

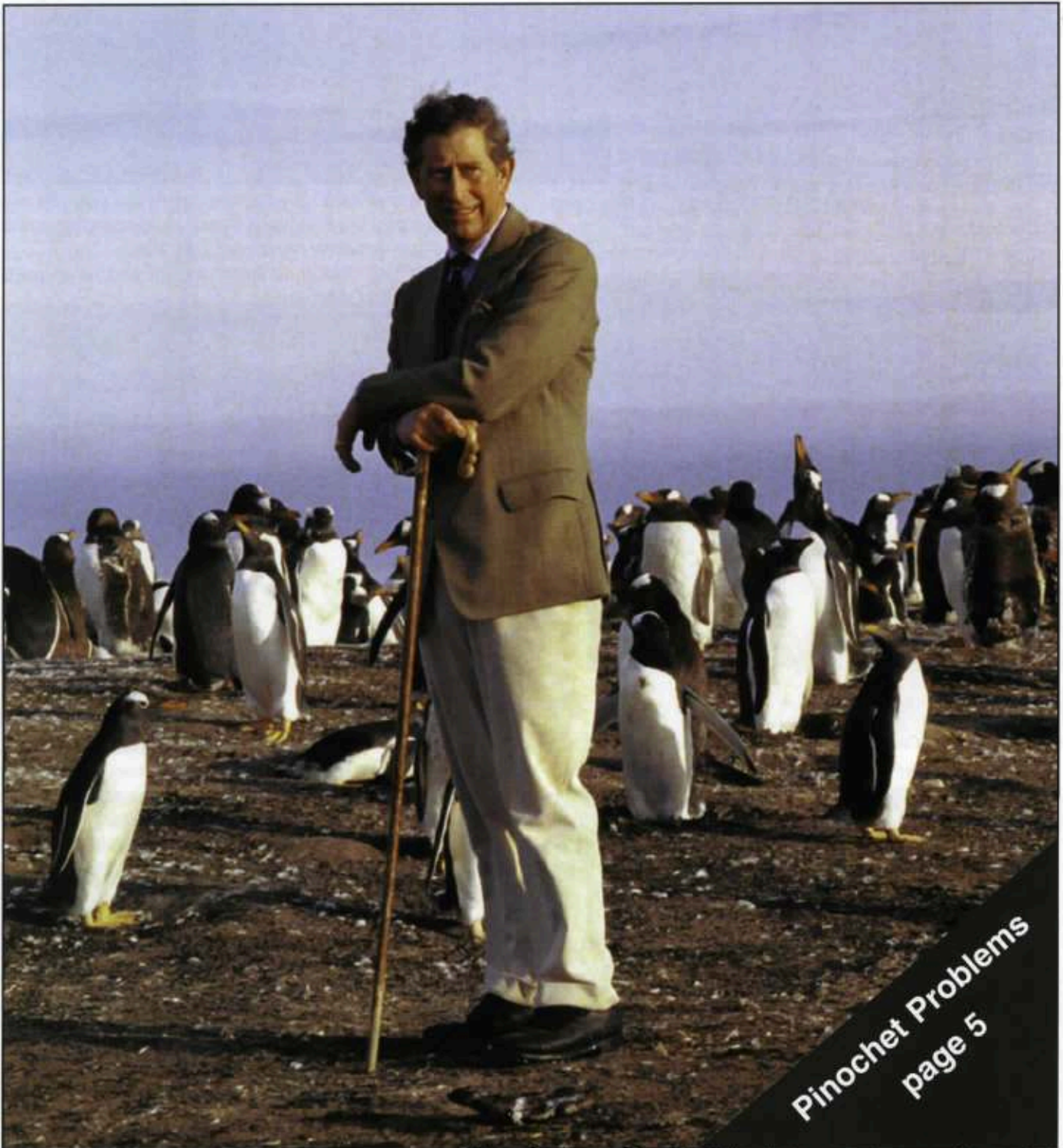


# Falkland Islands

## Newsletter

*Published by the Falkland Islands Association*

### Prince Charles in the Falklands



**Pinochet Problems**  
page 5

Prince Charles on Sea Lion Island *Photograph Courtesy of Norman Clark*

This special edition covers the historic visit by Prince Charles to the Falkland Islands and Argentina, renewed Argentine pressure for sovereignty and particularly access, arising from its election campaign, the British Government's support for the Islanders, and the Pinochet affair.



## Battle Day Remembrance

Tribute to the men who fought and died in battles linked to the Falkland Islands in both World Wars and in the 1982 Conflict was paid by members of the Falkland Islands Association at the annual Battle Day Ceremony of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on December 5th.

Wreaths were laid by Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, who commanded HMS INVINCIBLE in the 1982 War; Miss Sukey Cameron (Falkland Islands Government), Sir Rex Hunt (Falkland Islands Association), Mrs Paula Shear (Falkland Families Association), Colonel Mike Bowles (South Atlantic Medal Association), Sir Roger Sims (Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men), and Miss Anna Luxton, representing the young people of the Falklands.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Peter Millam, and Captain Paddy Vincent was Marshal for the Royal Naval Colour Party and the Escort of Cadets from Pangbourne College. Royal Marine Buglers sounded the Last Post and Reveille.



Above: Mrs Paula Shear accompanied by Mr Des Keoghane lays the Falklands Families Association wreath.

Below: Flags are lowered for the Last Post.  
Below Left: The Reverend Peter Millam and other participants leave the Cenotaph



## Association AGM - Young Islander Becomes Vice-Chairman

### Visit Premature

Sir Rex Hunt, Governor of the Falkland Islands at the time of the Argentine invasion, expressed his view that President Menem's visit was premature. He said no Argentine President should be an official guest of the British Government until Argentina renounces its claim to the Falklands.

As Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, Sir Rex told its annual general meeting in December it was good President Menem had expressed regret over the 1982 war but "it would have been better if he had said sorry for Argentina starting the war and even better if he followed that with a formal renunciation of the Argentine claim".

The only event at which the Association was represented was at St Paul's Cathedral, as a non-political ceremony, honouring the dead of both sides, where the Duke of York joined President Menem in laying wreaths. Sir Rex and the Honourable Alexandra Shackleton attended at the invitation of the Foreign Office Minister, Mr Tony Lloyd, whom they met before the Menem visit to express concern over Argentine expectations aroused by the visit.

Sir Rex pointed out that the Prime Minister had denied President Menem's reported claim that Britain had expressed a

"predisposition" to open sovereignty talks within three years. Sir Rex supported Britain's protests at proposed Argentine legislation to penalise oil and fishing companies working in Falklands waters. Another issue of concern to Falkland Islanders was Britain's pledge to consider a partial lifting of the



Sir Rex Hunt congratulates Mr. Saul Pitaluga on his election as Vice-Chairman of the Association



## Battle Day in Stanley

Battle Day was commemorated on December 8th in the Falklands, 84 years after *HMS Canopus* opened fire on the approaching squadron of Admiral Graf Von Spee. By the time the day ended, the German cruisers, *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, and four other German ships were all sunk.

Following a multi-denominational service in the Cathedral, there was a parade to the Monument led by the Royal Marine Band from Plymouth, and including Royal Navy and Falkland Islands Defence Force contingents. There, HE Governor Richard Ralph laid a wreath, as did CBFFI, Air Commodore Ray Dixon, the former Mayor of Gosport, Councillor Peter Edgar, who was visiting, and other Falklands dignitaries and citizens.

After the ceremony, the Governor took the salute from a dais in front of Government House, and a public reception was held in the Town Hall.



Above: The Royal Marine Band leads the procession up the hill to the Battle Monument.

Below Right: HE Governor Ralph inspects a contingent of the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

Left: HE Governor Richard Ralph lays the wreath at the Battle Monument in Stanley. *Photos Courtesy of Norman Clark*



arms sales embargo imposed on Argentina since 1982, but Ministers say a ban will remain on equipment that could be used against the Falklands.

Summing up the visit, Sir Rex said it has probably helped to improve British-Argentine relations but nothing appears to have changed in relation to the Falkland Islands. "President Menem can no longer harbour the slightest doubt about the British Government's determination to respect the wishes of the Islanders".

### Young Islander Becomes Vice-Chairman

A Falkland Islander, Mr Saul Pitaluga, has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association. Welcoming him, Sir Rex Hunt said: "We need younger people on the Committee and more Falkland Islanders". Saul, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Pitaluga, is a family man and a successful businessman in South-East England.

Tributes were paid to Mr Robert Elgood who stood down as Vice-Chairman after serving the Association and Committee for sixteen years. He was unanimously elected a Vice-President.



Robert Elgood, now Vice-President, photographed with Rosalind Cheek at the Association AGM

in recognition of what Sir Rex called the "valuable role he had played with dedication and distinction for so long".



## Prime Minister Re-Assures Islanders

The Prime Minister, in a New Year Message broadcast on the BBC's "Calling the Falklands" Programme reiterated his commitment of support for the Islanders and said everyone can gain from improved relations. On President Menem's visit, Mr Blair said: "I told him unequivocally that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was not for negotiation nor was the right of you the Falkland Islanders to determine your own future".

He described the wreath-laying at the St Paul's Cathedral Falklands Memorial as a "true act of reconciliation" and "an important symbol of how Argentina has changed". Equally important was President Menem's public renunciation of use of force against the Falklands. He was invited to Britain in a spirit of reconciliation.

"I believe that on the eve of the new Millennium we can all gain from improved relations between Britain, the Falkland Islands and Argentina", the Prime Minister said. "That is why I invited President Menem to Britain - in a spirit of reconciliation. In a world where global communications are bringing us closer together such contacts can only improve your prosperity and security".

## Argentina Misinterprets

Typically, Argentina hailed Tony Blair's reference to "improved relations" as a "Marvellous leap forward". Deputy Foreign Minister Andres Cisneros was reported as telling a Buenos Aires radio station that Mr. Blair's message was probably the first of a number of "gestures of rapprochement". However, he warned against "Counting chickens before they hatch". "Britain will not hand us back the Islands next week. Still we must feel confident that we are on the right track".

