



Photographers  
Association

# NEWSLETTER



## Issue 78 - Winter 2025

Welcome to the Winter edition of the RNPA Newsletter, this is my first as your Newsletter Editor, a role I volunteered for. You would have thought that after my time served, I would have learned not to volunteer for anything. Well here goes, there has been a lot going on so a big thank you to all contributors, happy reading. Thank you to all who have contributed articles and photographs.

*Alan Ferguson, RNPA Newsletter Editor.*

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## RNPA 2025 Reunion

### Chair's Report

I have just returned from a thoroughly enjoyable RNPA Reunion weekend, this year held at The Queens Hotel in Southsea (3 to 5 October 2025). The food, entertainment and of course company were all excellent.

Most of us arrived on the Friday afternoon, and on this occasion we (Brian and I) did not have far to travel, living on the Isle of Wight (IOW) as we do.

After a brief hello in the bar, it was time for our informal get together, with lots of chatter and catching up with old friends, looking for ourselves in the Photographic display and taking part in a quiz lead by yours truly, plus a delicious buffet!

It was an early start for the majority of us the next day with a trip to the FPU, with the rest allowed a more leisurely start and a touch of retail therapy in nearby Gunwharf quays. Those at that went to the FPU said it was an excellent and very informative visit, led by the very knowledgeable CPO (Photographer) Jaysan Allen, Chief of the section.



In the evening it was the more formal Gala Dinner, when more RNPA members joined us, and we were treated to an excellent drum display by the Band of the Royal Marines Volunteer Cadet Corps (RMVCC) Gosport.

Once again, the food was delicious, and the service excellent, rounded off with the obligatory Royal Toast with a tot of rum, or port. I would like to say the raffle went off without a hitch, as I organised it, but that wouldn't be true. I

think we almost united all the prizes with their owners, but somehow, I was left with an unclaimed box of biscuits!

The usual shenanigans ensued, silly dancing, bit of singing and drinking, some more than others.

On Sunday morning we held our Annual AGM, where some decisions were made and others, though discussed fully, never really came to a conclusion.

Then it was another meet up over a cuppa, after which most people bade their farewells till next time!

All in all, a lovely weekend, made all the more special for me as after a lot of nagging I persuaded two of my oldest friends to attend, they actually aren't that old I've just known them for a long time! Namely Caroline Coombes/nee Williams and Audrey Bazeley/nee Dickson. Caroline and I joined up together and Auds and I shared a flat in Southsea when we were based at the FPU. We hadn't all been together for about 17 years, we definitely won't leave it that long again!

So next year if you fancy meeting up with old friends, and possibly making some new ones, why don't you persuade a bunch of your friends to meet up at our next reunion.

Next year we're planning to make it a more relaxed affair so hopefully see you there. Details to follow shortly.

*Julie Richardson, RNPA Chair*

PS. It was also great to see other new faces at the reunion, Paul Good (and his wife Dawn, they took our wedding photos 37 years ago!), Rick Churchill (and his partner Sandra Kurz) and Chris North.



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## **RNPA Secretary's AGM summary**

Thanks to Danny again for organising a great reunion weekend, more about that elsewhere in this Newsletter. We also held the annual AGM that weekend and here is a brief summary of the meeting.

It was agreed that we will hold a formal reunion every two years with informal get togethers arranged in the intervening years. The next formal reunion is to be held in 2027. AGM's will be held at some stage each year.

We will be trying to streamline the Membership Database and simplify the accounting process. Hopefully you have all received an email from me requested that membership subscriptions be paid during January each year either by standing order or bank transfer, if you don't wish to remain a member, to email Tiz Jardine, ysobeljardine@yahoo.com. The rates are £25. for joint membership or £20. for single.

- Account name: RNPA
- Sort code: 09-01-55
- A/C number: 45244803

Alan Ferguson and Tiz Jardine have been appointed to the RNPA Committee. Alan as Newsletter Editor and Tiz as Membership Secretary.

Dave Morris's son Steve has been made an Honorary Member of the Association.

