



Falkland Islands

Newsletter

Published by the Falkland Islands Association

Twenty Years On

As the twentieth anniversary of the 1982 War approaches, the Falklands have left war behind to prosper and become once more a haven of peace, which its people are proud to share with an increasing number of tourists. They are justified in displaying their achievements and attractions in their newly refurbished office "showcase" in London.

By contrast, we see their would-be coloniser, Argentina, in yet another self-inflicted crisis. It has been living beyond its means, and its economy and unstable political system have now all but collapsed - as they have so often in the past.

An unstable Argentina is not a source of pleasure to the Falklands, although it does indicate how unsatisfactory any relationship between the Falklands and Argentina would be. No one wants to see ordinary people harmed, impoverished, or forced to emigrate. Moreover, instability in Argentina has led to problems in the past for the Falklands.

So vigilance must be continued. This is all the more important with the risk of a sell-out now of Gibraltar to Spain. Argentine press reports reveal that this is encouraging Argentina in its claim to the Falklands. So Falkland Islanders and

Gibraltarians stand shoulder-to-shoulder in resisting attempts to force another nation's will upon them.

History is repeating itself. The present negotiations with Spain against the will of the people of Gibraltar are similar to what happened thirty years ago over the Falklands. Recent revelations in the Public Records Office have shed more light on this largely secret and sordid episode, which failed, but encouraged Argentina to pursue its claim, and undoubtedly contributed to its decision to start the 1982 War.

The Falklands are no longer a neglected colonial outpost reliant almost entirely upon sheep-farming. Democracy is flourishing. New industries are vigorously developing. Young Islanders are obtaining educational and professional qualifications which they are taking back to the land of their birth to boost its entrepreneurial base. This new-found progress exists happily alongside the natural charm, courtesy, and neighbourly friendliness of a small well-knit community, which survives unspoiled, as does its landscape and wonderful wildlife.

It is with twenty years of success behind them that Islanders now thank those who made it all possible in 1982.



Six of the eight newly elected Falklands Councillors: Phillip Miller, representing the Camp, and Stephen Luxton, John Birmingham, Jan Cheek, Mike Summers and Richard Cockwell representing Stanley *Photo: Courtesy of Norman Clark*

High Turnout in Falklands General Election

Big challenges and exciting opportunities face the new eight-member Legislative Council returned in the November 22 general election, with a high turn-out of 68.7 per cent in Stanley and 82.2 in the rural area of the Camp.

The Council combines an interesting mix of old and new members, with five of the old Council re-elected, a husband and wife team, and representatives of the younger generation.

Members for the Stanley constituency are: Mike Summers (aged 49) topping the poll with 541 votes; Stephen Luxton (30) second with 407; John Birmingham (48) 405; Jan Cheek (53) 356; and Richard Cockwell (62) 334.

The Camp constituency gave Councillor Norma Edwards (60) of Fox Bay most votes, 179; closely followed by her husband, Roger Edwards (56) 168; and new member Philip Miller (38) 92.

Stephen Luxton is the youngest member on the Council and the only Stanley Member not to have served on the previous Council. He is the son of veteran Councillor, Bill Luxton, who opted not to stand again this time. Former Councillor Lewis Clifton also did not seek re-election, for health reasons. Mrs Sharon Halford was the only existing Councillor to be defeated.

The new Legislative Council elected three of their number — Mr and Mrs Edwards and Mrs Cheek — to form the three-member Executive Council which advises the UK-appointed Governor in exercising his executive authority.

Democracy at its best

It proved a lively contest, in which the controversial 1999 July 14 Anglo-Argentine Joint Statement ending the ban on Argentine visits and direct flights in force since the 1982 Conflict, did not play as decisive a part as some predicted. Some voters questioned the wisdom of such concessions and whether the Argentines have kept their side of the agreement on greater co-operation and to review their practice, anathema to Islanders, of using Argentine place names for the Falkland Islands, which they continue to do.

Four of the former Councillors who approved the agreement were re-elected, but the other four now elected were all opponents, Stephen Luxton in Stanley and all three of the Camp councillors.

All eighteen contestants embraced one issue in common — rejection of any concession to Argentina over sovereignty. Their message is: "The Falklands are British and wish to remain so".

In a referendum coinciding with the election, a radical proposal to change the two-constituency system to a single



Above: The election count in Stanley. Below: Top vote winner, Mike Summers, photographed at the Falklands family fair a few days later.

Photos: Debbie Ford



constituency was rejected.

The election was democracy at its best, fought hard in the full glare of publicity, with comprehensive coverage by Penguin News newspaper and Falkland Islands radio. Ballot boxes reached the most isolated rural areas by four-wheel land-rover and Islander aircraft.

As a UK Overseas Territory, Falkland Islanders enjoy internal self-government exercising control over their own resources and economic future in a period of unprecedented prosperity. They have been praised by the UK Foreign Office for the "highest standards of probity, law and order, good government and observance of international commitments".

It is an outstanding record in contrast to Argentina's dismal economic crisis, heavily in debt to the International Monetary Fund, with continuing signs of corruption in politics, law enforcement, and business.

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New Director of Education

Mrs. Sylvia Cole took up her appointment as Director of Education on December 1st, replacing Dr. Langridge.

An experienced primary and secondary school English teacher, Mrs. Cole, worked for ten years in adult and continuing education in Leicestershire. She went on to be Policy and Planning officer for small schools, residential education and for pupils with disabilities in Leicestershire. She became Assistant Director of Education for Leicestershire last year, when she dealt with front line services such as school premises, and management information.

Mrs. Cole already had ties with the Falklands as her father-in-law in her first marriage was the late Reginald Riches, who was born and grew up in the Falklands. She often listened to his stories of life in the Falklands. Mrs. Cole has two grown up children, and she and her husband are keen swimmers and ballroom dancers.

Her predecessor, Dr. Langridge now takes over responsibility for supervising the many further education students from the Falklands in the UK.



New Director of Agriculture

Dr. Peter Johnston has been appointed the new Director of Agriculture to succeed Bob Reid.

Dr. Johnston, 38, who is on secondment from the Government of Queensland, has been Pasture Agronomist for the last year in the Falklands.

He told Penguin News: "I am looking forward to working closely with my departmental colleagues, Falklands Land Holdings and FIDC, and above all the farming community ... together we will improve the financial performance of the farming sector in the Islands".



"A" Level Results In

Fourteen Islanders got their "A" level results last November. Sophie Greenland (Photo Right) and Pippa Lang getting particularly good marks.

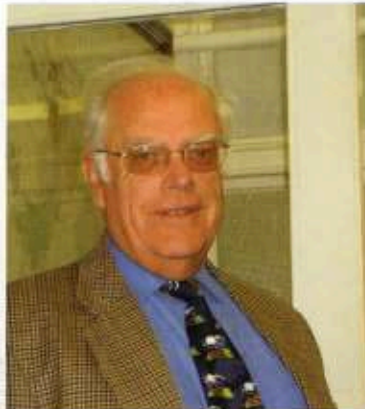
Sophie got four "A" levels three at A grade and one at B grade. Her mark in psychology was fifth out of some 25,000 who sat this exam. She is now studying Psychology at Leicester University. Pippa Lang is now reading PPE at York University.

Other students who got "A" levels are: Nick Rendell (who is now at Sheffield University), Mark Gilbert (on Gap year, and then Plymouth), Daniel Fowler (now at Edinburgh), Rob Burnett (now at Leicester), Kevin Marsh (at Essex), Jackie Cotter (at Glamorgan), Joe Payne (at the British School of Osteopathy), Caroline Cotter, Bonnie Curtis (at Bournemouth), Ailie Biggs (at Sheffield Hallam), Sian Davies (at Goldsmiths College, London), Akira Smallwood (at UCL).



MBE for Terry Spruce

Terence Spruce, who recently retired after many years as General Manager of the Falkland Islands Company, was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours for services to the community in the Falklands.



Baroness Thatcher's Message

My Dear Governor,

I should be most grateful if you would convey my warmest good wishes to all those living and serving in the Falkland Islands as you begin this special anniversary year.

Twenty years ago the peace and tranquillity of the Falklands was shattered by a brutal invasion. The people were subjugated and their way of life was threatened with extinction. But throughout their ordeal the Islanders remained absolutely resolute and their spirit of unflinching determination was an example to all people who value freedom - everywhere.

This year there will be a number of celebrations and commemorations to mark those momentous events. It will be time to remember the courage both of those who



lived through the invasion and of those who were prepared to sacrifice all to restore liberty. Some of these commemorations will take place with you on the Islands, others will be held here in Britain. But wherever we are, wherever we gather to remember, we will all share a common fellowship.

Some will be visiting the Islands for the first time in twenty years to see once again the places they and their comrades fought so bravely to liberate. Others will be visiting the graves of friends and loved ones who did not return. I know that they will receive the warmest welcome and the heartfelt gratitude of all they meet.

I will carry the memories of my own visit to the Islands with me to the end of my days and the Falklanders will always hold a unique place in my thoughts especially today. With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher.

Minister's Praise as Falklands Showcase Opens

An enthusiastic tribute was paid to the Falklands by Baroness Scotland, now a Minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, when she opened the new Falklands Government Office "Showcase" in London, which Falklands Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, described as "a very exciting development, showing people what a dynamic place the Falklands is today".

Baroness Scotland, recalling her visit to the Islands as Minister for Overseas Territories, told the opening reception (on October 25th): "I had the most fabulous time in the Falklands... I found a country which was quite extraordinary, a real bit of Britain away from Britain, exciting, vibrant and wonderful in its flora and fauna. It was absolutely marvellous... It stands out in my memory as one of the most memorable trips I have had in my life. I would certainly say to anybody who wants to go, 'You will never regret it.... The photographs (in the exhibition) give us all perhaps a little taster of the Falklands. I am sure it will draw in people in their hundreds, if not in their thousands, to see it. I wish you all the very best of luck".

American photographer's magnificent pictures

Baroness Scotland told the Newsletter: "Everybody I know who has visited the Falklands say it is one of the most memorable things they have ever done. Everybody wants to go back - including me!"

Miss Cameron presented Baroness Scotland with the book "Penguin Planet" by US photographer, Kevin Schafer, which has pictures of all 17 species of penguins in the world. The Showcase opened with an exhibition of his magnificent photographs of Falklands wildlife, which were sold with the proceeds going to Falklands Conservation. The opening was attended by MPs, FCO officials, journalists and friends of the Falklands.

Projecting the Islands' optimistic outlook, the new Showcase has a display of high quality Falkland products, crafts, cards, books, and postage stamps. There is a gallery for art, and a website monitor which visitors can log on to, to find out more about the Falkland Islands.

Ambitious future exhibitions

Behind the traditional shop façade, there is now an eye-catching interior of white walls, clean lines and dark wooden floors, with a sleek reception counter.

Miss Cameron thanked her staff for their help, especially Deborah Ford for organising the exhibition and reception, and Customer Services & Marketing Manager, Sam Allanson-Bailey, who was behind the initiative.

Plans for future exhibitions include pictures by Falklands wildlife expert and artist, Ian Strange, drawings by famous artist, Mandy Shepherd, and Falklands paintings by artist, David McEwen.

The new showcase provides a fine location for meetings, receptions, and briefings by Councillors.

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Baroness Scotland formally opens the new Falklands "Showcase" in London. Below she signs the guest book.



Photographer Kevin Schafer and Miss Sukey Cameron and (Right) Lindsay Hoyle MP at the Showcase opening.

PM's New Year Message

I am delighted to have this chance to talk to you again and send my very best wishes to everyone living and working on the Islands for the New Year. The last 12 months have demonstrated, once more, the increasing confidence of the Falkland Islands. You have shown by the encouragement of tourism, organic farming, for example, how well this community is working together to overcome the challenges facing you.

The new Legislative Council has an important role in helping the Islands continue to meet these challenges. An important task facing it and all who live on the Islands is the review of your Constitution so this community can continue to develop on the strong foundation of a modern relationship with the United Kingdom.

Across the world, of course, the year has been overshadowed with the appalling terrorist acts of September the 11th and the war against international terrorism. British forces have, again, been playing their full role. You have more reason than most to know of our forces' courage and expertise. The links between our Forces and the Falkland

Islands, of course, remain very strong. So, I know that your thoughts and prayers will be with those far away from their families this Christmas as they strive to make the world safer and more secure.

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict. We must, of course, remember and mourn all those civilians and service personnel tragically killed during the conflict. But it's also right that we should approach this occasion in the spirit of some reconciliation. The last year saw another improvement in relations between Britain and Argentina. Differences remain as we continue to make clear that sovereignty over the Falklands is not open to negotiation. Our position is unchanged. The Falkland Islands are British for as long as they wish to remain so. The firmness of Britain's commitments on the security and sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and on your right to self-determination provides the basis for you to shake off the insecurity of the past and to plan your future with certainty.

So, let me finish as I began, by sending my warmest good wishes to you and to your families for Christmas and the New Year. Thank you. Tony Blair



Magnificent Tourist Guide Will Protect Falklands Wildlife

The first-ever practical, high quality hand book written to promote Falklands eco-tourism. "A Visitor's Guide to the Falklands" has been launched at the Royal Geographical Society. BBC star, Ben Fogle, who visited the Falklands last year, acted as presenter.

