



# Falkland Islands

## Newsletter

*Published by the Falkland Islands Association*

### Islands of Stability

The Falklands continue to develop rapidly. A new abattoir has opened to European Union specifications. This allows exports of the Falklands free range beef, mutton and lamb to Europe and supply to cruise liners and maybe the garrison too. New junior school buildings were opened by the Duke of York last year providing what the Falklands Governor called "A splendid modern facility of which any school anywhere would be proud". These reaffirm the Falklands commitment to education. In Stanley, new houses and businesses are springing up all the time. On the harbour front there is a new tourist centre.

As the new Governor, Mr. Howard Pearce, affirmed in his first State of the Nation address: "They are a dynamic, forward-looking and optimistic community.... The Islands' achievements since the conflict are truly remarkable".

Sadly, Argentina continues to pursue its sovereignty claim. Malvinas Day, when Argentina celebrates its invasion, was worse than usual this year. Argentines used it to protest against the war in Iraq and their own economic crisis too.

But the Falklands were not a major issue in the recent Argentine presidential elections - as they have been in the past in times of great domestic difficulty. Only one candidate, Dr. Carlos Menem, emphasised the claim. Probably to please him, an Argentine airline suddenly announced that it would begin flying to the Falklands from Buenos Aires in June - with the new Argentine President on the first flight! This caused alarm in the Falklands, but was rejected categorically by the Councillors and the UK Department of Trade and Industry. Dr. Menem later turned the election into something of a farce by resigning his candidacy at the last moment to avoid a humiliating defeat.

The new Argentine President, Dr. Nestor Kirchner, has said Argentina will maintain its sovereignty claim without wavering. He is a compromise choice from the anti-Menem faction of the Peronist Party. It will probably be all he can do to maintain stability in Argentina. By contrast, the Falklands, with Prime Minister Blair's guarantee of self-determination, and with British sovereignty not negotiable, are Islands of stability.



Falklands War veteran, the Duke of York, leaving the new Infant/Junior School extension in Stanley after opening it last November. In this edition the Newsletter covers the new school and Falklands education in detail. *Photo: Zac Stephenson*

# Baroness Thatcher First Association Patron

The Baroness Thatcher has been appointed Patron of the Falkland Islands Association – a unique honorary post never before offered in the history of the Association. She has expressed delight at the Association's invitation, which comes twenty years after she was given the Freedom of the Falkland Islands, the only individual to be so honoured in appreciation of her leadership in 1982 leading to the liberation of the Falklands from invasion by Argentina.

The decision to invite her to be Patron of the Association was conveyed to her by Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, who as Governor of the Falklands in 1982 established a close personal rapport with the Prime Minister during that traumatic campaign. He told her: "In recognition of all you have done for the Falkland Islands in and since 1982, the Association has asked me to invite you to become our first and only Patron. I do so with the greatest of pleasure".

She replied: "Although in the last year I have been reducing my commitments, I would be delighted to accept this very special honour. Please pass on my thanks and warmest regards to all the members of the Association".

The Association exists to support the people of the Falkland Islands in their wish for self-determination, free from the threat of Argentina's claim to sovereignty. With membership climbing to almost 1,000, the Association recently launched a campaign for new members to strengthen its voice.

Lady Thatcher's agreement to become Patron was announced soon after the death of Argentine General Galtieri who ordered the invasion.

## Revered by Falkland Islanders

Lady Thatcher is revered by Islanders for her courage and determined leadership which resulted in their liberation, and also for the post-war measures which laid the foundation for redevelopment and unprecedented prosperity. Paying tribute to her then, as he records in his memoirs, Sir Rex Hunt remarked: "Thank God for Maggie Thatcher".

In 2002, she figured prominently in the events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Falklands War and remem-

bering the 255 British servicemen who died. It was during these events that she expressed a wish to support the Falkland Islands Association, resulting in her becoming Patron.

Lady Thatcher was particularly gratified that on the 20th anniversary of the Argentine surrender, June 14th, the freedom of the Falklands was bestowed on the Armed Forces as a whole.

## Tribute to Task Force

Though forbidden on medical advice to make public speeches, she paid tribute to the Task Force when she was guest of honour at a lunch on the Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth II, used as a troopship in 1982. She spoke to many of the 1982 veterans at a Gosport parade and service near the Royal Navy base, where she wrote in the programme: "This memorial reminds us of those who fought heroically so that others might regain their freedom, and also reminds us of those who sadly did not return. Though we gather here today to mark their achievements, we do not need physical monuments. In our hearts we shall never forget them".

Lady Thatcher went to Gatwick Airport to convey personal good wishes to more than 200 veterans who returned to the Falklands on a pilgrimage in November, warmly welcomed by Islanders.

Much to Falkland Islanders' regret, she was unable to make the long journey herself with her husband, Sir Denis Thatcher, as they had done for the tenth anniversary in 1992. But she was guest of honour at the annual Falkland Islands Government reception at Lincolns Inn in London, meeting several hundred Association members and other Falklands supporters.

She always said that in her record three terms as Britain's first woman Prime Minister, a period of great challenge and stress both in Britain and abroad, the hardest decision she ever had to make was to send Britain's servicemen to war, knowing that some of them would never return. Despite her public reputation as a tough leader, she is known in private as a person of compassion, and their deaths grieved her greatly.

Lady Thatcher's many honours include some of the highest that the United Kingdom can bestow, the Order of the Garter and the Order of Merit, and others from foreign countries, including the United States, South Africa, and the Czech Republic. But she has a special rapport with the Falkland Islands. She is on record as saying nothing remains more vividly in her mind than the 1982 Campaign.



## Association Meets Minister

The new Foreign Office Minister with responsibility for the Falkland Islands and Latin America, Mr Bill Rammell, has been briefed by a delegation from the Falkland Islands Association, led by former Governor, Sir Rex Hunt.

In an off the record briefing, in the Minister's office in London, the delegation expressed their views about sovereignty, Gibraltar, and fishing issues, and received assurances from the Minister, who hopes to visit the Islands later this year.

Other members of the delegation were Saul Pitaluga (Association Vice-Chairman), Ted Clapp (Treasurer), the honourable Alexandra Shackleton, and Harold Briley.

They also met senior Foreign Office officials who deal with Falklands issues



## Upsurge in Falklands fishing – Illex catch up by 80,000 tons.

Confidence that the Falklands fishery would recover following last year's sensational collapse has been confirmed.

Last years total Illex catch hit an all-time low of just 13,380 tons. Although the Illex season closed on 31st May, two weeks earlier than scheduled, a "most acceptable" total seasonal catch of 103,000 tons has been reported by the Director of Fisheries John Barton (photo right). "It was not as high as some previous years but most encouraging nevertheless" said Mr. Barton. He added, "The results this season will have helped to restore confidence, but we are still facing difficulties. We need additional conservation measures to protect the fishery in the South West Atlantic".



120 vessels were licenced to fish in the Falklands zone this season. Some small refunds to fishing companies will be paid by the Falkland Islands Government, to compensate for the slightly early closure.

A total income of around £12 and half millions represents an acceptable level of revenue for the Falklands Government. The normal annual income from Illex is around £14-15 millions.

'We are closing the season slightly earlier than anticipated so that we can try and ensure with the Argentine fishery, that we have 40,000 tons of Illex remaining in June and July for the spawning stock bio-mass', said John Barton. He stressed

that considerably more effort should be made to ensure the bio-mass remains at an acceptable level for both Countries.

The South Atlantic Fisheries Commission (SAFC), which involves both Argentina and the Falklands, has not met for nearly a year. The Argentine Government called off a meeting planned for last November and which was re-scheduled for earlier this year. 'It is vital that we meet again very soon and that we agree a policy to protect the young Illex squid while it is maturing early in the season. International law allows regional management, and this was reinforced by the 1999 Joint Statement which was signed by the Argentine, British and Falklands Government', said Mr. Barton.

Poaching which was rife in 2000 is now virtually non-existent, since a weapon was placed on a patrol vessel. It was used extensively during the arrest of one vessel.

A planned shortened Loligo (Calamares) season also proved to be quite successful. 18,000 tons of squid was caught by 16 vessels between 1st March and mid-April, representing an income of £4 millions to the Falklands Government. Most of this is sent to Vigo in Spain, and then sold all over Europe.

'We had a better catch rate during the 6 weeks season this year, than we did for the 4 months of last year', said John Barton.

Patrick Watts

## Falklands Oil Exploration

Part of the marketing strategy of the Minerals Department has required the production of industry-friendly promotional material on the opportunities available to companies to explore for hydrocarbons in the South Atlantic.

This new literature was used in March when Dr. Phil Richards, FIG's consultant from the British Geological Survey, and the Director of Mineral Resources, Mrs Phyllis Rendell (Photo Right), gave presentations and held meetings with oil companies in Malaysia on the way to a convention in Australia.

More recently, Phil Richards has promoted Falklands offshore exploration opportunities in Canada and FIG was represented at the annual meeting of the AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists) in Salt Lake City, USA. The department has seen a growing interest in Falklands oil potential which resulted in licences being awarded last year to the Falklands Hydrocarbon Consortium, an Australian led group, for offshore acreage to the Islands that has never been drilled. While working with licensees to market opportunities in all the offshore basins, there are indications that activity could pick up again in the not too distant future.



## Falklands Postcode - FIQQ 1ZZ

To avoid misdirection of mail, the Falklands now has its own postcode: **FIQQ 1ZZ**

Popular misdirections were to the town of Falkirk and, of course, Falkland, in Scotland, from where Viscount Falkland's title came. He was one of the investors in the voyage of the *Welfare* that made the first documented landing in the Islands in 1590 and named Falkland Sound after him. Later Viscount Falkland was First Sea Lord.

Thus the name Falkland is older than "Isles Nouvelles" that French navigators who saw the Islands at the start of the 17th century gave to the Islands. Later, the French geographer De l'Isle changed this to "Isles Malouines" to honour the port of origin of their ships. Despite their claim, the Spanish never had a name of their own for the Islands but used the French name, converting it into Malvinas. As Argentines make a political point of using this name even when speaking in English, it is worth remembering that it is more recent than Falklands.

## Disaster in South Georgia

Three fishing vessels were driven ashore by a freak wind in South Georgia in May. All had entered Cumberland Bay heading for King Edward Point where they were to be inspected and pick up Toothfish licences from the British administrator. Instead, they were all driven aground in Morraine Fjord by an unusually strong and sudden example of South Georgia's katabatic winds.

The *Viking Bay* got off fairly easily and was able to sail to Stanley for a hull inspection and has now returned to South Georgia to fish. But the *Moresko 1* has effectively been abandoned, and its crew left for Cape Town in another vessel the *In Sung 10*. The tug *Typhoon* has attempted to pull the *Lyn* free, so far without success.

The *Lyn*, which is registered in the Falklands, was still stuck aground when the Newsletter went to press. Its engine room is full of water, and it is not known if it can be salvaged. The *Lyn* is owned by Galfishing, part of the Eurofishing group.

## Falklands plea "Let's live as neighbours"

The Falkland Islands Government has called on Argentina's new President, Dr Nestor Kirchner, to initiate an era of cooperation in which the two countries "can live as neighbours" — if only Argentina would drop its sovereignty claim.

These sentiments were expressed by Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, Miss Sukey Cameron, at the annual reception marking the anniversary of the end of the Falklands War. She won applause from several hundred Falklands' supporters including Islanders, politicians, diplomats, men who fought in the 1982 task force, and journalists.

Miss Cameron declared: "We wish the new Argentine President well in his difficult task of restoring the economy of his country. We shall watch with interest the development of his foreign policy. We hope he will take the opportunity to initiate a new era of co-operation with the Falkland Islands based on the recognition of our fundamental right to self-determination and our firm desire to remain British — and drop his country's sovereignty claim. Then we can live as neighbours do".

### Tribute to Task Force bravery

Paying tribute to the Task Force, Sukey Cameron said that without their bravery, the future would have been bleak. The Islanders could not adequately repay the Armed Forces but would strive to secure the Islands' future through increasing self-sufficiency and self-determination.

She said last year — the 20th anniversary of the liberation — the Islanders welcomed back more than 200 members of the South Atlantic Medal Association, which had such a positive effect. They included the Duke of York, whose visit was a memorable climax.

Looking to the future, she said: "We are making progress. Our economy has shown signs of recovery. Fish catches have improved". She welcomed significant development in agriculture and tourism, all of which boded well for Falklands' economic self-sufficiency.

Speaking of Falklands' pride in its education system, she said: "We are encouraged that our young people continue to return to the Islands following tertiary education in Britain. This promises well for our future".

### "Strong Voice in the United Kingdom"

Marking the twentieth anniversary of the Falklands London Office, she thanked her staff and wished success to two of them, Jenny Smith and Debbie Ford, transferring to jobs in the Islands.

"We have all worked together to establish FIGO as a strong voice for the people of the Falkland Islands in the United Kingdom", she said. "Long may our voice continue to be heard".

Miss Cameron was accompanied by the Governor of the Falkland Islands at the time of the 1982 invasion, Sir Rex Hunt.

