

# Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER



December 1980 No 9

## Mr Ridley gives options to islanders

### Committee responds to Minister's proposals

Mr Nicholas Ridley MP, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visited the Falkland Islands from 22 to 29 November. During the visit he explained various options for the political future of the Islands and asked for islanders' views.

The UK Falkland Islands Committee, at the request of the islanders, has considered the political, social and economic alternatives to Mr Ridley's various proposals in great detail during formal and informal discussions. The committee met the Minister on 3 December.

On 18 December the Falklands Islands Office issued a statement which said that the intentions of the Argentine government on the proposal to cede sovereignty and immediately lease the islands back to the United Kingdom should be publicly known before any comment could be made. This reservation should also apply to the Falkland Islands government and the islanders themselves.

In addition, the committee considers that there is no urgency in deciding this issue or other options, and that the Falkland Islanders should demand more time — possibly six months or more — for discussion.

A formal referendum under United Nations auspices is probably needed, once the issues have been properly studied and the various options examined, said the committee.

The committee unanimously agreed that the principle of 'full rights of Class One British Citizenship' for Falkland Islanders under the terms of the recent Nationality White Paper should be a prerequisite in any further discussions.

### Battle Day

The annual remembrance ceremony of the Battle of the Falkland Islands took place on Saturday 6 December at the Cenotaph.

## UN paper

A paper on "The Rights of People to Self Determination and its Application to People under Colonial and Alien Domination" has been prepared by Captain Patrick Vincent RN, a Falkland Islander by birth.

This is for presentation to a sub-committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council by the Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights. The paper makes a strong case for the rights of Islanders to remain British and keep their islands for themselves.



### Calling the Falklands

Kathleen Cheesmond is the presenter of the radio request show *Calling the Falklands* which is broadcast every Sunday on the BBC World Service. If you have any requests you want played for friends or relatives in the Islands, write to her at *Calling the Falklands*, BBC, PO Box 76, Bush House, London WC2B 4PH.

## New move on nationality

The Government White Paper — British Nationality Law (Cmnd 7987) — effectively reduces many Falkland Islanders to second class citizens. The White Paper defines three classes of citizenship: British Citizenship, Citizenship of British Dependent Territories and British Overseas Citizenship.

Falkland Islanders whose parents or grandparents were born, adopted, naturalised or registered in the United Kingdom qualify for British Citizenship, but there are several hundred Falkland Islanders who only qualify for citizenship of British Dependent Territories and thus have no right to permanent abode in the United Kingdom.

The Islanders' case is different from other citizens of British Dependent Territories for several reasons. There was no indigenous population when the Islands were first settled by Britain. Falkland Islanders have no "mother country" except the United Kingdom. There is no question of the Falkland Islanders seeking independence and the Service pensioner settlers who came out in 1832 were promised the right to retain full British citizenship.

The Falkland Islands Office believe that Falkland Islanders are British and should be given the full right of entry and abode in their mother country. A letter regarding this subject appeared in *The Times* on 12 September 1980 from Sir John Lapsley, Lionel Dailie and Captain Patrick Vincent, of whom Sir John was brought up in the Islands and the others are Islands born.

### Wildlife — Films

Cindy Buxton has just returned to the Falkland Islands to make some more films for the Anglia Television series *Survival*. The film that she made last year in the Falklands was due to be shown on ITV at 6.00 p.m. on Boxing Day. This trip Cindy will be travelling down to South Georgia to film.

# Fish hopes

The following is a transcript from the BBC Overseas programme *Radio Newsreel*, 19 September 1980. Mr Peter Walker MP, Minister of Agriculture, talked to Harold Briley in Buenos Aires.

"With other countries, such as the Soviet Union and Japan, showing great interest in fishing in Argentine waters, Mr Walker thinks there could be opportunities for Britain's run-down distant water fishing fleets now they've lost their traditional right of entry to Icelandic and Norwegian waters in the north.

"The Minister rejected suggestions that Britain's long-running dispute with Argentina over sovereignty of the British colony, the Falkland Islands, is a barrier to increased trade. He said there are genuine differences of principle and Britain would maintain its pledges to the Falkland Islanders not to surrender sovereignty without their agreement."

## Bisley Triumph for Islands

by Bill Grierson

The Falkland Islands Rifle Association entered a very strong team for the 1980 Bisley Meeting at Bisley Camp in Surrey during July and won two major trophies.

The team was Robin Henriksen (Captain), Ron Betts, Owen May and Tony Pettersson.

