HRH the Earl of Wessex described himself and other honoured guests of the Falkland Islands Government as uplifted by the ‘spirit’ of Islanders during their visit this year to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the liberation of the Falklands from Argentine occupation.

In a very personal message to Islanders in June, the Earl expressed his gratitude at being included in the special week long commemorations, during which he travelled all over the Islands meeting residents.

Writing after the visit he told his hosts, “Undoubtedly each and every one of your guests over the past week will return to their homes with a variety of personal memories. However, all of us have been bowled over by the enthusiasm of your welcome and hospitality.”

He thanked the people of the Falkland Islands for, “...helping me to understand something of the emotions that you feel not just towards the events of 1982 but also subsequently in relation to the veterans and the families of those who died and what drives you forward.

These are complex, but the events surrounding the 25th anniversary allowed free expression of all with some dedicated to the past and to memories and others to the present and future.

No one could have left your shores without a very clear sense of your gratitude, your determination and your patriotism and in so doing, be lifted by your spirit.”

HRH the Earl of Wessex concluded his message saying, “Finally, and just in case any of you are in doubt, I thoroughly enjoyed my first (and hopefully not my last) visit to the Falkland Islands. Thank you.”

The Earl of Wessex was one of 50 guests invited by the Falkland Islands Government to join in the Liberation Commemorations.

The other guests included Lord Parkinson, who served on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher’s war cabinet, Armed Forces Minister, Adam Ingram MP and a number of Falklands’ veterans and families of men killed in the 1982 Conflict.

HRH the Earl of Wessex in the Falkland Islands. Photo: N. Clark.
IT is time to draw breath after the 25th Anniversary of the victory of 1982 and the liberation of the Falkland Islands. I find it hard to see how the commemoration could have gone better.

The ceremony on Horse Guards Parade on 18 June was not simply memorable – it seemed to me that it struck exactly the right note. It celebrated the courage and fortitude of the men and women of the task force, but it was not triumphalist and it remembered the suffering of the wounded and the pain and loss of the bereaved families.

The large screen television allowed us to share in the ceremony at the San Carlos military cemetery in some pretty blustery Falklands weather and to sympathise with those who had lost their loved ones. But for me the most touching part of the whole afternoon was the final message of thanks from two young Islanders, Liam Stephens and Emily Hancox, neither of them born at the time of the conflict; speaking clearly and sincerely they delivered one of the key messages of the commemorations.

This was the gratitude of Islanders, to the task force, to the government which sent them and to the leader of that government, Margaret Thatcher. Gratitude which was a keynote of the equally successful celebrations in Stanley and which was expressed in the list of guests invited by the Falklands Islands Government to share in the events on the Islands.

We in the FIA can be proud that several stalwarts of the Association were guests of FIG: Sir Rex and Mavis Hunt, Merle Christie, Robert Elgood and Harold Briley were all present in Stanley, recognition of the Association’s years of lobbying before the Argentine invasion and the hectic political activity in the UK during the conflict.

The most effective tribute which the people of the FI paid the task force and the people of the UK was the revival which they have achieved in the past 25 years.

It is easy to forget how, even after the victory of 1982, there was considerable gloom over the future prospects for the Islands. How could they be defended? How could they become self-supporting? Would the decline of population continue?

These doubts have been confounded and the Islanders may justly claim to have won the peace. Lord Shackleton’s second report sketched the outlines of recovery and revitalisation and thanks to the presence of a strong garrison it was possible to introduce the fishery protection zone which transformed the economic prospects for the Islands and produced the prosperous and self-confident society we see today. The achievements of the past 25 years will not be news to readers of this Newsletter.

But what was really encouraging was to see the theme of the Falklands transformed taken up by the British media, almost to a man. In part this is a tribute to the very effective way in which Councillors have spoken out for the Islands and in part to the very professional work of Sukey Cameron and the staff of FIGO in London.

We in the Association, in supporting the right of the Falkland Islanders to determine their own future must also, in discussing the events of 1982, ensure that the messages of 2007 are not forgotten – first that Islanders are deeply grateful to the task force which saved them from foreign occupation, and second that they have made the best use of the victory of 1982 to rebuild their country as a successful and responsible society – one of which we can all be justly proud.
Iron lady launches liberation coin

BARONESS Thatcher launched the first legal tender Falkland Islands Liberation Coin on Thursday May 31. She visited Pobjoy Mint in Kingswood, Surrey, to launch the first coin in the series produced to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands.

Baroness Thatcher said “It is a great honour to have been invited to Pobjoy Mint to strike this very special coin which commemorates such a remarkable event.”

Baroness Thatcher was joined by Sir Rex Hunt CMG, Governor of the Falkland Islands at the time of the invasion, and the coin they struck portrays a triumphant Britannia – the figure of national personification of the United Kingdom – who stands draped in the Union Flag in the centre of the coin and holding a shield containing the Falkland Islands Coat of Arms.

In addition Pobjoy Mint also launched its first ever 50 pence piece on behalf of the Government of the Falkland Islands, which depicts a magnified map of the Islands in the background with a back view of a marching person.

Sir Rex Hunt and Baroness Thatcher display the liberation coins at the Pobjoy launch.

Three Islanders are to receive Royal Humane Society awards for bravery.

Farmers Neil Watson (64) and Pat Whitney (61) and taxi firm owner Chris Hawksworth (31) are to be presented with two parchments and a vellum award respectively for coming to the rescue of tourists when their inflatable capsized into the sea near Long Island beach.

On February 10 2006 a tourist liner was to land a group by Uranie Bay, East Falklands. This was despite the fact that Neil had passed information on the ship that he considered the sea conditions unsuitable.

Neil is the owner of Long Island farm where the tourists were to visit on landing.

The inflatable with 10 tourists was approximately 20 metres from the shore when it rode the crest of a large curling wave some three to four metres high, turned side on and capsized. Some of the tourists were thrown out into the near freezing water, others were trapped under the upturned boat.

Chris, Neil and Pat who had been waiting on shore to receive the group, immediately waded into the sea to rescue those visible in the water.

Chris, the strongest swimmer, turned his attention to those under the inflatable, and by repeatedly diving under the boat he managed to bring them to the surface.

After 20 minutes all of the group were rescued and brought to shore. After warm drinks and dry clothes were distributed at Long Island farm house all were returned safely to Stanley overland then to their ship.

With a fear of water this was no easy feat for Pat who said at one stage he was completely breathless with panic and had to let the waves wash him and the lady he was helping, up the beach.

“I’m honoured to receive the award,” he said.

Mines still deadly

THE death of a bullock in a minefield on East Falkland has shown mines are no less dangerous 25 years after being placed by Argentine forces.

In August the sound of an explosion rattled through the Stanley waterfront and members of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the Royal Falkland Islands Police and the Fire Service gathered to investigate.

At first nothing was located however, the following morning the landowners (FIC Ltd.) discovered the decapitated animal and informed the relevant authorities.

Bishop of Dover licenses Richard Hines as Rector of Falkland Islands

THE Right Reverend Stephen Venner, Bishop of Dover in Canterbury, licensed the Revd Dr Richard Hines to serve as Rector of the Falkland Islands at Norwich Cathedral on September 23.

Bishop Venner has for several years now acted on behalf of the Archbishop to provide a high level of pastoral support and care for the clergy and congregation of Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley.

The links between the Falkland Islands and the diocese of Canterbury are both longstanding and close. Since 1979 the Archbishop of Canterbury has held the title of Bishop of the Falkland Islands and Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley.

Archbishop George Carey visited the Islands for the Cathedral’s centenary celebrations in 1992.

The current Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has taken a personal interest in the Falkland Islands, licensing Paul Sweeting to serve in the Islands (2003) and ordaining Associate Minister, Kathy Biles to the diocesan in 2004.

Bishop Stephen acted as sponsor for Kathy Biles when she offered herself for ordination training and in January 2006 he visited the Islands to ordain Kathy to the priesthood.

During this visit, he also spent time with military personnel at Mount Pleasant and with civilians in Stanley and in camp settlements.

Christ Church Cathedral have also much appreciated visits from the past and present Anglican Bishops of Chile, Colin Bazely and Tito Zavala, and a spokesperson commented they would be pleased to welcome either or both of them back to the Islands at any time, however added that neither have offered (or have been in a position to offer) the ongoing support which Falkland Islands clergy have received from Bishop Stephen over the past few years.

The spokesperson added, “Bishop Stephen serves the Cathedral and the Islands well. He maintains frequent contact with the clergy and the church council. We are pleased that this warm and supportive relationship has now been made official.”
Gold certificate for shooters at Games

By Patrick Watts

THE Greek island of Rhodes hosted the 2007 NatWest Island Games.

The small Falklands team, coming out of an austral midwinter, were hit by unexpectedly high temperatures of 40 degrees plus, which took several days of acclimatization. The golf team of Troy Bowles, Kevin Clapp, Rod Tuckwood and Steve Vincent found that playing nine holes in practice was too much as their bodies would allow.

Because of the anticipated high temperatures the football club decided against sending a team to Rhodes. They were not alone in this respect as the 2005 gold medalists, the Shetland Islands, also gave these games a miss.

Thankfully the heat-wave did subside a little by the time competition began, although one clay target shooter from Gibraltar collapsed on the stand through heat exhaustion.

