

Issue 74 Summer 2023

Ahoy There!

I hope you are all enjoying your holidays. Here is the summer edition of our Newsletter with articles about Steve Bond's book signing, the Naval Association Biennial Parade, the Fleet Air Arm Documentary Film details and RNLI launch at Whitby

It is with sadness I have to report that Alan (Chick) Fowler crossed the bar on Monday 14th August in Heathcote, Victoria, Australia.

I have also added the programme of our up and coming Reunion in Liverpool (to remind you of all of the details) I look forward to seeing you there.

Hilary King



The Royal Navy's Type 23 frigate HMS Sutherland with one of the Steregushchiy-class warships. Image: FRPU (E) Royal Navy

British naval vessels have been summoned to escort Kremlin ships through UK waters dozens of times since 2021,

Vessels from Vladimir Putin's armed forces were tracked more than 100 times as they sailed past Britain, while Royal Navy submarines shadowed Kremlin subs in the "UK's marine area".

The revelation will strike fear into Moscow as submarines are supposed to be able to go undetected. The Portsmouth-based ship shadowed the guided-missile frigate Admiral Grigorovich and two Steregushchiy II-class corvettes, Soobrazitelny and Stoikiy. RAF Typhoon fighters based at Coningsby in Lincolnshire, and a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft from RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland were also involved in the operation.

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Farewell to Shipmates Alan 'Chick' Fowler

Along with all the good news coming out of Australia on the football front, we received the sad news that former Phot branch member Alan Fowler has died in Heathcliffe in the state of Victoria. Universally known as 'Chick' to his friends and shipmates, the popular photographer was the centre of much lower deck banter when it became known that his rent allowance had been stopped while he was fighting to survive the sinking of a supply ship in the Falklands conflict. It took an admiral to rectify the matter.

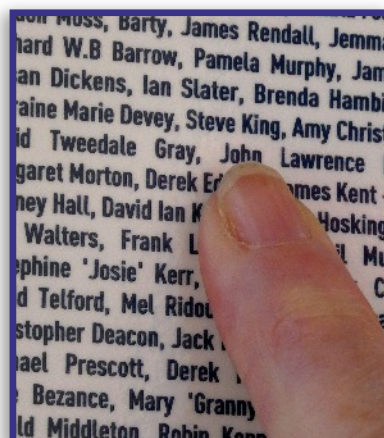
A more detailed obituary of 'Chick' will appear in a future Newsletter.

RNLI Launch in Whitby



In memory of my husband Steve I have donated to the RNLI for his name to be on the new RNLI Whitby Shannon Class Lifeboat RNLI 13-49.

I went to Poole for the launch of the new lifeboat and his name is now on the Port side on the letter R, 22 rows down on the straight bit. The lifeboat is now working out of Whitby where we had spent many happy holidays.



Dear All

Please find a forwarded note from the Secretary of the Fly Navy Federation Phil Carpenter, who is coordinating the FAA Associations, of which we are a member, to join the FAA contingent marching in Whitehall on Sunday 10th September. It is a Bi-annual Parade and consists of Navy, FAA and Royal Marines Associations.

In 2021 there were eight members of the RNPA who joined the rest of the FAA Associations who then marched as a separate FAA Platoon.

It is a particularly more relaxed commemoration than the November Cenotaph Marching and a good opportunity to meet old friends in all the other Naval Associations that will be there.

Please bring Photo ID. Please contact me as soon as possible so that I can pass on the numbers and names to Phil Carpenter.

Yours Aye,

Danny du Feu, Cenotaph Marching Coordinator RNPA

Dear All,

Following-on from the successful Naval Associations Parade in September 2021, organised by the Royal Naval Association, please see below details of the 2023 Parade. It will be held in London on Sunday the 10th of September.

With this being less than two months away, time is relatively short, but it would be good to see a strong Fleet Air Arm contingent, especially as the FAA is missing from the Royal Naval Association text of previous attendees.

I am aware that some associations have members wishing to attend already, so if we can coordinate an FNF contingent to march as one 'unit' (albeit in separate associations), that would be ideal.

Please let me know if your association has members interested in attending, and I am happy to coordinate. There is potential to hold an FNF meeting in London on Saturday the 9th, if there are representatives from a sufficient number of associations staying in London the day before the parade.

Regards, Phil Carpenter, Secretary Fly Navy Federation

secretary@flynavyfederation.org.uk

mrphilcarpenter@hotmail.com Tel: 07767 686902

The Naval Associations' Biennial Parade will take place at the Cenotaph on Sunday 10th September 2023.

Falling shortly after the first anniversary of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Facilitated by the Royal Naval Association, it is an important opportunity for the Naval Community to join together in celebration and commemoration.

