



PHOTOGRAPHERS
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2025

Hi All....

Welcome to the new look Newsletter. Firstly, I must apologise for the lack of Newsletters over the last year. Due to unforeseen circumstances Hilary has decided to stand down as editor and has left the committee so I will be taking on the role of editor for the time being.

Last year was quite a busy year for the Association with a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum, a dinner on HMS Warrior, the reunion at Bristol and the Cenotaph march on Remembrance Sunday. See below for reviews.

This year's reunion will be held at the Queens Hotel in Portsmouth. Danny has sent out all the information so if you haven't signed up yet please do so and lets make it a successful and memorable one.

This September sees the biannual Royal Navy Associations parade at the Cenotaph and we have had members attend marching with the Fly Navy Association contingent in the past. If you would like to participate and haven't signed up yet please contact Danny.

We will be updating the membership database shortly. To make sure it is correct, if you have moved home within the last five years, could you please email your new address to me. My email address is below. Also, if you haven't paid your membership subscription yet, please do so!!

This is **your** newsletter and I will be grateful for any contributions you would like to share. The closing date for the next issue is the 31st July (the 55th anniversary of the the last tot of rum issue!)

Yours aye

Ian Hooper

Secretary and newsletter editor

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RNPA visit to National Memorial Arboretum

On Sat 19th May a good group of RNPA members visited the National Memorial Arboretum, organised by our own Ian Hooper, who is also a guide at the Arboretum.

We started with refreshments provided by the Arboretum, and then set off in small groups for a guided tour. The weather was perfect for our visit, and we were lucky to have Ian as our guide, although I'm sure the other guides were equally as excellent! It was very good of them all to give up their time to take us round.

It was my first visit, and I'm sure others too, found it fascinating, moving and beautiful. I wasn't aware that it is set over such a large area, so plenty of walking for everyone.

We stopped at the Fleet Air Arm memorial, where I laid a wreath on behalf of the RNPA.

Personally I loved the Navy memorial, the light shining through the glass was beautiful. Ian was extremely knowledgeable, telling us many fascinating stories and facts about the many memorials as we went round.

We had an excellent lunch and then we had time to either wander round on our own, or join Ian for a further walk round visiting more interesting Memorials. We chose to do the latter.

It was great day, and I'm sure all the RNPA members who attended would agree with me, it was well worth the effort of travelling to visit this amazing place. If you missed it make sure you come next time.

Many thanks to Ian for all his hard work organising it.

PS. One member who obviously enjoyed it, has now started training as a guide – you know who you are Phil Everitt!

Julie Richardson Chairman



The Group at the Armed Forces Memorial



Julie in the Wren's Memorial Garden



Navel Service Memorial



Julie laying a wreath on the RNPA plaque at the FAA Memorial



Fleet Air Arm Memorial



At the Armed Forces Memorial



It had to be done - didn't it Phil!!



At the FAA Memorial

Celebration Dinner on HMS Warrior - July 2024 - 105 years of Navy Photography



The serving phots arranged a special evening on HMS Warrior to which RNPA members and non-members were invited to attend. Our thanks to W01 Owen Cooban for inviting us to this celebration of one hundred and five years of Royal Navy photography

We initially met up at the pub just outside the dockyard gate. The England football team were playing one of their group matches in the European Championships and the pub was very full! For that reason we chose to take our drinks outside and put up with a very strong wind and, for July, a rather cold chill!



We then proceeded to go on board the Warrior and attend the dinner. It was a fabulous setting and the evening gave us a chance to mingle with the serving phots. and the other guests who came along.

Tony Darbyshire

I do not have any pictures taken at the event so if anyone who attended has some then please send them to me and I will include them in the next Newsletter.

Bristol 2024 Reunion Report

I have received two written articles for the reunion so I have included both of them.

Well, another year has gone by and it's good to report that our reunion in Bristol went off brilliantly!

The attendance of our members was lower than we'd ideally like but, despite the numbers, we had a great reunion weekend. In all twenty nine members attended the Gala Dinner, and only slightly lower for the Friday evening social and our Saturday visit for the tour of the SS Great Britain.

The hotel put on a really lovely buffet for us on the Friday evening and after the scoffing was done we took part in a quiz. The questions were a mixture of facts about Bristol... some of them pretty tricky, and then some on other topics which were even trickier! Our thanks go to Ray Pogson for coming up with the questions for us. Sadly, Ray and Angela weren't able to attend this year as they were booked to go on a cruise, but we were all grateful for Ray's contribution to a really fun evening!