Despite being awarded the Games some four years in advance, the Greeks were not really ready for the 3,000 competitors and officials and many malfunction of equipment, particularly at the shooting venues, were recorded. A normal 20 minute round took two hours to complete, because of repeated breakdowns.

The Clay Target Shooting Team of Saul Pitaluga, Steve Dent and Mhairi McDonnell were placed fourth overall, narrowly missing a bronze medal. However their combined score of 74 gave them a Gold Certificate. The Certificates are awarded to competitors from the six smallest islands with populations under 10,000, namely Alderney, Sark, St Helena, Falkland Islands and the two small Norwegian islands of Froya and Hitra. Three of the islands have to be represented in an event before the Certificates can be awarded to the best finishing competitors.

Lee Clement and Royal Engi- neer Gareth Joseph, who has been clearing mines in the Falklands for the past four years, won a Silver Certificate in the Automatic Ball Trap team event with a combined score of 134. The Gold went to the tiny island of Sark (pop. 500).

The Swimming Pool was situated high on the sea front, capturing the blazing sun, which left many competitors complaining and spectators scorching. However Thomas Burston and Drew Robertson combated the conditions well and achieved several personal bests. Thomas broke the Falklands National 50m butterfly record of Alistair Ceballos (33.63), set in 1999, with a time of 31.95 seconds.

He also broke his own 200m freestyle record with a time of 2:17.53. Drew established a personal best in this event with a time of 2:30.29.

The golf competition is usually played over two courses, with the Ladies and Mens competitions alternating each day, so allowing early starts for all players. Rhodes could only offer one course of the required standard, meaning that some players were required to tee off in the middle of the day.

Scores were understandably high, with temperatures of between 20-25 degrees forecast.

A HEAD of the UK Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) is to be the next Falkland Islands Government Chief Executive.

Tim Thorogood has extensive experience in local government in the UK having also been a Director with Three Rivers District Council and the London Borough of Haringey before becoming Chief Executive of Swale City and County Council in 2003.

He is currently Chief Executive of LGIU, a national policy and service improvement organisation aimed at strengthening local government in the UK, a post he has held since July 2006.

Councillor Summers told local press this is a “key appointment” to the government...“one that requires energy, enthusiasm and commitment as well as relevant skills and experience.”

Mr Thorogood is expected to arrive in the Falkland Islands in January 2008.

Who’s new?

David Pickup - Attorney General

THE Islands new Attorney General (right) was a former Director General of Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs, David Pickup was also a solicitor for Customs and Excise.

From 1995 to 2005 in this duty Mr Pickup headed a team of 130 lawyers and 230 other staff, providing legal services to HM Customs and Excise, VAT fraud and other criminal cases investigated by the commissioner.

He was also a member of the Board and Management Committee of the department.

Despite facing a suspension in 2004 as part of a police investigation into Customs and Excise’s handling of a series of excise division frauds in the 1990s it was ultimately judged that the investiga- tion had concluded no basis for disciplinary or any other action being taken against him and the matter was closed.

Who’s new?

Who’s new?

FICS Headmaster - Alastair Baldwin

MALTA born Alastair Baldwin is the new headteacher at the Community School.

Brought up in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) he brings a “...wealth of experience both as a teacher and headteacher,” said the Director of Education Barbara Booth.

Beginning his career in Harare, he has taught in the UK, India, Qatar, Thailand, China and Mozambique.

Alastair is accompanied by his wife Melin who is known as “Apple”. He says he has been delighted with first impressions of the Islands.

Everyone has been, “...welcoming and friendly,” he said.

Who’s new?

FICs Headmaster - Alastair Baldwin

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Who’s new?

Who’s new?

New Chief Justice and Senior Magistrate

FORMER Turks and Caicos Chief Justice Christopher Gardner QC has taken up the same post for the Falkland Islands.

Mr Gardner replaces James Wood as Chief Justice of the Falkland Islands who was appointed in September 1998 following the death of Sir Renn Davis.

Senior Magistrate

Alison Thompson is the new Senior Magistrate for the Falkland Islands.

She was called to the Bar in 1986 and has extensive experience including two years as a Magistrate and Coroner in Hong Kong. She was formerly the Coroner for the Greater London (Western District) a post she held for seven years.

FIDF team in UK prove skill at arms

THE Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) returned home with an impressive array of medals from the pirbright/Isle of Wight Skill At Arms shooting competition in July.

A four person team travelled to the UK to take part in the competition based on combat shooting and marksmanship.

The team comprised Sgt Ian Betts, Private Kevin Ross, Captain Derek Clarke, Captain and Private Matthew Newton, Lance Corporal Dustin Gilson-Clarke, and Private Daniel Biggs and Zoran Zuvic.

The performance of the team was the best they had ever achieved with 58 medals/bars won.

Major Biggs said the highlight was coming second in the TARA Trophy Team event.

New Chief Justice and Senior Magistrate

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THE wedding of the Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, Sukey Cameron MBE and Howard Pullen took place in the Chapel of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire at St Paul’s Cathedral in London, on August 4.

Sukey wore a full, ivory satin skirt (made from her late mother’s wedding dress) with a lace and satin top with three quarter length sleeves, all complimented by her mother’s veil.

Sukey was given away by her brother Donald and was supported by her two nieces Katie and Eleanor Cameron as bridesmaids.

They and the groom’s niece Phoebe Pullen all wore pink/blue silk dupion dresses and pink satin shoes.

The bride’s sister Jane and the groom’s brother Richard were the two witnesses.

Following the ceremony a reception for 140 guests, including Baroness Thatcher, was held at the nearby Plaisterers’ Hall.

The couple honeymooned in Canada.

FALKLANDS activist Merle Hunter-Christie was honoured at a reception at Government House in June.

With her late husband Bill, Mrs Hunter-Christie set up the Falkland Islands Association whose primary role was to lobby the British Government against the Argentine claim to the Falkland Islands.

Speaking to the FIA Newsletter, Mrs Hunter-Christie said the Falkland Islands first came to the attention of her husband during his period in the Foreign Office.

While serving at the Embassy in Buenos Aires it was his task to master the past history of the Islands, and of the Falkland Islands Dependencies, in order to answer the claims which were then being forwarded by the Argentine Government.

Bill Hunter-Christie returned from Argentina in 1948 to read for the Bar. Dr Brian Roberts, Senior Research Fellow at the Scott Polar Research Institute, suggested to him that he should research and write a history of the Falkland Islands to counter Argentina’s claim.

Mr Christie had been much concerned by this claim, and consequently spent 1948 and most of 1949 at the SPRI writing The Antarctic Problem, which was published in 1951 by Allen & Unwin.

On May 20, 1950 he married Merle and with her support in 1968 he played a prominent part in forming the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee which followed a direct appeal for help made to members of the House of Commons by Falkland Islands Councillors; and by 1976 he formed the Falkland Islands Association in order to provide an office for the UKFIC in London, and to bring together all those interested in the future of the Islands. He was Chairman from 1976–1983. Known as ‘The Falkland Islands Office’, this provided a focal point for Falklands information and affairs during the ten week Falklands Conflict in 1982, and provided a headquarters for the two councillors in London at the time (one having been deported from the Falklands by Argentina).

Merle, as well as undertaking the administration of the Falkland Islands Association and selflessly supporting the work of her husband, provided her house as a haven for Falklands students who were also encouraged to lobby on behalf of other Islanders. At the Government House ceremony Councillor Mike Summers, while presenting Mrs Hunter-Christie with a Certificate of Honour commented, “Bill gave up large amounts of his time in this quest and gave us continuous excellent advice. Every step of the way Merle was with him. If it wasn’t for the commitment and dedication of Merle and Bill together I doubt the Falklands would have survived those dark days.”

Speaking of the current role of the FIA Mrs Hunter-Christie commented to the Newsletter, “Although it doesn’t have much of a political role at the moment I think it is always good to have the outline of an organisation such as this because there is always a threat from Argentina.”

St. Paul’s wedding for Falklands London Rep Sukey

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The couple honeymooned in Canada.

Merle reunited with old friends and former Falklands students from lobbying days in London. LR: Jane Cameron, Mike Summers, Leif Pollard, Merle, Robert Rowlands and Lewis Clifton.

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Falklands 25 in Britain

By Peter Pepper

COMMEMORATIONS of the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands War took place in June all over Britain. Gosport, on the western side of Portsmouth Harbour, and where the Falklands Veterans Foundation is based, was particularly active, with a parade through the town, receptions, and major veterans’ reunion.

But the principal national events took place at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College, which has so many naval connections - and in London. These began on Liberation Day, June 14th, at Pangbourne, with a Harrier fly past; followed by a commemoration service. This was televised live by the BBC. It was attended by H.M. the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the then Prime Minister Tony Blair, Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett, the Secretary of State for Defence Des Browne, and many other dignitaries - both civil and military. Baroness Thatcher also attended, as did families of the fallen, and veterans. After the service, the Queen laid the final stone from the Falklands at the Commemoration Cairn behind the Chapel, where there is now a stone for each of the 255 Servicemen and 3 Islanders who gave their lives.