In any other business, Telford was suggested for an informal reunion for 2026.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year

*Ian Hooper RNPA Secretary*

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#### **Useful Links:**

RNPA Website: [www.rnpa.org.uk](http://www.rnpa.org.uk)

Royal Navy Photographers: [Royal Navy Photographers | Facebook](#)

Ex RN Photos Camera Club: [Ex RN Photos Camera Club | Facebook](#)

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# RNPA Social Secretary's Report

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Members and Guests started to arrive at the Queens Hotel, opposite Southsea Common.



The evening included a Meet & Greet from 6pm in the Royal Suite followed by a General Knowledge quiz devised by our Chair, Julie. After the excellent Ice breaking exercise, people were invited to partake of the generous hot & cold buffet, while inspecting the extensive display of photographs



Boards, which were brought up from the Photographic Section on Whale Island where they are stored.

## Saturday 4th October



The morning started off with a well-attended visit to the Photographic Section on Whale Island. This was an idea born out of meetings between myself and the Chief of the Section, Jaysan Allen. After preliminary events on the Victory in 2023 and the Warrior in 2024, which were for the sole purpose of uniting the RNPA Members with the Serving Branch. Also, with the aim of increasing the RNPA Membership which had declined over the last couple of years, mainly due to illness and the sad passing of our more senior members.

With 24 of our members mustering in the hotel car park, they then divided into six cars, who's drivers had volunteered their spare seats, to transport all to Whale Island. This eliminated the cost of hiring a coach.



**Editor's Note:** We even managed to get an article on the visit in the December Navy News.



CPO(Phot) Jaysan Allen and 2 Leading Photographers, L/Phot George Seymour and L/Phot Gaz Smith met us at the gate, checked us all off the comprehensively detailed Security List and we soon arrived at the Section. After coffee, tea and biscuits, Jayson gave us a thorough briefing on the future of the branch and all the various tasks the few photographers in the branch today had to fulfil.

In the section there were a number of areas set up including: a Portrait Studio; a large display of naval photographs; a Video Studio set up, where the Video Team produce videos for the Royal Navy and the latest in printing machines in the Print Room. To say there were a few photos taken, is an understatement, which you can see in the photos attached, mostly taken by our new Newsletter Editor, Alan Ferguson.



On leaving the Fleet Regional Photographic Unit East (to give it its full title), and giving Jaysan and his Team the warmest of gratitude, people either went back to the hotel or headed off to various attractions in Portsmouth.

At the Meet & Greet numbers were swelled from the night before with other Members and guests that couldn't attend on the Friday evening. There was lots of chatting and catching up with old friends. Members of the RM Cadet Band were also present persuading members to part with their money in exchange for raffle tickets, from which the proceeds were presented to the Band later that evening.







At 19.00hrs Dinner was called and everyone took their seats, and the starters were served. On completion, a fanfare was played by the DJ, the doors were opened, and the RM Band Corps of Drums marched in and gave a fantastic display on the Dance Floor. On completion they marched off and came to a halt opposite the main tables, reporting to me, and where I introduced them properly, naming all the participants, and handing over the proceeds of the raffle, which reached over £200, to the youngest cadet for the Band's Funds. Whenever possible the RNPA has contributed towards the Gosport based Cadet Band, who in turn has delighted the members and guests with their skills.



On completion of the dinner, a guest from each table processed into the room carrying trays laden with glasses of Rum and Port, to the rousing music of 'Rule Britannia'. After the glasses were given out to all, we all stood for the Loyal Toast. Russ, the DJ (a former RM Bandsman) played popular dancing music for the rest of the evening, which included the 'Men's Dance', - viewing the video is a must!

The final event that happened was the presentation of a cheque to the RNPA from Steve Morris to Julie, our Chair. Steve is the son of the late veteran Naval Photographer, Dave Morris. Dave was a dynamite amongst naval photographers, and on leaving the Navy continued in photography as the Chief Photographer with the Portsmouth Evening News. Sadly, over recent years his health had declined, and he passed away in December 2023.



A stalwart to the end, Dave kindly left £1,000 to the RNPA and subsequently Steve was invited to present the cheque to the RNPA at our Gala evening. Steve, didn't join the Navy as a youngster, he joined the Grenadier Guards, so keeping the legacy of military ties within their family. At the AGM the following morning, Ray Whitehouse proposed that Steve Morris should be made an Honorary member of the RNPA, it was voted on and unanimously agreed upon.





