



# Falkland Islands

## Newsletter

*Published by the Falkland Islands Association*

### Islanders Reject Argentine Bullying

Argentine pressure to force the Falkland Islands to accept direct flights from Argentina has suffered a resounding rebuff — and rightly so. It could have been a critical stride forward by Argentina in its campaign to control communications between the South American mainland and the Falklands and towards sovereignty over Islanders who fervently wish to remain British.

The Falkland Islands Government's robust rejection of a plan reportedly discussed by Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell in Buenos Aires demonstrates Islanders' defiance of Argentina's bullying tactics in recent months. This includes an Argentine ban on charter flights through its air space from Chile, which is damaging to commerce - especially hampering passengers in transit for cruise ships in Stanley.

According to Argentine press reports, the Argentine Government was ready to lift its charter ban in exchange for direct flights from Argentina by Argentine airlines.

The Falklands Islands Government said "No". The proposals failed to meet their criteria or serve their best interests.

They would not capitulate to blackmail and harassment such as the flights ban and Argentina's encouragement of its fishing vessels to operate in international waters north of the Falklands to reduce the amount of squid reaching Falklands waters and so reduce Islanders' fishing revenue.

Islanders are resolute in shouldering financial damage for the sake of principle. The British Government supports them, accepting that any agreement over flights requires discussion with the Islanders and their consent. This support is crucial in response to Argentina's dismissive attitude to Islanders' wishes. This is exemplified by Argentine Foreign Minister, Rafael Bielsa, who arrogantly said he could not care less about the Islanders. That diplomatic gaff backfired. What the Argentine Government was ready to hail as a victory for President Kirchner's hard-line policies has foundered on Falklands' fortitude and determination.

Argentina is wrong, and the Falklands are right in deed as well as aspiration, as their age-old motto says: "Desire the Right".



Battle Day Remembrance: Admiral Sir Michael Layard, a survivor of the Atlantic Conveyor tragedy, Falklands Councillors Mike Summers and Jan Cheek and Sir Rex Hunt

*Photo: Harold Briley*

# Falklands "No" to Argentine Direct Flights Plan

## *Failure to meet Islanders' criteria and "best interests"*

An attempt by Argentina to initiate direct Argentine air links to the Falkland Islands in its campaign for closer communications and eventually sovereignty has been rebuffed by the Falkland Islands Government.

According to Argentine press reports, proposals discussed by Argentina with British Foreign Office Minister, Mr Bill Rammell, during his February Buenos Aires visit, would have introduced for the first time direct flights from Buenos Aires by Argentine aircraft, in return for Argentina ending its ban on charter flights over its territory from Chile. This ban damages Falklands commerce and tourist industry, hampering travel by tourists and cruise ship passengers at Stanley.

The proposals as outlined in the Argentine press were robustly rejected by Falklands Councillors after a confidential telephone discussion with Mr Rammell on his return to London. Councillors issued a statement declaring: "The proposals as they stand should not be taken forward. They fall short of the criteria we need to resolve this disagreement". They added that talks would continue between Argentina and Britain "on air links and other matters".

### **Proposals require "Islanders' consent"**

A Falklands Government spokesman, Councillor Roger Edwards, declared: "We can categorically state that No agreement has been reached, particularly on the basis reported in the Argentine press. Any proposals will have to be discussed with the Islanders, and any agreement...would have to get Islanders consent". Mr Rammell was in full agreement with this. The Councillors wanted to be sure that any proposals were "in their best interests". The Buenos Aires talks had produced "some proposals but no agreement".

### **Charter ban problem for Argentine monument**

Argentines have shown little interest in visiting the Falklands which they are free to do, with access to a monthly stop in Southern Argentina by the LanChile flights from Punta Arenas. As a humanitarian gesture by Falkland Islanders, Argentine relatives have always been welcome to visit their 1982 war dead buried in Darwin cemetery.

The proposed direct flights were planned to begin not later than the inauguration of a new Argentine monument at Darwin, which arrived by ship in late February, ready for assembly. Falklands Councillors say the Argentine ban means

there will be no charters of any kind, including Argentine. This creates uncertainty for the inauguration ceremony, aggravated by Argentine Ministers' refusal to abide by Falklands immigration requirements that their passports be stamped.

In return for direct flights, Argentina was ready to end its ban on charter flights from Chile until the end of the year, when the situation would be re-assessed. The weekly LanChile flight is unaffected as this is guaranteed by a 1999 Anglo-Argentine Joint Statement. The Falklands want a second LanChile flight as well as charter flights to serve their burgeoning tourist industry.

### **"Irrational" Argentine ban**

The flight ban was denounced as "irrational" by the Director of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), Denise Landau, who said "everyone, including Argentines, stand to lose business".

Before the Falklands rejection, the Argentine Government was reported to be anticipating what the press called "a victory" for President Kirchner's tough foreign policy that former President Menem's "charm offensive" failed to achieve.

As the Newsletter was about to go to press, Argentine newspapers again confirmed that any new air links must be from Argentina by Argentine airlines. They also repeated the Argentine Government's refusal to consider the Islanders to be parties to the discussion. Earlier, Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa had been arrogantly dismissive of Falklands' attitudes, declaring: "I am not interested in the opinion of those 3,000 British subjects". But the British Government has repeatedly asserted that Islanders' wishes must be taken into account. **HWB**

## **Ambassador wants Communications**

The new Argentine Ambassador to Britain, Mr. Federico Mirre, told Argentine Newspaper *Clarín* in November that the Falklands are his most delicate subject. He said his task will be "to get communications; to try to get the people to get to know each other". He has in mind such things as school and cultural exchanges, etc. Why Islanders should want this while Argentina is doing its best to harm them is anybody's guess.

Last year Argentines even floated the idea again that there should be an orchestra made up of British, Argentine and Falklands children. Argentines seem to think that such sweet harmony should lead directly to sovereignty negotiations!

## **UK No to Nuclear Weapons Apology**

Britain categorically rejected a demand by Argentina for an apology because British warships hurriedly despatched to the South Atlantic in 1982 still had nuclear weapons on board. The weapons, nuclear depth charges carried on seven of the ships, were all safely removed and returned to Britain before the Task Force approached Falklands or South American territorial waters.

The Falklands Governor, Mr Howard Pearce, declared there was nothing to apologise for. "No treaties were breached. No weapons were lost. No radiation was leaked, and there was no damage to the environment".

British warships had routinely carried nuclear weapons to counter the Soviet threat during the Cold War. The British Government pledged it would not use them in the Falklands War.

The United Kingdom had previously acceded to the Tlateloco Treaty establishing a nuclear-free zone in South America which the Argentine military regime refused to do.



Argentina itself had nuclear power stations, built with United States and West German help, and large stocks of natural uranium and was known to be trying to develop atomic weapons since Juan Peron's presidency. In 1982, Argentina's nuclear industry was under military control with an Admiral in charge.

Editors' comment: The Argentine demand for an apology was ludicrously hypocritical, especially when they had not signed the nuclear-free zone treaty and the British warships were sent south only to deter Argentine aggression. This is one more incident symptomatic of the Kirchner Government's current rhetoric intensifying pressure in its campaign for sovereignty.