Pangbourne’s cadets were formed up smartly throughout the proceedings, wearing their dark blue uniforms, which follow the naval traditions of the college. Forty-four former pupils served in the Falklands war, fourteen of whom were decorated. Headmaster, Thomas Garnier said: “Even though all of our students were born long after the Falklands Conflict ended, they live in a time of war. They learn about this country’s military casualties in the media and they see this in the context of our Chapel”. Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders, Chairman for the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust, escorted the Queen.

The function ended with a buffet reception in a marquee in the grounds of the College. Commenoration Service and Heroes Dinner at Greenwich.

That same day, a service was held in the Chapel of St. Peter and St. Paul at the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich. The Chaplain, the Rev Dr. Jules Gomes, conducted the service. “Eternal Father Strong to Save” was sung, and the Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt. Rev Christopher Chessun delivered the sermon. Admiral Sir Alan West, a veteran of the war himself, read the famous Prayer for the Royal Navy.

The service was followed by a reception hosted by the Royal British Legion in the King William Colonnades adjacent to the famous Painted Hall, which was then the venue for the magnificent Heroes Dinner. Some 450 guests attended all this, 75% of whom were veterans and their families, or members of families who lost loved ones in the war. Guests of honour were the Princess Royal and her husband, Vice-Admiral Timothy Lawrence. She managed to meet and talk to scores of veterans. Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Col “H” Jones, was there too as president of the dinner. Others attending included the Heads of all the Armed Forces, and the Chief of the Defence Staff. Last, but not least, Baroness Thatcher arrived direct from the Lincoln’s Inn Reunion. She got a rapturous reception – in fact a standing ovation. The event was a fantastic success, and organiser, Bruno Peek, told the Newsletter that it was an honour to organise it all.
Above: Baroness Thatcher is escorted to the Chapel of St. Peter & St. Paul, at The Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich, by Mr Bruno Peek, organiser of the commemoration events at Greenwich. Right: Royal British Legion standard bearers leaving the Commemoration Service. Photos: Defence Public Relations (Navy)

Principal sponsor of the event was the News Desk Media Group, which was also largely responsible for a contribution of £26,000 to the Armed Forces Memorial Appeal. Other sponsors were: Quinetic, AgustaWestland, BAE Services, the Royal British Legion, the Royal Navy, MOD, and Lord Stirling of Plaistow.

Trinity Gardens Service and Sunset Ceremony
Next day, Friday the 15th, an evening service was held to commemorate the 17 merchant seamen who lost their lives in the Falklands, from the Atlantic Conveyor, and the RFA Sir Galahad, Sir Tristram and Fort Grange. It was held at the special memorial, opened in 2005, to those who lost their lives in the Falklands War, in Trinity Gardens. This is in front of Trinity House, which is responsible for lighthouses, etc. Also in Trinity Gardens, of course, is the huge memorial to the 24,000 merchant seamen who lost their lives in the two World Wars. The Tower of London provided an imposing background to the proceedings.

The ceremony was attended by HRH Prince Michael of Kent. Also there was the Under-Secretary for Defence and Minister for Veterans Affairs, Derek Twigg, Lord Mayor of London John Stuttard, and the Lady Mayorress. The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jonathan Band, read the address. There was a good turn out of serving officers and men and the Royal British Legion. The band of Royal Marines from Portsmouth played.

Among the veterans who took part was Admiral Sir Michael Layard, the RN Captain on Atlantic Conveyor, and Kate McCabe, niece of Captain North, Master of the Atlantic Conveyor, who lost his life. Captain Martin Reed, Chief Officer on the Canberra in 1982, and former Chairman of SAMA-82, was there also.

Wreaths were laid, one by FIG Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron. There was a two minute silence, and the service ended with the lowering of the Red Ensign at the flagpole at sunset.

It was all organized by the Ministry of Defence and the Merchant Navy Association.

Guildhall Dinner
After the service at Trinity Gardens, many of those present went directly on to the Guildhall of the City of London as guests of the Lord Mayor. A total of 500 guests attended this, many of them veterans. They were dined by the City and Corporation of London in the Great Hall. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attended this, as did Lady Thatcher, and the Chief of the Defense Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup.

The Trinity Gardens Service at the Falklands War Monument for those from the Merchant Navy who laid down their lives.
Horse Guards Parade and Fly Past

The last, and greatest, ceremony took place at Horse Guards Parade on Sunday 17th. It was televised by the BBC, and their coverage was displayed on a giant screen at Horse Guards. Before the ceremony, film clips of scenes from the Falklands and the war were shown. Veterans were interviewed, including Admiral Sir Sandy Woodward, General Julian Thompson, and Commodore Michael Clapp, who all explained the tactics and difficulties. Interviews with several Islanders were broadcast. These included Tony Smith, Tony and Ailsa Heathman, Trudi McPhee and Peter Gilding. He recalled how a bullying Argentine officer had told them: “Don’t think Margaret Thatcher is going to help you now”. How wrong he was.

Then Major Charles Carty, a Welsh Guards veteran, introduced the proceedings in Horse Guards. Hundreds of veterans then marched, together with serving members of all branches of the Armed Forces, into Horse Guards. These formed a “U” facing the Royal Enclosure. The VIPs gathered in this: HRH the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, himself a veteran, Baroness Thatcher, Prime Minister Tony Blair, other ministers, and leaders of other political parties, including David Cameron and Sir Menzies Campbell, and many military dignitaries.

Lt Col Tony Davies, Chairman of SAMA-82, then welcomed everyone to the ceremony, and Tri-Service massed bands, led by the Royal Marines, played.

The TV scenes switched between Horse Guards and the Falklands. Veterans, including the Duke of York, gave short addresses. A film clip of Bette Sullivan, who lost her husband Paul at Goose Green, was shown, first visiting the battlefield, and then meeting Andrea Clausen. As a child Andrea had been liberated after the Battle of Goose Green, but is now a Councillor. Singer, Kathryn Nutbeam, who lost her father in the Sir Galahad, sang beautifully. Another clip showed Colonel Babbington of the Royal Marines back in the Falklands. A company commander during the war, he described how his men took Mount Harriet. Yet another fine clip showed Pipe Major Brian Donaldson playing a haunting tune from Mount Tumbledown that he actually composed there in 1982. This was taken up by pipers playing at Horse Guards.

Then a drumhead service began both in Horse Guards and at the British military cemetery at San Carlos in the Falklands – with the television coverage switching between the two. A 258 voice choir sang at Horse Guards. HMS Edinburgh fired a salute from San Carlos Water. Lewis Clifton, Speaker of the Council, spoke from the Falklands, the Last Post was sounded, and a silence observed. Wreaths were laid, first by the Earl of Wessex, representing the Queen, by the Minister for the Armed Forces Adam Ingram, by HE Governor Huckel, by Lord Parkinson, who was a member of Baroness Thatcher’s Government in 1982 and was representing her in the Falklands; others followed. Air Chief Marshall Sir Jock Stirrup, Chief of the Defense Staff, gave the final address at Horse Guards.

After the service, two young Islanders, Liam Stevens and Emily Hancox spoke briefly about their islands and hopes, and gratitude for liberation.

The ceremony ended with the National Anthem, and the participants then marched up the Mall, with the Prince of Wales taking the salute from the Queen Victoria Monument outside Buckingham Palace.

This was followed by a fly-past by military aircraft, including Nimrods, Hercules, and helicopters that had taken part in the war. Typhoons, the new Eurofighter, flew past too, as did the Red Arrows with red, white and blue smoke trails.

Above: The scene at Horse Guards, with the choir in the centre, the VIP enclosure on the left, and the veterans and serving troops formed up. Below is the other half of the parade.

Typhoons, the new Eurofighter, taking part in the fly-past over the Mall.

Photos: P.J.Pepper
Lincoln’s Inn Reunion

MORE than 400 guests attended the Annual Reception at Lincoln’s Inn on the evening of June 14. Falkland Islands Government Representative, Sukey Cameron, welcomed the Countess of Wessex – whose husband was taking part in the commemoration events in the Falklands. Baroness Thatcher attended for the early part of the evening, as did the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

Derek Twigg MP, before they made their way to Greenwich for the Heroes Dinner.

Ms Cameron gave a moving speech which was well received. Paying tribute to the sacrifice of British troops in 1982, she said, “As we celebrate our liberation, let us strive anew to match their sacrifice with our resolve to preserve what they fought for: the right to self-determination, enshrined in our status as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom; the internal self-government we enjoy, soon to be underpinned by a new constitution; the progress we have made in achieving economic self-sufficiency in everything but defence; our determination to follow the path of sustainable development, and protect our unspoilt environment and wildlife; and our resolve that we will never submit to those who wish to take from us by economic sanctions what they failed to take by military force.”

Association Chairman, Mr. David Tatham CMG, then read a message from Her Majesty the Queen, and proposed the Loyal Toast. The Band of the Parachute Regiment beat the retreat to end the evening. Ms Cameron was joined on the dais by the Countess of Wessex, who took the salute.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry early this year announced the repudiation of the Joint Declaration over Oil signed with Britain on September 27 1995. Its repudiation communiqué states that this was caused by an “abusive interpretation” by Britain of the area to which the 1995 Agreement should apply, and that on the basis on this “abusive interpretation” the British had launched a “unilateral” licensing round shortly after this was signed.

