



Falkland Islands Newsletter

Published by the Falkland Islands Association

Promising Future, But

Welcome to the Falkland Islands — a wildlife haven in the South Atlantic whose future beckons with boundless potential. The Falkland Islands, as this issue of the Newsletter exemplifies, is a success story. From the trauma of the 1982 conflict has risen a nation of courage and confidence, converting what was once a remote colonial outpost into what promises to be a land of Twenty-First century excellence.

The hard work and pioneering spirit which created a sheep-rearing farming community out of nothing is forging unprecedented prosperity from a newly-established, internationally-acclaimed fisheries industry, accompanied by a boom in tourism and the possibility of offshore oil discoveries.

Its small population of only about 2,400 has spawned a growing band of enterprising entrepreneurs, holding their own in the world of international commerce. Its enviable encouragement of education is producing articulate well-qualified young people capable of sustaining this economic revolution.

Yet the people retain their small-community charm, with a ready smile and a warm welcome for their many visitors.

The fascinating wildlife is as prolific and awe-inspiring as

ever, unharmed by the 1982 war. The Islanders are determined to conserve this priceless heritage of the past alongside the rich potential of the future.

In a courageous act of faith, they have held out the hand of friendship to Argentina, allowing unhindered access, and offering co-operation in fishery and oil development. The new Argentine Government has so far failed to reciprocate in a similar friendly fashion. Although ambitious to win its place as a mature democracy on the international stage, it nevertheless pursues a mean-spirited attitude of hostility, refusing to recognise the Islanders right to self-government and their choice of British sovereignty.

Argentina's press and media pursue a largely malicious campaign against the Islanders. This reached its zenith recently, with a particularly offensive film shot secretly in the Falklands which is covered in this issue.

Argentina's anachronistic claim to sovereignty is the only blight on what would otherwise be a perfect future for the Islands' small but deserving population, in whose success a friendly Argentina could also benefit.



Lincoln's Inn Wake-Up Call to Argentina

"Recognise Falklands' Right to Self-Determination"

Trenchant re-affirmation of the Falkland Islanders' wish to remain British and rejection of Argentina's sovereignty claim were emphasised at the annual London reception at Lincoln's Inn marking the anniversary of the Islands' liberation in 1982.

Hundreds of supporters, among them Members of Parliament, Task Force veterans and members of the Falkland Islands Association, vigorously applauded the Falkland Islands Government representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, when she declared: "The right to self-determination is enshrined in the Falkland Islands constitution, in the UN charter and guaranteed by the UK Government. Of our own free will we wish to remain British and with your support we will continue to assert our sovereign right to self-determination".

In a challenging year, there has been significant progress in some areas and little or none in others, where entrenched, historical attitudes still prevail.

She reiterated Councillor Summers' appeal to the Argentine Government, at the recent Argentine - British Conference, to recognise "that the people of the Falkland Islands have the same right to self-determination as other countries that Argentine troops, working with the UN, are helping to protect".

She warned against complacency in believing that Argentina is about to drop its unfounded sovereignty claim. To judge by statements of the new Argentine Government, the reverse is the case so it was gratifying to learn from the British Foreign Office Minister, John Battle, that the change of Government in Argentina has in no way weakened Britain's commitment to protect the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

In an upbeat message, Miss Cameron said that some of the economic and political uncertainties of last year had diminished. The recession in Asia, which had depleted Falklands fishing revenue, had ended, with the prospect of improved earnings. Arming one of the Falklands fishery patrol vessels and prosecution of a ship for poaching, had helped restore confidence in the protection and conservation of the fishery.

Last year's Anglo-Argentine July 14 Agreement to "build confidence and reduce tension" included a joint pledge to "enhance co-operation on conservation on fishing issues and to agree a co-ordinated programme to tackle poaching. If rhetoric can be turned into reality", Miss Cameron said, "it will benefit conservation and our fishing industry".

In an exchange of messages with former Governor, Sir Rex Hunt, Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, the Queen sent her good wishes and thanked the Islanders and their supporters for their loyal greetings.



Islanders Roddy and Don Bonner.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire with Islander Tim Miller of the Hydroponic Market Garden (See article opposite).



Mr. John White of the FCO and former Falklands Governor, Mr. William Fullerton.



General Sir Peter de la Billiere and Councillor Bill Luxton.



Canon Stephen Palmer, his wife Christine, and Falklands London Representative Miss Sukey Cameron

Falklands Hero Now RAF Chief

A Wing Commander who bravely led low-level Harrier air attacks on the Argentines in the 1982 Falklands conflict, now Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, KCB, DFC, AFC, ADC, FRAes, has been appointed Chief of Air Staff, the professional head of the Royal Air Force. He was previously Commander-in-Chief of RAF Strike Command.

Having re-trained RAF pilots for their new unfamiliar roles in the 1982 war, he led a series of sorties by No. 1 (Fighter) Squadron RAF operating from the aircraft carrier Hermes. It was in a Harrier raid he led on Dunnose Head airstrip that Islander Tim Miller was blinded in one eye by shrapnel from the British bombs. He and Peter Squire, pictured opposite enjoying a reunion at Lincoln's Inn last June, subsequently became good friends. Sir Peter and his wife stayed with Tim and his wife, Jan, in the Falklands for the tenth anniversary celebrations of the British victory in 1992.

Sir Peter, photographed below in uniform, was born in Felixstowe in 1946, and has had a distinguished career as an RAF pilot in various parts of the world.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, KCB, DFC, AFC, ADC, FRAes
Photo: Courtesy of the Ministry of Defence

Wanted: Help with Newsletter

Help is required for the Falkland Islands Association Newsletter, which is published three times a year for circulation to members and influential supporters of the Falkland Islands.

Writing and computer skills and knowledge of the Falkland Islands are needed. The post is voluntary and unpaid, but expenses are paid.

Thanks for Radio Auction

Following the successful radio auction in the Falklands in support of the Association, Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, sends the message of thanks below:

I know I speak for all members of the Falkland Islands Association in the UK when I say a big "Thank You" to the organisers of and participants in the radio auction held by FIBS on August 18th, which raised the magnificent sum of £5,000 for the Association.

This is in the finest Islander tradition of giving generously to worthy causes, going back to the funds raised for Spitfires in WW2 and probably long before that. It is heartening to know that our efforts here are appreciated in the Islands and we are much encouraged by the generosity of donors and bidders alike.

In her fax to us about the auction, Velma Malcolm praised acting Station Manager, Corina Goss, for her hard work leading up to the broadcast, together with the Studio staff, including the new Station Manager, Steve Johnston, who had arrived only three days before the event. Velma also thanked Ros Cheek (ex-member of the UK Committee) and Ali Dodds for their help on the night. She modestly omitted to mention the contribution that she and her colleagues on the local committee made, so I take this opportunity to say how much the Association here values their efforts and advice.

Sir Rex Hunt

Falklands Thanks for 1982 Support

After the 1982 conflict, former Coalite employee Betty Stevenson and others at Chesterfield raised money to help the employees of the Falkland Islands Company (which was then owned by Coalite) who had lost household items as a result of the Argentine occupation.

When HMS Southampton visited the Falklands in July with Betty's grandson on board, the FIC took the opportunity to thank Betty by feting her grandson, Able Seaman Neil Cartledge, and presenting him with a gift to be carried home to his grandmother.

The picture below shows Rosemarie King presenting Neil with the gift which readers may recognise as Tony Chater's excellent book of Falklands scenes.



Croydon Exhibition

The 13th Falkland Islands Exhibition at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, will take place from Monday 6th November to Saturday 11th November from 10am to 10pm.

At the Falklands shop in Wells, Somerset, the collection of Falklands "Fox Bay Mill Wool" has created great interest. Amongst newly imported colours are: "Thrift", "Goose Green", "Diddle Dee", etc. For information phone: 01749-677902

Offensive Argentine Film "F***land"

As reported in several British newspapers, a group of Argentines visited the Falklands in December of last year, just months after Argentines were re-admitted to the Falklands, pretending just to be tourists and secretly filmed many Islanders using tiny digital cameras that looked like the ordinary videocameras tourists use. Islanders were unaware that they were in fact being filmed for a commercial film that had its "premier" in Buenos Aires on September 21st, amidst massive publicity.

Sadly, it wasn't just a commercial film that was being made, but an extremely offensive one too. Its obscene title is "F***land" and it is based on the idea of an Argentine man trying to solve the sovereignty dispute by making as many girls in the Falklands pregnant as he can and so creating a generation of children that are half Argentine.

The film makers brought with them an unknown British actress, Camilla Heaney, to play the part of Falklands girl seduced by the Argentine Lothario. The film makers misled her into believing that she would not be used in a film detrimental to the Falklands.

This film is a perfect example of why many Islanders want nothing to do with Argentina. The film is accompanied by a book, and even has its own promotional website. For anyone who reads Spanish and wants to see just how malicious and nationalistic it is, the website address is www.fuckland.com.ar.

Hate Mail Increases

Penguin News reported a massive increase in the Argentine hate mail, that is routinely received in the Falklands, as a result of this offensive film.

The Falkland Islands Government Office at Falkland House in London also reported an upsurge in Argentine hate mail, an obscene twist to this being that some of it used "F***land House" instead of "Falkland House" in the address.

