



Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

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THE ISLANDERS SPOKE OUT AND WON! THE NEW CONSTITUTION

After some three years in preparation, a proposed draft New Constitution for the Falkland Islands arrived in Stanley in December. The Islanders did not like it one bit. They protested forcefully. They were heard. They succeeded.

Unfortunately the Foreign and Commonwealth Office declined to allow us in England even to see a draft of the proposed New Constitution, although the document has been copied and widely distributed within the Falkland Islands. So far we have still not seen a copy, and we have had to rely on what we have read in *Penguin News* and recent press reports in the British national press.

PROPOSED DIRECT RULE FOR SOUTH GEORGIA

Reports confirm that the proposed New Constitution omitted all reference to the Falkland Islands Dependencies, of which the Governor of the Falkland

Islands in Council has been the Administering Authority since 1908. As early as August 1984 members of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee, in the course of informal discussions, had warned the Foreign & Commonwealth Office that this would be unwelcome in the Islands and, perhaps more seriously, would be misinterpreted in Argentina.

Penguin News of 17th December reported "a mood of disquiet building up" and that "Councillors and other citizens are disturbed and angry". It was predicted that the Islanders' concern would be expressed forcefully at a joint Councils meeting with Mr. David Thomas, described as a visiting senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office man. It was even suggested that the Councillors would throw out the Constitution entirely unless continued Falkland Islands Dependency status was assured.

UPROAR IN STANLEY

The predictions of *Penguin News* seem to have been justified. The Constitution issue seemed to revive all the old suspicions of the Foreign Office, said *Penguin News* and reported that, at a fiery meeting, the visiting Mr. Thomas was told very clearly by the Councillors of their dissatisfaction. Mr. Thomas is said to have retorted that if the proposed Constitution was rejected then a new draft might not be prepared before the elections next year.

Undeterred, the Islanders plastered graffiti in prominent places around Stanley. *Penguin News* reported one slogan as reading "Divorce South Georgia betrays Kelpers", while another poster on the doors of the Town Hall denounced the Constitution as a whole, and proclaimed

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The peat cutting machine at Goose Green
Left to right: Major-General Alan Mills, Ian Jaffrey, Brook Hardcastle

"think again". At the entrance to Government House, where the visiting Foreign and Commonwealth Office Under Secretary, David Thomas, was staying, appeared a placard bearing the accusation "double dealing on Falklands — F.C.O. out".

"If a future British Government wanted to come to some agreement with Argentina over the Falklands", said Councillor John Cheek, "it would then exclude South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Possibly they could get rid of the Falklands while retaining those dependencies".

Jim Clement of the Sheep Owners' Association expressed his belief that Islanders must loudly voice their dissatisfaction. "I think that if the protest from here is strong enough, we could have a strong chance of doing something", he said to *Penguin News*.

Mr. Thomas left the Islands saying that he would be reporting the strength of the Islanders' feeling to his superiors in London, whilst the Islanders held their breath and waited.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION AMENDED

The *Daily Telegraph* of 16th January reported the joyous scenes in Stanley when Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, announced changes to the New Constitution. According to the *Daily Telegraph*

The Islanders right to self-determination will be enshrined in the Constitution, as proposed by Councillor Tony Blake.

There will be a Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands "who shall be the officer administering the government of the Falkland Islands".

The *Daily Telegraph* went on to explain that the Commissioner would have to consult the Executive Council before taking any decision concerning South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands which might affect the Falklands.

The New Constitution also recommends the abolition of the Military Commissioner's title, said the *Daily Telegraph*. This will lapse when Major General de la Billière completes his tour of duty in August. However the Commander British Forces Falkland Islands will still have a non-voting seat on both Councils.

ORDER IN COUNCIL

The *Times* of 18th January reported the Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher, during question time in the House of Commons, in answer to Dr. David Owen:

"He would have thought it strange if we had made or attempted to make any decision without discussing their own future with the people. We are discussing it with them.

"When we reach a conclusion details will be placed in the Library for MP's and when the new constitution is ready and the texts are ready, they will be introduced by Orders in Council".

and in the House of Lords, Lady Young said:

"The Government has agreed the human rights chapter of the new constitution should have a preamble reaffirming the islanders right to self-determination. The wording repeats the provisions regarding self-determination in Article One of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights".

If these press reports are correct, it would appear that the Falkland Islanders have succeeded in securing two important amendments.

We wholeheartedly applaud this success.

SIR REX TO RETIRE IN SEPTEMBER

Sir Rex Hunt, Civil Commissioner of the Falkland Islands, is to retire on full pension in September after five and a half years at Stanley.

When Mr. Rex Masterman Hunt CMG, ex RAF fighter pilot and previously Councillor and Deputy High Commissioner, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, took over as Governor of the Falkland Islands on 30th January, 1980, little did he realise that his term of office in what was then considered to be a little known outpost, would witness an invasion by the neighbouring large power and a small, but none the less full-scale, bloody war. Neither did he realise that during the course of his Governorship, he would become, although in rather distressing circumstances, a figure known throughout the world, and of whom many were immensely proud and respectful.

A man of decision and displaying command and leadership, sometimes to the discomfort of others, Sir Rex has also well demonstrated, as many individuals came to know, the very compassionate and caring side of his character when tending his flock, the Kelpers, each of whom he knew personally.

Last year the Islanders successfully petitioned Mrs. Thatcher to allow Sir Rex to remain for a further fifteen months, despite speculation that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office wished to replace him with a more docile diplomat.

Sir Rex, who will be 59 in June, is retiring from the Diplomatic Service nine months early, and the granting of a full pension is apparently in recognition of his demanding work in the Islands.

We all wish Sir Rex and Lady Hunt our very best wishes for the future.

His successor will be Mr. Gordon Jewkes, Consul General in Chicago.



Sir Rex Hunt, CMG, who is to retire as Civil Commissioner in September

ERIC OGDEN, THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMITTEE

Eric Ogden, the new Chairman of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee, has been a member of that very effective group for many years; he is also to be Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association and is a member of the South West Atlantic Group. He has proved his loyalty and support for the British Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

Mr. Ogden, who first saw the Islands from a fast merchant ship sailing independently from New York to the Pacific war zones in 1943, renewed his interest whilst a Member of Parliament many years before the Falklands broke onto the world scene. As Vice-Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association All Party Group in 1981, he made his first visit to the Islands together with Mr. Michael Shersby MP. Their task was partly to listen and learn, but also to report back to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Had only a small part of their report been accepted and implemented then, the Junta might well have been deterred from invading in 1982.



Mr. Eric Ogden,
Chairman of the United Kingdom Falkland Island Committee

S.D.P. SPOKESMAN

By 1982, Eric Ogden had joined the Social Democratic Party. During those great Falklands debates in the House of Commons that year, he was their front bench spokesman. His knowledge of and commitment to the Falkland Islanders was recognised by The Speaker, the Government and the Backbenchers, and his influence had much to do with the support which the S.D.P. gave to the Government and the Islanders during those difficult months. Now that he is no longer a Member of Parliament, it is noticeable that different opinions have become more dominant in the Alliance parties.

