



Falkland Islands

Newsletter

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Visitors Galore: Ambassadors of Goodwill

Tourists pouring ashore in ever greater numbers from cruise liners are good news for the Falkland Islands. The more people who find out what the real Falklands and the Islanders are like, the better. Foreign Office Minister, Baroness Scotland, on her visit, remarked how "very British" they are. That is an all-important factor in the sovereignty dispute with Argentina. They ARE British — and overwhelmingly want to remain British. Baroness Scotland acknowledges that desire. "They will remain British as long as they wish to be", she says.

The Prime Minister in his latest message assures them of the United Kingdom's unremitting support. "Your right to self-determination and our guarantee of your security", he says, "are vital commitmentsSovereignty is not negotiable".

In years gone by, the Islands suffered from astonishing ignorance about them in the world outside. Islanders would plead with their comparatively few visitors to tell the people back home who they were, what they were, and where they were. "Please put us on the map", they would say. Well,

General Galtieri did that. The invasion and conflict dominated the headlines for a few hectic months of 1982.

Yet, there remains widespread ignorance still, in the United Kingdom, in Argentina and elsewhere Not least about the remarkable progress the Islands have made, to become a confident, prosperous, vociferously-democratic nation, as the next election, fixed for November, will undoubtedly demonstrate. Most visitors to the Islands come away charmed by what they find — a green and pleasant land populated by friendly people and fantastic wildlife.

Every tourist is a potential ambassador of goodwill. Which is why the Islands are wise putting in place proper and necessary facilities to welcome their guests, as our reports on tourism and on the new Visitor Centre illustrate.

Baroness Scotland's visit is a timely reminder that the Falklands are the gateway to the Antarctic, a valued staging post supporting British Antarctic Survey scientists in what she calls "crucial" research beneficial to the whole Planet.



Hands-on Minister for the Overseas Territories, Baroness Scotland, in the Antarctic.

Photo: British Antarctic Survey

Self-determination and Security Guaranteed

The Prime Minister has reiterated Britain's vital commitments to support Falkland Islanders right to self-determination and to defend their security.

In a New Year message broadcast direct on the BBC World Service programme "Calling the Falklands", Tony Blair also commended the Islanders for doing much more than just keeping up with the pace of change by actively reaching out for new opportunities for economic development. He welcomed co-operation with Argentina, where mutually beneficial.

Here is the full message:

"The year 2000 was always going to be a momentous one. I know for all of you in the Falkland Islands it has been a year of promise and progress. The world is changing fast. In particular the ever-expanding world of the internet is bringing us all closer together. Cultural and linguistic barriers are being broken down. More and more of us can now have access to a phenomenal amount of information. E-commerce has huge implications for our economies.

I know that in the Falkland Islands you are doing much more than just keeping up with the pace of change. You are actively reaching out for new opportunities for economic development, and seeking out a place in the new global order.

At the Falklands Forum in July, business, the media, investors and conservationists met to talk about the constructive partnership and the way ahead for the Falkland Islands. The Forum was a terrific initiative and a great success. It successfully projected an image of a modern Falkland Islands gearing up for the challenges of guaranteeing economic growth while protecting your remarkable environment.

John Battle (Foreign Office Minister of State) set out clearly at that meeting the basis for our continuing partnership with the Falkland Islands; your right to self-determination and our guarantee of your security. Let me reiterate here those vital commitments.

And I hope this promise of stability will enable us to work wholeheartedly towards sustaining a secure future for the Falkland Islands. I also want to take this opportunity to salute your courage in agreeing to develop links with Argentina where co-operation is in our mutual interest. This approach offers the possibility of a sound working relationship with Argentina, without compromising the fundamental principle that sovereignty is not negotiable.

We are making headway on the question of the feasibility of landmine clearance, as well as on oil exploration, and fish stocks in the South-West Atlantic. These are important issues and they won't be solved overnight. But I welcome steps in what I am convinced is the right direction. It seems to me that the Falkland Islands is looking frankly at the future and the opportunities which lie ahead.

Rest assured that my government is committed to supporting you in this dynamic progress whilst ensuring your security.

Against that background I am delighted to wish you all both a Happy New Year and continuing prosperity for the next year and beyond".

Tony Blair



Baroness Thatcher's Message



Baroness Thatcher has sent a message of goodwill praising Falkland Islanders for their courage and determination and wishing them well for the future. It was carried by her former Press Secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham, back in the Falklands for the first time since arranging her secret trip to receive the Freedom of the Falklands in 1983. The message reads:

I would like to convey my very best wishes to all the people of the Falkland Islands for your future progress and prosperity and to say how much you are still in my thoughts.

It hardly seems that nearly twenty years have gone by since those traumatic months in 1982 when your freedom was temporarily lost. Your courage and determination along with the wonderful professionalism of our armed forces were an inspiration in Britain and across the world.

I know that since my visit to the Islands new opportunities have opened up and that many more people are now able to enjoy the beauty and natural wonder of the Falklands. In the coming years I hope that tourism flourishes bringing additional jobs and wealth to your community.

*With all good wishes,
Margaret Thatcher*

Taiwanese Plague Argentine Policy Dispute

More than three hundred mainly Taiwanese vessels are fishing just outside the 200 mile territorial limits of the Falklands and Argentina - with support vessels making them totally independent of the Falklands or Latin America. Uncontrolled high seas fishing has been depleting fish stocks for twenty years but has got dramatically worse, leading last year to several arrests of unlicensed vessels in Falklands or Argentine waters. It is now so bad that the powerful lights used to attract the squid make the fishing fleet look like a floating city 30 miles long at night. Each vessel can take 400 tons of squid - making a mockery of conservation measures.

Treaty commitment.

Fisheries on the Patagonian continental shelf have been coordinated between Britain and Argentina since 1990 by the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission (SAFC). An Anglo-Argentine agreement of July 14th, 1999 contains a commitment to apply measures "for the maintenance and conservation of fish stocks", a task undertaken by the SAFC. But there has been virtually no progress towards a regional fishing agreement, a situation British observers blame on Argentina.

Argentina is also criticised for having had no contacts for two years over fisheries with the EU where pressure could have been applied for the ratification of the UN protocol on the preservation of fishing stocks that migrate across international boundaries.

Falklands Councillor Richard Cockwell, responsible for fishery policy, in a letter to the Argentine press, recalled the July 14th treaty commitment, pointing out it is in nobody's interest to see the squid stock wiped out - as Argentina has a major fishing industry of its own. His letter merely unleashed a torrent of malice against the Islanders in the Argentine press, and yet another polemic between Argentine Foreign Minister, Adalberto Giavarini, and former Minister Dr. Guido di Tella.

Foreign Minister Giavarini promptly declared he would not even reply to the Islanders' communication - in accordance with his policy of refusing to recognise that they should have any say in their own future, while, Dr. Di Tella insisted that Argentina must deal with the Islanders if it wants to be able to solve the sovereignty "problem". He sees any form of dialogue with the Islanders as a means of leading to discussions on sovereignty. One newspaper had no fewer than six articles about all this on a single day as it stirred things up, amid massive coverage by the Argentine press, radio and television. Their public dispute is reminiscent of the one that occurred when Di Tella visited the Falklands (see page 5).

Editors' Comments

Pillage of the Seas: Argentine Delay

It is right to condemn Argentina for its failure to cooperate in combating the pillage of the high seas by Taiwanese boats. Argentina's rejection of a Falklands plea for "action and goodwill" to prevent over-fishing is damaging not only to the Falklands' economy but also to its own, to the survival of valuable and vulnerable squid stocks, and to the delicate ecological chain of South Atlantic wildlife.

So frustrated were the Falklands Councillors at the Argentine Government's refusal to talk, let alone co-operate,

Minister John Battle in Tune with Islanders



FCO Minister with responsibility for the Falklands visited the Falklands at the 'height of the fishing controversy with Argentina. He fully supported Councillor Cockwell's letter to the Argentine press saying "It contained items of mutual concern to both countries, and the Councillors had every right to send it". He hinted at his disappointment at the way the Argentine Government had reacted, saying it "was his intention to see a positive response Argentine Government engaged in discussing fishing issues".

Uniquely, among visiting politicians, Mr. Battle won the hearts of Islanders in a meeting at the Malvina House Hotel by playing the guitar and singing folk songs!

Asked to respond to the Argentine Government's attitude of dismissing the Islanders as unimportant, he said: "Where does the future go? The people are the real agenda".

Mr. Battle welcomed the July 14th Agreement. Asked how he could see further cooperation developing, he said "transport exchanges in both directions" but insisted that it will "take time and patience". He also commented that cooperation could occur in "oil and gas licencing and mutual respect".

Mr. Battle commented on the how many young people were living in the Islands. He said people in Britain tended to think of the population as a few old people when there was a vibrant community of young people. Last, but not least, Mr. Battle confirmed the Islanders have an absolute right to self-determination, that there will be no concession with respect to sovereignty - "and the Argentines know it".

Before leaving, Mr. Battle laid wreaths at both the British and Argentine cemeteries.

about a practical issue, that they raised it in a letter to the Buenos Aires Press, calling on Argentina to enter into negotiations to restrict over-fishing.

The Argentine Government would not budge. It has failed for nearly two years even to respond to the European Union, the one forum where negotiations might secure international agreement to restrict over-fishing. By contrast with the internationally praised fisheries regime of the Falklands, Argentina's inactivity has brought the hake stocks in its own waters to the brink of collapse. But the Falklands are far more dependent on fishing revenue, whereas the Argentines are probably not so concerned about ruining squid stocks.

Baroness Scotland: "Falklands Security a Priority"

Visiting the Falklands en route to and from Antarctica, Baroness Scotland, Minister for Overseas Territories, re-affirmed her Government's commitment to the Falklands and their security.

She declared: "The Falklands are British; they will remain British as long as they wish to be. I have had the real advantage of seeing the Falklands myself, the people here are indistinguishable from people who live on mainland UK".

Commenting on the Argentine government's policy of refusing to accept that the Islanders should have any say in the running of the Falklands or their future, Baroness Scotland said: "Governments come and Governments go ... there will always be difficult international relationships some times ... but I think the important thing is to make sure the security of the Falklands remains and that we work out a good working relationship with whomever is in power in Argentina so that the safety of the Falklands is maintained".

The Minister spoke to Councillors, government departments, Islanders in various parts of the Falklands and school children at the Community School. She also addressed British Antarctic Survey staff in the Falklands and praised the high standard of BAS research in Antarctica, which she had seen during her visit to Rothera in British Antarctic Territory.

The Minister was unwilling to be drawn on the subject of Argentina's long campaign to get the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty located in Buenos Aires. She said: "I think that we will maintain what is in the best interests of Britain, but always of course, we have to negotiate the position with others".



Baroness Scotland talking to Falklands schoolchildren at the Community School.