Editors' Note: We apologise to our readers for the distasteful nature of the above article. We hope people will understand that the Newsletter has a duty to report on Argentine activities against the Falklands, and that the Newsletter has a wide circulation among politicians and opinion formers in Britain and overseas who have to be kept informed - and are unlikely to be impressed by this latest example of Argentine behaviour.

New Ambassador to Argentina

The new British Ambassador to Argentina, Sir Robin Christopher, KCMG, (Photographed Right) takes over in November from Mr. William Marsden.

Duncan Robin Carmichael Christopher, who is 55, joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1970 but his thirty years' service have not previously included Latin America. He has been Ambassador to Indonesia for the past three eventful years and before that spent three years as Ambassador to Ethiopia.

He has previously served in the FCO Departments for Central and Southern Africa, West Europe, United Nations, Economic Relations and News Department, and in the Cabinet Office, and held posts in Spain, Uganda and India. He is married and has two school-age daughters.

William Marsden, who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service, was previously Ambassador to Costa Rica and Nicaragua as well as Argentina and Under-Secretary for the Americas, both North and South. He was involved in radical developments affecting the Falklands and Argentina, including the 1995 Oil Agreement and the 1999 July 14 Agreement on flights, access and fisheries co-operation.

New Argentine Policy of Cold Shouldering Islanders

The new Argentine government has made a point in its statements to the Argentine press and at the UN Decolonisation Committee of ignoring the Islanders and, at the same time as calling for sovereignty negotiations, declaring that it will deal only with the British Government.

Former Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Guido Di Tella, commented about the new policy that differs so drastically from his own attempts to charm Falkland Islanders that: "people will be laughing at us". At the UN it even led the present Argentine Foreign Minister, Adalberto Giavarini, into the ridiculous discourtesy of not shaking hands with Falklands delegates, Councillors Sharon Halford and Richard Cockwell.

Councillor Mike Summers has complained of "cold indifference towards Islanders, who want to be treated as equals and people in their own right".

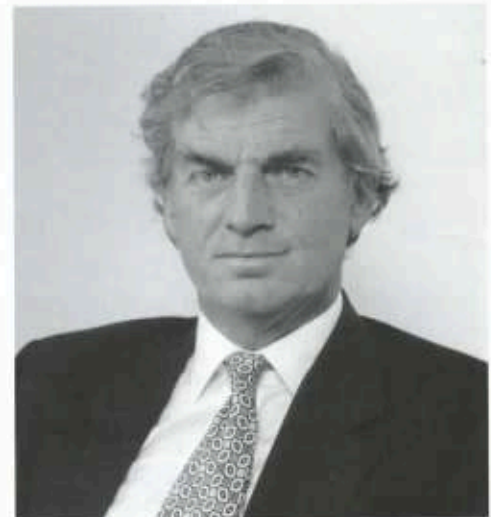
Governor Lamont says it would be "unhelpful" for Argentina to ignore Islanders' views, which have an impact on British policy.... Dr Di Tella demonstrated respect for the Islanders "as human beings with a valid point of view and not merely as part of a political equation".

Argentine Incursion

Five Argentine fishing vessels entered the Falklands fishing zone on July 12th for a few hours before withdrawing. The incursion was widely publicised in advance in Argentina, as the Argentine owners of the ships did it to embarrass their own government over what they saw as a breach of an agreement on quotas for fishing Hake that it had made with them.

The boats were some fifteen miles inside the Falklands fishing zone when they were over-flown by RAF Tornados from the Falklands. The new Argentine Government promptly protested over what it called "violation of its airspace". The Argentine press then carried a number of rather aggressive articles about this for the next week, doing its best to aggravate a problem its own government probably wanted to forget.

Part of the problem was a courteous protest letter sent by Falklands Councillors to the Argentine Government via the British Embassy in Buenos Aires. With its mind set on ignoring the Islanders, as if they didn't exist, the Argentine government was reported in the Argentine press as being particularly irritated by the fact that the letter of protest came from the Islanders themselves and not from the British Government.



Falklands could have huge reserves of Oil



Chief Executive, Dr. Michael Blanch, Fisheries Director, John Barton, and Agriculture Director, Bob Reid, listen to Dr. Nigel Fannin of the British Geological Survey, with a graph showing North Falklands Basin oil potential second only to Jungarr in China, and way above the North Sea

A unique Falkland Islands Government Forum on the scope for economic development and investment opportunities opened in London with optimistic assessments for further offshore oil exploration and for expansion of an already highly successful fishing industry.

The Forum (on July 12) entitled "Sustaining a Secure Future", attracted more than 150 delegates, including technical experts, businessmen and potential investors, academics, politicians and journalists.

The conference began with a re-affirmation of British Government support for the Islanders' sovereignty and security, and rejection of Argentina's claims. In a keynote speech, entitled "A Political and Economic Overview of the Islands", the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, Mr John Battle, MP, also welcomed Argentina's improving relations and economic links with Britain, and renewed co-operation and travel links between Argentina and the Falklands.

Britain stresses the importance of this co-operation in encouraging oil companies to conduct further offshore exploration to build on the knowledge gained from the six wells drilled in 1998, five of which found traces of oil, though not in commercially viable quantities.



Mrs Phyllis Rendell, Director of Mineral Resources

In an upbeat analysis of progress so far and prospects for the future, the Director of Mineral Resources, Mrs Phyl Rendell, said recent calculations by the British Geological Survey and the Shell Oil Company indicated that organic-rich

source rock had probably formed up to 60 billion barrels of oil in the North Falkland Basin. The Falkland Islands Government was eager to encourage new oil companies to join those who held existing drilling licences in the North Falklands Basin.

She declared: "Further exploratory drilling will be necessary to prove the hypothesis that there is oil trapped beneath the organic-rich source rock. The current licensees are attempting to raise funds to enable this drilling to take place, and are actively searching for new oil company partners to provide extra money to allow such drilling. The Falklands Government is preparing an open door licensing policy in order to accommodate expressions of interest for unlicensed acreage".

The Falklands Government would welcome progress in co-operative oil ventures with Argentina in the Special Co-operation area South West of the Islands designated in the 1995 Anglo-Argentine Oil Agreement. "Discussions", she said, "are progressing ... with a view to completing preparations for a licensing round of the Special Co-operation Area as soon as is practicable".

The Special Co-operation Area is administered by a Joint Commission of British and Argentine Government delegations with the participation of Falklands Government officials.

Mrs Rendell confirmed that drilling data had revealed the presence of a rich organic source rock, the necessary prerequisite for any oil to be formed in the area. "Although large accumulations of oil were not found by the first six wells, BGS suggests that this is because all the wells targeted potential oil fields above the source rock, whereas new geological modelling suggests that it would be better to look beneath the source rock".

She led the discussion on one of four main themes of the Forum under the heading "Responsible Mineral Exploration", in which she was joined by two British Geological Survey experts, Dr Nigel Fannin and Dr Philip Stone.

The Falkland Islands Chief Executive, Dr Michael Blanch, explained the reasons for the Forum; "We are at a crucial stage in our development, and the time is right to reflect on our achievements and plan with confidence for the challenges of the Twenty-First Century". Dr Blanch led the discussion on "Diversification and Development".

Fisheries To Expand: Economic Forum Highlights

Another major theme "Commercial Fishing: Opportunities and Conservation — Striking a Balance" was outlined by Director of Fisheries, Mr John Barton, who, dealing with an already well-established and now thriving industry, was even more upbeat than Mrs Rendell.

"If fifteen years ago", he said, "anyone had predicted that a multi-million pound fishing industry would operate in the Falklands, and that the business would involve Falkland companies in joint ventures with Spanish partners, they would not have been believed, at least not in the Falklands!"

"The fishery offers the greatest potential for private sector growth, whether through involvement with additional species or through added value. It is an aspiration that before too much of this century passes, the Falklands will become noted for the production of quality seafood from sustainable fisheries".

He foresaw favourable developments for the Falklands in possible development of organic produce as Falkland waters are very clean, with very little contamination. A planned new Port facility would help expansion of fishing, with greater water depth, more space for ships, and land available for developments. E-commerce and the Internet provide major opportunities for advertising, direct selling or running an auction via the internet, if required.

He explained how, since 1986, the introduction and expansion of a fisheries conservation regime around the Falklands had transformed the economy. The magnitude of its impact was reflected in the giant leap in Falklands Government annual revenue from £5 million to around £40 million a year.

Fishing Licence Revenue Reaches £24-Million

Fishing licence revenue, averaging around £20 million in recent years, climbed this year to £24 million. Fishing licence fees since the introduction of the fishery had totalled some £320 million. The average annual catch of fish and squid from Falkland zones was around a quarter of a million tonnes. The Falklands accounted for around 10% or greater of the world catch of *Loligo* and *Illex* squids.

There were now 23 ocean going fishing vessels registered in the Falkland Islands; 19 trawlers and 4 longliners. Most were owned by joint ventures between Falkland fishing companies and European, primarily Spanish, fishing companies. Fishing firms were some of the larger and more profitable companies in the Falklands.

Co-operation between Argentina, Britain and the Falklands in the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission (SAFC), set up in 1990, had been given fresh impetus by last year's Anglo-Argentine Agreement. Joint research cruises, co-operation between scientists, and the quality of scientific work had been "good". But Mr Barton made a plea for progress in securing longer term stability and a multilateral high seas agreement.

