



Falkland Islands

Newsletter

Published by the Falkland Islands Association

Which would you want?

What a contrast! The Falkland Islands forging ahead to new heights of prosperity while Argentina descends into economic despair, political chaos, endemic corruption and unchecked crime. Daily life is punctuated by demonstrations from poverty-stricken citizens and the unemployed. Its former President, Defence Minister and Army Chief are under arrest for alleged implication in arms sales abroad in breach of international embargoes.

The Islanders, on the other hand, have a much brighter future, pursuing a three-year master plan for boosting prosperity and enhancing their quality of life with improvements in health care and education. There is full employment and virtually no crime.

Major projects include a deep-water port for the booming fishing and tourist industries; a purpose-built visitor centre; a European Union standard abattoir; a bid to become the world's first certified organic country.

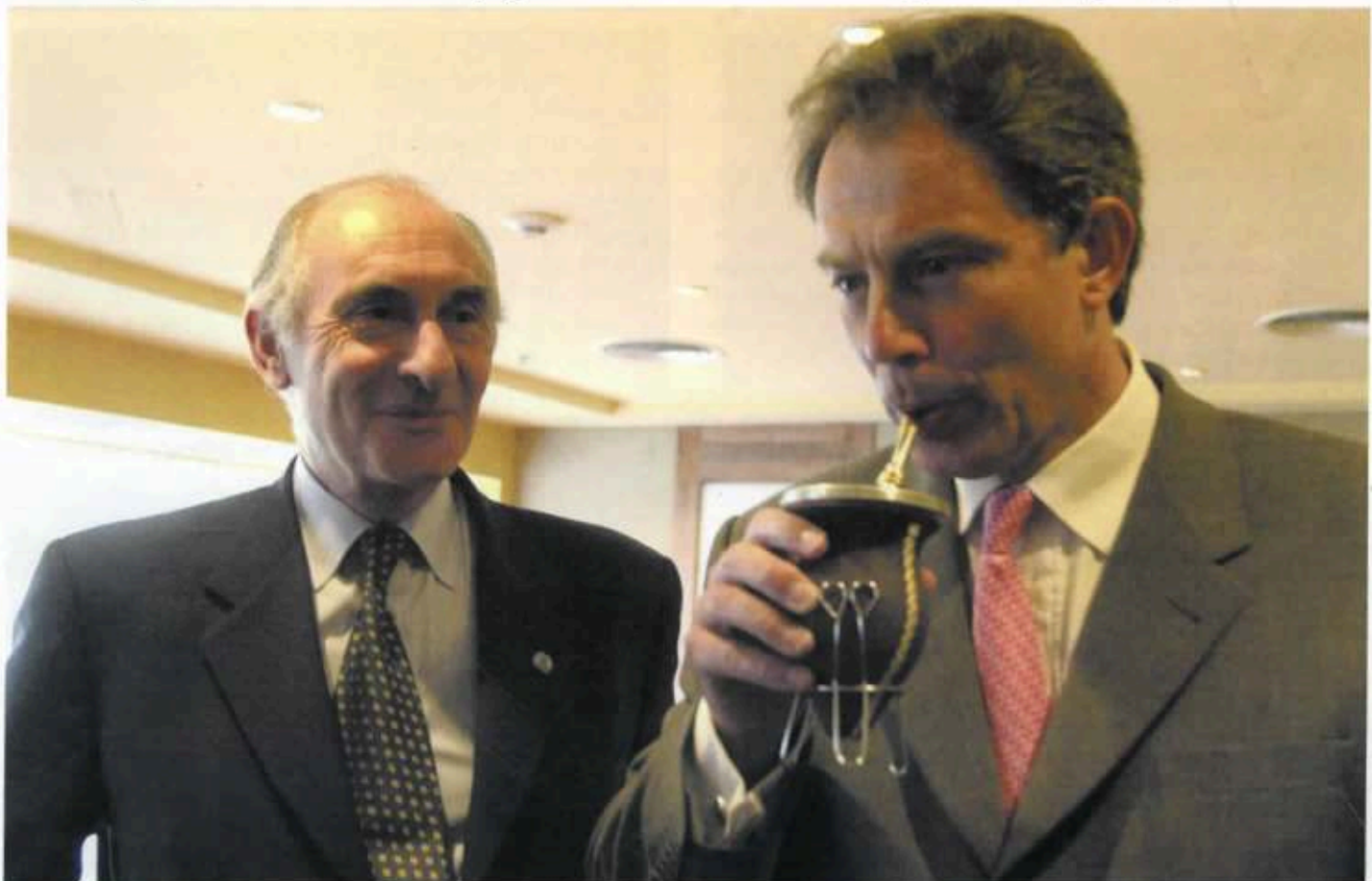
Its students, fully funded by the Government, are scaling new heights of academic achievement. Over the horizon, perhaps, are even more riches to come — from what may be vast offshore oilfields. As its London representative, Sukey Cameron says: "We have made remarkable progress over the

last twenty years. We need to keep telling that success story". The Islanders also show unstinting compassion and generosity in their aid to charities and countries devastated by natural disasters, most recently in Tristan da Cunha and in help for British farmers hit by foot and mouth disease.

Though divided, the Islanders have delivered their part of the controversial agreement conceding entry to Argentine visitors and direct flights from Argentina. The Argentines have been less co-operative on such a vital issue as conservation of the Southern Atlantic's vast but vulnerable shoals of fish, and their failure to stop using Argentine names for the Falklands.

Who on earth would opt to be part of Argentina instead of enjoying the happy, healthy life of the Falklands? A November election will allow Islanders to take their elected Councillors to task and exercise their democratic right to choose their own government — a right that Argentina's anachronistic, unfounded sovereignty claim would deny them and enfold them instead into the misery that is the luckless lot of the average Argentine.

The Argentine crisis is so bad that Prime Minister Blair briefly extended his recent South American trip into Argentina to demonstrate support for its beleaguered government.



In a break from the crisis talks Prime Minister Blair samples maté, the local tea, with Argentine President De La Rúa

Let's Tell the Falklands' Success Story

And remember the sacrifice for freedom

An upbeat call to tell the Falklands' success story while never forgetting those who sacrificed their lives for its freedom has been made by the Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, Miss Sukey Cameron.

Welcoming hundreds of supporters to the annual Lincoln's Inn reception to celebrate the liberation of the Islands from the Argentine invasion nineteen years ago (on June 14), Miss Cameron declared: "In thanking you all for your unfailing help and support during difficult times, we also remember those who gave their lives for our freedom and whom we can never repay. At the same time let us, with your support, honour their sacrifice by demonstrating to all our continued commitment to freedom, democracy and development".

As the twentieth anniversary approaches, she recalled the impressive progress made by the Islanders: "It is said that: 'To those to whom much has been given, much shall be asked'. We have received much and, with your help, we have made remarkable progress over the last twenty years. We need to keep telling that success story and we look forward to sustaining and accelerating that progress during the coming year".

She described how the recently-launched Falklands Government three-year plan, the first comprehensive blueprint for development since Lord Shackleton's post-conflict report, is already being implemented, to achieve sustainable development and diversification, safeguard the natural environment, reverse the population decline in the Camp rural areas, and take the pressure off wool as the main agricultural crop.

A new abattoir, opening in August, will supply meat products for export; commercial farming of reindeer, imported from South Georgia, has begun; and progress continues towards achieving organic status for Falklands farm products within two years. A Falklands brand mark to ensure superior quality will come into operation next year. All these activities are intended to encourage diversification.



Sir Peter De La Billiere, Councillor Luxton, Lady De La Billiere and former Falklands Governor, David Tatham



Miss Sukey Cameron, Jim Paice MP and Lord Dubs.

Plans for the fishing industry include new deep-water port facilities that will help develop onshore support services and encourage related industries such as freezer plants, mussel farms, oyster beds and fish processing. The deep-water port will facilitate the growth of cruise-ship tourism.

The Falklands Government will use a wealth of data now being collated to encourage further offshore oil exploration.

The Islands have welcomed a large number of distinguished visitors this year, including Foreign Office Ministers, UK Parliamentarians, journalists and nearly 30,000 other visitors – who, Miss Cameron hoped, "will have left with sympathetic feelings".

Thanking her colleagues at Falkland House for their hard work, Miss Cameron paid special tribute to Travel Co-ordinator Gail Spooner and Recruitment Officer Julia Thain, both leaving after many years of service.

Adding colour and music, the Band of the Royal Marines beat retreat, and a leading Royal Marines commander of the 1982 campaign, Major General Julian Thompson, took the salute. Former Governor Sir Rex Hunt read out an exchange of messages with the Queen, who sent her good wishes and thanked the Islanders and their supporters for their loyal greetings.

HWB



Chris Jaffray, Julia Thain, Becky Edwards, Dot Wagner, Sam Allanson-Bailey, Debbie Ford, Gwenda Jones, Tracey Chamberlain and Sukey Cameron.

New Ministers for Latin America and Falklands

A new Foreign Office Minister has been given responsibility for Latin American and Falkland Islands issues — Dr Denis MacShane, a former journalist, who replaces John Battle; and Baroness Amos, an academic, who takes over Overseas Territories from Baroness Scotland.

For the first time since the 1982 Falklands War, responsibility for dealing with Latin America is given to the most junior rank of minister, Parliamentary Secretary, instead of the higher rank of Minister of State.

But Dr MacShane, who takes over the Latin America portfolio, has had several years' experience within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence as parliamentary private secretary to several Ministers, including Tony Lloyd.

Dr MacShane, who is 53, also becomes responsible for South East Europe, North East Asia and the Pacific, the BBC World Service and the British Council. He gained history and international economics degrees at Oxford and London Universities and wrote several books on international politics. A former President of the National Union of Journalists, he has been a BBC producer. He is married with five children.

Responsibility for Overseas Territories, including the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the British Antarctic



New Ministers: Dr. Denis MacShane and Baroness Amos

Territory, goes to Baroness Amos, aged 47, an honorary university professor with a string of degrees. She has held several senior appointments in public life, including Chief Executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Her predecessor, Baroness Scotland, a barrister, is now in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Baroness Scotland visited the Falklands earlier this year and was first British Minister to visit the British Antarctic Territory. **HWB**

Lincoln's Inn Reception Continued



Sir Rex Hunt, and Mr. and Mrs Andrew Gurr



Councillor Jan Cheek and Mr. Robert Rowland



Dr. Chris Rapley of BAS and Commodore and Mrs Clapp



Councillor Norma Edwards and Mrs Merle Hunter-Christie

SAMA Parachutes In - and so does £8,000

The South Atlantic Medal Association sponsored sky-dive took place in magnificent weather at Hinton-in-the-Hedges sky diving centre. Mrs Jane Thompson, wife of Major-General Thompson, led the group and sponsorship of their jumps raised £8,000 - with more coming in. Tandem master was Peter Carrol, a 2-Para veteran of Goose Green. There will be another sponsored SAMA jump in August at Netheravon airfield. All funds raised are going towards the cost of the 20th Anniversary pilgrimage to the Falklands.



Above: Left to Right: John Jones of the Welsh Guards who lost both feet in an accident on Stanley airfield and wife Jane. Denzil Connick, Mrs Jane, Thompson and General Julian Thompson, and Ann-Marie Scott-Mason, wife of Captain Scott-Mason of the Canberra in 1982.

