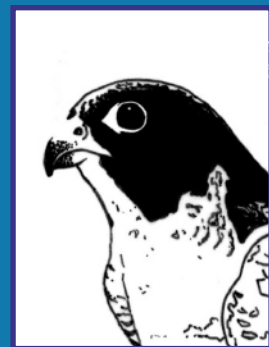


The Peregrine Phots Post



Issue 64 Winter 2020

Ahoy There

Hope you are all keeping safe and well. In this newsletter we have a few of the Peregrine Trophy images, also how the FAA was remembered 2020 and an obituary to Thurl Craft.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a very good and healthy New Year. Lets hope life improves and we get to our RNPA reunion in 2021.

Best wishes

Hilary & Steve King

From the Secretary.

I hope everyone is keeping well and staying safe under these unprecedented times.

As most of you are aware, we held our very first AGM by Zoom on the 19th November with 24 members present. Thankfully, it went off reasonably well without any major hitches. I thought I should give you an update as to where we are with the RNPA.

Both Tony and Ray will be standing down in their respective roles as Chairman and Social Secretary at the 2021 AGM. Danny has been elected to take over from Ray as Social Secretary and will work closely with him throughout the year. This has created the position for someone to take over the displays which are currently stored at the phot section of RNAS Yeovilton. If anyone would like to take on this role can they contact Danny and he can tell you what would be involved. Also, we need some fresh new photographs to update the displays so please go through your old boxes etc and if you have any, please send them on to Danny. (for the time being).

We will need a new Chairman so if anyone is interested can they please contact me. If you are interested, I am sure Tony would only be too happy tell you what is involved. It would be an enormous help if we can have potential candidates prior to the 2021 AGM.

Julie Richardson has been appointed as Recruitment Officer and already has a number of potential new members (well done Julie!) At present we have 122 paid up members so the more the merrier. Hilary needs some articles for the Newsletter. If you could put pen to paper and send some in, she would be grateful. This will be Newsletter number 65. She has been doing the Newsletters since 2009 and I am sure you all will agree with me that she does a great and very professional job. Thanks very much Hilary.

Ray will be sending out booking forms for the 2021 Edinburgh reunion shortly. If you are planning to attend can you complete the forms as soon as possible and return them to Ray so he can have a good idea as to the numbers. At present he is holding 20 rooms.

That is about where we are at the moment so all that is left for me to do is wish everyone the best Christmas they can possibly have at this time and hope everyone has a better 2021.

Regards to you all .

Ian Hooper

Peregrine Trophy



Sea cadets in uniform, this image won the Sea Cadet Category taken by Sea Cadet Kayleigh Fairbairn

RNPA Committee

Chairman	Tony Darbyshire 01753 892260 email: tony.darbyshire@gmail.com	Historian	Maurice (Jan) Larcombe 01963 23426 email: jandor@waitrose.com
Vice Chairman	Pete Bunting 01952 813193 email: peter.bunting@sky.com	Exhibition & Display Co-ordinator	Danny du Feu 07711083465 email: ddf.photography@gmail.com
Secretary	Ian Hooper 01283 530428 email: ihoops@btinternet.com	Webmaster	Tony Darbyshire 01753892260 email: www.rnpa.org.uk/
Treasurer	Val Darbyshire 01753 892260 email: vdarbyshire@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor	Hilary King 01926 334190 email: h.king2@sky.com
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Recruitment Officer	Julia Richardson 01983 812642 email: jmrichardson59@gmail.com		
Social Secretary	Ray Whitehouse 01403 230848 email: ray@chilston.com	Honorary Associate Member	John Cunningham

Limited Edition RNPA Wall Shields

Dear Members,

What a wonderful opportunity to purchase one of these fine, Hand Crafted mementos of your service in the RN Photographic Branch, depicting when the branch was formed in 1919.

I have only a limited number of the shields with the **Navy Blue or FAA Green** backgrounds left, as pictured below, so please get in touch, soon.

The shields and postage are at cost price, ie:

RNPA Wall Shield - £46.00

Postage & Packing - £ 5.00

Please get in contact and state your preference,

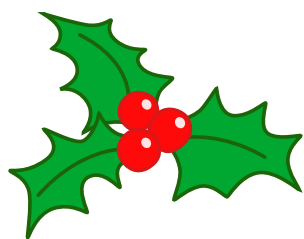
Yours Aye,

Danny du Feu

RNPA Exhibitions & Displays Coordinator

'ddf.photography@gmail.com'

07711 083465





RNPA Photographic display Co-ordinator

The RNPA photo Display was purchased recently by the RNPA to facilitate the exhibiting of historical & more recent photos of RN Photographers at work & socializing.