On Saturday morning most of us met up at 11am and had a delightful walk along the harbour side in glorious sunshine. Our planned visit to the SS Great Britain, and the other exhibitions about the ship and its rather famous designer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, started off at midday.



Friday night meet & greet



SS Great Britain

Our guide for the tour was a really knowledgeable gentleman, Ian (Not our Ian!) He was helped by Elaine, whom he described as his 'Sheep Dog'! She had the dubious, and unenviable task, of acting as back-marker to make sure we all kept up with Ian's narrative! (Not an easy task to keep a lot of matelots from straying off to take pictures!)

Ian gave us an excellent guided tour of the ship. He explained its history, construction and working life as a passenger steam ship. He told us all that its maiden voyage to New York city in 1845 took fourteen days which was a record at the time. This magnificent ship ended its life in the Falklands as a 'warehouse', having been used to transport emigrants to Australia in previous decades. The ship was towed back to the UK in 1970, virtually derelict and was then brought back to life and rebuilt with funds donated by Sir Jack Hayward, the entrepreneur who also owned Wolverhampton Wanderers football club. (If you go to Wikipedia you can read all about the history of this ship, just type in '*SS Great Britain*').

After the tour we then made our way back to the hotel to get ready for our Gala Dinner at 6pm. As always Danny du Feu had done a stalwart job of working with the hotel staff to come up with a splendid dinner menu and wine selection for us.

In Bristol we had one very special guest. Sheila Hunt, wife of Vic Hunt, who served in the branch for nine years from 1964 to 1973 before leaving the navy for pastures new. Sheila came along for our Gala Dinner evening. Sheila and Vic had been in Singapore with several members attending this year, from 1969 to 1971, and we were delighted that she was able to attend. Sadly Vic wasn't well enough to come with her but we know that Sheila enjoyed the evening and meeting up with old friends because she told us so. *Unfortunately, Vic has since crossed the bar.*

After the dinner was over and we had 'spliced-the-main brace' and toasted the King, we held our usual raffle, to raise money for charity. This was coordinated by our chair, Julie Richardson. Lots of really nice prizes were donated by the members, from chocolates to booze, and we managed to raise a total of £180. Not bad considering that our numbers attending weren't as high as previous years. So our thanks go to all of our members for making their prize donations, and then spending money on buying the raffle tickets!

To finish off the evening Danny had organised a really excellent DJ for us who played some excellent music. The evening ended with lots of dancing which culminated in the good number of the males choosing to dance with themselves and excluding the girls!! (We took a video of this shindig, so look out for it on the website!) At 10.30am on the Sunday morning we held our AGM and went through the usual agenda.

We have now put up the pictures of the Bristol reunion weekend on the website. The pictures really do speak a thousand words, so we will leave the photographs to give you flavour of a really enjoyable weekend reunion!

Tony Darbyshire

SS Great Britain Tour



Bristol 2024

Bristol proved to be a very interesting venue for this year's reunion and the DoubleTree Hotel was conveniently situated close to a very pleasant walk along the riverside to the historic heart of the city. Also close by was Temple Meads rail station, handy for those using their veterans' rail cards to travel

The now-traditional Friday night buffet provided us all with a great variety of excellent food accompanied, of course, with excellent company. Special treat – the intriguing quiz, compiled by Ray Pogson . (No prize for the winners – just the glory!). So, a good evening – so good I almost forgot that 2 glasses of wine bought from the bar cost me £22!

Warm, sunny day on the Saturday, with most of us strolling down along the river to S.S. GREAT BRITAIN for the organised tour of the this historic ship.

Designed by Isambard Brunel, when launched in 1843, *Great Britain* was then by far the largest vessel afloat, and she was the largest passenger ship in the world from 1845 to 1853. With her iron hull and revolutionary (in both senses of the word) screw propeller she crossed the Atlantic in a record 14 days.

We had a really good informative guide for the visit taking us from stem to stern throughout the amazingly restored ship. From a personal viewpoint this visit was particularly interesting as this was my second visit to *Great Britain*, the first being 56 years ago when I clambered aboard her at Sparrow Cove in the Falklands where she was an abandoned wreck. (See pic)



Saturday evening was the big event – the Reunion Dinner – again, really excellent food and drink – the now traditional Royal Toast followed by robust singing and, sometime later, robust dancing!