# Minister tells Parliament: No flights deal

Reporting back to Parliament on March 1st, Foreign Office Minister, Mr Rammell (photo below) said his talks with the Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr Rafael Bielsa, covered a wide range of international, regional and bilateral issues. Mr Rammell said: "The talks were frank and constructive and we made some progress. Some proposals were discussed which we each agreed to look at further. These proposals primarily focussed on temporary arrangements for charter flights for 2004. I made clear that any arrangements would need to be acceptable to the Falkland Islanders. Regrettably .... an article appeared in an Argentine newspaper, giving details of my talks and wrongly asserting that a "deal" on air links had been agreed.... This was not the case.



"I spoke subsequently to Falkland Councillors. They concluded that the proposals for temporary arrangements did not meet their concerns. However, they agreed that we should continue to discuss the issue with the Argentine Government with a view to securing a permanent solution to the question of charter flights rather than having further temporary arrangements".

### Principles at stake outweigh economic costs

"We are now taking this forward with the Argentine Government, with the full agreement of Councillors (who) confirm that they have agreed to this approach".

On a Falkland Islands visit in November, Mr Rammell said that while Argentina's charter flight ban over its territory from Chile to the Falklands is damaging to the Falklands tourist industry," the Islanders believe there are principles at stake which far outweigh short-term economic costs". He said the UK Government respects and agrees with that view.

The charter flights ban raises uncertainty over the size of

Argentine attendance at the dedication of the new Argentine memorial at Darwin cemetery for Argentina's 1982 war dead.

The Islanders have been praised for their humanitarian attitude in agreeing to this conspicuous monument but they have voiced concern that a dignified ceremony comforting to the families of the dead may be ruined by Argentine ideas for a huge influx of Argentine ministers and government and military officials. Now, numbers could be restricted by a continuing charter ban which the Falklands Government say must include Argentine flights. The only alternative is the weekly scheduled LanChile flight from Punta Arenas.

The Argentine Foreign Minister, one of the dignitaries expected to attend, has petulantly declared he won't have his passport stamped as required by Falklands' entry procedures. Mr Bielsa revealed his true attitude by adding: "If patience is needed, we will wait 400 years, but the Islands will eventually return to the mainland".

### War monument "step to reconciliation"

The British Embassy in Argentina has issued a statement saying: "We continue to offer our full support to the monument, which we see as an important humanitarian gesture and a key step to reconciliation".

### Stop Press - Counter Proposal Refused

On March 3rd, the day the Newsletter was going to press, Argentine Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa was reported to have told the Argentine Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Argentina had rejected a British counter-proposal to start negotiating a permanent agreement on additional flights on April 1st. He was quoted as saying: "that proposal was not satisfactory".

## High Seas Fishing Threat

As yet another way of harming the Falklands, the Argentine Government has publicly called on its fishing fleet to fish beyond the 200 mile limit just north of the Falklands, to reduce the amount of squid reaching Falklands waters. The intention is to deplete the squid and so reduce the value of Falklands fishing permits, the Islanders' main source of income.

The decision by Argentina to do this is a total reversal of its earlier policy of discouraging fishing by, particularly, Far Eastern fishing vessels, just beyond the 200 mile limit. Argentina has fiercely criticised this in the past, and has even taken steps towards a treaty that would reduce high seas fishing. Now it has reversed this policy just to harm the Falklands.

### 25 Year Fishery Rights

Argentina also objects to the Falklands proposed policy of issuing long-term fishery rights to Falklands fishing companies. These would allow recipients to have a right to a fixed percentage of the annual catch, and is planned to start in the 2005 season. Such rights would last for 25 years. This is becoming standard practice in international fisheries, so companies can plan ahead and invest in the necessary equipment etc. Such rights could be traded between qualifying companies to provide economies of scale and other advantages.



Above is Clarin's article on December 11th that announced the Argentine Government's intention to harm the Falklands. It reads "Argentine boats will compete with those that fish in the Malvinas". A smaller title says "They seek to pressure the Islanders". Two smaller side titles say: "The Government will authorise local fishermen to fish in international waters" followed by: "This is where foreign boats operate that later pay licence fees to the Malvinas".

Below this was a map showing the sea area around the Falklands entitled: "The Battle for the Squid". The legend on the top right of the map pointed to Argentine waters and says: "Area in which 100 Argentine boats fish, 60 of which will move to international waters". The legend below this indicates the area just north of Falklands waters and says: "International Waters, the area in which 250 foreign boats fish, 130 of which receive licences to fish in British administered waters".

## Market Garden Hit by Argentine Action

One of the businesses hit hardest by Argentine action against charter flights is the hydroponic market garden run by Mr. Tim Miller. The loss of eleven charter flights that would have brought passengers to meet cruise liners in Stanley has meant that these passenger exchanges will be carried out in South American ports, not in Stanley.

This has meant the loss of sales of fresh vegetables from the market garden. In December a ban at short notice on a flight to meet the liner *Clipper Adventurer* meant that lettuces prepared for sale to it had to be thrown away. More will be thrown away later in the season. It has also meant that the import of fruits and vegetables unsuitable for growing in the extensive gardens at Stanley have been reduced too - causing losses in Chile as well as to Stanley Growers, Mr. Miller's company.

### Chileans will be laid off

Although the Argentine intention has been to harm the Falklands, the first consequence will be lay-offs in Chile of the workers preparing these for transport and sale in the Falklands. Normally three tonnes a week would be brought in by air, but now Stanley Growers is lucky to get 5 to 8 hundred kilos a week. This affects supplies locally, but also to BAS in Antarctica. It also affects some particularly demanding shipping lines that prefer to buy fresh Chilean and Falklands produce rather than Argentinian produce from Ushuaia, where they do passenger exchanges.

### Other freight affected

Other businesses are affected too. LanChile sometimes puts DHL and other freight onto their charters. This is now

delayed. Putting on a bigger plane is an option that is being considered.

### Pressure will get Argentina nowhere

Islanders are used to Argentine pressure. Mr. Miller himself was seriously injured in the 1982 war. Although his business is losing £7,000 turnover per week, he told the Newsletter that "This loss isn't going to buy the Argentines the scheduled flight, probably to Buenos Aires, that they so badly want. Islanders know that Argentina is again trying to dominate Falklands external communications". Aggressive articles in the Argentine popular press has made it clear that this is the ultimate objective.

## Argentine Campaign Costs

The Argentines have not only been able to hurt Mr. Miller's business by their actions. Tourism manager, Mr. Fowler, has estimated that the total loss to the Falklands economy caused by the cancellation of 11 charter flights from Chile is about half a million pounds.

The passenger exchanges would have meant tourist spending in Stanley, accommodation, port fees, and the supply of all sorts of other goods services, such as Mr. Miller's produce, to the ships these charters were to meet.

The Newsletter believes that the Council and such businessmen as Mr. Miller are right to forego what are really minor financial advantages for the sake of the long term future of the Falklands. It is interesting that Argentines are doing their best to harm the Falklands while expecting their own creditors to extend every indulgence to them.



Mr. Tim Miller in his well known hydroponic garden. Vegetables are grown here in nutrient solution.

Photo: P.Pepper

## PM's New Year address to the Falklands

This time of year is traditionally a moment for reflection on the events of the past as well as a chance to look forward beyond the festivities of the Christmas and New Year celebrations. I hope that you, the people of the Falkland Islands, will continue to enjoy the progress, security and prosperity from which all Islanders are benefiting. The Islands continue to thrive. That so many of your young people return every year after finishing their education elsewhere is a striking demonstration of the confidence they have in their future and the enthusiasm and commitment they have for their community.