The display is normally transported and set up for display at most annual reunions and special events. The photographs have been obtained from the archival images held by the association Historian, Jan Larcombe.

All photographs sent in from members are scanned and printed for inclusion on the display boards, with the originals being returned to the sender.

The latest event where the display was exhibited was the 'RN Phot 100' dinner & dance held at the Senior Rates Mess, on Whale Island, where around 50 Ex-Phots and guests joined the serving photos in celebrating '100 years of Naval Photography'.

The photographic display consists of the following:

- a) 12 Square panels 3 feet square
- b) 7 Lower panel poles
- c) 7 Upper panel poles
- d) 7 Stabilising feet
- e) 4 Header boards & 5 header board poles
- f) 6 Display lights
- g) 150 Photographs approximately
- h) 2 Transit cases

The display & equipment is being stored, with the kind permission of Rob Harding, the Phot Branch Warrant Officer, in the Phot Section at Yeovilton Air Station.

To update the photos on the boards the RNPA Members, have been requested to send digital/hard copies for printing/mounting on card.

The mounted photos can then be attached to the boards with Velcro.

The Coordinator would be advised that the display & equipment will fit in a large estate car or small van.

If you are interested in taking up this role please contact me, - advice & help is available. Mileage will be paid when transporting/returning the display to the reunion/event venue.

Danny du Feu
 Display & Exhibitions Coordinator
 ddf.photography@gmail.com
 07711083465

Lossiemouth Upgrade

RAF Lossiemouth is to become the home of the UK's new fleet of surveillance aircraft.

The first of the E-7 Wedgetail aircraft are expected to arrive at the Moray base in 2023 in a move the Ministry of Defence says will bolster Scotland's role in UK and Nato defence and security.



The new surveillance aircraft will deliver a "step change in capability" from the E-3D Sentry aircraft currently in use, with the new Wedgetail's capable of simultaneously tracking multiple airborne and maritime targets. Information gathered will be used to guide in fighter jets and warships to combat threats.

Minister of State for Defence, Baroness Goldie said: "Scotland's proximity to the waters and skies of the North Atlantic is of crucial importance to the UK's and Nato's security – this is why important military bases such as HMNB Clyde and RAF Lossiemouth are located here.

The arrival of the Wedgetail in 2023 will also mark a return to RAF Lossiemouth for 8 Squadron, after an absence of 30 years.

The Wedgetail aircraft has already been used by other military across the globe including the Australian Air Force in Iraq and Syria.

The new fleet will be co-located with the new Poisdean fleet at RAF Lossiemouth following a £100million investment into a new facility, as well as a £75million upgrade to the runway.

The Peregrine Trophy

The Annual Royal Navy Photographic Competition judging took place for the first time ever on an online judging website to enable to competition to continue during the COVID-19 restriction.

This year's competition had over 250 images entries and a high standard of video submissions. All the judges commented on the high standard, along with the ability to combine technology and artistry, providing a high degree of quality, creativity and technical excellence. The competition entries have skilfully illustrated the Royal Navy's stories and its capabilities, one of the key roles of the Royal Navy's Photographic Specialisation.

Here are a selection of some of the images.



A F35B Lightning jet sits on HMS Queen Elizabeth flight deck during her Westlant 19 deployment to the east coast of the USA.

Winner RN Photographer of the Year 2020, it also won the Martine Air Prize.

Taken by L/Phot Kyle Heller

Peregrine Trophy 2020



HMS Queen Elizabeth flight deck during operational testing with the UK F-35B Lightning jet.

Photo by L/Phot Kyle Heller



A member of HMS Callistock's crew returns home to his family after ten months away on a NATO deployment.

The RN and RM charity family and friends award.

Photo by L/Phot Barry Swainsbury



Royal Marine of 45 Commando firing .50 calibre heavy machine gun in Estonia on exercise Baltic Protector 2019.

This Image won Amateur Open category

Photo by Captain Martin Harvey RM.



Royal Marine assault engineer of 45 Commando prepares a charge during Ice demolition training in the Arctic circle. This image won the Operation Prize.

Photo by L/Phot Stevie Burke



A British F35B Lightning jet pilot walks across HMS Queen Elizabeth flight deck with his fighter jet in the background.

Photo by L/Phot Dan Shepherd



An F-35B jet lands on HMS Elizabeth as she sails closely with RFA Tideforce & Type 23 Frigate HMS Northumberland.

Photo by L/Phot Kyle Heller



PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION

How the FAA Remembered in 2020

Fleet Air Arm Memorial - London

The Whitehall area, in particular, was amazingly, and rather eerily quiet, on that bright still morning of Sunday 8th November. Very different to past Armistice Sundays with the general buzz and expectation surrounding the organizing of the great and the good together with the thousands of veterans, serving members of the armed forces, public service personnel and the general public all gathering in Westminster to pay their respects to the fallen.