Left: Mrs Jane Thompson, Anne-Marie Scott-Mason, and Martin Reed, who was 1st officer on Canberra

Below Left: Martin Reed lands.

Below: SAMA members, wives and friends.



Falklands Showcase in Heart of London

A Falklands "showcase" to project the dynamic, forward-looking Islands of today will welcome visitors in the heart of London after a £90,000 conversion of Falkland House is opened in October. It will have informative displays, a gallery for art, and will sell quality Falklands crafts, cards and books.

The Falkland Islands Government Office (FIGO) will keep its traditional shop façade, but inside the window will be eye catching with the ground floor interior opened out following a theme of white walls, clean lines and wooden floors.

Customer Services & Marketing Manager, Sam Allanson-Bailey, says: "Falkland House will present the Islands as they are today, dynamic and forward looking, combined with a unique charm and a personal touch. We want to show the best of the Falkland Islands, turn people's heads, challenge any stereo-typical thinking, capture interest - and build business. This is a live, evolving project which, over time, we hope will include, and benefit, many people connected to the Islands".

The new showcase will provide a suitable location for meetings, small receptions and briefings by visiting businessmen and Councillors from the Islands. FIGO will continue to provide RAF flight bookings to the Falklands, tourist information, recruitment services and assistance to Islanders in the UK.



Individuals or companies interested in either exhibiting or sponsoring events at Falkland House should contact either Sam Allanson-Bailey or Debbie Ford at FIGO - tel: 44 +20 7222 2542 / fax: 44 +20 222 2375 or email: [HYPERLINK mail to: manager@figo.u-net.com](mailto:manager@figo.u-net.com). Or contact Jason Morris at the Falkland Islands Development Corporation. **HWB**

Antarctic Treaty Secretariat to be based in Argentina

Argentina has won its long campaign to be the headquarters of the Antarctic Treaty. Britain has dropped its objections on the basis of assurances that Argentina will focus its Antarctic activities on civilian scientific endeavour. This was announced after the first meeting in London (on July 17) between Britain's new Foreign Secretary, Mr Jack Straw, and Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr Adalberto Giavarini, who told a news conference it was very important for Argentina.

In the past, Britain had considered it inappropriate for the Secretariat to be in any country with a competing claim in Antarctica. Argentina, Chile and Britain all have overlapping claims, and Argentina had pursued its claim extremely aggressively, even with a day to celebrate this (see page 9), and mostly military personnel in its installations. Now Argentina has a civilian as head of its Antarctic Department and proposes to focus on scientific issues of global importance.

The Foreign Ministers also approved a feasibility study on removal of mines left behind in the Falkland Islands by the 1982 Argentine invasion.

UK insists on Falklands involvement in fish conservation

In a discussion on South Atlantic fish conservation, Mr Straw insisted the Falklands Government must be involved, when the Argentines said they wished to increase co-operation. At the latest Anglo-Argentine Fisheries Commission meeting in London in June, in which Falklands experts participate, the British and Argentine Governments reiterated their commitment to preserve fish and squid stocks and agreed to increase their efforts in a co-ordinated manner. **HWB**

Fishing Row Criticism of FCO

In a remarkable dispute over refusal to grant a licence for a Falkland-registered vessel to fish in South Georgia waters, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been strongly criticised by the Falklands most senior judge and by Mr. Michael Summers, a director of the ship's owners. Mr. Summers, a Councillor but speaking in his private capacity, accused the South Georgia and British Governments of being "anti-Falklands" over the issue. He vowed that his company will "take on" the British Government to recover the licence.

The case arises from the refusal to grant a licence to the Falklands company, Quark Fishing Limited, for its boat *Jacqueline*, losing it an estimated two million pounds in income this fishing season.

The decision by the South Georgia Director of Fisheries, Russ Jarvis, a FCO official who is also Deputy Governor of the Falklands, was ruled "unlawful" by Chief Justice, James Wood, who ordered it to be re-considered. The Court did not criticise Mr Jarvis but the FCO for saying what its objective was without giving Mr Jarvis proper instruction or adequate information to reach a "fair and rational decision". It was alleged that his wish to grant the licence to the Falklands Company was over-ruled by the Foreign Office who, it was claimed, wanted to reduce the allocation of licences to United Kingdom (Falklands) flagged vessels for sensitive political reasons related to the Convention for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), and not for reasons of conservation. It was alleged the *Jacqueline* had a poorer record of compliance with conservation aims than other vessels, an allegation that is disputed by the Company. **HWB**

New Job for Falklands Diplomat

The senior Foreign Office official with responsibility for Falklands and Antarctic Affairs, Mr John White, has been appointed High Commissioner to Barbados and also to Antigua, Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts, Nevis, St Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He is succeeded



as Head of the Overseas Territories Department and Commissioner for the British Antarctic Territory by Mr Alan Huckle, until now head of the department dealing with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and also the Council of Europe involved in cultural and human rights issues.

Jenny "Calling the Falklands"

The new producer for the BBC's "Calling the Falklands", Jenny Hargreaves, with about 25 years in broadcasting, told the Newsletter: "I am delighted to have the opportunity of a completely fresh challenge with Calling the Falklands. I look forward greatly to meeting everyone and getting to know the region". She has made many documentaries "on anything and everything" - social affairs, the arts, history, and politics. Born in London, she spent much of her childhood in Geneva where her father worked for the World Health Organisation.



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Falkland Islands Trust Changes

Two new trustees have been appointed by the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust: Mrs Marlane Marsh of Shallow Harbour Farm, who replaces the late Robin Lee of Port Howard, and Mr Hugh Normand, former General Manager of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

The trustees said a fond farewell to the Trust's administrative secretary, Mrs Doris Dodson, at a London lunch for her and her husband, marking her retirement after 16 years.

The new honorary treasurer is Brian Hill. He makes up a husband and wife team involved in administration of both the Falkland Islands Trust and its offshoot, the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, where Mrs Penny Hill is administrative secretary. They spent several years in the Falklands where Mr Hill was Director of Public Works and Mrs Hill a legal secretary.

Falklands Population Grows

According to the latest census, the population of the Falklands is 2491, which excludes 112 people temporarily absent from the Islands; the garrison and 534 civilians working for the military. Stanley itself has a population of 1989, 21% higher than it was at the last census in 1996.

The working population has grown 17.5% and 98.5% of men and 79.3% of women of working age are in work. 288 run businesses, a rise of 10%, and the number of dwellings has gone up to 1073 from 865 in 1996. Some 62.3% are owner occupied. More than half have computers and faxes. Just under half have internet access.

Prince Andrew Talks of Dangerous Falklands Experiences

Was his helicopter a decoy for Argentina's deadly Exocet missiles?

As the Duke of York leaves the Royal Navy after 22 years service, he has been recounting his war experiences as a naval helicopter pilot in the Falklands war.

In an interview with the MOD magazine "Focus", Prince Andrew reveals that he was flying his Sea King helicopter in dangerous circumstances in some of the most momentous actions of the conflict, including the Vulcan bomber raid on Stanley airport and the Argentine exocet missile attacks which sank the destroyer HMS Sheffield and the transport ship Atlantic Conveyor.

Was his helicopter a decoy? "A lot has been made of being a decoy for exocets," he says. "It's a moot point whether I was or wasn't. I did actually fly that mission (near HMS Sheffield). Whether we would have been in harm's way is anybody's guess because I certainly didn't see a missile go past."

The Prince cites the loss of the Atlantic Conveyor as the other moment when "things got a bit hot.... bullets and missiles were flying about. We could have got in the way of that because I was airborne at the time". When the Vulcan bomber raided, Prince Andrew was on a search patrol just to the east of Stanley. "Security didn't tell us why we were there", he says.

Prince Andrew, says: "Danger didn't actually occur to us. I probably had my overdose of adrenaline for my life. I get a hot rush every now and then thinking about it. What do they say? 'I laugh at danger?' Absolute rubbish, it's a risk you take. But for some reason, when you're actually there, you don't think it will happen to you. You make the best of it."

Terror — and Boredom

He says: "The Falklands war was 99 per cent boredom and one per cent terror. There were very, very short moments when you think: 'Is this sensible?'" The Duke recalls the

grinding routine with its non-stop cycle of eating, sleeping and flying, blurring the line between night and day. In May, 1982, he flew 113 hours in a month, as did other pilots.

It was a life-defining experience. "Going through the experience of war knocks the sharp edges off. You become a slightly more rounded character... and certainly respect life a good deal more."

He reveals there were "concerns" about his going to war, but, he says, "I never let those concerns get in the way. If I hadn't served I would never have been able to conduct myself in a professional manner with the Navy. In

my mind, there was never any question of not going. I was part of a team. It would have been ridiculous if I had not gone."

In the Royal Navy, Prince Andrew dismisses any suggestion that his status made it easier for him to succeed. "Treating me as unique wouldn't have been of any value to me because, despite being a member of the Royal Family, I had to prove myself professionally capable and able to do my job, particularly being a pilot."

For the past few years, the Duke has been based in MOD's Naval Staff Directorate, working in diplomacy for the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. He now becomes a roving ambassador for British Trade International. **HWB**



Pangbourne Service Remembers the Falklands Fallen

The annual memorial service at the Falklands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College in Berkshire (on Sunday June 24) was attended by about 400 people, including relatives of the men who died and veterans of the 1982 Task Force. The lessons were read by Admiral Sir Alan West, now Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, whose frigate, HMS Ardent was bombed and sunk, and Captain Michael Barrow, commander of the destroyer HMS Glamorgan, Chairman of the Pangbourne Memorial Chapel Trust.

The preacher was a former commando, now a Scottish Church minister, the Reverend David Devenney. A former paratroop chaplain in 1982, the Reverend David Cooper, conducted the service.

In the congregation were Task Force Commander, Admiral Sir John "Sandy" Woodward; Doctor Rick Jolly, whose medical unit saved many lives; Mrs Sarah Jones, widow of Paratroop Colonel H. Jones, VC, Royal Marines Commander General Julian Thompson, and 1982 Falkland Islands Governor, Sir Rex Hunt. The Falklands Islands Government were represented by Councillors Norma Edwards and Jan Cheek and Miss Sukey Cameron from the London Office.

Islander Joins Blue Eagles



The newest member of the "Blue Eagles" Army Air Corps helicopter display team, Julie Wiles, shakes hands with her father Alan on presentation of her wings. Julie is daughter of Falkland Islander Sheila Wiles (nee Perry). Julie began her military career in Queen Alexandra's Nursing Corps in 1988, and this took her back to the Falklands in 1993 for a six month tour of duty at King Edward Memorial Hospital, Stanley. Julie then joined the Army Air Corps in 1996.

Royal Navy Fighting Fit

A report that the Royal Navy is so run down it is unfit to fight or mount another Falklands-type Task Force has been rejected by the Ministry of Defence. "The Royal Navy's operational capability", it says, "remains highly effective. The Government is committed to strong defence and continued modernisation of Britain's Armed Forces".

Allegations in the Daily Telegraph, allegedly based upon a confidential report last year by Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh, claim "The Royal Navy can barely meet its NATO obligations, let alone think of mounting any campaign in Britain's interests far away... Britain, traditionally so good at using its naval predominance to act on distant continents, is now withdrawing from the High Seas... Does anyone think that in another crisis like that in the Falklands we would be better served by the European Reaction Force than by a powerful British Fleet?".