Above: Baroness Scotland pays homage at the Liberation Monument to the servicemen who fell in 1982.

Minister's Historic Antarctic Visit



Baroness Scotland (Photographed above in a crevasse!) made history as the first United Kingdom Minister to visit the British Antarctic Territory, accompanied by the UK Commissioner for the Territory, Mr John White, and Professor Chris Rapley, Director of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). She praised BAS scientists' world-class research, giving Britain an international reputation as a leading player in the world's last great wilderness. Their work, she said, "is crucial to Government decisions on global issues such as climate change and ozone depletion".



L to R: Museum Curator, John Smith, Baroness Scotland and Governor Lamont as Baroness Scotland opened the Reclus Hut at Stanley's Museum. This hut, originally built in Stanley, was erected on the Reclus Peninsula in 1956, as a staging post for the first East-West crossing of the Antarctic Peninsula. Baroness Scotland called it "a fascinating time capsule" and a "tangible example of the historic, close and fruitful links between the Islanders and the British Antarctic Survey". (More photos page 16)

Baroness Thatcher's Accuser Wanted for Murder

Last year, Argentine lawyer and retired army major, Jorge Olivera, came to Europe to promote a case at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg against Baroness Thatcher over the sinking of the *General Belgrano* in 1982. He stayed longer than he expected - **in prison**.

The publicity associated with the Belgrano case drew attention to Olivera's presence in Europe and this was noticed by relatives of French citizen, Marie-Anne Erize, who regarded him as responsible for her "disappearance" in Argentina in 1976 when he was a military intelligence officer.

Olivera had left France for Italy before French authorities could react, but they managed to get an extradition warrant to Italy while he was still there, and Olivera was detained on this at Rome airport as he tried to board a plane for Buenos Aires.

Sudden release, on forged evidence

Major Olivera spent the next 43 days in prison in Rome, awaiting extradition to France, but was then suddenly released when his lawyers presented Italian magistrates with a fax of a document purporting to be a death certificate for his alleged victim. Of course, genuine death certificates for victims of the "Dirty War" were quite unheard of in Argentina, but the Italian magistrates appeared to have been unaware of this. This document gave a date showing that she had died a month after her disappearance - and just outside the statute of limitations in Italy. In fact, she had just disappeared and it is not known when she was murdered. But the prosecution was taken by surprise and not even given time to check the authenticity of the death certificate let alone challenge the decision to release Olivera, as for example Pinochet's accusers were in Britain when the initial proceedings here went in his favour.

Major Olivera left Italy within hours, boarding a plane in Milan to avoid queuing at Rome airport again. He got out only hours before the news broke in Argentina and the "death certificate" was shown to be a forgery.

Olivera is protected in Argentina by the amnesty known as Punto Final, but he will now never be able to leave Argentina in safety again - whether it is to prosecute ridiculous cases against innocent people or even to take a holiday.

Pilot Defies Own Government

Making the first visit by an Argentine pilot and plane authorised by the Falklands Government, Martin Rappallini and his two daughters, landed their Piper aircraft at Stanley in January. They stayed just two days, as tourists, seeing Stanley and the king penguins at Volunteer Point. Rappallini has made flights to the US and Mexico and is the first private Argentine to fly to the South Pole, so his flight was largely an aviation stunt.

His flight received major publicity in the Argentine media mainly because his own government objected to it. This was because he had to file a flight plan with British authorities in the Falklands. The Argentine Government considered this to be a form of recognition of British authority over the Islands. Because of this, his government refused him permission to fly directly from Argentine territory and he had to go via Chile and then fly south of the Beagle Channel to avoid Argentine airspace. But he flew back directly to Comodoro Rivadavia - in what was clearly a direct challenge to his government.

The Argentine Government has charged Mr. Rappallini with three aviation offences as a result of his flight.

Dr. Di Tella Visits

Argentina Annoyed by Good Treatment!

Former Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Guido Di Tella, visited the Falklands last October - amidst massive publicity in the Argentine media. Ostensibly he was on holiday, but in fact his visit was highly political and he is known to have pressed the case for shared sovereignty at every opportunity - only to be completely rejected by everyone he spoke to.

Dr. Di Tella was met at Mount Pleasant airport by the Governor and later had dinner with him, and had a discussion with several Councillors too. These meetings annoyed many Islanders, who felt that Di Tella should have been treated like the tourist that he claimed to be. But amazingly these meetings and good treatment provoked much greater anger from Argentine Foreign Minister, Adalberto Giavarini. His complaint was that Di Tella was in effect recognising the right of Islanders to have a say in the future of the Falklands - which is directly contrary to the present Argentine government's policy.

The Argentine media even claimed that its government had complained to the British Foreign Office over the (good) treatment Di Tella had received by virtue of these meetings - although this subsequently proved to have been untrue.

Although highly unpopular, Di Tella's visit was treated with dignified disdain by ordinary Islanders.

Mystery Landing

Islanders fears of Argentine extremists were reawakened just after Christmas with the discovery of what looked like an attempted covert landing at Concordia Bay. An inflatable dinghy with a small outboard motor, and two military style rucksacks were found washed up on the beach. These contained ration packs of Argentine origin, a satellite telephone, camera and a bedroll. An immediate search of the area by both land and sea found no one either alive or dead.

The Argentine authorities were informed, but could provide no information on who the occupants might have been. Speculation remains that it is likely to have been a group of Argentine extremists planning a stunt such as planting the Argentine flag. As the ration packs were unopened, it is assumed that the occupants never made it to the beach, but drowned while attempting to come ashore. Investigations are still continuing.

Agreement with Argentina

Britain and Argentina exchanged diplomatic letters on February 23rd agreeing to put all journeys between the Falklands and Argentina by non-commercial, private, vessels and aircraft under the sovereignty umbrella. Such journeys to the Falklands by Argentine planes or vessels remaining subject to permission by the Falkland Islands Government.

This agreement made headline news in Argentine newspapers, as if it were a great step forward towards sovereignty over the Falklands. In fact, all that it does is avoid the problems caused by flights such as that by Mr. Rappallini, who irritated his own government by submitting a flight plan for an Argentine registered aircraft to British authorities in what they claim to be Argentine territory. It does, of course, do the same for any Falklands registered plane or vessel going to Argentina, but this is very much less likely to happen.

Air Commodore Commands Falklands Forces

A Royal Air Force Officer, Air Commodore John Cliffe, has been appointed to take over as Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands (CBFFI), in succession to Brigadier Geoff Sheldon, who has returned to Britain.

Air Commodore Cliffe, 47, is an experienced pilot who joined the RAF in 1972. He has previously served in the Falkland Islands as a Squadron Leader with 23 Squadron, flying Phantom aircraft. His interests are particularly appropriate to his new posting. He likes ornithology, hill-walking and golf, and shares a keen interest in dogs with his wife Mandy, a former RAF fighter controller, whom he married in 1975.

Air Commodore Cliffe was born in Hyde, Cheshire, and educated at Hyde County Grammar School. An early interest in aviation led him into the Air Training Corps where he completed a gliding course, then won an RAF flying scholarship. After RAF pilot training, he qualified as a weapons instructor and became a Lightning Aerobatics Display pilot, winning the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air, and also the OBE.

He held various posts in Britain and Germany and commanded the first RAF fighter unit to join the NATO-led operation over the former Yugoslavia, flying Tornado F3s. He was a planning officer at UK RAF Strike Command, attended the Royal College of Defence Studies, and flew other types of aircraft including the Hawk and Bulldog. **Harold Briley**



Best Strike Aircraft in World

The Harrier jump jet which played such a vital role in the recapture of the Falklands from the Argentines in 1982 is to be replaced by what the British Defence Secretary, Mr. Geoff Hoon, has described as the best aircraft of its type in the world "with the agility of a light fighter and the punch of a bomber".

It is a new supersonic American Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) being developed by two rival United States companies, Boeing and Lockheed Martin. Demonstrator aircraft from both consortia have completed initial flight trials.

Britain has agreed with the United States to join in its development at a cost of 1.3 billion pounds, and plans to buy 150 of the aircraft for carrier and land-based operations.

The sea-borne aircraft would be flown from the two large aircraft carriers the Government says it will order to replace the carrier which fought in the Falklands Conflict, HMS *Invincible*, and her sister ships, HMS *Ark Royal* and HMS *Illustrious*. The multi-role, all-weather Joint Strike Fighter, coming into service in 2012, will have "stealth" capability to avoid radar detection. For defence of the Falklands, the security of Mount Pleasant air base is vital. So outstanding fighter aircraft are needed as well as soldiers to defend it against ground attack. Tornados are at present stationed there for front-line defence. **HWB**



Above: The Lockheed contender for the contract. Boeing also has a competing design.

Election Coincides with Constitutional Review

A general election to choose the councillors to form the next Falkland Islands Legislature has been fixed for November 22nd.

The election coincides with a review of the Constitution which recommends that the present division of two separate constituencies electing five councillors from Stanley and three from the rural areas of the "Camp" should be replaced by one returning eight councillors representing the whole electorate.

This is one of the changes to the 1997 Constitution proposed in the review by Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Arthur Donoghue QC (see photo page 14). It has aroused controversy and some resistance from voters in the "Camp" who fear their interests might not be fairly represented in a council dominated by a majority of Stanley voters and Stanley-based Councillors.

The review suggests these objections can be met by a change in the system giving each voter nine votes and allowing four of these to be allocated to one candidate, theoretically dispersing the Stanley vote and achieving stronger Camp representation. An alternative would be the single transferable vote, in which voters would vote for every candidate in order of preference. The issue may have to be decided by a Referendum.

The November poll promises a lively contest, involving the controversial 1999 July 14 Anglo-Argentine Agreement ending the ban on general Argentine visits and direct flights in force since the 1982 Conflict.

Under the present Constitution, elections are held every four years. Residents over eighteen are eligible to vote, with 1,192 on the electoral roll in Stanley, and 322 in the rural areas. Councillors then elect three of their number to an Executive Council to supervise administration.

Blueprint for Future Falklands Prosperity

Organic Meat Exports, New Abattoir and Deep Water Port

Export of organic meat to overseas markets is one of a number of schemes outlined in a radical master plan for boosting Falkland Islands' prosperity.

Already well on the way to becoming the world's first certified organic country, the Falkland Islands Government unfolded its plan (on February 21) in what one of its leading legislators, Councillor Mike Summers, called a "document to give structure and direction to our future". He said: "The future economic prosperity of the Islands depends on diversification and sustainable development."

The aim is also to enhance the quality of life by improvements in health care (the ratio now is one doctor to only four hundred people); education (ratio: one teacher to nine pupils) focusing on special needs, vocational and post-school education, literacy, numeracy and computer studies; housing including rented and sheltered accommodation; crime reduction (the clear-up rate is 97 percent); and gross national product.

An essential asset is a European Union standard abattoir opening in July to process organic meat for export and for the 1,600-strong military garrison.