There were a few people strolling along The Embankment, some taking more than just a passing interest in the bronze winged naval airman, symbolizing Daedalus, standing proudly on his column overlooking the Thames. A statue known to us as the FAA Memorial dedicated to the thousands of men and women of the Royal Naval Air Service & The Fleet Air Arm who gave their lives in all conflicts since 1914.

Under Covid-19 restrictions no formal arrangements or ceremonial was allowed however, on their own initiatives, three Fly Navy Federation members attended and laid wreaths at 1102, after the two-minute silence had been observed.

They were Phil Carpenter, the FNF's secretary, who laid a wreath on behalf of the Federation, which of course includes the RNPA. Jamie Black laid his on behalf of the FAA Officers Association and John McCarthy for the Armourers' Association.

Shortly afterwards a member of the public placed a wreath on behalf of his uncle, an air-engineer, who was lost when the Atlantic Conveyor went down during the Falkland's conflict...a touching addition tribute on the day and nice that he should feel it appropriate to do at our memorial.

Afterwards, Phil commented "It was a small unique gathering and fitting way of paying our respects on behalf of all the FAA Associations who were not able to be present this year and, to maintain the continuity of the annual tradition of mustering at our special place on the Embankment. Let's hope that we will see a return to the full ceremony with everyone present next year."

Fleet Air Arm Memorial – Lee on Solent.

A similar gathering also took place at the ancestral home of the FAA, HMS Daedalus, in Lee on Solent at the appointed hour on Wednesday 11th November where, amongst many others, a wreath was laid by Rear Admiral Martin J. Connell CBE, Head of the Fleet Air Arm

St. Ives Ex-Services Club – Dorset

Bob Stanyard has kindly sent me an image of the wreath he laid, at the St. Ives Ex-Services Club in Dorset, on behalf of the Ferndown & District Branch of the Royal Naval Association.

Footnote from Phil...shortly after the wreath laying at the Embankment, I was disappointed to see there is damage to the stonework at the base of the memorial. It was obvious that this has been caused by a tractor/mower going too close or driven without proper care and attention. I have complained to the Westminster City Council Parks Manager and the good news is he has responded with a promise to see that the damage is properly repaired, and he will also speak to the contractor to ensure that the tractor/mower drivers are re-briefed.

Ray Whitehouse



Phil Carpenter, Fly Navy Federation Secretary, laying a wreath at the FAA Memorial in front of the MOD Building on the Embankment.



Wreath Laying at the FAA Memorial, L-R Jamie Black, Phil Carpenter & John McCarthy



Wreath laid by FNF on behalf of the FAA Association



The FAA Memorial



Rear Admiral Martin J. Connell CBE laying a wreath at the FAA Memorial at Lee on Solent.



Bob Stanyard, wearing his green beret left of the group, after the wreath laying in Dorset.

Thurl Craft – Obituary



A love story that started with a blind date and endured 61 years of marriage finally drew to a close with a funeral service which had more than a touch of military precision.

For Thurl Craft, aged 81, wife of RNPA member Nigel Craft, used her army background to ensure every aspect of her death from an aggressive form of cancer, and her funeral, was just as she wanted it.

“Thurl was a very organised person during her life, and she remained so right up to the end.” said Nigel. “She wrote the Order of Service, choosing the hymns, music and readings. She even discussed with our daughters how she should be dressed. But above all she wanted to ensure we remained a stable and functioning family after her passing.”

Nigel first met Thurl when fellow photographer Ian 'Soapy' Watson, invited him on a run-ashore to Guildford's Queen Elizabeth Army Barracks, where 'Soapy' had arranged to meet a WRAC from his home town of Liverpool. At the time the two naval airmen were serving on Portsmouth-based HMS Victorious during the carrier's first commission following its seven-year rebuild.

“I met Thurl that night and that was it... but there was a problem,” said Nigel. “She planned to serve with the WRAC for three years and then leave the UK for Australia, but I begged her not to go.”

The couple were married on June 27th 1959 in Thurl's home town of Melton, Suffolk, and they subsequently had three children, daughter Christina, son Richard who tragically died in 2007 aged 46, and Angela, born in Malta while Nigel was serving at RNAS Hal Far. The extended family includes nine grandchildren and a further nine great grandchildren.

“Thurl was an avid reader with broad interests, and she always had two or three books on the go at any one time,” said Nigel. “She taught all the kids and grandchildren to read, and enjoyed introducing them to literature.”

The funeral took place at St John The Baptist Church, Felixstowe, on Friday, July 24th, followed by interment at Felixstowe Cemetery. Only close family attended due to Covid-19 restrictions.