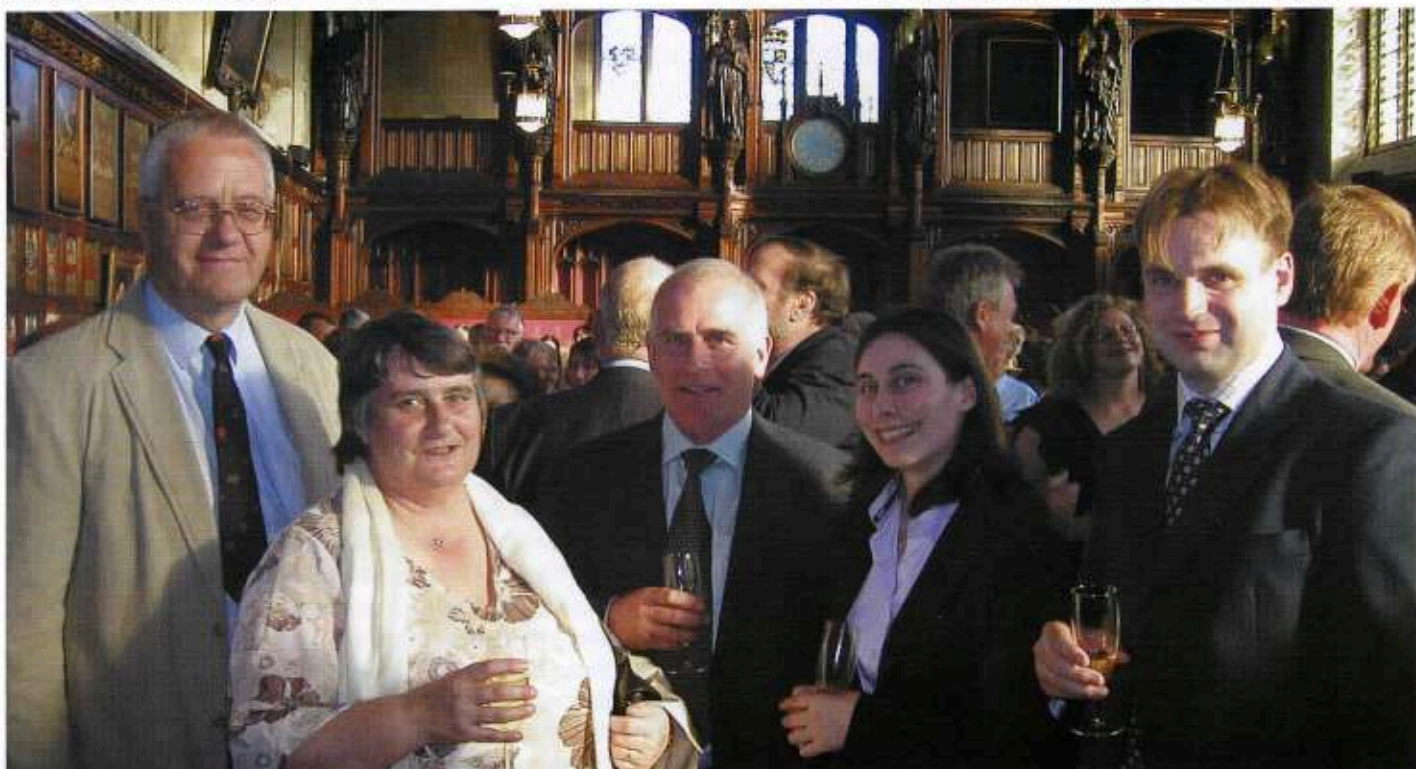
As Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, he sent a loyal greeting to the Queen who replied: "I much appreciate your kind message of loyal greetings sent on behalf of the Falkland Islanders and their friends in the United Kingdom who are attending the annual Falkland Islands reception, which celebrates the 21st anniversary of their liberation which is being held today at Lincoln's Inn. I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing and send my warm good wishes to all those present for an enjoyable occasion".

A toast to the Queen was followed by the Band of the Scots Guards beating retreat on the lawn outside the Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn, their red tunics bathed in the evening sunlight.

The salute was taken by Miss Cameron and Major General Sir Iain Mackay-Dick, who fought in the 1982 war and was later commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands. The most senior commander of the Task Force present was former Commodore Michael Clapp. The Falklands Council was represented by Councillor Richard Cockwell.

HWB

More photographs of the Reception are on page 6.



Former Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Rev. Stephen Palmer, Islanders Caroline and Ken Aldridge with their daughter Nina and her fiancée Nick Sanders at the Lincoln's Inn Reception.

Photo: P.J.Pepper

## Honour for FIGO Representative Sukey Cameron

The work of the Falklands Government Representative in London, Sukey Cameron, has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. She has been awarded an MBE – a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for "public service to the Falkland Islands".

Miss Sukey Cameron is the longest-serving Falkland Islands Representative since the London office was created 20 years ago, in charge for thirteen of those years, pioneering a series of initiatives which have given the Islands what she calls "a strong voice" in Britain.

### Westminster role and recognition

One of her most effective campaigns has been lobbying Members of Parliament at Westminster and at Party Conferences and organising MPs' visits to the Islands to boost their awareness of Islanders' concerns and policies and especially strengthen their support in resisting Argentina's claim to sovereignty.

An "Early Day" Parliamentary motion by MPs Sir Nicholas Winterton and John Austin, congratulating Sukey on her honour, has been supported by other MPs.

Miss Cameron has completed a busy twentieth anniversary year of the London Office, and the 20th anniversary of the 1982 War, with more than 200 veterans visiting the Falklands as members of the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA).

### Vigorous champion of her homeland

She has assisted with the arrangements for several Royal visits, by Prince Charles, the Duke of York, the Princess Royal, and Princess Alexandra. Among other initiatives, she has promoted a successful Falklands Forum business conference, hosted the Annual Receptions, and participated in agricultural shows and other exhibitions.

She has also modernised the London office to make it a more attractive place to project the Falklands. In a tribute to her staff, she says: "They pride themselves on the central role they play in changing people's attitudes and perceptions of the Islands as well as strengthening understanding of the Islands' way of life and our place in UK history and culture".



Photo: David Mansell

She previously helped to run the Falkland Islands Association in London. She has been an influential founder and leader of the Overseas Territories Association. (See Note)

Sukey Cameron is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs Norman Cameron who settled and farmed in the Falklands at Port San Carlos and grand-daughter of Sir Herbert Henniker Heaton, who was Colonial Secretary and later Governor of the Falkland Islands. Sukey's sister, Jane, is the Falklands Archivist. Her brother, Alastair, who had also been London Representative and Director of Fisheries, was killed in a road accident in the Falklands.

Falkland Islands Governor in 1982, now Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, Sir Rex Hunt, paid the tribute to her below. **Harold Briley**

### Tribute from Sir Rex

*"I first met Sukey at a party hosted by Bill Hunter-Christie in London in January 1980. Bill wanted me to hear the views of leading proponents of the Falklands cause before I departed for the Islands in the following month.*

*For the next two years, Sukey played a major role in developing a Falkland Islands Office in London and worked tirelessly during the occupation by Argentina in 1982. It soon became clear to both of us that the Falkland Islands Government needed an official office in London. Councillors were quick to agree, despite a shortage of funds and the first Falkland Islands Government representative was appointed in 1982. Sukey volunteered to assist him and her previous experience proved invaluable. For the last thirteen years, she has served as the Government representative herself and has been largely responsible for the high reputation that the office now enjoys.*

*I congratulate Sukey for a well deserved honour and look forward to supporting her for many years to come".*

**Rex Hunt**

Note: The Falklands are allied in the Overseas Territories Association with Gibraltar, and supported the Gibraltarians along with hundreds of thousands of supporters in the United Kingdom to urge the British Government to abandon its proposal to share joint sovereignty of Gibraltar with Spain. The Newsletter plans to cover this subject in our next edition.

## Friendship Rejected

The Argentine popular press reacted with malice and sneers towards the friendship offered in Miss Cameron's speech. *Clarín* indicated that Argentina is going to pursue its claim more strongly - and that President Kirchner would use his visit to Britain in July to raise the subject.

The Argentine media stressed that Argentina's new government will ignore the Islanders, and that its policy is to "negotiate" only with Britain. However, Lord Williams of Mostyn, Leader of the House of Lords, who attended President Kirchner's assumption of power in May as Representative of Prime Minister Blair, told the Argentines in a press interview that Britain's position has not changed. So the sovereignty negotiations that Argentina is demanding are not on offer.

### UN Debate

The annual debate at the largely discredited UN "Decolonisation Committee" in New York took place on June 16th. Argentina made its customary plea for sovereignty negotiations, and Argentine Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa stressed that Argentina would speak only to Britain - not the Islanders. But the Falklands case for self-determination was forcefully argued by Councillors Mike Summers and John Birmingham.

This debate is little more than a ritual these days. In fact, in recent years it has had little press coverage even in Argentina. This year, however, *Clarín* gave it headlines, which indicates that the new Argentine Government seeks to pursue the matter. Over the last eighteen months of economic and political crisis in Argentina the subject had been largely ignored, as most Argentines were more concerned about survival.

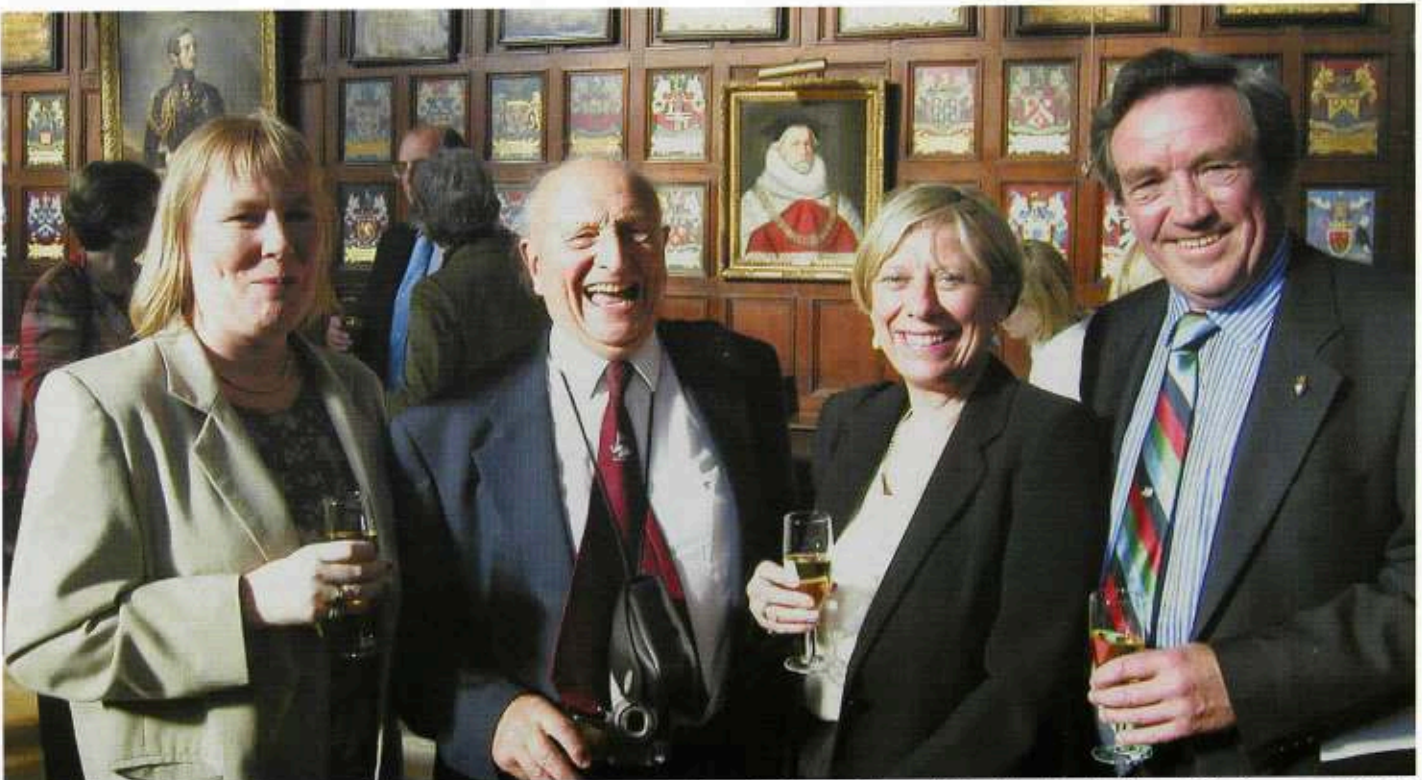
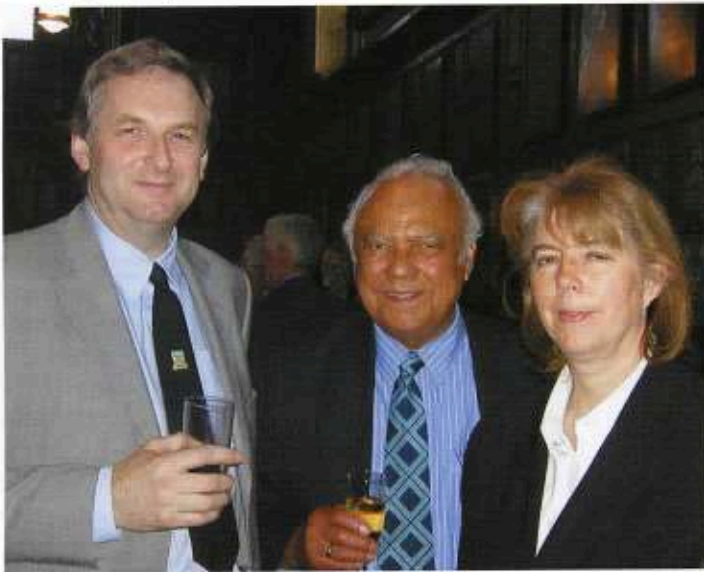
# Annual Reception Photos

Right: Mrs. Jenny Cox, Falklands war veteran and former Commander of British Forces Falkland Islands, Major-General Sir Iain Mackay-Dick and his wife Carolynn.