The Falklands hope to achieve complete organic status within two years, to create new revenue from meat exports, exploiting their advantage of "a clean and green" environment, free from viruses such as foot-and-mouth and mad cow disease. Falklands animals prosper in a healthy natural atmosphere without antibiotics in animal feed, hormone cattle implants, or artificial fertiliser. Diversification from mainly wool-producing sheep farming to a 30 per cent expansion of meat production will give help to a depressed agricultural community suffering low wool prices. It is hoped to reverse the drift of population to Stanley.

Construction of a new deep water port will facilitate developments on shore of the lucrative fishing industry, already bringing in revenue averaging 20-million pounds a year from licences and harbour fees from foreign and 25 Falklands-registered vessels fishing for squid and other species. On-shore developments include freezer plants, mussel farms, oyster beds and salmon farming.

The port will serve fast-growing cruise ship tourism, making it easier for tens of thousands of day trippers. It is hoped to convert many of them into future longer stay visitors.

The plan mentions the possibility of discovery and exploitation of what are believed to be vast offshore oilfields. The Falklands are encouraging international oil consortia to become involved through an open-door licence policy. Oil collection would be concentrated offshore with little impact on land, with conservation safeguards to protect wildlife and the environment.

The three-year plan, distributed for consultation among the 2,200 population, is the first comprehensive blue-print since Lord Shackleton's report after the 1982 Argentine invasion laid the foundation for present prosperity.

Reindeer Herd for Falklands

Young reindeer have been shipped from South Georgia to the Falkland Islands as the nucleus of an organic meat-producing herd. The 59 three-month old fawns travelled well, weathering the sea journey better than their handlers!

The Falklands propose to become the only commercial reindeer meat-producing country in the Southern Hemisphere, exploiting the new abattoir soon to be opened.

The imported animals are from two herds totalling about 2,000 roaming wild in South Georgia. They are believed to be about the only accessible reindeer, unaffected by the Soviet Chernobyl nuclear explosion disaster, which affected many animals in the Northern Hemisphere.

They originate from 17 reindeer introduced in two batches by Norwegian whalers in 1911 and 1925 as a source of meat. Though the reindeer are protected by a Conservation Order, a 1999 South Georgia Government environmental plan proposed to eradicate all or a major part of the reindeer to reverse damage to native vegetation from over-grazing.

New Fishing Boat

A new fishing vessel, named the *Robin M. Lee*, in honour of Robin Lee, whose obituary we carried in the last issue, arrived in Stanley in January. It is 70 metres long and can carry a crew of 68 and produce 60 tonnes per day. Owned by Nova Seafish limited, a joint venture company including Seafish (Falklands), the *Robin M Lee* is flagged in St Vincent and the Grenadines, and was formerly the *Saint Denis*.

Promoting the Falklands

As part of a new drive to boost economic development and promote a positive image of the Falklands, 32-year-old Sam Allanson-Bailey has been appointed as Customer Services and Marketing Manager.

She also deputises for the Falklands UK Representative, Sukey Cameron, who said, "we will develop, amongst other things, the export of organic agriculture, food products and the responsible development of tourism. Inward investment will secure and sustain our future. We aim to project the modern Falklands as 'clean and green' and 'open for business'".

Miss Bailey made a familiarisation visit to the Falklands last year and said:



"The Falklands has a clear vision and great potential, currently untapped - this will be realised over the next two years."

Miss Bailey has done similar work for the Dubai Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board, from 1991 to '97, becoming its UK & Ireland Manager.

More recently she has been the Forte Group's PR Manager. Miss Bailey has an English Degree from Kings College, London.

A new internet portal - www.thefalklands.com will promote a clean, green, welcoming image of the Islands and facilitate e-commerce selling agriproducts and tourism.

Oil - New Venture

Seismic survey vessel, *New Venture*, returned to Stanley in January after completing 2,000 miles of seismic survey lines for IPC (Lundin Oil) and Falklands oil company Desire Petroleum.

The *New Venture* is owned by geophysical services company Veritas and was working in the North Falklands Basin. The survey was carried out in only three weeks thanks to good weather and efficiency.

Director of Mineral Resources, Mrs Phyllis Rendell, said: "We are very pleased for Veritas and the client company IPC and their partner Desire Petroleum that this major survey to acquire new data in the North Falklands Basin was carried out so efficiently".



The *New Venture* about to dock at FIPASS, the floating dock complex in Stanley.

Falkland Islands Government Department of Mineral Resources

Geological Information 2001

The Department has the following items for sale:

Geological Maps (1:250,000)
Two sheets of East and West Falkland
(together with geological explanation)
Available flat or folded. £20 per pair

Geological Maps (1:250,000)
Single sheets of East & West Falkland
(without geological explanation)
Available flat or folded. £10 each

Geological Reports
£50

Geological Brochure
"The Falkland Islands: Reading the Rocks
- a geological travelogue"
£2

Available from both the Department of Mineral Resources, Stanley, Falkland Islands (Tel: 00500 27322 Fax: 0500 27321 E-mail: oil.fig@horizon.co.fk) and the British Geological Survey, Sales Desk, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5GG (Tel: 0115 936 3241 Fax: 0115 936 3488 E-mail: bgs@ac.uk). Postage and packing extra.

Her Majesty Praises Newsletter

Buckingham Palace has written to the Newsletter saying how Her Majesty the Queen was "delighted" with our coverage of her opening of the Pangbourne Falklands Memorial Chapel and of Princess Alexandra's visit to the Falklands early last year as Patron of the Falkland Islands Trust and Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

Falklands Hero C in C Fleet

A hero of the Falklands conflict, Admiral Sir Alan West, 52, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief Fleet. At only 33, he was captain of the frigate HMS Ardent which was struck by ten Argentine bombs, set on fire, and sank on May 21st, 1982, with the loss of 22 killed and another 30 of his crew injured. Commander West was the last to leave the ship as it was sinking and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Polar Medal Award for Dr Lewis-Smith

The Falkland Islands Association congratulate British Antarctic Survey scientist Dr. Ronald Ian Lewis-Smith on the award of a second Antarctic Clasp for his Polar Medal — a very high honour as Polar Medals are given only for outstanding achievement. Dr Lewis-Smith is a distinguished botanical scientist whose work has focused on South Georgia. He discovered the rare British Antarctic Terri bird. He is a valued member of the FIA Executive Committee, as well as an adviser on several scientific bodies, which have included the Royal Society's UK National Committee for Antarctic Research, the British Lichen Council, and the Polar Biology Editorial Board.

Fire Sweeps Wildlife Island

Fears that a fire accidentally started by an RAF ammunition demolition squad caused disastrous widescale death of wildlife have been discounted by Falklands wildlife expert Ian Strange. He disputes an initial assessment by conservationists that it was "an environmental disaster with potential tremendous loss of wildlife", as reported in the British media. The Garrison Commander, Brigadier Geoff Sheldon, who apologised to the Falklands Government, said the articles "damaged the reputation of the armed forces... who are acutely conscious of the need to safeguard the wonderful habitat and wildlife".

The fire was sparked off by the detonation of Argentine ammunition in wrecked Skyhawk warplanes from the 1982 conflict. It raged across South Jason Island, an uninhabited Crown Nature Reserve and wildlife breeding ground. After a comprehensive investigation, Mr. Strange said the vegetation will regrow. Colonies of black-browed albatross, Rockhopper penguins and King Cormorants were "intact" and "active". Very few birds were found burned.

A small population of Magellanic penguins and nests of diving and ground burrowing petrels were affected by the fire. "Although a loss", Ian Strange concludes, "this cannot be classified as an environmental disaster". Falklands Conservation Officer Becky Ingham said the majority of birds had a very lucky escape. Some burrowing prion and petrel chicks were found dead, and there was unquantifiable loss of several other species. She questioned the validity of the demolition exercise and its timing when birds were nesting. The Governor, Mr. Donald Lamont, called for a critical review of environmental procedures to prevent a recurrence.

Tributes were paid to the military for helping local fire-fighters to douse the fire with water dropped from helicopters.

Mary Cawkell 1908 - 2001

Falklands historian Mary Cawkell died peacefully at her home in Sussex on January 8th, aged 93.

Born in Wigtown, Scotland, Mary spent a happy childhood there before moving with her mother and sister to South Africa, where she worked as a secretary and travelled extensively.

Mary met and married Edwin Cawkell towards the end of the war, while working at the Spears Mission in the Lebanon.

Edwin joined the Colonial Service and was posted to the Falklands in 1949 as Superintendent of Education, and he and Mary lived there for seven years.

Mary became a respected author on the Falklands and was best known for her two Falklands histories. The first: *The Falkland Islands*, published in 1960, was the result of research whilst Honorary Secretary of the Broadcasting Committee. This immediately replaced the history published by Miss Boyson in 1924 as the standard history of the Islands.

This was followed, in 1983, by *The Falkland Story 1592-1982*. This abridged the history in her first book, but added the all important period up to the 1982 war - particularly the



political chicanery, both British and Argentine, during the 60s and 70s. This was so effective politically that the Association used to give out copies to new members.

Bill Hunter-Christie wrote that "she had a historian's passion for accuracy and ... spares no one as she tells a dismal story of governmental incompetence and exploitation by individuals"... "in her first book Mary Cawkell demolished many of the inaccuracies in Julius Goebel's thesis work: *The struggle for the Falklands*". This was the book in 1927 that did so much to encourage the Argentines after they lost their own democracy in the 1930s and were ripe for nationalist sentiment.

Sadly Mary did not live to see publication of her latest book, which brings the history of the Islands up to date. Entitled: *The History of the Falkland Islands*, it is due to be published in late spring. It was a great achievement to have written this at her age, and it was no easy task to tackle recent events, although she was helped by others more recently involved in Falklands life.

Until the end of her life matters concerning the Falklands were uppermost in her life.

PJP

Victor Russell

An early member of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (now British Antarctic Survey), Victor Russell, has died aged 82. He was posted to the Antarctic in 1944 as a Royal Engineer officer and surveyor in the secret wartime Operation Tabarin to deny access to German warships and submarines. He became head of the Antarctic Hope Bay Station in 1946. He was awarded the Polar Medal with Antarctic clasp after leading several survey expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula where two glaciers bear his name: Russell East Glacier and Russell West Glacier. He later worked for oil companies in the Middle

East, retired to live in Invernesshire in Scotland, and was President of the Antarctic Club in 1992.

Cledwyn Hughes

The first British Member of Parliament to visit Saint Helena, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, has died, aged 84. Cledwyn Hughes, as he then was, became a champion of Saint Helena, preparing a comprehensive report for improving conditions there, after his visit in 1958. He subsequently became Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations and a Cabinet Minister in Harold Wilson's Labour Government, specialising in Welsh Affairs and Agriculture.