I know that Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell, during his visit last month, was impressed to see at first hand a vibrant Falklands community with diverse economic interests from fisheries to construction. Your continuing efforts to diversify to build up new economic interests can be seen everywhere: for example in your abattoir, which is now certified by the European Commission - opening the way for exports to European Union member states. Sir Ranulph Fiennes, when he ran his marathon around the islands on 27 October, as part of his 7-marathon challenge, was only one of the thousands of visitors who enjoyed the delights of a trip to the Falkland Islands this year. The Islands have much to offer tourists. In particular it is a real credit to you that the Falklands



environment remains so free of pollution and so full of rare wildlife such as the rock-hopper - one of the five species of penguin that breed on the Islands.

As you know the British Government will support you in your wish to continue to determine your own future. We remain committed to the guarantees we continue to uphold of security, sovereignty and self-determination. We continue to encourage the Argentine Government to engage in practical co-operation on issues of mutual interest. This can only benefit Falkland Islanders and your future prosperity and security.

I welcome the commitment of the Falkland Islands Councillors to the construction of the memorial for the Argentine war dead at Darwin. I hope that this humanitarian gesture will provide a focus for reconciliation both now and in the future. During this year, some of you have travelled many thousands of miles around the world on behalf of your Islands. Representatives of the Falklands have taken part in events ranging from meetings of the United Nations Committee of 24 in New York to the Royal Agricultural Show here in the UK. I am pleased that the Falkland Islands increasingly have the opportunity to participate in such events. Travel and tourism fairs, agricultural shows and sporting events give you the chance to promote the Islands to the international community.

My own thoughts and best wishes are with you and your families at this special time of year. Let me end by wishing you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

## Falklands reject Argentine pressure

In their robust response to Argentine pressure, Falklands Councillors declare that they will not be bullied or succumb to pressure. They have publicly thanked the British Government and the Governor, Mr Howard Pearce, for their strong support.

Councillor Stephen Luxton attacked Argentine misrepresentation on "the complete non-story" about nuclear weapons. He accused the Argentine government of trying to turn the opening of Argentine Darwin memorial from what should be a dignified ceremony for the families into an epic political row. He doubted whether there could be any progress in relations for the duration of President Kirchner's administration, which he likened to the Galtieri regime which invaded the Falklands and exiled him and his family.

Councillor Norma Edwards said: "Argentina has to recognise that we (the Islanders) live here and accept us as the people who decide the future of the Falkland Islands. It is sad that Argentina, a democracy which wants to be seen as a responsible, sensible nation, constantly snipes at the Falklands".

She and Councillor Jan Cheek thanked the British Government for its strong support and its insistence that Islanders' wishes must be taken into account.

### Bullying won't get sovereignty talks

Councillor Mike Summers said "bullying tactics are not going to get them any discussions about sovereignty. Once Argentina realises this, there needs to be discussion on communications, but scheduled flights from Argentina will not be accepted at any price". He warned that continued Argentine aggression could make relations worse.

Councillor Richard Cockwell said: "We will not be pushed or bullied into doing what they wish... They must have realised over the years that we do not succumb to threats or deprivation of various things they actually control". Argentina and the Falklands "should be living peacefully and quietly as good next-door neighbours".

## MPs Monitor Argentine Harassment

As Argentina intensifies hostile pressure on the Falklands, a strong message of support has come from the British Parliament saying the Argentine Government's actions are being kept under scrutiny. The secretary of the all-party Parliamentary Falkland Islands Group, Mr Andrew Rosindell (photo above), declared: "Many of us in the House of Commons continue to monitor what is happening, particularly in the light of the new Argentine Government, and we are not afraid to speak out and question Ministers on issues relating to the Falkland Islands. We are not prepared to see the same betrayal continue as we have seen over Gibraltar, and the Falkland Islands will remain uppermost in our minds in the months and years ahead".

Addressing the AGM of the Falkland Islands Association, Mr Rosindell, MP, said: "For us, in Parliament, it is very important that we continue to work together and I would like to congratulate the Association on everything you are doing. I assure you that you have many friends in the House of Commons and the House of Lords and we will continue to stand up for the interests of the Falklands in Parliament". He praised the Falkland Islands Association for helping to ensure that the Falklands keep the profile they deserve in Britain. He presented Association Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, with a framed picture of Queen Elizabeth to hang in the Association's headquarters in London.



## Battle Day Ceremony in London

The Armed Forces were represented at the annual Falklands Battle Day ceremony in London by Admiral Sir Michael Layard, the senior naval officer who escaped from the transport ship *Atlantic Conveyor* sunk by an Argentine *exocet* in the 1982 war. He later became one of the most senior Royal Navy Admirals.

The wreath-laying ceremony and service, organised by the Falkland Islands Association, commemorates the 1914 Battle of the Falklands in which the Royal Navy destroyed the German South Atlantic fleet. It is also in remembrance of those who died in the 1939-1945 War in the Battle of the River Plate, and in the 1982 war.

Another wreath-layer this year was Lieutenant Commander Roger Wager who served in the Navy in the 1982 war. His uncle, Able Seaman William Charles Dale, fought in the Battle of the Falklands in 1914 on *HMS Invincible* and was later killed in the Battle of Jutland.

A Falkland Islands Government wreath was laid by Councillors Jan Cheek and Michael Summers, and by Sir Rex Hunt for the Falkland Islands Association.

Wreaths were also laid by two Falklands students, Kerry Ross and Donna Triggs, on behalf of the Young People of the Falkland Islands, and other wreaths were laid on behalf of the Falkland Families Association, the South Atlantic Medal Association, and the Association of Men of Kent, the county after which a warship of the 1914 battle was named.

The Royal Navy provided a colour party, escorted by cadets of Pangbourne College, with Air Commodore Peter Johnson as parade marshal. A Royal Marine bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille for one minute's silence in remembrance of the dead, and the Reverend Peter Millam conducted a brief service.

Harold Briley



Councillors Jan Cheek, Mike Summers and Sir Rex lay wreaths at the Cenotaph



Lt. Cmdr Roger Wager, Kerry Ross and Donna Triggs lay their wreaths.

Photos: H.Briley



Photo: D. Ford

## SAMA Veterans Visit

### "The cost was worth it"

SAMA '82 members (Left to Right) Tony Kempster, Stewart McLaughlin, Grant Grinham and Russell McLaughlin re-visited the Falklands for Remembrance Sunday in November.

Grant Grinham and Tony Kempster both fought with 3-PARA. Stewart McLaughlin and Russell McLaughlin are the son and brother of Corporal McLaughlin who was killed on Mount Longdon.

Both Grant Grinham and Tony Kempster went on the SAMA pilgrimage in 2002. Grant told Penguin News that this helped them come to terms with memories of the fighting. It was their idea to bring Stewart and Russell to show them where Corporal "Scouse" McLaughlin died.

Grant Grinham, now a school teacher, told Penguin News that "We met people here and saw how the place had developed; we could see people had grasped the opportunity we gave them. The cost was worth it".... "We've renewed friendships and made new friends. This was more of a holiday than the pilgrimage was". He plans to return again.

# Battle and Remembrance Day Photos from Stanley



**Remembrance Sunday:** Below: Governor Howard Pearce lays the wreath on behalf of the Falklands. Right: The scene at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Below Right: The Stanley branch of the Royal British Legion parades.



**Battle Day:** Above: The Falkland Islands Defence Force parade for Battle Day at the 1914 Battle Monument, in rainy weather.

Above Left: Falklands Sea Cadets act as bearers for the many wreaths to be laid on Battle Day.