Illegal fishing had been a serious problem, but the arrest of a Taiwanese poacher earlier this year, after being fired upon twice by the "Dorada" fisheries protection vessel, had brought poaching in the *Illex* fishery to an end for the season and, hopefully, for the longer term. Conservation targets had been met in most seasons.



The Capricorn, one of many Falklands registered fishing vessels.



Director of Fisheries, Mr. John Barton

New Ships

Two new Falklands ships have appeared on the scene recently.

In September, the new Consolidated Fisheries vessel *Valiant CFL*, arrived in Stanley. Like Consolidated Fisheries other vessel, the *CFL Pioneer*, she is 100% Falklands owned.

The *Valiant* was built in Japan in 1985 as a tuna longliner and converted in 1998 to a bottom longliner. She will initially be used to fish for toothfish in the Falklands Outer Conservation Zone.

The other recent arrival was the *MV Sigma*, the new Falkland Fisheries Patrol Vessel that replaces the *MV Criscilla*. The *Sigma* is bare boat chartered by Sigma Marine Ltd, a subsidiary of Byron Holdings, from its Norwegian owners. It is chartered to the Falklands Government for 30 months by Byron Marine.

The *Sigma* is 60 metres long and of 1467 gross tons and was originally built in 1972 as stern trawler, but was converted in 1982 for seismic survey work, and then rebuilt again from February to June of this year for coastguard work.

The *Sigma* carries a crew of 12 and has accommodation for 12 Fisheries Department personnel. She can make 15 knots and has a helicopter deck where personnel and cargo can be lifted and dropped.

Reassurance and Praise for Falklands

In a robust re-affirmation of British sovereignty of the Falklands Islands and continuing military defence, the British Foreign Office Minister responsible for South American issues, Mr John Battle, MP, said Britain's 21st Century partnership with the Islands for progress and prosperity must be founded on "Falklanders deciding their own future, self-determination".

In his keynote speech opening the Falklands Islands Government Forum on its future (July 12th), Mr Battle said "The 1976 implementation of the International Human Rights Covenants has invested self-determination with the "force of international law as a fundamental, collective human right..... people in Britain's Overseas territories must experience the greatest possible control over their lives".

Timely Guarantee of Garrison and Flights

Coming only a day after the annual United Nations Decolonisation Committee's debate and vote in favour of Argentina's request for talks on Falklands sovereignty, it could not have been a more timely or more effective rebuff. He told his audience of 150 businessmen, politicians, academics and journalists that the UK's "most important responsibilities to the Falkland Islands are defence and foreign affairs. We are committed unequivocally to ensuring the security of the Falkland Islands". He gave a guarantee that Britain would maintain its tri-service garrison there and that the RAF would



continue to operate the air-bridge from Britain.

The Minister had high praise for Islanders for what he called their "highest standards of probity, law and order, good government and observance of international commitments. And a proud record in the exercise of democracy... The Legislature is lively, governs efficiently and is a beacon of democracy.... and a model of good government". He praised the Islands' economic success "which means they now enjoy control, effectively, over their own resources and shape the economic future".

He welcomed last year's "ground-breaking" agreement with Argentina, restoring air links, strengthening co-operation on fisheries, and allowing access to Argentine visitors. "The benefits... will prove of lasting value".

The Minister congratulated the Falklands Government on promoting its waters to the oil industry "as somewhere worthy of serious exploration with a view to exploiting a potential resource in a world-class environmentally sound and responsible manner".

He congratulated the Islands on their far-sighted education policies, cutting-edge agricultural projects and environmentally friendly practices, presenting a significant opportunity to meet the widescale demand for organic produce.

He was impressed by their success in attracting tourists who find "peace and tranquillity, warm hospitality, and unbeatable opportunities to see beautiful wildlife". **Harold Briley**

World's First Organic Country?

The Falkland Islands could become the world's first accredited organic country, partly through prudent farming methods, partly by accident. Within three years the Falklands could be exporting organically attested wool, organic shellfish and a variety of meats.

This could be a vital boost to the depressed farming community opening up international markets for their products, as organic farming enjoys growing support from environmentalists and housewives eager for healthy food. In a world fearful of contamination, the Falklands could be a model of natural husbandry in its pristine South Atlantic isolation. Virtually no agri-chemicals are used and sheep do not need organo-phosphorus dipping. Director of Agriculture, Bob Reid (*Right*), told the Falklands Economic Forum the Islands are naturally endowed to acquire organic national status.



Asked whether Argentina, one of the world's big four agricultural nations, could help the Falklands, Mr Reid replied: "Frankly, No. They probably need us more than we need them, to help them develop Southern Patagonia".

It was planned by the end of this year to set up a Falklands Organic Certification Body to meet international standards. Fortuitous circumstances have placed the Falklands in a favourable position environmentally. As Islands, it has been difficult to import animals, thus keeping out pests and diseases. Harmful insects were long ago eradicated, removing any need for pesticides. The acidic soil has been a major advantage re-acting to non-polluting natural rock phosphate, enhancing the organic status of the Islands. Thus the most

economic methods have coincidentally proved to be organic.

The Agriculture Department is exploiting thousands of tons of phosphate containing calcified seaweed washed up on the beaches. Phosphate makes legumes grow. A variety of these are being developed for pasture improvement to give ten times the present low capacity for sheep. These include lupins which thrive in acidic soil and other plants which Bob Reid called "little biological factories to supply nitrogen to the grass".

For organic meat production, conditions are equally favourable. Concentration on wool rather than meat production had meant no antibiotics for feeding animals, or hormone implants for beef production.

"We are using materials and methodologies recommended by virtually every organic organisation in the world", the Director of Agriculture declared. "We can grow the cleanest grass in the world and produce mutton of the finest flavour. We are developing cashmere, from a flock of goats. And we have a small herd of wild llama from South America, called Guanaco, capable of producing fibre of extremely high quality, in demand in the fashion world".

It is planned to import some of South Georgia's 4,000 very healthy reindeer, which are about the only accessible reindeer unaffected by the Soviet Chernobyl nuclear disaster. They are also seeking to exploit commercially for meat their quarter-of-a-million wild geese.

Chief Executive, Dr Blanch, said the long-held dream of an abattoir is going ahead and should be working by next May supplying quality meat. **HWB**

Falklands Leads in Environmental Preservation

Scientists' Concern for Wildlife

Countries bordering the South West Atlantic have been urged to join together in pragmatic co-operation to conserve the region's precious environment and its prolific marine and bird wildlife.

The call was made at the South West Atlantic Marine Environment Conference in London (on June 7/8), sponsored by the Falklands Government with Falklands Conservation. Experts on oceanography, ecology and conservation, from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), British Geological Survey, the Sea Mammal Research Unit, and other organisations, delivered papers on oil exploration, fishing, protection of wildlife and research into penguin and albatross migration.

Pointing out that fish and wildlife do not know political boundaries, delegates urged that the Falklands should be joined in future by Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil, in this laudable aim. Two international professors were keen to see such co-operation. Professor of Zoology at Washington University (Seattle), Dee Boersma (*Left*), has worked for many years on penguin research in Argentina as well as in the Falkland Islands, with Ian Strange on his New Island Conservation Trust Reserve.



The other strong advocate of regional co-operation is Professor John Croxall (*Below Left*) of the British Antarctic Survey. He described the Conference as "an extremely good and long overdue get-together" of key people in the science, management and politics involved in the SW Atlantic marine environment.

"If we are to manage resources on a Patagonian shelf-wide basis, and in the special area of oil co-operation", Professor Croxall said, "we have to engage our colleagues in adjacent countries in future meetings, especially younger scientists who share our ideals and aspirations. Active practising scientists in the South West Atlantic region would then be much better placed to broaden international participation and regional collaboration".



The next logical step would be a conference to include the South American countries, possibly in the Falklands or Argentina, in a pragmatic forum to bring fisheries, oil and the rest of the marine environment together, to discuss conservation of marine resources and threatened fish stocks. Co-operation



L to R: Dr. Neil Gilbert of the FCO Polar Regions Section, Chairman of Falklands Conservation Major Ronnie Spafford, Peter Lapsley and the Hon Alexandra Shackleton of the FIA and Dr. Phillippa Noon of BAS.

on the environment has lagged behind on-going co-operation between Britain and Argentina on fisheries and oil.

He and several other speakers praised the Falkland Islands Government for what they have achieved with very limited resources, in contrast to their very large obligations in treaties and forums. Falklands Director of Fisheries, John Barton, considered the conference "extremely useful". Perhaps it could be repeated in the Falkland Islands. One of the Conference organisers Dr Mike Osborne of Metoc PLC, welcoming the cross-fertilisation of ideas, said the attitude of the Falklands government and people had been "admirable". Conference delegates praised papers from Falkland Islands delegates, including Conservation Officer Becky Ingham, Field Science Officer Dr Andrea Clausen, and Environmental Planning Officer Tom Eggeling. Falkland Islanders believe their unique experience can be a model for other small nations in promoting economic development alongside sensible protection of the environment and wildlife.

The conference was opened by Baroness Barbara Young, Chairman of English Nature and Vice-Chairman of the BBC, who has been officially invited to visit the Falkland Islands.