Falklands Donation to Royal Marines Memorial

The Falklands Islands Government's £15,000 donation towards the restoration of the Royal Marines Memorial in The Mall, London, was formally presented by Councillor Sharon Halford to Major General Hardy, Chairman of the Memorial Appeal, at the Memorial on October 9th. The Falklands donation meets the shortfall needed for the Appeal to reach its target of £85,000.

Councillor Halford said: "It is fitting that the Falkland Islands Government has been able to contribute to the Memorial. We are very proud of our long-standing links with the Royal Marines. This is a wonderful opportunity to record appreciation on behalf of the people of the Falkland Islands." Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Noyes, from the Royal Marines' Appeal Committee, said: "We are very grateful to the Falkland Islands Government for its generous donation".

The statue, erected in 1903, has been restored as part of a Millennium Year initia-



HRH the Duke of Edinburgh lays his wreath at the memorial

tive. The Memorial was officially unveiled by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General Royal Marines, on 29 October. It is now recognised as a National Memorial to pay tribute to Royal Marines who served all round the Globe in the 20th Century.

The Falkland Islands have a long association with the Royal Marines who helped build the first British settlement on the Islands in 1766. In 1964 a permanent detachment was established. In 1976 the Islands conferred the Freedom of Stanley upon the Royal Marines in appreciation of their close links for more than two centuries.

In the 1982 Argentine invasion, the Marines put up a gallant defence of Stanley, and later joined the Task Force in the recapture of the Islands. Nearly fifty percent of the Corps were deployed, led by two Royal Marines Land Force Commanders, Major General Sir Jeremy Moore, and Brigadier, later Major General, Julian Thompson

HWB

Falklands Veterans Pilgrimage for 2002

At least 200 British veterans who fought in the 1982 Falklands Conflict are expected to join a nostalgic pilgrimage to the Islands to mark the twentieth anniversary in 2002.

The South Atlantic Medal Association, known as SAMA '82, are now confident they can go ahead with this ambitious project for which they have launched a fund-raising campaign. Chartering a major passenger jet can cost as much as 340-thousand pounds.

SAMA Secretary, Denzil Connick, a paratrooper who lost a leg in the conflict, told the Newsletter: "We have made significant progress in funding the project. We have been promised generous help by the famous comedian, Jim Davidson, a dedicated fund-raiser and entertainer for the armed forces".

The pilgrimage is planned for November, later in the year than the conflict, to take advantage of better summer weather. There will be a crowded programme including visits to battle sites, wreath-laying on land and at sea, and services in Stanley Cathedral and elsewhere in tribute to the men who lost their lives. For many of the veterans, it will be their first time back in the Islands. They are looking forward to a reunion with Islanders who will have an opportunity to express face-to-face the gratitude they have always shown to the men who liberated them. Hospitable Islanders are expected to invite the veterans to stay in their homes, as they did after the conflict.

First Ever Falklands Wheelchair Yomp

SAMA members and their supporters are demonstrating the same courage and dogged determination as in 1982 in their fund-raising efforts. The first-ever wheelchair yomp over the same difficult terrain followed by the paratroops and Royal Marines from Port San Carlos to Stanley in 1982 has been made by former Merseyside policeman, Swasie Turner, to raise funds for the 2002 pilgrimage. Though not a 1982 veteran, he is an enthusiastic supporter and honorary member of SAMA for his fund-raising efforts, after losing a leg and being confined to a wheelchair by a hit-and-run driver during his police service. His remarkable and sometimes hilarious wheelchair journeys, even going up a lighthouse, are described in his entertaining book "Wheelchair Pilot".

Swasie was helped by ex-paratrooper and Goose Green veteran, Richie Helleur, now a fireman in Cornwall, and by Islander Terry Peck, SAMA Falklands Representative. Swasie took several days to complete his challenge. Swasie and Richie laid a wreath at the 1982 Liberation Monument at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the date of the armistice ending the First World War (see photo).

Legless Veteran's Parachute Jumps

Another courageous veteran who has been busy raising money for the pilgrimage with dare-devil parachute jumps is John Jones, a former Welsh Guards Lance Sergeant, who lost both legs in a missile accident at Stanley airport, having survived the horrors of the Sir Galahad bombing in which thirty of his comrades died and many more were wounded. He says, "I am going back to say goodbye to my friends and to tell them they are not forgotten. Even though I've no legs, I'm jumping for my old Guards pals".

Now an accountant with the Automobile Association, he recently got engaged to be married and, instead of presents, asked for donations to the pilgrimage fund. Denzil Connick pays his tribute to John Jones: "A man severely wounded with no legs, doing this for his mates, is real courage."



Thanks for Falklands Windfall Cheque

Denzil Connick has also expressed SAMA's thanks for what he calls a windfall cheque of £10,880 from the winding up of the Falkland Islands 'Heritage Year 1992 Account.' He has praised Terry Peck, Chairman of the fund, and the Heritage Year Committee for doing "a fantastic job". The money will help run the SAMA and to convert it into a 'Service Charity'. **HWB**

HMS Exeter Veteran Returns

One passenger on the enormous cruise ship *Mercury* that visited the Falklands in January had been to the Falklands before. He was Lieutenant Basil Trott, a veteran of HMS Exeter, which took part in the Battle of the River Plate in 1939. He laid a wreath on the graves of the men killed in the battle and met Islanders who helped nurse the wounded. He then visited Christ Church Cathedral to see the battle ensign of HMS Achilles and had lunch at Government House.



Lt Trott (third from left with wreath) accompanied by Councillor Summers and other Islanders pay their respects at the Exeter graves in Stanley cemetery.



Stanley residents entertaining Lieutenant Trott and his wife. On the left Dot Summers, in the foreground Nellie Hewitt talks to Mrs Trott; in the background Lt. Trott talks to Don Bonner, himself a navy veteran. *Photos: B. Summers*

Association Chairman in the Falklands

Argentine claims that agreements signed with Britain to improve communications with the Falkland Islands are stepping stones towards gaining sovereignty have been firmly rejected by Sir Rex Hunt, who was Governor at the time of the 1982 Conflict.

On his latest visit to the Falklands with Lady Hunt (from January 27 to February 14), Sir Rex said that whenever Argentina makes a connection with the Falklands, the aim is to get sovereignty. But successive British Governments have resolutely insisted there can be no negotiations on transferring sovereignty.

In an interview with Penguin News, the former Governor said Islanders need have no fear from visits by Argentines. The more who visit, he said, "the more ambassadors you make". Retention of the ban would have been unrealistic, eventually losing some British support as reasonable people questioned the ban.

He said the 900-member Falkland Islands Association of which he is Chairman still has an important role to play, if there ever were to be another crisis, to maintain the support of UK Members of Parliament, journalists and others, for the Islanders' right to self-determination - as the vast majority of the British public do. He was presented with a cheque for £6,500 raised by Islanders for the FIA, by Vice-President Mrs Velma Malcolm, representing the FIA Stanley Committee.

Sir Rex said it is in Britain's own interests to hang on to the Islands especially with the possibility of oil in Falklands waters and also to influence the future of Antarctica. He hoped the British Government would continue to oppose Argentina's bid for the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat. Argentines, he said, are not so interested in the natural environment and conservation of Antarctica as in the politics of the place.

Sir Rex Hunt gave lectures on the cruise ship Saga Rose and in the Falklands. He and Lady Hunt stayed in his old home with the Governor in Government House and also with friends in other parts of the Falklands.

Also giving lectures on Saga Rose were Lady Thatcher's former Chief Press Secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham, and Major General Julian Thompson, the leading commander in the 1982 land campaign to retrieve the Falklands. Both were accompanied by their wives.



Chairman Sir Rex Hunt meets the committee of the Falkland Islands Association in Stanley. Left to Right: Marie Cheek, Roz Cheek, Betty Biggs, Sheila and Terence McPhee, Velma Malcolm, Sir Rex, Shirley Hirtle, Lady Mavis and Gerald Cheek



Vice-President Velma Malcolm, presents Sir Rex with a cheque for £6,500 for the Association.



Above: Sir Rex with Major General Julian Thompson in the cemetery at Port Howard where they paid their respects to Captain Hamilton of the SAS, who was killed nearby in action in 1982, and Robin Lee, whose obituary we carried last edition.



Left: Sir Rex, President of the Stanley Golf Club, presents Paul Hem with the President's Bowl.

Argentines "Retrograde" and "Anachronistic"

Sir Rex Hunt leads Falkland Islands Association Condemnation

The Argentine Government has been accused by former Falkland Islands Governor Sir Rex Hunt of "retrograde" behaviour in shunning Falkland Islanders while persisting with what he calls "Argentina's anachronistic claim" to sovereignty over the Islands. His criticism, in the annual report of the Falkland Islands Association, was unanimously endorsed by its AGM in London (on 9th December).

Sir Rex Hunt declared: "Regrettably, as we enter the 21st Century, the greatest political challenge remains that of the 20th – Argentina's anachronistic claim to the Falkland Islands. While the new Argentine Government appears to have put the sovereignty issue lower down its list of priorities than the old, it also appears to have taken a retrograde step in refusing to acknowledge the existence of Falkland Islanders as people with their own government and their inalienable right to self-determination. It thus remains the duty of this Association to do what it has always done and that is to support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future and to help them to develop their Islands in accordance with their own wishes".

Islanders "Always British" - "Never Argentine"

The report voiced thanks for continuing support from the Falkland Islands Government. Sir Rex said: "It is encouraging to know that they consider that we still have an important role to play in complementing their efforts to convince the British people that it is perfectly natural for Falkland Islanders not to give up what they have always been – British – for what they have never been – Argentine".

The Association recorded its thanks to Vice-President Velma Malcolm and the Falklands Committee for their support and for a donation of £5,000 from a radio auction in the Islands.

Association membership has risen from 896 to 913. It hopes for more from its new website - www.fiassociation.co.uk.



1982 Falklands General at Battle Day Ceremony

On a dull winter's day, rain stopped in time for the traditional Battle Day Act of Remembrance as members of the Falkland Islands Association stood in silent remembrance at the Cenotaph.

Wreaths were laid by Major General Julian Thompson, who played a leading role in the 1982 liberation; by Sir Rex Hunt, chairman, for the Falkland Islands Association; Miss Sukey Cameron for the Falkland Islands Government; Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Colonel H. Jones VC, and Mrs Paula Shear, vice-chairman, for the Falkland Families Association of servicemen killed in 1982; by Denzil Connick and Chris Pretty, secretary and chairman of the South Atlantic Medal Association; by Miss Nina Aldridge for the young people of the Falklands; and by Vic Wood, a wartime Halifax bomber pilot, on behalf of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, recalling HMS Kent's part in the 1914 Battle of the Falklands.