Written by Islander, Debbie Summers (photo below), it is an impressive initiative involving several years of research, inspired by her concern to shield wildlife from stressful intrusion while encouraging tourists to enjoy the wildlife they come to see.

The 110-page Guide describes wildlife and places of interest at the Islands' top 15 destinations, with magnificent photographs, maps, wildlife statistics, geology, nature trails, hiking routes, and landing points. There are clear guidelines on how to avoid disturbance to the often fragile environment.

Debbie says "Through the Guide, Falklands Conservation aims to show how tourism and conservation can work together. Our wildlife and unspoiled landscapes are the biggest



L to R: Chairman of Falklands Conservation: Robin Woods, Debbie Summers, Conservation Officer, Beckie Ingham, and TV star, Ben Fogle.

reasons to visit the Falklands, so preservation and sympathetic development of our environment is vitally important particularly as demand increases. My research found many visitors lacked essential information on environmental conditions".

Timely Guide for tourist invasion

Falklands Conservation, which financed the Guide with Falklands Tourism, describes it as an "essential companion for tour leaders and visitors to the Islands' main wildlife tourist attractions where penguins, albatross, and dolphins abound". It is dedicated to Lars-Eric Lindblad, the pioneer of expedition cruising, whose son, Sven-Olof Lindblad writes in the foreword: "It is no surprise that the Falkland Islands have become such a popular destination and that this popularity has brought some potentially damaging pressures to the fragile environment.... Stepping ashore with this Guide in their pocket will enhance the experience of every visitor".

It is a timely addition to the Falklands' lexicon as the Falklands prepares to welcomed 39,000 cruise ship visitors this season. Among the larger vessels expected are Royal Princess, Norwegian Dream, Mercury, Marco Polo and QEII.

The Guide costs £11 plus £1.50 p & p. It can be ordered from Falklands Conservation, 1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, London N3 2DA. Tel/fax: 020 8343 0831, or from their website: www.falklandsconservation.com

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Falklands "Masters of their own Destiny"

The Falkland Islands Association has pledged continuing vigilance to prevent any weakening of United Kingdom resistance to Argentina's sovereignty claims.

At its AGM (on December 8), the Association, unanimously endorsed the Executive Committee's report in which Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, recalling his last visit to the Falklands, declared: 'I sensed a new feeling that permeated through the population, from the school-children to the Councillors, and that was one of self-confidence.

The Islands have always been self-reliant, but they have had to be in order to survive. But this new feeling was different'.

"Despite Argentina's continuing claim, they face the future with confidence, in the firm belief that they can, and will, be masters of their own destiny. It is up to us in the Falkland Islands Association to see that they are not betrayed by those in Whitehall and Westminster who would still like to get rid of them for the sake of better relations with Argentina".

An Association delegation led by Sir Rex has briefed the FCO Minister for Falkland issues, Dr. Denis MacShane, who reiterated "that Falklands sovereignty is not negotiable and HMG would uphold the Islanders' right to self-determination".

Prosperous Stanley; Camp Decline

Sir Rex Hunt says of his February visit, how astonished he was "to see how Stanley had grown and how prosperous it looked in contrast to the decline in Camp". Sir Rex warned that with the Falklands economy dependent on fishing, "all could change quite quickly if squid disappeared through overfishing, global warming or some other climate change".

He praised the farsightedness of Councillors such as the late John Cheek for wise investment in education so that there is no shortage of talent in the up-and-coming generation of Islanders graduating from university and, most encouragingly, returning to the Islands to live. Several attended the meeting.

The Association recorded its thanks to the Falklands Committee for their valuable support, especially for the "handsome" £6,500 donation from Islanders to the FIA. Association membership has risen during the year from 913 to 949, made up of 848 UK and 101 Overseas members.

RAF Chief at Battle Day Ceremony

The traditional Battle Day Act of Remembrance took place at the Cenotaph in London on the exact anniversary of the battle in 1914 - 8th December. Wreaths were laid by Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, who led low-level Harrier attacks on the Argentines in the 1982 War and is now RAF Chief of Air Staff; by Sir Rex Hunt for the Association; Miss Sukey Cameron (Falklands Government), Mrs Sara Jones and Mr Des Keoghane (Falkland Families' Association); Martin



Above: The principal wreath layers. Below Sarah Jones, widow of Colonel Jones VC, and Des Keoghane lay the wreath for the Falklands Families Association



Above: The Colour Guard marches away led by Parade Marshal, Air Commodore Peter Johnson.

Reed, who was 1st officer on Canberra (South Atlantic Medal Association); Daniel Biggs (Falklands young people); and Sir John D. Gurgeon (Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, recalling HMS Kent's part in the 1914 battle).

The service was conducted by the Reverend Peter Millam, former Chaplain to Stanley's Christ Church Cathedral, and the Parade Marshal was Air Commodore Peter Johnson, former CBFFI. Royal Marine Buglers sounded the Last Post and Reveille, and Air Chief Marshal Squire inspected the Royal Navy Colour Party, and the Pangbourne College Escort Cadets. One naval veteran travelled from Gibraltar, Chief Petty Officer, Timothy Trebarthen, who in 1982 survived the sinking of HMS Coventry, then volunteered to serve on HMS Charybdis.



Islanders studying in the UK at the reception following the AGM. Left is Sian Davies, who is studying Media and Communications at Goldsmiths College. Then Debbie Robson who is at Peter Symonds School and, Right, Anna Luxton, winner of this year's Hunter-Christie Prize.



Above: Islander, Daniel Biggs, who is studying in Britain and who laid the wreath at the Cenotaph for the young people of the Falklands, with friend, Jenny Cawson



Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire talks to Royal Marine Cpl Ian Smith, who fought in the war in HMS Bristol and later Tigerbay (a captured Argentine coastguard vessel)

**Falklands Achievers
Hunter-Christie Prize for
Anna Luxton**

In our Falklands achievers tributes, we congratulate Miss Anna Luxton of Stanley (On the right in the adjacent photo), this year's recipient of the Bill Hunter-Christie Memorial Prize, for an outstanding Falklands overseas student, presented by his widow, Mrs Merle Christie.

Twenty-year old Anna, who chose for her prize a clinical medical book and an almanac, is studying physiotherapy at Brunel University outside London - after gaining quite outstanding "A" level results at Peter Symonds' School, Winchester.

After her degree and some years' experience in Britain, and, she hopes, in Australia and New Zealand, Anna, like so many other young Falklands students, plans to return home. She explains that coming away, makes her appreciate home more and the Falklands special way of life. "I love Camp, the openness, the small community. It is a very safe society. I want my children to have the same kind of upbringing as I did. I had such a happy safe childhood where Mum and Dad could let me go out unattended and know I would be safe. I want my children to do that".

Expressing gratitude to the Falklands Government for their encouragement and generous financial support to all students, Anna says: "We are very lucky. We really are grateful for the Government's financial help and the opportunities they give us to study. By contrast, my university friends are still paying off loans".

Another Falklands achiever is Anna's sister, Zoe Luxton, 24, who qualified as a veterinary surgeon this year at London University, and is now working with an animal practice in Ipswich in Norfolk.

This is the third time the Hunter-Christie prize has been awarded to a female student. The previous winners are: Miss Nina Aldridge, a radiographer, and Doctor Rebecca Edwards, who graduated last year.



Above: Islander Graham Bound recording the proceedings for BBC "Calling the Falklands". On the right, Newsletter co-editor Harold Briley.

Gibraltar Under Threat

Never has the future status of Gibraltar been more important than today. As the West continues with military and diplomatic action in the War against Terrorism, the British and Spanish governments have resumed talks which include discussions about the status of Gibraltar.

Recently, the Foreign Office said that under new Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, "there is the political will to look at change" and the FCO announced that it had set a deadline of December 2002 to resolve the status of Gibraltar.

Yet within days the Foreign Office and Spanish Government were issuing contradictory statements. Foreign Minister, Peter Hain, stated that "The Government stands by ... the 1969 constitution which enshrines the principle of consent of the people of Gibraltar to any change in sovereignty". This was in contrast to Josep Pique, Spain's Foreign Minister who insisted "The people of Gibraltar cannot have the right of veto over matters being discussed by two sovereign states".

For the people of Gibraltar the situation is simple. Gibraltar has been British since 1713, Gibraltarians were therefore British before Americans were American, they have a clear sense of identity, their own culture, heritage and constitution that ensures a large measure of self-government.

Disregard for wishes of the people

Yet despite nearly 300 years of British sovereignty the people of Gibraltar continue to face Spanish claims to the sovereignty of Gibraltar. The Spanish continue to show complete disregard for the wishes of the people who live there.

Both the British and Spanish governments know that in the previous referendum, the people of Gibraltar have shown an overwhelming preference for remaining under British sovereignty. They also recognise that if a referendum were held today, Gibraltarians would vote to remain in the UK.

Despite this Spain continues to press her claim through economic and political pressure. The people of Gibraltar are now calling for the right of self-determination to be inserted into the Gibraltar constitution. This right is enshrined in the UN Charter as Article 1 and in the past, HMG has supported it, indeed in 1960 before the UN General Assembly Britain questioned why



Miss Sukey Cameron and Mr. Albert Poggio, the Government Representatives of the Falklands and Gibraltar, at the opening of the Falklands Showcase

Spain would not support this right. Britain cannot simply change its mind on this. To do so and thereby refuse to recognise the right of a people to have the right to choose their own destiny will only lead to others in the world to point out that Britain should perhaps practice what she preaches.

Spain has changed greatly since the 1960s and is now a democracy, a NATO ally and EU member. However, this does not alter international law or the rights of the people of Gibraltar. Diplomatic expediency should not and cannot be allowed to get in the way of fundamental human rights.

The people of Gibraltar will continue to urge Britain to grant the right of self-determination to Gibraltar, knowing that to do so will be in line with international law, the UN Charter and the central principles of democracy. **Albert Poggio**

Mr. Poggio is the London Representative of the Government of Gibraltar



Gibraltar Talks Encourage Argentines

"A Unique Opportunity That We Must Not Let Pass"

Argentines Hope For Precedent

Talks over Gibraltar between Britain and Spain sparked immediate interest in the Argentine press. Argentina's principal newspapers *La Nacion* and *Clarín* both carried articles emphasizing the similarity of Argentina's claim to the Falklands to Spain's claim to Gibraltar - although they are in fact very different.

Ricardo Laferriere, Argentine ambassador in Madrid, was quoted as saying that it is **"a unique opportunity that Argentina must not let pass"** and **"There are many similarities between the two cases"**. He went on to say that he was following events **"with all attention"**, and that it was **"extremely interesting"**.

Self-Determination to be Postponed?

La Nacion reported that the influential Spanish newspaper *El Pais* had stated in its editorial that "any solution that left the question of the return of sovereignty pending will be provisional and unstable". *El Pais* also said that a stable solution would **"undoubtedly include a postponement of self-determination until the end of a transition period - with some form of shared sovereignty - during which the Gibraltarians could be made to see the advantages of integration with Spain"**. This suggests that some influential Spaniards believe a referendum could be postponed until after shared sovereignty had already been imposed on Gibraltar for some time!

Spain Won't Recognise Referendum Result

La Nacion also reported Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique as saying after the talks that under no circumstances would a referendum on self-determination be accepted by Spain, nor would Spain recognise the right of the people of Gibraltar to veto any agreement between London and Madrid. This is Argentina's traditional position over the Falklands.

Gibraltarian Comment

Prime Minister, Peter Caruana, declared: "The people of Gibraltar have been British for 300 years. We are a colonial people with the right to decide our own future. The idea that the sovereignty of Gibraltar can be handed around between the UK and Spain either on a partial or shared basis, regardless of the wishes of the people of Gibraltar, is a democratically obscene position. It would constitute a flagrant breach of the solemn assurances given by every British Government since 1969. We frankly do not see why we should be expected to give up our British sovereignty to buy off the Spanish blackmails and the Spanish vetoes of European business, which is really behind all this".

The Gibraltarians are furious with the British Europe Minister, Peter Hain, who hinted that he wants to see Gibraltar return to Spanish rule. He appeared to criticise the 30,000 Gibraltarians for being "stuck in the past" and told the *Sunday Mail* that he wanted a "modern status" for Gibraltar. Mr Hain insisted in a BBC radio interview that times have changed since the days of Empire. He said a deal is needed to end disruption caused by diplomatic wrangling over the Rock. He talked of a new relationship which could be of "great advantage" to the people of Gibraltar. He said they have "suffered a series of inconveniences, including border delays, telecommunications denial, and airport restrictions. I am confident we, through talking to Spain, can solve these problems"

The Argentine Lobby

The Argentine lobby in Britain are known to be monitoring developments over Gibraltar, in order to see if any precedents are set that they could use against the Falklands.

Assurances on Falklands Gibraltar fears

In a meeting with FCO Minister Dr MacShane, Sir Rex Hunt said talks on Gibraltar's sovereignty "had set alarm bells ringing in the Falklands". Sir Rex said: "Dr MacShane assured us that Islanders had nothing to fear and explained the many differences between Gibraltar's position and the Falklands".