In 1983, he was invited back to the Islands by the Falkland Islands Government for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations, as a token of his support for the Kelpers.

It is no secret that he had hoped to become the new Falkland Islands Representative in London on the retirement of Mr. Adrian Monk. When this appointment was not offered to him, he generously congratulated Mr. Alastair Cameron, the new Representative, and offered him his full help and support.

TASK OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Ogden believes that the propaganda battles of the last two years have been lost by the Falkland Islands Government and their friends in the United Kingdom partly, at least, by default, and is determined that this must not be permitted to happen during 1985, nor in the future. He has called for both the case for the Falklands and the voices of the Falkland Islanders to be heard again loudly and clearly. This, he says, is the task of the Falkland Islands Committee in the months ahead: "The UKFIC and the FIA have done this before, and they will do it again!"

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Before accepting the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee, Mr. Ogden put his opinions on the necessary terms of reference, the Aims and Objectives of the Committee, to Mrs. Velma Malcolm, Secretary of the Stanley Falkland Islands Committee and the members in the Islands, and these were unanimously agreed in Stanley and confirmed in London.

1. *To support the continuing British Sovereignty and British Administration of the Falkland Islands and the Falkland Islands Dependencies in their proper context of the South West Atlantic and Antarctica.*
2. *To use every resource available to win the hearts and minds of the British people in support of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies.*
3. *To improve and revitalise the Pro-Falklands organisations in the United Kingdom and to encourage supporters overseas.*
4. *To oppose more openly and effectively those who, from ignorance, false idealism, misguided opportunism or any other reason, would put British citizens at risk, by apparently preferring Argentine interests to British lives and interests.*
5. *To encourage the Islanders to be more aware of the dangers from apparent apathy and false reliance on the determination of any one person (even one so determined as Mrs. Thatcher) to guarantee the future freedom and security of the Falkland Islands.*
6. *To help and support the Falkland Islands Committee in Stanley, so that we can encourage Islanders leaders to be more co-operative together, and with us, so that more decisions about the Falkland Islands are taken in the Islands, rather than in London.*
7. *To offer constructive criticism more openly of anyone in the Falkland Islands or elsewhere, who ought to do more to support and maintain the Falkland Islands and the proper governance and development of the Falkland Islands.*

MORE ACTIVE, MORE EFFECTIVE

The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee has been strengthened: it is now more active and more effective. When the Argentine clergy came to the British Council of Churches Assembly last November, members of the Committee were present to put the case for the Falklands. When the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee reported last December, Committee and Association members were present and spoke up for the Falkland Islanders. Much more has been and is being done in preparation for the media battles of the months and years ahead.

FALKLAND ISLANDS MUST REMAIN BRITISH

Eric Ogden asserts that the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee believe that the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies have always been British, are British and must remain British. He says, "The Argentine claims to the Falkland Islands, and the Dependencies and Antarctica, are less valid than would be Mexican claims to California, Spanish claims to Holland, or, even, Danish claims to Buxton". "By all means let us hope", he continued, "that the new democracy in Argentina will grow in spirit and in good will, but not at the cost of sacrificing British citizens and British interests, simply to appease Argentine illusions". "In time the Argentine Government may cease repeating the same claims and promises made by the Junta; in time they have to recognise that Argentina lost the war that they started, and that now the sovereignty of the British Falkland Islands has been decided once and for all!"

In the coming months, the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee will be working with their new Chairman and the Falkland Islands Association to speak up for the Falkland Islanders, and to encourage them to speak up for themselves.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER

Mr. Eric Ogden, as Chairman of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee, wrote to the Prime Minister on 6th December, telling her of our support in every effort that she and her Government can make to secure a free, prospering and British democracy in the Falkland Islands. In his letter, Mr. Ogden asked Mrs. Thatcher to consider again the following two points:

1. The urgent need for a Falklands and Dependencies Fishery Zone, to conserve a natural resource of the Islands, and secure much needed revenue for the Falkland Islands Government.
2. The real danger that the governance of the Dependencies will be completely separated from that of the Falkland Islands when the new proposed Falklands constitution is implemented, and that this will certainly be read in Buenos Aires as a signal once more that Britain is willing to "sell the Falklands".

The following is Mrs. Thatcher's reply:

10 DOWNING STREET
THE PRIME MINISTER 10 January, 1985

Dear Mr. Ogden

Thank you for your letter of 6 December telling me that you have replaced Sir John Barlow as Chairman of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee and that he has now become your first President. May I send my best wishes to you both and to the other members of the Committee.

I welcome your support for the Government's policy towards the Falkland Islands. We shall stand by our commitment to the Islanders' right to live under a government of their own choosing, in a climate of security and economic well-being.

You raised the question of an Exclusive Fisheries Limit. The Government are very conscious of the concern about the depletion of fishing stocks in the area and are considering the possibility of establishing an appropriate fisheries regime around the Falkland Islands in which both conservation and the need to generate income for the Falkland Islands Government would be important elements. But as the Foreign Affairs Committee recognised in their report on the Falkland Islands, this raises a number of complex issues and no decision has yet been taken.

You also asked about the promulgation of separate Constitutions for the Falkland Islands and the Dependencies. These Constitutions must obviously reflect reality and need to be tailored to the requirements of each territory. As I explained in the House of Commons on 22 April 1982, the Dependencies are a separate dependent territory and have only been administered as a matter of convenience through the Falkland Islands Government. However, I am very well aware of the feelings of the Falkland Islanders on the subject. Whatever arrangements are decided will enable the views of the Falkland Islanders to be taken into account on aspects of the administration of the Dependencies which bear directly on the Falkland Islands themselves.

I understand your concern that the Argentines might draw the wrong conclusions from the decision to promulgate separate Constitutions for the Falkland Islands and the Dependencies. But they would have absolutely no grounds for interpreting it as a signal that we might ultimately be prepared to give up the Falklands but retain the Dependencies. Nor would the Islanders. All round them, the Islanders can see a wealth of tangible evidence to show our firm commitment to the Falklands, especially our defence dispositions and the building of the new airport. Our firm stand at the Berne talks, and the results of the very considerable effect that the Government put into the United Nations General Assembly debate in October will, I hope, also have reassured them.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

HOUSE OF COMMONS FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

Three members of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee were able to attend the Press Conference held at the Palace of Westminster by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee on 12th December.

Answering questions members of the Foreign Affairs Committee were at pains to point out that the apparent doubts on the sovereignty issue, expressed in their report, were due to the lack of the Committee's legal expertise on such an issue, but they stressed their belief that any claims by Argentina had been rendered less relevant by the illegal resort to force in April 1982.

They urged the British Government to expedite the new constitutional reforms, which they said would be significant steps towards greater control by the Islanders over their internal affairs, and criticised the 'funereal pace' in the initial setting up of the Development Corporation. It was taken that this was a criticism of Whitehall and not of either the Falkland Islands Government nor of the Development Corporation itself.