The service was conducted and prayers said by the Reverend Peter Millam, Chaplain to Stanley's Christ Church Cathedral from 1966 to 1970. Royal Marine Buglers sounded the Last Post and Reveille, and General Thompson inspected the Royal Navy Colour Party, and the Escort Cadets from Pangbourne College, now the site of the Falklands Memorial Chapel. The parade marshal was Air Commodore Peter Johnson, a former Commander of British Forces in the Falklands. **HWB**



L.Cpls Chris Petty and Denzil Connick lay the SAMA wreath



Major General Julian Thompson

Battle Day in The Falklands



Above: The RAF Band passes Government House



Islanders gather opposite the monument to watch the ceremony
Photos: Kevin Clapp and Peter Pepper



Falklands Boy Scouts on parade by the Battle Monument



The Falkland Island Defence Force contingent on parade and (below left) Governor Lamont inspecting them.



Above: Bob Fiddes of the British Legion and Military Dignitaries prepare to lay their wreaths, with Falklands Sea Cadets behind carrying them



Mrs. Connie May of the Red Cross pays homage to the fallen. The soldier on guard on the right is Islander, Roz Cheek, now a qualified solicitor, who was on the FIA Committee in London before returning to the Falklands.



Right: Civil and military dignitaries, including the Governor and Commander of British Forces Falkland Islands, watching the fly-past that terminated the ceremony.



The winning Falkland Islands Defence Force team in the Commando Challenge competition



The Resident Infantry Company team crossing the Malo river during the Commando Challenge Competition.

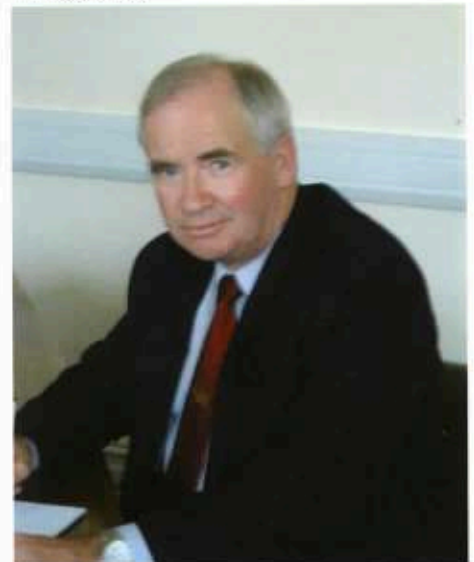


Athlete of the Year, Roxanne Morrison, with her prize at the FICS Annual Prizegiving



Above: Glen Ross winner of the Stanley Open Golf Competition, with Dave and Pauline Hawksworth, the donors of the Trophy, on either side of him.

Right: Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Arthur Donahoe QC, in the Falklands to advise on possible constitutional changes



All Photos by Penguin News and Kevin Clapp



A variable start at the Christmas Sports.

Left: Camp Education students pose for the Penguin News photographer at the Infant/Junior School prize giving in November.



Headmaster David Higgins examines the work in the Falkland Islands Community School



Above: Ben Cockwell and Clare Slater after their wedding at Fox Bay



Former Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Trevor Bagshaw, pays his respects to the fallen at the Liberation Monument in Stanley. 22 members of the crew of HMS Sheffield died in the 1982 war. Right: Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Charles Guthrie, pays his respects to the 1982 dead at the Liberation Memorial in his farewell tour before retirement.



New Meat Sheep Breeds for the Falklands

Falklands Land Holdings has imported 103 new meat breed rams into the Falklands.

Half the rams are Texels the other half, Poll Dorsets, which are both fast growing meat yielding breeds. They were chosen in New Zealand last year by FLH Managing Director Colin Horton. The rams were quarantined and given extensive medical inspections near Hamilton before leaving New Zealand and then flown to the Falklands by Quantas and LanChile accompanied by two New Zealand stockmen. Chris May then transported them in his sheep transporter lorry to Fitzroy, where they were medically inspected and quarantined again.

The rams will be distributed around FLH farms shortly where they will provide the type of lamb carcass required by today's meat market. These will be processed at the new abattoir, which should be completed by the middle of this year.

FLH imported these two breeds in 1997 for evaluation and it was on the success of that experiment that this further importation took place.

Up to now, the garrison in the Falklands has not been able to buy lamb locally because there was no abattoir to EU standards in the Islands - also Falklands sheep were primarily wool breeds - although still very tasty. Now both these problems have been solved.



Above: The rams in one of their transport crates at Mount Pleasant Airport.
Photos by Steve Painting

Below: Loading the rams onto the sheep transporter lorry
Below Left: One of the crates being manouvered on the ground at MPA



The Reclus Hut: Museum Curator John Smith greets tourists outside the Reclus Hut, which was returned to Stanley in 1996 from the Antarctic. Right, the interior of this fascinating relic of polar exploration. See page 4, opening by Baroness Scotland.
Photos: Judith Faulkner



Falklands Achievers

Award -Winning Medical Student Off to New Zealand

Receiving the Bill Hunter-Christie Memorial Prize at the Falkland Islands Association AGM in London, medical student Rebecca Edwards expressed her surprise and delight. Association Chairman Sir Rex Hunt described her as "an exemplary, hard-working student and outstanding ambassador for the Falkland Islands".

The Memorial Prize, "for the overseas student who brought most credit to the Islands" in the past year, was presented by Mrs Merle Christie, widow of Bill Hunter-Christie, a prominent barrister and founder member of the Association, who died in 1997, aged 75.

Rebecca, now 26, is believed to be only the second Falkland Islander to study to become a doctor, an ambition she has cherished ever since she was a young school girl, and is now on the verge of achieving at University College, London. Her fellow students are surprised to discover she comes from the Falklands, telling her: "Gosh, you look quite normal".

Her father served in the Royal Navy, and, by choosing the medical profession, Rebecca follows in the footsteps of her mother, Councillor Norma Edwards, who was a nurse in Portsmouth, where Rebecca was born. For a time, Rebecca herself worked as an auxiliary nurse in Stanley's King Edward Memorial Hospital whose staff she thanks for encouraging her to persist with her tough medical examinations. "If it were not for them, I may not have carried on", she says.

Choosing the "Times" Millennium World Atlas for her award, as did last year's first ever winner, Nina Aldridge, Rebecca joked that it would help her "work her way around the world". In fact, after practical work as a doctor in Truro in England, she is now spending several weeks in New Zealand, in Timaru Hospital on South Island. There she will meet two aunts, one of whom she has never before seen, and some cousins.

Like so many Falklands overseas students, Rebecca, 26, is determined to return to the Falkland Islands to work. "Definitely, definitely" she insists. "It is home — where Mum and Dad and all the family are, where I grew up, and the



Medical Student Rebecca Edwards receives her prize from Mrs Merle Christie

Falkland Islands Government paid for me to study medicine so going home is a way of saying 'Thank you' to them ... and being a good doctor".

First she plans to gain wider experience in Britain, New Zealand, Australia and possibly elsewhere. "So" she laughs, "everyone in the Islands is safe for a while longer". In the Islands, she says, you have to be a "good all-round doctor". She relishes the unique challenge of practising medicine there, where doctors have to be specialists as well as a general practitioner, and, she says, tackle everything — "be the flying doctor, do emergency casualty, give surgeries at long distance by telephone, and diagnose and treat patients in farm kitchens ... and even in shearing sheds!"

Rebecca Edwards was described by Sir Rex as one of a group of impressive Falklands students, who have excelled in their university and A-level studies, with Stephen Betts winning a place at Oxford University.

Falkland Islander at Oxford

The first Falkland Islands student to gain a place at Oxford University, Stephen Betts, has been talking about life in Britain's prestigious university.

Stephen, eighteen-year-old son of Donald and Shirley Betts, of Stanley, says he is very proud to be there. After studying at Peter Symonds College, he is taking a four-year course for a degree in Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry.

"My first term at Oxford", he says, "has been pretty hectic! There is a very heavy work load but there also plenty of opportunity for enjoyment. I am a volunteer tutor at a local primary school and I am hoping to start playing classical piano again... My college is a good mix of people from all backgrounds, with quite a few international students here who know what it is like to be far away and unable to go home for the weekend.



Peter Symonds College prepared me well. I have a lot of independence. It can be amusing to see 19 year old students who still cannot work out a washing machine, tumble drier, iron or cooker!

While a student at Peter Symonds, Stephen, was chosen in October 1998 to give the Duke of York a guided tour of the building at the official opening of the students' boarding accommodation called Falkland Lodge. He was also on the winning team in the Times Educational Supplement International Newsday Competition in 1997.

The Falkland Islands Association annual report says such accomplishments by the younger generation complement the growing business acumen and entrepreneurial skills of older Islanders facing the future with increasing confidence and economic strength.

Harold Briley

Endurance Association Preserves 1982 Spirit

The latest reunion of the HMS Endurance Association, formed after her memorable role in the 1982 Falklands Conflict, was held aboard the present HMS Endurance, berthed at Portsmouth before her annual six-month-long assignment in the Antarctic to carry out hydrographic surveys, compile navigation charts and support British Antarctic Survey scientists.

Highlight of the reunion was the traditional presentation of a silver penguin statuette to the ship's company's member who made the most significant contribution to the vessel's operational capability on the previous year's Antarctic voyage.

The beautifully sculptured penguin was presented this year to the Deputy Engineer Officer, 40-year-old Keith James McCabe, for his professionalism and dedication, by its donor, Alexandra Shackleton, daughter of Lord Shackleton and granddaughter of the Antarctic Explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, after whose famous ship, crushed by the ice on his 1914-1915 expedition, the Royal Navy's ice patrol vessel is now named.

The Association keeps alive pride in the comradeship, professionalism and fighting spirit displayed by the crew of Endurance in 1982 even though that vessel was long ago replaced and her courageous commander, Captain Nick Barker, died in 1997. His widow, Jennifer Barker, was at the reunion.

Endurance, commanded by Captain Andy Dickson, has been carrying out tasks around South Georgia, the South Shetland and South Orkney Islands, the North Antarctic Peninsular and at Pebble Island, in the Falkland Islands. Her programme also included goodwill visits to ports in Brazil and Argentina. Endurance is affectionately known as "the Red Plum" because her hull is painted bright red, not the usual warship grey.

Harold Briley

To join the Endurance Association, contact Bill Baxter, 17 Sherwood Drive, Exmouth, Devon EX8 4PX. E-mail: william@baxter51.freemove.co.uk



Mrs Jennifer Barker, widow of Nick Barker, captain of the Endurance in 1982, and Sir Rex Hunt

Below: Keith McCabe receiving his prize from the Hon Alexandra Shackleton.



Uruguay and Chile Praised at Shackleton Exhibition

Several thousand people visited the exhibition commemorating the Antarctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, at his old school, Dulwich College in London, which was open for nearly four months.

Opening the exhibition, Shackleton's grand-daughter, the honourable Alexandra Shackleton, welcomed distinguished guests including descendants of members of the expedition, and the Ambassador of Uruguay, Dr. Agustin Espinosa-Lloveras, and of Chile, Dr. Christian Barros. Both countries, she said, were very supportive of the expedition and took part in the rescue of Shackleton's men. "The story of Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition would have been very different without Uruguay and Chile".