The facts are very different. The 1995 agreement was accompanied by joint declarations, each stating the full claim by each side to all the territory involved. The agreement itself was vaguely worded too – it had to be, to get any agreement at all. But there is no doubt about the meaning put on the agreement at the time it was signed.

It was to allow Falklands oil exploration to go ahead inside Falklands waters, as defined by the fishing zones - effectively with Argentina’s consent, and without interference or government involvement by them.

An area straddling the borders of Falklands and Argentine waters was designated to be exploited jointly, although, Argentina subsequently showed no interest in this. But its existence proves that oil development inside Falklands waters, was intended to be by the Falklands alone. If it had been otherwise, there would have been no need for such a joint area at all. The Argentine Government that signed the Oil agreement also knew very well that a licensing round would follow immediately after it.

Proof is that in conjunction with British Gas, the former Argentine state oil company Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales (YPF) took part in the bidding round in 1996.

Their bid was considered sub-standard but, anxious to have them onboard, the Foreign Office twice gave them warnings about this. Their bid was not improved sufficiently and, as a result, failed to get a license.

Argentina would probably have been quite satisfied with the 1995 agreement, if YPF had succeeded in getting licenses.

Lastly, when the successful licensees began drilling in 1998, there was no interference from the Argentine Government that had signed the Oil Agreement. They knew that it did effectively authorize this. Shell, which was a licensee and so took part in the drilling program, operated in Argentina too. It did not receive any harassment over its involvement in this.

The Argentine repudiation communiqué comes with two pieces of rhetoric peculiar to the present Argentine Government. They are now referring to the 1995 agreement, like other agreements made since the Falklands War, as “provisional” agreements. This is nonsense.

These agreements are no more provisional than any other diplomatic agreement. Their texts in no way suggest this. Argentina is just saying that they are “provisional” to pretend that they are somehow intended to lead up to a settlement of the Falklands dispute.

Also, there is the usual complaint of “unilateral” British action, when such action over oil was effectively authorized by the 1995 agreement.

Argentina’s repudiation communiqué ended with the message that it is not averse to cooperation in practical matters in the South-West Atlantic, under the safeguards of the sovereignty umbrella, but only if this contributes towards creating the conditions for a re-establishment of discussions to solve the Falklands dispute.

Argentina has also been campaigning for such negotiations in international fora too. These are, of course, out of the question, as the British Government has made clear, unless Islanders want this. But Argentina has now added another major impediment even to the possibility of such negotiations.

The first such impediment was the introduction, in 1994, into the Argentine Constitution, of a claim to the exercise of 100% of sovereignty over the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. This was really just a red herring to sweeten the changes that President Menem wanted in the Constitution then to enable him to stand for a second term of office.

But this means that any negotiations over sovereignty must end in a total hand over of all British territory in the South Atlantic.

Nothing less can satisfy the Argentine constitution. As the Newsletter headline said at the time, it is a question of “All or Nothing for Argentina”. Such a hand over is not going to happen. But, if it were even to be thought about, common sense would dictate that such a capitulation by Britain would have to be done in stages - based on agreements.

But now we know that a subsequent Argentine government might just tear up any such agreement. It is impossible to deal with countries that behave like this.

Sabre Rattling

PRESIDENT Hugo Chavez of Venezuela has threatened Britain with ‘revenge’ for the Falklands War, reported Martin Arostegui for the Sunday Times in September.

In what the journalist referred to as a ‘new outburst of anti-western sabre-rattling, the Latin American leftist warned that his recent build-up of sophisticated Russian and Iranian weapons would be used to destroy the British fleet if it attempted to return to the South Atlantic.

On his weekly television show he called for a regional military alliance against Britain and the United States.
ISLANDERS were able to gather together to both commemorate and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the liberation of the Falklands at a number of private and public events funded by the Falkland Islands Government in mid June.

Events open to the public began with a reception on June 14 at the Falkland Islands Defence Force Hall following the Liberation Monument Service (see centre pages). More than 800 people attended, including Islanders, invited guests and Falklands War veterans. For the younger members of the community a raucous children’s party was held in the Community School gymnasium.

The following day began with Falklands Expo 25 held at the Falkland Islands Community School and organised by SeAled.

Clockwise from top left: Falklands Expo 25 held at the Community School, Rainbows demonstrate their skills, DHL stand at the Expo, Benjamin Jaffray at Liberation Children’s Party. Cakes galore at the children’s party. Falklands Fresh stand Expo.
PR. Visitors to the Expo had the opportunity to view stands and presentations offered up by a large proportion of Falklands businesses as well as Government Departments. Guest of honour was HRH the Earl of Wessex who spent almost two hours meeting standholders.

On Saturday June 16, the Earl and invited guests were entertained at a Gala Dinner held in the Town Hall. Later in the evening guests moved to the public Liberation Ball at the FIDF Hall where dancing was well underway with music provided by local bands as well as the Royal Marine Dance Band and RAF member and swing singer Rich Lucey.

The week began and ended with a welcome and goodbye reception in the Town Hall for HRH the Earl of Wessex.


Top: A computer generated image of “the yomper” greeted guests outside at the Town Hall Gala Dinner. Below: Guests enjoy food catered by Malvina Hotel. Photo: N Clark.

Centre: Sealed PR details from the Gala Dinner. Handmade chocolates sporting an image of the Falklands. A poppy on the back of every chair and left, Prince Edward’s place card.
Fallen but not forgotten
memories preserved in camp

Clockwise from left: Repairs to Coventry Cross on Pebble Island by crew members of HMS Exeter sailing on HMS Edinburgh - Photo A White.
Camp Education pupil Rhian Alazia plants a tree in memory of the 1982 fallen at Port Edgar - Photo W Reynolds.
West Falkland Islanders erect their own memorial to British Forces at Fox Bay.
Monica May remembers at the Landing Day Memorial at San Carlos.
Nanette Morrison pays her respects at the Lt. Nick Taylor Memorial at Goose Green.
Earl of Wessex is welcome visitor

Above: HRH Prince Edward Earl of Wessex with Governor Huckle and Captain Tony McNally.
Above right: At the dedication service to Atlantic Conveyor with veteran Charles Drought.
Left: Falklands Expo with Beaver Scout James Tyrell and Rainbow Guide Meredith Ellis and a locally made penguin for Lady Louise Windsor.
Right: Arriving at the Service of Remembrance held in Christ Church Cathedral.
Below left: At the San Carlos service of remembrance which tied in via a live television link with Horse Guards parade in London.
Below right: At San Carlos the Earl of Wessex meets Islanders Donna May and Naomi and Sheila Summers.
Photographs by Norman Clark.
THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands from Argentine occupation was officially marked on June 14 with a service at the Liberation Monument on Ross Road in Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Hundreds of Islanders, visitors and Honourable guests of the Falkland Islands Government including the HRH the Earl of Wessex attended the emotionally charged commemoration on Stanley seafront.

The Royal Marines were on parade alongside detachments from the Falkland Islands Defence Force, the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. A band from the Royal Marines added to the poignancy of the touching event with a fitting musical accompaniment.

Wreaths were laid by a host of individuals and organisations including representatives of the Armed Forces, veterans of the 1982 Conflict and the invited guests.

The Right Reverend Stephen Venner, Bishop of the Falkland Islands, delivered the Invitation to Remember and prayers were read by Father Augustine Monaghan, priest of St. Mary’s Church in 1982.

The parade was followed by the British Forces exercising their Freedom of the Falkland Islands by marching through the streets of Stanley with bayonets fixed and drums beating.

A fly past then took place as the parade moved between Government House and the Liberation Monument and the British Forces were saluted by the Falkland Islands Defence Force as they marched past Victory Green.

Preceding the parade, Bishop Venner delivered the sermon at the service of thanksgiving. It followed a traditional format, with four hymns sung.

Lessons were read by HRH the Earl of Wessex, Chief of Staff Group Captain Nick Watson, veteran John Hladki and Falkland Islander Zoe Whitney.

Information and photographs: Penguin News.
All year round
dance season
for Islands’
youngsters

Top left: Belle of the Winter Ball Delen Montgomerie with ‘most outstanding young man’ Shaun May.
Left: May Ball dancers Tansie Bonner with Matt Newton and Nadia Arkhipkina and David Hewitt.
Above: Joanne Butler and Diahiana Trinidades and partners.
Below: Stacey and Liam.
Bottom right: Liberation Ball - Junior Miss Falklands 25 Tasmin Tyrell with RMA Chairman Bill Kidd presenting her ‘sweet bouquet’.
FOR some years now traditional
dancing for Falklands youngsters
has experienced a quite dramatic
revival thanks to a dedicated few.

While the May Ball has al-
ways been central to the Islands
formal functions, now younger
members of the community can
be seen demonstrating their new
found dancing skills at a number
of other additions to the social
calendar.

But why the new interest in a
style of dance that has its roots in
early Scottish settlers to the Falk-
land Islands?

Derek Howatt, keen ballroom
dancer and Financial Secretary for
the Falkland Islands Government
is one of those behind the revival.

He explained that Falklands
couple Sharon and Dennis Mid-
dleton decided to offer dance les-
sons to youngsters, “many moons
ago,” in order to help them en-
joy the very popular May Ball at
which a May Queen and Prince
Charming is traditionally chosen.