The Telegraph story alleges that ships go to sea without enough ammunition to defend themselves and run a greater risk of being hit by an air-to-sea missile such as sank HMS Sheffield in the Falklands War. The report claims there are too few pilots, that helicopters and submarines are not working properly, and the Army has reneged on a promise to supply eight Apache attack helicopters to support the Royal Marines.

Defence spending rises; Royal Navy active world-wide

The MOD reacted swiftly, pointing out that spending on the armed forces is rising from £23 billion last year (2000/01) to almost £25 billion by 2003-04. The Commander-in-Chief Fleet Admiral Sir Alan West "has identified a range of possible risks and effectively managing them as routine management business. There is no crisis in the Royal Navy, whose activity continues unabated. In the past year it played a crucial role in twelve short-notice operations world-wide as well as many defence diplomacy missions, including a round-the-world deployment. Three new ships have recently been delivered and more are on the way. Later this year the Royal Navy will deploy over 25 ships in Exercise SAIF SAREEA ("Swift Sword") in Oman, involving major amphibious landings as was required in the Falklands.

RAF using Argentine aircraft from Falklands War.

The Royal Air Force is using the "spoils of war" captured from Argentina in 1982 to provide aircraft and parts. A senior RAF officer confirmed to the Newsletter that the rear section of an Argentine Chinook helicopter has been bolted on to an RAF Chinook which crashed. A new back half would have been hugely expensive and taken a long time to acquire.

A Puma helicopter captured in the Falklands has also been refitted and is flying operationally. The RAF has been instructed to save money where possible by cannibalising aircraft, but in the past enemy equipment hasn't been compatible. Argentine equipment is. **HWB**

RAF Quits Germany

The Royal Air Force is leaving its last base, RAF Bruggen, in Germany after 56 years. Its 24 Tornados are being withdrawn to Britain. At the height of the Cold War Britain had 12 bases, 18,000 men and 200 jets stationed in Germany.

The withdrawal is the result of the Strategic Defence Review, the end of the Cold War and the fact that RAF planes can no longer practise low flying over Germany - they can and do over the Falklands.

New Carriers, Amphibious Ships and Air Transports

Speaking in the House of Commons in June, Secretary of State for Defence, Geoffrey Hoon MP, confirmed that the Government is "fully committed" to plans to build two large aircraft carriers to replace the three Invincible class carriers now in service. Altogether, he said, the Government plans to build 30 more ships for the Navy over the next 15 to 20 years.

Mr Hoon also announced the purchase of the Meteor missile and 24 of the long range A400M military transports being built by the Airbus Industrie Consortium. British industry is involved in both these programs. The A400M contract alone will provide 8,000 jobs at British Aerospace. Until these planes are delivered the RAF will use the American C-17 transport aircraft - the first of which has already arrived at Brize Norton. Mr. Hoon went on to say that Britain's amphibious capacity would be enhanced by six new roll on/roll off ferries and four logistics ships. A new communications system for the forces is also being purchased, at a cost of £1.8 billion.

New Lease of Life for Falklands Carrier

HMS Invincible which played a crucial part in winning the Falklands War is to be modernised in a comprehensive refit to continue in service for another 12 years.



Her two sister ships, Ark Royal and Illustrious, are also having refits, to maintain the Navy's air warfare capability until all three are replaced by the two larger carriers at a cost of £2.7 billion.

Invincible and Hermes, both due to be sold abroad before the Falklands War, were the two vital vessels without whose air defence against Argentine air strikes, the war could not have been won. Task Force Commander, Sir John "Sandy" Woodward, said that major damage to either could have forced abandonment of the Falklands operation. Argentina falsely claimed both carriers had been sunk. **HWB**

Foot-and-Mouth switches Commandos training to US

British Royal Marines have been forced to use US training areas because their own training grounds on Dartmoor have been closed to combat the foot-and-mouth epidemic.

It is costing the Britain 1.8 million pounds for 750 British commandos to complete endurance tests at Fort AP Hill in Virginia, an area of thick forest with mild and humid weather, very different from Dartmoor's colder moorland, bogs and streams. If foot-and-mouth persists, alternative training areas will be sought as Virginia's weather becomes oppressively hot.

The Falklands, praised by commanders in the past as excellent for military training with enthusiastic support from Islanders, has been ruled out for what the Ministry of Defence calls "logistical reasons".

The Royal Marines have historic links with the Falkland Islands and formed a major part of the Task Force which defeated the Argentine occupation forces in 1982.

Historic Talks Focus on Argentine Crisis

Tony Blair First British Prime Minister to Visit Argentina

In a highly symbolic visit, Tony Blair became the first British Prime Minister ever to set foot on Argentine soil at the spectacular Iguazu waterfalls. He crossed the border from Brazil where he had three-way talks, on August 1st, with Argentine President De La Rúa and Brazil's President Cardoso (Right and left in the photo below). The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere, concentrating on economic difficulties and trade. In accordance with long standing British policy rejecting Argentina's sovereignty claim, it was agreed in advance that there would be no discussion of the Falklands.



Across the border, during a forty-minute car journey to Puerto Iguazu, one of the first sights to greet Mr Blair was an

official looking blue and white road sign declaring: "The Malvinas (Falklands) are Argentine". After the meeting, Mr Blair stressed the importance of supporting Argentina during its current economic crisis. "This is a moment where it is important that we show support and solidarity with Argentina in the difficulties it faces," he said. President De La Rúa described Mr Blair's expression of support as being of "extraordinary value". He said the backing of the big countries should help Argentina to overcome its difficulties. President De La Rúa said Argentina's "temporary situation could be overcome" with such support. "This meeting between three friends represents an extraordinary opportunity to re-affirm solidarity, friendship and peace throughout the world". A British spokesman added that such a relationship is the best insurance against a repeat of anything like the Falklands war.

When asked at a news conference about the Falklands, Mr Blair declined to comment, saying that whatever had happened in the past, it is important that Britain and Argentina should be able to work together not just as two countries, but internationally, "to solve the problems that confront us all" - another reference to the efforts of world leaders to head off recession and liberalise world trade by reducing tariff barriers.

Argentina in Crisis

Times have been hard in Argentina over the last three years, but for the last eight months Argentina has been in continuous economic and political crisis - and has had a very serious fiscal deficit - financed by borrowing from abroad. This has led to many changes in the government of President De La Rúa, finally leading to special powers being given for a year to Domingo Cavallo, the well known economist who masterminded Argentina's recovery from the hyperinflation under President Menem.

The crisis has seen unemployment rising dramatically and crime getting worse. Those with jobs have often seen their salaries drop as their employers struggle to survive. Argentina's trade union movement has called strikes at every opportunity, and the unemployed have been blocking roads to draw attention to their plight - and to blackmail the authorities into providing relief. This has led to many clashes with the Gendamerie. In the town of General Mosconi, in June, this led to two deaths and many injuries in an exchange of gunfire.

Argentines have been besieging the Spanish and Italian Consulates trying to emigrate to the relative prosperity of Europe. Italy will grant citizenship to the children and grandchildren of Italian citizens (which make up 50% of Argentina's population), and *Clarín* has reported that the Italian Consulate in Buenos Aires is issuing between 200 and 300 passports per week, but is receiving this number of applications per day!

There are a many reasons for the problem. Most significant is the competition from Brazil. It has five times the population of Argentina, and so has large economies of scale. It also has much lower wage rates. To make matters worse, it devalued its currency some 55% last year, and this has fallen another 25% so far this year. This has made Brazilian goods much cheaper than Argentine goods, which were priced in a Peso fixed at par with the US dollar. Largely to compete with



Argentines queue outside the Italian Consulate in Buenos Aires hoping to be able to escape from Argentina and return to where their grandparents emigrated from.

Brazil, Argentina introduced a "Peso Commercial" in June which modestly devalued the Peso for international commerce only, although the Peso remains a dollar for all other purposes.

The situation got dramatically worse in July, with widespread speculation that Argentina might default on its international debts and demands from international banks for very high interest rates on loans to Argentina. The detention of Ex-President Menem made matters worse still - as it stood in the way of real cooperation from the Peronist opposition.

Emergency Plan

To end the fiscal deficit, Domingo Cavallo has introduced a bold plan to restrict Argentine government salaries and pensions to what the government collects in taxes. This means a reduction in these of about 13%. So far, this has not put an end to the financial crisis, and the IMF faces demands for billions of dollars in loans to prevent an Argentine default.

Menem Under Arrest

Former President of Argentina, Dr. Carlos Menem, was arrested on June 7th accused of leading an "illicit association" (conspiracy in British law) involved in the illegal sale of 6,500 tons of arms to Ecuador and Croatia between 1991 and 1995. Because of his age and former position he is only under house arrest. His former Defence Minister, Erman Gonzalez, brother-in-law, Emir Yoma, and ex-head of the army, General Martin Balza, are all under arrest too - and in prison.

Menem is using every tactic possible to get out. His supporters are investigating the property of the judge responsible for the case - to smear his reputation. Menem is trying to stand as a Senator in his home province, La Rioja, which would give him immunity. The government has even been sounded out on giving him a pardon and Interior Minister, Ramon Mestre, has said he might be pardoned if he were convicted or showed contrition. But Menem is known to have wanted to stand again in the presidential elections in 2003, and even in Argentina this would be out of the question if he were to be convicted or pardoned.

Dr. Menem married Chilean beauty queen, Cecilia Bolocco (right), only two weeks before his arrest and she now shares his detention in Buenos Aires. They had to cancel their honeymoon in Syria, from where Menem's parents emigrated, and where he still has many family connections.



Betrayal of ally Peru

The case is something of a political witch hunt, but the sale of arms to Ecuador did cause particular offence to traditionalists in Argentina - as Ecuador was fighting Peru at the time over a border dispute, and Peru is a traditional ally of Argentina. But even Ecuador was disappointed as many of the rifles in the shipment turned out to be old and of little use.

The scandal was made even worse by the 1995 destruction of the Rio Tercero, Cordoba, arms plant, where some of the arms were manufactured - in a massive explosion that is now

Argentina Changes Claim Dates for Falklands and Antarctica

Argentina has changed the dates when it celebrates its sovereignty claims to the Falklands and Antarctica. The claim to the Falklands has now been moved to April 2nd, the date when Argentina attacked the Falklands in 1982, and a date for its claim to Antarctica has now been dropped.

Originally, "Malvinas Day" was June 10th and there was a separate day, February 22nd, to celebrate the Argentine claim to Antarctica. But the Alfonsín government combined these claims and June 10th became the day to celebrate both. But Argentina had been campaigning hard to get the seat for the Secretariat to the Antarctic Treaty to be in Buenos Aires, which it wants in order to increase its influence in Antarctica. To help this campaign (which has succeeded. See page 5), Congress passed a law last December to eliminate a date in Argentina's political calendar for Antarctica. So June 10th was dropped altogether and April 2nd is now when Argentina celebrates its claim just to the Falklands. This is now to be called "Veterans Day". This pleased hardliners, and has to a certain extent put a modern seal of approval on the 1982 war.

History

June 10th was the day when a surprise Spanish attack forced the British garrison at Port Egmont, on Saunders Island,

widely believed to have been sabotage. Seven people were killed in the blast and 300 injured. Many Argentines believe this was done to eliminate evidence of such illegal arms deals.