Editors' Comments

We see in the British Government's decision to give in to Spanish demands what could so easily happen to the Falklands. Like the Falklands, Gibraltar has repeatedly been given assurances of self-determination. Now, in effect, to appease Spanish obstructionism in the EU, we see the British Government suddenly entering negotiations over sovereignty against the will of the people of Gibraltar. It is all very similar to what happened in secret over the Falklands in 1967 and '68.

We are also witnessing over Gibraltar the time honoured verbiage that has so often been trotted out by the Argentine lobby in Britain over the Falklands; that change is in the "interests" of the Islanders - when everyone knows that it is really in the speakers' interest. In fact, most of the arguments used by Mr. Hain could be applied directly to the Falklands - except that Argentina is obviously in a much poorer situation economically and politically than Spain is.

European Union - a Unique Element?

There is, of course, a unique element in the Gibraltar equation - the European Union, whose rules Spain has been both breaking and exploiting to further its claim. At a time when EU countries are sacrificing elements of sovereignty to the EU, Spain is seeking to increase its sovereignty through the EU. But there are dangers for the Falklands from the EU too. If Britain ever gave up its own national foreign policy and merged this into a joint EU foreign policy, the same tactics would be used by Argentina's allies to betray the Falklands.

There are two other elements in the Gibraltar equation too. While campaigning so fiercely for Gibraltar, Spain is contemptuously rejecting Moroccan demands for the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. Spain is also facing a very serious terrorist threat from Basques who seek to escape its sovereignty. Many of Mr. Hain's arguments apply perfectly to them too - but would not be accepted by the Basques.

Similarity with Falklands 1968

There is an interesting parallel with the British Government's attempts to reach a "Memorandum of Understanding" (see page 20) with Argentina over the Falklands in 1968.

Just released in the Public Records Office at Kew is Lord Chalfont's report on his November 1968 visit to the Islands to try to sell that to a surprised and disgusted population. In his own gratuitous phrase, he complains of the "fossilised attitudes" of several prominent Islanders - as if a refusal to join a militarily ruled Argentina then were something contemptuously old fashioned. This is remarkably similar to Mr. Hain's comment (opposite) that he wants "a modern status" for Gibraltar and that the Gibraltarians are "stuck in the past".

Obituary - Dr. Guido Di Tella

Doctor Guido Di Tella, a key figure in relations with the United Kingdom and the Falkland Islands after the 1982 conflict, has died in Buenos Aires of a brain haemorrhage, aged 71. He was taken ill awaiting the New Year celebrations and rushed to hospital but died on December 31st.

The son of an Italian immigrant, who had become immensely rich and founded a private university, he studied at MIT and was an intellectual and prominent academic, with engineering and economics degrees.

Though a fervent anti-Peronist in his youth, he was converted by the repression of the Peronist movement, and served as Deputy Economy Minister in Peron's government in 1973-1974. After the 1976 military coup, he was held prisoner on a ship - like the president he was to serve, Carlos Menem - and then spent most of the military dictatorship at Oxford University where he became a visiting Professor.

Before his term as Foreign Minister he was briefly Defence Minister and Menem's Ambassador to the United States, with which he cultivated strong links - he called them "carnal relations" - as a major aim of Argentine foreign policy.

He was Argentina's longest ever serving Foreign Minister, from 1991 to 1999 in Carlos Menem's Government, which had restored diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom in 1990. He negotiated the 1995 Oil Agreement. At one stage he even appeared to have considered conditionally dropping the Argentine claim - although this finally turned out at Chevening to be just another attempt to get shared sovereignty.

When Britain detained former Chilean President, General Pinochet at the request of Spain, Di Tella persuaded Uruguay



to drop a proposed air link with the Falklands, and exploited Chilean annoyance to get the suspension of its air services to the Falklands. This pressured the Falklands Government to sign the 1999 communications agreement ending its ban on Argentine visits in force since the 1982 War (For humanitarian reasons, the Islanders had previously permitted visits only by relatives to graves of the Argentine war dead). In exchange

Islanders got promises of more co-operation in conservation of South Atlantic fish stocks, vital to the Falklands' economy and to consider dropping the Argentine names for Falklands places, though this has not happened.

The 1999 agreement was the culmination of Dr Di Tella's so-called "charm offensive" or seduction of the Islanders, in which he tried unsuccessfully to cultivate their friendship and bombarded them with Christmas cards and gifts. He realised his long-time dream of visiting the Falklands in 2000.

It was his foreign policy which led to the first official visit of an Argentine President to Britain since the 1982 War when Carlos Menem met the Queen in 1998. Dr. Di Tella's charisma, charm and good English won him personal respect and affection and made him a more effective diplomat.

In the wider world, he worked tirelessly to promote an image of Argentina as a mature responsible nation taking part in various peace-keeping operations and in the Gulf War.

Recently he was investigated for possible involvement in the scandal of the illegal sale of arms to Croatia and Ecuador. But he was ruled unfit to plead by a court psychiatrist because of his mental deterioration.

He is survived by a widow and five children.

Anglo-Argentine Agreement on Mine Clearance

Britain and Argentina have at last agreed to proceed with a joint study to find out whether and how the 16,000 Argentine mines left by the 1982 Falklands War can be removed. The two governments exchanged notes (on October 11th) to activate the long-standing proposal for a feasibility study by British and Argentine diplomats and military experts.

There will be two project managers: a Briton will oversee the technical task and an Argentine the budget, as Argentina will pay for removal of the mines laid by its invasion forces. The cost is estimated at more than \$250 million. Only one British mine is unaccounted for, as it has shifted from its original position.

Delay in tackling the mines has resulted not just from the technical difficulty of finding a foolproof method of detecting and removing them, especially in the soft peaty terrain. The Argentine offer to clear them was originally a goodwill gesture from Argentine Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Di Tella in 1994. Then, the 1997 Ottawa Treaty required the "sovereign" power to demine its own territory. Thus Argentina is now frantic to do this - so as to claim to be the sovereign power. Now, the sovereignty issue has been set aside so as not to delay mine clearance, which the Ottawa Treaty requires by 2009.

Unselfish Falklands policy

The Falklands Government takes the unselfish view that other countries such as Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique and the Balkans deserve priority because so many men, women and children are regularly killed there.



Councillor Jan Cheek told the Newsletter: "We prefer that money is not spent on our minefields which are safely fenced while people are being blown up by unidentified mines in other parts of the world... They affect only a small portion of a big area of the Falklands. They are an irritant, but not a disaster. Until they can be cleared without risk to the operatives doing it, with an absolute certainty that the area is totally clear, we would like to see resources used elsewhere".

The Falklands have an excellent safety record in controlling the minefields and protecting the public. Minefields are cordoned off with barbed wire, and clearly marked with danger signs. Royal Engineer bomb disposal experts keep surveillance, give advice to the public, and lecture schoolchildren on the dangers of explosive devices. Several thousand mines were removed after the conflict, but this work was halted when two mines disposal officers had limbs blown off. **Harold Briley**

Argentina in Despair

Riots, Financial Default, Devaluation, Five Presidents in Two Weeks

Every Argentine owes \$4,000

The on-going political and economic crisis in Argentina reached new heights over the last few months. Years of living beyond its means, financing its fiscal deficit by borrowing on the international bond market, had pushed Argentina's international debt to over 140 Billion dollars. This is over \$4,000 for every man, woman and child in Argentina. Bankers, doubting that Argentina could ever repay such a debt, demanded ever higher interest rates. This caused business activity to contract. This, in turn reduced tax revenue, further reducing Argentina's ability to repay its debts.

Competition with Brazil, whose currency continues to steadily devalue, caused more damage, as it has access via the Mercosur union to the Argentine market. So unemployment continued to rise and business activity to decline, most provinces were forced to issue bonds (Patacones) to pay their employees. Disturbances and route blockages became common. The Buenos Aires stock market plumbed new depths, and Argentina's risk index, the premium borrowers must pay in the international financial markets, reached 46%! The worst in the World - by far.

Election Disgust

At the Argentine election in October, 20% of voters were so disgusted with their politicians that they stayed away from the polls - which is illegal and incurs a small fine. Another 20% spoiled their ballots. Some even drew in Mickey Mouse or pictures of Osama Bin Laden to express their annoyance. In the Province of Santa Fe such spoiled votes actually led the ballot. The government lost five million votes! The Peronist opposition lost votes too, ending with a million fewer than they had at the last election. But as the Peronists lost fewer votes than the government, it made major gains - and dominated Congress.

This election result led to more economic worries and falls in business activity. To get loans from the IMF, Economy Minister Cavallo introduced a "zero deficit" policy by which the Government could not spend more than it could raise in taxes. This meant cuts in Government salaries and pensions of about 13%. Sadly, even this couldn't correct the fiscal deficit. In November, the IMF stopped the supply of new money.



Above: A "Patacon" one of the many bonds now circulating in Argentina in exchange for real money. This one is from the Province of Buenos Aires

The Crash - 28 Dead

On November 3rd, Argentine Economy Minister, Domingo Cavallo obliged its internal bondholders to accept just 7% interest - much less than the holders were due. Confidence drained away. To prevent a run on the banks, Cavallo then restricted the amount Argentines could withdraw from their own bank accounts to just a thousand dollars a month.

Shortly before Christmas, food riots began. Shops were sacked and 28 people died as the police fought to restore order. Next day, the cabinet resigned to allow President De La Rúa to negotiate with the Peronist opposition. They failed to agree and President De La Rúa resigned too.

New Presidents - Debt Default, Devaluation

Next president was Ramon Puerta, Head of the Senate. After 48 hours, he handed over to Alfredo Rodriguez Saa, a Peronist provincial governor, who was supposed to head an interim government until elections on March 3rd. He defaulted on Argentina's debts, the largest default in history. He was brought down after a week by more riots - after appointing several ministers suspected of past corruption. He was replaced by Eduardo Camano, Head of the Chamber of Deputies.

Finally, the Argentine Congress voted Eduardo Duhalde president - the man De La Rúa beat in the 1999 presidential elections. He will now be president until elections in 2003. He devalued the Peso to an official rate of 1.4 pesos to the dollar, but on the free market it was soon worth much less than this. As the Newsletter went to press, access to bank accounts was still severely restricted and disturbances were continuing.

C-in-C Tribute to "Belgrano"

A hero of the Falklands War, Admiral Sir Alan West, now C-in-C Fleet, who visited the Falklands last November, has paid tribute to the Argentine sailors of the *General Belgrano* sunk in 1982.

During a three-day goodwill visit to Argentina, Admiral West laid a wreath in the Argentine Naval Base of Puerto Belgrano at the monument to more than 300 sailors killed when the *Belgrano* was torpedoed by HMS *Conqueror*.

Sir Alan West was himself commander of HMS *Ardent* sunk by Argentine bombs, with 22 dead and 30 injured. The last to leave his sinking ship, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Admiral West, who watched dis-



plays by the Argentine Navy, said: "War and combat are not pleasing experiences, but as military we feel great esteem for each other". He praised the bravery of the Argentine military in 1982, and their participation in UN peace keeping forces in the Gulf War and Cyprus. Admiral West said the Royal Navy was interested in joint exercises with the Argentine Navy.

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, now Chief of Defence Staff, visited Argentina in 1999.

British-Argentine pilots exchange

British pilots, visiting the Argentine Air Force base of Tandil, have flown Argentine Mirage aircraft like those used in the Falklands war. They were participating in an exchange program in which Argentine pilots have flown Sea Harriers of the kind which flew in 1982 and a British Tornado, in Britain.

Falklands Aims to be World's First Organic Country

The Falklands have taken several vital steps in a bid to become the world's first internationally designated organic country, supplying its own population and the British garrison, and also exporting abroad.

A new abattoir, built to European Union standards, will export meat from animals fed on natural pastures, allowing sales in Britain and other European markets. The EU resident veterinary inspector for Mercosur, based in Uruguay, is expected to give his approval early this year.

A Falklands Organic Certification Body has been created to international standards and the first organic inspector appointed: Charlene Rowland, 41, wife of Registrar General, John Rowland. Two farms have already been pronounced organic: Port Edgar and Port Louis.

Port Edgar Farm "clean, neat and healthy"

Mrs Rowland is a Falkland Islander with ideal qualifications. She was born and brought up on a West Falkland sheep farm, and worked in the Falklands Agriculture Department on farming policies, diversification initiatives and government grant schemes. She has passed a UK training course with the Shrewsbury-based Organic Farmers and Growers.

Mrs Rowland was impressed by the farms' cleanliness, neatness and healthy animals. The first to go organic, Port Edgar, has been farmed since 1988 by Michael (Tex) Alazia, and his wife, Mandy, who have a schoolroom for their three daughters, Rhian (2), Fayan (8) and Felicity (10). Mrs Rowland says: "Farms that



The Alazia family at Port Edgar

can show no previous use of chemical fertilisers or pesticides may be allowed to convert to organic status more quickly than farmers changing from normal farming methods".

The Falklands Government is encouraging farmers to go organic by offering for the next two years free inspection services, which in the UK can cost £2,000.

Agriculture Director Bob Reid, says: "The Islands are well placed to take on organic status, as traditionally chemical fertilisers and pesticides are not used, the animals enjoy wide open spaces, eat natural foods and enjoy some of the cleanest air in the world. In such a small community, complete transparency and traceability is guaranteed. Our legislation ensures that

genetically modified products cannot enter the production process."