She thanked the Master of Dulwich College, Dr. Graham Able, and the exhibition organiser, Dulwich College Curator, Dr. Jan Piggott, who, she said, had demonstrated the essential qualities her grandfather had listed for polar exploration: Optimism, Patience, Imagination, Idealism, and Courage.



David Tatham, Chairman of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, read a message from the Governor of the Falklands, Donald Lamont, chairman of the Shackleton Scholarship Committee in Stanley, who paid tribute to Shackleton's "courage, heroism and unparalleled determination".

Visitors from the United States, Canada, South Africa, Ireland, and Britain included Shane Murphy from Arizona, (photographed below) who has written a book about Shackleton's famous photographer, Frank Hurley and assembled a CD

of his photographs. These were a feature of the Exhibition, along with oil paintings by another expedition member, George Marston. Memorabilia was lent by several organisations, including the National Maritime Museum, which held another major exhibition about the explorers' race to the South Pole. Profits from the exhibition, are being shared between a new Dulwich College Shackleton Bursary and the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, in memory of Ernest Shackleton and his son, Lord Shackleton.

New Chairman for Falkland Islands Trust

The new Chairman of the Falkland Islands Trust (FIT) is Air Commodore Peter Johnson, OBE, BA, FIMgt, FRAeS, former Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands (CBFFI) in 1994 and 1995. He succeeds Captain Paddy Vincent CBE, RN (ret), who was born in the Falkland Islands.

Air Commodore Peter Johnson, 56, is the third military officer to be chairman, each from one of the three services. The founder-Chairman was Major General Nigel St G. Gribbon, OBE.

Since becoming a popular CBFFI, Peter Johnson has taken an active interest in promoting the Islands' well-being both in the Falklands and in the United Kingdom. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Falkland Islands Association and now becomes the FIT representative on the Shackleton Scholarship Fund Committee.

In retirement from the RAF, he has become a management consultant as well as a grammar school governor and mathematics teacher at a local college. An experienced pilot, he flew Jet Provosts, Meteors, Hunters, Phantoms and Jaguars, and held posts at RAF stations and the Ministry of Defence in Britain and abroad, in Germany, Aden, the United States (as Assistant Air Attache), and in Cyprus as Commander of RAF Akrotiri, during the build-up to and conduct of the Gulf War.

Air Commodore Johnson's interests include aeromodelling, skiing (water and snow), music and the Open University. He and his wife Jill have two young sons.

Captain Vincent's chairmanship included the first visit to the Falklands by the Trust's Patron, Princess Alexandra, last year. Since its inception, the FIT has launched many initiatives, mainly to improve agriculture and establish trees in the Islands.

FIT Report on "Special Year"

The Trust's annual report, just published, says Captain Vincent's four years as Chairman "has brought considerable recognition to the Trust and he will leave an organisation that has benefited immeasurably from his warm infectious enthusi-

asm, dedication to the Islands and enormous efforts on behalf of the Islands".

The reports says: "The Trust's twentieth year has been rather special... marked principally by a most successful 5-day visit last February to the Falkland Islands by our Royal Patron, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra.....which.... has sparked renewed interest in Trust activities and re-invigorated the Trustees in their efforts to benefit the Islands through their consultancy and sponsorship activities".

2000 also saw the departure of David Stickland, who retired after over 15 years as one of the Trust's two agricultural consultants, principally on promoting the marketing of organic agricultural products, particularly wool, pioneering work now beginning to produce results.

The report also records the untimely death of one of FIT's "best-loved Trustees, Robin Lee" and carries tributes and an obituary by Agricultural Consultant, Dr Jim McAdam. The report outlines current and future activities. **HWB**



Tri-Service Triumvirate: General Gribbon (left) presented a plaque to Air Commodore Johnson (centre) as he took over as chairman from Captain Vincent RN (right).

Robin Lee Memorial Trust Encourages Falklands Music Tradition

A Music Trust to encourage traditional Falklands live music has been set up by Mrs Hattie Lee, in memory of Robin Lee, of Port Howard. She is also presenting a Robin Lee Memorial Trophy for musical excellence. The first winner is 15-year-old Donna Triggs, daughter of Mike and Diane Triggs, of Stanley, who won the award for violin playing. She also plays the keyboard and has written music.

The initiative involves ambitious plans to promote live music, encourage young musicians, hold musical evenings and weekend events and publish a glossy Falklands songbook with all the traditional songs written to music. It will include a social history about Falklands music, illustrated with photographs of old Falkland Islanders playing in clubs and bunkhouses. A CD could follow for sale to tourists and locals.

A future plan is to create a museum at Port Howard that portrays Falklands farm life in camp, with a music section.

It is a particularly appropriate memorial to Robin Lee, who played the guitar and the accordion. His father, Syd Lee, was an accomplished accordionist. Mrs Lee says: "Robin adored live music, preferring Country and Western, traditional

folk and Elvis! He just loved listening to people play, always stopping to listen to buskers, brass bands, pipers - whoever was playing. Robin had a great respect for the Falklands traditions and for all the old boys, especially in camp. So this just seems to be a good way for people to remember him. The

trust, we feel, will benefit many people in our community and help preserve an important part of Falklands heritage which might otherwise be lost".

Stanley's schools already have as many as 270 children taking part in music lessons. Music teacher, Shirley Adams Leach, is a Trustee, as are Government archivist, Jane Cameron, who will be in charge of recording the old traditional songs for the archives; Jenny Cockwell, Deputy Editor of Penguin News, a talented accordionist; Dr. Jim McAdam, of Northern Ireland, Robin's long-time friend; and Mrs Lee herself. Fund-raising has so far brought in several hundred pounds.

Robin Lee died last year, aged 50, after heart surgery. "I find music helps me a great deal", says Hattie. "Music is very healing. I have even bought a second-hand accordion, so now all I have to do is learn how to play it!" **HWB**



Port Desire and the Discovery of the Falklands

Peter Pepper describes the role of Port Desire and charts the voyages, beset by storms, which led to the discovery of the Falklands. Centuries later, Argentine divers are salvaging fascinating artefacts from the wreck of a British ship involved.



"The Desire Outside Port Desire, December 1586", from a Dutch source dated 1706.

The year is 1586, and Thomas Cavendish sails from Plymouth to follow Sir Francis Drake and Magellan - around the world. His ships are the *Hugh Gallant*, of just 40 tons, the *Content* 60 tons and his flagship the *Desire* - 120 tons.

Sailing via the Coast of Barbarie (Morocco), Cape Verde, Sierra Leone and Brazil, Cavendish was off Patagonia on December 17th. That day, the *Desire* led the other two ships into a remarkable harbour - nearly 20 miles long. It had been used by Magellan and was to be used by many of the great navigators of the world. Cavendish named it Port Desire after his ship. It bears that name to this day. In Spanish, it is Puerto Deseado, and the people there are proud of the man who



named their town. The point at the harbour mouth is Punta Cavendish and even the local car parts shop is "Automotores Cavendish".

But there was nobody there in 1586 - except a few Indians who wounded a couple of his men with arrows. Ten days later, Cavendish sailed on, and got back to England in 1588 - just a month after the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

In 1591, Cavendish sailed again. This time he had five ships: the *Leicester Galleon* in which he sailed as admiral, the *Roebuck*, a veteran, like Cavendish himself, of the Roanoke Island enterprise, England's first colony in the New World, the *Black Pinnace*, and the *Dainty* that abandoned the expedition early on. The fifth ship was again the *Desire* - captained this time by John Davis, hero of three expeditions to the North-West Passage, where the Davis Strait is named after him. Luckily, Davis had John Janes on board, the chronicler of the first and third of these expeditions.

Heading for China and the Philippines, they again sailed via Port Desire, but this time there was to be no voyage on round the world. By May of 1592, the fleet was in the Straits of Magellan, desperately short of supplies, the men suffering severely from cold, and the rigging of their ships nearly worn out. So Cavendish decided to turn back to winter in Brazil. As they headed back north, the ships lost contact with each other off Port Desire on the night of May 20th. What actually happened that night is the subject of controversy. Davis, with his experience of the North-West Passage, had not been worried by the cold, and had wanted to go on, getting supplies on the coast of Chile, and Cavendish considered that he had deliberately left the expedition in order to do this.

Anyway, whatever the real motive, Davis then entered Port Desire, together with the *Black Pinnace*, that had also become separated from the rest of the fleet - hoping that Cavendish would do the same and find them. It didn't happen. Cavendish sailed on northwards, while Davis stayed in Port Desire until August. Then, expecting Cavendish to return to the Straits of Magellan when winter was over, Davis left Port Desire to be there first so that Cavendish couldn't fail but find them again. So on August 6th, the *Desire* and *Black Pinnace* sailed to Penguin Island. This is just outside Port Desire and clearly visible from it (and should not be confused, as some authors have, with Penguin Island in the Straits of Magellan). There they filled twenty barrels with penguins for food and then sailed on south the next day to return to the Straits.



Penguin Island on the horizon, John Davis' last landfall before discovering the Falklands in 1592. The strip of land in the middle of the picture is Chaffers Island, named after one of the officers on the *Beagle*. In the foreground, the rooftops of modern Puerto Deseado.



The Discovery of the Falklands

Davis was going against the current in a battered ship, so by August 9th, he would probably have been off what is now San Julian or Santa Cruz, just a little north of the latitude of the Falklands. That day, they were hit by a storm. With their rigging in such poor shape, they had to run before the wind with sails furled. On the 14th, they ran in among islands that John Janes described as "never before described by any known relation". These can only have been the Falklands. This is backed up by the position Janes gives for them: "lying fifty leagues or better from the shore east and northerly from the Straits". At three nautical miles per league, this is exactly where the Falklands are. Davis had made the first documented and provable sighting.

Janes records that the wind first ceased and then shifted to the east and that they then headed for the Straits, sighting the cape (undoubtedly Cape Virgenes at the mouth of the Straits) on the 18th. Cavendish never did appear. So in October, Davis went on into the Pacific - but had to give up. Beset by scurvy and with another cargo of penguins rotting horribly, Davis reached Ireland with only 16 of his men still alive.

John Strong

Other travellers were soon on their way to Port Desire. John Narborough was there in 1670. He actually claimed the territory there for Britain. John Strong in the *Welfare* was heading for Port Desire too. But, driven off course by contrary winds, he reached the Falklands instead, landing at Bold Cove in January of 1690. His landing is well documented and accepted as the first. One of the owners of the *Welfare* was Viscount Falkland and Strong named Falkland Sound after him. Soon this was extended to all the Islands. Strong sailed on to the Straits of Magellan, and named the harbour opposite San Jeronimo's head, Port Falkland, a name that never lasted. He then sailed on to Guayaquil to attempt the salvage of a sunken Spanish treasure ship there.