On the establishment of a 200 mile Exclusive Fishing Zone, they admitted that the information about the fish resources existing in the area published in our November issue were unknown to them at the time of writing their report. They said that they would look further into the matter.

After the Press Conference the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee put out a Press Release:

'The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee welcome the Report of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee as a significant contribution by an All Party Committee. We are pleased that Sir Anthony Kershaw M.P., the Chairman of the Select Committee emphasised that there is no intention by the Committee to suggest that Britain should cede, sell or barter the British Sovereignty of the Falkland Islands or the Dependencies.

'The UKFIC agree with the Committee's recommendations that, much as we want good relations between our countries, and with all possible good will for the new democracy in Argentina, we should not and must not sacrifice the present and future of the British citizens of the British Falkland Islands.

'Urgent consideration ought now to be given to the proper development of the Falkland Islands, not only in their own right, but as the British gateway to the mineral and natural resources of the whole of the South West Atlantic'.

THE STANLEY BY-ELECTION

by Lynda Glennie

Many people at the west end of Stanley were truly surprised when Harold Bennett JP OBE romped home in the October Stanley By-Election for the Legislative Council. The election speeches had been great fun, although my landlady had gone to sleep during the one promoting youth and vitality and promising facilities for evening macrame classes.

HAROLD BENNETT OBE, pensioner and ex-Magistrate, stated as his first priority, the new hospital and old folks' home. Then lengthening our sights to the perimeter of a 200 mile exclusive fishing zone, he swiftly returned his to a vision of a prim and tidy Stanley with a spanking new prison, public conveniences and resurfaced roads, though not necessarily in that order. The subject of sovereignty, he reassured us, was closed.

TERRY BETTS, father of two, spoke with feeling of the need for a larger population. He had nothing but praise for the new Development Corporation and, while promising to fight for the much desired 200 mile fishing limit, Mr. Betts was very keen to re-establish trading links with old friends: Chile and Uruguay. His experience after twenty years as Chairman of the 500 strong General Employees Union would surely help to make an honest and just settlement of Stanley!

PHIL MIDDLETON, Manager of the local brewery, Penguin Ale and Lager, warned against alcoholism in the young, the spread of TV and video, and the danger of the Falklands becoming a cultural desert.

The election took place while I was at Fox Bay, actually the day before the United States Presidential Election. The three Stanley candidates were offered the opportunity to be interviewed on John Smith's News Magazine on local radio. A canny Scot at Fox Bay asked if any of the three had declined the offer.

"Yes", we said, "Mr. Harold Bennett did".

"Ay", said the Scot, "He'll win!"

In a 66% turnout, Mr. Bennett attracted 125 votes. The result can be interpreted in several ways. One is that the electorate of Stanley includes a high proportion of retired Islanders. Secondly, Islanders were worried about the New Constitution and they wanted Mr. Bennett's legal experience on the Legislative Council. Thirdly, and probably the most important factor, Mr. Bennett would be unwavering on sovereignty. Terry Betts has a brother in Buenos Aires, who publicly expresses embarrassing views on the future of the Falklands. Phil Middleton is virtually a newcomer, having been in the Islands less than ten years.

CLAIMS OF ARGENTINE DELEGATES REBUTTED BY FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMITTEE

Late in November a nine strong delegation of Argentine Protestant clergy arrived in Britain at the invitation of the British Council of Churches, as part of a continuing dialogue between United Kingdom and Argentine clergy.

The delegation included the Right Rev. Richard Cutts (Bishop of Argentina and Eastern South America) and Dr. Arnoldo Canclini (Baptist), both of whom have at one time preached in Christ Church Cathedral Stanley, Professor Jose Miguez Bonino (Methodist), Professor Emilio Monti (Methodist), Dr. Ricardo Pietrantonio (Lutheran) and Professor N. Berton.

The Argentine visitors opened their tour on Monday

26th November with an informal private meeting and discussion, chaired by Elizabeth Salter, a Quaker, at Church House, Westminster. This was followed on Wednesday 28th November by a debate on "The Falklands Conflict — two years after, and the role of the Churches in reconciliation" at the Autumn Assembly of the British Council of Churches in London. The Argentine delegation then split up into small groups and toured the length and breadth of Britain, visiting major cities such as Edinburgh, York, Liverpool, Cardiff and Coventry. The pattern was similar: private meetings with certain influential people interested in Latin American politics followed by public debates.

ARGENTINE PROPAGANDA

At all the events the Argentine delegation seems to have lost no opportunity to promote Argentina's political case over the Falkland Islands, and did it well. It has been reported that at Church House, Westminster, Professor Monti, in a prepared statement, declared that they wished to go back to the pre-war situation with the British Government discussing sovereignty with Argentina, or else it would seem that the sheer force and might of arms had determined the issue, which was not morally right: later it became very apparent that their idea of 'discussing sovereignty' was that it should be handed over to Argentina at the earliest practical opportunity. At the Autumn Assembly, Professor Bonino stated that negotiations "can't exclude the subject of sovereignty, because that is the core of the conflict". Dr. Pietrantonio exclaimed "If the question of sovereignty is not present, what are we going to talk about!", and expressed concern about the "unjustified British military presence in the Falklands". Bishop Cutts maintained the view that, although the wishes of the Falkland Islanders were important, they should not be paramount.

At York University the public meeting was advertised as "Peace and Reconciliation — Voices from the Argentine Church". However, our observer there has expressed surprise that, instead of being primarily concerned in finding ways of reconciliation between the Argentine and British people, the visiting delegates were just promoting the Argentine policy towards the Falkland Islands and their inhabitants. Of the Argentine delegates present, only Bishop Cutts had ever visited the Islands, and what he said of the Islanders was patronising and even dismissive.

In the face of all this Argentine propaganda at the various debates, British church leaders remained almost silent, but for two significant contributions at the Church Assembly. The Archbishop of York, Dr. Habgood, said that he had earlier asked the delegation why hostilities could not now be officially declared at an end. He was told, he said, that they had never been officially started. "That is not good enough", said Dr. Habgood, "It is sheer 'pie-in-the-sky' to imagine that someone is going to produce a political solution quickly by just sitting down and talking".

The Secretary-General of the General Synod, Mr. Derek Pattinson asserted that Argentina, although the former regime had been responsible for creating the problem, now had a duty to undo it. Argentina had also failed to consider the 'Falklands factor', but it must now normalise its relations and compromise its claim to sovereignty.

SPEAKING FOR THE ISLANDERS

In spite of no formal opportunity being provided by the British Council of Churches for a formal presentation of the Falkland Islanders' case, two members of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee and the Falkland Islands Association, the Rev. Peter Millam and Mr. Eric

Ogden, were able on two separate occasions to comment publicly on the Argentine delegates' claims. On both occasions, the Argentine clergy were courteously, but firmly, told that the claims that they were putting forward in support of the new democratic government of Argentina were exactly the same claims and promises put forward before the invasion by the Junta. While previous Argentine Governments misunderstood the intentions of the British Government and people, the delegates should be under no misunderstanding: after 150 years and more of British sovereignty and government, after invasion and liberation, and with all the good will in the world towards the new democracy in Argentina, Britain would wish to live at peace with Argentina, to develop proper diplomatic and trade relations with Argentina, but that the Argentine people ought to recognise that they lost the war which they had started, and that neither the people nor the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies are for sale or for barter.