The first competition on 24 July was the "Junior Overseas". Seven teams took part — the USA, Kenya, West Germany, Normandy, Hong Kong, Falkland Islands and Belgium — and the results were:

1st USA .....	395
2nd Falkland Islands .....	394
3rd Hong Kong .....	389

On 25 July the "Junior Kolapore" was shot off, with the Falkland Islands coming second and on the same day in the "Junior McKinnon" competition the Falkland Islands team came first, beating eight other teams. They were presented with the Challenge Trophy and silver medals to all the team members.

Another Challenge Trophy was presented to the Falkland Islands team for the highest aggregate from the two previous competitions: the team's total was 1324.

Our congratulations go out to the Falkland Islands team on its excellent shooting and in particular to Robin Henriksen who made the Final Hundred of the Queen's Prize for the second time. Robin finished 70th out of 1,270 competitors. The only other Falkland Islander ever to reach the Final was the late E. J. McAtasney.

## The Falkland Islands Foundation

### What the Foundation is

The Falkland Islands Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife, Wrecks and Places of Historic Interest was founded in 1979 as a charity registered in the United Kingdom, No.279347. The Foundation's main office is in England where most of the Trustees live; there is an associated Local Committee in Stanley.

### What needs to be done

The Falklands are extremely rich in those forms of marine wildlife that breed on the coast, notably five species of penguin — king, gentoo, magellanic, macaroni and rockhopper — the black-browed albatross, king



*The black-browed albatross breeds in large colonies in the Falklands and is seen commonly at sea around the islands. The black brow is an area of shadow and not of dark coloured feathers.*

*Drawing by Sir Peter Scott*

and rock shags, fur seal, elephant seal and sea lion. In addition there are endemic birds found nowhere else in the world, including the Falkland flightless steamer duck and the Falkland long-tailed meadow lark. Two Falkland birds, the striated caracara or Johnny Rook (a buzzard-like bird of prey) and the ruddy headed goose, are listed in the International Red Data Book of endangered birds.

Among flowering plants which, like the birds and mammals, are reasonably well known, there are 12 endemic species, some of them recognised as endangered. The cryptogams and invertebrates require much more study.

The first priority in wildlife conservation in the Falklands is therefore a thorough survey of the existing animals and plants to ascertain their status and the condition of their habitats, some of which are certainly at risk.

Once this has been done, the Foundation plans to set up a scientific research organisation. Surveys are also needed to provide the basis for the other aspects of the Foundation's

work, the preservation of the numerous wrecks and hulks in Stanley harbour and around the coasts and of the various sites of historic interest.

The wrecks constitute a valuable part of the Falkland history and heritage; many of them are very well preserved for their age because of the cool climate and absence of wood-destroying organisms, the islands being entirely treeless. These old vessels are of great interest to maritime historians throughout the world and add an attractive dimension to the scenery of the islands.

There are two eighteenth century colonial settlements, Port Louis and Fort Egmont, which offer outstanding opportunities for excavation; there is also the nineteenth century mission station on Keppel Island which is badly in need of restoration.

### What the Foundation has already done

The Foundation has launched a preliminary biological survey and we are investigating the possibility of carrying out an archaeological survey. A survey of the wrecks and hulks was carried out in 1977.

We are negotiating with the Society for the Promotion of Nature Conservation to take over the management of the islands that they own in the Falklands: The Twins, off Carcass Is., and seven small islands around New Is.

We are building up a body of expert advisers on our Advisory Council.

### The Falkland Islands Foundation

c/o Fauna Preservation Society,  
Zoological Gardens,  
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# PARLIAMENTARY

## Parliamentary Activity

In the recent session parliamentary activity has centred on the future development of the Falkland Islands. Mr James Johnson MP, President of the South Atlantic Fisheries Committee and a member of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee, put down the following Early Day Motion which was signed by thirty-seven MPs:

"That this House urges Her Majesty's Government, in view of the publication of the White Fish Authority Report, to have regard to the recommendations of the 1977/78 Expenditure Committee that Her Majesty's Government should support the British fishing industry to make an all-out effort to explore and exploit the possibilities of the Southern Ocean, including the waters of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies."

Numerous oral and written questions were put down in both Houses on the future of the British fishing industry. Several discussions and briefings were held with MPs of all parties.

## House of Commons

2 DECEMBER 1980 Extracts

### FALKLAND ISLANDS

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Nicholas Ridley):** With permission, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a statement on the Falkland Islands.

We have no doubt about our sovereignty over the islands. The Argentines, however, continue to press their claim. The dispute is causing continuing uncertainty, emigration and economic stagnation in the islands. Following my exploratory talks with the Argentines in April, the Government have been considering possible ways of achieving a solution which would be acceptable to all the parties. In this the essential is that we should be guided by the wishes of the islanders themselves.