Ambitious plans include export not just of meat from sheep, but also from reindeer imported from South Georgia, from Guanacos, which have lived on Staats island for years, and a quarter-of-a-million geese, as well as organically attested wool, cashmere from goats and organic shellfish.

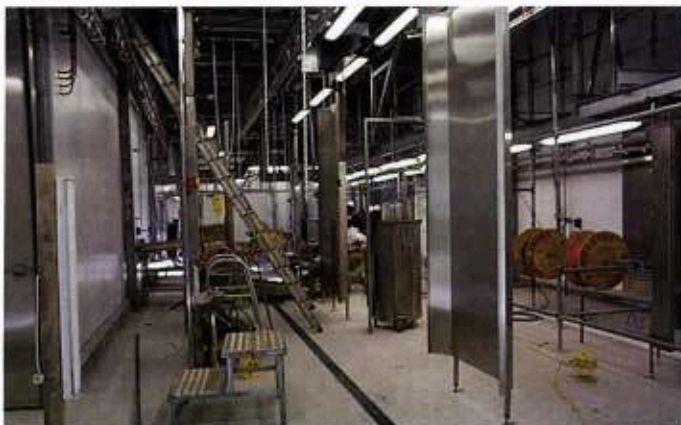
Director of Fishing, John Barton, says there are projects for aquaculture, including oysters and mussels, and salmon-farming, in the Islands' unpolluted bays and rivers. There are also vast quantities of calcified seaweed. These products will carry the new "Falklands Finest" quality marque, currently under development. This quality certification scheme will create a recognised presence for superior quality products from the Islands.

New Abattoir for Falklands

The new Sand Bay abattoir has been completed outside Stanley and is already in production, and capable of processing 30 sheep per hour.

Operations Manager is Brian Corner and it employs seven people on the slaughter line. This will allow export of meat to the European Union - hopefully to the organic niche market, and will allow British troops in the Falklands garrison to eat the excellent local meat, which has been improved by the introduction of meat breeds, replacing some of the wool flock.

Up until now EU regulations have prevented them from eating this. Instead, they have been supplied with lamb from Uruguay and New Zealand - shipped via Britain!



DARE to be Free of Drugs

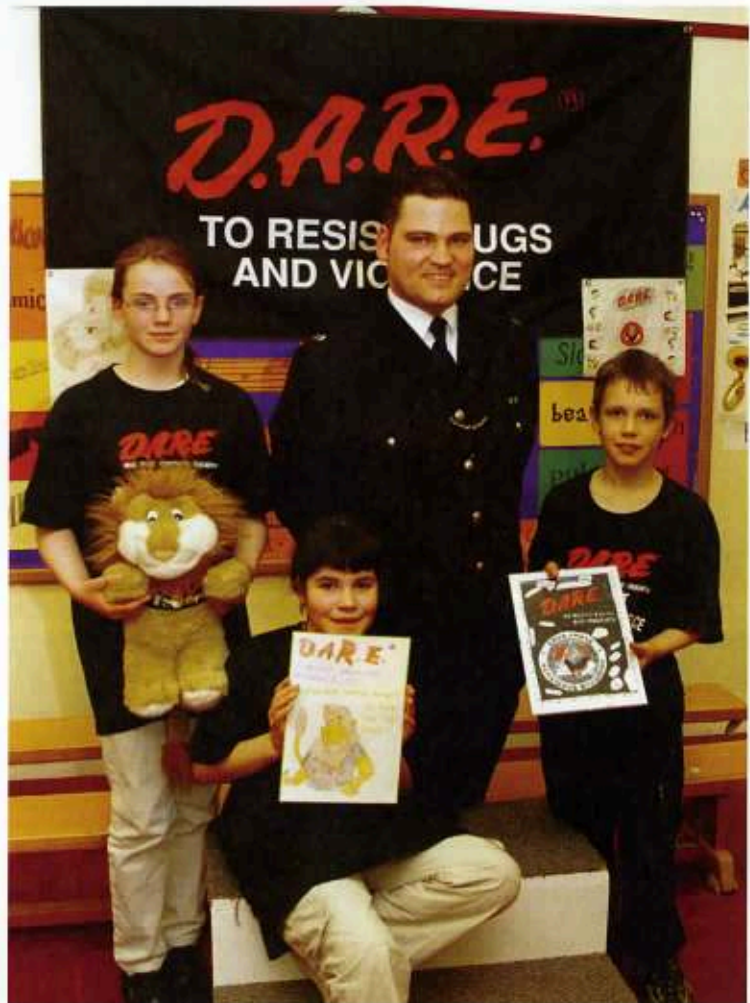
There is no problem in the Falklands with drugs - and very little serious violence either. To keep it that way, and equip Falklands children for problems they may meet elsewhere, a DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) campaign has been promoted in the Falklands. Based on an initiative from 1983 in Los Angeles, the DARE programme educates children in the social skills necessary to avoid becoming involved in drug abuse and violence.

Leading Police Constable David Roberts of the Royal Falkland Islands Police (with the aid of mascot Daren, an 18 inch cuddly lion), began teaching DARE in the Stanley Infant & Junior School in January 2001.

Two groups, aged 10 to 11, learned that they had rights as young people, and that certain responsibilities go along with these rights. They found out how to deal with peer and other forms of pressure, such as the media. They were taught eight ways to say no to offers of drugs - and also alcohol and tobacco - and how best to avoid violence and destructive behaviour too.

LPC Roberts taught the class how to be assertive, when it is correct to be assertive, thus avoiding the lack of self-confidence that is the main reason why young people are led astray. Classes involved role-plays and discussion groups about situations that the children have, or may, become involved in.

The graduation ceremony allowed children to show parents and the community what they had learned. The first part of this was a celebration party in



L to R: Samantha Davies, with mascot Daren, Leading Police Constable Roberts, Shaun May and, below, Helen Davies with their certificates.

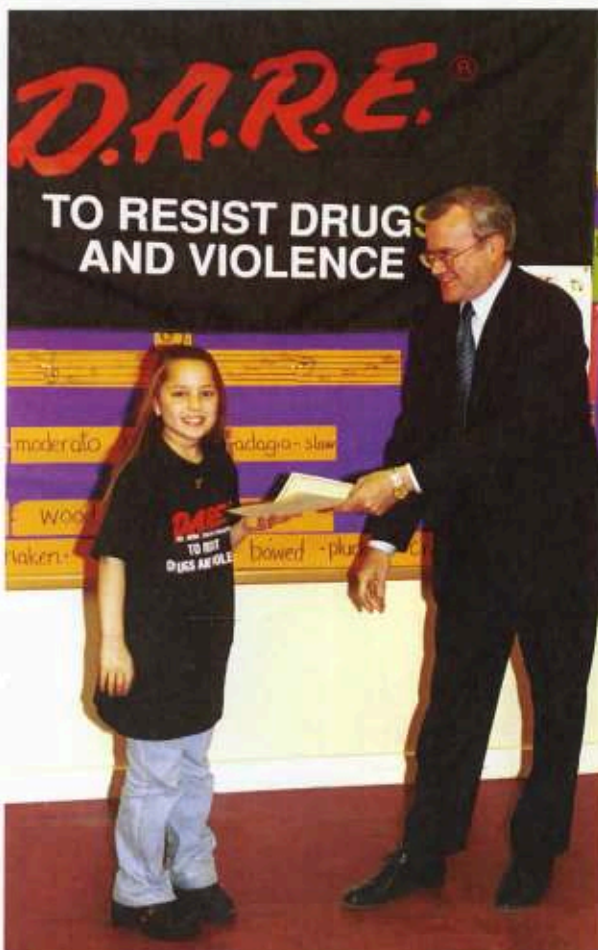
Photo: Courtesy of Norman Clark

the Chamber of Commerce building. The ceremony itself took place in the School Hall in front of an audience of ninety parents and carers who saw the children receive their certificates from Governor Lamont.

Several children made personal commitments to stay drug free, demonstrated role-plays and finally presented LPC Roberts with a card and DARE workbook cover they had made to thank him for his efforts.

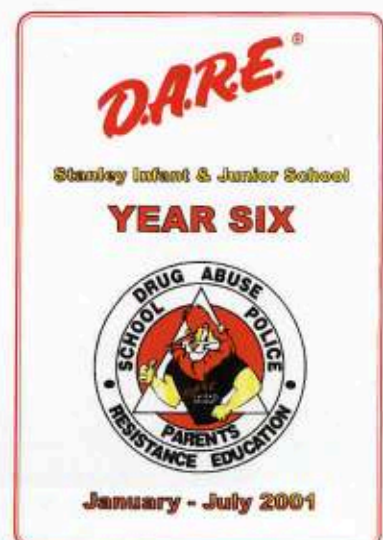
All involved with the DARE programme's first group have enjoyed themselves and LPC Roberts is sure that this is the first of many exciting and interesting courses. "I am delighted with the support that DARE has received from the children, their parents and the community as a whole," he said, "I hope that this will continue for many years to come."

The programme was funded by an Argos Award and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Good Government Fund, and the Falklands became the 51st country to be added to the DARE list.



Governor Lamont presents her DARE certificate to Jane Goss.

Photo: Courtesy of Norman Clark





Labour Party Conference. Left to Right: Miss Sukey Cameron, Falklands Representative in London, Councillor Sharon Halford, Secretary of State for Defence, Geoffrey Hoon, MP and Councillor Jan Cheek.



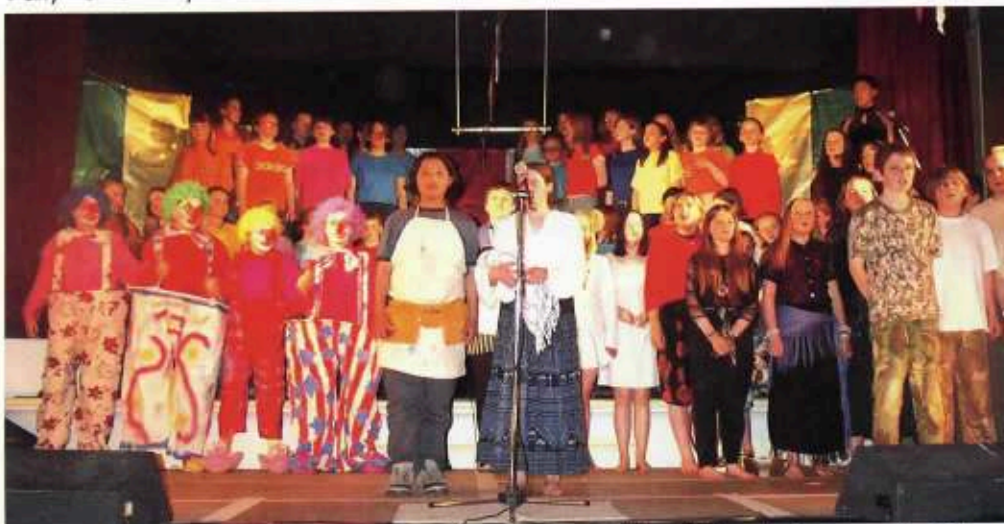
The Taveners, Winners of the Stanley Darts Club. From left to right: Julia Clarke, Cherry Ford and Sylvia Claridge.



Samantha Davies transforms Kieran Watts into a cat for the "End of Holidays Party" at Stanley Leisure Centre



Tootie Ford, winner of the Player of the Year Individual Knockout, and of too many other trophies with Acting-Governor, Russ Jarvis.



The cast of the "Greatest Show on Earth", the Falkland Island Community School musical nativity play in December - which was widely praised.



Falklands Apprentices about to leave Scheme Manager, Arthur Nutter.



Club team Challenge Shield, L to R: Nicky Jaffery, Iris Summers.



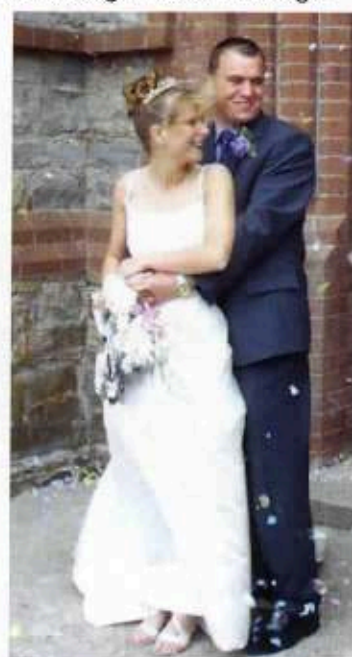
Miranda Cheek and Richard McKee at their wedding. The couple returned shortly beforehand from six months working in South Georgia



Shield, the prizes to list,



Year 7 at their class camping trip at Goose Green, where they went orienteering, and had a battlefield tour.



Sara Gilding and Wayne Clement at their wedding



for the UK for training. Bottom left is



Gap students arriving in the Falklands. L to R: Ruth McKay, Ian Masters, Georgina Bell, Sam Barton, Livia Henderson, John Barker and Simon Bangs

Shackleton Scholars - Back in Tune Again



The Falkland Islanders' fondness for music and self-entertainment is handicapped when their pianos need tuning. Where do you turn to for a piano tuner? Help came from the Shackleton Scholarship Fund which financed a visit by David Little, after he was "sounded out" in Aberdeen by Community School music teacher, Shirley Adams-Leach. He was delighted to oblige. His visit resulted in about twenty pianos either tuned - or condemned.

