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Front page image: **Members of the community turn out to raise funds and awareness for Lyme Disease. Article on page 19.** ***Photo: Katharyn Daniels***

Editorial

by FIA Chairman Mr Russell La Forte CBE

Sovereignty of the Falkland Islands: Only One Opinion Matters

The inalienable right of Falkland Islanders to self-determination has been very much in the news recently, following President Milei's strident but ultimately impotent 'Cadena Nacional' speech on 3 September, oblique pronouncements by Donald Trump and the predictably appalling behaviour of the Argentine football team at the Football World Cup (since punished harshly by FIFA, quite rightly).

In a country seemingly irrevocably riven by fractious politics, the Falkland Islands and pride in the national football team provide two universal rallying cries in Argentina. The only difference being that the latter has some justification. It is a shame, therefore, that the undisputably talented 'La Albiceleste' (as the team is known) chose to conduct themselves so disgracefully.

Earlier this year, the UN marked the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace under the theme 'Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers', underscoring the critical role of sport as a universal language that transcends borders and cultures. It follows that the political grandstanding, thuggish behaviour and no semblance of graciousness in defeat displayed by Argentina at the World Cup have no place in sport, but then again, Argentina has a track record as a bad loser, both on and off the pitch.

Milei's recent disappointing stridency regarding the Falkland Islands is in stark contrast to his previously more conciliatory tone. This is no Damascene conversion of course, and the timing is all to do with presidential elections looming next year and his currently low popularity rating (37%, according to the Buenos Aires Times). Playing the Malvinas [sic] card to boost popular support is a classic from the Argentine political playbook (just ask the 1982 Junta). In reality, there was nothing new in his speech - rejecting the right of self-determination for an 'implanted' population (historically untrue and legally indefensible), sanctions on oil companies (already in place), the construction of a military base in Tierra Del Fuego (already being built), and opposing oil development in Falklands waters with all its means (ongoing to varying degrees and to no effect, for decades). Whilst the tiresome impotency of his remarks should not concern us, we should at least take note of their geopolitical context. The perception of the UK as a declining global power, a mercurial White House, and the Israeli dimension to name but a few. It behoves us, and especially HM Government, to keep on our guard. In this regard, whilst I am not yet lying awake at night, the complacency and duplicity of the 1970s and early-80s must never be repeated.

It really isn't rocket science. When it comes to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, only one opinion matters, that of the Falkland Islanders, end of discussion. Self-determination is a fundamental human right, enshrined in the UN Charter. It is an inalienable right, just like 'the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'. The Falkland Islands are British and will remain so, as long as the Falkland Islanders wish it. They have made, and continue to make their position abundantly clear. Lest there be any misunderstanding in Buenos Aires - Las Falklands son Británicas!

Mindful of the above, I commend to you, Graham Pascoe's excellent and timely article herein, entitled 'Why the Falkland Islands are British'. This sets out the basic facts of the matter, both historical and legal, that stand in stark contrast to the parallel universe of Argentine claims based upon myth, wilful misrepresentation and nationalist self-delusion.

Crucial though sovereignty is, the Falkland Islands Government recently stated that the Islands and its people must not become a political football in every conversation about England and Argentina. Thus, the bulk of this Newsletter is, as is customary, a veritable smorgasbord of articles that reflect the extraordinary success and vibrancy of the Islands, covering the full spectrum of politics, the economy, education, health, the environment, individual achievement, international affairs, history and of course the universal language of sport.

I was delighted to welcome so many people to the outstanding FIA Liberation Day Reception at the South Yorkshire Museum. Given its success, we will now alternate between London and elsewhere each successive year. Our next event though is the AGM and lunch that will take place at the RAF Club in Piccadilly on 5 December. Desire the Right!

Chair of the FIA Russell La Forte lays a wreath at the FIA Liberation Day event at the South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum.

Supporting the right of Falkland Islanders to decide their own future

The Secretary's Desk

WELCOME to the October edition of our Newsletter which I hope you agree is full of interesting news and articles about the Islands.

Argentina behaved disgracefully at the FIFA World Cup in the USA, as did the Argentina Rugby Union Team during their recent defeat by the England Team.

In view of this, Graham Pascoe's piece in this newsletter is an important timely read to all who care about the Falkland Islands and its citizens right to self-determination.

Both Argentinian teams showed the world a rather unpleasant side which should help the Islands in demonstrating to the world what they have to put up with on an almost daily basis.

The Association and its members have a very important role to ensure the rights of self-determination are constantly heard to their elected members both at the local and national level.

On 14th June 2026, the Association held an event at the South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum in Doncaster which was very successful. It was good to see so many veterans, their families and relatives together with members of the Association attending. This Museum is outstanding, with a very impressive section on the Falklands conflict.

Tom Swales
Hon Sec

A special thanks must go to my colleagues Keith Angus and Deborah Northwood who arranged the event along with Alan Beattie Chairman, and all his team at the Museum who made this day very special for all who attended. Thanks also to the FIG for providing a live link to the parade in Stanley. I would highly recommend a visit to the Museum which is staffed and managed by volunteers.

John Maskell-Bott has recently resigned from the ExCo of the Association. We would like to thank John for all his hard work and contribution over the years and wish him and his family well for the future.

Attention is now turning to our AGM which is being held at 12.00 noon on 5th December 2026 at the RAF Club in London. Further details will be sent to members and will be available on our website and social media platforms. Another date to put in the diary is for our summer event which will be held on 14th June 2027, again at the RAF Club London. Details will be given in due course.

As usual we would like to thank all members of the Association for supporting the people of the Falklands. We would also like to thank the Falkland Islands Government and the commercial companies in the Islands (Fortuna Ltd, Seafish Ltd, and Stanley Services Ltd) for their generous financial support, without which the Association would struggle to keep being able to remind people of the Islanders right to self-determination.