Mr. Millam and Mr. Ogden also told the British clergy that it was already past the time when they should have visited their fellow clergy, not only in Argentina, but also in the Falkland Islands, that they talked not only to Christian people in Argentina, but tried to visit their fellow Christians in Stanley and in the Camp. Above all, they should go to listen to the Falkland Islanders, who, in the words of the Rev. Harry Bagnall's own poem, only want to 'raise their children and their sheep in a peaceful country'.

At York, the Rev. Jeremy Howat found himself to be the only voice at the first meeting, and only one of four voices at the public meeting to cross-question the delegates, or to express radically different opinions from those of the Argentine clergy.

THE TASK AHEAD

Throughout their visit it was clear where the Argentine delegates stood on the sovereignty issue, and that their minds were closed to any other outcome than that of a complete Argentine 'takeover'. It was equally clear that their quiet, largely unopposed, persuasiveness succeeded in swaying some of their listeners to their point of view.

This illustrates typically the task now facing the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee and the members of the Falkland Islands Association. The problem must be met and it must be overcome, but, to achieve this, we need greater active support from the people of the Islands, or the Kelpers' case will go by default, and only one side, the Argentine, will ever be heard.

There is to be a return visit of British Churchmen to Argentina this summer.

Compiled from the reports of Mr. Eric Ogden, the Rev. Peter Millam, the Rev. J. N. T. Howat, and the Church Times of 30th November, 1984, with thanks.

'SWAG' GETS A NEW MEANING

by Mr. Eric Ogden

Over the past three years 'Falklands Watchers' have become increasingly aware of the interest and activities of an independent group with growing influence on matters concerning British interests in the South West Atlantic. It is from this interest that the group has become known by the rather buccaneering title of 'SWAG', which is seepspeak for the SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC GROUP. This brief account breaks no confidences and is intended to be a factual report of its aims and objectives, and a modest tribute to the integrity of its founders and membership.

The South West Atlantic Group is an informal body, founded in 1981 by Lord Shackleton, Admiral Sir Edmund Irving, Sir Peter Scott, Sir Vivian Fuchs, Commander

Ranken and Mr. J. Parker. Later it was joined by Lord Buxton and others including the writer.

The intention was to bring together informed persons of diverse or no political affiliation, who have direct knowledge and experience of the British Islands of the South West Atlantic, of Antarctica, and of southern South America, to create a forum for the exchange of ideas and information. The purpose is to maintain and promote British interests in those areas, to help their peaceful development, and to encourage the proper management and conservation of their natural resources.

WIDE SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE

In their shared knowledge and experience, the Group can command particular respect, for there is probably no other informal group which can bring together such wide and specialist knowledge of the social, economic, political, strategic and scientific realities of the region.

The Group has maintained the importance of the British Falkland Islands and Dependencies, not only in their own right and in our United Kingdom interests, but also as the British 'gateway' to Antarctica, where the Group looks to the uninterrupted continuation of the Antarctic Treaty as an example of how nations can work together for the benefit of all.

PEACEFUL CO-OPERATION

'SWAG' recognises that the proper management, development and control of the natural resources of the area would be better and more easily obtained with the co-operation and goodwill of the new democratic Government of Argentina; they are as disappointed as any that this has not been apparent or forthcoming to date.

The Group supports a resumption of normal, peaceful, diplomatic and trade relations between Britain and Argentina and the Falklands. They are no less convinced that it would be wrong to cede, sell or barter any part of British territories or British interests, simply to appease past or present Argentine claims in the area.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING

The South West Atlantic Group exists to promote a better understanding of the importance of the area to the United Kingdom; it exists to promote a better understanding and mutual respect between all those concerned in, and for, the prudent management, control and conservation of the natural resources of the South and South West Atlantic and Antarctic Oceans.

Nowhere will this be more important than in matters concerning the security and the economic and social development of the Falkland Islands, for the people of the Islands.

SWAG has already made its mark on affairs and events, and it is set to grow in strength and influence in the years ahead.

FOX BAY VILLAGE

by Lynda Glennie

Fox Bay lies on West Falkland inside the Falkland Sound, the stretch of water dividing East and West Falkland. Fox Bay Village, which formally was called Fox Bay East, lying to the east of the harbour, is experiencing its first summer as the only independent village in the Falkland Islands. It is now the base for a pilot study of inshore fishing, and the Grimsby trawler *Coastal Pioneer*, skippered by Falkland Islander Delano Jennings, arrived there in December. The main expectations, however, centre on the new wool mill.

THE FALKLAND MILL

Built in the nissen hut style of many Falklands shearing sheds, the Falkland Wool Mill stands in the back garden of Richard and Grizelda Cockwell's lovely old farmhouse; indeed the sorting and scouring will actually take place in the old wash house.

The Mill is tantalisingly close to completion, but a crate of main frame components for the spinning machine, inexplicably, had been sent from Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, to Pakistan by mistake and, on my arrival at Fox Bay in October, mill owner Richard Cockwell was passing frantic radio messages to the local Government in Stanley and thence to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London, in an attempt to re-route the now impounded vital part.

By the end of December, the crate was back in England again, at Heathrow bound for Cleckheaton for checking by David Firth & Co. Ltd., the suppliers, and everyone was praying that the Ministry of Defence would allow it to be airbridged to the Islands.

By January the missing parts had been loaded onto a Ministry of Defence boat due to arrive in the Falklands early in February.

Meanwhile during my visit in October, the rest of the machinery was being assembled carefully. There was a strong Scottish influence in the enterprise. Lecturer Tom Cassidy, from the Scottish College of Textiles in Galashiels had helped the Cockwells adapt the concept of the Alternative Spinning Route to the unique conditions at Fox Bay. The sequence was unconventional, as has been described in the February 1984 Newsletter: a mixture of traditional woollen and worsted processes. Grizelda Cockwell and Carol Cant were producing original designs for Kit Knits and knitted garments, mainly in natural colours initially. Work on the scouring tanks and the steam pressing equipment is going ahead and should be completed soon, but even by as late as December, electrical power had not been installed. The tentative opening date is in mid February. The initial turnover of the Mill is expected to be £500,000 a year.

TEXTILE MARKET AUGURS SUCCESS

Fox Bay Village welcomes all visitors proudly and did not flinch when seven Westminster MP's arrived all at once in the early days of November. Scottish Conservative Mrs. Anna McCurley particularly warned about the importance of keeping two steps ahead of the knitwear trend. She saw parallels with Highlands and Islands projects at home, and sympathised with the problems of setting up a textile industry where there was no existing infrastructure. It was generally felt that the happy state of the textile market in Britain augured well for the success of the wool mill. It was, in fact the first time that knitting wool would be produced commercially in the Falklands and the project had attracted the wholehearted support of the new Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

General Manager Simon Armstrong had left the Highlands and Islands Development Board to go to the Falklands in the middle of 1984. His small office in Stanley provides financial assistance and advice for any serious Falklands enterprise that can be termed 'developing'. He is now a Director of the Falklands Mill, and the Development Corporation has a 45% share.