An opening address from the Governor of the Falkland Islands, Mr Donald Lamont, was delivered by Councillor Sharon Halford, Chairman of the Falklands Government Environmental Committee, who welcomed the conference as the first comprehensive forum on such an important issue. She said: "It is an excellent way of exchanging and gaining vital knowledge for sustaining a precious heritage such as our wildlife, while developing a flourishing fishing industry and drilling for oil, which has been done with great care and caution, with the necessary safeguards and legislation"

Falklands Conservation Executive Secretary, Ann Brown (*Right*), said a conference with experts of such calibre highlights the necessity for countries to understand fully their physical and biological surroundings prior to sustainable development in sensitive areas worldwide.



Harold Briley

Pick up a Penguin - on the Web!

Even penguins have joined the high tech world of the Internet! The web took on a new dimension for me when, from my home in Britain, I logged on to a website to receive messages from 17 Rockhopper penguins dotted all over the South-West Atlantic, nearly two thousand miles into their annual winter migration foraging at sea.

With intriguing names such as Otto, Max, Millie, Benji and Benno, the penguins have transmitters taped to their backs sending data to a satellite which passes over four times a day in polar orbit, to a base station in Toulouse in France, then to Falklands Conservation. In co-operation with St. Andrew's University Sea Mammal Research Unit at Fife in Scotland, they analyse the information which is also put on the Internet. Each penguin's transmitter is operated by a sea-water switch, automatically switching off underwater.

The penguins, tagged at three Falklands locations, Seal, Saunders and Sea Lion Islands in March, are sending back data until the birds return to their colonies to breed in October or until the transmitters fall off.

Large scale commercial fisheries, oil exploration, and shipping have all increased in the last decade. Penguins are highly vulnerable to entanglement in marine debris, changes in the marine ecosystem and oil pollution. Off the Argentine coast, 40-thousand Magellanic penguins die each year from oil pollution from passing ships.

More and more tourists are visiting remote corners of the Islands causing disturbance to penguin breeding colonies. How to manage the impact of these potential threats is an urgent priority in the Falklands, which have the world's largest concentration of Rockhopper Penguins and a quarter of the



world population of Gentoo penguins, with three other breeding species (King, Magellanic and Macaroni).

Seeking Clues to Penguins' Decline

This £20,000 (30,000-dollar) study is a major effort by Falklands Conservation to find out why there has been such a drastic decline in penguin numbers, down 90 per cent, from three-million Rockhopper penguins in the 1930's to only 300,000 today. The reasons remain largely unknown. To find out what hazards they face and identify conservation measures to protect them and halt the decline, it is essential to analyse their feeding and migration behaviour on the Patagonian Shelf. This study provides for the first time valuable insights into the winter foraging patterns and migrations of Magellanic and Rockhopper Penguins breeding in the Falkland Islands.

The three-year project began with a grant from oil companies drilling off the Falklands. It is now run in association with the Antarctic Research Trust by a German Penguin expert, Dr Klemens Putz (*Photo above*), aged 39 from Bonn who studied Emperor and King Penguins for his Ph.D at Kiel University. Each transmitter device costs £1,250, and £10 a day to transmit, staying on for about 100 days. Passengers on cruise ships, on which Dr Putz lectures, have donated up to £1,250 each to "adopt" a penguin, which is why many of the penguins have Swiss or German names.

Harold Briley

Anyone wanting to support this initiative may send donations to "Falklands Conservation", 1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, London N3 2DA, telephone and fax: (+ 44) 020 8343 0831

Albatross Alert

An urgent appeal from the Falkland Islands has called for help in trying to reverse a drastic decline in the world's albatross population. Falklands Conservation Officer, Becky Ingham, says the world's albatross face "dramatic decline", down thirty per cent over twenty years in the huge Falklands' breeding colonies. "This is a staggering decline. We are deeply concerned and urgently seek funds to find out why".

Albatross are concentrated in the South Atlantic. The Falklands are home to three quarters of the entire global breeding population of black-browed Albatross, the South Atlantic's most beautiful seabird, with a wingspan of over two metres (eight feet), attracting tourists from all over the world. Numbers on Beauchene Island have dropped from 160,000 pairs in 1981-1982, the year of the Falklands War, to only just over 100,000 in the present breeding season.

Falklands Conservation has launched its appeal to fund in-depth research and a strategy to reverse the decline. It



coincides with an international campaign to save global albatross populations called "Keeping the World Seabirds Off the Hook". Initiated by BirdLife International, working in more than 100 countries. Lack of food seems an unlikely cause of the decline. It could be a loss of young birds returning to the breeding colony, increased mortality in the breeding birds during winter, or increased death from swallowing plastics or from long-line fishing. Falklands Director of Fishing, John Barton, says that as the boats set their gear, albatross can swoop down to seize the bait, get caught on the hooks, be dragged under and drowned. Avoidance action can cut fatalities by weighting the lines properly and flying streamers to frighten the albatross off.

Falklands Conservation research, focusing on feeding habits, would be carried out by attaching rings to birds legs, study of diet, satellite and geolocator use and increased watch on fishery activity deaths.

The albatross is famously depicted in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner", as a pious bird of good luck which turns into bad luck when killed.

Harold Briley

Conservation: "For Future Generations"

In this issue, we profile Falklands Conservation, whose mission, is "to ensure the conservation and protection of wildlife for future generations by providing advice, education and practical action". It is a charity overseen by trustees in the Falkland Islands and London. Its Patron is the Duke of York. Its London office is run by Ann Brown. Harold Briley has been investigating.

"Come on a penguin chick count with us?" The invitation came on my most recent visit to the Falklands. How could I refuse? I've always wondered how you count penguins!

My expert guides were Conservation Officer, Becky Ingham, and her Chief Scientific Officer, Dr Andrea Clausen. We spent a sunny windy day with our heads down penguin burrows, counting chicks at Gypsy Cove near Stanley. It was the second half of a survey where six months previously breeding pairs had been counted. We were going back to see how many had chicks, which can be victims of predators or disturbance from thousands of cruise ship tourists.



Journalist Harold Briley with gentoo penguins

Becky Ingham, age 28, from Norfolk has been in the Islands for four years. Dr Clausen is an Islander. Both were awarded degrees in Marine Biology at Bangor University, and Andrea Clausen also has a PhD for research into mussels. Impressive academic records which could earn them more money elsewhere.

Dr Clausen worked in the fishing industry but, she says, "It's not about money but what is important in life. For me, wildlife is incredibly important. It is part of our Falklands national identity. We must work very hard to protect it". She is involved in the Seabirds Monitoring Programme of the main penguin species, rockhopper, gentoo and magellanic, which has collated 13 years of data.

Tourists Come Close to Wildlife

As tourism expands, crucial studies have been carried out by another young Islander, Debbie Summers, on the impact of cruise ship tourists visiting wildlife sights in large numbers. This has led to new guidelines to protect wildlife and an initiative by her to produce a Site Guide to educate and inform visitors and promote environmentally sensitive tourism.

Falklands Conservation is involved in assessing the environmental impact of offshore oil exploration and the expanding fishing industry. It lobbies and advises the Falklands Government on effective conservation legislation.

After a two-year Conservation study of one of the world's rarest birds of prey, a Government Wildlife Ordinance now protects the Striated Caracara or Johnny Rook, as it is known, with fines of up to £3,000 (4,500 dollars) for unlawfully shooting the bird even if it is causing damage to property or

attacking sheep. It was once hunted remorselessly with the encouragement of a Government bounty for each bird killed under a Destruction Ordinance. Only about 500 breeding pairs survive in the Falklands, 75 per cent of the world's total.

Falklands Conservation is a source of professional expertise on South Atlantic wildlife through an international network of contacts. It has embarked on a five-year plan contributing to a National Biodiversity Strategy for the Falklands, and discovering new species in a Native Plant Survey.

It distributes booklets, information packs to schools, and code of conduct manuals and videos for tourists and the military garrison. Becky Ingham has involved youngsters, forming the first Wildlife Watch outside Britain, a club for children, who show unbridled enthusiasm in their wildlife haven. They have talks, rambles, beach combing, and have planted 400 tussock grass plants, one for each child under sixteen, for the new Millennium.

The concentration of military forces during the 1982 conflict and a sizeable garrison since, numbering about 1,600, brought potential risks to the environment but wildlife has survived relatively unharmed, despite disturbance from low-flying aircraft, helicopter landings and vehicles intruding on seabird colonies. Successive British Forces Commanders have willingly co-operated. Six have become members of Falklands Conservation. A new campaign to encourage the military's involvement in wildlife conservation includes lectures, articles in military journals and fund-raising.

Harold Briley

Endangered Sea Lions

What is described as a "catastrophic" decline in the population of the South Atlantic sea lion has prompted some experts to call for it to be officially declared an endangered species, as has happened with the North Pacific Stella sea lion. That has suffered a similar decline for different reasons and has been declared an endangered species by the United States.

Scientists attending the recent South West Atlantic Marine Environment Conference in London were astonished at the severity of the crash in the numbers of sea lions, which are found in the Falklands and all around the South American coast from Uruguay and Argentina to Chile and Peru.

Dr Jim Reid, from the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St. Andrews University, said the numbers in the Falklands dropped by ninety per cent from more than 400,000 in the 1940s to only a few thousand by 1965, and have never recovered. At one breeding colony, at Cape Dolphin, conservationists recently counted only 48 sea lion pups, compared with 3,500 in the 1940s. The figures suggest that the population is only two per cent of what it was sixty years ago. A similarly catastrophic drop in numbers has occurred in Argentina.

Regarded as one of the most impressive animals in the Falkland Islands and its fiercest predator, the sea lion's decline is attributed to an even more prolific predator — Man.