After an interesting AGM with a good number of members and guests attending, the Reunion came to an end. For those that couldn't make this year please make sure you attend next year, and in future years, otherwise you will miss out.

*Danny du Feu, RNPA Social Secretary*

**Editor's Note:** Photographs taken by Tony Darbyshire and myself over the weekend are available on the RNPA website: <https://www.rnpa.org.uk/reunion-southsea-portsmouth-2025/>

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## Future and Proposed Events

Following the decision at the AGM to have the formal events every other year a number of informal events have been proposed for this year.

- **Isle of Wight Weekend:** Julie the chairman is organising a get together in Ryde on the Isle of Wight on the weekend of July 17-19th July 2026. There is plenty to do on the Island and many places to stay, Julie is proposing to hold a BBQ at her house in Ryde on the Saturday night and also to organise a visit to one of the attractions during the day. Places to stay in Ryde: Yelfs Hotel, Esplanade Hotel, Ryde Castle, Premier Inn and Lakeside Hotel (In Wooton). Plus various Airbnbs and many campsites!

You can travel from: Southampton to East Cowes; Portsmouth to Fishbourne by car; or train then Fast Cat or Hover. You can use your DDS card on Wightlink, or Tesco

vouchers. She will have vouchers to use on the Red Funnel nearer the time. A flyer will be sent out nearer the time giving additional information. For those Please let her know if you would like to attend on [jmrichardson59@gmail.com](mailto:jmrichardson59@gmail.com).

- **RAF Cosford and Telford Area:** 2 to 4 October 2026, initial planning is taking place for an informal reunion in the Telford area. It is hoped to arrange a visit to the Defence School of Photography on the Saturday which will give all an opportunity to see how the training takes place in the digital world of today. Other attractions in the area include the RAF Cosford Museum, Ironbridge and the Ironbridge Gorge Museums including Blists Hill Victorian Town ([Ironbridge Valley of Invention](#)). It is understood that the National Trust is taking over the running of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums in March 2026. National Trust members will be able to use their membership card once the transfer has been completed.

Members will have to arrange their accommodation, but we will send out a list of local hotels. We will also look at meals out at a local venue on the Friday and Saturday evenings. One possibility for the Friday evening is to meet at the Royal Navy Association in Newport where Pete is Chairman. Arranging this all will depend on numbers so please let us know if you are interested. Pete Bunting and myself will be helping to arrange this weekend as we live locally. Those interested please let Pete and myself know by email: [pete\\_bunting@hotmail.com](mailto:pete_bunting@hotmail.com) and [alan.ferguson\\_7@virgin.net](mailto:alan.ferguson_7@virgin.net) (note there is an underscore \_ in both those emails). Once we are aware of numbers, we will look at finalising arrangements and will send out a flyer to all.

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## Ben Cartwright's article on RNPA Reunion - Alternative Activity

I decided not to join the organised visit to FPU at Whale Island on the Saturday of the RNPA reunion, opting instead to visit some of the attractions at HM Dockyard, namely HMS Warrior, HMS M33, HMS Victory, and the Mary Rose whilst leaving a visit to the submarine for another day.



You can book online, but without any discounts available, the cost being £46. When I came to buy my ticket at the dockyard gate, on production of my Armed Forces Veteran card I was given a 12 month ticket, valid at all attractions, for £20!



I had a super few hours wandering from exhibit to exhibit, then I went up the Spinnaker Tower for a coffee and of course a view of Pompey from above, followed by a pint in the 'Ship Anson' before returning to the hotel for the Gala Dinner and entertainment.

No better way to spend a Saturday.

*Ben Cartwright*





## The Royal British Legion's March Past the Cenotaph



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, in the FAA Contingent within the Royal Navy Column.

We were on target to be 18 strong this year, but due to illnesses, urgent operations, ours and other Associations, numbers were slightly reduced.

The weather was fine, and once 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, as seen on TV, looked excellent.

There was a disappointing phase of the Service when most of the veterans could not hear the Service due to a fault with speaker system on Whitehall.



On completion, I expect HRH Prince Edward 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 contingent.