Photos: Penguin News and Zac Stephenson



## SAMA '82 Appreciation

SAMA '82 has expressed its thanks for the generous sponsorship from Legislative Council that allowed it to fly six members down to the Islands - four for Remembrance Sunday and two for Battle Day.

The Falklands branch of SAMA chaired by Terry Peck ensured they were looked after and cared for together with the four independent veterans who visited for Remembrance Day, whose story is on the facing page.

The happy stories all these veterans brought back would fill the Newsletter but the thread running through them all is the overwhelming generosity and hospitality of the Islanders.

One of the four SAMA veterans who attended Remembrance Sunday in Stanley was Nicci Pugh who was a QARNNS

theatre sister on The Hospital Ship Uganda in 1982. Writing on behalf of herself and Mike Stanton, Wayne Trigg and Charlie (Paul) Bale, she told Penguin News that:

*On behalf of the four sponsored SAMA '82 pilgrims who have recently returned to the Falkland Islands, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us during our stay.*

*The Remembrance Day Services were memorable for us all; it was a privilege and honour to be in the setting where so many of our friends had been lost or injured 21 years ago...*

*It has been a truly memorable visit for us all, and we hope very much hope that others may be able to benefit from this unique experience in years to come. Thank you all very much indeed.*

*Your climate may be cold, but your hearts are warm.*

## Tribute and Thanks to a Falklands Champion, 50 Years of Service

A long-serving champion of the Falklands has announced her retirement from the Falkland Islands Association Executive Committee. Mrs Merle Christie has worked tirelessly for the Falklands' cause for more than half a century. Even now, at the age of 81, her expertise will not be lost. She is continuing her work on the Association's unique archives.

During the 1982 war, she was a vital member of the small-knit team which ran the Falkland Islands Committee office in London, presenting the Falklands' case and explaining the intricacies of the conflict to politicians, journalists and others and countering Argentine propaganda.

She worked alongside her late husband, Bill Hunter-Christie, who was awarded the freedom of Stanley, Sukey Cameron, now Falklands Government Representative in London, together with members of both their families, the late Wing Cmdr. Brian Frow, and a number of other volunteers. They provided a 24 hour service at the only real focal point of information about the Islands in what proved to be a very important and successful operation.

In a tribute to her at the Association's AGM, Ted Clapp, another veteran of the Association, recalled that Merle Christie's first involvement with the Falklands was as far back as 1948 when she helped Bill Hunter-Christie with his book, "The Antarctic Problem".

With the creation of the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee in 1968, their home became the centre for meetings, receptions, dinners and event planning, all of them making use of Merle's organisational, catering and typing skills.

After the conflict, Merle continued to run the office as Honorary General Secretary until 1995, when she became a



Sir Rex presents Merle with a gift in appreciation of her huge contribution over the years to the Falklands' cause.

Committee member and the Association's archivist.

Ted Clapp remarked that from 1948 to 2003 is a long time to serve the interests of the people of the Falklands. He paid tribute to her for her knowledge, her personality and stamina.

Merle Christie was loudly applauded when the Association Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, in recognition of her long service, presented her with a polished wood panel inset with a brass clock, thermometer and barometer/hygrometer.

To loud applause, the Association unanimously elected her a Vice-President of the Association. **Harold Briley**

## Annabelle Soldiers On

Annabelle Spencer, widow of Brian Paul who died last year, has confirmed that she will be continuing the Falklands work that they did together.

Starting again this year, she will be running the annual Falklands exhibition at Croydon that they were so well known for. She is also continuing to run the Falklands shop in Wells, their home town. She is shown below at the Association AGM, together Brian Paul's cousin, Nick Carpenter.



## Donna Triggs

### Top Falklands Student Overseas

At the Falkland Islands Association AGM, it was announced that the Bill Hunter-Christie Prize for the outstanding Falkland student studying abroad this year has been awarded to Donna Triggs, studying at Chichester College in West Sussex. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Triggs of Stanley.



Councillor Jan Cheek, who is responsible in the Falklands Government for education, helped to vote Donna Triggs as the outstanding student. She said: "Much of the increasing confidence among Islanders comes from the better education they are enjoying. We are opening up more opportunities. It is very nice to see young people like Donna taking advantage of them and being great ambassadors for the Falkland Islands as well. I am very proud of the many students I taught in my twenty years as a teacher. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to see them doing good jobs in the Islands, right across the whole range of services and government".

Photos: H.Briley & J. Faulkner



## Councillor Ian Hansen

Mr. Ian Hansen of Main Point Farm, West Falkland, won the bye-election in November caused by the resignation of Councillor Philip Miller.

Returning Officer, Mr. John Rowland declared that Mr. Hansen won 96 votes followed by Mr. Eric Goss with 66 and Mr. Lewis Clifton with 63.

Mr. Hansen told Penguin News that he would represent everybody in camp and "push further forward on the issues he addressed in his election manifesto".

Photo Right: Governor Howard Pearce congratulates Councillor Hansen after swearing him in.



## Desire Petroleum Goes Ahead

Falklands registered Desire Petroleum is currently starting a three dimensional seismic survey in the North Falklands basin. It has contracted the Norwegian company Fugro Geoteam to do this. Desire is currently raising the necessary funds via a Placing and Open Offer of its shares.

It is expected that this 3D survey will have been completed and interpreted by the late summer of 2004, at which time Desire will seek partners to initiate a second drilling campaign, possibly in the austral summer of 2004-5.

The 1998 drilling work in this prospect encountered a very thick source rock which has proved to be the second richest yet discovered world-wide. A deeper source rock was also encountered.

Calculations indicate that from 60 to 110 billion barrels of oil may have been generated and expelled from the mature



The seismic research vessel Geo Pacific which belongs to the Norwegian company Fugro Geoteam.

section of the upper source rock. The latest geological model suggests that if suitable reservoir rocks exist, some three different prospects might exist each with recoverable reserves of more than a billion barrels of oil.

## Bogus Heroes

Argentine Magazine *Gente* revealed in January that of the 649 names on the war memorial in Buenos Aires to the Argentines killed in the Falklands War, at least 17 had never even taken part in it. Eleven had died in a helicopter crash in Santa Cruz on April 30th. One drowned accidentally in Puerto Deseado harbour. Another died of pancreas disease in hospital! Others died in the Falklands, but from heart attacks and accidents, not in combat.

The revelation came from Argentine Falklands War veterans, particularly a Mr. Sanchez, and has been confirmed by General Martin Balsa, a veteran himself, who later became head of the Argentine Army, and is now Argentine Ambassador to Colombia.

Speculation is that their names were added so that their families could get the "Argentine National Honours Medal" and benefit from the government financial package decreed for those killed.

### Statistics falsified - More Officers

Mr. Sanchez also pointed out what others have commented on before: that in the original list of veterans there were very few officers. He said that "we've always suspected a manipulation of the figures with the purpose of bettering that situation". Mr. Sanchez says that the original force was made up of 26% officers and 74% soldiers. But by 1999 the percentage of officers had apparently risen to 48%!

Mr. Sanchez also complained about another statistic that has been the source of comment before: the "inexplicable and shameful" increase in the number of total veterans in the 1999 records as compared with the original figures in 1983. The Air Force figure has risen by 48% and the Navy figure by 231%!

## Argentine Monument at Darwin

The Monument to Argentines who fell in the 1982 war is in the process of construction at Darwin.