A comparatively small Falkland Islands cull, killing about 40-thousand sea lions in the 1940s, was greatly exceeded in Argentina where an estimated half-a-million were killed for their skins for leather and for rendering down into oil. Despite the end of hunting of sea lions fifty years ago, their numbers have not gone up again. Conservationists suggest the Falkland Islands and its South American neighbours declare the South Atlantic sea lion an endangered species.

HWB

Falklands Conservation and Tourism

Right: The young Islanders of "Falklands Watch" doing their bit to preserve the incredibly rich fauna of the Falklands.

Below Left: Becky Ingham, Falklands Conservation Officer in Stanley, and Dr Andrea Clausen, Chief Scientific Officer, overlooking Gypsy Cove outside Stanley.

Gypsy Cove is one of the many beaches in the Stanley area that is still mined.

Photos: Harold Biley



Debbie Summers, who has been researching the interaction of tourists and wildlife.



Above: Southern Sealion on Kidney Island.



Right: Rockhopper penguin incubating an egg.



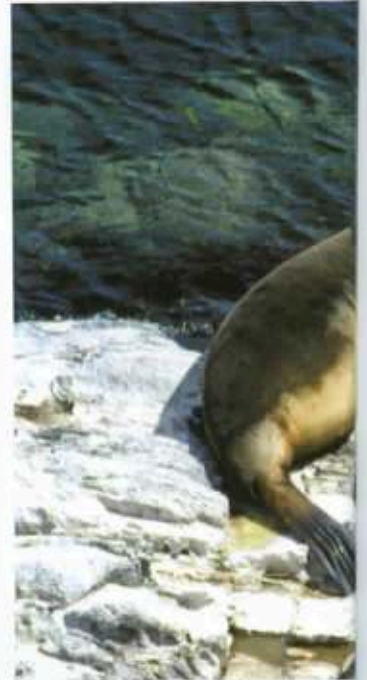
Gentoo Penguins with Deaths Head Cape in the background



Rock Hopper Peng



Above: Magellanic Penguins, Sea Lion Island *Photo: Kevin Schafer*



Below: Elephant Seals, Sea Lion Island





King penguins, Kiney Island



Striped Caracara, Saunders Island



Above: Fur Seals, Narrow Island.



Above: Kelp Geese, Sea Lion Island

Below: King Penguins, Saunders Island.





Above: The traditional backbone of the Falklands economy - sheep grazing near San Carlos, which now has the British military cemetery and a small museum. Above Right: The monument in Stanley to the 1914 Battle of the Falklands.



Above: The children's playground in the foreground with Stanley's colourful houses behind. Below: backbone of the new Falklands economy - squid jiggers in Stanley harbour. Bottom: Stanley waterfront.



Falklands Freezer Plant Initiative

A new freezer processing plant for the Falklands costing nearly a quarter of a million pounds will boost exports and coincidentally provide earnings for farmers enduring hardship from depressed wool prices.

The specialised plant incorporating the latest technology is a joint Falklands-Spanish initiative by the Golden Touza Company which began operations in the Falklands in 1996. It has two partners, a Spanish family firm called Chymar, in Vigo, with long-standing fisheries experience, and Southern Cross, the first ever Falklands fishing company founded in 1986.

Southern Cross Managing Director, Mr Terry Betts (*Right*), in partnership with two other Falklands directors, told the Newsletter how their operations are expanding, helping Falklands farmers, and demonstrating confidence in the Islands' economic future. Mr Betts is typical of the new thrusting brand of entrepreneurs the Islands' recent prosperity has produced, able to hold their own as international businessmen.

The Falklands processing plant has been built in Spain for Golden Touza's partner company, Galfrio, one of Europe's largest cold-stores and marketing organisations. With ancillary infrastructure costing about half a million pounds, it will complement Galfrio's existing cold-store complex in Stanley.

It will process and package oysters, mussels, crabs, salmon and mullet from the unpolluted Falklands environment for the United States, Chile, Russia, Lithuania and Estonia. It is also hoped to develop crab fisheries and salmon farming. "We are very enthusiastic, optimistic and confident in the future", Mr Betts declared. "We are well aware of our responsibility in playing an active part in supporting the Islands' economy. We enjoy access to the valuable loligo squid fishery, and want to re-invest money in the Islands".

Golden Touza owns two modern 70-metre stern freezer trawlers, *Golden Chicha* and *Golden Touza*, registered in the Falklands, mainly targeting loligo. A third vessel, *Hermanos Touza*, registered in Spain, catches illex squid and finfish.

Re-investing in the Falkland Islands and providing com-



mercial expertise and venture capital, Golden Touza has formed a partnership with the Falklands Islands Government and Islander, Simon Harcastle, in a company called Falklands Fresh Limited which will use the new plant. Mr Betts says: "We have established a mussel farm and oyster beds at Darwin and near Fox Bay. In the agricultural community, we are encouraging farmers, at Estancia and Fox Bay, to diversify by earning money from oysters and other aquaculture products. This helps to improve their standard of living and to preserve the traditional way of life in the Camp".

Golden Touza has links with Uruguay's Universal Shipping Agency and Chilean Shipping Agency Agencia Broom, and co-operation with Argentina is not ruled out. Mr Betts, a former Legislative Councillor, declares: "I have a very open mind about markets.... If there is a market in Argentina, that does not give me or the Falkland Islands Government any problems. We hope to tap into Chile's expertise in salmon".

It is planned to develop a salmon fishery, exploiting Simon Harcastle's experience in attempting to pioneer salmon farming in the 1980's. The processing plant will give added value to inshore fisheries products. Mr Betts has appealed to Chief Executive Dr Michael Blanch to help firms such as his to develop by removing bureaucratic obstacles. **Harold Briley**

Falklands Experience 2000/2001 Season

November 2000 and January 2001 tours now fully booked.

Tour No. 3: Depart RAF Brize Norton Mon 26 Feb. 2001
Arrive Falkland Islands Tue 27 Feb. 2001
Depart Falkland Islands Wed 14 Mar 2001
Arrive RAF Brize Norton Thu 15 Mar 2001
Tour Leader: Ronnie Spafford

Bookings now being taken

Details from Major R.N. Spafford, 29 Queens Road, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 2LH.

Tel: 01934-622025.

E-mail: MajorRonnie@AOL.COM

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New Falklands "Invasion" — by Cruise Ship

Governor Among Famous Lecturers

A new invasion of the Falkland Islands by cruise passengers next year includes four eminent personalities of the 1982 conflict — former Governor Sir Rex Hunt; the outstanding land forces commander, Major General Julian Thompson; former Royal Navy Surgeon Captain, Dr Rick Jolly; and Margaret Thatcher's Chief Press Secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham. With their wives, they will be lecturers aboard the liner *Saga Rose* when she calls on a round-the-world cruise at the Falkland Islands (on January 27), Buenos Aires (January 24), Rio de Janeiro (January 20) and Montevideo in Uruguay (January 23). Passengers will be treated to first hand accounts by men whose actions helped shape those momentous events of 1982. Here are their stories, told by Harold Briley who covered the conflict as the BBC Latin America Correspondent in Buenos Aires.

Sir Rex Hunt CMG is an extraordinary diplomat who endeared himself to the Falkland Islanders during his eventful and at times tumultuous years there from 1980 to 1985. He combined the dignity and authority of a Governor with an enviable ability, along with his wife, Mavis, to get on with everybody, except invading Argentine Generals! He was often to be found quaffing a pint, playing snooker or darts or lodging with Islanders in remote dwellings, as he recounts in his book "My Falkland Days" (David and Charles).

A thirty-four-year diplomatic career took him and his wife to some of the toughest posts in the world, among them Malaysia during the confrontation with Indonesia, Saigon at the climax of the Vietnam War when the city fell to the North Vietnamese and Uganda, his first colonial posting after four years' Royal Air Force service as a Spitfire pilot.

He rejoiced in one of the longest titles in the Diplomatic Service: "Governor, Commander-in-Chief and Vice Admiral of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies and High Commissioner of the British Antarctic Territory", presiding over one of the largest, scattered British territories, with one of the smallest populations, little more than two-thousand, as well as

600-thousand sheep, several million penguins, and other prolific wildlife. Of the Islanders, he declared: "They are more British than the British and intensely patriotic. Who else knows the *Second Verse* of the National Anthem"?

He was told to expect "a tranquil and absorbing way of life". "Absorbing" it certainly was. "Tranquil" it definitely was not. He was plunged into the sovereignty dispute, which led to the Argentine invasion. He and his small contingent of Royal Marines valiantly resisted before surrendering to save lives.

He was unaware of Argentine plans until the fateful, belated telegram, on the eve of invasion, couched in language only the Foreign Office could devise: "We have apparently reliable evidence that an Argentine Task Force will gather off Cape Pembroke (Stanley Harbour entrance) early tomorrow morning. You will wish to make your dispositions accordingly". His staff member handing him the telegram remarked: "They might have added 'Goodbye and the best of British ...!'" Sir Rex famously declared: "The silly buggers are coming!"

In a morale-boosting broadcast before he was evicted, he gave Islanders this pledge: "I wish you all the best of luck and, rest assured, the British will be back". Soon they were, first in the Task Force which liberated the Islands then in re-establishment of British administration. Sir Rex was faced with the daunting task of making good the depredations of Argentine occupation, building a new air base to deter future aggression, and setting the Islands on the path to prosperity based upon Lord Shackleton's post-conflict report.