The All Party Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, presenting their report just before Christmas, criticised the lack of urgency government departments had seemed to display in setting up the Development Corporation, but praised the wool mill project, which they said represented "the ideal form of development for the Islands, drawing on their staple product and marketing a product with an unique Falklands

characteristic".

The team of advisors from the Scottish College of Textiles have now returned back to Britain, but an advisor, Mr. Phil Scofield, is expected to return to Fox Bay soon in company with a technician from the machinery suppliers.

The Cockwells's plan to buy wool from a number of small privately owned farms in the Islands; these small farms, each with about 3,000 sheep, resulted from the sale and subdivision of, to date, five large farms, following the recommendations for urgent land reform in Lord Shackleton's Economic Studies of 1976 and 1982.

MILK AND SALMON

On the same day that the Westminster MP's visited Fox Bay, Nigel and Shirley Knight moved across the harbour from Fox Bay West, where they had been Farm Managers for the Falkland Islands Company, to take up one of the two subdivisions, available following the sale of Fox Bay East by Packe Brothers. Tony and June McMullen from Goose Green were taking over the Managership of Fox Bay West.

A small machine milked herd of cattle is already established at Fox Bay Village to provide for the community of approaching 40 people. Ken and Joyce Halliday run the dairy of 15 cows, producing about 7 gallons of milk a day, as well as being in charge of the Post Office, Store, Flights, Radio Telephone, etc.

Simon Hardcastle, son of Brook and Eileen Hardcastle the Falkland Islands Company's Camp Manager, planned to move into the converted cookhouse, now a privately owned boarding house, from where he would set up Salmon Farming at Fox Bay. After four years studying Fisheries and Agriculture at a south of England agricultural college, Simon had spent the previous months supplying the Stanley Fish and Chip shop with more than £100 worth of freshly caught mullet each week.

SCHOOLS AND A COMMUNITY CENTRE

Education has certainly looked up at Fox Bay. Peter Felton, who has been teaching children in the Falklands since the early 1970s, runs the small school at Fox Bay Village, matched by a similar school at Fox Bay West, where Geoff Moir DFC is the permanent teacher.

Richard Cockwell was elected Spokesman at the first Village Council Meeting and plans are under way for the Village to have a small Community Centre of their own.

AT HOME AND ABROAD

DURHAM UNIVERSITY UNION FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE

British Foreign Policy on the Falklands and Argentina is expected to be a central theme in the Durham University Union debate in mid January. The motion

'That this house believes that Britain is neglecting her international interests'

is expected to be proposed by Liberal and Labour Members of Parliament. Both of these political parties have now adopted policies opposed to the continuing British Sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, and are in favour of some form of Argentine share and participation in the sovereignty and governance of the Falklands.

The motion is to be opposed by Lady Young (the Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office responsible for Falklands and South American affairs), and, in this, she will be supported by Mr. Eric Ogden, the Chairman of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee.

The Falkland Islands Association and the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee have been the strongest critics of British Foreign Office policy towards the Falklands before the Argentine invasion. That has changed since the Liberation. We remain critics, but critics who would help and support the Foreign Office to do more. We support what has been done, and are ready to oppose those who would seek to use the Falklands as a part of their general opposition to the present British Government.

Whatever form the Durham debate takes on the night, we can be sure that the case for the Falklands will be heard, loud and clear!

This is one more example of the current activities of the Falkland Islands Association members' involvement in the new battles for the Falkland Islands.

SHEPHERDS AND STOCK FROM NEW ZEALAND

Ten shepherds recruited in New Zealand by the Falkland Islands Company have been flown out to the Falklands to work on the Company's farms, and it is hoped that they will become permanent settlers. Apparently there is a shortage of skill in the Islands. Mr. David Britton, Managing Director of the Falkland Islands Company, said, "There is a great affinity between the New Zealanders and the Falkland Islanders. Both are sheep oriented island communities and the New Zealanders are sympathetic to the practical problems involved".

Seventy stud rams and ewes from South Island, New Zealand and a number of thoroughbred horses have been shipped out by the Company as well, to replace most of those killed during the War.

Mr. Britton said, "These all represent a big investment by the Company and illustrates its confidence in the future of the Islands and their economy".

PEAT CUTTING

Goose Green has a new peat cutting machine and Brook Hardcastle took Major General Mills and Lynda Glennie to see it during their recent visit to the Islands.

Lynda reported that the machine was very impressive: in ten days Ian Jaffray and his son Kenneth had cut 5,000 yards with the tractor travelling at a maximum speed of 10 mph. That day they had cut 425 cubic yards by just before lunch time.

The cost is £6,500 for the basic machine, but £20,000 including a tractor with a creep gear and £7,500 for the Harvester. Ian Jaffray estimated that he had used 25 gallons of fuel for 500 yards.

The Falkland Islands Company are trying the machine at Goose Green and, so far, the results are encouraging, but such a piece of equipment would not be very easy to move around the Islands to other Company farms. There were obvious advantages, not the least for the landscape: the machine sliced diagonally into the soil, sucking the peat up from underneath the top surface, then extruding it in five sausages to lay on the surface of the land to dry. The peat would dry in two or three weeks and there was no wastage. The McConnell Arm at Saunders Island produced as much peat dust as large lumps, and left deep water-logged trenches over the land.

The only question mark was what to do about 'bankers' for the peat fire, Rayburn or Aga? If the 5" diameter sausage shaped piece of peat was suitable to serve as a 'banker' as well, then well and good. Otherwise a small quantity of peat would still have to be hand dug on a settlement to keep the fire in at night.

FALKLAND ISLANDS SOUVENIR PLOTS

In November many people both in the Falkland Islands and Britain were amazed and very concerned to read that

property dealers Earl & Lawrence of 63/65 Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5GB were offering 'souvenir plots' in the Falkland Islands for sale on behalf of a Bromley business man.

The plots of size 0.011 of an acre were advertised as being located just off the new Darwin to Stanley road, close to Fitzroy Ridge at a cost of £36.50 each. The land was stated to be unfenced and undeveloped, and as a souvenir only, not to be built upon. On receipt of payment, the purchaser was told that he or she would receive an acknowledgement, together with three copies of the intended Conveyance and instructions on how to complete the Conveyance to give it legal effect. The document would then be returned to the purchaser with plans of the Freehold site. The Conveyance was described as registerable, and suggested as the Christmas present for 'people who have everything'. This suggestion prompted the journal *Estate Times* of 23rd November to nominate the Bromley 'business man' for this year's award for the sickest Christmas present idea, and said it was for 'people who have everything — everything except a conscience'. They calculated that the business man stands to gross about £165,000 for the 50 acres.