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Hon Secretary: Mr. Tom Swales
Hon Treasurer: Mr. Keith Angus

The Falkland Islands Association brings together those who support the continuing freedom of the people of the Falkland Islands. Its constitution states that its aim is "to support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future."
The Association is independent but maintains close links with many other Falklands' organisations. It is a major source of information about the Falklands. It welcomes interest in the Falklands and invites all those who share its aims to become members.

99.8% of Falkland voters wished to remain a British Overseas territory in the government referendum of 2013

Why the Falkland Islands are British

By Graham Pascoe

On 11 July 2026 the Argentine foreign minister, Pablo Quirno, wrote a long article on the Falkland Islands (or the Malvinas, as they are called in Spanish) in the Buenos Aires newspaper La Nación, as Iona Cleave reported in the London Telegraph the next day. On 23 July he published an almost identical article in the Israeli English-language daily Jerusalem Post. In both his articles the foreign minister repeated several arguments which (he said) showed the strength of Argentina's claim to the Falklands. Unfortunately for him, everything he said is historically and legally untrue, as will be pointed out below.

Mr Quirno chose to write at this particular juncture because of the clash between Argentina and England in the football World Cup, and also because in April President Trump asked the Pentagon to "review Britain's claim to the Falkland Islands", as a possible "punishment" for Britain's unwillingness to support his war on Iran (as the Telegraph reported on 24 April). The Pentagon was apparently considering various options, including reassessing "diplomatic support for long-standing European 'imperial possessions' such as the Falkland Islands". The story appeared in all major Argentine newspapers, and follow-up articles have appeared in various media since then.

I feel it's important to get things straight before taking this too seriously, so here are some basic facts about Britain's claim to the Falklands, which will demonstrate the untruth of Mr Quirno's assertions.

To begin with, the Islands are not an "imperial possession" of Britain – that's 19th-century language. In the 19th century Britain simply possessed the Falklands, just as other colonial powers possessed their imperial possessions. But since the Second World War the steady development of the international law of decolonisation has decisively changed the position. International decolonisation law is contained in the United Nations Charter, UN Resolutions, and rulings by the International Court of Justice. Under all of those things, Britain is no longer the possessor of the Falklands, but only the "administering power"; the Islands' inhabitants, the Falkland Islanders, hold the full right of self-determination and are the ultimate arbiters of their country's destiny.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1541 of 1960 lays down three ways in which decolonisation may take place. It may lead to:

(1) Independence;

(2) Free association with an independent state; or

(3) Integration with an independent state.

Resolution 2625 of 1970 repeats those three options and adds the so-called "fourth option":

(4) The emergence into any other political status freely determined by a people.

To add a word of explanation: (1) "independence" would mean that the Falklands would become a sovereign country, eligible for membership of the United Nations, with embassies abroad and with foreign embassies in Stanley; (2) "free association" would mean that the Falklands would become an independent country with full control over all domestic policy but with its defence and some aspects of its foreign policy delegated to Britain. An example of free association is the Republic of Palau, a small island country in the Pacific with some 350 islands and around 18,000 people; it has been a UN member state since 1994, but it is in "free association" with the United States, which provides its defence since it has no armed forces of its own; (3) "integration" would mean the Falklands would become part of Britain, i.e. part of some British constituency (say in Cornwall), and would vote for an MP in British elections. Both (2) and (3) would naturally require Britain's approval too. And (4) "any other status" is what the Falklands now have in international law, under UN Resolution 2625.

The constitutional progress of the Falklands since 1945, with new constitutions in 1949, 1985 and 2009, has brought a steady increase in the participation of the Falkland Islanders in the governance of their country, and the referendum of 2013 showed that they have "freely determined" the political status they wish to have under UN Resolution 2625, i.e. partnership with Britain. The referendum was organised entirely by the Falkland Islands Government, not by Britain – in fact Britain took no part in it whatever, and the British government was happy to allow the Falkland Islanders to use it to exercise their right to self-determination. The Islands' status could of course change at any time, but only in accordance with the wishes of the Falkland Islanders. So in any discussion of the Falklands, it should be stressed that under international law their status conforms to United Nations Resolutions 1541 and 2625.

The International Court of Justice has stated in several of its rulings, for example its Advisory Opinions in the Namibia case in 1971 and the Chagos Islands case in 2019, that "the subsequent development of international law in regard to non-self-governing territories, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, made the principle of self-determination applicable to all of them". That naturally includes the Falklands; any assertion that they are not covered by decolonisation law (for example because they are the subject of a territorial dispute) is untrue.

The history of the Islands' relations with the outside world reveals that Argentina gave up its partial claim to the Islands in the 19th century, and confirmed its renunciation on several occasions.

In the pivotal year 1833, when Britain expelled the Argentine garrison, which had murdered its commanding officer in cold blood and had terrified and traumatised the civilian inhabitants, there was no international consensus on who the Islands belonged to. The Islands were a disputed territory: Argentina regarded the Falklands as 100% Argentinian; Britain regarded them as 100% British; Spain still regarded them as 100% Spanish (but accepted significant British rights under the 1771 Anglo-Spanish treaty and the 1790 Nootka Sound Convention) – and the United States denied all those claims and held that the Islands were terra nullius ("no man's land"). To the United States they were part of the high seas, belonging to no country, and were open to all. So in 1833 it was unclear who owned the Falklands – or indeed whether anyone owned them at all.

The view of the United States changed during the 19th century, and in 1875, when the US appointed George Gerard as US Consul in Stanley, the US ceased to regard the Islands as part of the high seas and recognised that they were under British sovereignty. Consular recognition was the highest level of international recognition the Islands could be accorded, since they were not a sovereign country. From the 1850s to the 1970s there were ten countries that at various times accorded the Falklands consular recognition: Belgium, Chile, Denmark, France, Italy, Germany, Norway, Sweden, the United States and Uruguay. Each of those countries had a consulate in Stanley for many years. Norway holds the record for length of consular representation with almost 100 years, from 1877 to 1974; the United

States was represented for 33 years from 1875 to 1908, while the other countries were represented for several decades – Uruguay, for example, had a consulate in Stanley for over 50 years from 1924 to 1975.