In retirement, he indulges his Yorkshireman's passion for following rugby and plays golf twice a week whatever the weather. He champions the Islanders and their right to self-determination as Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association and Treasurer of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund. He is one of a select few people to be made a Freeman of Stanley.

Sir Rex Hunt hopes to give talks to a new generation of Islanders when he and Lady Hunt stay for two weeks in the Falkland Islands.

Outstanding Field Commander: Military Historian

Major General Julian Thompson, CB, OBE, was indisputably the outstanding land campaign commander. He masterminded a series of hard-fought battles in awful weather and terrain, at the extremities of a vulnerable eight-thousand mile logistical chain, deprived of vital equipment, outnumbered in the air within range of ground-based aircraft and on the ground by a well dug-in enemy. He also had to contend with the whims of politicians and the orders of Military Chiefs in the United Kingdom far removed from the urgent decisions and physical challenges he faced in perilous circumstances as Brigade Commander of the spear-head 3 Commando Brigade.

This tough Royal Marine commando triumphed against all the odds, in a supreme test of his physical and moral courage, professionalism, outstanding leadership, skill and determination. He was accorded by his Commander the understated sporting accolade of "Man of the Match". But this was no sporting contest and "No Picnic", the title he chose for his book graphically describing his front-line experiences.

In millions of words written about the conflict runs a thread of respect and praise for Brigadier Thompson's conduct of the campaign. In a long military career which took him to many places including an emergency tour in Northern Ireland, the Falklands were his biggest challenge and finest hour.

With retirement from the forces, he channelled his



energies and expertise into new careers. He is a consultant to the defence manufacturing industry and adviser to an oil and minerals exploration company, Exploration Logistics, giving guidance on security and safety in remote areas of the world. As an eminent military historian, he combines academic activity as a Visiting Professor to the Department of War Studies at London University King's College, with military television documentaries and authorship of several books, the latest of which is a history of his own Corps through his eyes, entitled "The Royal Marines: From Sea Soldiers to a Special Force", published by Sidgwick and Jackson (Macmillan).

When Saga Rose calls in at Buenos Aires, General Thompson and Dr Jolly plan a reunion with some of their former Argentine enemies and to lay a wreath at the War Memorial as a gesture of reconciliation. Major General Thompson also hopes to conduct a battlefield tour in the Falkland Islands. He is laying a wreath at the London Cenotaph in commemoration of Falklands Battle Day with the Falkland Islands Association on December 9th.



He has told this remarkable story of survival and medical expertise in his book "The Red and Green Life Machine" (Century Publishing). He also recounts his war experiences in a more light-hearted lecture entitled "A 16-thousand Mile Cruise and the Shore Excursion!" on *Saga Rose*, a former Cunard liner modernised by the Saga Travel Organisation. He has enjoyed a reunion with one of the liner's two captains, Martin Reed, formerly Chief Officer of the 1982 troopship *Canberra*. Dr Jolly alternates as a ship's doctor on the RMS *St. Helena*, run by Curnow Shipping of Cardiff for the St. Helena Government.

"The World's Best Press Secretary"

That's how Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher described Bernard Ingham during his eleven years as her Chief Press Secretary when she dominated British politics and travelled the world meeting other leaders. Always she was accompanied by this bluff Yorkshireman as one of her closest, most trusted advisers, seeing at first hand her triumphs and her setbacks.

He earned a reputation as a tough, outspoken, no-nonsense purveyor of facts, all substance and no spin, respected for his integrity by politicians and press alike. After many years as a Government Information Adviser and Administrator, he was a surprise choice by a Conservative leader, having previously been a Labour Party member as a young journalist, when he worked for the Hebden Bridge Times, Yorkshire Post and Guardian.

This will be his first time back in the Falklands since he master-minded and somehow kept secret for her security Prime

Minister Thatcher's clandestine trip to receive the Freedom of the Falkland Islands in 1983 in the dangerous aftermath of the conflict, in which he was instrumental in allowing journalists to accompany the Task Force. Sir Bernard is re-visiting Argentina, Uruguay and Chile for the first time since he went on a commercial proving flight 36 years ago in the VC 10, an aircraft on which he was later to travel more than half a million miles with Margaret Thatcher with RAF Strike Command. He tells his fascinating story at the centre of political power in his lectures and his very readable book, "Kill the Messenger" (Harper Collins).



Doctor at Sea: New Saga — New Patients

The Royal Navy doctor whose medical team saved many lives, both British and Argentine, in the 1982 Conflict, has gone back to sea, this time in very different circumstances. Former Royal Navy Surgeon Captain Rick Jolly now works as a ship's doctor both on the *Saga Rose* and on the scheduled passenger-cargo ship RMS *St. Helena*, sailing between Britain, South Africa, Ascension Island and St. Helena.

In 1982, Dr Jolly, a young Royal Navy Surgeon Commander, led a medical team which gave emergency treatment to 250 wounded men in their front-line casualty station at Ajax Bay, converted from a derelict



Shackleton Legend: Major Exhibition at Dulwich College

The remarkable revival of interest in the Antarctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, nearly eighty years after his death, shows no sign of slackening. A quarter of a million visitors thronged to two Shackleton exhibitions in the United States last year. A spate of new books, films, television and radio programmes, and media articles have focused on his exploits.

One of the most comprehensive exhibitions of his life will be staged at his old school, Dulwich College, in South London, from October 31st until February 25th. Entitled "Shackleton: the Antarctic and Endurance", it is being mounted in co-operation with the James Caird Society (named after his famous boat) which promotes knowledge of Shackleton's life.

Outstanding among exhibits will be the James Caird, works by two members



*Photo: Courtesy of the
Scott Polar Research Institute.*

of the 1914 expedition, oil paintings by George Marston and the famous photos of Frank Hurley; the loan of one of his expeditions flags from the Royal Collection; and memorabilia from the National Maritime Museum, Royal Geographical Society, Scott Polar Research Institute, Science Museum and other institutions, the Shackleton family, and descendants of Shackleton's men.

Profits from the exhibition will be shared equally between a new Shackleton Bursary at Dulwich College and the Shackleton Scholarship Fund set up to benefit the Falkland Islands, in memory of Ernest Shackleton and his son, Lord Shackleton. Information can be obtained from the organiser, Dulwich College Archivist, Dr Jan Piggott, FSA. Tel: 020 8299 9201. Fax 020 8299 9245. E-mail: archives@dulwich.org.uk. **HWB**

Shackleton Scholarship Fund Celebrates Fifth Anniversary



Anniversary Wood for a Princess

A Falklands wood has been named after Princess Alexandra to commemorate her first visit to the Islands as Patron of the Falkland Islands Trust and the Shackleton Scholarship Fund. It is called "Alexandra Wood", a permanent reminder of what the Princess called a "magical visit", in which she toured the wood of several thousand young trees in picturesque Port Howard, one of several sites where the Trust has been encouraging and experimenting with tree-growing.

A Commemorative Booklet about the Princess's visit, illustrated with photographs, has been produced and is available for sale to raise funds for the Trust.

In what's been an eventful year, a pamphlet has also been produced for the fifth anniversary of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund which has been another Falklands success story. The Fund was initiated in 1995 by Falklands Governor, David Tatham, who is now also its Chairman, to celebrate the lives of the famous Antarctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and his son, Lord (Edward) Shackleton, author of two reports promoting present Falklands development and prosperity.



Above Left: Lord Shackleton in the Falklands before the 1982 War. Above: David Tatham founder and now Chairman of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

The Fund commemorates their achievements by awarding two types of scholarship: Academic, for graduate research students who wish to visit the South Atlantic for research projects; and "Quality of Life", for people whose visits to or from the Falklands benefit the region and enhance the quality of life of the Islanders. These have included musicians, artists and sports coaches in swimming, golf, fly fishing, shooting and horsemanship.

A fascinating booklet on "Place Names of the Falkland Islands" by one scholar, Richard Munro, is on sale for £5 with proceeds going to the Fund. During its five years, it has raised more than £500,000 and awarded some 30 scholarships. For information, please contact: The Shackleton Scholarship Fund, c/o Falkland House, 14 Broadway, Westminster, London, SW 1H OBH. Tel: 0207 222 2542 Fax: 0207 222 2375 e-mail: rep@figo.u-net

Harold Briley

Antarctic Shackleton Ship Named

The Royal Research Ship *Ernest Shackleton*, back in Britain from her first voyage for the British Antarctic Survey, was formally named (on May 13) in the port of Hull (Right). Watched by 150 guests, the ceremony was performed by the Honourable Alexandra Shackleton, granddaughter of the famous explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, after whom the vessel is named.

Hull was an appropriate venue. Ernest Shackleton sailed from there to Norway in 1907 while equipping the first of the Antarctic expeditions under his sole command. Professor Chris Rapley, Director of BAS, said: "We are delighted that the RRS *Ernest Shackleton's* homecoming after a highly successful first voyage for BAS is celebrated by the renaming ceremony... Antarctica is central to our understanding of how the Earth works - it is one of the most remote regions in the world and yet it affects our global climate, our ocean circulation and our atmosphere. The UK has a long tradition of Antarctic exploration. Nowadays BAS is exploring areas of science that have an important impact on society. Both ships are vital in keeping our operation at the forefront of Antarctic research".