Below: Mr. Robert Elgood, Mr. Owen George of St. Helena and Mrs Hettie Elgood.

Below Right: Miss Sukey Cameron and the Hon Bernard Jenkin MP.

Above photograph by Lewis Photos, all others by P.J.Pepper.



Miss Heather Briley, Newsletter Co-Editor Harold Briley and Denise Donnelly and Captain Martin Reed Chairman of SAMA 82, the Falklands war veterans organisation.

# FIGO's Twenty Years

The Falkland Islands Government Office in London celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year.

It has been the scene for all the support tasks required by Falkland Islanders in Britain; receptions, the centre for Islanders needing medical treatment in Britain, for travel via the RAF to the Islands, for tourism and particularly for commercial promotions. It is where job interviews take place for staff recruited in Britain. Most important of all, it is the centre for the political activity of the Falklands community.

A function that illustrates FIGO's more convivial activities is the book launch below, with FIGO staff, guests and the authors concerned celebrating another Falklands success.

## Book Launch

Another magnificent Falklands photography book was launched in June.

"**Falkland Islands**" is the work of Swiss photographers: Paul Hugentobler, Lars Boni and Andreas Butz who first went to the Falklands in December 2001 and camped in Kay McCallum's garden. The trio toured the Falklands for three months - "long enough to get involved with the land and the people - and not just be a tourist" as the foreword says. They visited Kidney and Saunders Islands, Cape Bougainville and Volunteer Point. The result is 100 stunning pictures of wild life. Adding further depth are six portraits of local people. One of these: Patrick Watts attended the book launch as did Kay McCullum.

The book is on sale for £30 at the Falklands Government Office in London, at the Jetty Centre in Stanley and from Mrs McCallum in Stanley.



Above: Two FIGO staff members who are returning to the Falklands. On the left: Miss Jenny Smith will specialise in EU funding, travelling between Stanley, London and Brussels. On the right: Miss Debbie Ford, who has given valued editorial help to the Newsletter, goes back to work as Tourism Representative.



The authors pose with FIGO staff, L to R: Lars Boni, Debbie Ford, Sukey Cameron, Melissa McKinley, Sam Allanson-Bailey, Andreas Butz, Paul Hugentobler and Tracey Chamberlain.

*Photo: Mr. Hans Gantenbein*



Children at the Infant Junior School in Stanley with a cheque for £1321 collected for children in Iraq as part of the campaign by the Sun newspaper and the Save the Children Fund and organised locally by the radio station in Stanley.

## Infant Junior School Opening

The new Infant/Junior School extension was officially opened by HRH the Duke of York during his visit in November to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Falklands War. The Duke was escorted by HE The Governor, Donald Lamont, and welcomed by Headmaster, John Farrow, and Director of Education, Mrs. Sylvia Cole. During the hour long visit the Duke chatted to staff and pupils and was able to tour the enviable facilities and accommodation which also house Camp Education.

Infant & Junior School numbers have risen significantly in the past few years and presently stand at 220 pupils between 3 and 11 years. The curriculum is based on the British National Curriculum with adaptations, particularly within Geography and History, to cater for local content. The local aspects of the curriculum provide a vehicle for children to understand and appreciate their unique and very special environment.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

The pupils are offered a variety of extra-curricular activities including badminton, netball, Scottish country dancing, Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs and karate, whilst many are members of the local Watch Group through Falklands Conservation. The School has a positive and dynamic learning environment reflecting the Islands commitment to quality in education.

### Camp Education

The children not located in Stanley are taught through the unique Camp Education system. The numbers involved are declining; today there are some 25 children attending the three settlement schools, located at Fox Bay, Goose Green, North Arm, and several isolated locations. For children not able to attend settlement schools a combination of travelling teacher and telephone teaching are used. The travelling teacher serving three loca-



The Duke formally opens the school with Headmaster John Farrow at his side



Headmaster John Farrow introducing his staff to the Duke. Talking to the Duke is School Secretary, Katrina Stephenson. On the right is Mr. Sutherland.

*Photos: Zac Stephenson*

tions, a "beat", stays for two weeks at each location in every six. Parents, of course, have to help to ensure the children understand and complete assignments. Most children come into Stanley Infant and Junior School from the age of 10 and board at Stanley House. Teaching via the internet is a possibility for the future but it is presently limited by expense and slow response times.



Right: The Duke of York chats to school pupils in the playground.

Photo: Zac Stephenson

Below: A glimpse of the new school library, with its excellent facilities. This is used for some classes. On the right some of the schools computers.

Below Right: Camp Education Director, Mr. Richard Fogerty, with the location map of the remaining Camp schools and pupils.

Bottom: Falkland youngsters in class.

Photos: P.Pepper



# What's been happening in Education?

## Academic Year 2002



Photo: Zac Stephenson

Considering that the Falkland Islands has only a very small number of schools, an amazing amount of activity has taken place. The schools in Stanley continue to develop; the Community School had 160 pupils in 2002; the Infant Junior School had 190; plus a thriving 30 strong pre-school section. The smaller settlement schools have seen mixed fortunes; whilst the number of children at Fox Bay and Goose Green continued to grow, North Arm and Port Howard decreased in pupil numbers, and the latter was 'moth-balled' in December 2002, pending the arrival of additional young children to the area. The education of children in the Camp (the countryside around Stanley) is always challenging – numbers fluctuate without warning and staff have to be flexible and versatile.

### 2002 - An Exciting Year

2002 was an exciting year in many ways. In November, the new extension to the Infant Junior School was opened by HRH The Duke of York – this is covered in another article in this newsletter. The extension offers improved work and play facilities and is an exciting new building which provides a backdrop for the very good teaching which takes place there. In July, the FICS (Falkland Islands Community School) Newsday team heard that they had won first prize in the TES International section. Four students went to London to an official presentation. This is the fourth year that FICS have carried off this award and I am very proud of them. This year we shall make the newspaper available to the public and to tourists.

### Susan Whitley Memorial

Each year the Susan Whitley Memorial Exhibition is held and children from all the schools compete for the prizes. This is held in memory of Susan Whitley who was a home economics teacher at the Community School and was killed during the Falklands Conflict. The Susan Whitley Memorial Trust provides shields and prizes for the pupils who produce the best art and craft work. In 2002, the ultimate prize, 'The Spinning Wheel', was presented to Andrew Jarvis, the son of the Deputy Governor. In 2002, for the first time, the exhibits were shown at two separate venues – in the new IJS extension and in the "Street" at the Community School – both proved excellent exhibition areas and far more display space was available compared to previous years.

### Continuing Generosity

All the students, and Stanley House Hostel, held fetes and open days; the financial results once again demonstrated the continuing generosity of Falkland Islanders. Jubilee parties; a 'blue' day (to raise money for the local 'blue bus' which provides transport for elderly people); a red-nose day; field and study courses; Sports Days and end of term productions were outstanding. Concerts and musicals of very high quality have been produced and a recent accolade was when the Community School choir 'Vocalise' received a special Highly Commended Award in the Music for Youth Foundation's competition for schools. The rendering of the specially commissioned song 'Drop in the Ocean', alongside the stunning

images of wildlife and scenery of the Falkland islands, left the judges in no doubt as to the quality of the School's entry. An impressive Roland F90 Digital Piano has now been added to the School's stock of instruments – a very well deserved prize. Alongside this, there have been worthy winners from the Infant Junior School and Camp Education in the Alastair Cameron Memorial History Competition.

#### **New Academic Year**

The biggest talking point in Education over the past twelve months has been the adoption of a new academic year pattern. Currently, children in the Islands begin each year in early January and break, at the end of three terms, in early December ready for the long Christmas holiday. Traditionally, Year 11 pupils take their GCSEs in November. Unfortunately in recent years, the number of GCSEs available has reduced and a point was being reached at which Falkland Islands' pupils would be disadvantaged because their preferred subjects were not available. The Director of Education and Councillors have now introduced a new academic year pattern, following extensive consultations with parents from each Year Group in the schools. From September 2003, following a contracted two term 'year', the Islands pupils will start school in September each year and end in August, twelve months later. Feelings on this were strong on both sides. The outcome is that those students who currently have nine months, between the end of school in December and the start of their Post 16 studies in September, will finish their studies in June and leave for England in early September. The school holidays have been retained in their entirety.

A joint venture, between Camp Education and Infant Junior School staff has resulted in new Curriculum developments in Geography, History, Art, ICT and assessment. Such local elements which have been built into the work plans were commented on most favourably during the recent School Inspection.

#### **Visitors**

All Education Units receive regular visits from people from many walks of life. The children are used to such visits and talk naturally and intelligently to visitors, introducing themselves and starting conversations. Newspaper reporters and Television film crews are fairly regular visitors. HRH The Duke of York spent over one hour with the Primary age children at the extension's official opening; Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Foreign and Commonwealth office, and Members of Parliament have talked to pupils and even joined them for lunch at Stanley House Hostel, which provides caring boarding facilities for children whose parents live in the Camp. (This enables the children to attend school in Stanley). As 2002 commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict many of the South Atlantic Medal Association visitors visited the schools. It was touching to hear them say that, when they surveyed the excellent facilities in both Stanley Schools, they believed that their sacrifices and the deaths of their colleagues, had not been in vain.

#### **MOD School Links**

Links between the Schools and the Ministry of Defence are strong. Camp Education children have joined youngsters from Mount Pleasant Primary school on field courses and Camps; Infant Junior School played five-a-side football against the school. The Explosives and Ordnance Disposal Unit visited to provide input on mines and ordnance and possible dangers. The visitors delivered a serious message in an

interesting way using a red-fire robot, metal detectors, a Scorpion armoured car and other equipment. The RAF Military Police dog unit also provided an entertaining and professional display which culminated in around 200 small children queuing patiently to 'pat' Sergeant Bart, the Squadron's canine mascot! Dogs are extremely scarce in Stanley – the children obviously enjoyed the opportunity. The Armed Forces all contributed to the Careers Fair which was held at the Community School, as did many private businesses including fishing companies, the telephone company and other private and public-sector groups.

#### **Further Education**

Increasingly, pupils are leaving the Islands, following their GCSE exams and studying in the United Kingdom either at Peter Symonds College, Winchester, for A Levels, or Chichester College for BTEC Diplomas and other vocational qualifications. Currently, twenty Falkland Islands students in total, are at these two Colleges and thirty older students are studying for degrees or HNDs at Universities in England, Scotland, Brazil, Wales and Australia. Within a few years a fair number of Falkland Islands fully qualified professionals should be returning to take up posts of responsibility in the private and public sector. The Director of Education, in addition to taking responsibility for education and leisure in the Falkland Islands, is also responsible for Falkland Islanders studying overseas in this way and especially for the further education students in Winchester and Chichester. A visit to these students is made in October each year.

#### **Adult Education**

This report would be incomplete without reference to the Lifelong Learning initiative which is being pioneered by the Camp Education Supervisor. This will provide basic literacy, numeracy and IT help to adults who, for a number of reasons, need extra support. The Service will also help adults who may be in isolated groups e.g. have special needs, have had restricted access to schooling, or may be in prison, to find a way back into education, often through life-skills help. Although Lifelong Learning was originally focussed on the Camp, it is also being extended to Stanley residents.

#### **Extra-Curricula Activities**

Finally reference must be made to the very broad range of extra-curricular opportunities which are open to pupils in the Falkland Islands. The following activities and groups have all been well-attended during the past fifteen months: wood-turning and pyrography; an artist in residence course; a workshop on stranded marine mammals; the Tumbledown Run in which all secondary pupils participate; a variety show; swimming; netball; badminton; football; cookery; Brownies; Duke of Edinburgh Award; a primary school Christmas show; and many more.

As Director of Education, for seventeen months, I have built on the work of Dr David Langridge, my predecessor, and tried to develop and extend the opportunities available to our pupils and to strive for excellence in terms of effort and achievement – by pupils, staff, non-teaching staff and all those connected with the Hostel and Leisure Centre. Progress is being made, GCSE results in January showed that many pupils were exceeding their predicted grades; progress reports from overseas students are promising; and the Islands' Councillors continue to support education, and all that it represents, in a generous and much appreciated manner. My thanks go to everyone who has worked, with and for, our pupils in the past year.

**Sylvia Cole**

**Director of Education**

## Music Success - and Prize

The group "Vocalise" from the Falkland Islands Community School, were "Highly Commended" for their song "A Drop in the Ocean" in the Youth Music Awards competition in Britain. Falklands student, Vicky Cripps, went to the Old Vic in April to receive the prize - a Rolands 90 digital piano. This was formally presented to the school at a special ceremony at Government House in March.