I therefore visited the islands between 22 and 29 November in order to consult island councillors and subsequently, at their express request, all islanders, on how we should proceed. Various possible bases for seeking a negotiated settlement were discussed. These included both a way of freezing the dispute for a period or exchanging the title of sovereignty against a long lease of the

islands back to Her Majesty's Government.

The essential elements of any solution would be that it should preserve British administration, law and way of life for the islanders while releasing the potential of the islands' economy and of their maritime resources, at present blighted by the dispute.

It is for the islanders to advise on which, if any, option should be explored in negotiations with the Argentines. I have asked them to let me have their views in due course. Any eventual settlement would have to be endorsed by the islanders, and by this House.

**Mr. Peter Shore (Stepney and Poplar):** This is a worrying statement.

Will the Minister confirm that involved here are the rights and future of 1,800 people of British descent in a territory which was originally uninhabited—people who, above all, wish to preserve their present relationship with the United Kingdom? Will he reaffirm that there is no question of proceeding with any proposal contrary to the wishes of the Falkland Islanders? Their wishes are surely not just "guidance" to the British Government. Surely they must be of paramount importance. Has he made that absolutely clear to the Argentine Government?

Is not the Minister aware that proposals for a leasing arrangement represent a major weakening of our long-held position on sovereignty in the Falkland Islands, and that to make them in so specific and public a manner is likely only to harden Argentine policy and to undermine the confidence of the Falkland islanders? Will he therefore make it clear that we shall uphold the rights of the islanders to continue to make a genuinely free choice about their future, that we shall not abandon them and that, in spite of all the logistical difficulties, we shall continue to support and sustain them? - - - -

**Mr. Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion):** Is my hon. Friend aware that his statement is profoundly disturbing? Is he also aware, certainly the Falkland islanders are, that for years—and here I speak from some experience—his Department has wanted to get rid of this commitment? Is he further aware that it is almost always a great mistake to get rid of real estate for nothing, that the Falkland Islands may have an important part to play in the future of the South Atlantic and that admitting that the interests of the inhabitants and their wishes must be paramount, there is also a considerable British interest in maintaining this commitment, which is probably much cheaper to maintain than it is to lose? Will my hon. Friend look back at the cost to us in terms of oil prices of the surrender of Aden and the Persian Gulf?

**Mr. Ridley:** I think my right hon. Friend knows me well enough to realise that I do not embrace schemes which are thrust upon me by my Department. The Government as a whole have taken the decision to take this initiative. It is of a political nature, and it is not the job of the Foreign Office to devise such an initiative. There is a great deal in what my right hon. Friend said about the need to watch the strategic and other interests in the South Atlantic. It is in order to ensure that these may be peacefully pursued, including the possibilities of oil around the Falklands, that there is a premium on trying to solve the dispute. - - - -

**Mr. Russell Johnston (Inverness):** Is the Minister aware that his reception in the Falkland Islands left the islanders' views in no doubt, although it left a considerable doubt about his good intentions? Is he further aware that there is no support at all in the Falkland Islands or in this House for the shameful schemes for getting rid of these islands which have been festering in the Foreign Office for years? Will he take this opportunity to end speculation once and for all by declaring quite clearly that he disowns these schemes and that he will work to improve the economic and political links between the United Kingdom and the Falkland Islands? Surely that is the way to end the emigration about which he talked earlier.

**Mr. Ridley:** Perhaps I am more aware of the reception that I received in the islands than the hon. Gentleman is. I hope that even those who did not like what I had to say were at least agreed upon my good intentions. I can assure the hon. Gentleman that a large number of people felt that it was right that something should be done to settle the dispute. - - - -

**Mr. Douglas Jay (Battersea, North):** It is clear that the islanders, whatever else they may think, have no wish for a change of sovereignty. Why cannot the Foreign Office leave the matter alone?

**Mr. Ridley:** The right hon. Gentleman should have accompanied me on my visit; it would have been very pleasant. He may then have heard the views of the islanders, a large number of whom believe that it would be to their advantage to settle the dispute. He must listen to the views in the islands instead of preaching what he has always believed to be the case. - - - -

**Mr. David Lambie (Central Ayrshire):** As one of the few Members to have visited the Falkland Islands, may I ask the Minister whether he is aware of the deeply felt suspicion of the islanders of previous British Governments and British politicians, especially those representing the Foreign Office? Is he further aware that there was no need for today's statement, which will further heighten those suspicions? - - - -

# Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

## Falkland Islands Newsletter

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## Financing of the Falkland Islands Office

During August of this year the General Employees Union, Stanley, expressed their support of the Office by donating a generous subscription. In the same month, our Local Committee raised over £1,000 through a Fun Fair in the Islands.