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



On completion of a short service, where over 400

FAA Veterans gathered, and where Ex-CPO Alan Ferguson laid the second wreath on behalf of the RNPA along with the other 14 Associations. On completion of the wreath laying & service, the RNPA contingent got together for a group photo and then made their 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,' including "to absent Friends", all the Veterans, some family members, guests and locals mustered outside the Pub for an informal group photo, as seen in the accompanying photos. We also had the honour of meeting Kevin, a Chelsea Pensioner. 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'.



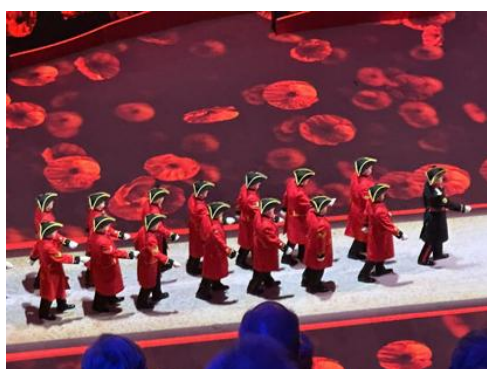
If you would like to join us all next year please get in touch, I can promise you a truly moving experience.

*Danny du Feu, RNPA Cenotaph March Coordinator*

**Editor's Note:** Photographs taken by Tony Darbyshire and myself at the Cenotaph Parade, and afterwards, are available on the RNPA website: [Photographs At The Remembrance Day Parade – 2025 – Royal Navy Photographers' Association](#)

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## The Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance



This year the Royal British Legion used a ballot to select members who could attend the afternoon or evening performances of their Festival of Remembrance. Amongst the successful members were Julie and Brian Richardson for the afternoon performance and Ingrid and myself for the evening one.



Between performance we met up at the Queens Arms for a quick catch up. It was the first time Ingrid and I had attended the festival and we were really impressed. It was a poignant and moving experience which we would highly recommend attending in future years.

My one tip, if it is a ballot next year, make sure you get in early to get your seats. I was late and we ended up in the Raising Circle which, though a great, view had some restricted viewing. Still, it was a great evening.

*Alan Ferguson*



## National Memorial Arboretum Armistice Day

The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) hosted its annual Armistice Day service on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. The Princess of Wales attended service, laid a wreath and met veterans. From a photograph on the day Ian and Carol Hooper, who are both volunteers at the NMA, can be seen in the background.



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## Military Hearing Loss

During the AGM Pete Bunting highlighted the role of the Justice4Heroes in following up military hearing loss claims so it was agreed for this article to be included in the newsletter to raise awareness with members.

Extract from the Justice4Heroes website: [justice4heroes.org](https://justice4heroes.org)



### ***What is this all about?...***

As a member of the Armed Forces, you might think that problems with your hearing is just an unfortunate consequence of the job. It is true that serving in the Armed Forces will inevitably mean you will be surrounded by loud noises, however, the MoD is no different to any other employer and they owe you a duty of care. If they have breached that duty, then you are entitled to seek compensation.

Over the past year, we have seen a significant increase in military deafness claims from serving and non-serving personnel across the Army, Navy, RAF, and Special Forces.

We aim to make the claiming process as straightforward as possible.

The solicitors will begin by thoroughly examining your military career to determine when and where you were exposed to harmful noise levels.

With our extensive experience, we can quickly assess the likelihood of a successful claim during an initial phone call. For further information:

Mail: [info@justice4heroes.org](mailto:info@justice4heroes.org) Tel: 0800 776 5622