This shows all too clearly how what is regarded in Britain as having "improved relations" is seen in Argentina as an opportunity simply to advance their claim.

## Envoy Fails in Land Bid

Mr. Conrado Bullrich, an Argentine citizen who has visited the Falklands several times using an Irish passport failed in an attempt to buy Weddell Island recently.

The Ferguson family, who own the island, told Penguin News: "We will not sell to him, or his family whilst there is a claim on the Falklands by Argentina". The Ferguson family described as rubbish Mr. Bullrich's subsequent claim that their decision had been brought about by intimidation from other Islanders.

Mr. Bullrich, who is known to be close to Argentine Foreign Minister, Guido di Tella, has attended several international conferences about the Falklands, when he has called for sovereignty negotiations. He was personally active in the Falklands in 1994 in the offer of huge sums of money to Islanders to accept Argentine sovereignty. Last year, he was involved in an attempt to persuade Islanders to accept "shared sovereignty". Writing in the *Sunday Times*, Mr. Uki Goni, who is a Buenos Aires journalist, described his failure as "depriving the Foreign Ministry of a real coup". However, Mr. Bullrich denied that there was any political motive behind his purchase offer. Since then he has tried to buy Bleaker Island too.

**Editors Comment:** This attempt to purchase land is a timely reminder of the dangers of having anything to do with people from Argentina - whatever passport they use.



Prime Minister Tony Blair, with Councillors Jan Cheek and Richard Cockwell at the Labour Party Conference last year. On the right is Miss Sukey Cameron, London Representative for the Falklands Government

## Oil Drilling Ceases

Oil drilling ceased for the time being in the North Falklands Basin in November and the *Borgny Dolphin* rig moved over to Patagonian waters to work for Total there.

Four out of the six holes drilled showed hydrocarbons, and the presence of one of the best source rocks in the world was proved. However, high kaolin content in the potential reservoir rocks drilled prevented the formation of adequate reservoirs. The area is considered to be extremely hopeful and drilling would have continued had the world oil price not been at a historic low of about \$10.50 a barrel.

Discussions are still continuing with the Argentines over the exploitation of the jointly run "Special Area" which exactly straddles the border between Falklands and British waters to the south-west of the Falklands.

## Opposition to Breach Oil Treaty

Argentine opposition politician, Graciela Fernandez Meijide, visited Britain in February. *Clarín* reported that she told Minister of State Tony Lloyd MP that the Opposition Alliance would not honour the 1995 Oil Agreement if elected to power. She also said the Opposition would not accept a sovereignty freeze, which has been bandied about by the Menem administration, or self-determination for the Islanders.

## Argentine Pressure on Falklands Fishing Income

Despite the "hand of friendship" offered by President Menem to Falkland Islanders, the reality is continuing hostility.

A good example of this was the Argentine decision just a few days later to offer fishing licences priced at \$150,000 each, together with a lifting of certain restrictions, particularly that 50% of the crew be Argentine and that all vessel maintenance be carried out in Argentine ports. This undercut Falklands licences priced at £100,000 (about \$165,000). Thirty Far East fishing boats that had been expected to take up Falklands licences switched to these Argentine licences instead.

*Penguin News* commented that the move appears an echo of the situation in 1993 when Argentina lowered its licence fees to the extent that it was paying out more in export subsidies than it was earning in fees. The loss in revenue to the Falklands is about £3million.



## Air Links with Chile Cut

Chile has suspended the only regular passenger air service between Latin America and the Falklands for 90 days and denied the use of its naval facilities to British ships.

### Pinochet Affair and Decree 209

Chile first called on its airlines to cease serving the Falklands last year, ostensibly as a reprisal for the detention of General Pinochet in Britain. LanChile, that operated the service, gave notice then that it would end its flights when its contract ran out at the end of March.

There was a strong possibility that some form of service might continue despite this. However, following the visit of Argentine Vice-Foreign Minister to Santiago, at the beginning of April, Chile decreed a legal prohibition on all flights to the Falklands for 90 days (**which we publish on page 16**). Chile's Foreign Minister, Jose Insulza, describes these as acts of "retaliation" and as a "gesture of collaboration" in support of Argentina's claim to the Falklands. This hostility contrasts with Chile's previously warm relations stretching back many years, and its support for Britain during the Falklands war.

### Falklands Concern

Falklands concerns have been expressed by Councillor Lewis Clifton. In a letter to the Argentine press, he describes the Pinochet affair as "a disaster, particularly for the Falklands". He points out the Chilean Government has not interfered with British flights to Chile, or flights to and from Spain by any Chilean or Spanish airline, although it was Spain's extradition request that triggered the Pinochet affair.

"Where" he asks "does this leave the Falklands? Isolated?... Feeling sorry for themselves? None of these things, although we do feel hurt because we have become the victims of other countries' domestic politics ... We would like to see LanChile continue ... But please understand that if LanChile cannot continue because of political pressures, the Falklands will find another link."

He extols the benefits of the LanChile flights not just for the Falklands but for Chile and Argentina. It has been a commercial success, extremely efficient and reliable, boosting trade between Chile and the Falklands .... providing work to several hundred Chileans in the Islands fishing industry, a regular link for Chilean residents in the Falklands, and for Argentines travelling on non-Argentine passports.

### Argentina Pressure Obvious

The Falklands Council has blamed Argentina for pressuring Chile to cut the LanChile air link. Argentina, of course, denies this. But, the *Newsletter* has seen confirmation in the Argentine press of Argentine pressure. *La Nacion*, for example, said Di Tella **"had got Chile, Uruguay and Brazil to reject the establishment of direct contact between their territories unless the flights stopped in Argentine territory"**. *Clarín* said: **Di Tella's campaign is to return to the pre-1982 situation by December 12th** - which is when the Argentine Government leaves office. This also indicates that the Argentine election is behind much of its present Falklands activity.

In fact, the original decision of the Law Lords and Home Secretary last year to allow the Spanish extradition case against General Pinochet to proceed exactly coincided with successful negotiations between Argentina and Chile solving their last remaining border dispute, the "Hielos Continentales", or Continental Icefields, on the Andean continental divide. That

very same week, the Chilean Government first called on its airlines to suspend services to the Falklands, and several of the Argentine politicians who negotiated this treaty have since been reported in the Argentine press as lobbying Argentina's other neighbours to stop them having air-links to the Falklands unless these land en route in Argentina and carry Argentines.

In their final judgement on March 24th, the Law Lords allowed Spanish extradition requests to proceed in just three cases of torture alleged to have occurred after 1988, when the international treaty against torture was incorporated into British law and Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has upheld Spain's extradition request. So Pinochet remains in detention.

Chile is also a signatory to the international treaty against torture, as well as Britain, Spain and many other countries.

## Di Tella Makes His Move

Just three days after the Law Lords final decision on the Pinochet case, *Clarín* and *La Nacion* announced that Foreign Minister, Dr. Di Tella, would visit London soon with a proposal for direct flights to the Falklands from Argentina, to replace those from Chile. Interestingly, his proposal is put forward, not by businessmen, but by Argentine politicians, Dante Caputo, Carlos Raimundi and Estevez Boero, two of whom took part in the Hielos Continentales settlement, and have since been mentioned in the Argentine press as lobbying to stop Falklands links with neighbouring countries. It is for Argentine airline, *Dinar*, to serve the Falklands from Buenos Aires via Comodoro Rivadavia. *La Nacion* said negotiations would take place 30 days after the last LanChile flight, by when Islanders would be "desperate", and that Dr. Di Tella, would propose unrestricted access to the Falklands for Argentine passport holders. As always, the Argentine press greeted it all with malicious glee.

Falklands Councillors have already rejected the *Dinar* airline proposal. Their policy is to refuse all direct communications with Argentina until it drops its sovereignty claim.

### Argentina Persuaded Uruguay

As reported in two earlier editions of the *Newsletter*, negotiations were going on last year for an airtlink with Montevideo, for which traffic rights already exist, with no objection from the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry. Argentina appears to have successfully threatened this project only after the Pinochet affair led to Falklands air links with Chile ceasing.

Asked about this by the *Newsletter* in a press conference in January, Dr. Di Tella said they "had made their views known to the Uruguayan Government".

The Falklands had no air or other links with Argentina until these were forced on them by the 1971 Argentine/British Communications Agreement. Until then, the Falklands were served by a monthly sea link with, Montevideo, Uruguay.

### Argentina Wants More Than Communications

The Argentine campaign to stop its neighbours from having flights to the Falklands is intended to force an Argentine air link on the Falklands, control Falklands access to South America, get their passport holders back into the Falklands, and so regain the influence they had there during the 70's and early 80's. However, important Argentine politicians, including Marcelo Stubrin and Fernando Maurette, have indicated that an air link isn't all they want. They have suggested that discussions over communications should include sovereignty too.

**See Page 16 for Ship Exclusion and Medical Flight**



## The Menem Visit - And Its Aftermath

President Menem was given a warm and friendly welcome during his five-day visit to Britain (from October 27 to November 2nd), the first by an Argentine Head of State for 37 years. The theme was reconciliation for the past and co-operation for the future, emphasising booming Anglo-Argentine trade. He brought with him a huge retinue of Ministers and advisers as well as sixty leading Argentine businessmen.

He had lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace, laid a wreath at the Falklands Memorial to the British dead in St Paul's Cathedral, and had political talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Minister Robin Cook. Worthy documents were signed for co-operation, on trade, defence, education, sport, transport, finance, law and even in space.

Menem summed up his visit as "brilliant and historic". He reiterated Argentina's sovereignty claim but reaffirmed that Argentina "seeks a solution only by peaceful means".

They also signed what they called a United Kingdom-Argentina "Action Agenda" which made only this scant reference to the sovereignty dispute: "Each Government reaffirms its known position with regard to the sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. Both Governments also reaffirm their support for the United Nations and the commitment of their respective countries to resolve their differences through peaceful means".

President Menem declared Argentina will never forsake its sovereignty claim and added: "Let there be no doubt. We are closer than ever now to opening a dialogue that will lead to an accord on the Malvinas".