Corruption

The case continues to make headlines in Argentina. Menem's defence will be that authorising the export was a legitimate government action. But if bribes were paid, as *Clarín* claims, or if excess profits went to Menem's family, then that defence will be discredited. So the court is now investigating where all the money went. *Clarín* reports that Ecuador and Croatia paid about \$100 million in total for the arms, but that Fabricaciones Militares, who manufactured the arms, received only 40 million of this. *Clarín* has also claimed that \$36 million went to Emir Yoma, Dr. Menem's brother-in-law. Emir Yoma has claimed this money came from a Chinese investor, who has denied this.

Private Airport

Whether Menem is guilty or not, his regime certainly was marked by many corruption scandals. Probably the worst was the construction of a runway a kilometre long at Anillaco, Menem's home town, paid for by companies which either had government contracts or hoped to get them. Anillaco has a population of only about 800 people and so the airport was clearly for Menem's own use. This is not an isolated case either.

Argentine journalist Horacio Verbitsky, exposed massive corruption in his book "*Robo Para La Corona*" (I Steal for the Crown) which are alleged to have been the words of one of Menem's ministers as he tried to defend himself against corruption allegations - by saying that he was doing it for Menem.

Another judge is investigating Menem for possible "illegal enrichment". *Clarín* reported on July 22nd that 100 different avenues of investigation are being followed.

to capitulate in 1770. This date was then foolishly chosen by the newly independent Argentina in 1829 to make Louis Vernet, the owner of the tiny settlement at Port Louis "governor" of the Falklands - when he was already trying to get the British to return to the Falklands. Vernet's appointment as "governor" led to an immediate British protest.

Argentina now likes to forget Vernet's invitations to Britain to reassert its claim to the Islands. These are now referred to as the "indiscretions of Louis Vernet" and are hardly known outside a handful of top historians in Argentina. Readers should note, however, that Vernet was actually only made an honorary and unpaid "Comandante Politico y Militar" - a rank inferior to governor in the old Spanish imperial hierarchy to which there is no exact British equivalent.

As in the case of "Malvinas Day", it was Peron who initiated a date for Argentina's claim to Antarctica. Before it was changed to June 10th, it was February 22nd, which was when Argentina took over the Scottish Antarctic Expedition huts on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys in 1904 - at Britain's invitation - and made them into a weather station. Argentina had no facilities on the mainland of Antarctica until after WW2, but Peron wanted to maximise the time that Argentina could pretend to have had a presence in Antarctica.

Rapid Response to Tristan Da Cunha's Devastation

Adding to the Falklands Humanitarian Aid of £135,000

The Falkland Islands have taken the lead in response to an urgent appeal from Tristan da Cunha, devastated by hurricane.

As soon as word reached the outside world from this isolated South Atlantic territory, the Falkland Islands Government re-acted by donating all £5,000 in their emergency disaster fund. Individual Islanders contributions to the appeal have now reached over £18,000, which the Falklands Government has pledged to match pound for pound to help a fellow United Kingdom Overseas Territory.

Tristan da Cunha, the world's remotest inhabited island of only 300 inhabitants, was struck by the worst storm for a hundred years, churning the sea into a heaving mass, tearing buildings apart, hurling power lines into a tangled heap, disrupting communications, and killing cattle and sheep. Miraculously there were no human casualties.

The Falklands' rapid response to Tristan's latest appeal is typical of its generous aid to many causes in the past twelve months. The Falklands Government has helped nearly thirty charities, associations and institutions with donations of more than £100,000, and nearly seven pounds per head of population has been given towards disaster relief. An additional £35,000 was contributed by private subscription to Kosovo and Mozambique.

Supporting British farmers, Forces, and Third World

Particularly timely is a £5,000 donation to British farming. It has been channeled through the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC)-Addington Fund, which said such generosity would help farming families suffering from the foot and mouth epidemic.

Supporting the British forces is also a priority. Annual contributions to military charities include the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund; Royal Naval Benevolent Fund for Officers; Royal Naval Benevolent Fund and The Army Benevolent Fund, on an annual basis. Other donations have been made to the Royal Marines National Memorial in London, the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, and the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA 82) of veterans of the 1982 Falklands War.

A recent beneficiary has been Home Base, a charity which helps service men and women who are homeless or risk becoming homeless. As many as 25 per cent of those who live rough on the streets of Britain served in the Forces.

Falklands Government Councillor Richard Cockwell told the Newsletter: "Although we are a small Overseas Territory with a population of under 2,500 people, we recognise our privileged financial position and try to help other, less fortunate countries and communities... Supporting these charities is a live and progressive way for the Islands to continue to express gratitude to the British armed services."

Last year beneficiaries of Falkland Islands Government relief funds included Belize, Nicaragua, Mozambique, and Papua New Guinea, amongst others suffering natural disasters.



Above: The fish factory on Tristan damaged in the storm

"If the developed world had all spent similar sums per head of population" says Councillor Cockwell, "third world debt could rapidly become a thing of the past".

Harold Briley

The Falkland Islands are several thousand miles west of Tristan da Cunha, which was settled by the British in 1816. Tristan has its own elected legislature but is administered by the Governor of Saint Helena, 1,500 miles away to the North. Neither Tristan nor Saint Helena has an air-strip. Forty years ago, between 1960 and 1963, Tristan was ravaged by erupting volcanoes, forcing mass evacuation to Britain of its tiny population, who returned to re-settle their island after several years in exile.

Contributions may be sent to the Tristan Disaster Fund at the following address: Tristan Disaster Fund, Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, ST14 5HN. Further information may be obtained from Mr. Michael Swales, tel: 01538-703322.

"Falklands Overseas Games" Appeal to FIA members

To all those who responded to my invitation to support the Falklands Teams at the Island Games this year on the Isle of Man I pass a very heartfelt "thankyou and well done".

The total raised is a magnificent £5,196. It is not possible to write a personal thankyou to each individual, I only wish it were, but each donation however large, or small, has proved very worthwhile and, I am assured, has helped to ease the financial burden on individual members of FI teams and clubs. The Chairman of the FI Overseas Games Association, Mr. Patrick Watts, has told me "This is all very encouraging and rather overwhelming but most considerate on the part of FIA members, which we all appreciate very much".

Donations ranged from £5 to £100 and all deserved recognition, as does the single £1000 cheque which arrived from one of our corporate members. Thankyou again.

Ted Clapp

Isle of Man - Island Games

Team Gain Experience and Project the Falklands

The Falklands team at the NatWest Island Games won no medals but once again proved superb sporting ambassadors. They competed with great spirit and determination, cheered on by a group of vocal Falklands supporters displaying the Falklands flag. Steve Dent, swimming coach and Community School physical education teacher, said "They held their heads high". He was very proud of them.

Competing against strong teams from 21 Islands, most with much bigger populations, the team gained invaluable experience in an intensely competitive environment, with excellent facilities. Two runners, Karl McKay and Ben Pointing, with no experience of track-running or starting blocs, were given special tuition by the Manx coaches. Golfers were coached for a few days at Wentworth by Bernard Gallacher.

Chairman of the Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association, Patrick Watts, in interviews with Isle of Man newspapers and radio, said: "It is important to remind the world that we still exist, are not part of Argentina, and wish to remain British". This was an ideal venue to do just that, with hundreds of journalists and broadcasters and competitors. For results, see "Sports Websites" on page 20.

The Governor - former Falklands air commander

Isle of Man Lieutenant Governor, Air Marshal Ian Macfadyean, (Right) was delighted to welcome the Islanders led by Councillor Mike Summers. Air Marshal Macfadyean commanded the Phantom squadron which took over air defence of the Falklands in 1982 when the Task Force went home. He was the RAF's outstanding Phantom aerobatic pilot, and also Chief of Staff to the British Commander in the Gulf War, Sir Peter de la Billiere, who is an Association Vice-President.



The Falklands footballers showed grit and stamina from start to finish. Below they shown are in action against the Isle of Man team. *Photos by S. Dent, K. Clapp and H. Briley*



Above: The Islanders' modest pride was echoed by three teenagers in the swimming events. Claire Kilmartin (left) said: "We've come to gain valuable experience. This will help us to do better next time". "Hopefully!" said Donna Triggs (right). Samantha Davis (centre) added: "We are also here to project the Falkland Islands".

Left: Donna Triggs in action in the 50metre backstroke



Saul Pitaluga swings after a clay pigeon.



Sharon Marsh competing in the golf



Claire Kilmartin ready to dive

Scientists Replace Soldiers on South Georgia

Boost for Fish Research and Wildlife Conservation

Conservation of vital fish stocks and the prolific wildlife which feeds off them will benefit from a new British Antarctic Survey (BAS) research station for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, whose economy depends on commercial fishing.

The initiative was launched in March as BAS scientists replaced British military personnel stationed there since its recovery in 1982 from Argentine invasion.

The handover ceremony by Falkland Islands Governor and Commissioner for South Georgia, Donald Lamont, was attended by the British Forces Commander in the region, Air Commodore John Cliffe, and Falklands Councillor Richard Cockwell, primarily responsible for Falklands fishery policy.

The £5.3 million centre at South Georgia's King Edward Point (KEP), largely paid for by the Ministry of Defence, is now manned by three scientists and five support staff, with three inshore boats. These vessels are used for a biological monitoring programme and logistical purposes. One is equipped for research fishing.

The KEP laboratory building bears the name of explorer James Cook. The accommodation building is named after one of the longest-serving, most experienced BAS fish experts, Inigo Everson, by popular choice of his fellow scientists.

The thrust of the research is to promote a balanced ecosystem by monitoring the amount and type of fish, to prevent over-fishing but allow commercial fishing without harm to conservation of either fish stocks or the many species of wildlife which share the fish, including millions of penguins, albatross, giant petrels, elephant and fur seals, and minke and killer whales.

BAS Pioneering Role Protecting Ecosystem

BAS Director, Professor Chris Rapley, calls it "an excellent opportunity for BAS science". It is a pioneering, ecologically-sensitive, management plan which can make South Georgia a global model for conservation. This is a contrast to its role in the 19th and 20th centuries in mass pillage of the seas, hunting seals and whales almost to extinction. The good news is that whales appear to be making a come-back. South Georgia has become an important tourist attraction for cruise ships. Its defunct whaling station is now a museum.

In the Southern Ocean's complex biology, BAS observations of the food web together with studies on krill, squid, seals, albatross and penguins contribute to international conservation measures. Commercial fishing is subject to a strict management and conservation regime by CCAMLR (the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources).

The research will provide scientific advice on sustainable management of commercial fisheries, focusing first on five commercially exploited fish species — Patagonian Toothfish, Icefish, the seven star flying *Martialia* Squid, Stone Crabs and Krill. Around 20 vessels registered in a number of countries including the United Kingdom (Falkland Islands), Chile, Uruguay, Spain, Japan, Korea, Russia, Poland and South Africa are licensed to fish within the 200 nautical mile management zone,



Mr. Donald Lamont Commissioner for South Georgia and Governor of the Falklands opens the new Inigo Everson accommodation block. On the right of Mr. Lamont is Dr. Chris Rapley, Director of BAS, to his right is Dr. Inigo Everson in whose honour the building is named.

proclaimed by Britain in 1993, causing friction with Argentina.