So, another great reunion – many thanks to Danny and also his many helpers who made the event so successful. Although numbers were somewhat down this year, “a great time was had by all”. And perhaps with Portsmouth as next year's venue there'll be a bigger turnout. Already looking forward to it. See you there!

Paul Parrack

Gala Dinner



Mike Beard & Danny
duFeu



Sheila Hunt with Ben Cartwright
Pete & Bridget Bunting



Joan Roberts, Mary Gilbert with the
Keelings



Mike & Mary Gilbert



What goes on tour - stays on tour.
Is this the end of the traditional hornpipe?

Cenotaph March 2024

Once again with an immense sense of pride that I mention the immaculate turn out that the RNPA Cenotaph Marchers' platoon, showed on Remembrance Sunday this year, as the 7th Platoon in the Navy Column.

We were on target to be 21 strong this year, but due to illnesses, urgent operations, ours and other Associations, numbers were slightly reduced.

It was a pleasant mild day again this year, with five minutes of light drizzle. This time we were not positioned within the Fleet Air Arm contingent in the Navy column, but due to an administrative error, we were 7th in the Naval Column which this year was the first of the Service columns to march down Whitehall and present the RNPA wreath at the Cenotaph.

Again, this year we had no Officer to lead the Platoon so I again asked Ex-CPO Alan Ferguson to lead from the front. It was reported by people in the crowd that our appearance and marching looked excellent, and we were seen on TV!

I expect HRH Prince William liked the look of us as well, when he took the salute when we marched past the Royal Diaz, as it is recorded on BBC television. Mr Dimbleby was also heard to mention us as one of the platoons belonging to the Fleet Air Arm.

Due to the restrictions on getting to the FAA Memorial we didn't return to Horse Guards but carried on marching onto the Mall, to arrive at the FAA Memorial adjacent to the MOD Building.

After a short service, where approximately 350 FAA Veterans gathered, one of our longest serving members, Ex-CPO Ted Tierney laid the second wreath on behalf of the RNPA. On completion of the wreath laying, the RNPA contingent got together for a group photo and then made our way to the 'Tom Cribb Pub', near Leicester Square, where we were welcomed again by veterans from the 'Ton Class Minesweepers' and Bomber Command, and Ark Royal Association.

After the Loyal and several other 'Toasts,' All of the Veterans, guests and locals mustered outside the Pub for an informal group photo, as seen in the accompanying photos. Things quietened down and as per tradition, we visited our second venue nearby where the 'Fallen Heroes Trad Jazz Band', kept us entertained until late with great numbers interspersed with wartime songs, finally finishing off with a roof lifting rendition of 'God Save the King'.

If you would like to join us all next year please get in touch, - I can promise you a truly moving experience.

Danny du Feu

RNPA Cenotaph March Coordinator

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07711 083465



Horse Guards Parade



Cathy, Julie & Joan



Waiting to march off



Last minute shoe shine



We made it on TV



Ted Tierney laying the RNPA wreath at the FAA Memorial on the Embankment



The Group on the Embankment



Danny & Rebecca du Feu with Ian Hooper



In the Tom Cribb Pub

Another Award for Olga

When Olga Price served the people of Llandudno for over 30 years, both as a district nurse and a midwife, she gained a reputation for the dedication she brought to both roles.

And in retirement she now applies that same dedicated approach to her little piece of heaven at the front of the Penryn Bay home she's shared with husband David for the past 52 years.

Exotic plants from the Caribbean island of Barbados where she was born, including Frangipani and Hibiscus make passers-by stop for a chat with Olga as she weeds and waters with the sole aim of winning a Gold award in the annual Llandudno-In-Bloom competition.

So it was no surprise when she collected her sixth successive Gold certificate in the Residential Garden category from the mayor, councillor Michael Pearce at the recent awards' ceremony in the town hall.

Olga credits her success to: "...gardening little and often, fortified by cups of tea from husband David."

The competition was cancelled in 2020 due to the restrictions which were in place following the outbreak of Covid.

Ray Pogson



Olga receiving her gold award



...And it's a big thank you from him

I wish to express my grateful thanks to all those RNPA friends and members who kindly co-operated with a request to take part in two impromptu photo shoots earlier this year.

Having set myself the task of getting the late Bill Porter mentioned in the Belfast newspapers four years after his death in April 2020 I needed a picture of this generous and genial Irishman with some fellow ex-Navy photographers.