The competition was organised by the National Foundation for Youth Music in the United Kingdom, and the Falklands group competed in the "Strange Oceans" category. Music teacher Shirley Adams-Leach entered the group after seeing the competition advertised in the magazine *Music Teacher*. Robin Fry, who is a school parent, and works for British Forces Broadcasting Services assisted, and BFBS kindly contributed Falklands scenes and editing facilities.

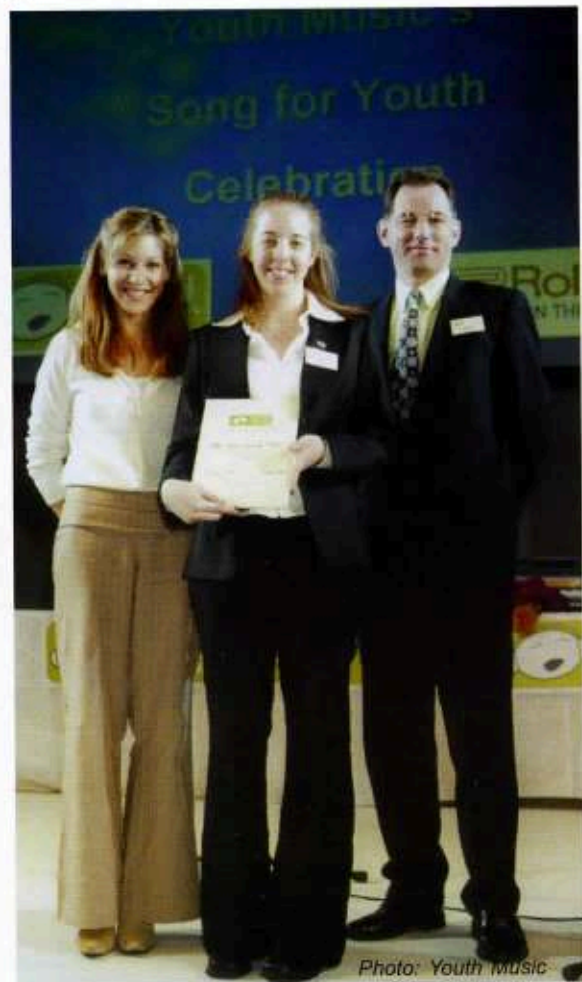
Judge Christina Coker said: "*The Falkland Islands entry stood out for its individuality and appeal. Not only did the choir sing well, but their video entry contained wonderful imagery of the Islands and its associations with the sea that had us all transfixed. The choir shows*

*great pride in their homeland, and well deserves this special award. We wish them all good luck for the future.*"

Vicky Cripps, who received the award, is an A-level student at Peter Symonds School, Winchester.

Left: **The Prize**, a Rolands 90 digital piano being played by music teacher, Shirley Adams-Leach.

Photos: P.J.Pepper.



Above: Falklands student Vicky Cripps (centre) shows off the prize certificate. On the left is Naomi Wilkinson, presenter of Channel 5's programme "Milkshake" which televised the event. On the right is Mr. Neil McDougall of Rowlands U.K., which donated the prize. Vicky is currently studying at Peter Symonds School, Winchester.



The Falklands group "Vocalise" singing at the Community School music evening, which coincided with the prize presentation in London. On the right is music teacher, Shirley Adams-Leach, who entered them into the competition.

# Watch Group Weekend

Falklands Conservation Watch Group for young people descended on Elephant Beach Farm in February. In all there were 22 youngsters and 11 adults.

The youngsters played conservation games, supervised by Becky Ingham and Sarah Clement. Then, after a tasty barbecue, football, cricket and chase games were played into the evening - and the night spent under canvas

On the way back, a hotdog lunch was eaten on the banks of the Malo river and youngsters paddled to cool off. By the time the weekend was over, some groups had identified over 50 varieties of bugs and plants.



Falklands Conservation Watch Group cool off in the Malo river



Bethan Halliday "bug hunting" as part of the Conservation Watch Group. Photo R. Baker



Becky Ingham issues the youngsters with their next challenge

## Music Evening

The award of the prize Roland digital piano was celebrated at a special music evening at the Community School which also allowed parents and others to see the work pupils had put into their music studies.

The evening opened with winning group "Vocalise". Then many other pupils performed. Samantha Brownlee played some of Mozart's *Sonata in C* on the prize piano. She later played the oboe and accordion as well. Year 10 Group, (Top Right), Krysteen Ormond, Christine Hewitt and Lizzie Sanders gave a good performance of *I'll be there for you*.

Alex Cripps, sister of Vicky who was accepting the prize in London, played the flute with Hannah Arthur-Almond and Shirley Adams-Leach. Alex also played *Fiesta* on recorder solo

### Hard Work by Shirley Adams-Leach.

Among other fine performances, Maria Fe Scanes sang *From a distance* (Above). Later, as part of Year 11 Group (Right) with Terraka Middleton and Teslyn Barkman, she ended the evening with the song *Trouble*. The performances were a credit to the hard work of music teacher Shirley Adams-Leach.



Maria Fe Scanes



Krysteen Ormond, Christine Hewitt and Lizzie Sanders



Terraka Middleton, Maria Fe Scanes and Teslyn Barkman



Above Left: Bernard Stamm on his yacht *Bobst Group Armor Lux* which was taking part in the *Around Alone* yacht race, in Stanley in February. She put in to repair a damaged keel. Above Right: New Zealand Yacht, *Kiwi Star*, with Rob Campbell on board - also in Stanley for repairs.

Islander, and Combat Medician, L/Cpl Sara Halford, who served in Iraq with 1 Para. Kosovo too.



59 hardy youngsters braved the rain for the Blue Peter "Bikeathon". Here Falklands Juniors are about to set off. The money collected will go to the Leukaemia Fund at Great Ormond Street Hospital.



Governor Howard Peacock at the Queen's Birthday Parade



Community school pupils compete in the Tumbledown Run. Emily Hancox was the first girl and Zoran Zuvic the first boy



Members of Acorns Day Centre (for elderly people) in Falklands currency by passengers leaving MP, Francis Smith, Sgt Ogden, Cpl Dykes and Cpl Pritchard



ical Techni-  
o is currently  
he served in



Church Campers: Ten Children from the Christ Church congregation spending a weekend at Smylies Farm in February. They are, back row (L to R): Tansie Bonner, Drew Robertson, Dion Robertson, Hannah Arthur-Almond, Abbie Heathman and David Hewitt. In the front (L-R) they are Jonathan Hardcastle, Bernice Hewitt, Helen Davies and Charlotte Rich.



inspects the Guard of Honour at the  
n Stanley.



MPs Nigel Evans (Con), Richard Ottaway (Con) and Alistair Carmichael (Lib Dem) at Stanley Airport.



n a cheque for £270, part of £500 donated  
In the foreground Sqn Ldr Manvell, FO  
d, who organised the collection.



The Falklands Sea Cadet Unit pose after being presented with an award pennant for meritorious standard of achievement in 2002.

## Falklands to Host CPA Meeting

The Falklands will host the meeting of the Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in February 2004. Chairman of the UK Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branch, Tom Cox, MP, visited the Falklands with UK Regional Secretary, Andrew Pearson, in January.

The visitors met the then Falklands Chief Executive Dr. Michael Blanch to discuss the Islands Plan, which may form part of the conference agenda. This is a long-term plan for the development of the Falklands.

Other subjects that are likely to be discussed are self-determination for countries such as the Falklands and Gibraltar, which is currently under threat from Spain. Delegates are likely to come from Jersey, Guernsey, Scotland, Gibraltar and Malta.

Mr. Cox, who visited the Falklands 12 years ago, told Penguin News that the people of the Falklands "... can feel proud of what they have achieved over recent years". He also praised education in the Falklands saying: "The development of education here is of enormous credit to the elected representatives and the people of the Falklands, who have said: 'Education is a priority to us and our children and we support these developments'".

### Support for Gibraltar

Mr. Cox said that "... although I belong to the government party and the British Parliament, I do not agree with their policy on Gibraltar".

The subject of Gibraltar came up at the previous CPA meeting in Namibia. Speaking about this, Mr. Cox said: "Myself and a colleague from the opposition party tabled a motion



Tom Cox MP, UK Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and UK Regional Secretary Andrew Pearson visiting the Falklands.

supporting Gibraltar's right to self-determination and that was overwhelmingly carried by all involved apart from three abstentions".

## Falklands Development Chief - a sailor come ashore

Businessman, Julian Morris arrived at the end of March to take over the important post of General Manager of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

Mr Morris, aged 41, from Reading in Berkshire, has travelled a lot and first came across the Falklands as a young adventurer, sailing in the Whitbread round the world race in 1989/1990. He was a keen 28 year-old sailor then on a boat called "Creighton's Naturally". So, he laughed, "I have some idea what the Falklands weather is like!". His eldest brother also heightened his interest. He visited the Falklands from HMS Endurance, while a civilian doctor in an Antarctic Joint Forces Brabant Island Expedition in 1982.

"Everybody says the Islanders are terrific", he said. "That is one of the very big attractions of the job. I have heard a lot of good reports. We are looking forward to being active members of that small community".

Having married just last year, he says his wife, Amanda, is very much looking forward to their new life too. She is a Yorkshire farmer's daughter. She has been pestering him to buy a Landrover which is her favourite vehicle. She will now get her wish as four-wheel drives are essential for the Falklands.



Julian Morris, a chartered accountant, has spent much of his career developing businesses as a senior manager and venture capital adviser. It is valuable experience for the new challenge he faces. He sold his own business only a few months ago and was taking stock of his options and how he wanted his life to develop when the Falklands opportunity arose.

### Developing a vibrant, diversified economy

"The role", he says, "seems to combine a number of factors - advising and helping grow businesses in the Falklands and helping to develop the economy in a diverse and sustainable way for the future. It is not only about profit. It is about developing the economy".

He said he has no fixed plans or ideas. He wants to investigate first what the issues are. "My role", he says, "is to talk and listen to find out what Islanders want to achieve. My job is to facilitate that process". He takes over at a difficult time, financially, as vital fishing revenue has fallen with the drop in squid catches. "This", he

says, "underlines the need to develop a vibrant and diversified economy for the longterm future to ensure that the Islands continue to enjoy the prosperity they have been achieving in recent years". Among his responsibilities in FIDC is the new abattoir as it increases its supply of organic products. **HWB**



# Abattoir in Action

Production reached 260 per day when the Newsletter visited in April. The first five containers left in March for the UK, with a total of approximately 5,000 carcasses. These will test the market. More will follow soon.

### Clean and Green

Falklands mutton and lamb is "clean and green" as pesticides and dips are not necessary in the Falklands. This contributes to its unique flavour.

The abattoir employs 21 people of whom 12 are permanent. The others work only for the season, which lasts from January to the middle of May. Many of the lambs are now crossbred for meat, such as Texel/Cormo, Pol Dorset/Cormo. Others are wool sheep, such as Cormo, Polwarth and Corriedale, all of which provide a particularly good mutton flavour.

William Dobie from the Scottish borders is in charge of production. He plans to marry Islander Donna Summers shortly and settle in the Falklands. In charge of the building, planning and maintenance is John Ferguson.



Above: William Dobie and John Ferguson in the abattoir office.

Below: British speedboner David Savage at work. Another speedboner from Britain, Mick Morley, also works at the abattoir.



Below: Adrian Minnel, meat inspector.



One of the abattoirs cold storage rooms, with Chilean worker, Angela Watavino.

Photos: P.J.Pepper

## Falklands Families Remember

The Falklands Families Association held their remembrance service at the Guards Chapel in April. It was conducted by the Rev Richard Hall, Chaplain at Wellington Barracks and to the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. The Rev Hall is also brother-in-law to Islander Diane (nee Cheek) Hall.

The Band of the Blues and Royals played and the hymns "All my hope in God is founded", "Love divine all loves excelling" and "Mine eyes have seen the glory" were sung.

The address was given by Monsignor P.C. Rowland, Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain to the Army, and a Falklands War veteran.

### 20th Anniversary AGM

The service was followed by the Association's AGM at Wellington Barracks - which marked its 20th anniversary. It was founded onboard the Cunard Countess which took relatives of the fallen from Montevideo to the Falklands in 1983.

The Falklands Government was represented by London Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron. SAMA was represented



Mrs Sara Jones, widow of Colonel Jones VC and Gerald Howarth MP at the Families Association meeting *Photo: Debbie Ford*

by Chairman Martin Reed. Also present was Gerald Howarth MP, who went on the veterans pilgrimage to the Falklands last November.

The Memorial Service is being held this year at St. Pauls Cathedral on June 14th.

## SAMA Reunion and AGM

More than 200 veterans of the Falklands War held their annual reunion and AGM at Twickenham in April. Most then watched the Army/Navy rugby match - which the Army won easily.

On the dais were Treasurer, Dr. Rick Jolly, Secretary, Denzil Connick, Chairman, Martin Reed, and President, General Malcolm Hunt.