Argentina's leaders have exploited what they regard as the success of the visit to intensify their sovereignty claim in

London, in the Falklands, in the United Nations and in Argentina, by seeking Argentine Opposition Party support.

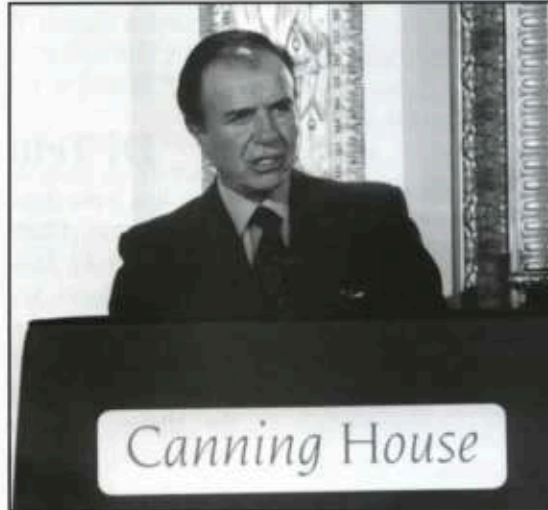
They are pressing hard for negotiations, for direct flights to the Islands, and for unhindered access for Argentine visitors. Islanders stand by their insistence that Argentina must first forego its claim to their country.

### "Falklands Fights Back"

This was the headline in one British newspaper describing Falkland Islands efforts to counter any adverse effects from President Menem's visit. Two Falklands Councillors, Jan Cheek and Mike Summers, were in Britain at the time and led the campaign in which Councillor Lewis Clifton, former Foreign Secretary, Lord Hurd of Westwell, Sir Rex Hunt, and Falklands Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, all joined.

Lord Hurd wrote: "The Islanders do not wish to pass under Argentine sovereignty where a foreign power would govern people with a different culture and way of life against their will". Councillor Summers wrote: "What Argentina failed to gain by military means it is

now intent on gaining by economic blackmail. This is a far cry from the peaceful overtones of President Menem's visit". He called on Argentina "to take a truly democratic and mature view", respect the Islanders' rights, and drop its claim and its threat of economic sanctions. "Then", he said, "we could all live in peace as good neighbours". Sukey Cameron said: "The 1982 war was a tragic loss of young life and left an indelible mark on all our lives .... It would be a betrayal of the British soldiers who died if the Islands were now given to those who sought to take them by force".



## What President Menem Wants: Re-election

Endless speculation in the Argentine press has made it quite clear what the Menem Government wants out of its current diplomatic offensive against the Falklands, and why - to get a Falklands triumph to help overcome the Constitutional ban on another term of office for him **and then get re-elected**.

They are no longer thinking of shared sovereignty, as they did in 1997. Instead, they want a "sovereignty freeze", perhaps for 15 to 20 years, "in exchange" for a British commitment to discuss sovereignty after the expiry of this period; for the Argentine flag to fly in the Islands, perhaps only over the Argentine cemetery and, above all, for direct communications between Argentina and the Falklands.

What a victory this would be for Argentina - and what a boost for Menem in an election year. Freezing sovereignty would put actual British sovereignty on a par with Argentina's sovereignty pretensions. It would ensure negotiations at the end of this period, by when Britain might not have a separate foreign policy, but be subordinated to a United Europe. Even if a treaty did not actually call for sovereignty negotiations after a freeze, it would still be assumed to open the way for these.

Putting the flag over the Falklands is to satisfy Menem's promise to get the flag there by the year 2,000. This originally

meant getting sovereignty, now it has had to change into literally getting the flag there. Even over just their cemetery, it would still be an important symbolic achievement for Argentina - unless it was part of a treaty that put an end to their claim.

Direct communications would be the real danger, allowing Argentines to penetrate the Falklands again, and control access to the rest of South America. Falklands communications were originally with Uruguay, not Argentina. But these were forced on the Falklands by the 1971 Communications Agreement, when the Foreign Office was doing its best to push Islanders into the arms of the Argentines.

To Argentines, contact, or good relations mean the opportunity to pressure the Islanders, buy businesses and land and make the Islands economically dependent on Argentina.

Menem's re-election tactics have included court cases, petitions, endless political manoeuvring, and tinkering with the date for the Peronist internal election. But his great rival for the Peronist nomination, Eduardo Duhalde, is 16% ahead of him in the opinion polls. The prospect of him rather than Menem as Peronist candidate, has nearly eliminated the Opposition lead in the opinion polls. In short, Menem is losing, but his efforts and those of opposition politicians still imperil the Falklands.



# Falklands Plan for Freedom from Argentine Claim

## Mike Summers Outlines Tactics for Talks and Educating Argentines

A far-ranging discussion document outlining how the Falkland Islands should counter Argentina's sovereignty claim and win recognition of their rights to self-determination and control over their own affairs has been proposed by a member of the Islands' Legislature, Councillor Mike Summers.

It would involve direct contact with Argentine leaders to assert the Islanders' position and a campaign to educate the Argentine people about life in the Islands and the rightness of the Islanders' case. It says "many" people might be attracted to a "full and final settlement" (for the Argentines to drop their claim) in exchange for Argentine ownership of the cemetery of their 1982 war dead at Darwin.

There would be no compromise on sovereignty and the Islands' rights to self-government. It rules out any Argentine control over air flights, energy supplies, or principal trade routes.

Councillor Summers has launched his initiative in what he calls the present "atmosphere of uncertainty and volatility" to combat Argentine "speculation, kite-flying and downright lies" and to calm Islanders' "mistrust and suspicion".

The ultimate aim, he says, is: "To rid ourselves for ever of the Argentine claim to our sovereignty, without any compromise to our right to self-government and to choose our own political allegiance, (including) the right to exploit our own natural resources .. without threat or hindrance".

He describes Argentine threats of economic blackmail by penalising companies involved in oil exploration and fishing as "hard-line bullying" and clear evidence that Argentine democracy is still in its infancy. He dismisses Argentine reports of progress on dialogue, "secret meetings", and "pressure from the United Nations and the United States" (for negotiations) as being without "any real substance".

He believes the next few months in the run-up to Argentina's Presidential election presents threats but also opportunities. It would be a "serious mistake" for Islanders to adopt "a head in the sand" attitude, ignore the Argentines, and let the British Foreign Office sort it out. That had led in the past to an Argentine-controlled air service, unacceptable lease-back proposals, and the 1982 invasion.

Councillor Summers points out that the British Government is more supportive than ever of Islanders' rights, but wants more communications between the Islands and Argentina. In recent years, he says, the Islanders have won the right to be consulted by the British Government. The Islanders must be regarded, not as colonial subjects, but as a country in their own right.

The modern democratic wishes of the Islanders are paramount. They must take on their own responsibilities. They must participate fully in achieving self-determination, argue the legal and moral issues and convince people of the correctness of Islanders' arguments. To do that, he says, you have to listen and to talk, to adversaries as well as friends.

Councillor Summers, writing in the Islands newspaper, *the Penguin News*, submits a nine-point plan to his fellow Islanders in pursuit of their aims:

1. Maintain the status quo for the foreseeable future but also improve on it.
2. Adopt a long-term strategy to educate the Argentines about the Islands, their culture and democratic government.
3. Keep talking to the Argentines to establish beyond



Councillor Mike Summers, OBE

doubt the Islands' undeniable rights.

4. Refuse admission to the Islands to Argentine passport holders except next of kin of the war dead and any individuals who could help educate the Argentines on the facts.

5. Maintain the focus on the key issue of self-determination, exposing Argentine weakness at every opportunity.

6. Exploit in the short-term what appears to be the Argentine wish for a settlement though, he warns, this could be "illusory". If they could deliver a full and final settlement based upon Argentine ownership of the war cemetery at Darwin, this might be attractive. But direct negotiations would first require clear Argentine proposals and assurances on delivering them.

7. Never allow Argentine control over air links, energy supply or principal trade routes.

8. Be ready to recognise real change in the Argentine.

9. Any freeze on the sovereignty issue must leave the Islanders better placed than now. It must be not less than 50 years, enshrined in an Anglo-Argentine Government Treaty, with Falkland Islands approval, ending with a plebiscite binding on all parties.

A freeze proposal would require: That the Argentines would not pursue their claim in international forums nor in domestic politics; recognition of British Administration and control over the Islands and recognition of the Falkland Islands Government; removal of the claim from the Argentine Constitution followed by easing of controls on Argentine visits, perhaps with a quota system; withdrawal of Argentine economic sanctions; Falkland Islands' freedom to exploit resources in the present economic zone; and continuing co-operation on fisheries conservation and other environmental concerns.

**Newsletter Editors Comment:** *Councillor Summers made the above suggestions in response to an Argentine proposal which is outlined opposite. However, whatever ideas the Falklands produce to promote harmony with Argentina, the scope for progress is limited in the bear-pit of Argentine domestic politics, with President Menem unpopular, and an ambitious Opposition in no mood to make concessions to help him.*



## Tony Lloyd: "No Negotiations ... No UK Pressure"

*No negotiations are taking place with Argentina on sovereignty, and the British Government is exerting no pressure on Falkland Islanders for any change in the present situation. These categorical assurances were given by the Foreign Office Minister of State with responsibility for the Falkland Islands, Mr. Tony Lloyd, in an exclusive interview with the Newsletter's Editors, Harold Briley and Peter Pepper in London on 2nd February, 1999.*

*The Minister says he is watching with interest the debate among Islanders on their future and awaits feedback. He says it is in their interests to look at how contacts with Argentina can, and should, be developed, where there is mutual benefit. He welcomed the visit by the Prince of Wales to Argentina in March in the context of good Anglo-Argentine relations. Here are the main points of the interview:*

**Question:** President Menem seems to want an agreement over the Falklands to press for re-election no matter what his Constitution says. He says he's negotiating with the United Kingdom. Is this true?

**Answer:** We have no role to play in the Argentina's internal debate about re-election of President Menem or otherwise. Our relations with Argentina have been very good during the Menem Presidency. That is.....an obvious cause for satisfaction for everybody. It is important to make this point: There are no negotiations about sovereignty taking place. That is very clear, very unambiguous.