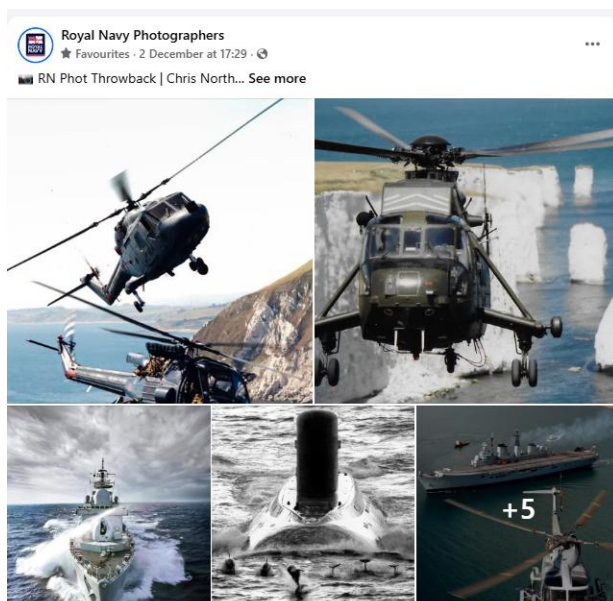
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## Royal Navy Photographers – Facebook “RN Phot Throwback”



During the visit to the FRPU(E) the Leading Phot responsible for the media posts, Gaz Smith, asked for ex RN Photos to submit photographs and a supporting article so that examples of the photographic work from the past could be published on the current RN Photographers Facebook page to highlight the type of work carried out in the past.

Since the visit both Chris North and Alan Ferguson have submitted images and five Facebook posts have recently been published on their Facebook page: [Royal Navy Photographers | Facebook](#)







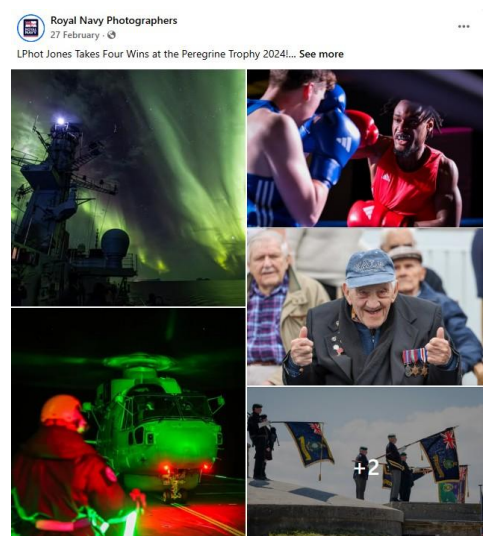
Please do consider submitting your photographs and articles to Gaz as this is a good way of sharing the roles that the Photographic Branch has been involved in throughout its history and for other RNPA members to gain background information on fellow photographers.

Any member interested in submitting photographs should contact Gaz Smith at [rnphotosinsta@gmail.com](mailto:rnphotosinsta@gmail.com).

## Royal Navy Photographic Competition 2025

The annual Royal Navy Photographic Competition 2025 (RNPC25), historically known as the Peregrine Trophy, includes a category this year for “Professional, Amateur and Veteran Royal Naval Association”. All photographs must have been taken between 16 Dec 2024 – 31 Dec 2025 not entered in the RNPC24. Entries should be sent no later than 21 Feb 2026. Photographs should encapsulate the ethos of the RNA. For further details and entry forms please see the “Royal Navy Photographic Competition-2025” document Danny du Feu sent out on the 04 Dec 2025 or contact him for a copy.

To see RNP2024 photographs: [Stunning images win prizes at annual photographic competition](#)