In recent years, the Parade has been expanded to the wider naval community and its associations including platoons from the Association of Wrens, Association of Royal Yachtsmen, Submariners Association and the Merchant Navy Association. Shipmates will be marching alongside serving sailors from the Portsmouth area.

Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Martin Connell CBE, will be taking the salute with the Royal Naval Volunteer Band Association providing music and the Chaplain of the Fleet, the Venerable Andrew Hillier KHC, conducting the service.

Shipmates wishing to take part should be in King Charles Street ready for a briefing no later than 1025, the Standard Bearers Brief will take place a little earlier at 1010. The parade is due to conclude at approximately 1145 with attendees retiring to the Civil Service Club, in Great Scotland Yard for refreshments and to enable serving and veteran personnel from across the Naval Service to gather together.

If you are an RNA Member and would like to march we recommend informing your branch. If you are part of a different Naval association and would like to march, please could your association register by emailing sara@royalnavalassoc.com

If you have any questions please email comms@royalnavalassoc.com

Fleet Air Arm Boys Volume 4, Book Signing at the FAA Museum, Yeovilton Air Station, June 10th 2023



Dear Members,

Just before Christmas 2022, a request came from the Fly Navy Federation Secretary, Phil Carpenter to cover, photographically, a 'Book Signing'. The book, the 4th in the series, was written and compiled by author Steve Bond, and were sold and signed at the FAA Museum at Yeovilton Air Station.

The books depict the lives of men and women serving within the Fleet Air Arm, with a variety of aircraft over many years. The stories, which are told are from Pilots, Observers, FDO's Aircraft mechanics, Handlers etc.

Phil Carpenter, explained that Steve Bond had in the past, contacted the Photographic Branch but due to 'Red Tape' and copyright' issues, the author decided to try and obtain the help of the RNPA via the Fly Navy Federation.

Ray Whitehouse, who is the RNPA Representative to the Federation, assured Steve Bond that the RNPA would find a volunteer to cover the event. Myself as Ray's Deputy, within the Federation, also agreed and a request for volunteers was put into the Xmas RNPA Newsletter. It soon became clear that there were no active RNPA Photographers available and that Ray and myself would have to cover the event. Ray, who had numerous hospital appointments cancelled for an operation, was at last admitted to hospital a few days before the book signing, resulting in myself having to cover it alone.

Wearing my RNPA polo shirt with pride, I arrived at the Museum at 0845, having stayed overnight at the Ilchester Arms. I immediately met up with Steve Bond and went through the itinerary. The books were being sold at the Navy Wings Stand, headed up by Jon Parkinson and his team of 5. Hundreds of invited guests including many Veterans arrived through the morning and were able to take their newly purchased books to the various signing tables where the Ex-FAA service men & Women added their signatures and comments. At several times the area was invaded by local Squirrel and Beaver troops who were very keen to find out what was going on.



There was plenty of interest in purchasing the books, with part of the proceeds going towards the Navy Wings Funds. On completion of the morning coverage, and endless cups of complimentary coffee and biscuits, I handed all the images over to Steve Bond who thanked me immensely, then reimbursed me with my travelling expenses. I was a little apprehensive before the event but was pleased that in representing the RNPA we may have gained a few points within the Federation.

Yours Aye,
 Danny du Feu
 RNPA Social Secretary

Fairey Gannet Experience Urgently Needed + Nuclear Test Medal

Dear All,
 Two messages for today.

1. FAIREY GANNET EXPERIENCE URGENTLY NEEDED: Please see below an urgent message from Jock Alexander and Tim Manna, regarding returning a Fairey Gannet to the skies. Please distribute this as far and wide amongst association members as possible.

Anyone with relevant experience (there must be plenty out there - especially amongst the Any Face members) please contact Tim directly by the email at the bottom of the message (tim@kennetaviation.com).

“FAIREY GANNET EXPERIENCE URGENTLY NEEDED. An exciting opportunity has arisen for 2-3 volunteers to help prepare a US-based Gannet for its first flight in several years. The aircraft is currently located in Woodville, Wisconsin, and the intent is to prepare it for a ‘one flight only’ move during August/September time to Spokane, Washington, where it will be subject to a full maintenance package. All going well, the intent in the near future is to re-patriate it to UK, where we hope to bring it under the care of Navy Wings. Successful candidates will ideally have direct experience of having worked with the Gannet, either as engineers or pilots. Help potentially available with travel and subsistence costs. Interested parties should contact Tim Manna at tim@kennetaviation.com.”

2. NUCLEAR TEST MEDAL: (with apologies for the delay in sending this out, after Arthur Charles bought it to my attention on Saturday):

Attached is a link to a BBC item on the Nuclear Test Medal <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66330471>, and a link to the Government website for those wishing to see if they are eligible to claim it: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-for-medals>. It is planned to be available in time for the November ceremonies.