The land offered for sale comprised one of the sections of Fitzroy Farm, subdivided and sold by the Falkland Islands Company. The existing grazing rights are reserved. Commenting on the souvenir plots in *Penguin News* No. 69, Mr. David Britton, Managing Director of the Falkland Islands Company, stated that it was never the aim or wish of the Company that a plot be sold in this way, and, having taken a great deal of trouble to find out as much as possible about the intending purchasers, they are very surprised at the outcome. Mr. Britton went on to explain that it seems that each buyer will be left to make their own arrangements to register the transaction. If the maximum number of 4545 plots were registered at the suggested £5 each, the bright spot would be that the Falkland Islands Government would stand to gain something over £22,725.

FALKLAND ISLANDS RECEPTION 1985

This will be held at Lincoln's Inn on 14th June, the third anniversary of the Argentine surrender in 1982. We are delighted to announce that the Falkland Islands Government Office in London are taking over responsibility for this Reception, which will in future be their Official Annual Reception.

Members of the Falkland Islands Association will be welcome as usual, and application forms for tickets will be sent out with the May edition of the Newsletter. The Band of the Royal Marines will beat Retreat.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARGENTINA WAS TO BLAME NOT MRS. THATCHER

From Miss Kathleen Biggs

Sir, We have been asked repeatedly to shout. Shout at what? It has been known for some time now that our wishes are for no contact with Argentina in any way.

After the Argentine invasion on 2nd April, 1982, we shall never trust them again. I feel, as many Islanders do, that they are sly and deceitful.

Peace and Freedom is what we want, not rifles and guns pointing at us which ever way we go.

Listening to *Calling the Falklands*, it is very distressing to hear some of our Ministers hitting at Mrs. Thatcher over the sinking of the *General Belgrano*; they do not stop to think about the British ships and young lives which we lost in the conflict. Argentina was to blame when they invaded these Islands on 2nd April, not Mrs. Thatcher; her thought was for the Task Force, and I am sure that she was correct,

in her belief that the General Belgrano had to be put out of the way.

Mrs. Thatcher is as British as we are. I feel that some of our Ministers who uphold Argentina should go and live there.

Our Councillors know our feelings and I trust them to speak on our behalf.

Yours sincerely,

KATHLEEN BIGGS
P.O. Box 231,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FAR FROM FORCEFUL

From Mr. Sydney Miller CBE

Sir, I am writing to you because of the urging in the August number of the *Newsletter* for Islanders to make themselves heard both in Britain and out here. We have, at the moment, a Legislative Council, who, apart from their good efforts at the United Nations, are very far from forceful here in the Colony, and make virtually no effort to address or stir the community.

When Terry Peck resigned his seat recently, I was asked, and also tempted, to offer myself but, in the end, I refrained, because whoever won the seat needed to act in a very forceful manner. I doubted whether I would be able to maintain it in the manner which, regardless of the other five members, would be required. I shall be 80 next March, and I doubted whether I could maintain such a non-stop attitude in these Islands.

Too many journalists, and even people like the Liberal leader Steel, and others, who manage to get into print in the British Press, seem to be so ignorant of historical facts. Too many of them are also unaware of the fascist nature of the Argentines. During the 1939-45 War, Churchill sent a garrison of 2,000 men here, knowing full well how Nazi minded the Argentine was; he feared they might fill a couple of ships and cross over and take these Islands.

When they were in occupation here from 2nd April to 14th June, 1982, we were made very well aware of their Nazi nature: people, whom they did not like, were shipped away, either to England or to Fox Bay on West Falkland, or shut in a house, as happened at Goose Green, Pebble Island and Fox Bay. They had their Gestapo with them.

The group of MP's recently here, seemed to get a better idea of how we are or, at least some of us, think. Recently gained knowledge of how we 'tick' may help them in some of the debates and questions to the Prime Minister in the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,

SYDNEY MILLER,
Lois Cootage, John Street,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

MAX HASTINGS WAS WRONG

From Mrs. H. A. Willis, F.I. Association Member

Sir, Max Hastings said on the BBC Television programme *Question Time* (29th November) that the British military action in the Falklands was "absolutely right", but that we ought now to make over the Islands to Argentina. How curious! If it was right in 1982 to defend the small against the rapacious, has it now become wrong in the interval? If it was right then to stand by our kith and kin, is it not so now? If it was wrong then to bow to the rule of force, what has now made it better?

If Mr. Hastings' is a right assessment, and in view of his knowledge of the Falklands campaign many people may be inclined to accept his words without reflecting on their implications, aggressors can now seize territory by launching a war, even if they are defeated! The argument is in essence: since X will snatch at what he wants until he gets

it, we had better give it to him for the sake of peace. This may have a certain short time appeal, but, surely, makes nonsense of all international efforts to protect the weak, or to preserve peace itself. It means that peace cannot be kept, except by giving the violent what they want; this can lead on to an endless proliferation of wars, and eventually total war and dominance by the strongest and most ruthless. This was the type of world order which Hitler thought to establish in 1939. We have several examples of this sort of thing today. Can we be right to submit to this? Even if it seemed expedient (and in the long run it cannot be), is the morality of it one that he can possibly uphold?

Yours faithfully,

MRS. H. A. WILLIS,
Kestle, Wadebridge,
Cornwall.

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS AND DAVID STEEL ARE MISGUIDED

From Mr. Eric Ogden, Chairman of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee

Sir, Over the past few weeks, Mrs. Shirley Williams, Mr. David Steel, Mr. George Robertson, and some fellow Methodists, have suggested that we should cede the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies — in one way or another — and sacrifice British citizens in British islands to "save the Argentine democracy".

Each of them base their conclusions on incomplete information and a willingness to ignore the wishes of the Falkland Islanders, who simply want to live quiet lives under the government of their choice.

Most have reached their misguided 'solutions' after visits to Argentina. None have taken the trouble to take the more uncomfortable, but stimulating, flights to the Islands, so that they could see for themselves the real facts of the Islands, hear for themselves what good people want for themselves and their neighbours, after 150 years of their own form of British and democratic Government.

I cannot speak or write for the Falkland Islands Government, but, I believe that, they are as concerned as I am that so many are willing to visit Argentina and hear the same arguments from the 'new Argentine Democrats' as came from the Junta. So few seem willing to go to the Falklands, to talk to the Islanders and, above all, to listen to what they say.

Sincerely,

ERIC OGDEN, Chairman
The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee,
2 Greycoat Place, Westminster,
London SW1P 1SD

FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY INITIATIVE

From the Managing Director of the Falkland Islands Company

Sir, I cannot allow Patrick Watts' letter in the *Newsletter* dated 21st November to pass unanswered, as I find it difficult to understand why he wishes to remove credit rightly given to us.

He says in his letter that the initiative taken by the F.I.C. in selling Green Patch was little more than a 'gesture'. One could hardly call the sale of 90,484 acres at what was, and still is, considered a very reasonable price, a gesture. It was a genuine effort to make a very large farm available to pioneer subdivision, from which valuable lessons have been learned in breaking up other farms since that time.