For 17 years, from 1833 to 1849 inclusive, Argentina protested annually against Britain's possession of the Islands, thus keeping the Falklands dispute alive and maintaining the Argentine claim (which was always only partial, of course, since it was limited by the equally valid, but likewise partial, claims of other countries).

But in 1850 there was a radical change. In that year Britain and Argentina ratified the Convention of Peace, an all-embracing peace treaty between the two countries, signed on 24 November 1849 and brought into effect by its ratification by both sides on 15 May 1850. That treaty ended a British military intervention around the River Plate and established "perfect friendship" between Britain and Argentina. That ended the Falklands dispute. "Perfect friendship" naturally ruled out the existence of any dispute between the two countries.

It is impossible to reconcile the 1850 Convention of Peace with any idea of a continuing Argentine claim to the Falkland Islands. That was clearly accepted by Argentina. For example, Argentine President Bartolome Mitre, in his speech opening the Argentine Congress on 1 May 1865, said that some outstanding claims by Britain and France had been settled, so that now "there was nothing to prevent the consolidation of friendly relations between this country and those Governments". So there was no dispute with Britain, such as that over the Falkland Islands.

A year later the Vice-President of Argentina, Marcos Paz, in opening the Argentine Congress on 1 May 1866, was even more specific: he mentioned some outstanding compensation claims by British citizens, and said: "This question, which is the only one between us and the British nation, has not yet been settled." So apart from those private claims, there were no issues between Britain and Argentina – there was no dispute over the Falkland Islands. And four years later on 1 May 1869, in his speech opening the Argentine Congress, President Domingo Sarmiento said "Nothing is claimed from us by other nations; we have nothing to ask of them". So Argentina had nothing to claim from Britain, and thus had no claim to the Falkland Islands.

Accordingly, Argentina ceased to protest against Britain's possession of the Falklands for 38 years, from 1849 to 1888, and after a brief revival of a claim in 1888 dropped it again and has never delivered a formal protest since then. Some apologists for Argentina have pointed out that Argentina made one last protest on 29 December 1849, after the Convention of Peace was signed, but that was of course in the "limbo" period between the signing and the ratification of the treaty. During that time the treaty was not yet in force (in the 19th century treaties only came into force upon ratification), so Argentina could protest without invalidating the peace treaty. Once it had been ratified in 1850 Argentina's protests ceased.

So the Falklands dispute ended on 15 May 1850. That is well known in Argentina, and it has been accepted many times by Spanish-speaking authors, for example by the Mexican historian Carlos Pereyra in a book published in Spain in 1919 and reprinted in Argentina in 1944, by the Argentine historian Ernesto Fitte in two books published in Argentina in 1974 and 1975, by the Argentine historian Alfredo Burnet-Merlín in a book published in Argentina in 1974, and most recently by the Argentine historian Juan José Cresto in a two-volume work published in Argentina in 2011, when he was President of the Argentine Academy of History – he complains bitterly that the Convention of Peace established "perfect friendship" between Britain and Argentina but did not do anything to hand the Falklands to Argentina.

There are many other significant facts that demonstrate that Argentina has no claim whatsoever to the Falklands – to take only two examples, Argentina issued maps in the 1880s that showed the Falkland Islands as being outside Argentina, and in 1899-1902 and again in 1964-66 twice accepted arbitration by Britain over the line of the border between Argentina and Chile, thus accepting Britain as being qualified to rule on what was Argentine territory and what was not.

All those acts by Argentina over more than 150 years, plus United Nations Resolutions 1541 and 2625, demonstrate that the Falkland Islands are British territory in international law and the Falkland Islanders possess the full right of internal and external self-determination, so they are the ultimate decision-makers on the future of their country. Those are the legal and historical facts of the case.

In contrast to those, Mr Quirno repeated untrue statements in both his recent articles, which have constituted the Argentine case for several decades. He said in his article in La Nación: "In 1833 the United Kingdom occupied the Islands by means of an act of force never accepted by our country, disrupted Argentina's territorial integrity, expelled our national authorities and the legitimately established population, proceeded to populate the territory with its own citizens and prevented the settlement of Argentine citizens." (Quote from Pablo Quirno in La Nación, Buenos Aires, 11 July 2026; almost identical text in article by Pablo Quirno in Jerusalem Post, 23 July 2026)

Every word of that is untrue. Here are the facts:

1. In 1833 a single British ship, HMS Clio, ordered the lowering of the Argentine flag and the raising of the Union Jack at Port Louis, the then capital of the islands. There was no force, no one was injured, and the Clio simply sailed away without leaving any British forces. There was no official British presence for a whole year after that.

2. Britain did not expel the Argentine "national authorities", nor the population. Britain expelled only the Argentine garrison of 26 soldiers, with their 11 female camp-followers and eight children. The soldiers had mutinied, murdered their commanding officer in cold blood, and robbed and terrorised the civilian inhabitants, of whom there were exactly 37. Eight civilians had fled from the violence of the Argentine soldiers and taken refuge aboard a British seal-hunting ship that was there at the time. Britain did not expel the civilians but encouraged them to stay, and 22 of them did so.

3. Britain's action in 1833 was in fact accepted by Argentina. Argentina confirmed this by ratifying the Convention of Peace in 1850 and by many subsequent acts, including top-level statements by Argentine leaders, the publication of maps showing the Falklands as outside Argentina and the acceptance of Britain as qualified to rule on the extent of Argentina's territory.