The British Government says the handover makes practical and economic sense. It denies any suggestion that the withdrawal of troops signals encouragement to hard-line Argentines seeking sovereignty over British South Atlantic territories. It has reassured Falkland Islanders that its defence commitments remain "robust, strong and determined".

Royal Navy ships and submarines regularly patrol South Atlantic and Antarctic waters. The 1,500 strong garrison and Tornado warplanes in the Falklands can be swiftly reinforced through Ascension Island and Mount Pleasant Airport. **HWB**



Research Assistants Judith Dickson and Therese Mulvey



Cumberland Bay, with King Edward Point and the BAS installation on the middle left and the old Grytviken whaling station at the bottom of the picture.



King Edward Point in close-up. Below the warehouse at KEP



Argentine Reaction

Britain's replacement of its minute South Georgia garrison (only some 20 men) with BAS scientists made headline news in Argentine newspaper *La Nacion* - as if it were a major step towards Argentine sovereignty. This was, however, press euphoria and it was clear from other reports that the Argentine Foreign Ministry was under no such illusions.

However, there can be no doubt that BAS research activities in South Georgia are an Argentine target. In 1999, *La Nacion* published front page headlines saying "Two Flags over South Georgia" to report an attempt Argentina was making then to get Argentine scientists into South Georgia - and to extrapolate this into hints of shared sovereignty!

History

James Cook claimed South Georgia for George III in 1775. It was mentioned in British letters patent in 1843 and 1892. It also featured in the Colonial Yearbook in 1887. Britain then consolidated its claim to South Georgia and many other sub-antarctic islands by letters patent in 1908. Receipt of these letters was acknowledged by Argentina on March 18th 1909 - without the slightest objection!

Peron initiated the Argentine claim to South Georgia - on March 1st, 1947. The Attlee government in Britain promptly offered arbitration at the World Court (December 17th, 1947). But Argentina rejected this (April 2nd, 1948) saying that Argentine territory was not for arbitration in any court. Subsequent British offers of arbitration were made in 1951, '53 and '54. In 1955, the British government tried to take Argentina's claim to the World Court unilaterally, but Argentina announced it would ignore the result, basing its claim on the following nonsense: "unquestioned rights and titles derived from and based on legitimate methods of acquiring territorial domain, and effective, notorious and peaceful possession".

Subsequently, Argentina used events on South Georgia to provoke the Falklands War and made inclusion of South Georgia as Argentine territory obligatory on all maps published in Argentina. In 1994, it included a demand for sovereignty over South Georgia in the Argentine constitution, when this was being altered to allow President Menem to stand again for the Presidency.



Dr. Simon Morley Chief Scientist on South Georgia



Dr. Inigo Everson (left) and Scientific Manager for South Georgia Dr. Mark Belchier, photographed at BAS headquarters, Cambridge. All Photographs Courtesy of BAS



The Lighthouse Seamen's Centre receives a cheque for £440 from a sponsored 9 hour walk from Mount Pleasant Airport to Stanley. Among the walkers were Flt Lt Rob Taylor, C/Tech Dave Honeybun, Sgts Paul Gittins and Mark Harvey and Sqdn Ldr Clive Gibson and his daughter. SAC Laura Laura Walpole and Cpl Andy Pendfold provided support.



In the centre: May Princess Kerriane Ross and the Prince are Joint Prince Charmings after a tie in the vote.



The Queen's Birthday parade: Above Governor Lamont inspects a contingent from the Stanley Cub Pack and, below, the Rainbows.



Governor Lamont, and officers from the Falkland Islands mark Liberation Day at the Monument. Below





May Queen Donna Triggs. On either side are Ewan Bonner and Karl McKay.



Islander Rebecca Edwards graduates as a doctor from University College, London.



Ben Fogle of BBC Castaways during his visit to the Falklands. See page 17. Photo courtesy of Ken Lennox

Below: Eighteen runners outside the Leisure Centre before starting Stanley Running Club's five mile race round the houses of Stanley.



The Falkland Islands Defence Force and the Garrison Band. The guns on Victory Green fire the salute.



Fox Bay School pupils acting the story of Perseus and Medusa. Left to right are: Stacey and Glynn McKay, Terence Browning, Rachel Marsh and Cheveze and Cameron Goodwin



Falkland Islands Defence Force:

Above Left: One of twelve young Islanders who took up the challenge to join the FIDF for a day, Roy McKay learns to fire the General Purpose Machine Gun.

Above: Sarah Carey gets instruction in abseiling from Captain Biggs.

Left: Jon Ray crossing a temporary bridge assembled as part of an initiative test for the temporary recruits.



Johnny Walker Darts Tournament.

Left: The tournament in progress in the Town Hall. It was sponsored by Johnnie Walker and the Falkland Islands Company (FIC).

Above Right: Ladies Champion, Hilary Miller, together with FIC Manager Terry Spruce.

Above Left: Tournament winner, Gary Hewitt, celebrates his triumph with Joan Spruce.

Photos courtesy of Penguin News



Hello there in the Falklands



Ben Fogle with John Didlick, whose letter inspired the star's visit.



Above: Ben Fogle with pupils at the Falkland Islands Community School, Stanley

Thanks to the initiative of a Stanley schoolboy, the Falklands have enjoyed excellent publicity in a mass circulation celebrity magazine. Ten-year-old John Didlick wrote to a television personality who featured in last year's documentary "Castaway 2000", Ben Fogle, whose interest was aroused by John's description of himself as a "real castaway".

As a roving reporter for Hello Magazine (circulation over 500,000) his six-page article, with 14 photographs, depicts the Islands as a marvellous place to live and work. Travelling on the Falkland Islands Government Air Service, he was amazed it broadcasts the names and destination of its passengers on the radio. "Everyone", he says, tunes in... In a small community everyone thrives on gossip".



Ben sampling the cooking of Karen Taylor at Weddell Island

He describes long walks without seeing a soul, discovering "amazing white sand beaches... stunning views of hills, mountains and miles of turquoise ocean and incredible animals". He came face to face with giant elephant seals, petrels and their chicks, and penguins.

seven-year-old Guy Morrison, drives himself there on his three-wheel motorbike.

He enjoyed his visit so much because the Falklands "feel more British than in Britain". About 96 per cent of the population are British, most vehicles are Landrovers, and Union Jacks fly everywhere".

"Everyone has this image from the Falklands Conflict of a bleak, muddy, rainswept place", he says. "I was struck by how stunning the Islands are, how lovely and hospitable the people are, and how beautiful the weather can be. ...I loved the place and one day I shall definitely return".

Ben Fogle, accompanied by photographer Ken Lennox, was hosted by the Falkland Islands Tourist Board. **HWB**



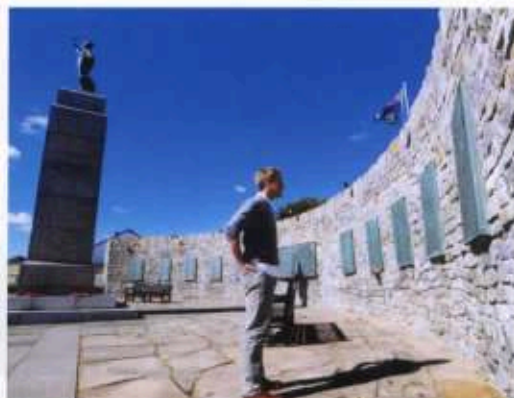
Above: Ben Fogle with Hattie Lee outside Port Howard. Below left, with Guy Morrison at Port Howard school. Below: At the Liberation Monument, Stanley.

"Stunning Islands... Lovely, Hospitable People"

He advises keen bird watchers to visit Carcass Island teeming with bird life". He stayed with Rob McGill and, on Weddell Island, with Karen Taylor who, he says, "does everything — runs the bar, called "Weddell In, Waddle Out!", milks the cows, farms 450 sheep, cuts peat and doubles up as the firewoman and postmistress... and bakes all the bread".

He went fishing with Hattie Lee at Port Howard. On Long Island, he helped Neil Watson and Conservation Officer, Becky Ingham, on horseback, to round up horses, in "beautiful countryside".

He visited Port Howard School where the only pupil,



All Photographs courtesy of Ken Lennox

Book Prize for Falklands Vet

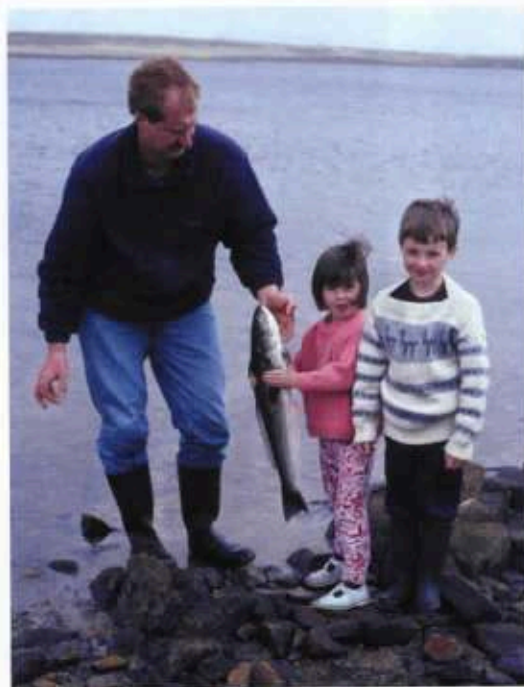
Family's Adventure of a lifetime

The former Falklands Government senior veterinary surgeon, Andrew Coe, has been awarded a United Kingdom writing prize for his book entitled *Falkland Adventure*.

In descriptive prose and poetry and impressive photographs, he tells the story of his three years in the Islands with his wife and five young children. He was awarded the top prize of £250 for the best self-published non-fiction book in the annual David Thomas Charitable Trust Awards promoted by the United Kingdom's "Writing Magazine" and "Writers News".

Mr Coe, now working as a vet in Scotland, was presented with his award in London at the English Speaking Union.

Andrew Coe had a busy time in the Falklands as a vet. But it is in his descriptions of his family's adventures, their friendships with the Islanders, and how his children came face to face with the wondrous wildlife, that his book excels. His outstanding wildlife pictures are matched by imaginative snapshots portraying his children's wonderment, interest and zest for life in the open, so close to nature. He narrates their adventures with affection — and obvious yearning for the land his family has now left.



Andrew with daughter Esme and son Sam

A Land of Mystery

"The Falklands", he writes, "is a land of mystery.. that defies definition, full of surprises and a stirrer of mixed and powerful emotions. A stark bare landscape... which, with time, gets beneath your skin, into your heart and mind, and yes, into your soul itself. There is a clarity of light and colour, a serenity of spirit, and a peace and beauty that reaches inside you, and once there will remain for eternity.... "Each and every day I think of the land, the people, the wildlife and of the most amazing experiences we had...." Mr Coe goes on to describe those experiences, seeing penguins, elephant seals, King

cormorants and albatross; fishing in the creeks and rivers; and beachcombing on the white sand beaches.