# Sailing in Scotland

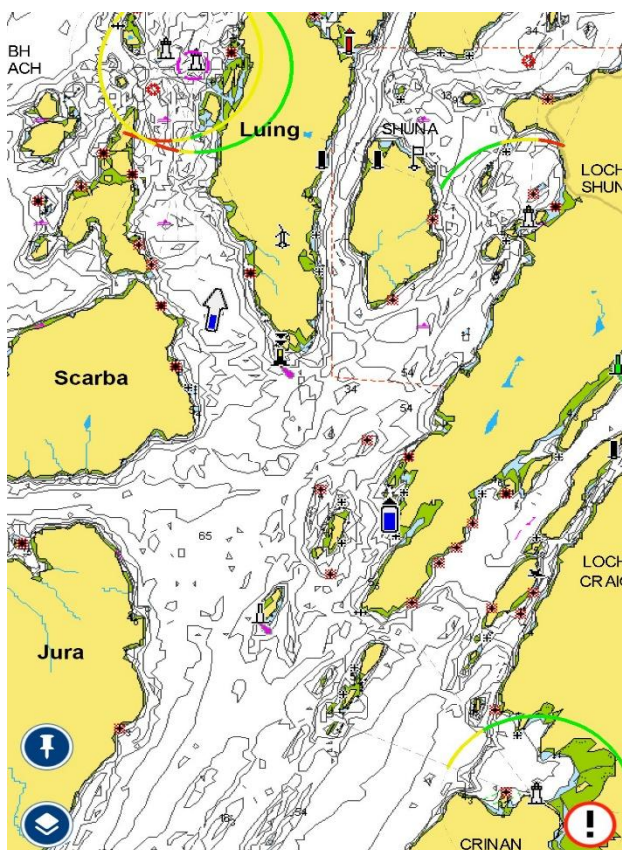
By Mike Beard

This is my wee yacht 'Aquarelle' which I keep on the Crinan Canal on the West Coast of Scotland.

Since 2000, I have managed to clock up just over 40,000 nautical miles in her, most of them in the seas around the West Coast of Scotland.



Mid-September, I managed to persuade Roger Giles and Pete Simcock to join me on a 4 day sailing cruise from Crinan. Roger and Pete were both on my Cosford Photography Course back in 1976. They haven't changed at all!



The crew joined me in Crinan on a Thursday evening, where of course we had to celebrate our arrival at 4pm with a glass or two of malt whisky.

Friday morning, we exited Crinan Sea Lock for an 18 mile passage to Oban. The guys put on a brave face as we were hit by a torrential downpour...



We were welcomed to Oban by a flock of gulls.... no sign of life on a pair of the Royal Navy's training vessels which were moored in the harbour.



On the bright side, we were rewarded with some amazing rainbows. I hasten to add "I rarely do rain", when sailing!!



Alas, more rain, but yet another stunning rainbow.

The facilities in Oban are excellent, so after more whisky, off we went for showers and the opportunity to dry our very damp clothes.

The passage to Oban was very easy, calm seas and a gentle southerly wind. The nautical chart, above opposite, shows the first 10 miles of the journey. The blue arrow indicates direction of tide (The tides are very strong in this area and can attain speeds of over 6 knots).

A night on the town in Oban starting with a curry then live music and honestly, just a couple of beers.

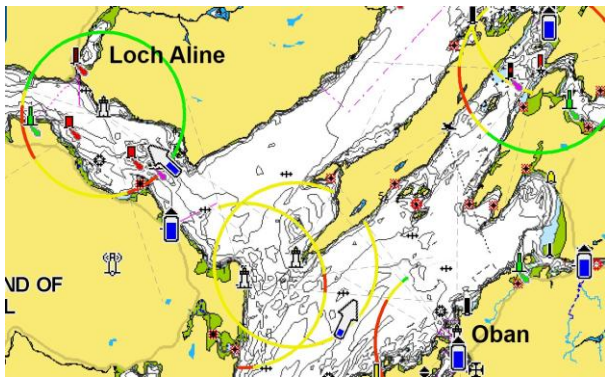


We did make a slight detour to visit a small bay on Jura to do some sea eagle and seal spotting, but no luck on this occasion. Photo from my August visit to the bay.



My jokes cleared the surrounding tables very quickly!!





The next part of our passage took us from Oban to Loch Aline on the Morvern Peninsular.



We passed one of my favourite lighthouses, Lismore Lighthouse. One of my passions is lighthouse spotting known as Pharology after the ancient lighthouse Pharos.

We Pharologists are a select few which also includes Princess Anne, she keeps her yacht at Ardfern, very close to where I keep Aquarelle.



Soon after passing the Lismore Lighthouse, we encountered a pod of dolphins who decided



that Aquarelle was the perfect host for their acrobatic performance, bow riding, breaching and diving beneath us.



Loch Aline is a very attractive location with great facilities and a beachside bar, which of course we had to try out



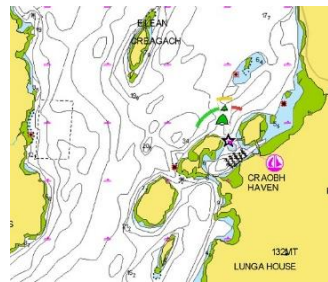
Our next passage took us from Loch Aline to Craobh Marina (pronounced Croove).