4. Britain did not disrupt Argentina's territorial integrity. As explained above, there was no consensus as to whose territory the Islands were. Only Argentina saw them as Argentine territory; Britain saw them as British territory (in Britain's view, Britain had simply expelled an illegal garrison); Spain saw them as Spanish territory, and the United States saw them as part of the high seas and therefore no one's territory.

5. Britain did not populate the Islands with its own citizens. Today's Falkland Islanders are from many countries; several families who have been in the islands for 7, 8, or even 9 generations are descended originally from Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, German, French or Finnish immigrants in the 19th century. And several ancestors of modern Falkland Islanders arrived by being shipwrecked in the Islands – some of them literally swam ashore. Britain did not "introduce" them.

6. Britain has never prevented Argentine citizens from settling in the Falklands. There have almost always been Argentine citizens in the islands (there are some now), and the largest group of people who arrived in the whole of the 19th century were 117 people who arrived aboard the Norwegian ship Napoleon from Montevideo on 10 May 1847, including 17 Argentinians and 15 Uruguayans, who were permitted to settle and work in the Falklands. There have been many others since.

Those, then, are the facts of the Falklands case. Mr Quirno's contentions are without foundation, and the Falkland Islands are a British territory in international law.

Representatives speeches delivered at United Nations

MEMBERS of Legislative Assembly Dorothy 'Dot' Gould and Michael Goss delivered five minute speeches to the UN Committee of 24 on 25th June 2026.

The Falklands representatives adopted contrasting but complementary approaches in their addresses combining personal testimony with a detailed constitutional argument in support of Islanders' right to self-determination.

MLA Gould spoke of a multicultural Falklands and of social programmes: "Every resident of the Falkland Islands, by birth or by choice, receives free healthcare. We fund it ourselves, from our own economy. We fund university education for every qualifying student, wherever in the world they choose to study."

She also spoke of how welcoming the Falklands was to visitors, from scientists to tourists, and ended with an emotional description, "Falkland Islands children grow up with this land in their hearts. They know to lean against the wind, how to identify local wildlife, which plants are edible, and how to walk the uneven and rocky ground with quick and confident steps."

MLA Goss a sixth generation Islander told the committee: "The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is clear: all peoples have the right to determine their own political status."

He explained that Falkland Islanders had done this in 2013 with a Referendum.

MLAs Dot Gould and Michael Goss at the C24 at the United Nations

The people had overwhelmingly voted to remain a self-governing British Overseas Territory and the referendum was independently observed by an international mission led by the United States, with observers from Canada, Uruguay, Chile, and New Zealand.

He noted: "Their conclusion was unambiguous: the referendum was free and fair."

In conclusion he said: "We are not asking any delegation to take a position on sovereignty.

"We only ask that the people of the Falkland Islands have the right to be heard on matters relating to our own future."

Visiting MPs express support for Falklands

"AS far as we're concerned there is not a political question here" visiting MP Sam Carling said of the Falkland Islands.

Visiting with a delegation of 16 MPs as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Group, the MP for North West Cambridgeshire continued, "it's really important that people of the Falklands have the right to self-determination... we will maintain our position on that quite strongly."

These views were echoed by MP Greg Stafford, "we as mainland Britain should be doing everything we can to stand up for [the Falkland Islands] I don't necessarily mean militarily, I hope we don't have to militarily, I think we should if it ever came to that.

"But more importantly diplomatically and politically we need to be demonstrating very clearly... that we are robustly standing up for the Falkland Islands and their right to remain British."

Both MPs, each visiting the Falklands for the first time, said it was a "fascinating trip" to spend time at Mount Pleasant Complex, BFSAI are hosting the trip, as well as being able to spend some time in Stanley, meeting with MLAs and the Deputy Governor.

In a speech at a Government House reception on August 4, Deputy Governor Stephen Brice welcomed the guests and spoke of the importance of the Armed Forces to the Falkland Islands. MLA Jack Ford added, "we very much hope that you leave at the end of this week as close friends and supporters of the Falklands and our community."

Report says election well administered, but system could be strengthened

THE Falkland Islands' 2025 General Election was calm, transparent and well-administered, according to an international observation mission, but the report also identified areas where the electoral system could be strengthened.

Executive Council has noted the findings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association mission and agreed to limited follow-up work, including reviews of voter registration, accessibility for disabled voters, and polling arrangements in Stanley. However, several wider reforms, including campaign finance rules, constituency imbalance and voter identification, will not be progressed at this stage.

Observers concluded the election was well run, ensured broad access and met international standards, with high turnout and strong public confidence in the process. Polling stations were described as efficient, and a range of voting options, including postal, proxy and mobile voting, helped ensure participation across the Islands.

Turnout reached more than 80 percent in Stanley and over 90 percent in Camp, reflecting what the report described as a high level of civic engagement.

However, the mission also highlighted areas for improvement, including the disparity in representation between Stanley and Camp, the absence of rules governing campaign donations, and elements of electoral law that may no longer reflect modern standards.

Executive Council supported some recommendations, including work to preserve institutional knowledge in election administration, explore improvements to voter registration, and review voting arrangements. It also backed efforts to encourage greater participation and diversity among candidates.

In its response, Executive Council said the system is functioning well overall, with no evidence of significant barriers to voting.

Members agreed that while improvements are possible, many recommendations would require substantial legal or constitutional change and are not considered necessary at this time.

Some issues, including accessibility and aspects of voter registration, will be considered further as part of existing work programmes, with a review of polling arrangements in Stanley expected ahead of the next general election.

Motion for a 10 year strategic vision debated in Assembly

A MOTION for a long term vision for the Falkland Islands was hotly debated in the Legislative Assembly on March 26.

Bringing the motion for a 10-year vision and strategic framework to be developed and brought to the House within 12 months, MLA Stacy Bragger explained, "this motion arises from a number of discussions that have taken place between members and officers during the early months of this assembly.