The RRS *Ernest Shackleton*, built in Norway in 1995, is ice-strengthened to withstand the hostile conditions of the Antarctic, and is the sister ship of HMS *Endurance*. Formerly registered as the *Polar Queen*, she has a well-proven capability for polar logistic and scientific work. She is used during the Antarctic summer (October to May) to re-supply the BAS's research stations and also for scientific survey work. When not in Antarctic service the ship is chartered back to Norwegian owners Polar Ship Management for commercial work.

Her first BAS voyage took her through Montevideo en route for Bird Island, Signy and Halley Research Stations. Each year the BAS ships call in at Britain's 'gateway to Antarctica' - the Falklands, from where BAS was previously managed by the Falkland Islands Dependencies. Long-standing friendships persist with the islanders. The *Ernest Shackleton* is registered in the Islands under a British Antarctic Treaty flag. To celebrate her first visit there Captain John Marshall hosted an evening reception, and an air display by one of the RAF's F3 Tornado aircraft provided a spectacular welcome for the ship. The *Ernest Shackleton* replaces the ageing RRS *Bransfield*.



Ernest Shackleton's failed expedition of 1914 is one of the greatest stories of survival, endurance and rescue in the history of polar exploration. In an ordeal lasting eighteen months after his ship, *Endurance*, was crushed by ice, he led the survivors to Elephant Island, crossed the stormiest waters in the world in a small lifeboat, the *James Caird*, and traversed the unmapped mountains of South Georgia on foot, to renew contact with the outside world at the Norwegian whaling station at Stromness.

In repeated attempts, in four different ships, Shackleton went back to rescue all his men. In 1922, on his third Antarctic expedition, Shackleton suffered a fatal heart attack and is buried at the whalers' cemetery at Grytviiken in South Georgia. Captain Marshall laid an inscribed ship's plaque on the grave. BAS has another vessel, also named after an Antarctic explorer, *James Clark Ross*.



Above: The *Ernest Shackleton* in Antarctic ice. Above Right: Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance* trapped in the ice of the Weddel Sea ice in 1915, shortly before she was crushed and lost, leading to Shackleton's epic escape.

Falklands Achievers

Islander Editor

Islander, Graham Bound, has been made editor of the Ministry of Defence magazine Focus. Before this he worked for Soldier magazine, Mercopress and BBC "Calling the Falklands". Earlier this year he won the British Association of Communicators in Business awards for Best News Reporting and Best Feature for his coverage of Kosovo and a motorcycle trial. The photo below shows Graham (left) interviewing Islander Chris Jaffray who was with the Army in Kosovo.



Lawyer Returns

A young Falkland Islander who has achieved much at an early age is Miss Ros Cheek, who, while only 26, has been appointed Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers in Stanley working in court and advising the Government.

She gained her law degree in England and experience of specialised shipping law at the firm of Andrew M. Jackson and Co. in Hull. Her maritime knowledge is valuable in an economy focused on fisheries. Her elder sister, Miranda, with a nursing degree, works as a health visitor in Stanley.

How does Ros feel to be back in her birthplace, Stanley, after ten years studying in England? "It's wonderful to be back", she said. "Nothing I have seen so far would entice me to settle elsewhere. I am confident the Falklands offer me a challenging future and a quality of life which is unparalleled. My instincts are to stay, settle and make my life here, though I may go off and travel for a year".

She has mixed feelings about last year's agreement extending access to the islands for Argentines and feels sad about the divisions it has caused. "I will do all in my power to resist the Argentine sovereignty claim", she says.

With that resolute pledge, she follows in the footsteps of her mother, Councillor Jan Cheek, and her distinguished father, the late Councillor John Cheek. Will she also stand for election to the Legislature? Her present Government post bars her, but, she says, "it's a possibility in the future".

The Islands' gain is the Falkland Islands Association's loss in London, where she was a valued and conscientious member of its Executive Committee.



Degree Results

Director of Education Dr. Langridge has announced the following results obtained by Falkland Islands higher education students:

Guillermo Cordiero 2.1 (Second Class/First Division) Hons Degree in History and Politics.

Christopher Eynon 2.2 (Second Class/Second Division) Hons Degree in Civil Engineering.

Johan Gray 2.1 (Second Class/First Division) Hons Degree in Biomedical Sciences.

Roz Harris 2.2 (Second Class/Second Division) Hons Degree in Information Systems.

Paul Kultschar 2.2 (Second Class/Second Division) Hons Degree in Business Info Technology.

Tim Morrison 2.2 (Second Class/Second Division) Hons Degree in Industrial Product Design.

Andrew Pollard HND (Higher National Diploma) in Agriculture and Certificate of Industrial Experience in Agriculture.

Fiona Wallace 2.1 (Second Class/First Division) Hons Degree in Nursing.

Dr. Langridge said, "These are all excellent results and worthy of much commendation.... The students deserve many congratulations and Falkland Islanders may be rightly proud of the high esteem which such a set of results brings to the country and the community." The Newsletter agrees.

A-Level Results

Like the degree candidates above, Falklands A-level candidates, most of them from Peter Symmonds' College, Winchester, have excelled this year.

Anna Luxton, came top with four A-levels all at grade "A"! A remarkable achievement, that will take her to Brunel University outside London.

Next came Stephen Betts, who got two "A" grades (in Chemistry and Biology) and a "B" in Maths which will take him to Lady Margaret Hall College at Oxford to read Biochemistry.

Acting Director of Education, Richard Fogerty, also praised Louise McLeod, who is going on St Mary's University College, Andrea Poole, who is going on to Nottingham Trent University, Peter Diggle and Georgina Strange. Georgina may be going on to Australia for her higher studies.

Leif Poncet, who had been studying at the United College of the Atlantic, got his International Baccalaureate.

Two other Falklands students will be starting vocational courses this September, at Chichester College; Dionne Jones on Beauty Therapy and Tanya Ford on Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing

GCSE

After successful GCSEs, six students will be going on to Peter Symmonds' College at Winchester. They are Daniel and Chris Biggs, Sammy Marsh, Debbi Robson, Stacey Bragger and Roxanne Crowie. Peter Symmonds' College, came eighth in the top 50 schools and colleges survey carried out by the *Guardian* newspaper recently.

Daniel Biggs is also so well known for his skill at football that he was given a week's trial by First Division football club, Preston North End, recently. He will return next year for further training and if successful could leave Peter Symmonds' College to become the first Islander to join a professional British club. Daniel played for the Falklands National Team when he was only 15.

Robin Myles Lee (1949 - 2000)

Tributes have poured in from many parts of the world expressing shock and sadness at the death of Robin Myles Lee, in Carlisle, aged 51, from complications after heart surgery. He was born on December 27, 1949. He was an outstanding man of his time as a businessman, farmer and legislator, who won respect and friendship from people in all walks of life.

Among them were many servicemen he befriended in the 1982 war and later as visitors, prominent among them, Admiral Kit Layman, whose ship, HMS *Argonaut*, survived intensive Argentine bombing.

Robin Lee was a member of an old-established Falklands family, running one of the best and biggest sheep farms in the Falklands at the picturesque settlement of Port Howard, which he co-owned with his brother, Rodney Lee. Robin also established and ran the internationally-renowned Port Howard tourist and fishing lodge, where in February, with his wife, Hattie Lee, he was host to Princess Alexandra.

Robin was prominent in the remarkable transformation of the Falklands from a neglected colonial backwater before the 1982 Argentine invasion to the prosperous community it is today, which gathered momentum during his time as a Councillor representing the farming community from 1986 to 1990.

Occupation leader

As a leader of the local community, he helped maintain morale during the Argentine occupation of the settlement, where only three days before their surrender, a hero of the campaign, SAS Captain John Hamilton, was killed and buried in Port Howard's cemetery. That is also where Robin Lee's body was interred, in the settlement where he was brought up, went to school and began work as a young farm-hand, and where his great-grandfather, Jacob Lee, arrived from Britain in 1870, to deliver a flock of sheep and stayed on as a shepherd.

The Lees have lived there ever since, making it one of the most successful of Falklands farms, with 200-thousand acres, and more than 40-thousand sheep, as well as cattle and horses.



In the radical agricultural reforms recommended in Lord Shackleton's post-conflict report, it was appropriate that the Lee brothers, having previously been manager and assistant manager, bought the farm in 1988.

Robin's expertise in farming, which he studied for two years at New Zealand's Lincoln University, was recognised when the Falklands Government appointed him first managing director of Falkland Land Holdings, from 1992 to 1996, in charge of its million-acres of farms, previously owned by the Falkland Islands Company. In 1997 he founded and became chairman of the Falkland Islands Cattle Breeders' Association.

Entrepreneur

While retaining his first love of farming, Robin Lee was a visionary and entrepreneur who helped to found and run several other businesses in tourism, fishing, wool production, and road-construction. He was a valued Trustee of the Falkland Islands Trust, set up in 1981 to promote and improve agriculture and create forests in a largely treeless land, and to oversee the more recent Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

His other great passion was the prolific wildlife of the Falklands whose seabirds he cherished and surveyed at close quarters as an expert boatman in the Falklands' unpredictable seas, reaching isolated wildlife colonies in his former lifeboat.

I was privileged to be invited to be one of his earliest guests at what has since become a world-renowned tourist and fishing lodge at Port Howard, which he ran with Hattie, with a reputation as a superb cook, of which she had experience in such out-of-the-way places as Outer Mongolia and a Northern Russian fishing camp after taking a BSc Geography degree.