A heavy police presence on our arrival in Craobh, suspicions of a drug running yacht (registered in Kingston, Jamaica). nothing to do with us of course.



Forensic police carry out extensive search on yacht docked in Scots port town



Craobh and the surrounding small islands were used for the final scenes in the 007 film Dr No, think it was supposed to look like the Mediterranean.

The final day took us back to Crinan, just a short hop from Craobh. We had one more meal together in the Crinan Hotel before we got back to Aquarelle's berth at Bellanoch where Pete left us, but Roger stayed onboard before his return flight to Southampton the following day.



We're planning to repeat the reunion next year with Clive Deer and Ray Hodgson who were also on our Cosford course, sadly, Terry Dunkley who was also on our course crossed the bar a few years ago. Please let me know if you're interested in joining me for sailing adventures in Scotland. a contribution to victuals and mooring fees would be appreciated.

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## Crossed the Bar

Sadly, we have been informed of three ex Navy Photographers who have recently passed away:

- Rod Safe, a long-standing member of the RNPA and “Boss” to many, passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026. His funeral was on the 29<sup>th</sup> October at St Mary’s Church in Sixpenny Handley. This was attended by a number of members and six of these acted as Pall Bearers (see article below).
- George (Nick) Mewton a regular attendee, with his wife Rita, to many of our RNPA reunions. The last one he attended was when we went to London and had our Gala Dinner on HMS Belfast. His funeral was on 19<sup>th</sup> November at Thanet Crematorium.
- Mike Howard, a well-remembered Phot from the 80s. His funeral was on the 20<sup>th</sup> November at Portchester Crematorium and was a family event with a small number of invited guests.

As mentioned earlier by Danny, after the Cenotaph Remembrance Parade, at the Tom Cribb pub, we did toast “Absent Friends” and included the nautical blessing “Fair winds and a following sea!”

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## Rod Safe’s Funeral



Rod joined the Royal Navy at 18 in 1954, joining the Fleet Air Arm after basic training. He served on many establishments and ships including the Royal Yacht, HMS Ark Royal, Malta and finally at the Fleet Photographic Unit in Tipner, Portsmouth as the Fleet Photographic Officer. After 32 years of adventure, he retired from the RN 1986. He was then able to fully indulge in his passion for veteran bicycles and cars.



The funeral was on Wednesday 29th October at 11.30am at St Mary’s Church, Sixpenny Handley, Dorset, SP5 5NJ. It was



attended by over 90 people and six former Naval colleagues (Rick Burch, Danny du Feu, Gordon Ford, Vince Richards, Bob Stanyard and Ian Wrightson) carried Rod’s coffin, which was very moving. He was carried from the church to his final resting place to the song ‘Sailing’ by Ship’s Company and Band of HMS Ark Royal

(which he was singing on). He was buried next to his wife Iris who died in February this year, in the church where they were married in 1961. Julia Safe commented, “She died on 4th February 2025, so now they are resting in peace, together again”.





Gordon Ford commented, "It was an honour to be a part of the final journey of Rod, who as you have all said was a great boss and a really nice human being. Just a couple of observations from the day. We all had a double take when Rod's son walked towards us. If you didn't know better, you would have thought it was Rod. He even sounded like him. Also, all of us who carried coffin are past our youth and when we lifted it onto our shoulders there was an intake of breath and the thought that they must have loaded the coffin with all his camera kit and probably some of his bike spares! The walk up the narrow slope and into the church wasn't without a few puffs and pants! However, it was worth it to honour our friend."



After the funeral there was a gathering at The Jubilee Hall, Larmer Tree Gardens, to share memories of Rod and, of course, look through the many hundreds of photos that Julia and Nigel had sorted.

As well as the 6 Pall Bearers other ex Phots/RNPA members included Glynis Shaw, Doreen Larcombe, Tom Suddes and Ray Whitehouse who can all be seen in this photograph along with Rod's son and daughter, Nigel and Julia.