Most of it was prefabricated in Argentina and it has been shown to various groups in Argentina at Ezeiza airport, Buenos Aires. Although Prime Minister Blair and British Ambassador to Argentina, Sir Robin Christopher, have pointed out that it is a reconciliatory move by the Islanders, it has so far served only to increase rancour. The Monument was agreed in the Joint Statement of July 14th 1999. This allowed Argentines to enter the Falklands on presentation of their passports (as all other nationalities - including the British - have to do). But Defence Minister Jose Pampuro and Argentine Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa have both stated that they will not attend the inauguration if they have to have their passports stamped. In other words they appear to be seeking a concession to Argentine sovereignty claims.



The Argentine monument for Darwin partially assembled at Ezeiza airport, Argentina.



The Russian training ship *Nadezhda* in Stanley harbour.  
All Photos courtesy of Penguin News and Zac Stephenson



Krysteen Ormond receives her certificate for the Governor's Cadet Award from Governor Pearce. This is given annually to the best Sea Cadet.



The container ship *Marriane Danica* aground in Stanley harbour in November. The ship was freed the same day.



Winner of the Raft Race in January, building company AWG's entry skippered by Neil Clifton. The event raised £144 each for the Seamen's Mission and the Sea Cadets.



Recently qualified Falklands tour guides with their certificates, presented by Governor Pearce (centre), pose for the camera outside the Jetty Visitor Centre.



Sir Ranulph Fiennes (left) in the company of Dr. Mike Stroud, his medical support, running a marathon as part of his "Cross the Continents Challenge" in just four days. A group of schoolchildren greeted him at the finish line.



Children from the Infant Junior School receive a mine briefing from the Explosive Ordnance Department. Mines and other dangerous leftovers from the 1982 war continue to be found regularly, including a bomb found recently at Stanley Airport.



Pre-schoolers at the Infant Junior School nativity play



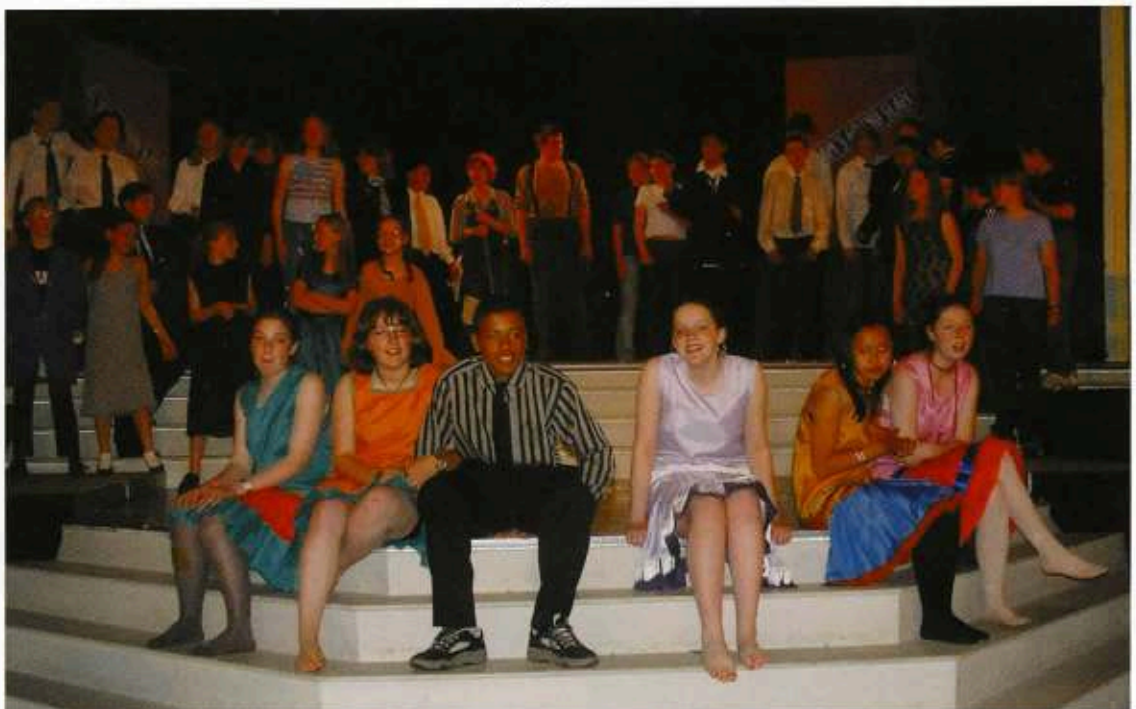
Stanley nurse Jackie Earnshaw names the cruise ship *Explorer II* when she visited the Falklands in December. Jackie was awarded this surprise honour for her years of service on the original *Explorer* cruise ship by Captain Uli Demel. The *Explorer II* was formerly the *Saga Pearl*. Jackie rose to the occasion and duly smashed the champagne bottle



The Falklands Conservation Watch Group celebrate another beach clean up.



Falklands. Shown above is Sir Ranulph, a military adviser, who ran the Seven Marathons Seven Islands challenge in 2003. He completed the challenge in 7 days and a half hours. Crowds lined the finishing line in Stanley.



Curtain call for the performers of the Community School play "Bugsy Malone"

## Christmas Sports

Despite wet weather, the Christmas Sports meeting was a success. Among many winners, Tim Bonner, photographed right on *Divine Presence*, regained the Championship Jockey title, which he has won before five times.

Among young jockeys, Clint Short, photographed below on *Miami Lance*, won the Bobby Short Gallop.



## Tributes to Myriam Booth

Islander, Ms. Myriam Booth, MBE, who has been Falklands representative for the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in Stanley for forty-three years, has retired.

She gained a reputation for being able to facilitate the supply of anything the BAS scientists wanted, which was not always easy from the UK 8,000 miles away. "Just ask Myriam" was enough to get it done.

Ironically, when it came to her own retirement ceremony, the BAS directors who were to pay tribute to her did not arrive in Stanley in time because the flight from Britain was delayed. Standing in for them, Falklands Governor, Mr Howard Pearce, presented her with the gift of a glass bowl.

As well as an MBE, Myriam also holds the Fuchs medal. In 1982, she was the first woman to visit Antarctica with the BAS. Her successor will be Pauline Sackett.



## MBE for Connie May

Islander, Mrs Connie May, who retired last year, has been honoured with an MBE for her 16 years of dedication to the old folk at the sheltered housing facility in Stanley.

Mrs May, a third generation Islander, began working at the facility in July 1988 and was on call 24 hours a day. She told Penguin News: "I never felt it was a nuisance and didn't mind if I got called out at night". She says she now misses the job "dreadfully" and continues to visit and run errands for the elderly.

When she first heard of her honour she told Penguin News: "... I felt I didn't deserve it; why me? I feel honoured, delighted and very proud and have been overwhelmed by congratulatory cards and messages".



## Falklands Accountants Success

The professional efforts of two Islanders as accountants have been recognised.

Karen Ballantyne, of accountants Wilkins Kennedy, was declared "UK Accountant of the Year". She received her award in London in front of 800 guests, having travelled there specially from the Falklands

Bernadette Lang qualified as a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

She received her certificate from Governor Pearce at a reception at Government House. Financial Secretary, Derek Howatt commented "This significant achievement was won after several years of hard work and study. We are very proud of her".



Karen Ballantyne, with senior partner of Wilkins Kennedy Mr. Peter Villa and her prize as Accountant of the Year.



Bernadette Lang receives her certificate as a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy from Governor Pearce.

## Jock Elliot Retires

Jock first joined the Army in 1965 as an "Argyll", Mad Mitch's Regiment. He retired from the Royal Marines, its affiliated Corps, as a Warrant Officer at Seighton Barracks, Plymouth in 1988. He actually left on the 11th hour of the 11th day on the eleventh month - Armistice Day.