Port Egmont and the Swift.

After visiting Port Desire, Captain John Byron went ashore in the Falklands in January 1765 to take possession of the Falklands for George III. He named the site Port Egmont, and it was here the Spanish attacked four years later in 1770 - and where the *Swift* - or rather its loss - was a key factor.

The *Swift* was a corvette, one of four British ships in Port Egmont when two Spanish ships arrived to expel the British on January 17th that year. The others were the store ship, *Florida*, the frigate *Tamar* and another corvette, the



The warehouse at Port Egmont

Favourite. These odds were too much for the Spanish. They stayed a week, took on water, protested at the British presence and left. Soon afterwards, the *Tamar* and the *Florida* returned to Britain. Then the *Swift* sailed, probably to reconnoitre the surrounding seas. It went to Port Desire - and it's still there.

Entering the harbour, the *Swift* struck a concealed rock. It got off, but was out of control and then hit a rock shelf - just beyond the modern fishing dock. There its bows were held fast as the tide went out. Its stern flooded and the ship slid under the water. Its crew sent an open boat all the way to Port Egmont and the *Favourite* came and rescued them. They left the wreck of *Swift* - to be rediscovered 200 years later.

The story doesn't end there. Without the *Swift*, there was only one guard ship and a shore battery at Port Egmont. When the Spanish returned that June with five ships, there could be no resistance. Port Egmont capitulated on June 10th.

Spain was forced to return Port Egmont to Britain in 1771 - under threat of war. Britain maintained its claim to the Falklands, but withdrew the garrison in 1774, needing its forces elsewhere as the American War of Independence approached. It was just as well. Bunker Hill, the first battle of that war, was fought a year later and all Britain's power was needed there over the next few years - and was not enough.

Those days still echo down the centuries. June the 10th, when Britain capitulated at Port Egmont, was foolishly chosen by the newly independent Argentina in 1829 for their declaration of Louis Vernet as Commander of the Falklands - when he was actually already trying to get the British to take the Islands over. His appointment led to an immediate British protest.

The rest is well known. Vernet antagonised the Americans who sacked his settlement, Port Louis, in 1832. This led Britain to reoccupy the Islands a year later. Then Peron chose June the 10th to be "Malvinas Day", when he was rejuvenating the Argentine claim - as he told Bill Hunter-Christie "to take the people's minds off internal problems".

The Salvage Operation.

Despite all the Malvinas hype in Argentina, the wreck of the *Swift* was forgotten there until Patrick Gower, an Australian army officer, arrived in 1975 to research his ancestor, Erasmus Gower, who had been second-in-command of the *Swift*. But little was done until 1982 when the wreck was located. A museum was planned in 1983. This was built in 1991 and named the Museum Brozoski after a man who lost his life in the early diving work. It's got little money and is still nearly empty. There are only some jars and bottles there now. But this February, the *Swift's* guns were found and will soon be raised. The Maritime Museum at Greenwich is involved, and the ship may yield fascinating artefacts.

Interestingly, John Davis' stay in Port Desire doesn't appear in the long list of navigators the authorities in Puerto Deseado are so proud of. Perhaps it's just ignorance. But Puerto Deseado was one of the ports used in 1982 to support the Argentine invasion forces, and the people are very bitter still. So maybe they don't want to know about John Davis' other landfalls. Others are mentioned: the *Beagle* was there - and Chaffers island at the harbour mouth is named after one of its officers. Various places are named after Darwin too.

The facts of history are unavoidable. These will come out as the salvage proceeds. The name Port Desire comes from Cavendish's ship that Davis used in 1592 to discover the Falklands. The Falklands motto: "Desire the Right" celebrates that event. So modern Puerto Deseado and the Falklands, although divided by politics, are linked by history. **P.J.P.**

“Sir Jack” - Book Review

SIR JACK by David Instone, published by Thomas Publications, PO Box 17, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7WT, in 2000. Hard back, 192 pages including Contents, Foreword by Terry Waite CBE, Acknowledgements, Introduction, list of Subscribers, 6 colour plates and many black and white photographs. ISBN 0-9512051-3-7. £14.99 in the UK, £16.99 in the Falkland Islands (both include postage and packing).

I first came to know “Union Jack” Hayward in the Falkland Islands in 1983 when, thanks to the generosity of the Army Air Corps, we were taken on a day-long tour of the 1982 battlefields, courtesy of “Teeny-Weeny Airways”. Jack was deeply moved by all he saw. Sitting in the comfort of Government House that evening, he thanked me for “a truly memorable day”. It was an equally memorable day for me: I had spent it with a truly remarkable man.

Another memorable day for me was the one after the tragic fire that destroyed the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital in Stanley and caused eight deaths. I received a signal from Jack in the Bahamas offering an immediate donation of one-million pounds towards the rebuilding of the hospital. Many Falkland Islanders are aware of this because we had the sheltered accommoda-



tion that was built as part of the new hospital named after him, but fewer Islanders will know of the other ways in which he has helped them.

He played an essential part in returning the “SS Great Britain” to its home in Bristol, where it now rests as a permanent reminder of the Falkland Islands to thousands of visitors every year. He made possible the participation of the Falklands Netball team in the Small Islands Games in 1993. He

was a major benefactor in the building of the new Deanery in Stanley. Before we began to receive an annual grant from the Falkland Islands Government, he bailed out this Association. It is pertinent to remind readers that, without Jack Hayward, our Newsletter might well have ceased to exist.

As David Instone’s biography reveals, however, Jack’s generosity to the Falkland Islands is but a small part of his amazing range of philanthropy. At his 70th birthday party, Brian Johnston proposed the toast to “One of the biggest givers, not just of money, but of friendship to us all”.

Jack Hayward is one of those rare characters who makes you feel the better for having known him. After reading this entertaining biog-

raphy, you will feel that you have known an exceptionally good, warm human being.

Rex Hunt

Hooked on “Fishing for Falklands Sea Trout”

I previously knew nothing about trout-fishing nor why it is so popular among millions world-wide. I do now, thanks to a new book, published by the Falkland Islands Tourist Board, price £6.99. “**Fishing for Falklands Sea Trout**” by an international expert, Peter Lapsley, proved a fascinating read for me, a layman for whom it unravelled the mysteries of fly fishing and traced the history of Falklands trout.

Falklands trout fishing, popular with Islanders and tourists alike, owes its origins to Chile. Sixty years ago neither brown trout nor sea trout existed. They were established only in 1940 with a small batch imported from Chile, which later sent 30,000 more as a gift, augmented by another 35,000 imported from Britain. Now it is a thriving pastime, internationally renowned, a mecca for keen anglers, including royalty. The Duke of Edinburgh has enjoyed fishing its rivers.

One remarkable statistic is that the biggest of 19 sea trout, caught in one “extraordinary day’s fishing” by Alison Faulkner in 1992, weighed 22 pounds 12 and a half ounces, two-and-a-half ounces heavier than the United Kingdom record. In the early days, distribution of the imported Chilean and British trout fry was “makeshift.... transported in milk churns, carried in panniers on horseback and in water butts on board the inter-island mail steamer, RMS *Fitzroy*”.

Peter Lapsley’s latest book encapsulates 45 years’ experience of trout fishing in very readable form, combining valuable fishing advice with an admirable description of the Falkland Islands themselves which he knows well from several visits and giving fly-fishing courses in the Falklands, sponsored by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

Though primarily a text book on trout fishing, it incorpo-

rates a useful mini-guide book on the Falklands themselves — its geography, climate, culture, maritime and military history, transport, accommodation, and wildlife. The narrative is enlivened by his love of the Islands: “There is something magical about sitting on a beach surrounded by penguins that show no fear but occasionally peck at your shoelaces out of idle curiosity, about being confronted by an eagle-like striated caracara, one of nature’s great show-offs, demanding to have its photograph taken, about sitting on a low cliff with sea lions playing in the sea only yards away... and to watch flightless steamer ducks, kelp geese, crested ducks, oyster catchers and night herons all feeding on a single stretch of shoreline”.

An intriguing thesis traces the inter-action of brown and sea trout, leading to the author’s conclusion that every brown trout is in fact a sea trout.

I was fascinated to discover that Falklands trout have developed characteristics different from other trout. “Falklands sea trout are remarkably less shy than their European counterparts”. In Britain, they are “notoriously shy”, refusing to take a fly in daylight whereas they do in darkness. Falkland trout willingly take flies in daylight but seldom put in an appearance at night!

This book explains when and where to fish, describes the rivers Malo, West Malo, Murrell, San Carlos, Port Salvador, Fitzroy, Warrarrah, Chartres, Swan Inlet, and Port Howard, where a successful Fishing and Tourist Lodge was established by Robin Lee, who died last year. The book is dedicated to his memory because he “gave so much to the Falkland Islands and to Falkland fishing and contributed so generously to this book’s preparation”.

Harold Briley

Tourist Paradise

Visit the Falkland Islands! Several million penguins can't be wrong. On my visits, the hospitable Islanders could not have made me more welcome, nor the wildlife put on a more spectacular display.

Tourism is enjoying a boom with the accent on eco-tourism, where, the Islanders say, "nature is still in charge", in a pristine environment. The Falklands are home to five kinds of penguin, 200 other species of birds, including most of the world's black-browed albatross, king cormorants, rock shags, upland geese, flightless steamer ducks, and a rare bird of prey, the striated caracara; sea lions, elephant, fur and leopard seals; whales and dolphins; and more than 160 native plant species.

Charles Darwin marvelled at wildlife

Famous naturalist Charles Darwin, an early visitor in 1833, marvelled at the wildlife in what he first thought a desolate place. A more contemporary wildlife expert describes it as "akin to paradise, a true wilderness, one of the last natural refuges for wildlife with incredible clarity of air, magnificent coastline, pure white sandy beaches, rocky headlands, and spectacular cliffs.... home to an assemblage of fascinating species more approachable than almost anywhere on earth".

In fifty years of travelling the world, I have never spent a more idyllic day than with Nigel and Shirley Knight in their homely farmhouse near Fox Bay. They took me rounding up sheep, then to an isolated beach where thousands of penguins were playing in the sun, plunging in and out of the waves, as seals and dolphins cruised offshore.



Wildlife and Wilderness Delight Tourists

The wildlife is as friendly as the people. Rock hopper penguins, streamlined swimmers with ballet-like finesse at sea, bound ashore to become Charlie Chaplin-like comics on land. They are curious and come close, with no fear of humans. The giant, colourful King Penguins remain aloof. Photographers don't need a telephoto lens. The penguins pose for close-ups!

Islanders are determined to protect their precious wildlife which they shared in the 1999/2000 season with 32 thousand day-trippers from 60 cruise ships, and about 700 long-stay visitors. In a few years, day trippers are expected to reach 60-thousand, and longer stay visits increase significantly.