**Q:** They keep saying there are. They have floated ideas about a freeze on sovereignty in exchange for flying their flag over the cemetery, in exchange for freer access, direct communications. No truth in any of these?

**A:** They have floated these ideas most recently with an Island Councillor in Montevideo. There is no secret those ideas do exist. There is a world of difference between saying ideas exist and me taking a further step and saying Britain is actively negotiating on sovereignty, because we are not.

**A:** What is your view on a freeze, say, for twenty years?

**A:** I was very interested to see that Island Councillors have begun a debate themselves on the Islands. We are interested to watch what the reaction is. I don't think it is the right time yet, there has not been enough time to make any definitive comment. Nor actually do I think we have had proper feedback from the Islanders and the Island Council Members on this issue.

**Q:** The trouble with a freeze is that the Argentines expect negotiations thereafter. It opens the floodgates when the period ends.

**A:** If these ideas gain currency then all of the consequences have to be looked at very carefully. There is no doubt about that. What we clearly want to do, especially in the light of the recent, very complex discussions between Island Councillors and Foreign Minister Di Tella, is to sit, not back, but sit down carefully and consider how this plays out among people on the Islands.

**Q:** But you definitely got over your message to President



Minister of State Tony Lloyd MP talking to Harold Briley of the Newsletter

Menem when he was here that your assurances still stand — Self-determination, the Islanders decide their own future.

**A:** It has always been made clear by me, amongst others, and by Prime Minister Tony Blair, that any decision concerning sovereignty would be a matter put to the people of the Islands.

**Q:** So self-determination means that the Islanders can stick with what they have got now?

**A:** Self-determination means that the Islanders have to look very carefully about how they want to develop this issue. That is a discussion they will want to have before anything can even be considered, not before anything can be changed, before anything can even be considered, they would have to have that discussion with the British Government. We have always made clear that the pressure for change is not coming from Britain.... There is no pressure from us for that debate to take place at the moment. It arises because of the discussions that took place in Uruguay (between Dr. Di Tella and Councillor Mike Summers).

**Q:** Is there any problem with the status quo in the Islands? There are many people who simply want nothing more than to be left alone effectively in their present political circumstances.

**A:** The status quo is what we have had de facto for quite a number of years....

**Q:** So self-determination does include the right to stay with this?

**A:** This is where we are. This is where the Islanders can remain because any change... the status quo relative to change in the status of sovereignty, we have always said before any change in sovereignty took place, the Islanders would have to determine that change.....

**Q:** According to the Argentine Press, Argentina has approached the Americans and the United Nations effectively to get them to pressure the British Government into negotiations. Has pressure been applied from these sources?

**A:** No. We have not had pressure. Argentina took a delegation to the United Nations and they have raised the issue with the United States Government, but we have received no pressure. Those with goodwill, the United States and the



United Nations, goodwill to both Argentina and to Britain, welcome the fact that relations between our two countries are as good as they are. It is inconceivable that we would come under what is described as pressure.

Q: What about any pressure for direct access for the Argentines, such as flights, freer access, easier ways for tourists and others from Argentina?

A: We have always made clear, and I have said this to the Islanders directly, that it is in their interests to look as to how and in what direction and how quickly contacts with Argentina can, and should, be developed. I have pointed out to them that there has been significant advantage in having contact with Argentina on issues such as fisheries policy. It is very important we recognise areas where there is mutual advantage in contacts. What is not the case is that the British Government is waving a big stick and saying 'you must do the following'. We have never taken that position.

A: You would like to see direct flights presumably, for convenience sake or for other reasons?

Q: I don't think we have ever discussed specifically direct flights. Obviously the areas where I can point out success have been fisheries, obviously oil, in particular where we have the joint co-operation agreement. Those are practical examples where working together is in the interests of both parties. If you include Britain as a party we probably gain the least. But the Islanders, Argentina, both have to gain something in order to persuade both sides to embrace that particular development. We recognise the fact that we are not going to persuade people on the Islands to take any particular step unless they can see an advantage for the Islanders..... We hope, in air transportation, that the present LanChile service will continue. It is up for review in March.

Q: There is a suggestion that the Argentines have leaned on the Chileans to stop it?

A: LanChile have said they will review it.... We very much hope, and that's the position on the Islands as well as the British Government, that the LanChile service will continue. There has been discussion in the past about a direct link into Uruguay. That I think foundered for commercial, not political, reasons. Certainly, the British Government is not opposed to it. We would be considerably more than supportive if anything was commercially viable. The decision on commercial viability is for the private sector, not the British Government, and possibly one for the Council members. Our position is that the (RAF) air bridge (with Britain) does exist. It is an important part of communication.

Q: What do you hope to achieve from Prince Charles's visit to Argentina and the Islands?

A: Prince Charles's visit is a recognition of the strong relations between Britain and Argentina. It follows on a visit that Prince Andrew made some years ago. So it is not without precedent. It is important we take every opportunity to say to everybody, to people in Britain, in the Falkland Islands, and particularly Argentina, that the bilateral relationship between our two countries is very good. President Menem had a very successful visit. I would not suggest this is a follow-up visit. The world does not work like that. It is in the spirit of the same process of relationship. I don't think we have to be looking for any subtle message. Rather the opposite, we want people to see the visit for what it is: a celebration of good and strong relations and a mutual desire to continue those. But no sub-text that carries anything that is not transparent.

Q: Basically goodwill, but the Argentines may try to exploit the visit?

A: We heard all this before President Menem's visit, that this was a terrible trap, that the British Government had been inept, and fallen into this. Of course, it never materialised. It was plain in a totally straightforward way. Everyone knew some issues would be raised by the Argentines. In return, we made our own position very clear. The issue of sovereignty is not one that will be decided by anybody other than the Islanders. That remains the position. That guarantee is so oft times given, it really ought to be by now invested with a little credibility. Otherwise it means that everything that is done in terms of Argentine-British relations is cast in the light of suspicion. 'Could this be the rocky road to goodness knows where?' Of course there have not been rocky roads to goodness knows where. There has been a good and improving relationship between two important countries on the international scene that have a lot of reasons for natural friendship and a determination to make the relationship between Britain and the Islands, most importantly, and, of course, the relationship of the Islands in the wider South Atlantic geographical position, one that works, and we have all managed that.

Q: Anglo-Argentine relations would be so much better even, if they dropped their claim, as you want them to do.

A: Yes, of course they would. But let's start in the world of reality. And let us move at the pace that reality allows us to do. There are real issues on which we have made enormous progress. I don't need to dream of a better tomorrow, if we can deliver a more comfortable afternoon.

Q: You specifically mention that because of these good relations you have made progress on direct talks on a long-term fishing agreement. That is no nearer though?

A: We have not got the agreement we want. We have got co-operation in some areas, on conservation. It is important to recognise that it is not no progress anywhere. We will continue to say to Argentina that it is in the interests of Argentina itself if we have this long term fishing agreement. It gives security to their own fishing industry, security in terms of the fishing stock. It is important to Argentina. It is one of those buzz-words, but it is a 'win-win' situation, that if we are all sensible, we can all get something out of it. That's why we will keep saying to Argentina, let's see the world as it really is, not the world as you would like it to be, and perhaps we can move forward.....

Q: The Argentines have proposed two laws which would penalise both oil companies and fishing companies operating in what we regard as Falklands waters.

A: They are Falklands waters. We have no ambiguity on that. That is why we reject the validity of this distinctly unhelpful legislation that is actually extra-territorial in its impact. We don't accept that on a global basis. It is important we are consistent in terms of extra-territoriality. It is also very unhelpful in terms of moving forward on those areas where there can be something in it for the different parties. I have expressed this to the President and in the Argentine Congress.

A: The suggestion is that they are withholding a fishing agreement as a kind of blackmail.

A: We hope this is not the case. We hope we can appeal to the logical common sense that will benefit all parties.... It is evidently sensible if those who have the most to lose are the ones who work together, those who are the custodians of the long-term future, should work together. The alternative is to see a kind of divide-and-rule by those who seek to exploit purely for short-term personal advantage.

**This interview was conducted before the latest Argentine pressure on Chile and Uruguay over Falklands airlinks.**



# Furore over Prince's Peace Plea

## Argentine Anger and Demonstrations

It was to have been an historic goodwill visit, the first to Argentina by an heir to the British Throne for more than sixty years. It turned into ill-tempered intolerance and anti-British street demonstrations. Prince Charles arrived in Argentina to a warm official welcome but the glow of goodwill gave way to coolness, resentment and criticism from some politicians and the Argentine Press in reaction to an indirect reference to the Falkland Islands.

In a speech at a banquet in his honour, Prince Charles said: "My hope is that the people of modern, democratic Argentina, with their passionate attachment to their national traditions, will in the future be able to live amicably alongside the people of another modern, if rather smaller democracy, lying a few hundred miles off your coast, a people just as passionately attached to their traditions, and be able to do so in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, so that neither will again need to feel any fear from, or hostility towards, the other. Such an understanding can only reinforce our own friendships. Today so many old friendships are being rebuilt".

What appeared to be an implicit reiteration of British policy, which rejects Argentina's claims to sovereignty of the Islands, evoked anger and surprise. Argentina's Vice-President Carlos Ruckauf told a radio station: "The Prince took an intolerable attitude. The Islanders have no right to self-determination as the Prince suggested. His kingdom is a powerful country which has stolen the islands. His words show his policy of domination". Vice President Ruckauf described it as "a typical British trap", a reference to suggestions that speeches should be non-political. President Menem, in his speech, made no *reference* to the Falklands dispute, though he did so repeatedly during his visit a few months ago to Britain.

### Political Rivalries Fuel Row

The controversy was aggravated by political rivalries in the controversial run up to this year's Presidential elections. Vice President Ruckauf belongs to a different faction of the Peronist Party from President Menem and supports the presidential candidacy of his rival, Eduardo Duhalde, the Governor of Buenos Aires Province. Menem's political opponents do not want him to benefit from the Prince's visit. The Argentine Press joined in the criticism while the Foreign Minister, Dr Guido di Tella, tried to defuse the controversy by issuing a statement that "The Prince's wish coincides fully with Argentina's wish".