Three years later, aged 43, he joined the Royal Falkland Islands Police Force. Proving that age is no bar, he did his probationary training alongside men 20 years younger.

In 1993, he was promoted and took over as B Shift Commander. In 1995, he became the first Criminal Records & Intelligence Officer in the



Force. In 1999, aged 51, he came top in the Sergeant's Promotion Exam and took over as both Operations Sergeant and Sergeant Support & Training. His final role was as the Force Trainer where he has turned out trained police recruits and potential sergeants alike.

In keeping with his military background, Jock retired in the same way from the police - on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 2003. He took his final steps out of Stanley Police Station to an Honour Guard provided by the Chief Officer Dave Morris and Inspector Len McGill and officers with drawn batons forming a line-up. This, just after the two minutes silence observed by the Victory Green Guns.... Jock would not have wanted it any other way!

## Round World Visitors

Caroline and Nigel Leakey called into Stanley in January in their catamaran *Murungaru* (Photo below) on their way round the World. They set out from Britain three years ago and came via Gibraltar, Morocco, the Canaries, Cape Verde Islands, the Grenadines, French Guyana, Belem and Buenos Aires.

They will leave soon for Ushuaia, the Chilean coast, Robinson Crusoe Island, Easter Island and Pitcairn and then go on to New Zealand.

Much impressed by the hospitality in the Falklands, Nigel described Islanders as "Spontaneously generous and kind". They were taken fishing on the Murrel by Robert Coombe. They hope to see more of the Falkland Islands before they leave.



Also in Stanley in January was the American yacht "10 to 2" (photo below). She had sailed from the Puget Sound, came round Cape Horn and is on her way back to her home port in Vermont.

Impressed by the friendliness of Islanders, the boat's crew told the Newsletter: "The best thing about Stanley is the people".



## Argentine Yacht Visits

The Argentine yacht *Mistico* (photo right) from Buenos Aires visited the Falklands for several days in January. Its visit is the first by an Argentine yacht since the *Malabar* in 1991. That yacht was bent on a nasty political stunt with "peace letters" from Argentine children to Falklands children. Afterwards some of the crew and the Argentine gutter press told various lies about how the *Malabar* had been abused - when they had been treated quite properly. This caused very considerable ill-feeling in Argentina.

The voyage of the *Mistico* inevitably had political overtones, and was described as "historic" on Argentine TV. But to his credit the owner of the *Mistico*, Mr. Jorge Bertolino, made a point of telling Argentine TV on his return that they had been well treated by Islanders. In February, Mr. Bertolino told the Argentine press that he hoped to start a regatta to the Falklands in 2006. He also plans a book to be called "So Far, So Close".

Although the *Mistico* is the first yacht from Argentina for 12 years, many other yachts put into Stanley every year. Two are mentioned above.



## Falklands Achiever

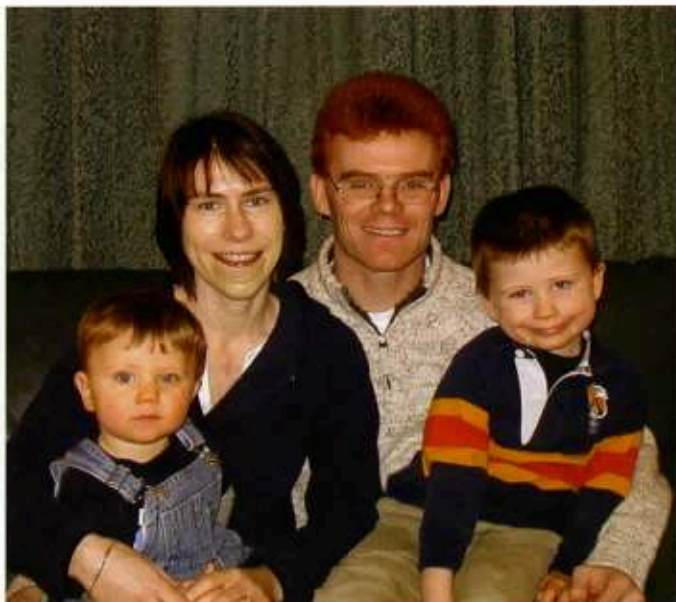
### Big Bahamas Job for Paul Blake

Falkland Islander Paul Blake has moved from Britain with his family to a prestigious new job in the Caribbean as Project Manager with Grand Bahama Shipyard Limited in Grand Bahama Island.

Paul is the son of Falkland Islands Legislative Council Speaker Tim Blake and Sally Blake, formerly of Hill Cove. He has had a successful career in technical fleet management since graduating from Plymouth University in 1991 with a B.Sc. Hons degree in maritime business. He has also been one of two young Falklands businessmen serving for several years on the Falkland Islands Association Executive Committee in London.

He met his future wife, Donnah Hutchinson, when she worked as a chartered accountant in the Falklands with Consultancy Services Ltd and he was employed by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation. They married in Aberdeen and have two sons, Thomas, aged four, and one-year-old Daniel.

Paul and Donnah moved in 1996 to London where Donnah continued her career as an accountant with top firms and Paul worked on huge projects involving product tanker vessels with Novoship (UK) in locations as diverse as Falmouth in England, Novorossiysk in Russia, and Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles. His work took him to more than 20 countries, from Norway to South Africa and Croatia to Honduras. And he is still only 34!



Daniel, Donnah, Paul and Thomas - Blake.

He was sent on assignment to Grand Bahama Island at the end of 2003 as Fleet Manager (Technical Superintendent) to undertake emergency repairs on an oil tanker. He so impressed Grand Bahama Shipyard they offered him the post of Project Manager – “a case of right place, right time”, he says.

His challenging new job involves planning and managing entire projects from start to finish, in time and on budget, including ship repairs afloat or in dry dock.

## FICS Prize Giving

Among many deserving winners at the Community School prizegiving in December was Samantha Brownlee. She won the Robin Lee Memorial Trophy for music and was Athlete of the Year. She is shown below receiving her trophy from Director of Education, Mrs. Sylvia Cole.



## Other New Year's Honours

In addition to the MBE for Connie May in the New Year's Honours, there is also an MBE for Linda Capper, Head of Press and Public Relations for the British Antarctic Survey.

There is a CBE for Professor John Beddington “.....for services to fisheries science and management especially in the South Atlantic”.

The new Commander of British Forces Falklands Islands, Air Commodore Richard Lacey (photo right), also receives a CBE.



## HMS Protector

### Collection for Kirsty Brown

As a result of our Newsletter report of the tragic death of the British Antarctic Survey scientist, Kirsty Brown, attacked by a leopard seal at the BAS Rothera base, members of the HMS Protector Association contributed to a collection of £100 towards her family's memorial fund to set up a research post in her memory.



An inquest in Stanley recorded a verdict of accidental death caused by drowning and leopard seal attack. Her dive computer indicated she was dragged underwater for six minutes at depths of up to 70 metres, and suffered 45 bite marks and bruises.

Experts believe the leopard seal may have mistaken Kirsty Brown for a fur seal or been frightened by her presence. Coroner Nick Sanders paid tribute to her colleagues who pulled her from the water and tried in vain to resuscitate her.

HMS Protector, described as “the best loved ship in the Royal Navy by those who served on her”, sailed Falklands and Antarctic waters from 1955 to 1968 and welcomed aboard many Falklands families and their children.