Friendly Encounters with Islanders

His literary landscapes meander through many places, bringing pleasurable encounters with hospitable Islanders... Dave Gray at Sea Lion Lodge... whale-watching in Berkeley Sound on David McLeod's boat... seeing albatross with Dave and Sue Pole-Evans at Saunders Island... the kindness of Roddy and Lily Napier at West Point... enjoying a huge roast lamb supper with Tony and Lyn Blake at Little Chartres... having his land rover hauled out of boggy ground by Jenny Smith at Johnson's harbour and by Tony and Ailsa Heathman at Estancia... at Spring Point Farm with Ron and Fiona Rozee living "the Falklands dream", with a farm and golf course

and a string of horses they train for camp sports... relaxing with Jimmy and Ginny Forster at Bold Cove... holidaying as guests of Rob and Lorraine McGill on Carcass Island, "the jewel of the Falklands... a magnificent dream that for a time, came marvelously and wonderfully true"... staying with Tim and Sally Blake at Hill Cove, "who could not have been kinder or more generous hosts and treated the kids like surrogate grandchildren".

Leaving was an awful wrench... "We had made some special friends, who had welcomed us into their lives and we had seen many unique and wondrous things... It had been an adventure, yes, a real adventure, and the memories we would take with us forever, to be re-lived and enjoyed again and again".

Andrew Coe's book "Falkland Adventure" costs £14.99, plus £2.50 post and packaging in Europe, and £7 for airmail overseas, from Bluebell Publishing, Sandford, Strathaven, Lanarkshire, ML10 6PN. e-mail: bluebell@ukgateway.net. **HWB**



Around the campfire are twins Nat and Esme, Joe, Sam and James.



Esme with Upland Goose chick

Famous Composer's new Antarctic Symphony

Internationally renowned composer and conductor, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, who has written the first Antarctic Symphony for fifty years, wants to revisit the Falklands which, he says, could inspire him to write music about the Islands.

Sir Peter, who lives in the Orkneys, was commissioned by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) to compose a symphony to mark the 50th anniversary of Vaughan Williams' *Sinfonia Antarctica*, whose premiere he attended as a school-boy music student in 1953. Sir Peter spent a month in the Antarctic as a guest of BAS, and his symphony had its world premiere at London's Festival Hall on May 6th, with him conducting the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Unlike Vaughan Williams, who never visited the Antarctic, it was a condition of Sir Peter's assignment that he go there, and he derived unique inspiration from this. As he told the Newsletter: "I experienced this extraordinary landscape and frozen seascape and a silence such as I have never known before, and the sheer physical pleasure of watching Rothera, the main BAS base, walking around freely and watching the sea change as the ice melted. It was midsummer and a wonderful experience".

He recalls vividly the sound of breaking ice as the BAS ship *James Scott Ross* broke its way through. Sounds and images that he incorporated in his symphony. He stayed at a remote hut called Fossil Bluff on a cliff overlooking a frozen sea. He came face to face with curious penguins, watched many seabirds and enjoyed the company of BAS scientists whose work greatly impressed him. "They looked after me very well", he said, as he recalled the experiences of great explorers like Scott and Shackleton, whose literature fascinated him.

He stayed in the Falklands, with old friends, Tom



Eggeling (Environmental Planning Officer) and his wife, Megan, whom he knew in the Orkneys, when Tom was Planning Officer there. He was impressed by the Falklands and the people.

"I would love to spend more time there", Sir Peter said "I enjoyed the feel of the place, the smell of it, and the wind. Walking around the sites of the war, to Tumbledown, and various other places, I found it very moving and very impressive that these sites were really not touched, evoking what had happened. It was almost as if one was visiting a shrine. Perhaps I was, and I thought that people do not touch these things. Isn't that wonderful. They don't carry them away as souvenirs. They respect that this is where this terrible thing happened. It reminded me, seeing those things, of my own childhood (in Manchester) when we were bombed".

Would he consider writing a symphony about the Falklands reflecting the peace and tranquillity of the Islands, shattered by war, and returning now to such a peaceful place? "Yes", he replied, "I'm on a Chamber Music writing stint now so it would probably be in terms of that". **Harold Briley**

Thumbs Up from Gastronomic Visitor

Falklands food, the Islands' healthy agriculture and the Shackleton Scholarship Fund (SSF) have all been praised by journalist and culinary expert, Frances Bissell.

In the Independent on Sunday, she says Islanders have "the healthiest beef cattle on British soil" and "the cleanest, greenest, home-produced food in the world. No salmonella in the domestic or wild fowl population. No BSE. No foot-and-mouth disease. Cattle range freely across the open countryside ... and produce beautifully flavoured mature beef".

Until the EU-approved abattoir opens the garrison are not allowed local meat. Instead, the MOD has supplied this, mainly from Brazil and Uruguay - via Britain! "This is well travelled beef!", she says and "bureaucracy gone mad".

Frances, visiting on a SSF award, was sponsored by the Governor's wife, Lynda Lamont, a member of the SSF Stanley Committee. Her article is full of photos of Falklands life. She was impressed at Port Howard by the well-stocked larder of Carrot and Jackie, who make meringues from penguins' eggs and fry gulls' eggs. Their chickens produce "the best eggs I have ever tasted".

Praising Hattie Lee, at Port Howard Lodge, Frances

says: "She runs a wonderful place. A glorious kitchen turns out delicious soups from home-grown vegetables, Upland goose liver pate, smoked mullet pate, goose pie, fried smelts, stuffed roast mutton, and breakfasts to die for. She fishes for sea trout and mullet, gathers mussels under the jetty, digs for clams, and shoots Upland geese".

Hattie's sister-in-law, Carol Lee, showed Frances a hand-written recipe book listing what a "Mrs Blake" produced for the 1934 West Falklands Sports, including two giant "egg and bacon pies", one with 40 eggs! Carol described her childhood fishing, gathering sheep, hunting, cooking, making 'diddle-dee plant jam' and 'scurvy grass wine', and spoke of a "delicious cake" made by a shepherd, George Llamasa, with "penguin eggs, mutton fat, sugar and flour".

Frances Bissell writes: "My Shackleton 'quality of life' scholarship was designed to bring people from all walks of life to the Islands to share their expertise. **I felt it was my quality of life that was being enhanced, with all that fresh air, clear skies and green Falklands produce. Perhaps we in Britain have as much to learn from the islanders as they have to learn from us**". **HWB**

Exploring the Falklands Freshwater Fish Fauna

By R.M. McDowall, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Christchurch, New Zealand

Having studied the freshwater fishes of the southern cool temperate zone since the 60s, I have long had an ambition to see what freshwater fishes are to be found in the Falklands.

Getting off the plane, only to be nearly blown off the gangplank, warned me that Falklands weather can be 'bracing'. As it happened, we struck superb weather.

After our luggage was left in Santiago, the unstinting generosity of Islanders quickly got us 'back on track'. We made net frames from reinforcing steel; at the power station, Bob Gilbert and his staff conjured up a replacement fishing electrode. Gradually we assembled the missing gear. And so it continued throughout our visit. Total strangers fed and lodged us, did our washing, lent us vehicles, guided us, and good-humouredly supported us in every way.

The Record

Historically, four species of freshwater fish (apart from the introduced brown trout, or sea trout) have been recorded in the Falklands. Two of these have been recorded only once, one in 1905, and the other in 1977. So, basically, there seem to be only two native species present: the Zebra trout and Falklands minnow. These are both found in Patagonia too, while the minnow is found in Australia and New Zealand.

The Falklands minnow (*Galaxias maculatus*, sometimes listed as *Galaxias attenuatus*) was the most common by far, found in nearly all streams near the sea, and in many inland ponds. This spends the first 5-6 months of its life at sea and so is typically found only close to the coast.

The Declining Zebra

The other native fish is the zebra trout (*Aplochiton zebra*), which is becoming rare (see photo above). On West Falkland we found it only in Red Pond and House Creek near Port Howard and in the East Bay area, on Ian and Mark Gleadell's farm. On East Falkland, we found a number of populations around Lafonia. Overall, we sampled the fish populations at over 140 sites, and found zebra trout at less than 10% of these. Suggestions that zebra trout will be found only where brown trout have not invaded proved to be true. Falklands Government and Conservation concerns about the conservation of zebra trout are justified and action offering statutory protection has come none too soon.

Whether brown trout will continue to spread through coastal seas, and so further depress the zebra trout, only time will tell. But the situation needs close monitoring if the zebra trout is not to disappear altogether.

Little is known about the life history of zebra trout. We found juveniles as small as 50 mm long but only in the lower reaches of some streams, which is consistent with their having recently entered from the sea. If this is correct, then brown trout will have access to all streams up which zebra trout move from the sea. So keeping brown trout out of Red Pond (where the zebra population is landlocked), is of critical importance to zebra survival.

Though we sampled many sites across the islands, we found no evidence of *Galaxias Platei* (originally reported in 1905 as *Galaxias Smithii*, by English fish biologist C.T. Regan). The identity and source of his original specimen remain a mystery. Whether it did not actually come from the Falklands, or it did, but we failed to find it again, remains a mystery.



Our sampling programme, although greater than anything hitherto undertaken, should be seen as no more than a baseline, a foundation for the future. We did not reach some areas, especially at higher elevations.

Fishes aside, the ecology of Falklands fresh waters remain scarcely touched, as indicated by the fact that we collected the first mayflies ever recorded on the islands.

Where to from here? We have a substantial collection of fish samples that will form the basis for ongoing studies, including preparation of a field guide to identification of the fishes present in Falklands fresh waters.

Sports Websites

Results of the Natwest Island Games can be found on two websites: www.islandgames.org.im which is the site for the games themselves, and www.horizon.co.fk/fioga which is the site for the Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association.

Falklands Reindeer

Below is a glimpse of the Falklands reindeer herd recently imported from South Georgia. They are thriving, and Islanders hope they will form the basis for a new organic meat industry.



Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 8th December, 2001

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Report of the Executive Committee.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Election of Executive Committee.
6. Suggestions from members present for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

All nominations for office must be notified to the General Executive Secretary at least 21 days before the AGM.

Herbarium Expands Knowledge of Falklands Plants

After two-and-a-half centuries of interest in Falklands plant life, a National Herbarium has been created in Stanley, thanks to the initiative of an amateur botanist and ornithologist, Robin Woods, with help from the Shackleton Scholarship Fund. Falklands Conservation is leading the project with help from the Agriculture Department. Opened in April by Governor Lamont, the Herbarium already houses more than 130 species out of a possible 350, of which 171 are native and 13 are found nowhere else in the world.

Working in the Falklands from 1956 to 1963, Robin Woods found there were no comprehensive guide books to birds and plants. Many flowers lacked common names, even though Falklands plants have been studied by about sixty enthusiasts since at least 1764, including Charles Darwin in 1833 and 1834. Many species were brought back to Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, the Natural History Museum, and universities in Britain and Uppsala. These have proved of huge scientific value but lack of access has hampered development of local Falklands knowledge. Conservation Officer Becky Ingham says: "Many of these plants may have potential economic and commercial values as yet unknown....The Herbarium will be of great educational value, vital for conservation and management of flora".

The Herbarium now makes them accessible to Islanders for their interest and for study. Mr Woods has donated plant specimens he has collected from about 50 islands, which a botanist on a Darwin Initiative Project, David Broughton, has helped identify while compiling an Atlas of Falkland Plants. The Development Corporation have donated their seaweed collection. In his book "Flowering Plants of the Falklands" published by Falklands Conservation, he says it is important that endemic, interesting or potentially useful plants are discovered and recovered especially in view of changes in the flora. Much natural vegetation, including original tussac grass, has been damaged by sheep grazing, burning and erosion, and faces added pressures from agricultural development and expanding tourism.

Further funding is sought for fireproof cabinets for a collection that, properly maintained, could survive for a hundred years.