Among those restored is the 100-year-old small, five-octave piano in Stanley Museum, now at least preserved as a show piece if not as a playing piano. The two main problems in the Islands are rust and humidity, which, surprisingly, turns out to be too dry in most Falkland houses.

Unfortunately, he was unable to train anyone in the Falklands but left information about piano tuning and courses available in Britain.

Prolific Painter in the Frame

One of the most prolific artists ever to visit the Falkland Islands has been hectically busy ever since — painting no fewer than fifty pictures.

David McEwen, a British artist, who runs a painting school in Lodeve in Southern France, fell in love with the Islands and the Islanders and their way of life as soon as he set foot in the place.

He told the Newsletter: "If I did not live in Lodeve, the only other place in the world I would like to live and paint is the Falklands". He found tremendous inspiration for his paint brushes — in horses and dogs, wildlife, landscapes, shipwrecks, and portraits of Islanders. His impressive works include an outstanding portrait of the late Robin Lee, of Port Howard, who was a trustee of the Falkland Island Trust and, through that, of the SSF.

David McEwen's paintings will feature in a special exhibition in the new Falklands Government Office display area from April 16th to July 15th. The collection will go on show later in the year in the Falklands, which he hopes to re-visit with his wife, Sally.

His first visit was sponsored by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund after his interest was encouraged by Councillor Richard Cockwell, himself an enthusiastic artist. Councillor Cockwell took lessons with David in France, as have other Islanders including Nina Aldridge, after taking her degree in Diagnostic Radiography.

David McEwen's enthusiasm for the Falklands has turned his studio into a mini-Falklands embassy in Southern France.



David McEwen paints the unmistakable face of Robin Lee.

The Right Stuff - Taxidermist visits Stanley



British Taxidermist, Stephen Massam, recently spent two months in Stanley working at the Museum. Stephen's remit was two-fold: to prepare specimens donated to the Museum for display and to train five local people in the art of basic taxidermy. A generous grant from Falklands Conservation also allowed pupils from the Falkland Islands Community School and Camp Education to gain an introduction to the work of a taxidermist, whilst an adult audience was entertained by a lively and informative evening lecture.



The Museum holds a large collection of birds which have been donated over the years. Stephen's first task was to assess the condition of the specimens - many of which had been in stored, deep frozen, for nearly a decade - and to decide which could be used in a modern display. Taxidermy has come a long way since its Victorian heyday of 'stuffed animals in glass cases', with today's Taxidermists preferring to recreate a species' natural environment and habitat as an integral part of any exhibit.

Stephen Massam at work in Stanley Museum.
Below: Stephen's magnificently presented Barn Owl,
All Photos Courtesy of Norman Clark



King Shag

Much of Stephen's initial work in the Falklands therefore focused on moulding artificial rocks and preserving samples of plants for use in imaginative dioramas. His portrayal of a diving King Shag (above), currently on show at the Museum, incorporates fronds of extremely life-like artificial kelp, sponges and mollusc shells. Central to the display is, of course, the King Shag itself. Far from 'stuffing' a bird, Stephen demonstrated the intricacies of artificial body-binding, the painting of glass eyes and the insertion of wires to enable a specimen to be displayed in a variety of poses. Well-mounted specimens allow visitors to observe every detail of a bird and its setting and encourage the accurate identification of species in the field. During school classes, pupils benefited from feeling the texture of the prepared skins of a Magellanic Penguin and Military Starling (top right), and by watching the mounting of a Barn Owl (left), all of which will be incorporated in future displays.

As to Trainees -

Rather than risk setting our self-confessed amateurs loose on the precious contents of the Museum's freezer, training sessions initially concentrated on taxidermy technique applied to the domestic chicken, a bird most people are familiar with. Curiously, all the trainees became extremely attached to their specimens and saw the task through to the bitter end. Five chickens then stood proudly on display at the Agriculture Department throughout Farmers' Week.

Anne Johnston



“Tell the world about the Modern Falklands”

The 20th anniversary of the Falklands War should be used to project a positive picture to the world of the modern Falkland Islands and the tremendous progress made in recent years. That's the view of former Foreign Secretary, Lord Hurd, President of the Falkland Islands Association. He believes the Blair Government is totally committed to the Islanders' wish to retain British sovereignty and that it must abide by its pledges to both the Islanders and the people of Gibraltar.

In an interview in London with the Newsletter's Harold Briley, he gave his views on these and other issues and reminisced about his family's ties with the Falkland Islands.

Lord Hurd: The main purpose of the Falkland Islands Association is to keep knowledge flowing between the Islands and the UK and to make sure Government ministers, Parliament, and the Press are aware of things they need to know of. I am glad to help with that.

20th anniversary: The Falkland Islands are a very special place... We need to make an effort, to use the 20th anniversary of the Conflict to draw attention to the fact that the Falkland Islands are not just a place where there was a war...History will always be important. But the anniversary provides an opportunity to talk and write more about the Islands as they are today, and about the changes. It is important for a Government Minister to go for the anniversary celebrations. The Government and the Falkland Islands Association should use the opportunity to advertise and say something accurate and encouraging about the Islands as they are now in 2002, and correct the ignorance which still exists.

Sovereignty: I don't have any lack of confidence in present Ministers, with whom I have discussed it... On the fundamental sovereignty issue, we have to make sure Ministers are wholly clear, but there are also occasional subsidiary issues which come up, where it is useful to have people in the House of Commons or Lords to put down a question.

HB: Does the dispute over Gibraltar's sovereignty and suggestions it may be surrendered to Spain, shake your confidence in any way?

Lord Hurd: The UK commitment to the Gibraltar is basically similar, that not just the interests, but the wishes of the Falklands Islanders and the Gibraltarians, are paramount. I always went further as Foreign Secretary and said it is not the job of the British Government to lean on the Falkland Islanders... I never thought it right to try to persuade the Islanders to improve their contacts with Argentina. That had to develop according to their wishes, to evolve. That is the right way for things to change — out of the Islands, and not to change because the Foreign Office or anybody leans on the Islanders. I don't see Ministers leaning on the Islanders on links with Argentina.

Gibraltar: I am sure the British Government will have to abide by what is the law, the Constitution of Gibraltar. The difference is that under the agreement with Spain there is a procedure for discussing sovereignty. There is no such procedure with the Argentines. I am in favour of Britain improving relations with a democratic Argentina. I am anxious that Argentina gets through its economic problems. There is no interest in Britain or the Falklands in having a bankrupt Argentina.

Fishing: There are still some concerns about the Argentine management of their fisheries...There will always be problems with poachers and you need research. The Falklands have a very good record on fisheries management. That's a success story.

Antarctic Treaty: I am not too concerned about the United Kingdom dropping its veto on the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat



being based in Buenos Aires so long as Argentina keeps to its assurance that its activities in the Antarctic will be purely civilian.

Wildlife and tourism: Wildlife and conservation are important in their own right but are also a real tourist attraction. It is huge.. amazing.. and within arms' reach. My photographs from Sea Lion Island are amazing.

Falklands Organic farming : My father (a director of the Falkland Islands Company) would have been very excited about it. On his visits, he used to take packets of grass seed, called Yorkshire fog, for improvement of the pasture. The Falklands has many disadvantages because of the distances, and you compensate for that by using it, by finding a niche market, as for tourism, and organic meat.

Education: The help the Falklands Government give to their students is impressive. As well as the whacking great Community school, there are facilities and encouragement for them to study for further education in the United Kingdom. What's very important is to keep young people in the Islands, so education is very important.

Attractive future: The fisheries income, the political stability and these opportunities for tourism and niche markets, create a set of islands with a much more attractive future than my parents would have supposed.

Mother's letters in Archives: My mother, who was very fond of the Falklands, was always sea sick when bucketed about in the Darwin (on the voyage from Uruguay). She was a very good letter-writer and gave a very vivid account of the Islands in the 1950s and 1960s. I have given her letters to the archives in Stanley. She was very worried that the war may have destroyed the way of life which she hugely enjoyed. If she had gone back, she would have found the basic way of life and basic character have been preserved. But it has been modified and the prospects are brighter than for some time.

Lord Hurd, CH, CBE, was the first Foreign Secretary ever to visit the Falklands in 1994. He is also Chairman of the South West Atlantic Group which promotes the interests of all British Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic. He is now involved in international finance and banking.

Indulging his hobby of writing — mainly thrillers — Lord Hurd has used his experience of the Falklands to include Sea Lion Island as a setting in his collection of short stories entitled: "Ten Minutes to Turn the Devil".

New South Georgia Association Invites Members

An educational charity called "the South Georgia Association" has been set up to encourage interest in and study of South Georgia and conservation of its natural and cultural heritage. Its aim is to encourage contacts and fellowship among those who have lived and worked in or around South Georgia, have visited or are interested in the Island. It has links with South Georgia organisations in Norway, 30,000 of whose citizens worked as whalers over the decades in South Georgia

The Association invites membership from people and organisations with South Atlantic interests and "anyone who shares affection and concern for South Georgia and wishes to follow developments there". Comments on their objectives and ideas are welcomed. It will have regular meetings in Britain, visits to organisations, ships or sites of South Georgia interest, and a twice yearly newsletter.

Former Governors Involved

Stephen Venables has been elected President. Other founder members include three former Governors of the Falklands who also had responsibility for South Georgia — Sir Rex Hunt, David Tatham and William Fullerton; distinguished scientists linked to the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) such as Professor John Croxall; Dr. John Heap; Robert Burton, former director of the South Georgia Whaling Museum, who is creating a South Georgia History Database; Alexandra Shackleton, grand-daughter of Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, who climbed South Georgia's unmapped peaks to rescue his marooned 1914 expedition; former Canon of Stanley's Christchurch Cathedral, Stephen Palmer; and Falkland Islander, Sally Poncet.

Other founder members include: Angus Erskine, Patrick Fagan, Pat & Sarah Lurcock, Skip Novak, Trevor Potts, and Lance Tickell. They describe South Georgia as "a unique sub-Antarctic island of exceptional natural

Falklands Footballer - Tom Wallace

Islander, Tom Wallace, now 11 years-old, was signed last August, by Everton Football Club, Liverpool. He was playing at the time for Allerton one of Liverpool's Sunday League amateur teams, when he was seen by an Everton talent scout.

He now plays right mid-field for Everton's under-11 team. Tom's ambition is, of course, to be a professional footballer

Tom was also picked to represent Liverpool in the Liverpool Schoolboys Under-11 Team, which has not lost a match since September, and which is already through to the final of The Everton Cup, which will be played at Goodison Park in May.

Tom attends Hey Green school, where he is a good all-rounder and in the school athletics team. He was born in the Falklands, the son of Ginny and the late Jimmy Wallace, who owned the Rose Hotel. Jimmy's brothers Stewart and Fraser still live in Stanley. Their mother, Alice Etheridge, was born at Goose Green.

Tom left the Falklands six years ago, when Ginny decided to return to her home town, Liverpool, after her husband, Jimmy, died.

Right: Tom photographed in the team colours with well known player, Paul Gascoigne. Tom has met all the Everton first team, and is now proud possessor of a pair of Gaza's boots.



Memorial Service in the Norwegian Cemetery at Leith



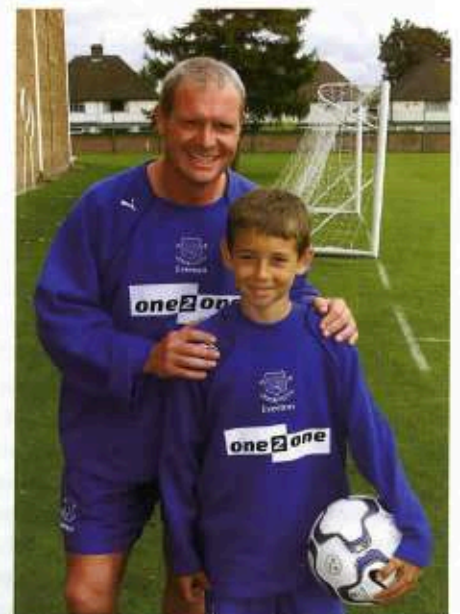
Cruise ship at Grytviken

Photos by Robert Burton

beauty, with wonderful wild life on land and at sea. It has an interesting heritage, is environmentally vulnerable, very precious, and very worth defending and preserving".

It is a UK overseas territory, together with the South Sandwich Islands, administered by a Commissioner based in the Falklands. It is home to two BAS scientific stations, which last March replaced British military personnel stationed there since its recovery in 1982 from Argentine invasion.

Membership costs £15 a year or £50 for five years, payable to the Membership Secretary: Stephen Palmer, South Georgia Association, 72 A Medina Avenue, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1HF. E-mail: stephen.palmer@fish.co.uk Tel: 01983-539580 **HWB**



UK Considered Handover to Argentina in 1968

The release of more files at the Public Records Office has shed new light on the critical 1967/68 period when discussions with Argentina nearly led to a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) that would have indicated a British willingness to cede Falklands sovereignty under certain conditions. The Falklands Emergency Committee was founded then, which later became the Falklands Islands Association - and the battle for Islander consent joined and finally won.