Also, I strongly disagree with his criticism of our sharefarming experiments. Of our five sharefarmers, I have been reassured, during the past few weeks, that, in spite of the unjustified comments in the U.K. press, four have reaffirmed their satisfaction with the agreement, and

the fifth, who I presume was the one who was quoted by Mr. Watts as being disillusioned, had, even before the newspaper articles appeared, promoted his own family to take over his sharefarm on exactly the same terms when his agreement expires next March. This is not exactly the act of someone who is disillusioned.

Public statements about future plans, which he attributes to me, have, as usual, been taken out of context. Perhaps I could remind Mr. Watts of the interview which he had with Eric Varley, now Chairman of Coalite, which was broadcast on F.I.B.S. during March this year, when he said:

"From discussions with His Excellency and David Taylor, I think the gradualistic approach is certainly the one most people prefer. If the Falkland Islands Government or Her Majesty's Government want to make proposals to F.I.C. then, of course, we would take them extremely seriously".

First Green Patch, then Sharefarming, together with land made available to prospective immigrants and Islanders: this must surely demonstrate our open-mindedness, but we do take heed of what those who work for us have to say, and many have said that they are not ready yet to 'go it alone'. We do have loyalty to our employees.

I have, also, a personal concern about the depopulation of settlements, built up painstakingly over many years, with the potential loss of Camp schools, stores and social clubs which follow subdivision. Fox Bay village may well be one solution, but it is as yet in embryo state, with many problems to chew on, not the least of which is the cost to the Treasury. Let us not try to run before we can walk.

Sincerely,

DAVID BRITTON, Managing Director
The Falkland Islands Company Limited,
94a Whitechapel High Street,
London E1 7RH.

SAN CARLOS SUBDIVISIONS

From Mr. Colin Smith

Sir, There were serious errors in your November issue. Seven Falkland Islanders completed their purchase of all eight sections of San Carlos farm on 15th October, 1984. The total price was £518,000, which included 108,000 acres, all buildings, shearing shed, 11 dwelling houses and all contents, 28,500 sheep, 508 cattle, 70 horses, 120.8 miles of fencing and £65,000 of stores and materials at 1983 costs; the whole farm as a going concern, machinery, tractors, plant and equipment, lock, stock and barrel.

I am not the owner of the property. D. S. & Co. (Sheepfarming) Ltd. owned 50% of San Carlos, and D. S. & Co. (Sheepfarming) has 26 shareholders, including myself and family.

I would record that I was appointed Agent for the sale of the farm, which followed to the letter all Falkland Islands Government's recommendations on the division of the property, and was in line with the 1976 and 1982 Economic Reports headed by Lord Shackleton.

The sale was seriously hampered and delayed for nearly two years by Overseas Development Administration's application of the so called 'gradual approach', and, indeed, was all but frustrated.

As to loans to Islanders, the Falkland Islands Government 'Loans Committee' found, in it's opinion, that the majority of applicants were 'unsuitable' to own their own farms and homes, including employees of the farm.

The total loans which the Overseas Development Administration/Government offered to Islanders were

£210,160, after extended delays. The terms were not particularly 'soft', and the loans fully secured by first mortgages.

D. S. & Co. (Sheepfarming) Ltd., the recipient of £259,000 of sales proceeds, unstintingly offered £306,340 to Islanders in loans, the majority unsecured and with interest in the first year at 8½%.

The Falkland Islands Foundation (World Wildlife Fund) purchased seven islands, islets off Wreck Point for a nominal £100.

Frankly, it was apparent throughout two years of negotiations that the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Overseas Aid Administration and the Civil Commissioner were not in the least enthusiastic to encourage owner occupation by Falkland Islanders.

Yours faithfully,

COLIN M. L. SMITH, Director,
D. S. & Co. (Sheepfarming) Ltd.,
Abbey Mill Farm, Abbey Road,
Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE ISLAND OF SOUTH GEORGIA, by Robert Headland. Hardbound with attractive dust jacket showing colour photo of settlement at King Edward Point. Quarto. 290 pages including 10 Technical appendices: birds, whales, meteor, flora, fish, stamp issues etc. 6 page Bibliography, 17 page Index, 137 illustrations, including 122 excellent photos, 9 maps together with charts, plans and tables. Foreward by Sir Rex Hunt CMG. Published by Cambridge University Press, December 1984. ISBN 0 521 25274 1 £14.95

This is the most definitive work, embracing all aspects of the island, ever to be published and covers a wealth of detail including geography, discovery, history covered by three chapters, whaling and sealing operations, communication in its various forms, physical sciences, natural history, etc. The final chapter is a 20 page first hand account of the military actions in 1982, during which Bob Headland was personally involved. Many interests are served: for example there is quite a deal of information on the light railways which operated at the whaling stations and there are twelve pages on stamps and postal history, which, although revealing nothing new, are an accurate summary.

This book must form an essential part of any Falkland Islands and Dependencies library, both for reading and reference. It is highly recommended and very good value at the price.

R.N.S.

SOUTH AMERICAN PACKETS, by The Rev. J. N. T. Howat. 283 pages, including 6 page Appendix listing steamships in South American Service 1851-80 by Company. Appendix listing Packet Agents, 6 page Bibliography and 11 page comprehensive Index. Detailed sailing lists and maps throughout. Softbound. Published by the Postal History Society in association with William Sessions Limited, York, England, 1984. ISBN 090065795 2.

The term 'packet' refers, of course, to a ship carrying mail and this scholarly and well presented work is of importance to the Falklands enthusiast because Part III deals exclusively with the branch packets from Montevideo to the Falkland Islands 1852-80. Naturally, it is of a highly specialised interest but the book contains an amazing wealth of previously unpublished data, well backed by reference to the sources of Mr. Howat's researches and the superb bibliography. This is a model of how a research work should be published.

For those interested in the development of maritime mail services, I can thoroughly recommend this book. It may be of interest to know that Mr. Howat is the great-nephew of Bishop Stirling, the first Bishop of the Falkland Islands, and he has visited the Falkland Islands on two occasions.

The book is available from the author, The Rev. J. N. T. Howat, The Rectory, Church Lane, Skelton, York YO3 6XT, England at £13.20 (including UK postage).

R.N.S.

ANTARCTIC AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. Discovery, Development and Dispute, by Robert Fox. Hardbound. 336 pages including 3 maps, 5 page Index and 2 page Bibliography. 75 excellent photos, some in full colour. Published by BBC Publications January 1985. ISBN 0 563 20332 3 £12.95

Robert Fox has been an astute observer and broadcaster of the South Atlantic scene since April 1982 when he accompanied the Task Force as a BBC radio reporter, returning to the Islands for Christmas broadcasts in December 1982. This, his second book since the conflict, is a marvellous account of Antarctic exploration, survey and scientific study, followed by a thoughtful and detailed record of his third visit to the Falklands, where he examines the people, their daily lives and their economic and political prospects. The latter he links closely with the future of Antarctica as the 1991 review of the Antarctic Treaty approaches.

Mr. Fox toured the Antarctic Bases on HMS *Endurance* and devotes a chapter to the ship. "The big question now", he says, "is what will replace *Endurance* as the Antarctic ice patrol ship, or whether she will be replaced at all?"