The Prince had asked Argentina to respect this small democracy. Dr Di Tella's statement said:

"Not only does the Argentine Constitution offer guarantees that should make their worries unwarranted, they are also given by Argentina's international behaviour, commitment to peace and democracy, and the close and friendly relations it has with its neighbours and large Western democracies".

British Foreign Office officials said it would have been surprising if the Prince had not made some oblique reference to the Falklands issue, as President Menem had in his London visit. Tensions surrounding the visit have been heightened by violent protests by a small left-wing group called Quebracho. They burned an effigy of the Prince and chanted anti-British slogans. More than fifty arrests were made in clashes with riot police when petrol bombs were thrown and the Union flag was burned.

### Polo, Tango, and War Dead Tribute

The controversy overshadowed more positive and lighter moments of the Prince's visit. He clearly enjoyed playing polo and dancing the tango with a professional dancer and with President Menem's daughter, Zulemita. He toured a steelworks, Lloyds Bank Buenos Aires headquarters and the Buenos Ondas Foundation which helps disadvantaged young people by teaching them organic farming.

Prince Charles laid a wreath at the Buenos Aires war memorial commemorating Argentina's servicemen killed in the 1982 Falklands conflict. He was accompanied by a British veteran, the former naval surgeon, Dr. Rick Jolly, who gave front-line emergency treatment to Argentine and British casualties alike. Now chairman of the South Atlantic Medal Association of British servicemen from the conflict, Dr Jolly epitomises the goodwill that exists between the former combatants, saying "There is no anger, no deceit between us".

The row - and the tango dancing - got prominent treatment in the British media, in newspapers, on television and radio.

### Editorial

## Prince Charles is Right

Reasonable peace-loving people the world over would applaud an appeal that neighbouring democracies should live amicably alongside each other in mutual understanding and respect, free from fear or hostility. Not so Argentina, its intemperate reaction to precisely that appeal, couched in courteous, common-sense, terms by Prince Charles, has dissipated some of the goodwill generated by his visit to Argentina and President Menem's to Britain. The theme for both visits was reconciliation and forging better relationships. Argentina's lamentable lapses hardly encourage such laudable aims.

For Argentina's Vice President Ruckauf to brand the Prince's remarks as intolerable and his arrogant assertion that the "Falkland Islanders have no right to self-determination" demonstrates just how superficial is Argentina's own embrace of democracy and how intolerant they are of other's self-same rights. The thuggish behaviour of street demonstrators, however small a minority, who burned the Union Flag and an effigy of what they called the "Pirate Prince", is an affront to him and to British people here and in the Falklands. Contrast this hostility with the polite, welcoming, reception President Menem enjoyed in London even though he persisted in raising the sovereignty issue in much more direct and contentious terms than Prince Charles.

These goodwill visits are devalued by Argentina's sovereignty obsession and its current campaign to bully the Islanders into re-establishing direct communications without first dropping their unjustified claim. British policy is consistent: Sovereignty is not for negotiation: only the Islanders can decide. The Argentines remain deaf to such democratic persuasion, thrashing about in the throes of a dying cause as Menem nears the end of his allotted Presidency. Hence, Argentina's recent bewildering series of suggestions to further their unworthy cause. If democracy is to gain hold in Argentina, the sovereignty claim must inevitably be dropped.

Prince Charles is right. Democracies should flourish in friendship without hostility or threat.



# A Right Royal Welcome for Prince Charles

The Prince of Wales was assured of an enthusiastic welcome from the patriotic Falkland Islanders, with their fondness for the Royal Family. Their welcome was all the warmer for his face to face reminder to the Argentines of the need for mutual understanding and respect between neighbouring democracies. Everywhere he went, he was greeted with happy cheering Islanders and their children. He took great interest in the great progress in economic and social developments, in agriculture and sheep-farming, in the schools and the hospital, and in the wild-life with which he had close encounters on Sea Lion Island.

As Colonel in Chief of the Parachute Regiment and the Welsh Guards, he laid wreaths on the various memorials to the men of the Task Force who lost their lives liberating the Islands in 1982. And he expressed a wish to return with his sons, Princes William and Harry.

As Councillor Lewis Clifton said, the Islanders very much want to welcome the Queen to one of the very few parts of the Commonwealth and Overseas Territories she has not visited. The Islanders are no strangers to Royal Visitors, who have previously included the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal, the Duke of Kent and Prince Andrew, who also fought in the 1982 campaign as a Royal Navy helicopter pilot.

The visit brought the added advantage of excellent publicity for the Falkland Islands and their way of life, from more than fifty journalists who accompanied the Prince.

Our superb pictures tell the story of Prince Charles' visit better than words. The Association once again expresses appreciation and thanks to Norman Clark for his professionalism and generosity for these and many other Newsletter photographs he has previously supplied.



Above: Prince Charles meets Falklands youngsters outside the Community School.

Below: Spectators in the evening light at the Liberation Monument where Prince Charles laid a wreath.



Above: Prince Charles meets Terry Peck MBE, Stuart Wallace and Fred Ford, after laying his wreath at the Liberation Monument. Behind him is CBFFI, Brigadier Nicholls. Left, he meets Falklands Cubs.





Above: Prince Charles meets Falklands Brownies outside the Cathedral. In the yellow jacket is Marilyn Gimmer and in the distance Liarne Cartridge.



Above: Prince Charles with Falklands Sea Scouts after the cathedral service. On the right is Caroline Richards.



Prince Charles at the Cathedral. In the door, the Rector, the Rev McHaffie, Lt Col, Dr. Allan, of the Tabernacle, Cannon Deuchar, of Lambeth Palace, Monsignor Agreiter of St. Mary's, and the Rev Hetherington, Chaplain at MPA.



Prince Charles with retired Islanders. Left: meeting Steve McKay, who speaks through a voice synthesiser. Above: shaking hands with Harry Sarney.  
*All Photographs Courtesy of Norman Clark*





Above: Prince Charles in the Community School with Headmaster, David Higgins and Zoran Zuvic-Bulic.



Above: Prince Charles meets Les Lee and Joyce Allan.



Above: Prince Charles chats with Mike Smallwood, Joan Bound and Adrian Gavin.

Left: Prince Charles talks to Allie and Marlene Marsh, Robin Lee and Deirdre Barnes in Fox Bay.



Prince Charles in the Community Centre at Goose Green, where Islanders were imprisoned during the Argentine occupation. Above, he chats with Lisa Jaffray, Emma Reid and Tanya Jaffray. Above Right, meeting Brooke and Eileen Hardcastle.





Above: Prince Charles meets Paul and Marlene Barnes and their daughter Mellisa in Fox Bay.



Above: Prince Charles at the Fisheries Department.



Above: Prince Charles sees a demonstration at the Agriculture Department. On the left is Director, Bob Reid.



Above: Prince Charles at Fox Bay. On the left, Councillor Bill Luxton. On Prince Charles' right, Councillor Norma Edwards and Governor Richard Ralph.



Above: Prince Charles and Ann Reid go forward together to lay wreaths at the Welsh Guards Memorial at Fitzroy to those who lost their lives on the Sir Tristram and Sir Galahad. Ann lost her own son, Paul, then.



Left: Prince Charles lays a wreath at the Parachute Regiment Memorial at Darwin. This commemorates the men of 2-Para who gave their lives in the battle of Goose Green.



# The Falklands In Photos



Above: Pauline Sackett and Iain Thom on their wedding day.

Above Left: Millennium Odyssey round the world yacht race competitor, the German sail training vessel, *Vegewind*, leaving Stanley harbour. In the distance ahead of the boat, Mount Kent and the Two Sisters can be seen. Behind it is Mount Harriet.

Left: Other competitors in the Millennium Odyssey leaving harbour led by the American yacht, *Risque*.

Below: Michael Reeves and Wendy Kultchar. The first couple to marry in 1999.



The Hank Wangford and the Lost Cowboys band, guests of the FIDC and Shackleton Fund, performing in Stanley. All Photos by Norman Clark





## Poachers Exploit British Delay

Poaching by unlicensed fishing vessels has always been a problem in Falklands waters. This is why a decision was reluctantly taken, with British Government approval, to fit a 20mm gun to the Fisheries Patrol Vessel, *Dorada*. Sadly, the gun has not yet arrived, and the reason for this is obscure.

This year poaching has been particularly bad. On one day alone in April, nearly 50 unlicensed vessels, most of them Taiwanese, were counted in just one area well inside Falklands waters, and there was no way of enforcing an arrest.

The Falkland Islands Defence Force has a number of 12.7mm guns, and men trained to use them. The Falklands Government has now asked for British Government permission to use one of these on the *Dorada* as a stop gap until the arrival of the heavier calibre 20mm, that is already authorised. It also wants authority to use armed men from the FIDF as boarding parties if necessary. So far, permission has not been granted for either of these, the rules of engagement being the problem.

The use of force is, of course, not to be taken lightly, but is the ultimate sanction all around the world, if a poacher

refuses to submit to arrest. More importantly, the appearance of an armed ship would at least persuade poachers to leave, and its mere existence would deter many from entering Falklands waters in the first place. There is plenty of experience of this problem in British waters, and the rules of engagement were refined long ago. In fact, Britain has complained to Argentina in the past for failing to act against poachers in its waters. Now, Britain is in danger of being criticised for this itself.

### Damage To Squid Stock

In the meantime, fees the poachers should have paid are at least £9 million. Worst still, they are taking so much squid that legitimate licence holders have complained about non enforcement. Several have had their equipment damaged by the aggressive tactics of the poachers.

Above all, it makes a mockery of the careful fisheries management, the Falklands is so well known for. The season is advancing all the time, and there may be a price to pay next year too. After all, why buy a licence, if it's so easy to fish for free?