Islanders of fifteen years old
see the Ball to some (light-heart-
ed) degree as their ‘debut’.

Parents are invited by their
off-spring to dig deep in their
pockets to provide sons with
smart lounge suits and daughters
with ball gowns for the two nights
of traditional dancing.

Derek said, “Once a week for
about 8 weeks prior to the May
Ball, these youngsters happily at-
tend “lessons” limited to the tra-
ditional May Ball dances. How-
ever, the weekly dances that take
place during the rest of the year
are not really lessons as such.

The range of dances is ex-
panded to include Scottish ceilidh
and other old time dances.

The age range is 13 upwards
and the dances take place on a
Wednesday in local venues such
as school halls, but now at the
‘night club’ The Trough.

Around 50 children attend
the May Ball practices while ap-
proximately 20 attend the rest of
the year.

Derek said, “Islanders Mar-
lene Newman, Marj Adams and
Derek run the May Ball practices,
while The Scottish Dance Group
(Karen Chenery, Steve Massam
and I) run the other sessions.”

The dances taught to the
youngsters include ballroom (lo-
cal style) such as Fox Trot, Quick-
step, Waltzes, Samba, plus Circas-
sian Circle and Palais Glide.

The other sessions have such
additions as set dances (reels and
jigs) and two-steps, three-steps,
Gay Gordons and other waltzes.

This years formal functions
began in February with the visit-
ing Glenelvan Scottish Dance
Band holding a ceilidh.

The May Ball brought a flurry
of new dresses which were then
recycled for the Liberation Ball in
June. The Winter Ball took place
at the end of July and the Falk-
lands Conservation Charity Ball
was in September.

Derek summed up saying; “I
enjoy traditional music and danc-
ing and like to share this by help-
ing the youngsters (and the not so
young) to learn the basic steps and

“it is encouraging that so
many of our youngsters want to
learn and practice the old dances
thus keeping this important local
tradition alive and kicking, liter-
ally.”

At a less formal level, old and
young alike once again take to the
floor at the Camp Sports in Febru-
ary and ‘two-nighters’ also held in
the Camp throughout the year and
at dances held around Christmas
time to include the Stanley Sports
horse-racing prize-giving func-
tion.

Photos: Penguin News: Top: Win-
ter Ball line-up. Above left: Gov-
ernor Huckle presents May Queen
Michaela Ford with bouquet.
Thomas Harris Davies OBE

MANY Islanders and people with associations with the Falklands will remember with great affection Tom Davies, who died on 15th September 2006, aged 84.

In 1969, while working for the UK Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS), Tom was asked by the Overseas Development Administration to lead a small team of pasture and livestock specialists selected for their long practical experience of farm advisory work in conditions relevant to the Falkland Islands. The “Davies Team” were asked to study the sheep and cattle industries of the Falklands and in the summer season of 1969/1970, spent nearly seven months in the Islands during which they set up a laboratory and actually conducted experimental work. Their report led to the establishment in 1976 of the first permanent centre for agricultural research in the Islands, then known as the Grasslands Trials Unit or “GTU”. It also guided the direction of subsequent research efforts.

In early 1982, on retiring from a long and distinguished career with ADAS, Tom returned to the Falklands with his wife, Gwen, as the senior agronomist with the GTU. On the morning of the Argentine invasion on 2nd April 1982, their house suffered a direct hit by a mortar shell but, fortunately, both were unhurt. In the years following 1982, the research team undertook an expanded and increasingly diverse programme of work enabled by an increase in funding. In 1984, Tom was appointed team leader of the Agricultural Research Centre. During the post war period his advice was much sought by farmers planning their own pasture improvements and also by the Falkland Islands Government in relation to the implementation of the newly invigorated land reform programme.

Obituaries

Former pilot Jim remembered fondly

FORMER Falkland Islands Government pilot Jim Kerr will be remembered fondly by many Islanders for his years of work in the Falklands.

Jim joined the Falklands Government as a pilot in 1954. He trained to be a pilot at a very young age and by the end of his career had logged an impressive list of 17 different types of aircraft.

While continuing to fly he later became the Superintendent of Civil Aviation and in his latter years the first Director of Civil Aviation. For much of his time he shared the pilot work with Captain Ian Campbell.

In 1975 one of the entries in his log book shows 8,265 flying hours. On June 12, 1965 Jim was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen.

Jim was married to Joyce, a familiar voice on the radio at that time and they had three daughters, Cherry, Jane and Julia.

Farewell to shepherd Robert ‘Bobby’ Smith

SHEPHERD, horseman and marksman Robert ‘Bobby’ Smith (left) will be missed by Islanders.

Bobby was born in Stanley on January 21, 1955 the second child of Peter and Mary Smith.

Part of his early life was spent on Beaver Island before a move to Stanley. His first job was a labourer with the Public Words Department before he worked for Johnston’s Construction Limited building the Stanley Airport.

Following this he returned to the Camp, initially to Roy Cove and then Pebble Island before moving to join the FIC farms in Lafonia.

Bobby was a member of the Falkland Islands Defence Force and always a keen competitor at Camp Sports.

Bobby had many skills; he was a shearer, dog trialer and jockey and always made an excellent dance-partner at the Sports Week.

Skilled mechanic Bill generous to a fault

WILLIAM Kenneth Porter (right) or Bill as he was known had a love of mechanics that began when he started work for Johnston’s Construction in 1975.

Having become a skilled mechanic he moved on to work on the MV Forrest before returning to employment with his beloved heavy plant.

In the Falklands War he comandeered a PWD Land Rover and used it throughout that difficult time to deliver supplies to people in the camp on East Falklands.

After the War he eventually moved to Fox Bay on the West where he had spent his early life. Bill was known as being generous to a fault.

Bill died on May 17, 2007. Info NE.

Death of world famous explorer Sir William ‘Wally’ Herbert

SIR Walter William ‘Wally’ Herbert (1934-2007) was a British polar explorer, writer and artist. In 1969 he became the first man to walk undisputed to the North Pole, on the 60th anniversary of Robert Peary’s famous, but disputed, expedition.

During the course of his polar career, which spanned more than 50 years, he spent 15 years in the wilderness regions of the polar world, and travelled with dog teams and open boats well over 23,000 miles - more than half of that distance through unexplored areas.

In 1955 he carried out surveying in the Antarctic with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, during which he became an expert in dog sleighing.

Teacher John Dixon

JOHN Dixon arrived in the Falkland Islands in November 1964 on a three year contract in a teaching post involving extensive travelling by horseback and living with families in remote and isolated locations.

Adults and children were to be taught basic educational skills in an effort to increase levels of awareness in the long term social development of the Islands.

His first two years teaching were spent on East Falkland Islands between the two settlements of Port San Carlos and San Carlos.

During 1967-8 John spent 14 months on the West Falkland Islands between Saunders Island and Main Point outside house (Hill Cove Camp).

At the end of his three year teaching contract John returned to London and joined the Prison Service where he gained considerable experience and expertise in the management of a variety of demanding and problematical young offender establishments.

Towards the latter part of his career John served in a number of senior positions in adult establishments.

According to his wishes John’s ashes were scattered at the jetty at Port San Carlos by the Medical Contingent of the British Antarctic Survey team.

Lunger John tragically died of terminal cancer on 24 January 2003 at the age of 62.
Births and marriages

Above: Georgina Alice Dawson.
Below: Blake Emilio Benjamin Peters.

Above: Vanissa Teya McCallum.

Above: Kaden Kenneth Ronald McCormick.
Below: Tristan James Clark.

Above: Shiralee and Andy Findlay with bridesmaid Madeline.

Above: Stevie and Caroline Bonner.

Above: Jasmine and Craig Clark.

Above: Ryan and Katie McGill.

Above: Fredrick Sombat Betts.

Above: Gareth and Bernie Goodwin.

Above: Fredrick Sombat Betts.
Below: George Robin Lee.
Focus on Rockhopper Exploration plc.

ROCKHOPPER was set up in 2004 by Richard Visick to explore for oil in the shallow water of the North Falkland Basin. Rockhopper has four 100%-owned licences and a 7.5% interest in two of Desire Petroleum’s licences.

The company, which joined the AIM market in London in August 2005, has a high quality board, led by Executive Chairman Dr Pierre Jungles who was previously CEO of Enterprise Oil Plc and is now on the boards of Baker Hughes and Woodside Petroleum amongst others.

The 100% licences are PL023, PL024, PL032 and PL033. PL023 and PL024 are near the Islands, while PL032 and PL033 are further north in the area where Shell found oil when drilling in 1998.

Since listing on AIM Rockhopper has pursued an aggressive exploration programme, consisting of 2D seismic, Controlled Source Electromagnetic Mapping (CSEM) with Offshore Hydrocarbon Mapping and most recently, the largest 3D seismic programme yet undertaken in the Islands, with CGG Marine.

Interpretation of the 2D seismic data in conjunction with the CSEM yielded 11 targets in licences PL023 and PL024 with a P50 volume of 2.5 billion barrels of recoverable reserves. Additional targets are expected to be identified in PL032 and PL033 from the 3D seismic data.

Rockhopper was the first small oil company in the world to commercially use CSEM technology and also the first oil company in the world to use the technique commercially in shallow water.