The AGM awarded honorary membership of SAMA to Dr Peter Higson for his magnificent work with British veterans affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

### Self-Determination for Islanders

A resolution was passed reaffirming the right of the Falkland Islanders to live under the government of their own choice. SAMA passes this resolution every year.

Chairman Martin Reed informed the meeting that he is maintaining contact with the Falklands Council and Governor over planned future pilgrimages. It is hoped to send five veterans every year for Remembrance Sunday.

Sir Rex Hunt represented the Falkland Islands Association and Miss Sukey Cameron and several of her staff the Falkland Islands Government.



L to R: SAMA Treasurer Dr. Rick Jolly, Secretary Denzil Connick, Chairman Martin Reed and President General Malcolm Hunt.



Falklands veterans: Trevor Kinrade of HMS Spartan, Bill Begg and Richard Dickinson of HMS Hermes, now serving on HMS Albion. *Photos: P.Pepper*



Islanders Debbie Ford of FIGO and FIG Representative Miss Sukey Cameron attending the SAMA AGM

## Falklands Veterans' Condemn Stress Case Judgment

Falklands and other war veterans have lost their court case accusing the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of failure to protect them from the effects of the horrors of war. The judgment has far-reaching implications for how war veterans will be treated in future.

The case involved 1,900 service personnel who served in the Falklands, the first Gulf War, Northern Ireland and Bosnia, including 40 Welsh Guardsmen trapped aboard the blazing Sir Galahad, in which 50 men were killed and another 157 wounded in the Falklands.

The High Court's verdict was strongly criticised by the Falklands South Atlantic Medal Association, who said veterans had again been let down by the country they fought for and proudly served. There would be an appeal and individuals would be able to pursue their claims separately.

SAMA 82 said: "We are all proud of the huge benefits and peace derived from the sacrifices of countless comrades... The very least we expect is to be treated with human dignity and respect when we ask for help in dealing with the scars of war, be they in body or mind. We as veterans already know beyond all doubt that reasonable care was almost non-existent in dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the early 1980's. It hardly exists even now for ex-forces in the UK in the 21st Century suffering with PTSD who are unable to obtain proper care from a wholly inadequate National Health Service and having to rely on scarce treatment from an under-funded forces charity 'Combat Stress'.

### Relieving military of responsibility

Solicitors acting for the veterans said the judgment means that only a fraction of the veterans will be able to recover compensation. The judge's findings relieve the military of responsibilities it is their duty to bear. It was the Claimants' intention to bring the mental scars of war into the open and onto the public agenda... to ensure that future generations of service personnel will not have these problems ignored or sidelined, as in the past... It is imperative that the military establishment and the government take this problem seriously now, and look out for these victims who have served their country and suffered for it. The long-term psychological consequences of war include PTSD, depression and anxiety, often accompanied by alcohol abuse, unemployment, family break-up, offending, homelessness and even suicide.

The judge had accepted the Government's defence that the MoD had acted in accordance with the best medical evidence available to prepare the men for exposure to war and the psychological and physical consequences. The Ministry says it has for years carried out measures to prevent stress-related illnesses. It is claimed that more British Falklands veterans have committed suicide than were killed in action. Many Argentines have also taken their own lives.

SAMA Founding Chairman, Dr. Rick Jolly, who saved many lives in 1982, said: "cash was not the motive for the action, only justice. Some of these men have been living in darkened rooms for 20 years".

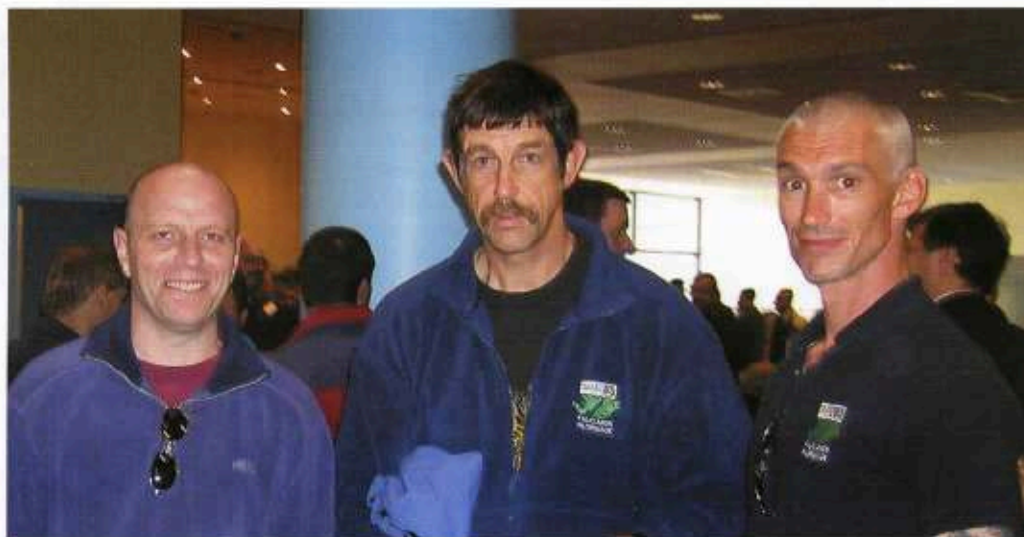
**Harold Briley**

## SAMA AGM Continued

Right: Steve (Smudge) Smith, Chris (Jacko) Jackson and Steve Anstee all of 2-PARA.

Below: The SAMA 82 Annual General Meeting in session.

Photos: P.Pepper.



## British Forces Commander

The Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands, Brigadier Jamie Gordon, MBE, arrived in the Islands in December to succeed Commodore R. J. Ibbotson, DSC. He took over a tri-service command in charge of navy, army and air force personnel responsible for defence of the Islands.

Brigadier Gordon, aged 45, has had a varied career in his 25 years in the army, including a posting in Kuwait with the headquarters of the United States Third Army responsible for land operations in Afghanistan.

His career began as an officer in the Royal Green Jackets in 1977 and after attending Staff College, he served in the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Military Operations during the Gulf Conflict.

He was a company commander in the early 1990s, served as an instructor at the Staff College, and commanded the Second Battalion the Royal Green Jackets in Northern Ireland, Germany and Bosnia (1996-1998). He was posted to the Armed Forces UK Joint Headquarters at Northwood, near London, and later, on promotion to Colonel, was involved in targeting and information operations. More recently, he attended the Royal College of Defence Studies.

He is a family man. He and his wife, Fiona, have two sons, aged one and three.



## Islander in the Gulf

Islander Graham Bound, who is Editor of the Ministry of Defence Magazine, Focus, has been in the Persian Gulf recently to cover the war in Iraq.

In addition to his duties for Focus, he also edited a local magazine for the troops. A pun on a well known Sunday newspaper, it is entitled the "Sandy Times".

Coming out weekly, the paper specialises in news of the war and its aftermath - and is free to all troops in the Gulf.



Below: Graham (left) poses with three of his colleagues.



## Air Link for St. Helena

Plans to build its first ever airport for the remote Atlantic Island of Saint Helena have taken a major step forward. British companies and organisations interested in the project were invited to register their interest by the deadline of May 2nd, with a decision expected later this year.

An airstrip is regarded as necessary to halt the decline in its economy and its population of five thousand. Many of the islanders have been emigrating to other parts of the world, especially the Falkland Islands, to seek jobs and a better life.

The airport is projected to be built by 2008, to allow air services to Cape Town, taking only four hours, compared with five days by sea.

The Governor of this British Overseas Territory, Mr David Hollamby, says that an air strip is the only way to reverse the Island's decline and that technical advances now make it feasible.

He says Saint Helena has been losing population fast. Salaries are low and the cost of living is not cheap as it relies on costly imports. Its few exports include tuna and coffee. But there is valuable potential for tourism, whose attractions include fishing, diving and golf. A new hotel is needed to make tourism viable and generate funds to help pay for the airport. So interest is expected from hotel operators as well as civil engineers. The tender process is being overseen by a London management consultancy, GIC.

The Governor says: "The only way I feel we can start the economy picking up again is by having better access and building sustainable tourism".

The estimated cost of this challenging construction project is forty-million pounds. The British Government has



agreed to contribute twenty-six million pounds, which would be the cost of replacing the present mailship by 2010.

Saint Helena has always previously been linked to the rest of the world by sea since its discovery more than five hundred years ago by the Portuguese. It became famous as the place where Napoleon was exiled and died in 1821.

It became an important staging post for ships with up to 1,500 vessels a year calling during its busiest period. Up to 1977 the British territory relied upon regular visits from the Union-Castle mailships sailing between Southampton and South Africa. In recent years it has been served by a single ship subsidised by the British government, calling only a few times a year.

Ascension Island, the essential staging post for the air link from the United Kingdom to the Falkland Islands, is administered from Saint Helena.

Harold Briley

## Bristol Freeman Sir Jack visits SS Great Britain

Sir Jack Hayward, the renowned British patriot and generous benefactor to the Falkland Islands, has been granted the freedom of the city of Bristol.

A reception marking the event was held, appropriately, on the SS Great Britain in whose preservation and repatriation from the Falklands to Bristol Sir Jack has been much involved.

Among the guests was Sir Rex Hunt, chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, of which Sir Jack is a Vice-President.

Sir Jack and Sir Rex and other guests saw the impressive progress made to preserve Isambard Brunel's great liner in what has become possibly the largest conservation project in Europe. The multi-million pound campaign involves pioneering iron-saving technology, sealing her from humidity, to halt corrosion to the 160-year-old vessel, which was launched in Bristol.

### New exhibition and Education Officer

A landmark has been reached with the opening in April of a new exhibition, entitled Extreme Iron Science and the future of Brunel's steamship. Inter-active exhibits are on display telling the remarkable story of the ship and the conservation plans. The Duke of York, Patron of the SS Great Britain Trust, has shown great interest, visiting the ship and exhibition.

The Trust has announced the largest ever donation pledge to the fund-raising "Anchor Campaign" — £100,000 over the next five years from the Society of Merchant Venturers.

This brings the total so far to £8,600,000 in gifts and

pledges. Every one pound of private donations releases four pounds from a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, recognising the SS Great Britain as a unique and lasting legacy of Brunel's engineering genius and achievements.

It is a popular attraction for school visits, and the Trust has appointed an Education Officer, who is an experienced English teacher, Hannah Flemming.

The 150th anniversary of the ship's first arrival in Australian waters has been celebrated in Sydney and Melbourne, attracting descendants of passengers who travelled in the Great Britain.

### Unique painting from Falklands

The Trust has expressed gratitude to a donor who was brought up in the Falklands, Mrs Margaret Wilson, for the gift of a unique painting, previously in the possession of three generations of her family. It is believed to be the only painting showing the SS Great Britain in her final configuration as a three-masted "wind-jammer".

Mrs Wilson recalls going aboard the wreck at the age of eight in 1919 when it was being used as a wool store in Stanley Harbour. It is a prized attraction on show in the new exhibition.

The Trust has renewed its appeal for any original material from the ship, some of which has previously been donated by Falkland Islanders. The Trust says it would give a good home to objects such as letters from a passenger, a piece of furniture, a tool or book carried on the ship.



Sir Jack visiting the sheltered housing in Stanley, accompanied by Tim and Jan Miller last February. A generous donation from Sir Jack helped build this.



**May Ball.** Prince Charming Daniel Ford, May Queen Caris Stevens, May Princess Sarah Lam, Runner Up to Prince Charming, Robbie Todd.

Photo: Zac Stephenson

# Exciting Developments in Falklands Tourism

Tourism in the Falklands Islands has developed spectacularly in recent years, and the trend continued in the season just ended. More than 1,600 visitors travelled around the Islands on land tours either in organised groups or independently – an increase of 800 per cent in only five years. Sixty-one cruise ship visits brought nearly 28,000 passengers for a brief glimpse of the Falklands lifestyle and prolific wildlife.

More Latin American associations are including the Falklands as an add-on extension to holidays in various part of South America, making use of the weekly LanChile service from Punta Arenas, planned to double to two flights. Virtually all the tourism firms and accommodation providers reported a successful season.

## Tourist Board Enhanced Status and Name-Change

Reflecting the growth and importance of tourism, the Tourist Board is changing its name and status and merging with the Tourism Association to become "Falkland Islands Tourism", an independent body with its own legislation and staff, governed by board members from both the public and private sector.