## Chilean Decree 209

The last flight of LanChile to the Falklands was on March 27th, but LanChile wanted to carry on and was expected to start again on April 10th. But, following the trip by Andres Cisneros, Argentine Vice-Foreign Minister, to Santiago on April 6th, Chile announced the following decree:

*Decree 209. Suspends for 90 days, starting the 10th of April, operations, air transport services, and all classes of air navigation services of Chilean companies between our territory and the Malvinas Islands. Subsecretariat of Navigation.*

Because of this decree, Chilean seaman, Hector Barrientos, who has a broken leg, could not be flown home directly from the Falklands to Punta Arenas by Chilean airline, DAP, which had been invited to do this. Instead, his case became headline news in Argentina, with much speculation that Argentina could now force Islanders to use Argentine medical services, and so re-establish links with the Falklands. Barrientos was not a medical emergency at all, but was eventually flown home by a Chilean Air Force plane that had to touch down in Argentina.

## Ship Repairs Refused

The naval dockyard in Punta Arenas, Chile, which is operated by a civilian contractor, has serviced Falklands vessels before. Now, as a reprisal for the detention of General Pinochet in Britain, it has refused to repair the British flag fishing vessel, *Pioneer*, which is Falklands owned.

The Chilean Foreign Minister, Jose Insulza, has said that his government supports this decision of the navy, but civil authorities in Punta Arenas were quoted as "profoundly rejecting the measure", saying it would harm economic activity in the area at a time of serious depression. Trade with the Falklands is said to be worth £5 million to Punta Arenas.

*La Nacion* stated that the Chilean navy's ban applies to all its facilities and all British vessels. Asked about this, the FCO told the *Newsletter* that it was urgently seeking clarification from the Chilean authorities. Since then, another press report has stated that the ban will be applied selectively.

The *Pioneer* did, however, get its repairs carried out at another dock in Punta Arenas.

## The Falklands in Photos continued



Left: 9 year-old Clint Short on Secret Freedom at the Stanley Sports. He came third in the Junior Gallop. Above: The Long Island Troupe. Photos: Norman Clark



## Top Commando is New Forces Commander

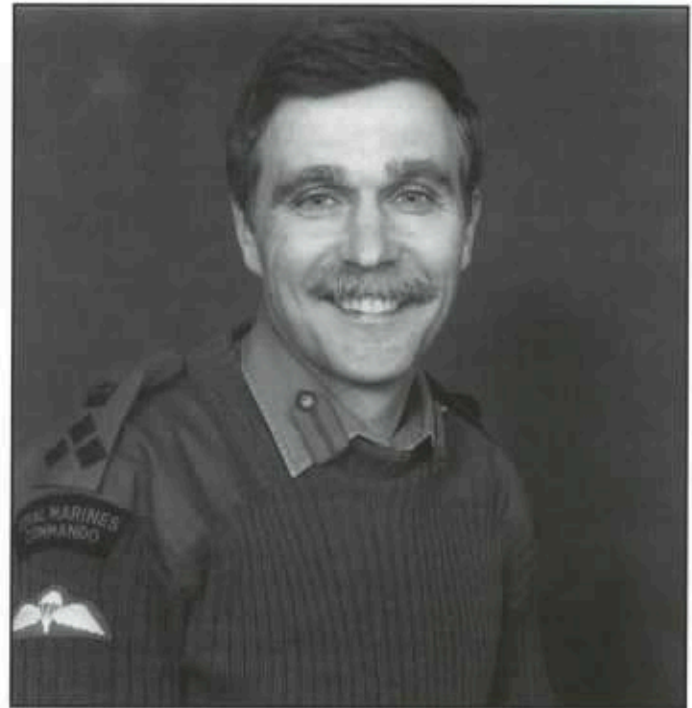
Appropriately the new Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands, Brigadier David Nicholls, is a Royal Marine who served in the Falklands 1982 conflict. He succeeds Air Commodore Ray Dixon. Brigadier Nicholls was the Command Land Forces Public Relations Adviser in the 1982 war, giving Task Force journalists military advice.

As a former Assistant Director of Joint Warfare Exercise and Commander of the Mountain and Arctic Cadre in Scotland and, most recently, the tough Commando Training Camp in Devon, he recognises the Falkland Islands as excellent territory for military training. He told me: "The training potential is fantastic and I very much welcome the rapport and excellent relations with the Islanders. I will take every opportunity I can to maintain and improve that".

Brigadier Nicholls, aged 50, is an expert mountaineer and linguist, speaking colloquial Arabic and French. In 32 years in the Royal Marines, he has had a colourful, action-packed career, serving in such danger spots as Northern Ireland, Oman, and Bosnia, in the jungles of Belize and in Singapore, winning several commendations for bravery, initiative and leadership. He was awarded the Sultan of Oman's Bravery Medal in close fighting against rebels in Dhofar when he led the rescue of an injured soldier and two others.

In several tours in Belfast and South Armagh, he was awarded the Commanding General's Commendation. In Bosnia, he won the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service with the Rapid Reaction Force where he helped to plan the air-land campaign and promoted co-operation between NATO and the United Nations. He took 45 Commando on to Belize which, like the Falkland Islands, has faced territorial claims from a more powerful neighbour, Guatemala.

He welcomes improved security arising from better Anglo-Argentine relations because, he says, "mutual co-operation and understanding reduce tension". President Menem's United Kingdom visit produced a new agreement on defence co-operation which builds on Anglo-Argentine military links in peacekeeping in other parts of the world such as Cyprus, training, and exchange of information, as on military



movements in the South Atlantic to preclude misunderstandings which has been working well for some years now.

Brigadier Nicholls has climbed widely in the Himalayas, where he demonstrated his commonsense leadership qualities in the 1988 Services Everest Expedition when, in worsening storm he aborted his third attempt, only 250 metres short of the Summit, despite the disappointment. "The Mountain", he says, "will always be there another day!" He is now planning another Himalayan expedition to mark the Millennium.

He enjoys skiing, long-distance running and orienteering. So he'll find plenty of scope for such activities in the Falklands. He's a family man but his wife, Deirdre, is staying behind to run her fabrics business in Scotland. His son, Christopher, 22, is in the hotel trade. His daughter, Sophie, 15, is continuing her studies at Cheltenham Ladies' College. **HWB**

## Honour for Royal Navy Surgeon

Another richly-deserved honour, this time from Argentina, has come to Dr Rick Jolly, the former Royal Navy surgeon whose outstanding leadership of the British medical teams in Ajax Bay emergency field hospital in 1982 saved hundreds of lives of both British and Argentine combatants. Accompanying Prince Charles to Argentina, as Chairman of the South Atlantic Medal Association, Dr Jolly was invested in Buenos Aires with the Order of Mayo by Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr Di Tella. This is the Argentine equivalent of the OBE which Dr Jolly received from the Queen in the Falklands honours list, uniquely honoured by both sides in the conflict.

Almost 200 hundred Argentine wounded were given treatment in 1982 by British medical teams, as well as 550 British casualties, including badly burned Welsh Guards survivors of the Sir Galahad disaster. On the way to the Falklands, Dr Jolly a veteran of 23 years in the Royal Navy and the Royal Marine Commandos, gave a promise to the troops. "Everyone who reaches us alive will leave us alive". It is a tribute to Rick Jolly and his teams' professionalism and expertise that all left the hospital alive. Only three British soldiers died of their wounds later.

In Argentina, in a spirit of comradeship and reconciliation, Dr Jolly renewed acquaintance with some of the Argentine veterans his medical teams treated and saved. He also laid wreaths on Argentine war memorials.



Dr. Rick Jolly at the War Memorial in Buenos Aires.



# Falklands News

## Gun Chosen

Legislative Council has announced that a 20mm calibre gun will be procured from the Royal Navy in order to arm the fisheries patrol vessel, *Dorada*. Together with training for the crew, the gun will cost a total of £100,000.

## Equal Rights Bill

The Sex Discrimination and Equal Employment Rights Bills will become law in July 1999. These will ensure that equal pay and conditions will be offered for equal work.

## Single Parents Payments to Stop

Under the Family Allowances (Amendment) Bill 1998, the extra payment paid to single parents will be stopped. This is to avoid effectively discriminating in favour of single parents.

The allowance of £49 per month for all children will remain unchanged.

## New Transmitter for Radio Station

KMZ Electronics are currently installing a new mast 132 metres high at the western end of Mount William for Falklands Radio. This will radiate a 15 kilowatt signal on medium wave.

## Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Ian Dempster of FIDC officially opened the new Chamber of Commerce building on December 10th. To get the office into business rapidly furniture was lent by Byron Marine and Seaview Ltd.

## Fisheries Office to be Remodelled

The Falklands Government has invited tenders for the renovation of Fisheries Offices at FIPASS.

## Agriculture Seminar

Dr. Jim McAdam, of Queen's University Belfast, who is well known for his activities in the Falkland Islands Trust, held a seminar on December 7th on "FTU pasture research and its relevance to Agriculture now"

## Meat Lambs Come to the Table

Falklands Land Holdings imported ten Texel, and ten Poll Dorset rams into the Falklands in 1997 to breed lambs for the table rather than for wool. FLH Manager Colin Horton said a 75% lambing was achieved out of 2,000 ewes and the results were "a lot leaner than Corriedales and with minimum shrinkage during cooking".

The lambs (below) came to the market - and the table - in time for Christmas and FHL considers that it has enough to keep the market supplied until June.



## Cash for Seamens Mission

The Drive and Ride competition on Saturday January 2nd produced £940 for the Seamen's Mission. The Mission manager, Mike Hughes, thanked organisers Sharon and John Halford, the competition organisers, and Marvin Clarke and CBFFI for organising the route and barbeque.

## Football

The first of this seasons 5 Veterans Cup matches between the Tri-services team and Stanley ended in a draw this January. The score was 2-all thanks to a last minute and disputed goal. Stanley Captain Jimmy Curtis had a particularly good game, as did Bill Chater and newcomer, Karl McKay (see facing page), who made a very promising debut.