The treasurer and reunion organiser of HMS Protector Association, Bill Bartlett, welcomes any former crew members. Details are on its website: [www.hmsprotector.org](http://www.hmsprotector.org) or can contact: [bill@bartlett73.freemove.co.uk](mailto:bill@bartlett73.freemove.co.uk) Tel: 01202 480767.

Donations to the Kirsty Brown Memorial Fund may be sent to: Mr Tim Brown, Swains, Marlpost Road, Southwater, Horsham, Sussex, RH13 9BY

# Commercial Developments in Stanley

A number of new businesses and developments of existing businesses have opened in Stanley over the last two years.

**Shorty's Diner and Motel** is now open. There is a new **Kelper Store** with a fine bar and games room in addition to a large brand new shop. The FIC West Store has opened a new wing.

On the harbour front there is the **Capstan**, a fine new FIC shop catering largely for tourists opposite the West Store. It boasts a new car park which has solved much of the congestion that used to occur outside the West Store. It also has public conveniences attached for tourists.

The **Boathouse** shop and cafe, which is also fairly new, is now developing a small yacht marina.

Nearly opposite the Boathouse is the new **Harbour View Gift Shop** which caters largely for tourists.

Just up Philomel Hill is the **Basserie**, run by Alex Olmeda, where high quality meals are available.

Nearby is the new **A & E Woollens** goods shop run by Anne and Eddie Chandler who moved in from Port Howard several years ago. They now use a specially treated wool that is machine washable. **A & E** also markets its products via the internet from its branch in Britain: [www.falklandknitwear.com](http://www.falklandknitwear.com).



**The Capstan** gift shop on the harbour front. Seen above open at night for tourists from a visiting cruise ship. Below is its smart interior.



**The Pod:** Owners Mr. and Mrs. Berntsen open late to serve their customers. Most of the items that the Pod sells are of Falklands manufacture.



Above: Eddie Chandler in the A & E Woollens shop.

## Malvina House

The well-known Malvina House hotel changed hands last year when owner Mr. Mike Rendell sold it to Stanley Services. Below the staff pose for a handover photo.



Another smart new development on the harbour front: **The Harbour View Gift Shop**.

## 20 Years of Democracy

In December, Argentina celebrated 20 years of democracy - obtained largely because of Argentina's defeat in the Falklands war.

Below is the temporary monument erected in Buenos Aires then outside the President's Palace to commemorate some 20,000 Argentines murdered by the Argentine military junta. Each paper on the monument represents a life lost. The "No" at the top urges Argentina not to pay its foreign debts.



## President Accuses Police

President Kirchner has accused the Buenos Aires Police of involvement in the plague of kidnappings that still are continuing - particularly in the Province of Buenos Aires.

These take place on average one per day and the police have long been suspected of involvement in these and other crimes. Demonstrations have been held in Buenos Aires against what is called "insecurity". President Kirchner even paid a surprise visit to the suburb of Villa Urquiza as a gesture of support after two people had been killed by bandits during restaurant holdups. In other lawlessness 73 Argentine policemen were killed in gun fights with criminals in 2003.

## Bribery in Argentine Senate

In December, a repentant Argentine ex-parliamentary secretary, Mario Puntaquarto, publicly confessed to delivering some five million dollars in bribes to nine Argentine senators during the De La Rúa Government. According to the Argentine press, Mr. Puntaquarto says he was acting on instructions from the head of SIDE the Argentine Secret Service, Fernando de Santibanes, whose actions he said had been authorised by President De La Rúa. The object of the bribes was to get support for the Labour Flexibilisation Law then before the Senate. This subsequently passed (on September 26th, 2000) by 23 votes to 4.

Ex-president De La Rúa has now been prohibited from travelling abroad. He and the eight senators face interrogation. The Labour Law may now have to be voted on again. Mr. Puntaquarto, Santibanes and two Senators have already been indicted by an examining magistrate.

## Argentina refuses to honour debts

Argentina has been warned it must behave in a constructive way towards its hundreds of thousands of foreign creditors to whom it owes billions of dollars. The latest warning has come from the Group of Seven (G7) richest nations which have called for "constructive dialogue".

Bankrupt Argentina, which two years ago defaulted on the biggest ever foreign debt by any country, has been reluctantly rescued by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It bluntly refuses to pay back any more than 25 per cent of what it owes. Banks, companies and small investors, many of them pensioners, in the United States, Europe and Japan, are incensed by its intransigence. They want at least 65 per cent of what they are owed, not 25 per cent Argentina is offering, especially as Argentina has experienced an unexpectedly robust recovery of 7.3 per cent economic growth last year -- the fastest in the Western hemisphere.

But many millions of its people are enduring dire poverty. A truculent President Kirchner says he will not accept pressure to increase repayments. He says his priority is to get millions of Argentines back to work and budget surpluses will go towards paying back internal, not external, debt.

## Menem Under Investigation

Argentine newspaper *La Nacion* has reported (January 28) that ex-president Carlos Menem is now being investigated in Switzerland by judge Christine Junod for "presumed money laundering on Swiss territory".

Menem is also under investigation in Argentina by judge Norberto Oyarbide for failing to declare this Swiss bank account in his sworn statement of assets that all Argentine politicians must now make. Another Argentine judge, Julio Speroni, is investigating him for "illegal enrichment" and under the "Camara de Apelaciones en lo Penal Economico" for possible involvement in arms trafficking.

According to the Argentine press some 200 Argentines from the Menem era are under investigation in Switzerland for corrupt activities.

## Pickets Still Causing Chaos

Groups of unemployed Argentines still plague Buenos Aires and other Argentine cities blocking roads and causing trouble. President Kirchner has come in for considerable criticism for his unwillingness to allow the police to use force to stop them.



Pickets on the march in Buenos Aires in December.



## Eileen Vidal, BEM – Heroine of 1982

The death of Eileen Vidal has robbed the Falkland Islands of a colourful character and entertaining story-teller who became a heroine of the 1982 war for passing on vital military information and linking Islanders with each other in dangerous times.

In a varied career, her happiest ten years were 1981 to 1991 as operator of the vital radio-telephone system linking the scattered Falklands homesteads. 1982 was her greatest challenge which she met magnificently, bravely performing the first act of Islanders' defiance, followed by others to damage the Argentine war effort.

She worked ceaselessly to keep people out of town in touch with their families in Stanley. On invasion day, she was able to let all the school children boarding in Stanley talk to their worried parents. Vitally for the Royal Navy, her warning prevented the only British warship in the area storming into Stanley to certain doom. With the Argentine soldiers out of earshot, she was amazed to receive an urgent message: "Stanley, this is Endurance. Do you read? Over?" The ship's Commander, Captain Nick Barker, wondered whether to return to help defend the Falklands. Eileen Vidal's stark message, shouted through the ether, was: "For God's sake, stay the hell out of it! There are enough ships here to blow you out of the water!". She then relayed vital military information about Argentine troops and aircraft to HMS Endurance. "I knew it was a bit risky", she modestly declared. "I thought at any moment an Argentine soldier would come charging in. I was lucky that morning".

### Argentine "Spy" accusation

Her Chilean name and her knowledge of Spanish and of radio led some Argentine officers to accuse her of being a spy, threatening her and searching her house. She was awarded the



Photo: Jane Cameron

British Empire Medal for her outstanding work but treasured just as much the many messages of thanks she received from fellow Islanders.