According to Arthur, ratings from the Met Branch at the time of the tests were quite heavily involved with both surface and upper air observations. As far as Arthur knows all those involved have crossed the bar now, but the medal is also available to next of kin.

Surely there must have been involvement of other FAA personnel as well, so please do advertise this as widely as possible

It is especially relevant now that the huge hit film ‘Oppenheimer’ has raised awareness of all that went in to the original US nuclear programme during WWII.

Regards,
 Phil Carpenter,
 Secretary Fly Navy Federation,
secretary@flynavyfederation.org.uk
mrphilcarpenter@hotmail.com Tel: 07767 686902

HMS Excellent Southdown Trek Winners 1984.JPG

I was recently sent this image by Ash Amliwala, depicting the boys from the Fleet Photographic Unit becoming winners of the HMS Excellent Southdown Trek, Spring 1984.



Back Row L-R: Dickie Drew, Mike Kent, Capt of Excellent,
Terry Hogan and Ash Amliwala
Front Row: Danny du Feu and Mike McBarron

Fleet Air Arm Documentary Film

Dear All,

The Navy Wings documentary has moved-on to the next stage of interviewees, and is now looking for those with stories to tell from the 1990s to the present day. Please see the information below.

If your association might have suitable 'candidates', then please send this on to them. and they can contact the Navy Wings documentary team via in the text.

Regards,

Phil Carpenter,

Secretary, Fly Navy Federation

Secretary@flynavyfederation.org.uk

mrphilcarpenter@hotmail.com Tel: 07767 686902

Could your personal testimony make a valuable contribution?

As you are aware, we are working through the years in phases and now need to move onto those who served more recently. If you have something interesting to contribute, small or large, and served from 1990 to the present, please click the link below and complete the simple form.

To capture the full essence of the FAA, it is vital that we hear from all branches, Pussers to Pinkies, Bombheads to Badgers, Met to Mech and Handlers to Aircrewmen.

Can you help us bring the powerful history of the Fleet Air Arm to a global stage.

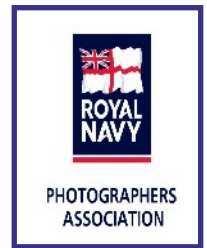
First hand testimony is central to the Fleet Air Arm Story. Please contribute if you can and circulate this request to your veteran network.

Many thanks for your ongoing support

phil carpenter

mrphilcarpenter@hotmail.com

**Royal Navy Photographers' Association &
Photographic Branch
Reunion 2023**



Hi Everyone,

We are delighted to inform you that the planning stage of the 2023 Annual Reunion is complete. This is the 104th year since the forming of the RN Photography Branch. It gives us great pleasure to invite you to come along and spend a great weekend with friends, Ex-Colleagues and Serving Phots alike.

It was decided at the Portsmouth Reunion in November that the 2023 event should be held in Liverpool. We have booked the 3 Star 'Liner Hotel' in Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool, L3 5QB. I personally have stayed at this hotel with another association in the past and found it excellent. I have had several discussions with the RNPA Committee and the Hotel, to discuss various items & events which should make the Reunion weekend a memorable one.

The difference with this reunion format is that you will be asked to book your accommodation yourself direct with the Hotel, and in this letter, you will find the details & costs for booking rooms. The rates are very competitive for Liverpool.

Unfortunately, the Friday evening Buffet meal and Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening are not included in the cost of the accommodation, and although very reasonable, this needs to be paid via me to the hotel. The Reunion Levy is for all other expenses and also needs to be paid to me.

To book rooms please phone The Liner Hotel on 0151 709 7050 and quote the following reference, **0923ROYA**.

Although a number of rooms have been allocated to us, I would advise you book your room(s) as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

Room Tariff

Double & Twin Rooms: Friday £110.00BB, Saturday £135.00BB, Sunday £85.00BB

Single Occupancy: Friday £97.50BB, Saturday £122.50BB, Sunday £72.50BB.

Other costs incurred for weekend will be charged separately.

Reunion Levy - £30 per person

Friday Evening Buffet - £15 per person (not if you are not attending)

Saturday Gala Dinner - £32.50 per person

This will be required to be sent to the Social Secretary as follows:

Cheques should be made out to 'Mr Robert G. du Feu', and sent to:
57, Westover Road, Leicester, LE3 3DU

Or by Bank Transfer:— R.G. Du Feu, Acc No: 68390786, Sort Code: 40-63-01
Please add your name as a Reference when sending by bank transfer.

If you are not staying at the hotel, you still need to pay for the Levy and Buffett or Dinner or both depending which you are attending

The Levy covers:

Friday & Saturday night entertainment, Rum & Port for ceremonial 'Up Spirits', Cheese Platters for each table, Wine for the tables on Saturday evening, Expenses incurred in the planning, etc.