## Mark Wins Mini-Marathon

In gale force winds, but with bright sun, the Stanley Running Club (SRC) 10 kilometre Mini-Marathon from Stanley airport to Cape Pembroke Lighthouse, turned into something of an endurance test this January. Mark Ellis (Right) of MPA won the men's section in a sprint finish from Ralph Pattison with a time of 34.58. Dave Powell, also of MPA, came third.

In the Women's section, Sue Feasby of MPA won over Megan Eggeling with a time of 42.17. Carole Hale was third.

12 year-old Ben Pointing did extremely well with a time of 47.52 in a first race with Stanley Running Club.



## Bill Hunter-Christie Prize.

EXCO has approved the creation of an annual prize, named after Bill Hunter-Christie, for the young Falkland Islander to have brought most credit on the Islands. To qualify, the person must be between the ages of 16 and 25 and a student of further or higher education.

## 100 Years at St Mary's

The foundation stone for St. Mary's Catholic Church, Stanley was laid on February 12th, 1899. It celebrated its 100th anniversary this February.

To commemorate the anniversary, the philatelic bureau is issuing a special set of stamps this month; there will be an exhibition of old photographs; and a history of the Catholic Church in the Falklands is in preparation.



### Dental Health Campaign

Following on from the Dental Department's "Happy Smile Week" last November, Hygienist Olive Spargo, gave the Junior school a "once over" in this January. Assisted by Marlene Newman, using a puppet called Morag, the pair encouraged the youngsters to brush regularly.



### Shotgun Sharpshooter

Dustin Clarke (Below Center), a new member of the Falklands Gun Club, took the honours in the 600 Competition this January. He scored 555.10 and was followed by David Peck (Right) with 550.10 and Graham Didlick (Left), who is better known as a pistol shot, with 547.13.



### Karl Selected for Millennium Expedition

Seventeen year old Karl McKay has been selected to be one of ten young people going on the British Schools Millennium Expedition, and went to Scotland for a two week work-up. In November, the group will move to West Falkland for a month's acclimatisation followed by an expedition to South Georgia in December and January surveying reindeer numbers, trekking, canoeing and mountaineering. This will be followed by a month of similar activities in Patagonia.

### Tragedy at Sea - Five Lives Lost

In what was described to the Coroner as a horrific accident on the fishing vessel, *Dong Bang 39*, South Korean seaman, Mr. Bo Yong Mun, appears to have slipped while on deck and fallen against a winch that was pulling in a heavy cable. Mr. Mun was dragged onto the drum and decapitated.

The Coroner, Mr. Keith Watson, suggested that the cause of death was obvious and a postmortem not necessary. He returned a verdict of accidental death.

Four more lives were lost two weeks later, both from ships close in to the Falklands. Two Chinese seamen were reported missing from the Korean fishing vessel *Myung Jin 601* near Port William, the outer harbour of Stanley. Their dead bodies were recovered the next day by the Spanish fishing vessel *Golden Chica*. One had two suitcases strapped to his body containing their belongings, which indicated that they had

deliberately jumped overboard, presumably hoping to be able to swim ashore.

Three days later two Chinese fishermen were reported missing from the Korean vessel *Kum Yang 101* which was transshipping fish at the time in bad weather in Berkeley Sound. The tug, *MV Typhoon*, was sent to search the area but found nothing. The next day an aircraft and a helicopter searched the area. The helicopter found a lifejacket from the ship concerned, but no bodies. The nearby shoreline was searched by land-owner, Mr. Neil Watson, and the Police, but nothing was found.

### "Murder in the Falklands"

FIODA's latest play Agatha Christie's "A Murder is Announced", went down well at the end of February. Megan Eggeling played Miss Blacklock in whose house the action is set. Emma Dilnutt played the ill-fated Dora Bunner, and Keith Biles, a brilliant Inspector Craddock.

The play was directed by Richard Fogarty.

### Sea Cadets HQ Opened

HE Governor Ralph officially opened the new Sea and Marine Cadets Headquarters on Bypass Road on February 17th. Major and Mrs Mehers, Lt. Cmdr Redman and Royal Naval Association Chairman, Bob Fiddes, Sea and Marine Cadets Commanding Officer, Frank Leyland, CPO Vanda MacDonald and Karen Graham were all in attendance. The Governor congratulated the Cadets for being so well turned out. The new HQ has a drill hall, offices and even a snack bar.

### Ship Lost, But Crew Safe

The Spanish fishing vessel, *Playa Da Coba*, (below) caught fire and sank near Steeple Jason Island in March. The 28 man crew abandoned ship and spent an hour in the lifeboats before being rescued by another fishing vessel, the *Codeside*. The crew was brought into Stanley by the Fisheries Patrol Ship, *Crisilla*, and accommodated at Lookout Lodge. The Red Cross provided clothing from its stocks.



### Magnificent Education Success

No fewer than 19 pupils at the Community School got sufficient GCSE passes to qualify to go on to sixth form colleges in Britain. Most will go to Peter Symonds School in Winchester. Eleven others got GCEs.

Special mention should be made of Phillipa Lang who got ten passes, including three "A\*" and three "A" grades; Daniel Fowler, who got nine passes including one "A\*" and six at "A"; and Akira Smallwood, who got nine passes including one "A\*" and five "A"s.

Others who did particularly well were: Mark Gilbert, Robert Burnett, Nicholas Rendell, Ailie Biggs, Sophie Greenland, Christopher Herron, Caroline Cotter, Jacqueline Cotter, Bonnie Curtis, Sian Davis, Simon Jones, Benjamin Dempster, Joanne Payne, Ross Poole, and Kevin Marsh.



## New Governor: Diplomat with a Difference

The new Governor of the Falkland Islands, 52 year-old Scotsman Donald Lamont, is a Spanish-speaking diplomat and family man with a unique background, involving him in dangerous, difficult, historic, and sometimes seemingly intractable situations in Bosnia, Berlin, Ireland, and the Foreign Office Falkland Islands Department, all experience which will fit him well for his new post. He takes over in May from Mr. Richard Ralph who becomes Ambassador to Romania in September. Harold Briley interviewed him in London:

Donald Lamont is a refreshingly approachable diplomat, with a fascinating background. An affable intellectual with a pragmatic personality, he has played key roles in tackling some very tough problems. Most recently, he served as British Deputy High Representative and Chief of Staff in Bosnia Herzegovina, a challenging task implementing the peace deal, co-ordinating political, civilian, military and aid agencies involved.

Before that, he became Head of the Foreign Office Republic of Ireland Department in 1997 in an influential post in that historic peace agreement, which brought better relations with the Republic of Ireland while assuring the wish of Northern Ireland to remain with the United Kingdom. As Political Advisor and Deputy Head of Mission to the British Military Government in Berlin from 1988 to 1991, he witnessed the historic removal of the Berlin Wall and re-unification of Germany.

From 1982 to 1985, as Assistant Head of the FCO Falkland Islands Department, he had responsibility for relations with Argentina and for putting the British case in the United Nations, and so got to know Falkland Island Councillors and officials. He renewed acquaintance with the South Atlantic in 1991 as Ambassador to Uruguay. Having studied Spanish at Glasgow University, he believes that will be useful putting over the Falklands case in the Latin American.



### Spreading the Falklands' Message

"As well as the Argentines, if the occasion arises", he says, "there is a wider Latin America audience too where Spanish will be an advantage in talking to the media of other countries and removing misunderstanding and ignorance in Argentina".

"There is a message to be sent from the Falkland Islands as well as from London — what the Islanders wish for the future and the realities in the Falkland Islands which are very much misunderstood in Latin America many of whom would be sympathetic to the Islanders and interested in learning more about them". Acknowledging Islanders' sensitivities about communication with the Latin American mainland, he's cautious about how to deal with this before gauging the views of Falklands Councillors and people.

He and his attractive wife Lynda, are delighted with the posting and look forward to getting out and about among the Islanders. "There are", he says, "very many positive things happening in the Islands, with very professional handling of shipping and aviation, education of a high calibre, and innovation in economic development and business". I predict the couple will prove very popular in Islands, where their two children, Louise, 16, and Ian, 12, at school in Britain, will spend some of their holidays.

Mr. Lamont began his career in industry as a Systems Analyst and Personal Assistant to the Manager of British

Leyland. Joining the FCO in 1974, he has worked as a desk officer on the Law of the Sea Conference, First Secretary in the British Embassy in Vienna, and also in Moscow dealing with commercial and scientific business, in the FCO United Nations Department dealing with Social and Economic issues, and spent a six-month attachment with the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London.

## Visitors to the Falklands

Armed Forces Minister, Doug Henderson (Right), visited the Falklands in December, and expressed his support for the Islanders. In a press release, Mr. Henderson said: "Our garrison in the Falkland Islands is an important expression of the Government's commitment to defend the right of the Falkland Islanders to determine their own future. The men and women who serve there do a superb job in providing the security of the Islands".



Wounded Falklands War hero, Denzil Connick, and FIA committee member, Peter Lapsley, visited the Falklands recently.

Denzil, went as a guest of the Falklands Government, to pay his respects to his fallen comrades, and was also able to go fishing with tackle donated by House of Hardy's fishing equipment shop. Peter went to teach fly fishing in the Falklands. They are seen above with London Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron. Reports of their trips will be carried in our next issue. *Photo Courtesy of Shooting Times and Country Magazine and Photographer Paul Quagliana*





## Admiral Lord Lewin, KG, GCB, LVO, DSC

We deeply regret to record the death of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, aged 78, from cancer, on January 23rd. As Sir Rex Hunt said: "We have lost an excellent friend". He was an outstanding naval officer of his generation. As Chief of Defence Staff during the 1982 Falklands Conflict, he was senior military advisor to Margaret Thatcher's War Cabinet, bearing final overall responsibility for the Task Force campaign. No one was better equipped for the task, a man of outstanding ability and intelligence, with great clarity of thought and speech, and vast experience of naval activities in war and peace. He combined these strengths with charisma, charm and modesty, winning widespread respect and affection.