The CSEM work, which was carried out during January and February 2006, was over two of Rockhopper’s targets in PL023 and PL024, Ernest and Dolphin.

Below: Image of positive CSEM on Ernest. Top left: Executive Chairman Dr Pierre Jungles. Top right: Basic Rockhopper licence map.
**Falklands Agriculture**

**MPM sheep farming method for West Lagoons**

A FALKLANDS farming couple have made a brave but what appears to be a very successful decision to move entirely away from traditional sheep breeding. Peter and Shelly Nightingale have owned West Lagoons farm since 1987 and since the early 1990’s, like so many other Falklands farmers, have been struggling to make a living.

Again like some other farmers they eventually decided that traditional methods and sheep breeds were never going to be enough, “...so it was either find another way to make money or leave the farm,” said the couple.

One day through a friend Peter and Shelley heard about the ‘soft rolling skin sheep breeding method.’ Peter said, “It sounded too good to be true, so we went to see for ourselves, to South America where there are now millions of these animals.

This was in the days of the £1 a day Holiday Credits in case anybody is wondering how farmers could afford to travel.

At a two-day workshop led by Dr Jim Watts, we learned the importance of thin skin and of classing the whole breeding flock and not just a selected few.

Ewes and rams are then matched for optimum results. The objectives are for an easy care plain bodied animal, capable of producing not only plenty of fine soft wool, but also a good meat carcass, productivity and temperament.”

Only two years after the pair first had their ewes and rams classed and 800 ewes inseminated with semen from Multi Purpose Merinos from Australia, “...our average hogget micron had dropped by 2.3 micron, without losing either body or wool weight.

Last season showed an improvement of 2 micron throughout the total flock. This alone means a better farm income, and plenty of more improvements to make yet in body, wool and fecundity.

With the help of our sheep classer/mentor, Wally O’Connor, we are still selecting for the best type of animal suited to our farm.”

Shelley told the Newsletter, “West Lagoons Farm is now in a position to sell good quality rams to farmers in the Falklands following the same breeding programme.

Already the project looks like being a successful investment.”

**The Multi Purpose Merino:**

- **First and foremost it is the only merino sheep without wrinkles**
- **A fast growing sheep with a long body and neck**
- **A sheep that grows 19 to 20 micron wool faster than any other merino**
- **An open headed sheep with bare lower legs**
- **A fertile proud looking sheep with measured fertility rates of over 20% above the Australian average**
- **A sheep that requires little or no mulesing**

Photos: Main: Peter Nightingale with a shearing ram. Inset: Flock of shearling rams.

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**Falklands Tourism**

**New manager exciting development for Tourist Board**

THE coming season heralds exciting developments for tourism in the Falklands, most notably the appointment of a General Manager to FITB, and an anticipated 81,000 cruise ship passengers - with the first vessel due at West Point Island on October 20, 2007.

Jake Downing will relocate to the Falklands from New Zealand and take up his two-year General Manager contract in early November 2007. Mr Downing, a British national, has prior experience managing a chain of visitor information centres and niche destination development. Jake will join the existing FITB team of Liz Dimmlich (Tourism Development Coordinator) and Steph Middleton (Tourism Assistant) in Stanley.

A key part of Mr Downing’s role will be the development and implementation of a national tourism strategy, and the sourcing of funds to support the identified strategic actions. To demonstrate to FIG that FITB is moving forward, the strategy process has commenced ahead of Mr Downing’s arrival; FITB Directors, Members, and FIG representatives attended workshops in July and August of this year where they developed a set of seven goals with the aim of improving internal tourism infrastructure, and land and cruise-ship sector performance. It is anticipated that the strategy process will be completed with Mr Downing’s input in early 2008, ahead of the FIG budget process.

**Land-based sector**

The Falklands received a huge amount of publicity in the first half of 2007, due in-part to the 25th anniversary of the 1982 Conflict. Such publicity, centred in the UK and US, has resulted in a surge of bookings which will benefit locals providing accommodation, internal flights, vehicle transport, and land-based tours.

Several new accommodation providers have opened in time for the coming season, and the number of private tour guides is also on the increase to meet visitor demand. These new ventures demonstrate to the wider business community that land-based tourism is both viable and sustainable.

FITB and local travel agencies remain committed to expanding this lucrative sector. Sally Ellis of IIT and Jo Turner of Falkland Islands Holidays have just returned from Travel Mart Latin America in Cartagena, Colombia - one of the most important events in the year for South American travel specialists and international trade press. Both agents reported that interest in the Falklands is increasing steadily each year, with wholesalers and retailers looking for new destinations that offer the visitor a novel, genuine travelling experience.

Similarly, Liz Dimmlich of FITB completed a business trip to Australia and New Zealand in July to raise awareness of the Falklands. Liz commented that previous marketing efforts focused on the UK and selected European countries had failed to deliver significant increases in visitor numbers. As such, it is hoped that forging direct relationships with specialist agencies in new countries will result in a gradual increase (and diversification) of visitor numbers to the Islands.

The infrequency of international air access to the Falklands still remains a barrier to the long-term growth and development of this sector.

However Government and local agencies are working behind the scenes to ensure that this issue remains on the table with the relevant authorities.
New Island Conservation Trust a leading light

THE New Island South Conservation Trust, recently renamed the New Island Conservation Trust since its acquisition late in 2006 of the whole of New Island, is a leading biological and conservation research establishment in the Falkland Islands.

In Falkland terms, New Island is a medium sized one. It is eight miles in length, but in many parts less than a mile wide, and embraced by some 50 miles of rugged coastline. New Island is relatively remote, being situated at the western extremity of the Falkland archipelago and on the edge of the Falkland Current. It is this position, which makes it an Important Bird Area (IBA). New Island has the distinction of having been operated as a wildlife reserve for 36 years and remains the only purpose designed and built facility, including a large field station, for conservation research in the Falklands.

Its remote situation, 147 miles from Stanley and centred in one of the Islands richest wildlife areas, presents a unique site for research, and for the field scientists who work on the reserve. A total of eight scientific personnel worked on the reserve in the 2006 - 2007 season. On the other hand its remoteness gives it an element of isolation from some public activities and recognition for its research. The award of an OTEP grant in 2005 to the New Island Conservation Trust was not only of financial importance, but of immense value in bringing attention to the work it does. The completion of a management plan for the New Island reserve, an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) funded project, which has been running for the last two years, has now been completed. Entitled “New Island, Falkland Islands - A South Atlantic Wildlife Sanctuary for Conservation Management” this is now available as a high quality printed soft back. Containing 160 pages, it has 150 photographs in colour, plus maps and charts. It is not only a plan for the islands future, but traces the islands history and development over the last 200 years.

The OTEP funded project, embraced several aspects of the NICT work. The continuation of its work on non native species has been possible, the result being that at least three scientific papers will shortly be published covering some six years work. Continuing long term monitoring and study of Black-browed albatross has been made possible. The importance of this work on the New Island reserve, with its 29 years of monitoring data, to support its findings that the populations of this species are increasing Island wide, is of immense value.

The monitoring of other Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels species, in particular White chinned petrels, is also a long term program and in 2006 was part of joint census work with another conservation organisation, the Falkland Conservation Trust.

The history of New Island goes back to the late 1700’s when it became an important base for early American whalers. Part of that history remains on the island in the form of an old stone building, the origins of which go back to a Captain Charles Barnard who was marooned on the island in 1812. With the help of the OTEP grant, this building is now fully restored as a museum and visitor centre. Not only does it fulfil the New Island Conservation Trust’s memorandum, which embraces the conservation of historical buildings, the building now offers an important educational facility and centre for the wildlife tourists who visit New Island on specialised cruise vessels.

The New Island Conservation Trust is a Registered Charity No 1047676 and NGO working for conservation in the Falkland Islands and the SW Atlantic. Please take a look at our web site at www.newislandtrust.com.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the recently published work “New Island Falkland Islands A South Atlantic Wildlife Sanctuary for Conservation Management” please direct enquiries to: Sarah Jones-Parry, Secretary NICT, Dairy Cottage, Swan’s Farm, Winclefield, Hook, Hants. RG 27 8DB.

Or to: Ian J.Strange, The Dolphins, Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Below right: Researcher Anja Gladbach from Germany who is studying Upland Geese on the New Island reserve. Below left: Section of mixed colony of Black-browed albatross, Rockhopper penguins and King Cormorants on New Island. Orea Anderson a PhD student, monitors the colony which has been ongoing for the last 29 years.
Right: The primary objective of Vulcan Bomber Black Buck 1 was to place at least one bomb on the runway at Stanley in 1982. As the lone Vulcan approached the Falklands signals were detected from Argentine radars attempting to lock onto her. Two miles out a total of 21 1,000 lb bombs were dropped diagonally across the runway, one hitting the runway dead centre, while others hit fuel and ammo stores and even the golf course. Without its payload the Vulcan was able to return to Ascension with just a single Victor for company. It had been airborne for a remarkable 16 hours and 2 minutes.