Argentine success in the notoriously biased UN Decolonisation Committee in 1964 led to a resolution in the UN General Assembly in 1965 calling for a peaceful negotiated solution to the Falklands dispute. Britain entered into negotiations mainly to comply with this.

New documents reveal this was done although the British Government had no doubts over its sovereignty, but wanted to satisfy the UN and Argentina. Negotiations were carried on in secret and Islanders kept in the dark.

Communications a problem

Argentina also wanted communications with the Falklands to get a foothold there, but would not make an agreement over this without the MOU first. It feared that otherwise Argentine ships and planes visiting the Falklands would imply recognition of British sovereignty. At the time, Argentine ships wouldn't enter the Falklands at all - to avoid flying courtesy flags. But Britain argued that communications at the same time as the MOU would be too big a shock for the Islanders and wanted these established first, so Islanders could get used to contact with Argentina. Sadly, one FO idea - that illustrates the depths it was prepared to stoop - was to sign the MOU secretly and then only publish it dated to coincide with a later communications agreement!

Yet another Argentine objective was to get "Freedom of Settlement" incorporated into the MOU - to allow Argentines to flood into the Islands. Britain rejected this completely.

Islander Consent - and the "Unilateral Statement"

The biggest stumbling block was Britain's wish that any MOU should say that Islanders must consent to any transfer of sovereignty. Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, was adamant about this, and Parliament was told several times. This was bitterly opposed by Argentina. Their insistence and British weakness got it removed from the draft memorandum - but not from British policy. So the MOU itself just said that Britain had to be satisfied with the Argentine "safeguards and guarantees" to secure the Islanders' interests. But to put Islander approval back Britain planned to publish a "Unilateral Statement" at the same time as the MOU stating it would not cede sovereignty without Islander consent.

Governor Sir Cosmo Haskard was deeply troubled by

what he knew to be going on - but was not allowed to reveal to the Islanders. He warned of the disgust locally that HMG should think of cession of sovereignty under any circumstances, and that no change was acceptable.

He was right too. When authorised to tell just the Councillors, in July 1967, the reaction was absolute horror. Sir Cosmo became so concerned about what was going on that he went to London in February 1968 to speak to everyone he could to put the Islanders' point of view - to no avail.

When he got back and revealed what he was allowed to, there was more horror. Councillors broke their oaths of secrecy and went public with the broadsheet (Left) to every MP.

Sadly, the FO had only skulduggery to offer. A suggestion to Sir Cosmo was: "You might well suggest indirectly that the broadsheet by making difficulties for Government in Parliament may not contribute to a solution to the problem or be in their best interests". Sir Cosmo did nothing of the kind. Instead he asked for a Minister to visit - to see local reaction for himself. But the FO didn't want this until the MOU was agreed. Islanders wanted the Queen to come on her planned Latin-American tour - but both Argentina and the Falklands were deliberately left out.

Chalfont Visit

In the end, Lord Chalfont came, in late November 1968. His visit had been intended to coincide with publication of the MOU. But Cabinet concerns to raise the status of the Unilateral Statement by linking it to the MOU had delayed this (and had not in the end been accepted by the Argentines). So Chalfont came to explain the MOU to the Council - but not to be persuaded against it. The Council objected in the strongest terms, but its ominous clauses were basically a fait accompli.

In fact, a final decision on the MOU had not been taken - as the Foreign Secretary was on his way to India. But Lord Chalfont, although anticipating problems in Parliament and the Cabinet, thought it should be signed. Ordinary Islanders were still kept completely in the dark, but learned

about it from the journalists who accompanied Lord Chalfont.

No Transfer Without Consent

Lord Chalfont assured the Council that sovereignty would not be ceded without their consent. He stressed that the MOU would be published together with the Unilateral Statement which would say this. He assured a disbelieving Council that this Unilateral Statement had equal weight to the MOU itself. He carefully explained that safeguards would guarantee the use of English, property and religious rights, etc.

Chalfont says in his report that the Islanders "may one day be prepared to choose Argentine sovereignty". He goes on to say "We must at all costs avoid giving the Islanders the impression that we want to get rid of them, since that would set up the reaction we want to avoid".



Stanley,
Falkland Islands.
27th February 1968.

To :
And all other Members of Parliament.

From : Unofficial Members of Falkland Islands Executive Council
(A. G. Barton - R. V. Goss - S. Miller - G. C. R. Bonner)

ARE YOU AWARE THAT —

Negotiations are now proceeding between the British and Argentine Governments which may result at any moment in the handing-over of the Falkland Islands to The Argentine.

TAKE NOTE THAT —

The Inhabitants of the Islands have never yet been consulted regarding their future — they do NOT want to become Argentines — they are as British as you are, mostly of English and Scottish ancestry, even to the 6th generation — five out of six were born in the Islands — many elderly people have never been elsewhere — there is no racial problem — no unemployment — no poverty, AND WE ARE NOT IN DEBT.

ARE YOU AWARE THAT —

The people of these Islands do not wish to submit to a Foreign Language, Law, Customs, and Culture because for 133 years they have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life, a very British way of life, unique in fact, when you consider that the Islands are 8000 miles from the Country which they still call "Home" in spite of the Immigration Act.

Lord Caradon said to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1965 "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and their interests are paramount and we shall do our duty in protecting them". British Ministers have said the same until 1967 since when there has been silence.

QUESTIONS —

Is our tiny community to be used as a pawn in Power Politics ?
Do you not feel ashamed that this wicked thing may suddenly be laid on us ?
What can you do to prevent it ? What are you doing ?

WE NEED YOUR HELP !

Profile A Wise Governor and Falklands Champion

A key figure in frustrating a possible Falklands handover to Argentina in 1968 was Sir Cosmo Haskard, KCMG, whom the Islanders were fortunate to have as Governor.

As well as representing the Sovereign, which was easy as he found the Falklands extremely loyal, he considered it his duty to pass Islanders' views to London as well as explaining UK policy to them. His wise handling of the explosive circumstances won him the respect and friendship of many Islanders. He regarded the MOU as ludicrous because of its incompatible aims of considering ceding sovereignty while trying to meet Islanders' wishes.

While Islanders maintain a healthy suspicion of the Foreign Office, Cosmo Haskard was from the old school of experienced colonial administrators, as was a later governor and champion of the Falklands, Sir Rex Hunt. Both began their careers in Africa, where Sir Cosmo spent many years. The Falklands were therefore a surprising switch of scene.

Even as the Haskards were on their way to their new outpost, an Argentine nationalist landed his aircraft illegally, and planted an Argentine flag. It was 1964, and a shock start to Sir Cosmo's six year stint, which exactly paralleled Lord

Chalfont wanted to break down what he called "fossilised attitudes". He singled out A.G.Barton for criticism as "all but irredeemably reactionary" in his attitude towards Argentina. Chalfont thought this was due to lack of contact with Argentina among the Islanders. As retired manager of the FIC, Barton had deployed his skills well. Chalfont complained that Barton and Sid Miller communicated by phone with the Falklands Emergency Committee nearly every day.

But history has proved the Islanders right. Argentina was again a military dictatorship in 1968, under the murderous General Onganía. It was in chaos then, as it is now. Lord Chalfont saw evidence of this himself. During his visit, Argentine newspaper *Cronica* landed a light plane illegally on a Falklands road, demanded an interview with him, and published hysterical stories for a week about British "Pirates".

Misgivings and Opposition

But Sir Michael Creswell, British Ambassador in Buenos Aires, could see the risks. He had warned earlier that there might be friction with Argentina if Islanders simply refused to contemplate any change of status, or cooperate in any process leading to integration with Argentina and that Argentina might be unable to accept that the process of change would, in any case, be a slow one - the Argentine military junta wanted progress fast. He believed too that there was a basic inconsistency between the MOU and the "Unilateral Statement".

Opposition came from the Falklands Emergency Committee that lobbied so successfully. The All Party Parliamentary Group, which included a number of Labour MPs, was even more important - as was the Conservative Opposition.

Last, but not least, the Falklands were lucky to have Sir Cosmo Haskard from the Colonial Service - not the FO. He had grown up with traditions of service to colonial subjects. FO influence became more common in subsequent governors. Some might not have represented the Islanders so well.

How it Failed - Consent Paramount

On his way back from the Falklands Lord Chalfont met Argentine Foreign Minister Costa Mendez in Buenos Aires. Costa Mendez told him that although he liked the MOU, Argentina would not sign it, if Britain were to promptly "cancel

Chalfont's time as Foreign Office Minister.

The two men had much in common. Of the same generation, both served as officers in East Africa and Burma in the 1939-45 war. Sir Cosmo was a major and got a military MBE before taking up his colonial career in 1946. Chalfont continued in the army becoming a colonel with a military OBE until appointed Times Military Correspondent, then a Foreign Office Minister. On sovereignty, the two men had marked differences.

Sir Cosmo, now 85, fit and happily retired in Ireland with his wife, continues to support the Islanders as a distinguished Vice-President of the Falkland Islands Association. He and his wife still keep in touch with their Falklands friends. **HWB**



it out" by the planned Unilateral Statement to Parliament promising not to transfer sovereignty without Islander consent. Lord Chalfont replied that the MOU would be unacceptable to Parliament without this.

Two days later, Costa Mendez said publicly: "An agreement with Britain would only be signed if... it included recognition of Argentine sovereignty. **It could not provide for recognition of sovereignty being made subject to an expression of will of the inhabitants**". A message followed that Argentina would not sign unless Britain agreed with Argentina on what its Unilateral Statement to Parliament might say! Finally, Sir Michael Creswell reported that Argentina would not sign unless its sovereignty were recognised "virtually unconditionally".

This was not just a last minute Argentine challenge to the promise made to the Islanders. The Government was also using this promise to rebut very serious Parliamentary and press criticism of the negotiations as a whole. The end came on December 11th. Harold Wilson's Cabinet rejected the MOU unless the Islander consent in the Unilateral Statement were explicitly incorporated in the MOU itself - or were explicitly linked to it.

The MOU was over. But Argentina came back with a proposal for links with the Falklands in April 1969 - without any precondition over sovereignty. This led to the 1971 Communications Agreement.

In hindsight, we can all see it for the disaster it was. Lord Chalfont had assured the Council that the MOU was not a binding agreement to cede sovereignty - but just to consider this, if the safeguards were considered satisfactory, and the Islanders consented. This was the opinion of Government legal advisers too. This was politically naive, especially with such an unstable and aggressive country as Argentina. By contrast, Sir Cosmo could see it as the irrevocable step it would have been - and that there was no chance of getting genuine consent from the Islanders. The two concepts were irreconcilable. Worst of all, it had all been done in near total secrecy.

The Daily Express, which had exposed much of the process, called it "**one of the most squalid and discreditable chapters in British history**". The Sunday Times called the Argentine claim ludicrous. But the Argentines had been led to believe that they could get what they wanted. We all know the result. **PJP**

20th Anniversary & SAMA-82 Pilgrimage

There will be two separate visits to the Falklands this year to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the war. In June, official guests invited by the Falklands Government will visit for the anniversary of the liberation from the Argentines. They had not been named when the Newsletter went to Press.

In November, there will be a pilgrimage by some 190 members of SAMA-82. Denzil Connick and Tony Davis made a reconnaissance to Stanley at the end of last year to plan this - and returned full of enthusiasm. In a radio phone-in, many Stanley families pledged accommodation for the veterans - and a register of these has been set up. So has a local bank account for contributions to SAMA-82 which is now a Registered Charity in the Falklands. Terry Peck, Norman Clark, Jock Elliot, and others are organising this and unused holiday credits with the Falklands Government scheme can be dedicated to this.

The visit in November will coincide with Remembrance Day, and there will be a service then at Blue Beach Cemetery and in the Cathedral - and, if possible, at sea where HMS Sheffield lies, to make sure that those who have no grave but the sea are not overlooked. A number of battlefield visits are planned then too, the details of which are not yet available.

SAMA-82 now celebrates Remembrance Day as a group and photographs of them at Remembrance Day last year are shown opposite.

Above Right: SAMA-82 veterans parade for Remembrance Day at Whitehall

Right: Tony Davis, Miss Sukey Cameron and Denzil Connick on Remembrance Day.



Obituaries: We regret to record the deaths of several well-known Falkland personalities during the past few months:

Emma Steen 1921-2001: Born Emma Jane Burns at North Arm, she married Robert Steen in 1945. After recovering from tuberculosis, she opened Emma's Guest House in Stanley in 1978. She is survived by her two children, Vernon and Yvonne, 11 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren. She was known as a woman of courage and determination who helped many people in a quiet way.

Adeline Jane Smith 1911-2001: Ada Smith spent her early years at Cape Orford, Port Stephens, and lived for many years on Long Island with her first husband, Keith McGill, and her three children, and at Fox Bay West and East with her second husband, Andy Smith. She lived for a time in New Zealand and Southampton, returning to Stanley in 1987. Her friends knew her as a caring, kind calm lady.