In peace as in war, working in a run-down Stanley shack, she played an essential role in the lives of people living and working on the farms, dealing with shopping orders, delivering news of births, deaths and wool prices, and health messages. During "doctor's hour" on radio, she became something of an expert in making her own diagnoses, knowing who was allergic to what, those who still had an appendix and whose medicine chest must have been running low.

On her retirement in 1991, her most prized possession was an album of messages signed by every Camp resident, and the doctors and nurses who had worked with her, and also pictures drawn by the children.

She was born to Bernard and Kathleen Biggs in 1926, making a dramatic debut as a "blue baby", revived by the midwife pouring brandy down her throat and swinging her by the heels to get her to make her first cry. She had a varied career, as a shop assistant in the West Store, at Roy Cove, as a cook at Darwin School and Reynold Reid's café, and at the Working Men's Social Club.

She was married twice and spent several years living in Punta Arenas with her second husband, Nelson Vidal, a Chilean working in the Falkland Islands.

Eileen Vidal died in October, 2003, aged 76. She is survived by her brother, nine of her twelve children, twenty grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Her family paid her this tribute: "Her life was one long battle but her courage, sense of humour and sheer stubborn determination got her through". With thanks for information from Eileen Vidal's family.

HWB

## William Morrison – "Racing Legend"

One of the Falklands most skilful horsemen, William Morrison, has died in England at the age of 92. He worked for the Falkland Islands Company for more than 60 years and was never happier than in the saddle either as a shepherd or racing.

Competing for more than 70 years in the keenly contested sports at Stanley and Darwin, he became a racing legend among a community famous for their horsemanship. There were few trophies he did not win. He was born in 1911 at Arrow Harbour, one of nine children of Roderick and Sarah Morrison.

On retirement at 66, he emigrated to Scotland, then New Zealand and England, but regularly returned to the Falklands every year until he was 90, competing in the veterans' races.

During WWII, he was one of the mounted patrols of the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

One of his sons, Terence Morrison, was one of the soldiers who survived the Argentine air attack on Sir Galahad at Fitzroy in 1982.



Monsignor Agreiter

## Monsignor Anthony Agreiter

The Falklands Roman Catholic priest from 1986 to 2002, Monsignor Anthony Agreiter, has died of cancer, aged 69.

He was ordained at Mill Hill, London in 1957. As well as Prefect Apostolic of the Falkland Islands, he was also Ecclesiastical Superior of the new mission of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

He was a popular and devout priest and distinguished academic, who served the church and studied and taught in Britain, Germany, Italy and Uganda.

## Gordon Pickering

We regret to report the death of Gordon Pickering, a long-time friend of the Falklands, who was in the Navy there in the 40's.

He married Islander Joyce Gleadell, and helped create a small farm at the naval barracks. Gordon was a long term FIA member and in his will asked that at his funeral there be no flowers (apart from immediate family) but that donations be made to the Falkland Islands Association. We hope to carry a fuller obituary in our next edition.

## Gyro-plane May Fly Again

Mr. Phillip Hutton went to the Falklands in 1956 as a shepherd and then joined the Education Department in 1957. In 1993, based at North Arm, he was first to fly a gyro-plane in the Islands. With very strong winds it would be unwise to fly, but Phillip was able to fly whenever conditions and time permitted. With a strong steady wind a gyro-plane can fly with a takeoff run of only a few yards.

In 1997, after retiring and coming into Stanley to live, Phillip made a flight from North Arm to Goose Green. Now, in 2004, he is waiting for a CAA permit to fly again.

Mr. Hutton was at North Arm during the war, and often saw planes flying over, but fortunately North Arm was left alone by the Argentines.

Below: Take-Off at the hill at North Arm.



Phillip at North Arm; the settlement in the background. Below: at Goose Green after his 1997 flight.



## Book Review - The Falkland Islands: Between the Wind and the Sea

By Kevin Schafer, published by Coach House Publications, Isle of Wight. 96 pages including Table of Contents, Foreword, Introduction & Acknowledgements, and Bibliography. Over 75 colour photos. And a map. Softbound 241mm X 192 mm. ISBN 1-899-392-262. Available from Coach House Publications Limited, The Coach House, School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight. PO40 9BB or on line from [www.coachhouseonline.co.uk](http://www.coachhouseonline.co.uk).

Given a good camera it is not hard to take pleasing photographs in the Falkland Islands but the photographs taken by Kevin Schafer published in this new book are simply stunning. I do not think I have ever seen such a brilliant collection of photos which capture the special spirit of this unique and unspoiled wildlife. Each photograph is not just technically perfect but every one features a special aspect of Falklands wildlife covered in five chapters.

If I have criticism of the text it would be Kevin Schafer's mistaken comment that "It would not be until 1842 that the British would re-assert their claim to the Falklands". Every Falkland Islander knows that this happened on 3rd January 1833, when Captain Onslow raised the Union Jack at Port Louis and permanent settlement began. But this is not a history book; it is a vivid, colourful portrait of the wild life on a windswept paradise.

Becky Ingham, the enthusiastic Conservation Officer in the Falklands has written an appropriate Foreword which puts the case for protecting the precious wildlife and it is good to see that Kevin Schafer acknowledges the excellent work of Becky, Andrea Clausen and Nic Huin.

Any lover of the Falklands and their wildlife will surely want to have a copy of this book.

**R. N. Spafford**



One of the stunning pictures of Falklands wildlife in Kevin Schafer's new book - Rockhopper penguins.

## Come and Join Us!

As the Argentine Government intensifies pressure on the Falkland Islands in its campaign to impose itself on the Islanders and snatch away their British heritage, it is as essential as ever that their supporters in Britain keep up their counter campaign. It must be wrong to surrender 2,900 British subjects to any country, let alone one so discredited by bankruptcy and corruption.

That is why the Falkland Islands Association maintains constant vigilance and seeks your backing. The more members we have, the stronger is our voice to challenge Argentina's demands and support the Islanders.

We have recently had a surge of new members, raising total membership to 1,029, made up of 924 UK members and 105 overseas. If you value freedom and self-determination, we repeat our invitation: Come and Join us! There is a membership application form on the facing page.

# The Falkland Islands Association

**Patron:** The Rt.Hon. the Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS.  
**President:** The Rt. Hon. the Lord Hurd, CH, CBE.  
**Vice Presidents:** General Sir Peter de la Billiere, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, MSC, DL, The Hon. L.Buxton, Mrs. Merle Christie, Dr. R.Elgood, Sir Cosmo Haskard, KCMG, MBE, Sir Jack Hayward, OBE, Mrs. V. Malcolm, BEM, Mr. A.Monk, OBE, Mr. C.E.Needham, CBE, Major R.N.Spafford, Councillor R.E.Walker.  
**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

**Falkland Families Association  
 Annual Service  
 Saturday 24th April (Guards Chapel)  
 Saturday 12th June (Saint Paul's Cathedral)**

**Pangbourne Memorial Chapel Annual  
 Service  
 Sunday 13th June**

**Lincoln's Inn Reception  
 Thursday 17th June (Old Hall)**

**Battle Day & AGM  
 Saturday 11th 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.

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A Striated Caracara in flight. One of the many stunning images of the Falklands in Kevin Schafer's new book on Falklands wildlife: **The Falkland Islands: Between the Wind and the Sea** (See Review Page 18). *Photo: Kevin Schafer*



Falkland youngsters in the annual Tumbledown Run. More than 150 Children from the Community School took part. First boy to finish was Saul Zuvic Bulic; first girl was Tiphannie May. *Photo: Penguin News*