"From those conversations, a clear theme has emerged that while we address immediate priorities as best as we can, there remains an absence of an overarching long term vision for where we want our Islands to be in the decades ahead."

MLA Bragger continued that over the coming years there would be questions about diversifying the economy, delivering housing, and protecting the environment which weren't short term issues, "they demand long term thinking."

He added that by having a longer term plan in place, "we equip ourselves to make better informed decisions, to prioritise effectively and to measure our progress over time."

Seconding the motion MLA Dean Dent said a "long term vision is important" to "sit above" other strategies and policies that were in place "so that we know in the future where we want our Islands to be for future generations."

He continued that in his view, without a long term vision they would continue to produce "piecemeal policies" and projects borne out of fixing things "as they arise" which MLA Dent said was "why we are in the position where we are now where we see large infrastructure projects all happening at once... I think with a long term, overarching vision we can combat those earlier."

MLA Dent added that he'd like to see the 10 years extended to create a "genuine" long term vision, stating that this would "ensure" that the sovereign wealth fund "is used in the best possible way for the future of the Islands."

MLA Lewis Clifton said that when he brought previous motions to the house, relating to a return to a 2x reserves policy, and the establishment of a sovereign wealth fund, he "had in mind" the need for "developing strategic visions with the central aim of protecting and providing for the future generations of our nation."

However, he continued that he was "mindful" of the "£55m black hole deficit" and, referencing turbulent international politics, "planning financial security for the remaining four years seems to me to be the critical vacuum to fill... I caution for a plan to get our financial house in good order as a fundamental priority before rushing out a debate on the values of a clear and shared long term vision of enhancing social, economic and environmental wellbeing."

He opined that his preference was for the motion to be paused "until financial certainty is securely bridged" and Islands Plan discussions were concluded.

MLA Jack Ford quipped that he would be happy to see a 20, 50 or 100 year plan for the Islands put forward, and in noting the current financial situation said, "I think it's also important to progress this to ensure that we also have an eye to the future while addressing the issues at hand at the moment."

An amendment to bring the completed 10-year vision back to the House within 24 months as opposed to the initially proposed 12 was passed as MLAs Clifton, Goss, Gould and Spink voted for the amendment, while MLAs Bragger, Ford and Dent voted against.

The motion was then unanimously passed, with the amendment having been carried forward.

Youth Parliament question MLAs

THE Youth Parliament sat on Commonwealth Day to ask a variety of questions of the Members of the Legislative Assembly with topics ranging from staff recruitment to power cuts.

His Excellency the Governor Colin Martin-Reynolds opened the session by reading the King's Commonwealth Day message, "Across our world, communities and nations face the increasing pressures of conflict, climate change and rapid transformation. Yet it is often in such testing moments that the enduring spirit of the Commonwealth is most clearly revealed...

"In a world that can feel increasingly fragmented, this voluntary union of free association remains rare and precious – a forum for open and honest discussion and debate to help improve the lives of the nearly three billion people who call our Member States home."

A motion the Youth Parliament had previously put to the Legislative Assembly concerning the importance of play parks and seeking a commitment for investment into them was also answered by Chief Executive Andrea Clausen at the start of the session. She explained that investment into play parks came under the Public Works Department's operational budget and "this will remain under review to ensure it is retained at a suitable level to meet the current and future maintenance needs."

The Youth Parliament. L-R: Thomas, Matthew, Xenia, Oliver, Patch, Victor, Oliver, Deputy Speaker Nadia Knight, Shammah, Rose, Peyton, Carli-Ann, MLA Stacy Bragger, Cherie Clifford.

Dr Clausen continued that there was a "modest" capital project allocated for the creation of new recreation spaces within Stanley.

The response to the motion was accepted by the Youth Parliament.

Speaking after the session Shammah said that is was "nerve wracking" to be asking the questions to start with but after they got the hang of it, and after presenting their motion to the House they were "not as scared."

Shammah explained that the questions were "ones that we thought would be important, not just to us but to kids our age as well, that would also impact on the community just as much as us."

Of the benefits of the Youth Parliament sitting Shammah added that it lets them get "the hang" of how things work, as well as letting younger students see how they work which would help their confidence and desire to join.

Shammah said "I just love getting my voice out there, getting young people's voices heard."

King's Certificate and Badge of Honour awarded

Left: Maurice Lake. Right: Lee and Lisa Martin.

MAURICE Lake, and Lee and Lisa Martin are this year's recipients of the King's Certificate and Badge of Honour.

Announced on Falklands Day, a press release from Government House noted the reasons for the awards: "Mr Maurice Lake for his exceptional voluntary service to the Falkland Islands community, particularly through his support for veterans, youth organisations, community initiatives and the welfare of others.

"Mr Lee and Mrs Lisa Martin for their longstanding selfless contribution and dedication to preserving Falkland Islands traditions through dance, and for the positive impact they have had on generations of Falkland Islanders."

His Excellency the Governor commented, "It was abundantly clear from the nominations and supporting statements from community members that all three awardees are held in high regard across the Falkland Islands. Each has generously given their time, energy, and passion to support the people of the Falkland Islands. Their contributions were made selflessly without any expectation of recognition."

Maurice commented that on hearing the news he was "literally quite stunned, I really was speechless and I can confess that a couple of tears were shed."

He commented on just a few of the different aspects of his work from holding funerals, starting the food bank, organising the Christmas Tree Festival, and working with the prison, adding "it's a privilege to do it, it's not until something like this happens... that you perhaps realise the worth of what you do, because you just do it because it's natural to do it."

Maurice credited his wife Debbie supporting him with the work that they often do together, "without her, forget it. She's an absolute rock. I'm very fortunate to have her behind me."

He also thanked everyone who nominated him for the award, "I'm very grateful, they're special people to take the trouble to sit down and write nice things about me."