Leslie John Halliday, 1928-2001: Les Halliday was born in Stanley and had a distinguished 47-year career in Falklands Government service. Convalescing from tuberculosis, he fell in love with one of his nurses, Peggy McLeod, and married her. He became Collector of Customs, Harbour Master and was in charge of Agriculture, which later became a separate department. He was a much respected head of Customs with a heavy workload after the 1982 War, retiring in 1991. An active church worker, he was a long-serving warden and committee member of Christ Church Cathedral. He nursed Peggy through a long illness. After her death, he was on holiday in Scotland when he met his second wife, Agnes McDonald, and tragically died only 14 days after their marriage.

Tom Gilruth 1910-2001: Born in Scotland, he emigrated to the Falklands as a Falkland Islands Company farm cadet at Fitzroy, aged 20. He became Camp Manager of all FIC farms, then an FIC Director, served on Legislative Council for 12 years, was a Justice of the Peace and was awarded the OBE. He died in Scotland and is survived by his five children.

William Duncan, 1918-2001: Billy Duncan, a man of many talents, was born at Port Stephens, and had a busy and varied life, working on farms, in the crews of RMS Fitzroy and MV Forest, the British Antarctic Survey, the Falkland Islands Government and was self-employed for many years. During his sea-going career, he took part in 1944 in the secret wartime Operation Tabarin in the Antarctic to thwart German military intrusion. Billy is survived by his wife, Reen, whom he married in 1947, his daughter, and four grandchildren.

Joe Short, 1926-2001: Joe Short was born on Saunders Island and worked most of his life on farms then as a handyman in Stanley. His hobbies included a love of country music, making horse-gear and rug-making. He is survived by his wife, Teen, his son and two grandsons.

Jim Clement 1911-2001: James Turner Clement was born at Roy Cove and died in Wiltshire after a long retirement. He was educated in Britain, worked on various farms, and was in air sea rescue from 1940 to 1945 as an RAF sergeant in Britain and India. He was farm manager at Fitzroy, served on the Legislative Council for seven years, and was secretary of the Sheepowners' Association. He is survived by his wife, three children, four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. His ashes were scattered at Roy Cove, the place of his birth.

Good wishes to retiring Aviation Director

Many tributes have deservedly been paid to Gerald Cheek who retired this December after a unique and sometimes traumatic career as Falklands Director of Aviation and 45 years in Falklands Government service.

What other Aviation Director anywhere would be out all night in uniform attempting to resist an invasion — as Gerald did as a sergeant in the Falklands Islands Defence Force in 1982 — then go to his normally quiet airport next morning and find it overrun with Argentine invaders?

Gerald describes how he felt. "I was understandably pretty upset after the night with the FIDF... There were Hercules aircraft and F28s coming in.. it was very busy with soldiers all over the place".

He strode over to the Argentine Vice Commodore Gilbert, previously stationed in the Islands before the invasion, and sarcastically said: "I would like to shake your hand. You must be a proud man. You have taken my country away from me today". The Argentine was very angry but so was Gerald, normally the most courteous and friendly of men.

Gerald, with several other Islanders regarded as potentially troublesome subversives, was interned at Fox Bay throughout the conflict. They were understandably apprehensive. "We thought we were going to be put on a Hercules and disappear to Argentina, and maybe disappear altogether", he said. They carried on a psychological campaign against their captors, insisting on driving on the left in defiance of an Argentine order to keep to the right.

The conflict left Stanley Airport in a shambles, with extensive bomb damage and a cratered runway, but the

Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS) was operating again within a few months, with the airport under RAF control until 1986 after the new Mount Pleasant military complex opened. It has provided a valuable, efficient service ever since, as it did previously, thanks in no small measure to Gerald and FIGAS Director Vernon Steen.

Gerald was a qualified electrician until he trained to become an Air Traffic Controller in 1977, and within three years was appointed to the top job as Director of Civil Aviation in 1980. He ran the whole operation — the airport, FIGAS and flight scheduling of two Beaver float planes and an Islander aircraft, all destroyed in 1982. The duties were later split

because it was decided the regulator could not also run the airline. Gerald continued to be responsible for Stanley Airport, licensing pilots and engineers, and regulating FIGAS, British Antarctic Survey aircraft, and 30 Falklands airstrips, up from only six originally.

FIGAS has developed into a seven-days a week service wherever and whenever passengers want to go, a unique "taxi of the air" for both tourists and Islanders, mitigating the

isolation of the farmsteads and enhancing Islanders' mobility and way of life. Gerald Cheek can take pride in these achievements as he hands over to his successor, Andrew Newman.

Alongside his aviation career, Gerald is a respected pillar of the community, a proud, enthusiastic part-time soldier and officer in FIDF — always the smartest man on parade — and a much valued member of our Falkland Islands Association on its Stanley Committee. We happily add our tribute for a job very well done and our best wishes for the future. **HWB**



Former Education Director Joins Shackleton Committee

Former Falklands Director of Education, Dr. David Langridge, has been voted on to the Shackleton Scholarship London Committee, at the suggestion of Chairman, Mr David Tatham.

After a distinguished career as a teacher, headmaster, lecturer and four years as Falklands Education Director, he brings to the task valuable expertise and academic contacts, as well as recent knowledge of Falklands students at home and in Britain. Dr. Langridge, 61, has a clutch of degrees - PhD, MA, MSc, and H. DipEd, specialising in geography and education. He is married with three daughters and lists his interests as Rotary, walking, theatre, music and travel. He has also joined the Falkland Islands Association.

In an interview with the Newsletter, Dr. Langridge expressed delight with the high standards achieved in recent years by Falklands students, both "A" level results at Peter Symonds School, and with degrees.

He modestly disclaims credit for graduates' achievements during his tenure, saying that the foundations were laid beforehand. "There has been huge success", he says, pointing out how many students have gone on to higher education.

He has praise for educational standards and the happy

atmosphere at Peter Symonds and for Falklands government financial support of its students and for its school-building programme. "It is extremely generous. I have never seen anything like it", he says, having experienced chronic education cuts under successive UK governments. "It's not just a blank cheque in the Falklands but funding is available if you have ideas you can justify. Those children are very fortunate".

Prior to returning from the Falklands in June, he also helped out with education in Ascension Island. He is not surprised so many qualified students wish to go back to the Falklands and its unique way of life. He and his wife enjoyed their time there in what they found an attractive environment as his wife, Mrs Pat Langridge, explained. "I miss the peace and the friendships", she says. "I sometimes wish I had never come back!"

Although a teacher all her life, the Falklands gave her an opportunity for the first time to do "distance-teaching" of youngsters in the farmsteads. "It was a wonderful, rewarding experience", she said. "The pupils aged only five are very confident on the telephone. They have very good knowledge of world affairs. Even very young children know a lot more than they do in the UK". **HWB**



Falklands Chapel Appeal

Commander of the 1982 Task Force, Admiral Sir John "Sandy" Woodward, has issued an appeal for memorabilia of the war for an auction to raise funds for maintenance of the Falklands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne. The Memorial Chapel Committee hope that many of those who served in the campaign will be willing to donate memorabilia. They hope to hear from anyone wishing to pledge an item before the end of March. The date and venue of the auction will be announced later.

Sir Sandy's sword for Falklands Chapel auction

Admiral Woodward has pledged to donate one of his swords and some oil paintings. He says other items could include pictures, photographs, maps and charts, ensigns or relevant bits and pieces.

The Memorial Chapel, opened by the Queen in 2000, will be the venue for several events marking the twentieth anniversary of the war. The principal memorial service is on Sunday June 16th. There will be a Festival of Flowers from May 17th to 19th. This was a great success in 2000. Admiral Woodward and the Rev David Cooper (Chaplain to 2-Para in 1982) will give a lecture entitled "20 Years On - Reflections on the Falklands War" on May 17th at 6.30 in the chapel. Tickets, to include drinks and canapes, will be £10, with proceeds to the chapel.



A book, "Just To See His Name" has been produced telling the story of the chapel from idea to fruition by Anthony Hudson, who was Headmaster of Pangbourne College during the project. It will cost £7.50, again to raise funds for the chapel. A 15 minute video has also been compiled from clips of events that have taken place in the chapel, with a voice over by Colin Baker (Dr. Who), for a suggested donation of £5 plus £1 p&p.

Anyone who can offer items for the auction or who wishes to attend any of the above functions should contact the Secretary to the Trustees, Mrs J. Perry, 2 Soden Road, Heyford Park, Upper Heyford, Oxon, OX25 5LR. Telephone: 01869-233092 Fax: 01869 233382

"War Within"

"War Within" opened in September at the Quay Arts Centre, Newport, Isle of Wight, and featured prominently in this month's issue of Camcorder User.

Actor Terry Stack plays the role of a Falklands veteran struggling to recover from the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, as he tries to reintegrate into peacetime life.

War Within is a "no budget" film largely dependent on people giving their time without charge. SAMA-82 founder, Denzil Connick, advised the film makers throughout the production and checked the script. He attended the launch and told the Newsletter that it was a



Dan Tucker, writer, director and co-producer and Chris Taylor co-producer.



Above: Sukey Cameron, Mike Williams (SAMA) and Denzil Connick at the opening on the Isle of Wight.

splendid job about a difficult subject, especially as the film makers and young actors had no direct experience of war themselves. He was impressed by the way it described the realities experienced by some people after the trauma of war, and told the Newsletter that it should be shown to service families so that they can understand how wartime experience can affect people.

The writer, director and co-producer is Dan Tucker, who worked with co-producer Chris Taylor. They are hoping to develop the film into a full length feature. Enquiries to: Asylum Motion Picture Co., 20 Simeon Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 1JG. 01983-563138.

Ultimate Trek for Diabetics

To make the point that diabetes sufferers may still enjoy a full life, four insulin dependent diabetics will trek to the South Pole this year, starting at Hercules Inlet (near Halley Bay). Four more trekkers will join at 88 degrees south. The expedition is a joint US/British effort. The leader is Will Cross, who was born in Britain but now lives in the US, and who has already trekked to the North Pole. The team will "man-haul" sledges and research various aspects of how diabetes affects them under such strenuous conditions.

The expedition is supported by the British Diabetic Association and organisers are appealing for sponsorship, and may be reached in the UK through Group-Captain Mike Cross, 15 Manor St., Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 9EL, who is Will Cross's father. More information may be obtained from their website: www.curewalk.com.



Above: Expedition leader, Will Cross, photographed with his wife, Amey. In the background is the James Caird, Shackleton's famous boat.

Book Review: "Go-for-it Gurr" and A Little Piece of England

"A Little Piece of England", published by John Blake Publishing Ltd, 3 Bramber Court, 2 Bramber Road, London W 14 9PB. Hardback, 290 pages ISBN 1-903402-379. Price £16.99.

When Andrew Gurr hesitated over a newspaper advertisement for Chief Executive of a place he knew nothing about, his wife, Jean, urged him to "Go for it!". Out of 250 applicants, he got the job of running "one of the smallest governments and most democratic places" in the world: the Falkland Islands.

Andrew Gurr, 50 when he took the job, unfolds his experiences in this very readable, witty book, spanning a fascinating five years in which he describes the serious business of government, legislating for oil exploration and handling the frenzied media reaction, and dealing with divisions and dissent arising from the agreement to end the ban on Argentine visitors.

His first major impressions were of warm, friendly Islanders and beautiful scenery of "infinite variety", alternating between "captivating tranquillity" and surging seas whipped up by storm-force winds.

He admits to becoming "wild about the wildlife" and the pristine environment, stressing its "prime importance". He was also fascinated by the military, with their "clipped acronyms" and admired their professionalism. Their relations with Islanders were "superb", based on "enormous goodwill".

He is at his best writing with deprecating modesty and descriptive flair about his own predicaments and the superiority of the resourceful, self-reliant Islanders over expatriate professionals. With their "many and varied inadequacies", expatriates were classed by Islanders as "Mercenaries, Misfits or Missionaries". Andrew Gurr would add "adventurers".

An early adventure was off-road driving and "getting



bogged" in the peaty terrain to be repeatedly rescued by Islanders such as Tony Heathman of Estancia, a farmer with "a caustic wit and heart of gold". Getting bogged produced more stories among expatriates than golf or fishing.

He was on the losing end in many a challenging and sometimes hilarious confrontation, as at the West Falklands sports in a greasy pole, pillow fighting contest with the Governor David Tatham, a normally "mild-mannered, immensely likeable" man but "venomous" in this no-holds game, wearing moleskin-trousers which gave him the advantage of a "vice-like velcro grip".

Pontificating about sheep, Gurr is challenged to shear what turned out to be the "first ever super sheep, a brutish unruly specimen". To the delight of the locals, his ineffectual efforts turned the sheep and himself into a laughing stock, an incident forever ingrained in his memory — and in the sheep's.

In encounters with the media, his secret weapon when organising a visit by Prince Charles was leaving them half a bottle of whisky on their beds. He found the fiercely patriotic head of broadcasting, Patrick Watts, a warm-hearted character but "gritty" interviewer with a unique brand of courage, famously

awkward with the Argentines and maintaining "the ability to be awkward well beyond the war".

Andrew reveals his affection for the Falklands which, he says, are like nowhere else on earth. His book is a pleasurable introduction to those new to the Islands and a nostalgic read for kindred souls who know and love the place and its people. It is generously illustrated with his own excellent pictures, sadly in black and white when they would have been superb in colour.