Islanders eat abundantly and fill their visitors from tables laden with delicious mutton and lamb, beef, upland goose and fresh caught mullet, home-baked bread, cake and biscuits.

Stanley, one of the world's smallest capitals, with colourful homes and pubs, is home to most of the population, with 1,700 people. Another 400 live on farm settlements. Stanley boasts the southernmost cathedral in the world, Christ Church.

Angling, Old Ships, Philately and Battlefield Tours

The Islands boast a fascinating maritime heritage, probably the greatest graveyard of nineteenth century shipping in the world, relics of ships battered by storms rounding Cape Horn, on what was a main shipping route before the Panama Canal opened in 1914. There is a "Maritime History Trail" and a

booklet "Condemned at Stanley" by Falklands historian John Smith, Curator of one of the best small museums in the world.

Battlefield tours take visitors to sites of the 1982 Conflict, such as Mount Tumbledown, Goose Green, Pebble Island, and Bluff Cove. There are memorials and reminders of the First World War battle which destroyed a powerful German fleet, and of the Falklands flotilla which vanquished the German warship Graf Spee in the 1939 Battle of the River Plate.

Anglers as eminent as Prince Philip find rivers teaming with sea trout of record proportions. Horse-riding is popular. Islanders are skilled riders and race competitively at their sports events. The Falklands are famous for philately, whose stamps are sought by collectors worldwide.

Apart from cruise ships, travel to the Islands is by a comfortable 18-hour RAF Tri-star flight from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, via Ascension Island for re-fuelling; or via Santiago and Punta Arenas in Chile with Lanchile. Travel within the Islands has become much easier as a new road network replaces old farm tracks. Light aircraft take you to more isolated places, landing on grass airstrips or even the beach.

Accommodation ranges from two good class hotels, the Upland Goose and Malvina House, in Stanley, to boarding houses, bed and breakfast, self-catering cottages, and excellent tourist lodges at Sea Lion and Pebble Islands, Port Howard and Darwin. I enjoyed a day out with Neil Rowlands, who, in a half-hour boat and landrover trip from Stanley, shows tourists four types of penguin, provides trout and mullet fishing, comfortable overnight ac-

commodation and even a modern flush toilet on a mountainside - an isolated loo with a commanding view.

Weather Myths

The weather throughout my stay was fine, warm and sunny. Tourism Manager John Fowler, told me: "We have to caution people against sunburn, not against frostbite. I grow strawberries in my garden. It is warmer in winter (April to October) than in Britain, if slightly cooler in summer (November to March) with less rain. People think of cartoons of penguins and icebergs. Penguins frolic in the grass, and come ashore on white sandy beaches, from ultra-marine or blue water".

John describes the wildlife as world-class. "Our focus is bound up inextricably with the natural environment... We have an absolute duty to preserve it. A Disney film maker said the Falklands are one place on earth where man can live comfortably with penguins. We have fantastic prolific wildlife living in close proximity to man. While penguins are a unique selling point, albatross are our crowning glory. To get close and watch this big clumsy shuffling bird spread its wings and transform itself into the most marvellous flying machine is a privilege".

"From Sea Lion lodge, five minutes from breakfast you can be on the beach watching fifty giant elephant seals. Stroll back for coffee, stroll the other way and be among several thousand penguins. Our other truly great resource are the people, who are very friendly and hospitable. Everyone says "hello" to tourists".

Harold Briley

Shackleton Scholars' Blueprint for Heritage Tourism

Visitor Centre Displays and Heritage Trails

An imaginative programme for promoting the rich heritage of the Falklands as a focus for tourism has been outlined by Falklands-born graduate, Emma Jane McAdam, whose research was aided by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

What's emerged is a pragmatic plan for action which she herself is helping to implement, especially in the creation of the exciting new Visitor Centre in Stanley, which will be a hub for all tourism and the first point of call for cruise ship tourists.

The Falklands Government has shown its confidence in her ideas by putting her in charge of the interior design of the Visitor Centre, which will have heritage, wildlife and conservation displays, photographs and maps of old shipping routes and new fishing boundaries, a free standing three-dimensional outline map of the Islands, and wall-mounted interactive displays. The Centre, in which Islander participation is encouraged, has an educational as well as an exhibition role, and will later include an auditorium for lectures and a cinema.

Miss McAdam's master-plan identifies ten fascinating heritage strands and sites, and incorporates the brilliant idea of creating two "Heritage Trails", one on East Falklands re-tracing the journeys of the famous pioneering scientist, Charles Darwin, author of the "The Origin of Species" and "Voyage of the Beagle", who visited the Islands in 1833 and 1834; and the other on West Falkland, tracing the development of sheep farming called "From Sheep to Sweater". This trail would link Port Howard, with its famous tourist lodge, with Fox Bay and Bold Cove, with accommodation and transport included.

Re-Tracing Charles Darwin's Trail

The Darwin Trail, on horse-back and by land-rover, would re-trace the route Charles Darwin took with his assistant, two gauchos and six horses, to discover the geology, flora and wildlife of the Islands, embracing Port Louis, Green Hill, Estancia Farm, Darwin Lodge, Goose Green and Stanley.

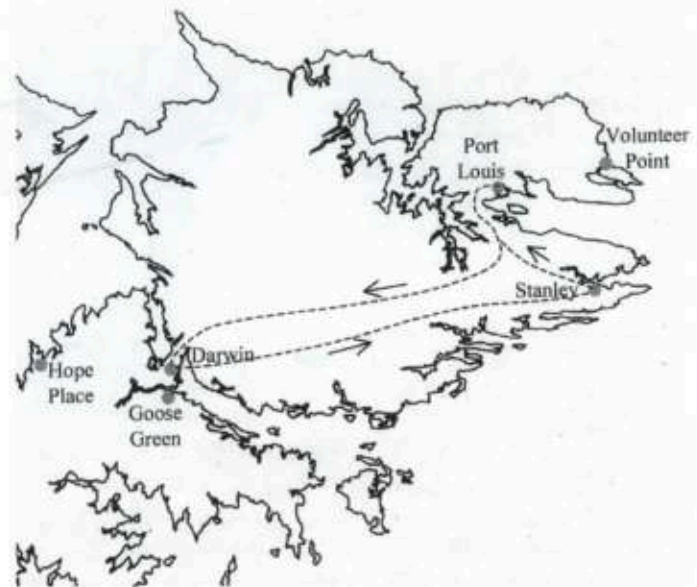
The added value of the heritage trails is that to some extent they overlap and take in most of the more significant heritage sites, identified by Miss McAdam. These include Bold Cove where British seafarer Captain Strong made the first landing in 1690; Port Louis, site of the first settlement, by the French, in 1764; Port Egmont, site of the first British settlement in 1765; Keppel Island Mission Station, where, from 1855, nearly two hundred so-called "savages", Patagonian Indians, were controversially imported for "religious" conversion; sheep-farming, dating back to 1867 in Port Howard; Events of Two World Wars including famous naval battles; the 1982 Conflict with Argentina; Stanley Museum; and Maritime history, with its many wrecks from the old trading routes around Cape Horn and the Californian "Gold Rush". An existing maritime trail around Stanley Harbour could be integrated into a larger trail.

"Being a Falkland Islander by birth" she says "it is great to get the opportunity to live and work here again, and hopefully be of some use to the development of tourism". She pays tribute to the late Robin Lee of Port Howard for giving her the initial inspiration for her ambitious project.

Her report, has been awarded a distinction as a thesis for a Sheffield University Masters Degree. Emma Jane acknowledges the help of many people, especially the Shackleton Fund for her grant and Tourism Director John Fowler for his encouragement and for providing facilities, and her mother and her father, Jim McAdam, of Queen's University, Belfast, for many years an agricultural adviser to the Falklands. **HWB**



The Wool Trail from Port Howard to Fox Bay.



The "Darwin Trail" from Stanley to Port Louis and on to Darwin itself.

Courtesy: Jane McAdam

Penguins No Pushover for Helicopters

An investigation by British Antarctic Survey (BAS) scientists with Royal Navy help has concluded that colonies of penguins are not unduly alarmed or harmed by helicopters flying overhead. A five-week study over South Georgia deploying helicopters from the Navy's ice patrol ship HMS Endurance found that flights over 1,000 feet cause "only minor and transitory ecological effects" on king penguins.

Dr Richard Stone, of the British Antarctic Survey, said the survey also dispelled the myth current in the 1982 Falklands Conflict, and much publicised recently in the British press, that penguins looking up at aircraft fall over backwards. "Not one king penguin fell over", he said.

Environmentalists have been worried that aircraft activity in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic could be causing wildlife to panic and trample chicks and eggs in a rush to the safety of the sea. More experiments are planned using fixed wing aircraft.



Miss Emma Jane McAdam and Mr. Mark Thwain at the visitor centre construction site - where many of her ideas will be incorporated.



Tourists pose with a penguin mockup on Stanley jetty.



Above: Tourists at the first landing Monument in Bold Cove, West Falkland.



Above: Tourists by the Canache admiring the old sailing ship "Lady Elizabeth" in Stanley Harbour.



Right: Tourists from a cruise ship watching gentoo penguins *Photo: Debbie Summers*

Below: One of the two tourist cottages on Carcass Island. The remarkable microclimate on the Island allows lush vegetation including palm trees



Tourists coming ashore by dinghy on New Island

UK and European Falklands Tour Operators

Animal Watch

(Wildlife)
Granville House,
London Road,
Sevenoaks,
Kent, TN13 1DL
Tel: 01732 741612
Contact: Sarah Gillem

Blue Planet Tours

(Ornithology)
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Tim Earl

Go Fishing Falklands

(Fishing and Wildlife)
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Maggi Smit

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Libby Weir-Breen

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Avian Adventures

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Gerry Griffiths

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Major Ronnie Spafford

Holt's Battlefield Tours

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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

Branch

at

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

Address

Account #..... Date

Signature

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 14th June 2001
Lincoln's Inn Reception

Saturday 8th December 2001
Battle Day and AGM

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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The Editorial Committee release all copyrights on the content of the *Falkland Islands Newsletter*, except on pictures, cartoons and maps. Other publications are invited to quote freely. However, we ask that quotations are made in context and the *Falkland Islands Newsletter* acknowledged as the source.



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- Mr. H.Briley, O.B.E. (Co-Editor).
- Mrs. M.Christie.
- Mr. Saul Pitaluga.
- Mr. P.J.Pepper (Co-Editor).



Battle Day 2000. HE Governor Lamont, and his ADC by the Battle Monument, on guard duty on the right Miss Roz Cheek



Battle Day 2000. The RAF College Band leads the parade up the hill towards the Battle Monument for the ceremony commemorating those who fell in the naval battle that saved the Falklands on December 8th, 1914, and those who laid down their lives during the liberation of the Falklands from the Argentines in 1982.