RNPA 2023 Reunion

Friday Evening Hot & Cold Buffet

Hot Dish Options

Chicken Tikka Masala served with rice

Sun -Dried Tomato, Red Onion & Black Olive Mozzarella Pasta (V)

Salad Selection

Caesar Pasta Salad

Tomato, Red Onion & Feta Salad

Fresh Sandwiches & Wraps

Update on RNPA Reunion in Liverpool 2023

Dear Ex-Phot's, Colleagues and Serving Phot's

I am contacting you again to thank all of those that have booked your rooms, sent in your Levy, and payment for the Friday Night Buffet & Saturday Gala Dinner. I know it seems confusing to have to pay for those meals separately when other hotels include it in the accommodation prices. Apart from that, and the fact that the catering dept are NOT up to speed on the vegetarian choices, I'm sure the Hotel will treat us splendidly.

So, the updates are:

- a) Another updated Gala Dinner Menu with added Vegetarian choices, on following page.
- b) For those of you who cannot make the Friday night Meet & Greet, the **Levy is only £20.00.**
- c) We are hoping to organise a visit on the Saturday morning to the very popular and informative 'Arctic Convoy' Museum.
The Group rate is £11.50 per person and they advise we organise ourselves into parties of 15 with a Guide.
The Guides will cost £75 per Guide, and this cost will be borne by the Association.
I will need to inform the Museum of the numbers interested to book the Guides, - so if you could kindly let me know if you are interested, that would be great.
- d) When you send in your payments, please include your Gala Dinner menu choices.

[This Reunion has all the Hallmarks of a great event so please support it!](#)



RNPA 2023 Reunion Saturday Evening Gala Dinner Menu Choices



Starters

King Prawn and Smoked Scotch Salmon Salad

*Mixed baby leaves, diced chorizo,
smoked paprika dressing, malted wheat bloomer*

Creamy Leek, Spring Onion and Potato Soup

Sprinkled with buttered croutons and snipped Chives

Baby Mozzarella and Sun-Blushed Tomato Bruschetta

With roasted shallot balsamic glaze and pesto oil (v)

Main Courses

Herb Rubbed Lamb Rump

Lyonnais potatoes, green beans and chickpeas with redcurrant and red wine jus

Char Seared Chicken Breast

*Rosti potatoes, steamed sugar snaps and maple smoked bacon,
leek and chardonnay wine sauce*

Wild Mushroom & Chive Risotto

Set in a tortilla basket and drizzled with pesto oil. (V, VG, GF)

Sweet Potato and chickpea loaf (V, VG, GF)

Chargrilled, herb roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Sweet

Chocolate Mocha Cheesecake

Surrounded with a salted caramel and vanilla sauces

Crème Brûlée

Glazed with a sugar crust and topped with fresh raspberries and shortbread

Cheese & Biscuit Platters will be served to each table

Served with Fresh Tea, Coffee & Chocolate Mints

Please send your Menu Choices of Starter, Main Course & Sweet to the Social Secretary
Also, please state the name of the person the Menu Choice refers to.

Check off List for the 2023 Liverpool Reunion

RN Photographers Reunion at the Liner Hotel in Liverpool Friday 29th September – Monday 2nd October 2023

Dress Code for weekend

Friday Evening – Smart Casuals/Blazers

Saturday Evening Gala Dinner
Lounge Suits/Blazers & Ties/Black Tie

Programme of Events

On arrival, Members are invited to park their cars in the Hotel Car Park

Friday 29th	PM	Guests arrive at the Liner Hotel and book in.
	18.00	Meet & Greet with old friends and guests in the Pacific Lounge + Entertainment
	20.00	Hot/Cold Buffet served
Saturday 30th	AM	Guests are free to pursue any of the many attractions that Liverpool has to offer. Some of which are listed on page 5 of the Reunion Letter. There is a possibility of an organised tour to the Arctic Convoys Exhibition
	18.00	Meet & Greet in the Britannic Suite
	19.00	Call for the Gala Dinner and be seated in the Britannic Suite
	19.05	Gala Dinner
	Approx 20.30	Welcome address by our Chairperson, followed by the Social Secretary's brief o/c Ceremonial 'Up Spirits' enactment and Loyal Toast o/c Raffle (Please bring a Raffle Prize) o/c Dancing to Disco music
	00.30	Bar closes
Sunday 1st Oct	10.30	After breakfast – AGM in Pacific Lounge On completion Tea/ Coffee is served

Those that are staying till Monday are free to visit other attractions in and around the Port and City of Liverpool, including the Liverpool Royal Naval Club.