HWB

Pesca: A pioneer company in Antarctic whaling

Pesca by Ian Hart, published by Aidan Ellis Publishing, Whinfield, Herbert Road, Salcombe, Devon, UK, TQ8 8HN in 2001. Hardback, 550 pages. Foreword by Alexandra Shackleton. Many black and white photographs, maps and graphs. ISBN 0 85628 299 5. Price £45.

The establishment of the whaling industry in the Antarctic and South Atlantic owes much to one company, Compania Argentina de Pesca Sociedad Anonima of Buenos Aires, universally known as "Pesca". Its story has now been written for the first time by Ian B. Hart, who helped to establish the South Georgia Museum and was its first archivist and creator.

His knowledge of the region stretches back forty years to when he worked on a Danish ship, at the age of 18. His first-hand experience is reinforced by voluminous detailed research distilled into a book of unique scholarship which fills a void in the history of 20th century whaling.

It is the story not just of one company but of much of the whaling industry and of political argument and intrigue, involving Argentina, Britain, Norway, and South Georgia's sovereignty and colonial background. Its main focus is on the vast scope of the whaling and sealing industry from its earliest to its most frenetic years and its decline, from 1904 to 1962. The broad sweep of its narrative covers the commercial enterprise and harsh conditions of work in stormy seas and bitter cold, the men and ships involved, and how man's insatiable greed led to wholesale slaughter and near extinction.

The statistics are staggering. This one company caught nearly 54,000 whales, from which it processed more than 450,000 tons of oil and over 190,000 tons of meat meal and guano. Yet this represented less than four per cent of the total Antarctic whale catch. Pesca also caught more than 260,000 seals, from which it processed 83,000 tons of oil. It was the only Antarctic whaling company to operate without a break throughout the two world wars, supplying vital products towards Britain's war effort.

Not content with this weighty book, Ian Hart is seeking support for his ambitions to produce a companion volume "A History of the Whaling Industry in the Falkland Islands Dependencies, 1905 to 1931".

Harold Briley

Shackleton's Photographer

Frank Hurley's Annotated Diaries - On CD

A well put together electronic book by Shane Murphy. Only available from his website www.frankhurley.com.

The CD contains Frank Hurley's diary, 200 of his remarkable pictures, many of Hurley's drawings, a major bibliography - and the observations of a dozen other expedition members. It costs \$29.95.

Available for both PC and Mackintosh computer users. Mr. Murphy recommends a 19" monitor, but I enjoyed the display immensely on a 15" screen.

PJP

"Save the Albatross" Appeal

An appeal has gone out from the Falklands for an international campaign to halt the drastic decline in the world's biggest population of black-browed albatross caused by modern fishing methods. Falklands Conservation, has issued a warning that the albatross is rapidly becoming a global "vulnerable" species. Its research suggests a dramatic decrease in Falklands breeding pairs of this beautiful bird, down 76,000 from 458,000 in 1995 to 382,000 now. The most staggering decline of 41,200 has occurred at the largest albatross colony, on Steeple Jason Island. These figures confirm fears raised last year by a survey of the second largest breeding site on Beauchene Island.

Albatross are especially vulnerable to long line fishing, when they seize the bait, get hooked, dragged underwater, and drowned. Large-scale fishing also competes for their food.

Falklands Conservation needs another £10,000 to continue its 20-month long investigation, backed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and to promote measures to halt the decline. The Falklands fishery is one of the best managed in the world with a responsible attitude to seabirds. But there is no control when birds fly far out to sea and fall victim to unregulated longliners. Albatross specialist, Dr. Nick Huin, says international co-operation is required to control widescale pirate fishing and promote mitigation measures.

Donations may be made to: Falklands Conservation, 1 Princes Avenue, London, N3 2DA. Tel/fax: 020 8343 0831

Falklands Exhibitions

The following exhibitions will be held at the newly refurbished Falkland Islands Government Office showcase, 14 Broadway, London, SW1H 0BH.

Photographs of the Falkland Islands.

By Nigel Hawkes from January 28th to April 12th.

Paintings of the Falkland Islands.

By David McEwen. From April 16th to July 15th

Tony Nelson

It is with sadness that we report the death of a good friend of the Falklands, Tony Nelson.

Tony grew up at Neston in the Wirrall. After National Service in the Royal Norfolk Regiment, Tony went to the Falklands as a camp teacher in early 1957. He taught in North Camp - at such farms as Douglas Station, Horseshoe Bay and Green Patch - for three years. He left in April 1960 and went to work for Penguin Books.

When he was in the Falklands, Tony met Robin Woods, then writing his first book on Falklands birds and plants, which was subsequently turned down by several publishers who thought the Islands too little known in Britain for the book to be economic. So when Tony went into the publishing business on his own, Robin's book, "Birds of the Falkland Islands" was the first he published, in 1975.

Tony went on to publish more books on Falklands birds in 1982, '88. In 1997, he published the "Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Falklands". As a result of this Tony came into contact with people interested in Ascension, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha and was influential in promoting literature on the South



Book Review - An Unsung Hero

An Unsung Hero, Tom Crean - Antarctic Survivor by Michael Smith published in Britain by Headline Book Publishing, 388 Euston Road, London, NW1 3BH, Hardback with many plates. ISBN 0 7472 5357 9. Price £20.

This is a fine book about Tom Crean, the man who accompanied Scott and Shackleton on most of their famous expeditions. It provides considerable insight into unknown aspects of these.

Tom Crean was of humble origins in County Kerry, Ireland, and the book describes how his career as a lower deck man in the Royal Navy developed into Antarctic exploration. It gives readers an interesting insight into the social structure of the times in the Navy - and in Ireland in the lead up to the "troubles".

It describes how Crean's qualities made him a popular and respected member of these expeditions - and much in demand by expedition leaders. They knew, only too well, how an expedition depends, not just on leaders who make headlines, but on loyal and dependable footsoldiers too. Crean was one such, and his strength and physical endurance made him all the more valuable.

For me, two episodes stand out. Crean's perilous solo trek to bring aid to the crippled Lieutenant Evans through crevassed country, where there was no hope of rescue if he had fallen in or had been injured. Lieutenant Evans (later Evans of the Brooke) undoubtedly owed his life to Crean. Next, of course, must be Crean's part in Shackleton's incredible voyage to South Georgia in 1916 to bring rescue to his men marooned on Elephant Island, and their subsequent, and equally perilous, crossing of the mountains of South Georgia.

To Antarctic enthusiasts Tom Crean is not an unsung hero. His name and qualities were known before. But Michael Smith's book is a worthy tribute to this fine man. It brings his personal story together - and ensures it for posterity. It is already a best seller in Ireland. **PJP**

Atlantic Islands. He also published "Of Ice and Men" Vivian Fuch's book about the Falkland Islands Dependency Survey - later the British Antarctic Survey. In 2001, he published Mary Cawkell's "History of the Falkland Islands" and the "Falklands I Knew" by Howell Evans, a former Government House Head Gardener who was born in the Falklands in 1915 and worked there until 1946.

Robin Woods told the Newsletter: "He had major connections with the Falklands. Without him we would have lacked several important books about the Islands"... "He was my friend for 45 years. After he was diagnosed with cancer early in 2001, he endured several months of treatment. My wife, Anne, and I visited him in September and though he was very ill, he was still cheerful. He was always enthusiastic about the Falklands and wished that he could have returned. I and other people who knew him will miss his warm friendship".

Tony was also an active member of the Falklands political lobby. When his son, Sean, visited the Islands in 1983 as a Royal Marine, he met several of his father's former pupils.

Tony died on January 11th, aged 69. His funeral was at his local church in Llanyblodwel, near Oswestry, on January 21st.

The Falkland Islands Association

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The Falkland Islands Association brings together those who support the continuing freedom of the people of the Falkland Islands. Its Constitution states that its objectives are:

“To assist the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves without being subjected to pressure direct or indirect from any quarter”

The Association is independent, but maintains close links with many other Falklands organisations. It is a major source of information about the Falklands. It publishes a newsletter, which all members receive, covering political and social events in the Islands, wildlife, tourism, philately, and many other subjects. It welcomes interest in the Falklands and invites all those who share its aims to become members.

Membership Application

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

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

Name
 Address

 Connection with the Falklands, if any

 Signature
 Date Telephone

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

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Dates For Your Diary

Lincoln's Inn Reception
 Monday 17th June

Battle Day & AGM
 Saturday 7th December

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Full Page £250
 Half Page £125
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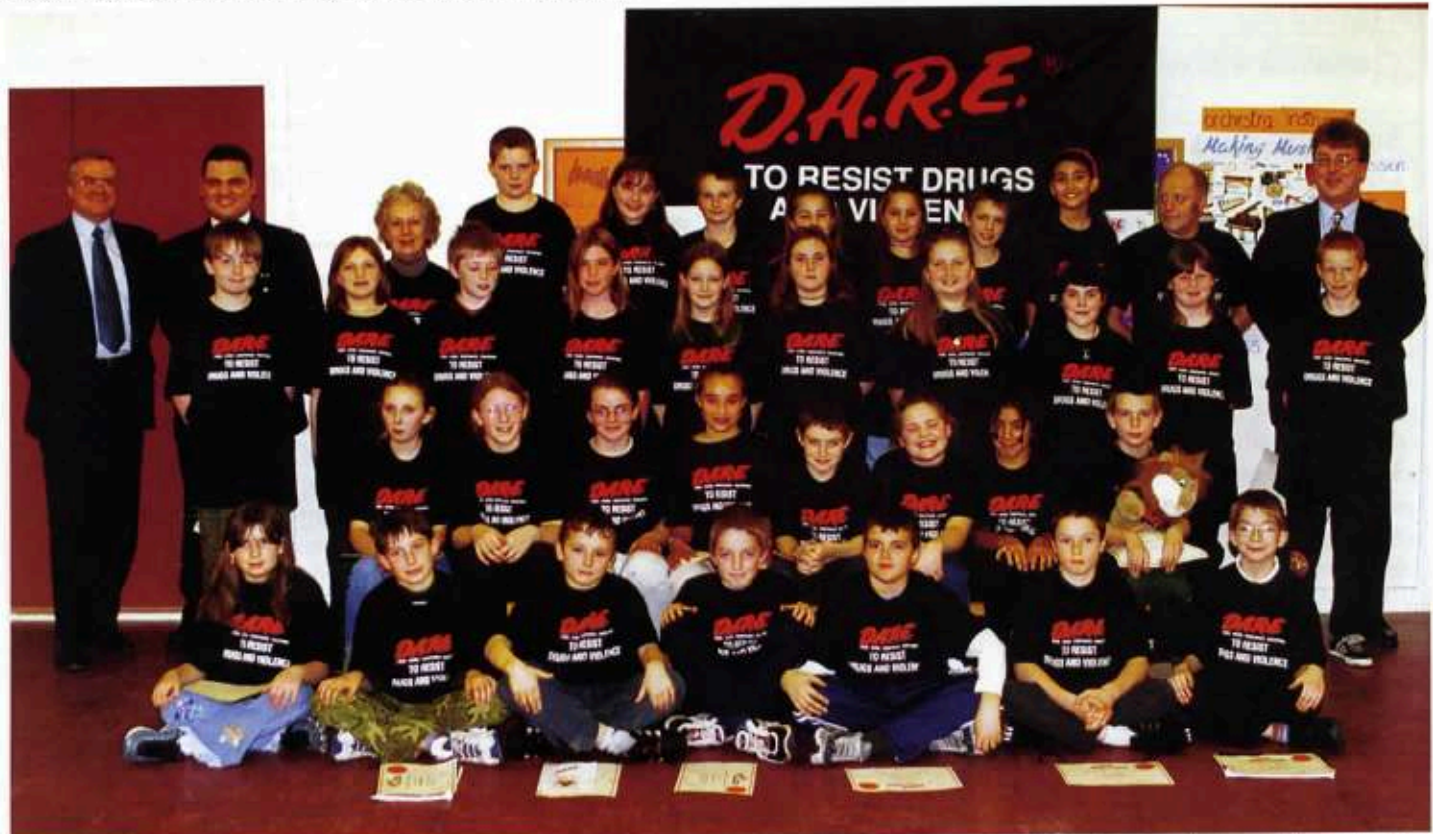
Published by the Falkland Islands Association,
 Douglas House, 16 - 18 Douglas Street,
 Westminster, London, SW1P 4PB
 Telephone: 020-7592-0022, Fax: 020-7592-0033
 ISSN 0262-9399

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Baroness Scotland at the opening of the new Falklands Government Office "Showcase" receiving a copy of "Penguin Planet" from Miss Sukey Cameron, Falklands Representative in London. "Penguin Planet", by American photographer, Kevin Schafer, has magnificent pictures of all 17 species of penguin in the World. His pictures of Falklands Wildlife now decorate the Falklands "Showcase" office in London.



Falklands schoolchildren graduate from the DARE, drug resistance programme. There is no drug problem in the Falklands, but prevention is better than cure and the programme teaches them how to say no to these in other parts of the World, where they are likely to travel sooner or later.

Photo: Courtesy of Norman Clark