Below left and right: First Day Covers remember the men posthumously awarded with the Victoria Cross for heroic deeds in the 1982 conflict. Below left: Liberation issue and Princess Diana issue. The latter honours her charity work with regard to landmine clearance. The labels depict the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, now Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, taken in 1983 whilst viewing a minefield in the Falkland Islands shortly after Liberation. In the surround of the sheetlet is printed the staggering information “It is estimated that 20,000 land mines still remain in the Falkland Islands in an area covering approximately 20 square kilometres”.

Above: This set of stamps, listing the names of all the British contingent together with the three Islanders who lost their lives in the campaign for liberation is a unique issue within the philatelic world. For the first time a country and its people pay thanks to each individual by name and this set of 16 stamps, so aptly entitled ‘Lest We Forget’ stands as a memorial in the same way as the sculpted memorials that already exist in Stanley, St Paul’s and Pangbourne Chapel.
ALTHOUGH my first home was in fact Mount Pleasant, I was born February 15, 1910 at Darwin Harbour, the central East Falkland in my grandfather's house because it was the practice for daughters to be with their Mothers at such a time.

Dr. Wace wasn't at all pleased to be called away from the Sports Week horse-racing, however my sisters Jean and Mary were far more thoughtful, both being born in November 1911 and 1913 respectively.

Our nearest neighbour was an hour away on horseback, our only means of transport. Life in the camp was uneventful, but our parents worked hard. When my Mother went to live at Mount Pleasant as a young bride, the only means of cooking was by shadrow; an iron pot with a lid and rings on the side, which was placed under the fire place and hot ashes raked on top and was moved by means of two long iron hooks on the end. They always vowed, and never tasted as good as when cooked this way.

My Father was a shepherd looking after several thousand sheep, also a troupe of horses and a herd of cows. My Mother's day started early; she would milk cows, bake bread, make butter and look after the vegetable garden. As our house was on the track about half way between Stanley and Darwin, and known as a 'Track House'. Mother was also expected by employers who might occasionally stay over-night or for a few days, depending on their business.

In those days the allowances paid to cover such extra expenses was a couple of pounds per month. For the spring the peat was cut by the shepherds for their own homes. Heating and cooking fuel, peat, was cut from a bank and left to dry for a few weeks, then carted home and stacked up near each home. Meat was scarce and the wages of the shepherd would kill mutton or beef for our own use. Darwin was a sheep station and had 91,000 sheep. In the summer all the shepherds had to go out from Stanley with the stores he would get from the Falkland Islands Company and on retirement, returned to the United Kingdom. Ellen's parents, James and Mabel returned to the UK after her Father retired from the Falkland Islands Company after 53 years. She had three sisters and one brother: Jean, May, James and Georgina.

There is now a Sixth generation of Middletons in the Falkland Islands. Ellen wrote the following story because, "...future generations may have some idea of my childhood and as a young woman living the simple life, in the Falkland Islands."

Mrs Ellen Rogers is the granddaughter of Stuart and Margaret Middleton from Angus, Scotland (on her father's side) who came to the Falkland Islands with early settlers. They had seven children: Violet, Andrew, David, Linsey, Stewart, James and Margaret. Her Mother's Parents were George and Jane Jennings from Basingstoke, England, who had nine children: William, Ellen, Thomas, Frederick, Jessie, Mary, Charles, Henry and Mabel.

Both sets of parents spent their working lives with the Falkland Island Company, and on retirement, returned to the United Kingdom.

ALTHOUGH my first home was in fact Mount Pleasant, I was born February 15, 1910 at Darwin Harbour, the central East Falkland in my grandfather's house because it was the practice for daughters to be with their Mothers at such a time.

Dr. Wace wasn't at all pleased to be called away from the Sports Week horse-racing, however my sisters Jean and Mary were far more thoughtful, both being born in November 1911 and 1913 respectively.

Our nearest neighbour was an hour away on horseback, our only means of transport. Life in the camp was uneventful, but our parents worked hard. When my Mother went to live at Mount Pleasant as a young bride, the only means of cooking was by shadrow; an iron pot with a lid and rings on the side, which was placed under the fire place and hot ashes raked on top and was moved by means of two long iron hooks on the end. They always vowed, and never tasted as good as when cooked this way.

My Father was a shepherd looking after several thousand sheep, also a troupe of horses and a herd of cows. My Mother's day started early; she would milk cows, bake bread, make butter and look after the vegetable garden. As our house was on the track about half way between Stanley and Darwin, and known as a 'Track House'. Mother was also expected by employers who might occasionally stay over-night or for a few days, depending on their business.

In those days the allowances paid to cover such extra expenses was a couple of pounds per month. For the spring the peat was cut by the shepherds for their own homes. Heating and cooking fuel, peat, was cut from a bank and left to dry for a few weeks, then carted home and stacked up near each home. Meat was scarce and the wages of the shepherd would kill mutton or beef for our own use. Darwin was a sheep station and had 91,000 sheep. In the summer all the shepherds had to go out from Stanley with the stores he would get from the Falkland Islands Company and on retirement, returned to the United Kingdom. Ellen's parents, James and Mabel returned to the UK after her Father retired from the Falkland Islands Company after 53 years. She had three sisters and one brother: Jean, May, James and Georgina.

There is now a Sixth generation of Middletons in the Falkland Islands. Ellen wrote the following story because, "...future generations may have some idea of my childhood and as a young woman living the simple life, in the Falkland Islands."

Mrs Ellen Rogers is the granddaughter of Stuart and Margaret Middleton from Angus, Scotland (on her father's side) who came to the Falkland Islands with early settlers. They had seven children: Violet, Andrew, David, Linsey, Stewart, James and Margaret.

Her Mother's Parents were George and Jane Jennings from Basingstoke, England, who had nine children: William, Ellen, Thomas, Frederick, Jessie, Mary, Charles, Henry and Mabel.

Both sets of parents spent their working lives with the Falkland Island Company, and on retirement, returned to the United Kingdom.

Ellen's parents, James and Mabel returned to the UK after her Father retired from the Falkland Islands Company after 53 years. She had three sisters and one brother: Jean, May, James and Georgina.

There is now a Sixth generation of Middletons in the Falkland Islands. Ellen wrote the following story because, “…future generations may have some idea of my childhood and as a young woman living the simple life, in the Falkland Islands.”
A simple life
by Ellen V Rogers

in the back kitchen saying good-night to our boyfriends, holding our breath in fear that they may come and catch us. We had lots of fun during those years.

Our main pleasure was dancing and whist drives; and in the sum-mer we would go horse riding. Darwin House employed a cook, gardener, housemaid, houseboy and nursemaid. When the cook married, I was given the job, and there I stayed until I was married in 1933.

We very rarely had a holiday, and it was only in later years that we had taken a day off in the week and every third Sunday afternoon in the middle of dinner, two men would run away with them and anyone nearby could be in for the same treatment!

The day of my wedding, in the middle of dinner, two men came in and took me out to the water tank and dipped my feet in and make me the my father had his feet washed in public. They then came back in and treated my Father and my sister to the same fate, all in good fun though. Weddings at the camp certainly quite big affairs as a notice would be placed in the store and all were invited.

Mostly there would be a wed-ding breakfast after the ceremony and dance would be held in the evening at which an accordion accompanied the dancers. At one time there was a band consisting of violins, mandolin, piano and drums. We would dance in a group and when the rhythm would be up, everyone would go to the store and all were invited.

The next day we started our wedding tour as we were cooking for the south men which usually numbered 26 but in the sum-mer when the shearing season was on we had approximately 56 men. We used to shop by mail order to the UK; it would take about three months from the time we sent our order until the goods were received. Most of the mothers were quite able to do their own dressmaking and many could spin wool and knit for the family.

In the summer, when the milk was plentiful, it would be bottled and then corked. Corks would then be tied down with string. The bottles would be placed in a bucket of water on the range and cooled. When cold the next day, they would melt dripping and be stored until the winter. As the bottles would be stored until the winter when the family would keep only one cow.

They also made butter and salted it and put it in earthenware jars sealed for the winter, and as everyone kept hens, during the laying season they put the eggs in ‘water glass’ to preserve them.

Life was much more leisurely in the winter; we would hold dances and whist drives in the set-tlement. I met my husband Don at a dance. He came to the Falklands to work from Somerset in 1924.

Travel with babies they were wrapped tightly in a travel rug, and with a pillow tied to the front of the saddle on the horse, they were just held in front of you and would travel very well like that.

We seldom went to Port Stanley as we preferred camp life. Anywhere outside Port Stanley was known as the camp and as travel was mostly by horseback with miles and miles of camp and no signs or roads, it was rather marvellous how anyone could find their way from place to place with only a stick to guide them.

Dotted on the camp was known as the ‘standing man’, this was a heap of stones on a hill as a guide. One had to keep to the guide as to the gates and the correct pass in the rivers. I was told by someone who was travelling to Port Stanley when a mist came up and they got lost as it was dark, that the only way he knew which way to go was by putting his hand in the wa-ter to see which way the stream was flowing as he knew it would flow to the sea and from that he could get his bearings. People in the Islands used to visit each other a lot, call in for afternoon tea and exchange recipes, paper patterns, books or records, as the gramophone was always popular.

The sovereignty of the Falk-lands was even in dispute in the days of our parents, the Argentinean, and when he had had a few drinks too many, would argue that the Argentinean flag should be flying instead of the Union Jack. But, Don and I were a peaceful old couple who worked for many years as a buncher in Goose Green.