The second half of the book is devoted to the Falkland Islanders. This means writing about the people, which deters many writers. Such a small society is a fragile subject for debate and, to be constructive, tactful and entertaining, requires diplomatic skill. Robert Fox is quite a diplomat. But the admiration he felt for the farmers that he visited only increases his sense of dismay at the difficulties they face.

Mr. Fox happened to be in Stanley when the hospital caught fire last April. He devotes many pages to that subject, wrongly suggesting that accommodation for elderly people was not included in the new plans. In fact the present hospital garden is the proposed site for Sheltered Accommodation for the Elderly. But what does Mr. Fox mean when he hints darkly at the danger of a society 'implosion' for lack of facilities for its elderly? It seems to me that, not only are Falklands elderly cared for in the true sense, but their views are respected and their company enjoyed too.

Mr. Fox shares with clear sighted Islanders a 'now or never' attitude: if a healthy economy is not on the horizon in the next two years, it never will be. He sees a new Antarctic history unfolding, far removed from the traditions of his hero Captain James Cook, which "like the unpredictable volcano of Deception Islands could become active again and erupt should the Antarctic Treaty collapse under the pressure of individual nations and corporations making a grab for commercial gain from the natural resources of the continent and its oceans".

L.G.

NEWSLETTER: MAY ISSUE

In the next issue of the *Newsletter* we are planning to include

an article or the recent visit of Major General Alan Mills to the Falklands

an item on the new Stanley Museum

a piece introducing the new Civil Commissioner

and all the latest news concerning the Falkland Islanders and their supporters that comes to hand. We always welcome articles, especially from the Falkland Islands, and, of course, letters expressing your views and airing your opinions.

RESPONSE FROM STANLEY

We continue to complain of the lack of information sent to us by Islanders, but it is some comfort to know that Des Peck has responded — and in his own inimitable way, with some of his verses, which we know come straight from his heart in Stanley:

ON THE UNVEILING OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WAR MEMORIAL

by Des Peck

There stands the statue of liberty,
Which was unveiled officially today,
Two years after Argentina surrendered,
While we read all those names with dismay.

These men gave their lives for our freedom;
These men helped to set us free;
That's why this statue was erected
In honour of them — and our liberty!

This war was forced on Britain,
There is not the slightest doubt,
So a Task Force was soon recruited
To put the invaders out.

Families, who lost their dear ones,
Will be thinking of this unveiling today.
It's a pity they were not here to join us,
But they are eight thousand miles away.

So to them we extend our sympathy:
Your loss is our freedom and gain,
The British flag must fly for ever,
Otherwise your dear ones will have died in vain!

Thank you, Des!

Can anyone follow that?

FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It has been decided to hold the first Annual General Meeting of the Association (which has succeeded the FALKLAND ISLANDS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION) on Saturday 15th June, the day following the Annual Reception.

HOSPITALITY

If any members living in London or the Home Counties can offer hospitality to members travelling some distance to attend the Reception, thus enabling them to stay in London for the Annual General Meeting, would they kindly inform the Honorary Secretary.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

If you 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 the Islands in accordance with their wishes, and you do not already belong to the Falkland Islands Association, you are invited to write for an application form to our Honorary Membership Secretary:

Mrs. Joan Martin, at 2 Greycoat Place, London SW1.

Annual Subscriptions:

Individual Members £10

Associate Members (Pensioners and Students) £5

Corporate Members/Companies and

Trading Organisations minimum £10

All subscribers receive the quarterly Newsletter.

OFFER TO MEMBERS

We shall be delighted to present an illustrated map (as listed in next column) to any member who introduces another applicant for membership.

RELEASE OF COPYRIGHTS

The Editorial Committee release all copyrights on editorial content of the Falkland Islands Newsletter, except on pictures, cartoons and where indicated. Other publications are invited to quote freely. However, we do ask that quotations are made in context and we should appreciate an acknowledgement of the Falkland Islands Newsletter, as the source quoted.



Campaigners for the Falkland Islanders
Left: Mr. Robert Elgood. Right: Major Ronnie Spofford

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Editorial Committee

Mr. E. W. Hunter Christie (Chairman)

Mrs. M. Christie

Mr. M. Dodds

Mrs. J. Dodwell

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ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the Newsletter is 3,000 copies. It is distributed to members of the Association, to all Members of the House of Commons, 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, other Commonwealth Countries and countries abroad. 300 copies are distributed in the Falkland Islands. Advertising rates are as follows:

Full page	£250
Half page	£125
Quarter page	£65
Eighth page	£35
Short insertions	£3 per line
Discounts for 4 insertions by negotiation.	

FOR SALE

The following articles are available from the Falkland Islands Association office, 2 Greycoat Place, SW1. Please enclose cost of postage and packing (additional).

Reproduction of 1770 map of Falkland Islands 12" x 9" £1.30

Navy blue ties, Falkland Islands crest, £4.

Tea cloths, map of Falkland Islands, £2.

Dusters, map of Falkland Islands, 75p.

Overseas Survey Map of Falkland Islands, £2.00.

Illustrated Map of Falkland Islands, in colour, £1.75.

Green plastic Car Stickers "Remember the Falkland Islands They're British" 75p.

Plastic stick-on Badges, Falkland Islands Crest, 10p.

Lapel Badges, Falkland Islands Crest, £1.20.

Key Rings, Falkland Islands Crest, £1.50.

Carrier Bags, Penguin motif, "Happiness is knowing he's British", 10p.

White T Shirt, Penguin motif, sizes S, M, L, XL, £4.

Navy T Shirt, Penguin motif, childrens size 30" only £3.50.

Souvenir Hats, Penguin motif, Falkland Islands, £1.50.

Desk Flags, £1.20.

Notelet: The Cathedral at Stanley, drawn by Mary Waudby, 10p.

Long Play 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ r.p.m. record by Rock Bernsten:

"Kelpers After All", songs of a Falkland Islander,

£4.95 plus 50p. P & P.

Key Fobs, F.I.A., 35p.

Comb in case, F.I.A., 30p.

Personal Address Book, F.I.A., 50p.

Diploma Ball Pen, F.I.A., 20p.

Snap Purse, F.I.A., 50p.

Eraser, F.I.A., 25p.

Pencil Sharpener, F.I.A., 35p.

Coloured picture postcards, Falklands wildlife, 12p.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

"THE FALKLANDS STORY 1592—1982" by Mary Cawkell, £2 incl. P & P from the Association, £1.75 from book shops. A concise and accurate account of the history of the Falkland Islands and the events leading up to the invasion.

"FALKLAND ISLANDS BIRDS", by Robin W. Woods, £8.75. Very useful pocket size bird spotting book for Falklands visitors. Beautiful photos.

"CONWAYS AND THE FALKLANDS 1914—1982 AND IN BETWEEN", by Some Who Were There. Edited by D. G. Fletcher Rogers, £2.25. Includes eleven accounts of the Falklands War, by ex H.M.S. *Conway* men with their own photos.

HISTORY FACT SHEET.

An accurate four page history of the Falkland Islands and the Dependencies. No charge sae please.