Serving throughout the 1939-45 war as a young officer, Terence Lewin showed great courage and competence, winning the Distinguished Service Cross and a mention in despatches no fewer than three times. He did combat duty on warships in the Channel preparing for the D-Day assault, on Arctic convoys to the Soviet Union, and Mediterranean convoys to relieve the siege of Malta, under constant air and sea bombardment and submarine attack.

Opposing John Nott's severe defence economies, he retained the Royal Navy's vital global capability enabling it to wage the Falklands War. His battle experience, iron nerve and profound grasp of tactical and technical issues steadied the War Cabinet at times of crisis as the Task Force suffered setbacks and casualties against the background of the Total Exclusion Zone and complex rules of engagement. He was gratified when the controversial sinking of the Argentine cruiser *Belgrano*, with the loss of many lives, later won the concurrence of Argentine Admirals as a sound military decision which they, too, would have taken. His rapport with his United States counterparts brought swift delivery of vital weapons such as updated sidewinder missiles for the Harriers and access to valuable satellite intelligence.

He regretted not having the opportunity afterwards to visit the Falkland Islands but continued to take an interest, agreeing to lay a wreath last December at the London Battle Day Memorial service until his illness prevented him. When,



Admiral Lewin unveiling the Falklands Memorial at the Royal Marine Barracks, Eastney. *Photo Courtesy of the MOD*

some years ago, I suggested we should co-write his biography, he modestly replied: "Who would want to hear my story?" I am glad he later decided to go ahead with an autobiography, yet to be published. Otherwise some aspects of the war at the highest level of command would have died with him.

As friend and patient adviser, he gave me guidance with his enviable knowledge of naval history especially when I was researching Nelson's campaign in Nicaragua. His interest in hovercraft, whose potential he assessed for the Royal Navy, brought sympathetic support for me and others involved in hovercraft expeditions taking medical help and other aid to needy countries.

In retirement he was a champion of the National Maritime Museum and the Greenwich Naval College and was instrumental with his friend, the Duke of Edinburgh, in building a Malta War Memorial. He had a brilliant, retentive memory which enabled him to recite all the details and names of ships involved in his wartime actions. Our deep sympathy goes to his widow, his daughter and two sons. **Harold Briley**

## Joan Plows

Mrs Joan Plows died on December 15th. She had been ill since May and bore her illness with enormous courage. Her involvement with the Falklands began when Westminster Hospital were approached to send nurses in the aftermath of the hospital fire in 1984. Joan Plows led the team whose task was to help staff the civilian hospital which had to be created very quickly to treat civilian patients until a new joint hospital could be created from the remains of the old one.

Joan Plows came from a large London teaching hospital with a settled administrative structure and long established traditions and found herself in a very different situation, in a small cottage hospital whose staff were still recovering from the trauma of the fire and coping with the tensions, stresses, and shortages of the post-liberation period. She integrated the Westminster team with existing staff with great skill. She expected to stay for a few months until more permanent staff could be recruited but stayed until 1987.



In due course she became matron and played a central role in ensuring that civilian hospital care in the Falklands in the transitional period before the new hospital was built was of a very high standard. She was much involved in the planning of the new hospital and in the day-to-day liaison with the military, a part of her job for which service in the WRAAF probably helped prepare her.

She was quite a strict disciplinarian, but with her concern for high standards went a highly perceptive understanding of people and a robust sense of humour. She was conscientious well beyond the call of duty, often working additional shifts during staff shortages. She was also an energetic party-goer and a generous hostess who made a great many friends, islander and expatriate, civilian and military. She was just the sort of person the Falklands needed after the conflict and she remained their enthusiastic supporter till the last.

**David Taylor**



# Shackleton Achievements Inspire Memorial Library

The achievements of the Antarctic Explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and his son, Lord Shackleton, a champion of Falkland Islands interests, have been recognised with the creation of a Shackleton Memorial Library as an extension to the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. Hundreds of people attended a two-day celebratory visit to the library when it was officially opened in November by Lord Shackleton's daughter, the Honourable Alexandra Shackleton, who thanked the many people who had given their talents, time and money.

Her father and grandfather would have been greatly honoured by this acknowledgement of their contribution to greater knowledge of the Polar regions. As part of the greatest centre of Polar archives and research in the world, the magnificent new library had relieved the growing pressure on space and greatly enhanced the Institute's facilities. She believed this higher profile might attract donations of exhibits, books and mementos of the Polar expeditions as donor generosity has always been important in building the archives.

She paid special tribute to the Institute's former Director, Dr. John Heap, as "Father" of the project which cost one-and-a-half million pounds. It attracted support from the Foreign Office and a generous donation of nearly half-a-million pounds from the Arctic explorer, Thomas Manning. Sadly, only days after the opening of the library, he died in Canada, aged 86.

The project coincides with a remarkable revival of interest in the exploits of Ernest Shackleton, both in Britain and the United States, inspiring articles in newspapers and magazines, a lavishly illustrated new book, a major Hollywood film being made by Columbia Tri-star in Norway, Greenland and

## Louisa Carey

Readers will be saddened to hear of the death of Louisa Carey, aged 103, in Southampton. Louisa was born near Port Howard in 1895, and came to Britain in 1952 after the death of her husband. She was featured in the *Newsletter* on her hundredth birthday in 1995, and was famous for her fine flower garden, which she tended carefully. Louisa is survived by her younger brother George, daughter Ellen, sons Ted and Tony, and grand, great grand, and great great grand children.

## Miles Apart

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Sir Rex Hunt with The Hon Alexandra Shackleton, daughter of Lord Shackleton, at the entrance to the Shackleton Memorial Library. *Photo: Harold Briley*

the Antarctic, and a major six-month exhibition in New York's prestigious American Museum of Natural History from April to October this year.

The exhibition's centre-piece will be Shackleton's famous lifeboat, the *James Caird*, normally kept at Shackleton's old school, Dulwich College, where the *James Caird* Society held a reception marking the 125th anniversary of Shackleton's birth on February 15th. Another Shackleton Exhibition opens in Washington in October, organised by the *National Geographic Magazine*.

## Getting the Name Right

To put Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr Di Tella, right on the correct place names in the Falklands, he's been sent a copy of the new book: "Place Names of the Falkland Islands" by Richard Munro. Copies are selling fast, in aid of a good cause, the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, and are available from Leif Pollard in Stanley or from the Falkland Islands Association, Douglas House, 16-18 Douglas Street, London, SW1P 4PB, price £5.50, inc p&p. Cheques to the FIA please.

## Date with an Antarctic Hero

Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic Expeditions and his incredible feats of endurance, leadership and seamanship are the subject of an illustrated lecture called:

### "A Century Ago: Shackleton and the 'Heroic Age' of Antarctica"

by

Dr Robert Headland of the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Venue: Royal Geographical Society  
1 Kensington Gore, London.  
May 12th, at 7 pm.

Proceeds to the Shackleton Scholarship Fund. To get your ticket, price £10, please apply to Ticketmaster, telephone 0171 413 1429 (24 hours) and at Ticketmaster Ticket Centres (including some branches of Waitrose, HMV, and Tower Nationwide). Also: [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk).



# The Falkland Islands Association

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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 quarterly 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 and Trading Organisations, minimum £50, Corporate Sponsorship £500).

I enclose a cheque for ..... payable to the Falkland Islands Association, (or, preferably, use bankers order form below).

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Signature ..... Date .....

## Dates For Your Diary

**Thursday, June 17th**

Annual Reception, Lincoln's Inn

**Saturday, December 11th**

Battle Day and AGM 1999

### ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the newsletter is 4,100 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, and other Commonwealth and foreign countries. 700 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.

A special concession is offered to members of the Association living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

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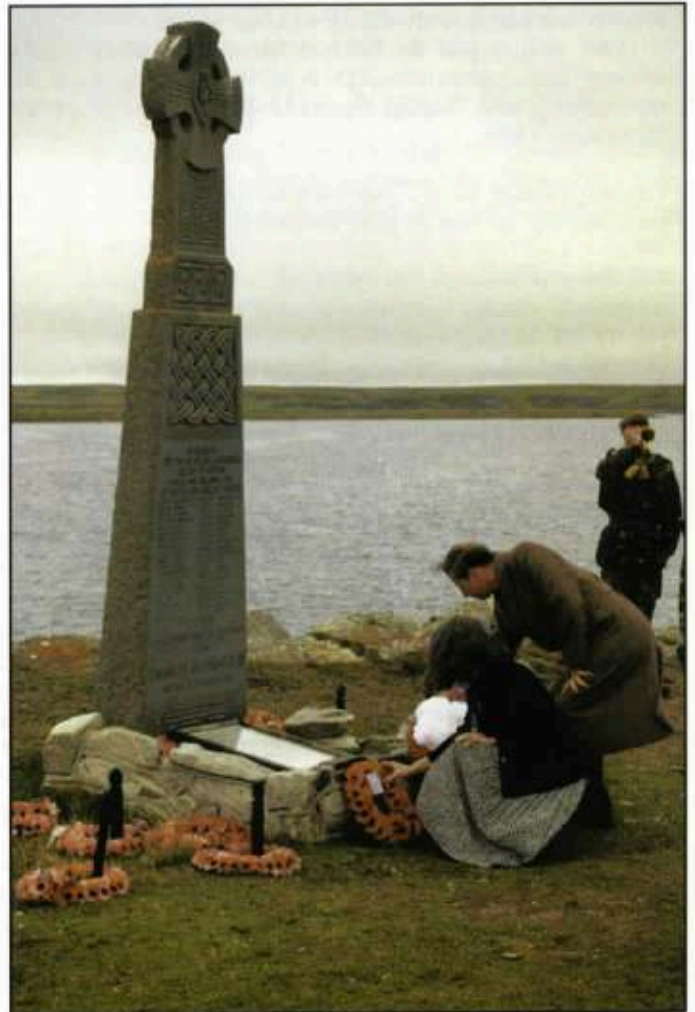




Prince Charles meets Falkland Islanders in Stanley, with the harbour in the background. All Photos: Courtesy of Norman Clark



Prince Charles with Falklands children at the Falkland Islands Community School.



Prince Charles lays a wreath with Ann Reid at the Welsh Guards Monument at Fitzroy.