These gestures, when combined with the fact that companies owning all but three of the major settlements contribute to the running of the Office, have given new heart to Falkland Islands supporters in the UK.

But rising costs mean that the continued operation of the Office will be entirely dependent on increased voluntary subscriptions. The support shown by Falkland Islanders has strengthened the determination of its supporters to continue their work through the Falkland Islands Office.

## Sales

The following items may be purchased from the Falkland Islands Office:

- T Shirts: Coloured Falkland Islands crest or "Keep the Falkland Islands British" slogan. S, M, L, £2.50; children's sizes 24/26/28 inch, £2.00.
- Head Squares: Pale blue polyester with crest, £2.00.
- Ties: Dark blue polyester with crest, £2.50.
- Cloth Yachting Caps: Various colours with penguin motif, one size, 70p.
- Tweed Skirt Lengths: Falkland Islands tweed, various colours, £8.00.
- Greetings Cards: With colour picture of Royal Marine Band Beating Retreat. 12p.

## Lincoln's Inn Reception — 1980

This year's Reception at Lincoln's Inn was marked by the attendance of over 90 Peers and Members of Parliament who were able to meet Islanders personally to discuss their problems.

Among those attending the Reception were: Lord Shackleton; Mr Nicholas Ridley MP, Minister of State; Captain Barker of HMS *Endurance*; Ted Rowlands MP; Lord Thurso; the Rt Hon Jo Grimond MP; the Earl of Ferrers, from the Ministry of Agriculture; Mr James Johnson MP; Mrs Rosser from ODA; Sir Edwin and Lady Arrowsmith; Mr and Mrs Lewis; Mr Parker (former Governors) and Mrs Parker; Kathleen Cheesmond of the BBC World Service *Calling the Falklands* and a number of visiting Falkland Islanders.

Mr James Johnson, MP for Kingston-upon-Hull, made the speech which largely centred on fishing in the South Atlantic. The evening ended with the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Beating Retreat on the lawn outside.

The Annual Reception next year will be held at Lincoln's Inn on 18th June at 6.30 p.m.

## HMS Endurance

On 16 September a cocktail party was given on board HMS *Endurance* by Captain Nick Barker and his Officers. It was a very enjoyable evening and among those attending were representatives of the British Antarctic Survey, Mr Parker (a former Governor) and Mrs Parker, and representatives from the Falkland Islands Office.

HMS *Endurance* was at Chatham in Kent having a refit and left for the Falkland Islands and South Georgia on 29 October. She was due to arrive in Stanley on 17 December.

## Committee Meeting

A joint UKFIC/FIRADA meeting was held on 22 August for visiting Falkland Islanders to meet members of the Committee and to discuss their various views. The meeting was followed by a buffet supper given by Bill Hunter Christie.

## Congratulations

Lief Barton, ex-General Secretary of the Falkland Islands Office, was married to Peter Maitland on 22 September in Worthing, Sussex. We would like to wish them every happiness and best wishes for the future.

## MY Copious

Julian Fitter's tourist venture "Falkland Wildlife" got under way when the 70 ft converted Scottish fishing trawler *Copious* sailed from Hamble, Southampton, on 5 September, bound for the Falkland Islands.

Her route will take her via Gibraltar, Dakar, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Montevideo. She was due to arrive in Stanley in mid-November. *MY Copious* will be carrying out tourist cruises in the Islands. Bookings can be made through Twickenham Travel at 84 Hampton Rd, Twickenham TW2 5QS (Tel. 01-898 8611).

## Cambridge Seminar

The Seminar this year was held at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, from 4-6 July. The subject was "Development of the Falkland Islands" and talks covered Tourism, Philately, Transport and Communications, Archaeology and Biological Husbandry.

The highlight of the study period was a paper presented by Dr Stonehouse of Bradford University on the establishment of a Scientific Centre for the study of ecology. He put a detailed proposal for carrying out a survey prior to the establishment of scientific bases on outlying islands with a small administrative centre in Stanley. University students would work with permanent scientific staff and the initial scheme would be planned to operate for about 10 years.

Transcripts of the main presentations will be available during December. Requests for copies should be addressed to the Falkland Islands Office.

## RRS Discovery

The National Maritime Museum at Greenwich hosted a one-day seminar about the RRS *Discovery* on 26 June. It was an interesting day with some of the original "Discoverers" giving their personal reminiscences and the project planners discussing the future of the ship.

She is at present in the East Basin of St Katharine's Dock near the Tower of London, with the historic ship collection. She is being refitted and restored by the Maritime Trust, but work is progressing slowly due to lack of funds. They hope that in a few years they will be able to find a permanent berth for her on the Thames and to have her open to the public as a museum.