Dave Morris's wake at the Cowplain Social Club, Portsmouth last March produced pictures showing Bill's contemporaries raising a glass of his favourite Jameson's whiskey as they toasted his memory. Unfortunately the number of ex-phots present meant the picture didn't quite hit the mark. However, a second photo opportunity presented itself a few weeks later at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) near Lichfield.

A 30-strong RNPA party were enjoying a visit to the NMA where association secretary Ian Hooper, who organised the visit, interrupted a busy schedule so a group photograph could be taken at the Fleet Air Arm memorial.

In normal times Bill's passing, aged 80, would have been marked and celebrated with a full-blown Irish wake. But in the early days of April 2020 the country was in the grip of the dreaded Covid pandemic and things were far from normal.

Bill died on April 9th and he was buried four days later in Blaris Cemetery, Lisburn, County Antrim. Restrictions on the numbers of people getting together were tight, and just 10 people, including the minister, were at his graveside for the prayer-led committal. His death was not Covid-related.

I knew Bill's wife Anne was upset with the way she had to say her goodbyes, so I had hoped to get folks talking about Bill again by generating some publicity in the local press.

Regrettably, my plan failed.

On the day I submitted my story and photographs, news desks were simultaneously hit with revelations from the on-going Post Office scandal, the findings on the national Blood Doping investigation and the general election announcement bombshell.

However, memories of Bill were recalled as the pictures were taken, so I think it was a partial success .

Needless to say I am most grateful to Steve Morris for his co-operation, and Ian Hooper for his assistance at the NMA . A special thank you must go to former RNPA chairman Ray Whitehouse, who not only produced the large print of Bill on HMS Belfast, but also took charge of both photo sessions at Portsmouth and the Arboretum. Thanks for your input Ray.
By Ray Pogson



Bill Porter with old PHOT Mates at Dave Morris's funeral

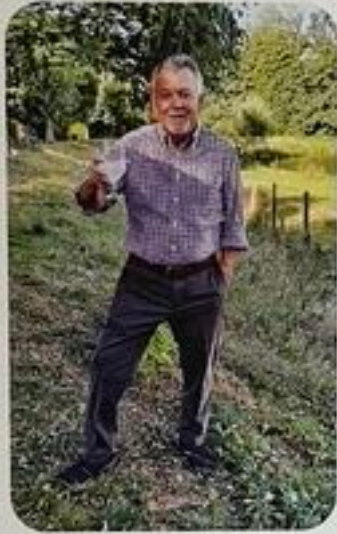


Tribute to Bill Porter at the FAA Memorial
At the National Memorial Arboretum

A Fond Farewell...

Since the last Newsletter a number of ex Phots have crossed the bar including our long standing member Stuart (Slinger) Wood.

I have only received the following obituaries so my apologies any omissions. If you would like to submit any I have missed for inclusion in the next Newsletter, I would be very grateful



Geoffrey Martin Holland

16th September 1948 - 7th November 2024

I was Geoff's instructor on his Naval Phot Course at RAF Cosford in 1976.

He transferred from the Steward Branch to Phot which he took in his stride and went on to be very reliable, confident Naval Phot and because of his background was noted as being extremely polite and mannerly.

Yes Geoff is best described as a real gentleman.

Helen and Geoff were inseparable and were often seen together at many of the RNPA meets.

More recently Geoff and Helen met Pauline and I while touring in Spain taking in the Spanish winter weather. We spent a lovely few days together relaxing, swinging the lamp and just enjoying each other's company.

Geoff's passing came as such a shock.

We wish to pass on our Condolences to Helen, all his family and friends.