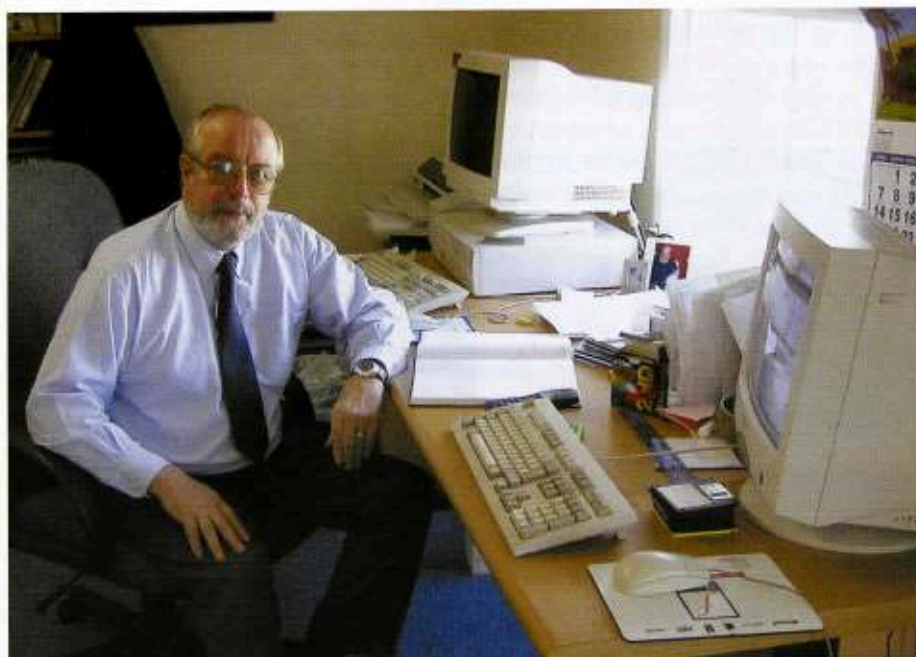
By these changes, the Falkland Islands Government says it acknowledges the potential economic, social and political benefits of tourism and commits wholeheartedly to partnership with the private sector in its development and promotion.

The Falklands Government Marketing Assistant in London, Debbie Ford, is returning to her homeland to take up the post of Tourism Representative reporting to Tourism Manager, John Fowler.

## Falklands Defies Tourism Down-Trend

Tourism Manager John Fowler says that in contrast to the decrease in tourism internationally influenced by terrorist acts, the Iraq War and widespread economic depression, the Falklands has enjoyed both growth and development. John, who describes himself as "paid to be optimistic", says that as well as more visitors last season, there have been other really exciting events.

The transfer of the tourism office to the bright yellow Philomel Store building on the jetty signals a dramatic development in the way tourism in

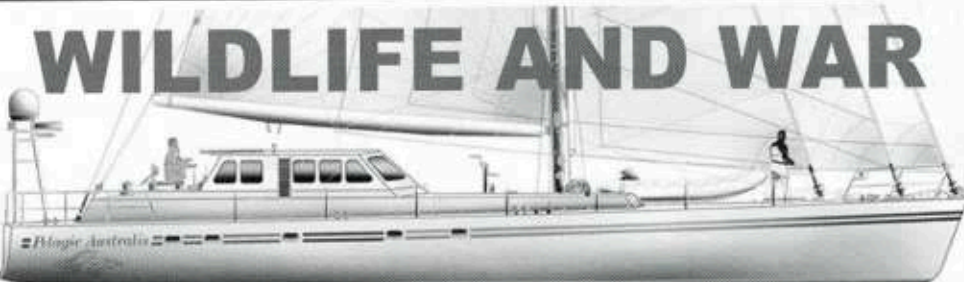


Above: Tourism Manager John Fowler at his desk.

Below: John with Nora Smith manning the new Tourist Centre.




## WILDLIFE AND WAR




6-20 December 2003 - 14 day sailing expedition around The Falkland Islands finest wildlife sites and battlefields guided by Ewen Southby-Tailyour on the maiden charter of Skip Novak's new 74 foot Pelagic Australis.

For details see: [www.pelagic.co.uk](http://www.pelagic.co.uk)  
 e-mail: [gc13@dial.pipex.com](mailto:gc13@dial.pipex.com)  
 Tel: 01962 862361



PELAGIC



PELAGIC



The new Tourist Centre on Stanley waterfront, with Shirley Goss, Sarah Clement and Nora Smith

Photo: P.Pepper

the Falklands will be represented with the merger of the Tourist Board and the Tourism Association. As well as continuing as the principal information and marketing agency, Falklands Tourism will be able to bid for funds to carry out improvements to the tourism infrastructure, giving it higher priority than might otherwise be the case.

Commenting on the increased scope of activities and places to see, John says that Falkland Islands Tours and Travel director Andrew Williams, who provides virtually all the coach transportation, reports visitors' take-up of tours on offer reached an all time high.

#### Farm and Life-Style Ventures

While penguins remain a high priority, the success of a new tour illustrated clearly that Falklands people and traditional way of life hold an equal attraction for many. A new link road to Long Island farm allowed owners Neil and Glenda Watson to venture into tourism, an idea enthusiastically endorsed by the Tourist Board and pursued by Sullivan Shipping Services' Debbie Summers. The result is that several hundred visitors this year had a genuine 'camp' experience and one farm at least has had a welcome cash boost.

Another successful step in farm and life-style based tourism was a visit by Quark Expeditions "Falklands Odyssey" cruise to Port Howard on West Falklands for a farm day, which included dog-handling, sheep-shearing demonstrations, a barbecue and on-board party — the whole experience much enjoyed by passengers, crew and Islanders, who can't wait to do it all again next year.

## Falklands Internet Portal

### New interactive Map of Stanley

A new interactive map of Stanley has recently gone on line. It can be found on website [www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com) on the home page. The map is designed to give tourists, whether visiting Stanley for only a day on a cruise ship or longer stay visitors, a taste of what they can expect to find in Stanley. Opening pages helpfully orientate the visitor to Stanley harbour and its environs, to the local airport on Cape Pembroke Peninsular to the east of Stanley and to Moody Brook at the west end of the inner harbour. The site comprises an amazing array of pop up entries featuring shops, monuments, community services and even the now famous Totem pole on the Airport road! The Internet Initiative Group in Stanley who steer the development of the site are keen for feedback to improve the product. Please forward comments to James Marsh at FIDC on email [jmarsh@fidc.co.fk](mailto:jmarsh@fidc.co.fk)

## Tourist Information

Tourist information for the Falklands can be obtained in Britain from the Falkland Islands Government Office, Falklands House, 14 Broadway, London, SW1H 0BH. Telephone: 020 7222 2542. Fax: 020 7222 2375.

On the web, tourist information can be obtained on [www.tourism.org.fk](http://www.tourism.org.fk). This lists all companies running tours to the Islands. Other information can be obtained on the Falkland Islands Government website: [www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk) and from the new Falklands portal: [www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com)

## Former Governor for Venezuela

Former Governor of the Falklands, Mr Donald Lamont, has been appointed Britain's Ambassador to Venezuela. He takes up his new post in Caracas in July. Among several previous diplomatic posts, Mr Lamont, aged 56, was Ambassador to Uruguay in the early 1990s.

He was Governor of the Falklands from 1999 to 2002. He arrived at a controversial time when there was strong opposition by some Islanders to the 1999 Anglo-Argentine co-operation and access agreement.

His tenure ended on a happier note in 2002 when he and his wife, Lynda, were widely praised for the central part they played in welcoming the 20th anniversary SAMA pilgrimage by more than two-hundred 1982 veterans. Mr Lamont, who has a son and daughter, joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1974. He was Assistant Head of the Falkland Islands Department from 1982 to 1985, and has served in posts in Vienna, Moscow, Berlin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the FCO United Nations and Republic of Ireland Departments. **HWB**



## South Georgia Association

The rapidly expanding South Georgia Association (SGA) held its AGM in London in May. The SGA is concerned with educational, historical, scientific and, nowadays, tourist issues. It has an international membership, many from the British Antarctic Survey and several Norwegians linked to the whaling industry. Prospective members may contact: The Membership Secretary, South Georgia Association, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, CB1 2ER.



Photographed above left is Miss Harriet Hall, a guest at the AGM, who is about to take over Russ Jarvis' job in Stanley, and will have responsibilities for South Georgia. On the right, Islander Mrs Sally Poncet, a frequent visitor to South Georgia, and former Governor of the Falklands, Mr. William Fullerton.

Below: former Governor of the Falklands Mr. David Tatham, one of the principals in the creation of the South Georgia Association, the Hon Alexandra Shackleton, whose grandfather Sir Ernest, the well known explorer, is buried there, and former CBFFI Air Commodore Peter Johnson.



## Russ Jarvis for Monserrat

Deputy Governor, Mr. Russ Jarvis is leaving the Falklands soon - after six and a half years. He is going to be First Secretary in Montserrat.

His replacement will be Miss Harriet Hall (Photo above right). She worked in the South Atlantic Dept at the FCO from 1992 to 94 and visited the Falklands in 1995.



## Falklands Support for WaterAid

### £3,000 donation towards Bangladesh project

Contaminated drinking water and poor sanitation causes widespread disease in Bangladesh, one of the world's most crowded countries. The work of WaterAid to improve these conditions is supported by the Falkland Islands Government, making a donation of £3,000 to the charity.

"Although we are a small UK Overseas Territory with a population of under 2,500 people, we recognise our more privileged financial position and try to help other, less fortunate countries and communities," said Councillor Richard Cockwell.

"We are delighted to have received this support," comments Essi Lindstedt, Project Funding Manager, WaterAid. "Such generous contributions help us continue to make a difference not only to lives today, but also to future generations."



Two of the Islands' eight elected Councillors, Cllrs. Richard Cockwell and Roger Edwards, plan to meet WaterAid representatives in Bangladesh and visit a project when they attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Small Countries Conference and General Assembly in October.

### Support for Military Charities

Over the last twelve months, the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has helped nearly thirty charities, associations and institutions with donations of more than £100,000. Supporting the British forces is particularly important. FIG contributions to selected military charities include: The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund; Royal Naval Benevolent Fund for Officers; Royal Naval Benevolent Fund and The Army Benevolent Fund, on an annual basis. A donation is made annually to the charity Homebase, working to reduce homelessness amongst ex-forces personnel.



## Support grows for Falklands Memorial Chapel

Support for the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College, Berkshire, has grown tremendously during the 20th anniversary year of the conflict.

A progress report and news about the Chapel are carried in its latest newsletter. In a letter to supporters, the chairman of the Chapel's trustees, former Royal Navy Captain Michael Barrow, commander of the destroyer HMS Glamorgan in 1982, says that they now number more than 2,000. Many have subscribed to various events and sponsorship opportunities.

### Veteran Para in Canoe Success

Fund-raising activities brought in £10,000 in recent months to help maintain the chapel. New initiatives for this included a sponsored parachute jump by the Reverend David Cooper, padre of 2 Parachute Regiment during the 1982 campaign and now a Chapel Trustee.

Another came from Parachute Regiment veteran of the Falklands, Bob Norbury (60). He has raised £6,700 for the Chapel, with more still coming in. Bob, now of the School of Army Aviation, Middle Wallop, completed the 125 mile international canoe race from Devises to Westminster in April. Despite strong headwinds and 76 locks he completed the course in 27 hours, when half the 200 competitors gave up. Sponsorships came from the Army Benevolent Fund (Berkshire), staff at Middle Wallop, many Royal British Legion branches, and readers of the Chapel Newsletter.

### Just to See his Name

A book about how the Chapel came to be built, entitled 'Just to See his Name' by former headmaster of Pangbourne College, Anthony Hudson, has now sold 700 copies, leaving only 300. These can be bought for £10 including p&p, from Mrs Perry, Telephone: 01869 233092.

Visitors are requested to continue building the memorial Stone Cairn in the 'Bring a Stone from Home' campaign, which was started off with a contribution from the Queen. A 20th anniversary tapestry by Pamela Roberts, from Dorset, is on display in the Chapel.

Supporters are invited to become a 'Friend of the Chapel' by donating 25 pounds a year towards its upkeep to 'ensure that its heritage and condition are protected for the future'.

Among Chapel events last year were the anniversary service in June attended by former RN helicopter pilot, the Duke of York, a Flower Guild Festival, a BBC "Songs of Praise"



Above: Chairman of the chapel trustees, Captain Michael Barrow and former Headmaster Anthony Hudson, author of "Just to See his Name".



Remembrance Service in November, and several concerts by Pangbourne Arts Society and Pangbourne Choral Society.

### Former Archbishop to preach

The Annual Service of Remembrance is being held on June 15th this year, with the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey as preacher. A special 25th anniversary service is planned for 2007, on the Sunday nearest to June 14th, the day the Falklands War ended.

There is also to be a charity gala in the College in November to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund, with participation by the Life Guards Regimental Band, Berkshire Youth Choir, and Pangbourne College Music Scholars.

Information about the Chapel and how to support it is available from the Trust Secretary, Angela Perry, and from the Chapel website: [www.falklands-chapel.org.uk](http://www.falklands-chapel.org.uk) **HWB**

## Lewis Collects his OBE

Former Councillor, Lewis Clifton, was accompanied by his nine year old niece Hiedi when he went to Buckingham Palace to receive his OBE from the Queen. He was awarded this in the Birthday Honours for his work organising the events commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Falklands War.

Lewis greeted some 45 friends and colleagues at a reception at Falklands House in London to mark the occasion. These included former-Governor Donald Lamont and his wife Lynda; former Governor Richard and Jemma Ralph, Air-Vice Marshal and Mrs Crwys-Williams, Admiral and Mrs Salt and Ann Widdecombe MP.



Lewis Clifton at the Reception with Ann Widdecombe MP and niece Heidi.

Donald Lamont spoke of Lewis' commitment and support to the heritage and future of the Falklands. He made special

reference to the time, skill and effort which Lewis put in to making 2002 such a special year. Lewis was involved with inviting special guests to the Islands that year - as well as with the veterans pilgrimage in November 2002. Lewis thanked Donald Lamont for his kind words and others present for their support over the years.