Robin Woods at work preparing specimens for the Falklands Herbarium.

Croydon Exhibition

The 14th Annual Falkland Islands Exhibition will be held from Monday 12th November to Saturday 24th November at Fairfield Halls, Croydon. Admission is free and the exhibition will be open from 10am to 10pm daily except Sunday.

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.

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“Sherlock Holmes” of South Georgia

A Shackleton Scholarship has turned Bob Burton into the “Sherlock Holmes” of South Georgia, a special kind of detective delving into the Island’s fascinating history and tracking down the identities of people and ships of years gone by.

Robert Burton, former Director of the South Georgia Whaling Museum, is creating what he calls a “virtual museum” — a South Georgia History Database. He’s using his scholarship to build up an archive cataloguing thousands of photographs, letters, and family keepsakes, scattered around the world in individual homes.

Most items found so far relate to whaling, going back to its earliest years at the beginning of the last century. He’s been logging into his “Catalyst” computer museum several thousand colour transparencies taken by Nigel Bonner’s successor as Seal Inspector on South Georgia, Bill Vaughan, to create a comprehensive archive of the era of Japanese whaling.

His researches have involved journeying to Norway and the Antarctic, seeking out material, whalers and ex-whalers, museum archives and newspaper files. That’s where Sherlock Holmes-type qualities are needed, turning vague, tantalising clues into facts.

“Investigating photographs and the provenance of artefacts to complete their records is fascinating”, he says. “As ownership of these items passes down the generations, their significance may be forgotten and they may be thrown away. Their existence should be put on record”.

Sadly he’s heard of the destruction of objects connected with Ernest Shackleton that would “grace a museum or fetch a good price at auction!”

He has collected much material on Shackleton’s last two expeditions on *Endurance* and *Quest*. “With Shackletonmania



The dedication of the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton at Grytviken Cemetery, South Georgia in 1928.

in full swing”, he says, “this is an ideal time to seek out unrecorded material, much of it kept in family albums or stuffed away in drawers and forgotten. It is fascinating how a little detective work can reveal details such as names of people or ships and dates when photographs were taken”.

He has, for example, traced the identities of witnesses to the 1928 unveiling by Falkland Islands Governor Arnold Hodson of the headstone on Shackleton’s South Georgia grave. They included scientists and crew of the research ship *William Scoresby*, the only woman on South Georgia at the time, Mrs Arlberg, and Stanley Harbour Master, Commander Amadroz.

Bob Burton has also identified many photographs taken by former South Georgia Magistrate, Edward Binnie, and has been able to assist the producers of a new film on Shackleton. Articles like this, he hopes, will spur readers to contact him about objects which “may shed a little more light on the history of a fascinating land”. If you can help, Bob Burton can be contacted via the Newsletter

Harold Briley

Founder of Sheffield Fund Dies

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield who founded a fund to help families of the twenty men of the destroyer HMS Sheffield killed in the 1982 Falklands War, has died in England, aged 96. Enid Hattersley, mother of the Labour politician, Lord Hattersley, was Lord Mayor of the city from 1981 to 1982, and established a close rapport with HMS Sheffield before she became famous as the first of the Task Force warships to be sunk — by an exocet missile on May 4th.

Only months before, Mrs Hattersley had hosted a dinner for the destroyer’s entire crew in Sheffield Town Hall. When news of her sinking reached Sheffield, the Lord Mayor immediately established a fund to help the families of the bereaved. Though 77 and nearing the end of her term in office, she herself went around the city herself, energetically collecting money. She became nationally well-known as the representative of a city in mourning. She served for forty years on Sheffield City Council, giving her son the urge to become a politician.

Roy Hattersley, a prolific writer and journalist, has been a Member of Parliament for nearly forty years, first in the House of Commons and now in the House of Lords. By coincidence,



The Hon Enid Hattersley, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, with her son Lord Hattersley. Photo Courtesy of the Sheffield Sun. He was a Minister of State in both the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence in the Labour Governments preceding the Falklands Conflict, and was Deputy Leader of the Labour Party from 1983 to 1992.

Harold Briley

Cranley Onslow: Falklands Minister - in War and Peace

The Foreign Office Minister who took over responsibility for the Falklands at the height of the 1982 Argentine invasion and for re-development in its aftermath, Lord Onslow of Woking, has died in Britain (on March 13th), at the age of 74.

Cranley Onslow, a Conservative MP from 1964 to 1997, was appointed Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in April 1982, replacing Richard Luce, one of Lord Carrington's Foreign Office team, forced to resign by the Argentine invasion.

Cranley Onslow became a familiar UK spokesman internationally throughout the War, and headed the rehabilitation group from the Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence and Overseas Development, which planned the rebuilding and development of the Islands based on Lord Shackleton's recommendations.

He was the first British Minister to visit the Falklands after the Argentine surrender and authorised an urgent extension of living accommodation with the import of 54 fully furnished Swedish-type Brewster houses for Stanley, twice what the Governor, Sir Rex Hunt, initially requested.

By a remarkable coincidence, he was also a descendent of the Royal Navy Officer, Captain Onslow of the frigate *Clio*, who nearly 150 years earlier, had hoisted the British flag and reclaimed Britain's sovereignty of the Falklands in 1833, from representatives of the Buenos Aires Government.

Cranley Onslow ceased to be a Minister after Mrs Thatcher won the general election in June 1983 in a surge of her popularity as a result of winning the Falklands war. He became an influential chairman of the Committee of all Con-



servative Back-Bench Members of Parliament, until 1992, helping to assess the Party's preference in the leadership contest in which John Major replaced Margaret Thatcher, whom Cranley Onslow personally supported as Prime Minister. He was made a Life Peer in the House of Lords in 1997.

Cranley Onslow served as an Army officer from 1944 until 1948, and later spent several years as a Foreign Office diplomat, serving abroad in Burma. He is survived by a widow and three daughters and a son. **HWB**

Falklands Navy Hero Dies

The Commander of the frigate which saved the crew of the doomed destroyer HMS *Sheffield* in the 1982 Falklands War, Captain Paul Bootheirstone, has died of a heart attack, aged 62, only nine years after leaving the Royal Navy.

He commanded the frigate HMS *Arrow* in the first line of defence for the Task Force aircraft carriers when *Sheffield* was hit by an Exocet missile and set ablaze. Commander Bootheirstone skilfully manoeuvred *Arrow* so close to the burning destroyer as to allow 225 of her crew to jump the gap from the abandoned ship. Only 20 men were killed and 24 wounded. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

HMS *Arrow* was the first Task Force vessel to bombard Stanley Airport, the first to be hit by Argentine air attack, leaving one sailor wounded by shrapnel, and one of the last of the ships still intact at the end of the conflict, bombarding Argentine positions at Sapper Hill and Moody Brook, in the final assault on Stanley. Task Force Commander, Admiral John "Sandy" Woodward, declared: "The fact that *Arrow* was still there, still firing shells, was a bit of a miracle".

Arrow herself narrowly escaped being sunk when the Argentine submarine *San Luis* launched a torpedo which hit her towed decoy in the sound between East and West Falkland.

Bootheirstone was born and educated in Blackpool, joined the Royal Navy as a cadet aged eighteen, and served for 26 years, qualifying as a pilot and serving first on mine sweepers. He was promoted Captain in 1983 and retired in 1992 after a posting at the British High Commission in Canada. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters. **HWB**

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Antarctic Search for Shackleton's Endurance

Ice-breakers, satellites, sonar and mini-Subs deploy from Chile

One of the world's most experienced underwater explorers, the United States Oceanographer, Dr Robert Ballard, who has discovered several famous wrecks is preparing to embark on his toughest challenge yet — a mission to locate the wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance*, which sank in 1915. His £1.4 million mission will sail from Punta Arenas in Chile next January on the US Coastguard ice-breaker, *Polar Sea*.

The *Endurance* was trapped and crushed by the ice and drifted for hundreds of miles before sinking in the Weddell Sea, leaving the survivors cut off from the rest of the world for eighteen months until Shackleton managed to reach South Georgia and return to rescue all his 28 men.

Using equipment Shackleton never dreamed of, Dr Ballard will deploy sonar, satellites, and two remote-controlled mini-submarines to try to detect and photograph the wreck 9,000 feet below a surface topped by twenty feet of pack ice. He will concentrate the search in the few Antarctic summer days when NASA satellites indicate it is least likely to be ice-bound.

He believes the wreck will be well-preserved. While Shackleton salvaged what he could, it should still contain unique relics of Antarctica's heroic age. In case his vessel is also trapped, her sister ship, *Polar Star*, will be standing by.

Dr Ballard, a former US Navy Commander has the unique post of "explorer in residence" to the National Geographic Society in Washington, and an outstanding record as a veteran of 100 deep-sea expeditions. He found the wreck of the *Titanic*, the *Bismarck*, the liner *Lusitania*, sunk in WWI, and the US aircraft carrier, *Yorktown*, lost at Midway in WW2. **HWB**



Shackleton IMAX Film

The magnificent IMAX film of Shackleton's 1914 expedition *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure* will be showing at the IMAX theatre, by Waterloo station, London, from October 19th until March 2002. Princess Anne will attend a Royal Premiere on October 18th. The Newsletter has seen a preview and strongly recommends this film for its stunning photography and magnificent Antarctic scenery, all shown on the vast IMAX screen. Tickets may be obtained by telephone at 020-7902-1234

Visit our website at www.pobjoy.com

Coins from the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands



Coins from the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich are gaining more and more followers around the world due to their fascinating and intricate designs.

Sir Ernest Shackleton, the famous Antarctic explorer who is buried on South Georgia is honoured on coins from both the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The Vicar of Bray, one of the tall ships from the East Coast of the United States that transported miners to the gold fields of California via the stormy seas of Cape Hope. During one these voyages the Vicar of Bray was forced to take refuge in Goose Green harbour where she is now preserved by the icy waters is honoured on a delightful Falklands coin. In 1775 Captain James Cook took possession of South Georgia in the name of his King and the 225th anniversary of this act of possession is commemorated on a remarkable coin issue.

All these coins are legal tender of the country of issue and have been approved by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Struck in Unc Cupro Nickel, Proof Sterling Silver and Proof 999.9 Gold. The precious metal issues have been struck to the famous Pobjoy proof finish and are strictly limited editions.



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L6634900	Proof Sterling Silver £2 Falkland Islands Vicar of Bray coin in a box	£39.95	
L6638100	Proof Sterling Silver £2 South Georgia Shackleton coin in a box	£39.95	
L6636200	Proof Sterling Silver £2 South Georgia Captain Cook coin in a box	£39.95	
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* For overseas postal rates please contact the Mint

In Shackleton's Footsteps: Climbers' Achievement



The expedition in severe weather on South Georgia

Six British adventurers have successfully completed an arduous climb in atrocious weather across South Georgia's formidable mountains to re-trace the perilous journey by explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton from King Haakon Bay to Stromness in 1916.

They travelled even further than Shackleton. Appalling weather forced their Russian ship, to drop them off at Possession Bay. Undeterred, the climbers trekked back to King Haakon Bay, and so achieved the entire route the long way round.

Their success has raised funds for two charities, the Shackleton Scholarship Fund and the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Commemorative coins are on sale from Pobjoy Mint, of Kingswood, Surrey.

