of you who don't know me and for the ones who think you do, here is a small resume of my time in the RN and the Branch.

I joined the RN in 1978 as a Sonar Rating and saw the first half of my career, serving in HM Ship Adriane, Apollo, Battleaxe, Jupiter and Charybdis. Transferred to the Photographic Branch in 1989, Have been in the Fleet Photographic Unit Portsmouth, but I would like to add that I have not been here since I left Cosford, it just seems like it.

My aim is hopefully to gauge the perspective of the RNPA as seen by the Branch and to actively encourage participation and interaction. You are after all, Associate members and have no subs to pay, So please let me know what you think about the association good or bad, any ideas for functions, visits or just a get together and get P*%\$£. It is not just a group of old gits who get together and moan about how the branch has gone down hill (that's what the senior rates Dinner is for)

The 85th Anniversary bash in Bournemouth last year was exceptional (so I am told, being as I only made it to the prawn cocktail) and we had a good turn out of uniform there.

9380 7113

023 92 547113

Navy star; FLEET WAR-AV-
PON7PHOTADMIN

Internet: rnpd@dsl.pipex.co.uk

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SERVING MEMBERS



Laurie Cooper & Dee Morgan showing their newly acquired LA Photos badges

VISIT OUR WEB SITE : WWW.RNPA.ORG.UK

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Laurie Cooper and Dee Morgan, (maiden names Keylock and Hepple respectively), were the first two Wrens to successfully complete sideways entry into the RN Phot Branch, all their predecessors, (Fiona, Chrissie, Jan etc.) entered the Navy as AB Photographers.

Laurie and Dee joined RAF Joint School of Photography at Cosford as WRO's and passed out from training as L/Wren Phots, in September 1988, Gibbo (James Gibson) and Spider (Karl) Webb were on the same Phots course.

All that was 16 years ago Laurie and Dee are now CPO's. Laurie says Dee looks exactly the same after all these years.

Info supplied by CPO(A) PHOT Laurie Cooper.



MORE PIX OF REUNION 2004 SENT IN BY Jules Anderson