Heidi presented FIG Representative, Sukey Cameron, with a bouquet of flowers for the dedication with which FIGO carries out its role - Sukey celebrates working for the Falklands Government (London Office) for 20 years.

# Major Research into Falklands Seaweeds

Wide-ranging research into the vast amount of seaweed found in the Falkland Islands is being pressed ahead by an eminent Australian Professor, Margaret Clayton, and her colleagues at one of Australia's leading educational establishments, Monash University.

The Falkland Islands Seaweed Survey – the most comprehensive study for nearly one-hundred years – has been financed by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, enabling Professor Clayton to spend a month in the Falklands, collecting specimens of nearly all the 180 species known about in the Islands. She and another seaweed expert from Monash University, Doctor Louise Phillips, found some species that have never previously been found there and some that are probably completely new to science.

Professor Clayton's aims are to provide up-to-date information on what she calls the "unique and distinctive seaweed flora" of the Falklands, to provide duplicate sets of herbarium specimens for the Falkland Islands National Herbarium, the Natural History Museum in London, and her university in Melbourne, and to produce an illustrated guide-book.

## More research needed on vital resource

She says much more research is needed and appeals for

further funds to allow a Doctor of Philosophy student to do it. She points out that seaweeds are a vital natural resource for the Falkland Islands, as a key component of coastal ecosystems and a major contribution to primary production, providing the habitat and or food source for a wide variety of marine life including young fish, Loligo squid eggs and crustaceans. The health and overall biodiversity of coastal eco-systems depend on seaweeds. This affects the environment and the economy of the Falklands through the complex interactions and interdependence between seaweeds and marine fauna such as birds and mammals.

Little is known about Falklands seaweeds. The previous most comprehensive study was carried out nearly 100 years ago by Mrs Elinor Vallentin, who lived at Roy Cove and Shallow Bay in West Falkland.

Professor Clayton sends her thanks to many people in the Falklands for their "enthusiastic encouragement and extensive logistic support", including Falklands Conservation; Ronnie Snyder, a volunteer and qualified marine biologist, who dived for specimens with Dr Phillips; and their hosts at various farms, hotels and lodges. She is also collaborating with Doctor Phillip Stone of the British Geological Survey on the biology of calcified seaweeds used by farmers as fertiliser.

**HWB**



Seaweed experts Professor Margaret Clayton and Dr. Louise Phillips in the Falklands. Photo: Professor Clayton

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**HWB**

## Unique ship preserved in Print

As the famous American emigrant ship Charles Cooper finally falls apart in the Falklands Islands nearly 150 years since she first set sail, the story of this splendid vessel will not be forgotten, thanks to a timely book giving the first comprehensive account of her history, "Charles Cooper – The Last Emigrant Ship" published by National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. The author is Michael Stammers, Keeper of Merseyside Maritime Museum, whose research has been financed by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

The wreck has had to be dismantled to prevent danger to other shipping. But parts of her are to be preserved inside a museum building. The book is a reminder of how historically important is the Falklands maritime heritage.

The Charles Cooper was a unique link to America's wooden sailing ships when its mercantile marine was a dominant force in world shipping. After her launch in 1856, she spent only ten active years at sea, carrying many of the early European emigrants to the United States.

## Bought by New York Museum

Battered by wind and wave, her last voyage from

Philadelphia to San Francisco in 1866 ended prematurely when she took refuge and was condemned as unseaworthy in Stanley Harbour, to become for nearly another 140 years a Falkland Islands Company warehouse.

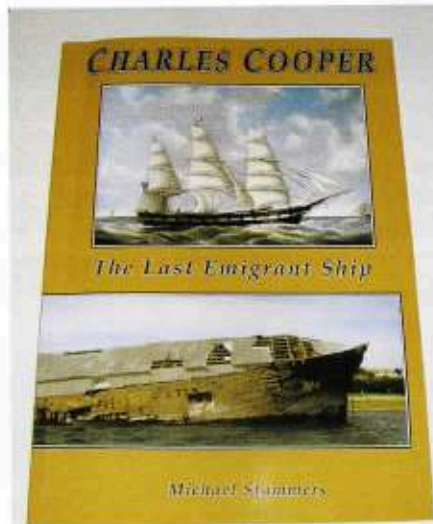
Her importance was recognised in 1968 by New York's South Street Museum which purchased the wreck which it called "the most important American sailing ship surviving from the 19th Century". The plan was to move her to New York but this proved impossible.

The wreck withstood storms and threats from Argentine invasion troops foraging for fuel. They were prevented from chopping up the wrecks when the curator of Falklands Museum, John Smith, impressed upon the Argentine invaders the importance of the Islands' maritime heritage. The final fatal attack came from much

smaller but more destructive invaders, two pernicious sea worms called the teredo and the gribble which multiplied in the 1990s to destroy her from within, eating her crumbling wood-work.

Michael Stammers gives special thanks for help from Falklands Government Archivist, Jane Cameron, and her assistant, Tansy Newman, and to John Smith, who carried out the first detailed study of the Charles Cooper in 1970.

**HWB**



## Falkland Islands Trust Appeal

An appeal for donations has been made by the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust (UKFIT) to maintain its activities in the Islands, threatened by falling shares revenue. The Trust's latest annual report thanks the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) for "generous grants" for its main funding. But, the report says, income has suffered from global falls in shares, jeopardising future work. Donations are warmly welcomed.

The Trust is a charity, formed in 1981, to help the Falklands population with projects not normally funded by Government. It concentrates on research and advice on agriculture, forestry and rural development and providing contacts and special skills of consultants to assist economic growth. Its work is over-seen by a distinguished consultant, Dr Jim McAdam of the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Queen's University, Belfast.

### Chilean expert's tree shelter research

An expert from Chile's Institute of Forestry, Rodrigo Olave, a postgraduate student at Queen's University, has been investigating tree containerisation and seed germination and production. The aim is to provide tree shelter belts against strong winds and so encourage the re-generation of rural activities. A Trust project is identifying the most suitable type of trees by gathering native Falklands willow samples to create a national collection in a dedicated nursery.

Rodrigo Olave has updated a booklet on Trees for Shelter in the Falklands where he's co-operating with the two Falklands Trustees, Marlane Marsh at Shallow Harbour, and Tim Miller, who runs Stanley hydroponic nurseries. Mrs Maria Olave has been developing a comprehensive Falklands science data base.

The report thanks Ron Reeves for his "sterling work" at Port Howard's Alexandra Wood.

### Tussac, seaweed fertiliser and science data base

Another successful trial involves tussac grass at Penguin Point, Port Howard, as a source of animal feed, unique to the Falklands. The development of a meat industry and new abattoir have stimulated interest in this. Tussac grass could



Above: Marlane Marsh, Dr. Jim McAdam, Tim Miller and Rodrigo Olave at the tree shelter experiment at Fitzroy.  
Photo: Air Comdr Peter Johnson

also benefit from liquid seaweed fertiliser, whose commercial potential the Trust is investigating in co-operation with Queen's University Marine Laboratory and Seafish Ltd. of Stanley.

Two new trustees are Mr Alan Frost, an insurance and financial expert, and Mr Henry Robinson, a businessman and chairman of an international rural development charity helping young people, mostly in East Africa.

### Expertise on economy, environment and heritage

The Trust says it now has the ability to call on expertise covering the sustainable economy, a viable camp, quality of life and the environment, as well as assisting FIDC in cultural and natural heritage.

The report gives an account of the first Falklands visit by FIT Chairman, Air Commodore Peter Johnson, since his tour as Commander of the British Forces there in 1994/95. He thanks the many Government officials and the Falklands Trustees, Tim Miller and Marlane Marsh, for making his visit such a success.

Expenditure for the year, £36,174, exceeded income, £32,538, of which £30,000 was provided by the FIDC. Spending was divided between projects (£17,014), consultancy fees (£3,626), travel (£10,449), IT equipment (£2,200), and minimal administration costs. The core fund dropped from £84,666 to £83,230.

## Falklands Penguin Deaths Appeal

Mysterious mass penguin deaths in Falklands waters has prompted the wildlife charity, Falklands Conservation, to intensify its appeal for funds to help combat the tragedy.

The renewed appeal coincides with British newspaper reports on the plight of the penguins and asking for donations to support research to preserve them. The Daily Mail headlined its story: "Red Tide of poison kills 10,000 penguins".

The report says it is now almost certain the deaths result from a natural occurrence called a red tide, caused by plankton, the basic food of many sea creatures, which, in certain conditions, stain the water brownish-red as they create a poison. Such a red tidal algal bloom has led to the closure of several shellfisheries along the Patagonian coast.

Penguins which feed on squid and shrimp have been worst hit, especially Gentoo penguins, of which at least 10,000 are reported dead, along with an unknown number of other birds including albatrosses and petrels.

The Falklands have the largest Gentoo population in the world, with 115,000 birds, more than 40 per cent of the species.



### Worst may be over

The disaster began in early December and the worst now seems to be over. Falklands Conservation officer Becky Ingham has co-ordinated collection of nearly 100 dead birds for analysis in Britain and Chile to discover the cause. The investigation has the co-operation of Falklands Veterinary Department and specialist veterinary surgeons from the Wildlife Conservation Society. Andy Black of the Falkland Conservation Seabirds at Sea Team, has been taking samples on a research trip on the fisheries protection vessel Dorada.

The Falklands Conservation website shows pictures of dead penguins at Fox Bay. Port Howard Lodge manageress, Jackie Jennings, describes penguins dying on the beach, surrounded by scavenging gulls. On New Island, a Gentoo population of 5,500 breeding pairs is reported by wildlife expert Kevin Schafer to be down to only a few hundred birds, under attack from predatory Skua and Caracara birds.

Donation forms for anyone who wants to help can be downloaded from the Falklands Conservation website: [www.falklandsconservation.com](http://www.falklandsconservation.com) Harold Briley

**Book Review - Bridget's Book****Memories of a Falklands Childhood**

A remarkable book recording the memories of a Falklands childhood more than 100 years ago has reproduced the impeccable hand-writing and enviable grammar of twelve-year old Bridget Blake, the third of eight children of Robert and Dora Blake who was born in 1886 at Hill Cove Sheep Station, a remote settlement founded by her father.

Bridget tells a fascinating story through a child's eyes, with a flair for description of the wonders of life around her. She writes in graphic detail about the Islands, the family's home and surroundings, sheep-shearing, riding, and special events like picnics and Christmas. Her colourful anecdotes come to life aided by remarkable pictures as she

tells how their play-place was the paddock, shared with calves which chewed up dolls clothes and even learned to pull a little sleigh. For doing chores, their mother gave them lumps of sugar which they fed to three wild goslings they were rearing.

With no roads, she describes how "People travelled on horseback.... (Children) rode on a little cushion in front of a



full-grown man. Once, (when) it began to pour with rain, the man behind me put on his great riding cloak and it came right over my head like a tent. How dark and stuffy it was inside! And how strange the movements of the horse as long as I could not see where we were going".

She recalls how "the government tried to send round school teachers for three weeks twice a year, but often there were none to send...Our Mother had been trained as teacher so we had regular lessons... Mother saved (our holidays) for special occasions - birthdays and very fine days and washing days or when there was a new baby".

Bridget's writings are a tribute to her mother's ability as a teacher and her own intelligence, which was to earn her a first class Oxford degree in English Literature, unsurprisingly when she showed such early precocity.

This unique gem of a book is an imaginative initiative by the Alastair Cameron Memorial Trust which encourages activities relating to local history. Alastair was a popular government official, tragically killed in a road accident at the early age of 38. It is available from the Falklands Government Office in London or Jane Cameron in Stanley for £9.95 plus £1.50pp. **HWB**

**Lives through five centuries - Falklands biography**

An ambitious project to create a comprehensive Dictionary of Falklands Biography (DFB), telling the life story of everyone of significance or interest connected with the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, has been officially launched by former Falkland Islands Governor, David Tatham. He has appealed to anyone who can contribute ideas or information to contact him.

The biographies are planned to start with the discovery of the Falklands in 1592 and continue up to 1981 just before the Argentine invasion. The period from 1982 will almost certainly be covered in a second volume. More than 400 characters going back five centuries begin with navigators, adventurers, and explorers such as Sir Richard Hawkins and Captain John Davis, and the Dutch privateer Seebald de Weert.

The dictionary will focus on the history and development of the Islands in an imaginative way, as seen through the impact of individual lives. Factual information such as names, places and dates, will be enlivened by assessment and evaluation of the person's character and how they coped with challenges and problems, and what their contemporaries thought of them.

**Encompassing all nationalities from every age**

David Tatham says: "We aim to discover new information and collect existing material to provide a biographical companion to those interested in the history and society of these islands and to encourage genealogical studies".

About thirty people who are still alive have been invited to write their own life stories. All nationalities will be included as will pictures and other illustrations.

A valuable tool basic to the success of the project is the website, which already carries details of what is intended, gives an idea of the enormous scholarship which the initiative involves, and seeks help from anyone who feels they can contribute. The website address is: [www.d-falklands-b-org](http://www.d-falklands-b-org)

The Dictionary of Falklands Biography is just one of a number of initiatives originated by David Tatham former Governor of the Falklands. He was the principal founder of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund and a founder member of the South Georgia Association educational charity.