**Editor's Note:** There have been many tributes to Rod and photographs from his career, so there is an additional supplement to this newsletter "Issue 78a - Winter 2025 Supplement – Rod Safe's Obituary" dedicated to Rod's memory. Thank you to everyone who supplied photographs from Rod's career and of the funeral. Tony Darbyshire has also added photographs from the funeral onto the RNPA Website: [Funeral Photographs – Lt. Cdr. Rod Safe – Long serving member of the Branch and the RNPA – Royal Navy Photographers' Association](#)

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## Ex Phots meet in Southsea

When our Social Secretary, Danny du Feu went to the Queens Hotel in Southsea, Portsmouth, to return the RNPA Photo Display to the Phot Section at Whale Island, he called upon the capable hands of Ric Burch, who lives locally in Fareham, to assist.

On route, and with the Photo Display safely in the 4x4, Danny thought he might give Ex-L/Phot Fran Wright (nee Southway) a ring to see if they could all meet up at her favourite coffee outlet on the shoreline at Southsea.

"In my capacity as Social Secretary, I do have the opportunity to meet up with people who have been unable to attend our reunions through no fault of their own. That is the basis of which the RNPA was formed, and this year we have had a small increase in Membership, which has to be a good thing"

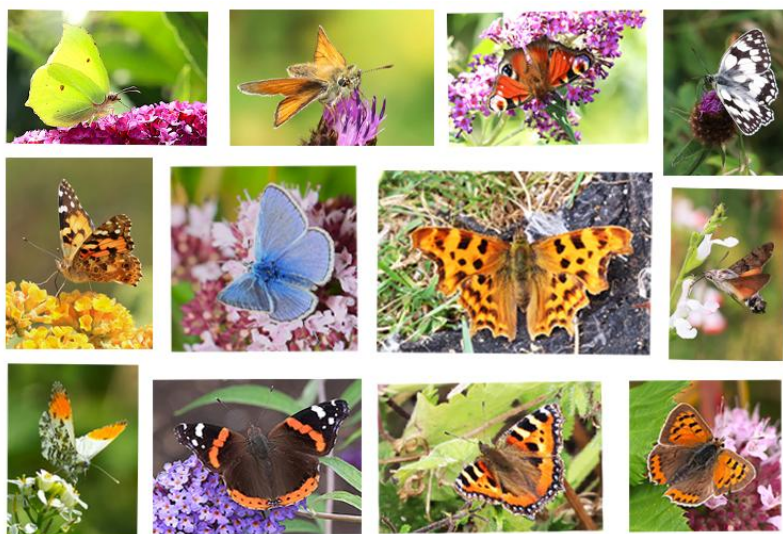


Just to note, Fran's name is being sent to our Membership Secretary, Tiz Jardine.

## Lovely Hot Summer Remembered

Do you remember that lovely hot summer we experienced in 2025? Sitting here at my desk on a late October day with the rain pouring down, it seems like a very distant memory.

I took the opportunity of getting out to photograph as many butterflies and moths as were to be found locally. There were a large number of Hummingbird hawk moths this year, but they are so quick in flight that capturing a decent image is difficult, I look forward to further attempts next Summer.



*Brian (Ben) Cartwright*

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## It's Gold Again for Olga

It was almost certainly the Tiger Lilies blooming in Olga Price's front garden that caught the judge's eye. The striking bright orange and black flowers, which originated in Asia, but are now popular world-wide, have been prolific this year, thriving in the drier conditions of the UK's hottest summer on record. The four feet tall oriental blooms certainly impressed the judge assessing Olga's green-fingered labours at the Penrhyn Bay home she shares with former RN photographer David – and he awarded Olga her seventh Gold certificate in the Annual Llandudno-In-Bloom competition for the residential properties section.

Olga, a district nurse and popular mid-wife for 27 years in the region before retirement, first entered the event at the North Wales resort in 2018 and has struck gold every year apart from Covid-ravaged 2020 when the competition was cancelled.

"The Tiger Lilies certainly made an eye-catching display and they drew a lot of complimentary comments from passers-by," said David. "Unfortunately, Olga will miss the mayor's award ceremony in the Town Hall, her two minutes of local fame which has become a regular feature in her year, as we will be in New Zealand visiting our daughter Victoria, her husband Todd and our three grandchildren."



*By Ray Pogson*



## Season's Greetings

And finally, I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and I wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Alan (Fergie)*