Thanking the expedition for a "generous gift" of more than £1,000, the Chairman of the Shackleton Fund's London Committee, David Tatham, wrote: "It will help fund scholars' visits to the Falkland Islands to improve the quality of life there and increase knowledge of the South Atlantic Region".

Expedition leader, 36-year-old Neil Laughton, a former Royal Marine who runs a London office business, has previously climbed the highest mountain on each of the seven continents, including Everest and walked to the North Pole.

The oldest member and technical adviser, Trevor Potts, 51, in 1994 replicated Shackleton's 800-mile boat journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia.

Rebecca Harris, 32, television designer, was base camp manager at Grytviken. Other members were: Martin Hartley, photographer, who has climbed in Borneo, Russia and China; Lewis McNaught, Antarctic historian, who works in the city of London; and Peter Oldham, 36, an expert yachtsmen and skier, and English language teacher. The expedition's Patron is Shackleton's grand-daughter, Alexandra Shackleton. **HWB**



The rocky silhouette of Elephant Island



Above: The new *James Caird* on the beach at South Georgia.

All Above Photographs Courtesy of Martin Hartley

Below: Neil Lawton and Rebecca Harris beside the original *James Caird* in Dulwich College, London.

Photo courtesy of Harold Briley



Tribute to Patrick Watts

In a special tribute to former head of Falklands broadcasting, Patrick Watts, farmers from both East and West Falklands threw a surprise party for him at the Malvina House Hotel and presented him with a watch and a certificate framed by messages of thanks for his services to the rural communities of the Camp in his twenty years of running the station.

Patrick, who retired last year, expressed appreciation of the thought behind the presentation, saying he had always tried to produced more news and coverage of local events.

Patrick Watts was awarded an MBE for his courageous broadcasting to the Islanders during the Argentine invasion, and has been abused in the Argentine press because of this.



Camp residents honour Patrick Watts (in front row kneeling with wife Sila)

Photo Courtesy of Penguin News

"The Falklands I Knew" Book Review

The Falklands I Knew by Howell Evans, published by Anthony Nelson, PO box 9, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1BY. Paperback, 185 pages plus eight pages of black and white photographs. ISBN 0 904614 69 7. Price £10.95 + £2 postage.

Howell Evans was born in 1915 in the Falkland Islands and lived there for 31 years. He was the fourth member of a family of eight children. This vivid autobiography tells of Howell Evans's life in the Falklands from his earliest memories to his departure in 1946 - the people he knew, the harsh realities of everyday life, the landscape and wildlife they relied on. He brings to life the remote farms, the ships, the busy self-reliant atmosphere of Stanley. Mixing jokes, moving memories and a tremendous eye for detail, Howell Evans captures a lost way of life and a vibrant ecology that still needs protecting. His comments on the governors of those times are particularly interesting.

It is an important addition to the history of the Falklands and to the understanding of an isolated community.

Protecting Falklands Penguins

If you want to learn about the "Penguins of the Falkland Islands and South America", look no further than the book of this title by Mike Bingham. Lavishly illustrated with colour pictures, it encapsulates eight years of diligent study and research since he switched from studying sea turtles in Hawaii to become Falklands Conservation officer from 1993 to 1997, and began a "love affair with the strangest birds of all".

Far from being "comical" creatures, ill adapted to a hostile environment, he says penguins have been the most successful bird predators of the southern oceans for 50-million years. But he expresses concern over drastic decline in Falklands rockhopper and magellanic penguin populations since 20 years ago. His studies as founder of the Falklands Environmental Research Unit include a factual and valuable parallel comparison of penguin colonies in Chile and Tierra del Fuego where he found no signs of decline - for example, Chile's Isla Magdalena, where commercial fishing is banned.

Divided into three parts, the book gives a fascinating insight into the life of penguins on land and sea, devotes a chapter to each of seven species found in this region, and draws some worrying conclusions from his focus on Penguins and the Environment, which, in the Falklands, involves the impact of commercial fishing, offshore oil exploration, and tourism. The good news is that penguins "are highly adaptable to human presence and this makes them ideally suited to tourism".

Oil and commercial fishing are a graver threat. Because food is the key to survival, the timing of commercial fishing just before or during the penguin breeding season can be very detrimental, even where fishing is managed in a sustainable way (the Falkland Islands Government exercises control by a strict licensing system). Though commercial fisheries are reluctant to curtail their activities, re-scheduling could enormously benefit wildlife without being economically damaging.

Oil pollution is estimated to kill 40,000 penguins a year along the coast of Argentina by tankers deliberately emptying oily ballast water. "Now that oil exploration has begun in Falkland Waters", Mr Bingham writes, "there is real risk that Falkland penguins could become affected Adequate safe-

The Falkland Islands Journal 2000 Vol. 7 (Part 4) published by Dr. Jim McAdam at Stanley, Falkland Islands: 167 pages including Foreword and Contents, 28 black and white photos, sketches and three maps. ISSN 0256-1824. £8.25 from F.G.Mitchell, 2 Egliston Mews, Putney, London, SW15 1AP, post paid within the UK.

The most striking feature of the 2000 *Journal* is the front cover, which instead of the rather dull grey covers which have not changed since Issue No 1 published in 1967, is a coloured sketch of a cutter featured in one of the articles. Personally I welcome the change and the *Journal* will now stand out on its own in a bookshop, which should promote increased interest and resulting sales.

The Editor writes that this issue is the largest to date and, with a content of 22 separate articles, I would not dispute this. There is a strong emphasis on articles about ships and the sea and, considering the history of the Falkland Islands, this is not surprising. For me, the publication of the winning articles written by the young people of the Falkland Islands for the Alastair Cameron Memorial Trust History Prize are among the most important, especially as they record the traditional Falklands camp life now rapidly disappearing and history before it is forgotten. Where else are recorded the names of all those imprisoned by the Argentines at Goose Green in 1982 and some of the memories of those who suffered such privations for 29 days, or such detail of the break up of Green Patch farm in 1979.

Included are articles on the native fish and plants, lists of scientific Papers and Publications, a supplement to the Bibliography of Falklands books published since 1982 and a subject index to this, articles on the Welsh settlement in Patagonia and on the measurement of the earth's magnetic field in the Falklands. All are fascinating reading.

Finally, *The Falkland Islands Journal* is now available on CD-ROM as is a complete set of back issues (1967 - 1999) at £25 from the editor, Dr. Jim Mc Adam.

RNS



A magellanic penguin, whose numbers have declined drastically according to Mr. Bingham's research.

guards must ensure the highest standards of environmental protection to reduce discharges and prevent accidents".

Mr Bingham's book, ISBN EB00004040, from Environmental Research Unit, PO Box 434, Stanley. E-mail: mbingham@falklands.net

HWB

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).

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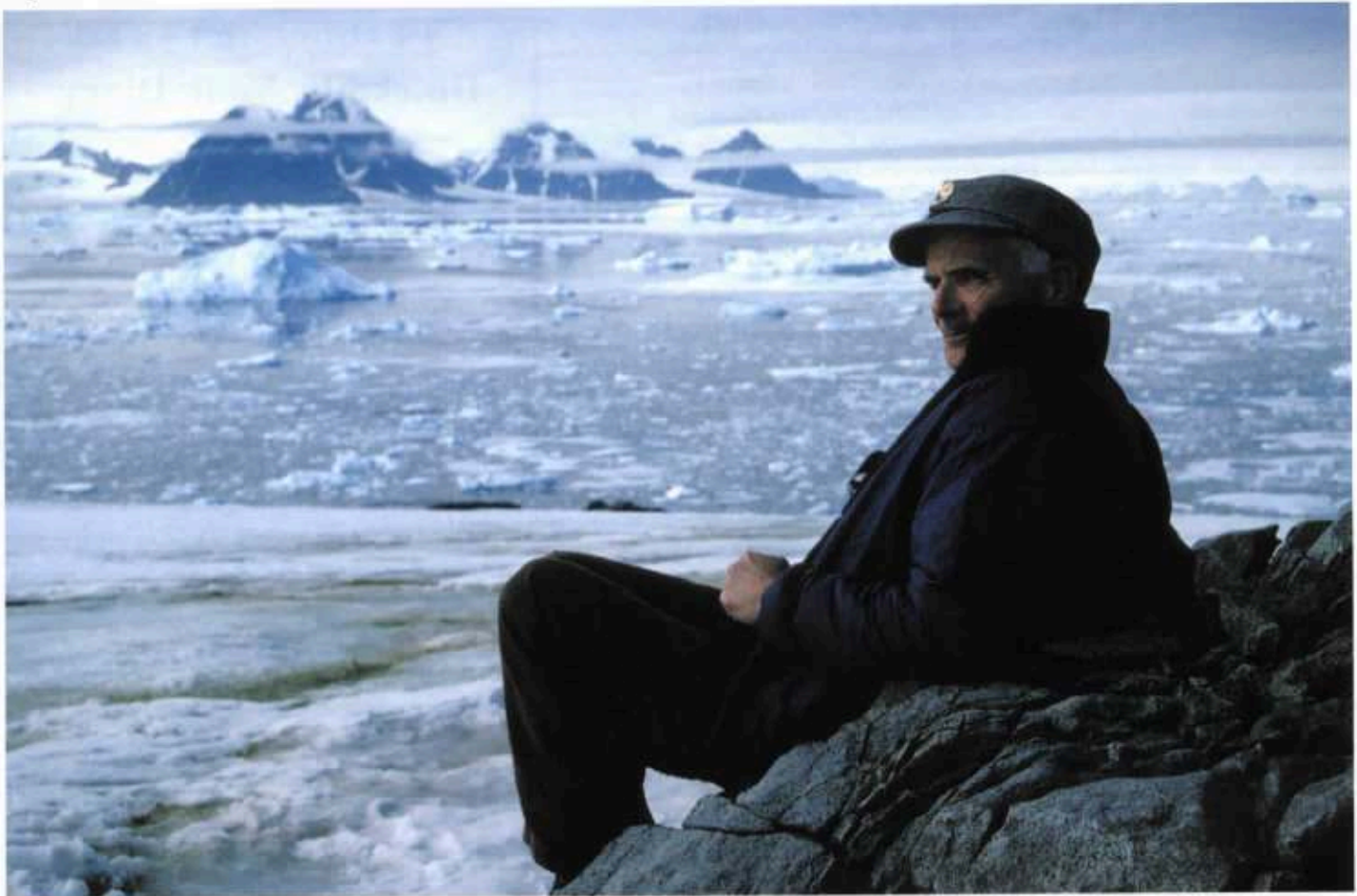
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Published by the Falkland Islands Association,
 Douglas House, 16 - 18 Douglas Street,
 Westminster, London, SW1P 4PB
 Telephone: 020-7592-0022, Fax: 020-7592-0033
 ISSN 0262-9399

Editorial Committee:
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Composer and conductor Sir Peter Maxwell Davies in the Antarctic as a guest of the British Antarctic Survey, where he composed his Antarctic Symphony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Vaughan William's Sinfonia Antarctica. See story page 19.

Photograph Courtesy of British Antarctic Survey



The new *James Caird*, off South Georgia. Actually a replica of Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous boat *James Caird*, now in Dulwich College, the new *James Caird* was in South Georgia for the expedition re-enacting Shackleton's crossing of the island in 1916 to bring rescue to his stranded men.

Photo Courtesy of Martin Hartley