Further information is available from: David Tatham, Wisteria Cottage, South Parade, Ledbury, Hereford, HR8 2HA  
Telephone and fax: 01531 634 085 E-mail: [editorfb@onetel](mailto:editorfb@onetel).

**Argentina, the Current Situation**

President Nestor Kirchner took office on May 25th inheriting a country still afflicted by appalling problems.

The dramatic devaluation of a year ago has helped, particularly in rural areas, as agricultural exports now yield three pesos for every dollar instead of just one. This devaluation has helped "import substitution" industries too. But many items, such as medicines and computer supplies, cannot be made locally and so are now prohibitively expensive. More than 50% of the people are still below the poverty line. Pickets still block roads to pressure the government into granting them more support - although this is less severe than it was.

Argentina still cannot meet its international debts and poverty and unemployment are still appalling. Holders of dollar

bank accounts have had to accept bonds in exchange for some of their own money. Foreign companies continue to leave Argentina. Argentina is having to negotiate a long term financial aid package with the IMF.

**Crime - seven murders per day in Buenos Aires**

Crime is the worst legacy at the moment of all these problems. In the Province of Buenos Aires there were 2459 murders in the year 2002 - seven per day! 40% of these were committed when the victims resisted the theft of their cars. This is a particularly common crime, sometimes combined with kidnapping. Policemen are regularly killed in gunfights with criminals - but are often involved in crime themselves.

## Argentine Election Debacle



New Argentine President Nestor Kirchner

With Argentina still beset by problems following the crisis last year, the Falklands figured little in the election campaign. But the chicanery provides a lesson to those naive enough to think the Argentines could ever manage the Falklands reasonably.

It all began in January last year after Argentina's economic and political collapse and some five presidents had taken office in quick succession. The Argentine Congress then appointed Eduardo Duhalde as President. He was the Peronist candidate defeated by former Radical President De La Rúa in the 1999 elections. Duhalde was to hold power until December 2003, when De La Rúa's mandate would have expired.

But Duhalde's main opponent was former president Dr. Carlos Menem, who was frantic to regain power. He campaigned to shorten the period Duhalde could serve before elections were held. Eventually, Duhalde and a Peronist controlled Congress agreed to "early elections" - on April 27 this year.

The Radical Party had collapsed following De La Rúa's inept government. So the presidential race was only among the Peronists who wanted to succeed Duhalde. Normally a primary would have chosen the party's presidential candidate. Normally too, only registered Peronists would have been able to vote in this. But Duhalde feared that Menem would win such a primary, thus eliminating other Peronist candidates - and so become President virtually automatically. So Duhalde tried to open this primary to all voters, so Radical supporters and others would stop Menem getting the Peronist nomination.

### Moving the Goalposts

After months of political manoeuvring, Menem won a legal judgement that only registered Peronists could vote in the Peronist primary. So Duhalde eliminated the Peronist primary altogether! This forced Peronist hopefuls to stand in the election itself - instead of in a primary in which only Peronists could vote. The candidates were, Duhalde's own champion, Nestor Kirchner, Carlos Menem his bitter opponent, and another Peronist, Adolfo Rodríguez Saa. There were two other major candidates: Lopez Murphy, from the centre-right and popular with the middle classes, and Elisa Carrio, a left-winger.

On April 27th this year Menem won 24% of the vote, Kirchner got 22%, Lopez Murphy on 16%, Carrio and Saa on 14% each. No candidate had an overall majority, so all but the top two were eliminated and a runoff election, between Kirchner and Menem, was scheduled for May 18th.

### A vote against Menem

But supporters of the eliminated candidates all began to support Kirchner - to keep Menem out. Soon opinion polls were giving Kirchner some 70% of the vote. Faced with the prospect of humiliation, Menem resigned his candidacy - bitterly criticising Duhalde's tactics as he did so. The runoff election was cancelled and Nestor Kirchner declared the winner. He assumed office on May 25th.

## New Government's Policy

In his inauguration speech, President Kirchner got cheers for saying that Argentina would maintain its claim to the Falklands. Earlier his Foreign Minister, Rafael Bielsa, had confirmed this, saying Argentina would promote its claim "energetically". He added that the Falklands issue touched him "profoundly", and said that he didn't understand "why Argentina couldn't have an avenue with some of the names of those who died heroically in the Falklands". The new government's policy is not to talk to Islanders, but only Britain and in international fora.

### President Nestor Kirchner

The new Argentine president is the great grandson of Swiss immigrants. His family were early pioneers in Patagonia, and his home town is Rio Gallegos. He has been Peronist Governor of the Province of Santa Cruz for 11 years. His mother was born in Chile, and he still has relatives there.

During a recent visit to Chile, when he met his relatives, Mr. Kirchner was reported to have opposed the settlement of the "Continental Icefields" dispute with Chile. This was a disputed territory in the Andes, that President Menem signed a controversial settlement over in the '90s. Mr. Kirchner's attitude may have been a legacy of the struggle between Chile and Argentina to control Patagonia. An Argentine task force expelled the Chileans from Santa Cruz itself in 1878. Argentina and Chile nearly went to war in 1899 and again in 1901 over Patagonia. The Argentina Junta did its best to start a war with Chile over the Beagle Channel dispute in 1978. This dispute was still ongoing in 1982, and the weapons Argentina subsequently used against Britain were meant for Chile.

## Flights of Fear

Much concern was caused in the Falklands in April by the sudden announcement by the head of Aerolíneas Argentinas, Antonio Mata, that his airline would be flying to "Puerto Argentino" (Stanley) twice a week from Buenos Aires starting in May - with the Argentine President on the first flight!

A few days later it became clear that he had merely applied to the British DTI for permission for this - and was soon turned down. But it caused fear in the Islands, especially as Dr. Carlos Menem, then hoping to be elected, commented that Mata had "promised it to him". It is indicative too of the Argentine desire to penetrate the Falklands again as they were able to do in the 1970s, after the Foreign Office slipped the hated 1971 Communications Agreement passed a newly elected British government. This allowed LADE the Argentine military airline to get a stranglehold on communications with the Falklands.

Mata's plan annoyed the Argentine Foreign Ministry too. They complained that as the Falklands were Argentine, the application should have been made through them!

## Argentine Credit Card Nonsense

In yet another move to support its sovereignty claims, the Argentine Central Bank has announced that all credit card payments made with Argentine credit cards in the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, must be denominated in Argentine pesos, and the credit card slips must bear the Argentine names for the places involved. Thus a payment made in Stanley would not only have to be in pesos, but carry the address "Puerto Argentino", Islas Malvinas. If these rules are not observed no payment will be made.

The effect of this nonsense is that Argentine visitors will find that their credit cards are unacceptable in the Falklands.

## New Newsletter Photographer in Stanley

The Association welcomes Mr. Zachary Stephenson who has agreed to be the principal photographer for the Newsletter in Stanley. Kevin Clapp will continue to assist with photographs.

The Newsletter would also like to acknowledge the help given to it by: Penguin News, Mr. Norman Clark, whose excellent photos first enabled the Newsletter to go to colour, Mr. Kevin Clapp, Mr. Patrick Watts, and many others.

Mr. Stephenson has a computer business in Stanley, and will have scanning facilities for photographs. Islanders are invited to submit photos to him for possible inclusion in the Newsletter. Wedding and christening photos would be particularly welcome, as would photos of new business ventures, and sporting and educational achievement. Photos of garrison activities are very welcome too.

## Keppel in 1855

Readers may like to see the fine miniature watercolour donated to the Falklands Islands by the Hon Alexandra Shackleton last year. There was insufficient room to publish this in our coverage of the presentation in our last issue.

The painting is by Captain William Parker Snow 1817 - 1895. He took part in the 1850 expedition searching for Franklin, and later captained the *Allen Gardiner*, which conveyed missionaries between Keppel and Patagonia for the South American Missionary Society. It is likely that the ship in the painting is the *Allen Gardiner*.

*Photo: Christies*



## Air Commodore Frow

Brian Frow, who died on 30th September 2002, was Director General of the Falkland Islands Association from 1978 to 1982.

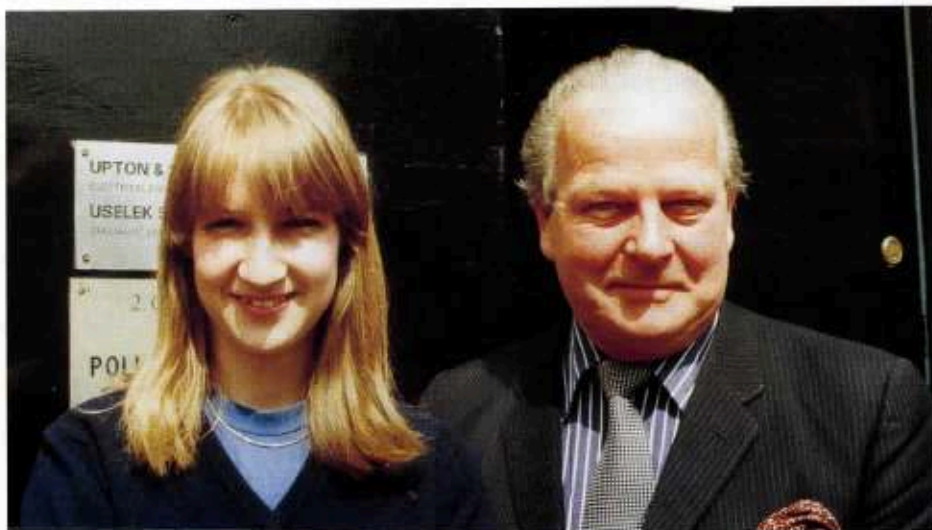
In 1977 the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee decided to open a London office after their activities outgrew the voluntary arrangements that had been in place since the Emergency Committee was formed, by Bill Hunter Christie and others, in 1968.

Brian Frow, having retired from a distinguished career in the RAF (earning a DSO and DFC and bar) was appointed Director General in April 1978. It was Brian's role, assisted by Leif Barton, an Islander, who had been General Secretary since 1977, to establish a permanent office and generate a step-change in the fundraising, lobbying and publicity for the Falklands cause at a time of severe political vulnerability. Membership grew from 270 in March 1978 to 544 in March 1982.

Offices at 2 Greycoat Place, Westminster, were leased in May 1978 and became the home of the Association and the operations base for Islanders in the UK during the 1982 War.

In 1978 Leif returned to the Islands and I was appointed to replace her. At this time the office was funded by corporate donations, the Association membership fees and the generosity of Bill Hunter Christie.

By 1980 it was decided that something more concrete needed to be done if the office was to continue its work. At that time the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers were looking



Miss Sukey Cameron and Air Commodore Frow, DSO, DFC, in 1982

for a new Clerk and so it was arranged for Brian to fill that role and provide an office for the Company. The two posts worked well together and when the Invasion took place in April 1982, the workload of the Association dramatically increased leaving Brian to juggle two virtually full-time jobs, a task he did exceptionally well.

After the decision, in 1982, by the Falkland Islands Government to open an official London headquarters, the Falkland Islands Association's workload was considerably lightened and the Committee decided to reduce the scale of its activities. Brian agreed to relinquish his post, continuing as Clerk of the Clockmakers until his second retirement.

Brian played a vital role in raising the Islands' profile before most people had ever heard of them, a difficult task at the time, but work that paid off in 1982 when the many contacts he had made proved invaluable.

**Sukey Cameron**

# The Falkland Islands Association

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**Chairman:** Sir Rex Hunt, CMG.  
**Vice Chairman:** Mr. Saul Pitaluga.  
**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. E.C.J.Clapp, MBE.

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

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

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

## Membership Application

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

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

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Connection with the Falklands, if any .....

.....

Signature .....

Date ..... Telephone .....

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

### BANKERS ORDER

To ..... Bank

Branch .....

at .....

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

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Account #..... Date .....

Signature .....

## Dates For Your Diary

**Battle Day & AGM**  
 Saturday 6th December.

### ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the Newsletter is 4,500 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, all Members of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly, Members of the House of Lords, all British Members of the European Parliament, and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth and foreign countries. 700 copies are distributed in the Falkland Islands. Advertising rates are as follows:

Full Page .....	£250
Half Page .....	£125
Quarter Page .....	£65
Eighth Page .....	£35
Short Insertions .....	£3 per line

Discounts for four insertions by negotiation. A special concession is offered to Association members living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

### RELEASE OF COPYRIGHTS

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Falklands veterans at the SAMA 82 Reunion at Twickenham in May. L to R: Mrs. Jane Thompson, wife of General Thompson, Denzil Connick, of 3-PARA, General Julian Thompson, and SAMA Chairman, Martin Reed, of the Canberra.



The Patriots Motorcycle Club UK. The motorcycle club for Armed Forces veterans, photographed at the AGM of Falklands War veterans organisation, SAMA 82, at Twickenham in May. Left to right they are: Denzil Connick, 3-PARA, Michael Bateman, 3-PARA, David McCabe, 3-PARA REME Armourer, Martin Scott, Sea King Air Crew HMS Invincible, Bill Begg 16 Field Ambulance, Barry Angus 656 ARMY AIR CORPS.

Photos: P.J.Pepper