Lee and Lisa, who teach traditional dancing each year ahead of the May Ball and over the past few years for Burns Night, were similarly "shocked" by the news, "we do it because we enjoy it. We took on the dancing because Derek was leaving and we wanted to carry on dancing" Lisa said.

Lee added, "you don't expect it, it's a privilege."

Lisa continued that they wanted to say a "heartfelt thank you" to everyone who had nominated them, "we're absolutely honoured and blown away by message we've received, they've been lovely and it's just really unexpected." She also thanked all those who support the dance classes.

Keeping the traditions of dancing alive is "really important" Lee said, "historically dancing was at the forefront of the Falkland Islands community... without allowing people the tools to do that you lose that tradition." Lee continued that dancing also teaches respect, confidence and helps fitness levels.

Watching the transformation in students each year from their first dance session to dancing on the night of the May Ball is "great" they said, adding that watching the teenagers dance at the end of the night during the 'bounce' is "quite remarkable...the atmosphere it creates, there's nothing quite like it."

ExCo give new power station green light

EXECUTIVE Council (ExCo) has approved the funding request for the power station project to proceed.

An update was presented in the Legislative Assembly which explained that ExCo approved the request to allow the project to move to the detailed RIBA stage 4 detailed design, and then into construction.

Director of PWD Colin Summers stated that the new power station is not due to come online until 2029.

Commenting on the difficulties with the current power supply Mr Summers said, "we are in a situation for the next three years where we are going to have to carefully manage the situation and we are going to continue to see faults and failures. The guys work hard to minimise them but we can't say they won't happen."

The recent power cuts have been caused by an "aging network" and "aging infrastructure" Mr Summers confirmed. He continued that generator seven is "more sensitive" than the others so when there are power surges it "likes to protect itself, so it shuts down" adding that it takes a little time for the systems to be restarted again when this happens.

Mr Summers said they "generally have sufficient generating capacity at the moment" with generator eight having been recently overhauled and is now back online, and work is ongoing on some other generators.

Sovereign Wealth Fund approved

WORK to establish a Sovereign Wealth Fun has begun with Executive Council (ExCo) approving overarching priorities in August.

ExCo agreed that it should be established in law that all funds from oil production royalties would be paid into the Fund and that the objective of the fund would be to provide long-term inter-generational value and fiscal stabilisation.

It was also agreed that the policy objectives should be set out in law, the Falkland Islands established in law as the owner of the Fund, and the Fund is established as a corporation owned by FIG.

The Falklands hydrocarbons industry offers the opportunity to receive significant royalty income with estimates of around US$2 billion over the 30 years of phase 1 & 2 of the Northern Development area hence the necessity for a Sovereign Wealth Fund.

The Fund will have an aim to preserve and grow the Nation's wealth over time to ensure economic and financial stability benefitting future generations

Positive exam results for Falklands students

GSCE results for Year 11 students at FICS "compare positively" to the average results in England.

74% of FICS students in the 2026 cohort achieved a grade 4 (grade C) or higher across their results, compared with England's 70.7%.

Early analysis of results show that 84% of students were awarded grade 4 or above in English Language, with 68% of those being a "strong pass" which is grade 5 or above. Maths results were also strong with 76.5% of students gaining grade C or higher. Again these results are said to compare positively to the results from England where percentages of 16-year-olds achieving grade 4 or above in English and Maths was 71.4% and 71.8% respectively.

The highest performing Year 11 student at FICS achieved 11 GSCEs with nine high grades. A press release from FIG with results also stated that one Year 8 student sat GSCE maths "very early" and achieved an A*. This student, and two Year 11s also sat and got good results in a Further Maths certificate.

Other subject highlights include Geography with 85% of students achieving grade C or higher; Science where 100% of Chemistry and Physics results, and 90% of Biology results were grade 4 or above; Spanish where there was a 100% pass rate; and Food and Nutrition where 80% of students achieved grade 4 or higher.

MLA Stacy Bragger said: "This year's results provide a positive indication of the progress being made by students at FICS."

The majority of A-Level and Level 3 students, 92%, have achieved an overall pass rate this year.

24% of the 25 A-Levels taken this year achieved an A* or A grade, and half of the 13 students who sat vocational Level 3 qualifications achieved a Distinction or Merit.

The highest performing A-Level student this year achieved two A*s and one A, with the highest performing Level 3 student achieving a Distinction* in Public Services.

Subjects which saw students achieve high A-Level results were maths, physics, and photography with three students getting A*s. Three students achieved A grades in maths, chemistry and art.

High grades in vocational courses came with Distinctions in hospitality, travel and tourism, and business.

Following the results nine students are planning to attend university and have achieved the grades to do so. Three students are applying for apprenticeships and two are applying to the British Armed Forces.

Director of Education Sarah Stannard was quoted in a press release as saying, "We're very happy that so many students did so well and that there have been some excellent results. Studying these large Level 3 courses and taking examinations is challenging for all students and Falkland Island students have the additional challenge of boarding a long way from home, which makes these results even more impressive.

"If a student is unsure of their next steps, we encourage them to come and talk to the Careers Team when they are ready. There are pathways forward for everyone."

MLA Stacy Bragger, portfolio holder for Education offered his congratulations to students, "These results reflect not only their hard work and commitment, but also the support provided by families and teachers both in the Falkland Islands and in the UK. We are proud to see so many young people progressing to university, apprenticeships, the Armed Forces and other exciting opportunities.

"Whatever their next step, I wish them every success for the future and thank them for being such positive ambassadors for the Falkland Islands".

Hospital staff deploy to Tristan da Cunha

TWO members of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital staff travelled to Tristan da Cunha earlier in the year, along with a delivery of medical supplies, following a request for assistance from the UK Health Security Agency.

Nurse Jordan Mettner and auxiliary medic Jeremy 'Spurs' Henry volunteered to deploy in support of the Tristanian response to hantavirus and the doctors who are already on the Island.