Robin Lee's two sons and a daughter from his first marriage all live in the Falklands. He married his second wife, Hattie (nee Nicola Coulthard), in 1999, at a shepherd's coastal shanty on his beloved Port Howard farm. He was devotedly cared for by her and her family in the Cumbrian countryside as his condition deteriorated after his heart surgery. **HWB**

Alicia Battistoni

The death of Alicia Battistoni (on August 14) robbed the Falklands of a good friend, an Argentine who staunchly supported their right to self-determination and strongly expressed this view in Argentina to her fellow Argentines.

It was a courageous thing to do; but courage and her faith were the strong qualities which shone through as her strength ebbed away at the end of her long battle against cancer. She died, aged 54, in Sutton, where she had lived with her partner, Peter Pepper. She was his staunch companion in support of the Islanders against Argentina's sovereignty claim.

Alicia was a third generation Argentine whose grandparents emigrated from Italy. She studied at Cordoba Catholic University to become a pharmacist and bio-chemist.

In her visits to the Falklands, her sincerity and intelligence won her many friends and she had the brilliant idea of

making a film about the Islands in the form of a video letter. She called it "Open Letter to My Mother"

The film had particular impact upon Argentines, enhancing their understanding of the Islanders and their aspirations. In her film review in Penguin News, Janet Robertson described it as "warm and honest".

Sir Rex Hunt said: "This video will do more to dispel misconceptions about the Falkland Islands in Argentina than any professional production and will lead to a greater understanding and recognition of the Islanders' views on sovereignty. Alicia's love for the Islands comes through loud and clear". **HWB**



Dynamic Falklands General Dies

We regret to record the death of the Army Commander who galvanised and motivated the British garrison in the Falkland Islands in the aftermath of the 1982 conflict. Major General Sir David Calthrop Thorne, died from prostate cancer in England on Easter Sunday, April 23, at the age of 66.

As the youngest Major General in the Army, he brought boundless energy and fresh enthusiasm to a daunting task. He was an inspiring leader and outstanding co-ordinator, held in affectionate respect both by Falkland Islanders and his troops who, with their flair for the right word, called him "Action Man" or "Jumping Bean". His not-so-secret weapon was his rapport with and faith in his soldiers whom he called "a unique brotherhood".

Faced with the debris of war and the mess left by more than 10-thousand departing Argentine troops, he proved the ideal man for the job, forming a pragmatic partnership and lasting friendship with the newly returned "Civil Commissioner", Sir Rex Hunt. Sir Rex practised a policy of joining him to welcome servicemen and women. Together, they were to be hosts to a procession of high-profile visitors, led by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

General Thorne had to maintain a highly-trained, ever-ready defence against still dangerous Argentine military elements who deeply resented their defeat. He took control of the Islands' defences, rebuilding and upgrading Stanley airport for the Phantom aircraft forming the first line of defence, siting the three mountain-top radar stations to detect any Argentine



intrusion, and advising on plans for Mount Pleasant military complex and air base.

His other priority was what he called "learning to live with and woo the Islanders, gaining their support and confidence..... The future", he said, "is a partnership between us, the military, and the Islanders. We must have respect for each other". His intuitive attitude capitalised on their tremendous gratitude to the British forces which could swiftly have turned into resentment with the strains of a 4,000-strong garrison, outnumbering the civilian population by more than two-to-one. It is testimony to his intelligent leadership and the Islanders' hospitable nature that the rapport he helped to build then persists to this day.

Leaving the Islands after nine-months unremitting work, he was awarded a knighthood, rare for the rank of Major General. Sir Rex Hunt said of him: "He achieved a tremendous amount for his troops and endeared himself to the Islanders. We built up a mutual trust and understanding".

Major General Thorne later commanded the First Armoured Division of the British Army of the Rhine, became an outstanding Director of Infantry of the Army, then, after the Army, Director General of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

General Thorne was born in Hertfordshire and educated at Saint Edward's School, Oxford, and at Sandhurst. He leaves a widow, Anne, two daughters, Georgina and Laura, and a son, Edward.

Harold Briley

Book Reviews

THE FALKLANDS WATCHER by Frank Schofield, published by Brewin Books Ltd., Studley, Warwickshire, B80 7LG, in 1999. Soft back, 221 pages including Contents, Introduction, Acknowledgements, 7 page index and 14 colour plates. Foreword by Sir Rex Hunt CMG. ISBN 1 85858 140 0. £12.95 postage extra.

Frank Schofield, like many people in Britain, was fascinated by the 1982 Falklands War and followed it from the Argentine invasion on 2nd April until their surrender through the medium of television, radio and the press. However instead of dismissing the details once the conflict was over, Frank made a record of all the events as presented by the media together with his own thoughts and reactions.

In 1998 Frank Schofield visited the Falklands on holiday and made a point of viewing the chief scenes of the war: San Carlos, Goose Green, Darwin, Tumbledown and Mount Longdon as well as Stanley, of course, where he was able to talk to many Falkland Islanders who lived through the war. The result of all this is his book **The Falklands Watcher**.

The book is broken down into 44 short chapters covering reactions to the Argentine invasion, the political juggling, the sinking of so many Royal Navy ships, the land battles and the aftermath, which make it easy to put down and pick up again. This well written book provides an excellent overview of the Falklands War as seen through the media in the UK and will be a valuable addition to any Falklands library as well as stirring the memories of those of us in Britain who lived through those stormy days.

RNS

FALKLAND ISLANDS The BLACK and RED POSTAL FRANKS (1869 - 1878), by Robert Barnes. Hardback, 108 pages including Foreword, Introduction and Acknowledgement, Indices and Select Bibliography. Copiously illustrated including fourteen covers in full colour. No ISBN, £26 plus postage.

This well produced book is devoted to listing, describing in detail and illustrating the pre-stamp covers of the Falkland Islands which were prepaid and postmarked to show this with firstly a small rectangle applied in black ink and subsequently a larger circle in red ink. They have come to be known as the Black and Red Franks and the covers bearing them are considered an immensely important part of Falkland Islands philately.

The nine years over which the "Franks" were used were also of great interest in the history of the Falkland Islands and inextricably involved were such colourful characters as the Packe brothers, Arthur Bailey, George Travis, Arthur Felton, and one of the most famous Governors of the Falklands and subsequently of several other colonies, William Robinson.

Several of us also had an idea of publishing such a book, but Robert Barnes is to be congratulated on actually achieving this and in producing such a fine work. The illustrations are excellent and the text clearly and interestingly written.

Only 200 copies of the book have been published which in itself makes this fine book a rarity. It can be obtained from Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9EU.

RNS

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 newsletter, which all members receive, covering political and social events in the Islands, wildlife, tourism, philately, and many other subjects. It welcomes interest in the Falklands and invites all those who share its aims to become members.

Membership Application

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

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

Name

Address

.....

Connection with the Falklands, if any

.....

Signature

Date Telephone

Please return to: Falkland Islands Association, Douglas House, 16 - 18 Douglas St, London, SW1P 4PB. Applicants who do not wish to cut this form from a Newsletter are invited to use a xerox of it. Members are requested not to use this form for membership renewals.

BANKERS ORDER

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

Name

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Signature

Dates For Your Diary

6th to 11th November
 Falklands Exhibition at Croydon

Saturday 9th December
 Battle Day and AGM

October 31st to February 25th
 Shackleton Exhibition at Dulwich College

ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the Newsletter is 4,500 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, all Members of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly, Members of the House of Lords, all British Members of the European Parliament, and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth and foreign countries. 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 four insertions by negotiation. A special concession is offered to Association members living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

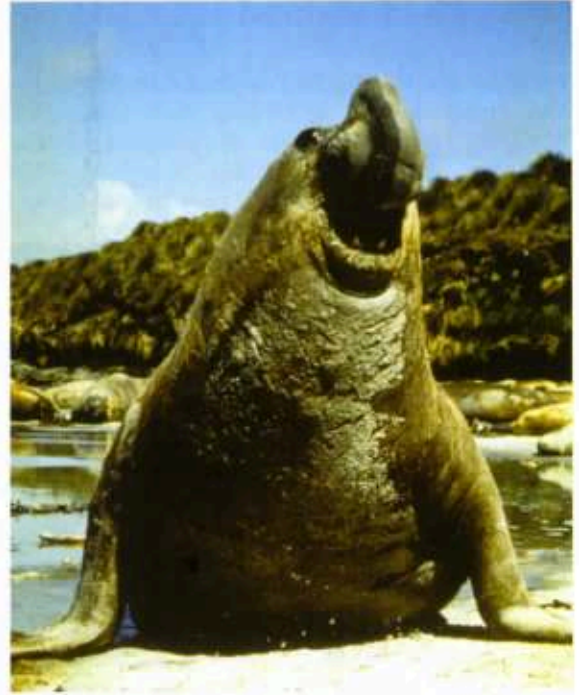
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Editorial Committee:
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Top Left: A Blackbrowed Albatross swoops over Dunbar Head with Deaths Head Cape in the background.
Top Right: Bull Elephant Seal, Sea Lion Island. Centre: King Penguins at Volunteer Point.
Bottom: The Cruise Ship, RMS Saga Rose, which will be visiting the Falklands in January, and which visited the Islands six years ago as the Cunard liner Sagafjord.