When I lived in Darwin, we would never miss the Saturday night hop in Goose Green. We had to walk from Darwin along the shore which is about one and a half miles, but coming home was much more pleasant as we had our boyfriends to accompany us.

We nearly always wore long dresses which we mostly made ourselves. I carelessly say that at that time all the girls were good cooks, and most could turn their hand to dressmaking. Darwin and North Arm would have a special dance during the winter, the Sec-tion Ball, when many would gather for the dance on the Friday and Saturday nights.

Continued on page 26
There were about three men to each girl, so we had no shortage of suitors.

One year I went to North Arm, Nora my cousin and I stayed with my Uncle Stuart. On the Friday night we danced from 7pm until 2.30am on the Saturday night. I guess we had stamina in those days. It would take about five hours on horseback to get from Darwin to North Arm and we had the same ride back on the Sunday!

When the Falkland Islands Company celebrated their centenary in Stanley in February 1933, a boat went around the Islands collecting passengers and there was a week of celebrations. HMS Dart was there and as there was a slow passenger, the toffs wanted to go to Darwin. Betty, the parlour maid and myself as cook, had to go back to Darwin House before the end of the week to look after the children, and we had the privilege of travelling from Stanley to Darwin on HMS Dart.

After four years as cooks, and having little time to spare, we decided to have a change so as to give more time to the children. We decided to go back to Dons house in Providence. A not an easy decision, as it meant leaving all our friends and family.

On the May 8, 1937 we left Goose Green by boat. We spent one week in Port Stanley as it was the coronation of King George V.1. We left Stanley on the May 15 on board the SS Lajofina bound for Montevideo.

We spent one night there, then boarded the RMS Almonzora at 10pm the next night.

First we called at Santos and then Rio de Janeiro where we could not get an agent to show us the fact that a cabin boy was missing when we left Santos and we had to sail without him. Rio looked lovely at night, with all the lights on the shore. The Cross of Sacrifice showed up beautifully, we would have loved to have gone up to it.

We called at Bahia Blanca, and Parnambuco. We arrived at San Vicente in the evening, and as usual the passengers would throw money over the side for little boys who would dive for it. Our children were so excited to see them.

We did not get ashore again until we reached Lisbon where we hired a taxi with two of our friends and from there on to Southampton, England and we had the start of a new life.

A Doctor on Horseback - Tom Hopwood

A book that looks back on life in the Falklands in the 1940's has been reprinted this year. A Doctor on Horseback tells how a shy young doctor and newly married doctor in 1944, Tom Hopwood becomes a medical officer in the Falklands.

There were no roads or even tracks outside of Stanley. On the West Falklands the tenderfoot doctor has to learn to ride as well as make the most of his limited medical knowledge.

Tom Hopwood's story qualifies what happens in his life over the following three years.

Check out www.lulu.com/content/894373 for your copy.

Dictionary of Falklands Biography - David Tatham

FORMER Falklands Governor David Tatham has been compiling a Dictionary of Falklands Biography for five years now with the help of a host of voluntary contributors. Mr Tatham spoke to Newsline's Lisa Johnson about the challenging project.

LJ: What/who was the inspiration behind the idea?
DT: Well, what really started me off was an obituary article I once saw by Jane Cameron's father about Christian Andresen, a Dane who was shipwrecked on the Islands and had an interesting and successful life in Stanley. It struck me that there must be many other people whose lives would be of interest and should be remembered.

LJ: What will we find in the DBF?
DT: Essays on an enormous variety of people, nearly 500. I've included not just residents of the Islands, but also people who visited and went to South Georgia. I've even included people who influenced their history but never actually went there. So you have the great explorers like Captain Cook and Ernest Shackleton, scientists and naturalists like Charles Darwin, ornithologists and geologists. There is a wide range of Falkland Islanders, from pillars of the community to a fair crop of eccentric characters.

LJ: What particular difficulties have you faced?
DT: Distance from the Islands is the greatest problem, although e-mail is a great help. And apart from one visit last year, I haven't been able to consult the Stanley Archives myself, although Jane Cameron and Tansy Newman have been extremely helpful.

LJ: Who has contributed to it?
DT: Over a hundred people, many of them Islanders. I'm not sure how many I should mention on the Islands when there are so many, but Sally Blake has probably contributed most essays so far. Of outside names, Lord Hurd - that's Douglas Hurd who visited when he was Foreign Secretary - wrote up his father who was a director of the Falkland Islands Company. Lord Jellicoe, who alas died last year, wrote up his friend Lord Shackleton. Frank Mitchell is a great authority on Falklands history and has written up the admirals of the 1914 battle. Several well known authors have contributed on the exploration side and on South Georgia - Bob Burton, Alan Gurney, Bob Headland, Andrew David, Ray Desmond, the list goes on.

LJ: When and where is the launch and who will attend?
DT: Let's get it printed first! I hope in London in March - we shall invite all the contributors and present them with their copies of the book.

LJ: Is it illustrated?
DT: Yes, indeed. I would say...
The Falkland Islands Association

Patron: The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS.
President: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Hurd, CH, CBE.
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Hon. Secretary: Mr C E Wright.

The Falkland Islands Association brings together those who support the continuing freedom of the people of the Falkland Islands. Its Constitution states that its objectives are:

“To assist the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves without being subjected to pressure direct or indirect from any quarter.”

The Association is independent, but maintains close links with many other Falklands organisations. It is a major source of information about the Falklands. It publishes a newsletter, which all members receive, covering political and social events in the Islands, wildlife, tourism, philately, and many other subjects. It welcomes interest in the Falklands and invites all those who share its aims to become members.

Membership Application

I/We would like to support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves and to help them develop their islands in accordance with their wishes.

I/We wish to join the Falkland Islands Association (Individual members annual subscription £15, Pensioners and Students £5, corporate members minimum £50, Corporate Sponsorship £500).

Name ..............................................................................................
Address ...........................................................................................

Connection with Falklands, if any .................................................
Signature ......................................................................................

Date ................ Telephone .........................................................
Please return to: Falkland Islands Association, Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H OBH. Applicants who do not wish to cut this form from a Newsletter are invited to use a photocopy of it. Members are requested are not to use this form for membership renewals.

Bankers Order

To .................................................................................................

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Please pay to National Westminster Bank Plc, Piccadilly Circus Branch, 19 Shaftsbury Avenue, London W1V 7RL, Bank Code 56 00 29 for credit to: THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION, Account No. 24223999, the sum of ........... pounds on receipt of this order and thereafter annually on the anniversary thereof.

Name ..............................................................................................
Address ...........................................................................................

Account ................................................ Date ..................................
Signature ......................................................................................

Dates for your diary

Battle Day: December 8.

To readers: A booking form was sent out with the last Newsletter and should have been sent to E.C.J.Clapp MBE, Hon Treasurer, 32 The Furlongs, Needingworth, St Ives, Huntingdonshire PE27 4TX together with a cheque for £16 per person payable to the Falkland Islands Association. Applications, which should include the names of all those attending, should be with Mr Clapp by November 10th to allow time for the issue of Invitation/Security cards which will give access to the AGM and Buffet Luncheon in the Foreign Office after the Battle Day Ceremony in Whitehall. Make sure you include your full address.

Advertising

The present circulation of the Newsletter is 4,500 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, all Members of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly, members of the House of Lords, all British Members of the European Parliament, and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth and foreign countries. Seven hundred copies are distributed in the Falkland Islands.

Advertising rates as follows:

Full page .......................................................... £250
Half page ...................................................... £125
Quarter page ................................................ £65
Eighth page .................................................... £35
Short insertions ........................................ £3 per line

Discounts for four insertions by negotiation. A special concession is offered to Association members living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

Release of copyrights

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Stanley’s historic racecourse safe for further fifteen years

Top: Late 1950’s Falklands jockeys, Stan Clethero on Tronador and Keith Betts on Candelaja. Photo J Leonard. Below: 1960’s (left) a wheelbarrow race for the punters to enjoy and (right) a flying start on mainly Falkland Island bred horses.

STANLEY’S much-loved racecourse has been preserved from development for the next fifteen years.

Horse-owners, jockeys and punters alike have been concerned from some years that the land on which the course is situated, which is owned by the Falkland Islands Company (FIC), was in danger of being developed for much needed housing.

The racecourse is in a prime Stanley spot at the West End of the town, situated only two streets back from the sea front with views of the harbour.

It was on lease to the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) from the FIC, but the lease ran out in 2006.

The Government and the FIC announced in September, however, that they had reached an agreement on a land exchange that would result in the whole of the racecourse site being under government ownership.

In exchange for the FIC-owned section of the racecourse and adjacent paddock (21.4 acres) FIG had agreed to convey to FIC two parcels of land measuring approximately 23.7 acres.

As part of the agreement FIG has agreed not to develop the area for a period of 15 years.

The racecourse is primarily used at Christmas time for the traditional two days of horseracing as well as a ‘mini-sports’ in February.

For the rest of the year the site is greatly appreciated by residents of West Stanley who can enjoy the attractive open space behind their homes.

When the future of the course was discussed some years ago, the majority of those commenting believed the historic area should remain unspoiled by development.