After a weeklong voyage on *HMS Medway*, Jordan and Spurs landed safely on the Island on May 24 in challenging conditions.

Spurs and Jordan with the Falklands flag

Philip Kendall, Administrator of Tristan da Cunha, spoke of the Island's gratitude: "These medics will bolster the resilience of our hospital on Tristan as we move into what we hope will be the recovery phase of the recent hantavirus outbreak.

"I would like to express my thanks to the crew of *HMS Medway* and the people of the Falklands for assisting us in our time of need. I would also like to reiterate my admiration for the Pathfinders and military medics who parachuted in two weeks ago. A truly unforgettable experience."

Britain's Minister for the Armed Forces, Al Carns, noted how the tri-service response to a medical emergency in an exceptionally challenging and remote environment highlights how the Falkland Islands continue to play a critical strategic role in enabling the UK and its allies to project reach across the South Atlantic and beyond.

FIG's Director of Health and Social Services, John Woollacott said: "We are very grateful to Jordan and Spurs for volunteering to take on this task. We would also like to thank the wider KEMH team who have stepped up to cover for them during their absence. It is greatly appreciated."

Falklands at sustainability summit

ISLAND Innovation launched the Global Sustainable Islands Summit 2026 in Gran Canaria on April 20.

This involved inviting companies and individuals from around the world to promote sustainability within the world's islands and countries.

It brought together individuals sharing their experiences and innovations, demonstrating the sustainability efforts and initiatives in their jurisdictions.

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) attended the event represented by Strategic Projects Manager Sam Cockwell and Marketing and Communications Assistant Lane McKay.

Prior to the summit relevant field trips were organised.

Lane attended Salto De Chira Hydro Power Plant, the first energy storage project to be developed in the Canary Islands. Sam visited the Spanish Bank of Algae, where they demonstrated science and research into micro algae and seaweed and how they can be utilised in a multitude of ways.

The summit launched with an opening ceremony with talks from James Ellsmoor (CEO of Island Innovation) alongside Konris Maynard, Minister of St Kitts & Nevis (last year's hosts), and Antonio Morales, President of Gran Canaria.

On day two of the summit, Sam spoke as a panellist to present the power situation within the Falklands in terms of microgrids and what the Islands are actively doing to improve its power systems.

Sam Cockwell

Alongside him four other speakers shared their experiences: Danny Kennedy, Director of Solar Global Council, Dominic Goncalves, Founder & Director of Naviara Energy, Kneyone Murray, Caribbean Director at Blue Planet Alliance, and Carla Isari Diaz Ortega, CEO of Energia Solar Canarias. The panel then took questions from the audience on a range of topics including grid forming inverters and battery technology.

On the final day of the summit, Sam was invited to the Solutions Showcase as an expert panellist alongside Julia Martinez Carbrera (Founder of CircleBee) and Danny Kennedy (Director of Solar Global Council).

This showcase gave companies from different sectors a voice to pitch their innovative products across multiple sectors: Energy Systems & Grid Innovation, Circular Economy & Waste-to-Value, and Renewable & Bioenergy Solutions. At the end all three experts reflected on the pitches and shared insights and broader observations from a technical or island perspective.

Lane said, "It was a great experience, and I felt I learned a lot from the opportunity to attend. The way others are so passionate and proactive in promoting sustainable innovations within island communities was refreshing. There is a lot that the Falklands could take from this event, even with the limited resources we have."

One session that stood out for Lane, was a seminar discussing Young People Shaping the Future of Museology Through the Lens of the SDGs. The session discussed how museums in islands can preserve and promote the culture and educate the younger generation.

Sam commented: "The summit was excellent, and a rare opportunity where the significant majority of sessions, panels and workshops were directly relevant to challenges and opportunities we see in the Falkland Islands. I am very keen to develop our relationship with Islands Innovation and bring more people from the Falkland Islands to their events."

National Archives Manager completes her PhD studies

FOLLOWING five years of study and research, Corporate Records and National Archives Manager, Chloe Anderson-Wheatley has completed her doctorate with the University of Dundee, in Archives & Records Management.

Her thesis has been passed by her examiners and its full title is: An Archival study into the Evolution of British Colonial Identities: A Case Study of the National identity of the Falkland Islands 1840-2000.

Dr Anderson-Wheatley said the thesis itself engages with, "debates and discussions on archival studies, nationalism, Britishness, imperialism, and BOTs, to study how the structures and records of the National Archives of the Falkland Islands constructs, carries and projects the evolving national identity of the Islands.

She said she chose the topic as it combined her passion of Archives and Falklands history, "allowing me to study the role of the Archives in the Falkland Islands, and how it frames and builds our heritage and national identity."

Undertaking her PhD part time, she described how time management was, "so that I had time in the evenings and weekends to commit the 18 hours a week to research and write. My in-person archival research, and meetings with my two supervisors, was carried out over my dinner breaks from work.

"Halfway through my studies, in 2023, I was promoted and started managing the National Archives – the source and methodology for my PhD studies. Ethically I handled the potential conflict of interest that came with being both a private researcher, and professional manager of the Archives facility, and continued to balance my time as I had before.

"My existing knowledge and experience of the Archives, from studying and volunteering at the Archives previously, was beneficial to my professional transition. "

Having now completed her thesis, which will be publicly available in due course, she added, "I am very proud of the piece of research I have produced and defended – 100,000 words, 355 pages, and 7 chapters. It contributes and builds on existing gaps in literature, to make a unique contribution to the archival field."

Deception Island book signing from Falklands' author Rob

FALKLANDS author Rob Burnett celebrated the launch of his new novel with a book launch and signing event. His novel "Deception Island", a thriller based in the Antarctic sees main protagonist Abbie, a lady in her 20s who is serving on a navy vessel in Antarctic waters. The ship receives a distress call from resident scientists on Deception Island regarding the imminent eruption of the volcano. When they arrive at the accommodation on the Island and find it deserted, Abbie needs to uncover exactly what has happened before the volcano erupts, or something more sinister happens.