Rest in Peace Dutchy old friend

Bob Stanyard



Victor Charles Frederick
Hunt

4th February 1945 - 6th January 2025

Remembering Victor Charles Frederick Hunt - Obituary

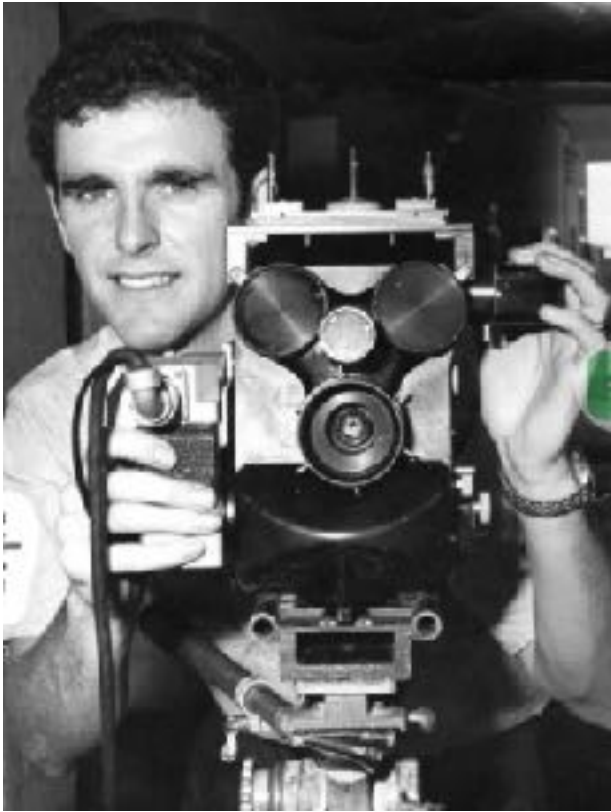
We've been informed by Sheila Hunt that Vic has sadly crossed the bar. Vic was born on 4th February 1945 and died a few weeks before he would have celebrated his 80th birthday.

Vic's early years were in Newport, Gwent. When he was twelve years old he moved with his parents and two sisters, Jill and Barbara, to live in Leicester. Vic's first job on leaving school was working at the Morleys clothing store.

He joined the the navy in 1964 when he was nineteen years old, which was also the year his own father died.

On joining the service Vic became a naval airman, and completed his basic training at HMS Raleigh, followed by his airmanship course at RNAS Culdrose. On completing his training he chose photography as his specialisation and travelled up to RNSOP at RNAS Lossiemouth later that year for his Phot 2's course.

On completion of his course he was drafted to HMS Excellent. On a visit to see his mother, who was then living in Bristol and working as a Matron for a teachers' training college, he met Sheila, later to be his wife.



Sheila and Vic corresponded for two years whilst he was in Portsmouth and they married in 1968. During that year Vic was given a married accompanied draft and he and Sheila spent two years in Singapore, based at HMS Terror. They came back to the UK in 1971.

Vic completed his Phot 1's course and was then given a draft to HMS Endurance, the Icelandic patrol ship and travelled to South America and the Antarctic. Vic was promoted to Petty Officer in 1973. Vic made the decision to leave the navy that year.

Back in Civvy St. Vic worked for Britvic, the soft drinks company, as a salesman for many years. On leaving Britvic he worked as a financial advisor for Pearl and Cornhill Insurance and retired at the age of 63 in 2008.

During his retirement Vic worked as a volunteer with the RSPCA and thoroughly enjoyed his time with them. The highlight for him was working down in Devon helping to release seals back into their natural habitat.

Once retired he and Sheila spent many years travelling around in the country in their caravan, and were keen members of the National Trust.

Sadly Vic's later years saw him not in good health and he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. His health further deteriorated and he died in hospital from pneumonia in January of this year. Vic and Sheila had two children, Darren and Georgina.

RIP Vic Hunt

Tony Darbyshire

Antony Jude McDevitt (Mac)

Mac Started his photographic training at 'Ford' with Jan Larcombe as one of his classmates, becoming a Leading Airman Phot One. He also served on HMS Eagle RO5 during the famous Beira patrol incident of 1966 concerning the Rhodesian oil embargo.

Unfortunately, after doing his full 12 years service, he was 'duped' into leaving the RN by an old school friend with the promise of an extensive highly paid job which did not materialise. Realising his mistake, he tried to rejoin the RN but missed the deadline for doing so by only 2 weeks. Something he regretted very much for the rest of his life.

Mac was a member of the RNPA and leaves a wife Jane and a daughter.

Maurice Brailey

And on a lighter note...



Roger Forbes getting Henry du Feu to try on a Russian military cap

‘Hats off to Roger’!

While Danny & Tina du Feu were visiting their grandchildren in Somerton, near Yeovilton Air Station, they thought why not take them to ‘Sunny Weymouth’ for the day. Well, after having spent most of their grandparents well earned Naval Pensions on the slot machines in the Beach Arcade, Danny thought why not complete a great day with a visit to their long-suffering friends, Roger & Pam Forbes, who, incidentally are well established patrons of the seaside Town.

After a very enjoyable visit, Roger insisted Henry should try on a Russian Military cap. It’s origin didn’t come up in conversation at that precise moment, but as you can see, the ‘Cap Fits’!