Rob Burnett

Deception Island is Rob's second novel and he is currently in the process of pitching a new novel to Harper Collins. If successful he said readers should expect something quite different, although he wanted to stay in the same genre.

British bees cause a buzz 8000 miles from home

BUMBLEBEES recently discovered in the Falkland Islands have been confirmed as originating from the United Kingdom, with biosecurity officials continuing to monitor whether the insects establish a breeding population.

Three bee samples were submitted to the UK's Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) for identification. Testing confirmed the insects were buff-tailed bumblebees (Bombus terrestris audax), a subspecies found only in the British Isles.

One of the specimens was identified as a queen, suggesting there is potential for the species to become established in the Islands.

The discovery has attracted international scientific interest, with researchers from FERA, Buglife and the University of Pristina collaborating on a scientific paper examining the presence of the buff-tailed bumblebee in the Falklands and its potential ecological implications.

Mr Davies told the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting, the findings had been unexpected as it was anticipated they had come from South America.

He said that while many people were pleased to see bumblebees in the Falklands, their presence could have environmental implications

He explained that the main concern is not the bees themselves, but the effect they could have on invasive plant species. "If we have pollinating insects established, that could lead to significant changes in the reproductive success of some invasive plants," Mr Davies said.

Using gorse as an example, he noted that some plants require a pollinator of a particular size and weight to effectively open and pollinate their flowers.

"A big fat bumblebee will be much better at it," he said.

Despite those concerns, Mr Davies stressed there was no reason for alarm.

"We're not panicking about it, but we will want to monitor the population and make sure it's not spreading," he said.

The Department's monitoring programme remains active, although no additional bumblebees have been reported since temperatures dropped over winter.

Scouting honours for Jan and Tim

FALKLANDS Scout Leaders Jan and Tim Miller, currently in the UK, were recently surprised by one of the British Scouting Area and District Lead Volunteers Ben Balaam. Jan was presented with the highest Scouting Award, the Silver Wolf Award, and Tim was presented with his 30 Years Certificate as a Scouting Volunteer. Jan will have been a Cub Scout Leader for 50 years in November. Jan said, "it was a bit of a shock and a huge honour."

Below: Tim and Jan Miller

Mobile banking app will be a 'game changer' for the Falklands

A NEW mobile banking app being launched by Standard Chartered (SC) will be a "game changer" for the Islands, SC Chief Executive Sarfraz Rao has said.

The ability to undertake moblie banking in the Falklands has been long awaited, something Mr Rao acknowledged, "the Islands present unique banking and infrastructure considerations, so we wanted to ensure that the app... is fit for purpose meaning that it meets the highest standards possible in terms of security, resilience, as well as customer experience.

"From that standpoint it is not about how long it has taken, it is more about now that the app has been delivered what does it entail.

"It is modern and it is secure and that is what our Falklands banking customers have been wanting and they deserve it as well."

The app, for now, will only be available to personal banking customers and will "essentially give a bank in their hands" to customers, Mr Rao explained.

The app should allow people to check their balance, move money between SC accounts, and complete local transactions from the convenience of their phone, and outside of banking hours. However remittence payments will not be possible through the app.

Banking app from SCB

"I think it's a game changer" Mr Rao stated, when asked what this development means for banking in the Falklands, before adding that a "lot of the work has been done in the background" which has not been visible to customers. He pointed to the uplifting of their core banking platform as a key piece of work, as well as the introduction of IBAN numbers and contactless debit cards.

Speaking of his own ambition to push for "digital first" banking, Mr Rao stated, "digital first has been our agenda from day one, from a group standpoint from the head office, but as well at a personal level when I came in 2021 the first thing that I said was that I want to get SC Falkland Islands digital ready.

"I am very happy and it really seems like a personal milestone as well to go live with the mobile banking application, and hopefully more good news to come."

Following the demonstration event, which people can also attend remotely, a guidance document will be emailed to all personal banking customers. Mr Rao added that he has some ideas for other ways of engaging and demonstrating the app closer to the launch including potentially visiting Tussac House to help guide residents through using the app.

Security features will be present in the app including two factor authentication for transactions, and the option for using biometrics to log in, although a lot of security features won't be visible as the cybersecurity works in the background. Mr Rao explained that SC have experience of rolling out banking apps in larger markets, "rest assured that the application will have a very high level of security."

"The more we use this app the better it is for the bank, for our customers. We will do whatever we need to do to enhance the outreach so we can maximise usage of the mobile banking app... now that it is here, let's make it a success."

Mr Rao concluded by stating that this was a "milestone" for the bank and the local community.

FIA mark Liberation Day in Doncaster

By Russell La Forte, Chairman FIA

ON 14 June, Veterans, FIA members, Falkland Islanders and VIP guests gathered at the South Yorkshire Air Museum in Doncaster to commemorate the liberation of the Falkland Islands 44 years ago. Timed to coincide with the Liberation Day parade in Stanley, some 8000 miles away, the day featured a live link between the two events, allowing the commemorations held there to be viewed in real time from around the world for the first time.

The excellent Museum holds the UK's largest permanent collection of aircraft (of both sides) from the Falklands War, has extensive supporting displays and a consecrated memorial to the 255 British service personnel and 3 Falkland Islanders killed during the brief but bloody campaign in 1982. The Museum is an absolute must-see for anybody interested in the events of 1982 or even the Falkland Islands more generally.

Guests included Baroness Rosie Winterton, the former local MP and now member of the House of Lords, Deputy FIG Representative Michael Betts, and two former MLAs, Jan Cheek and John Birmingham.

We were honoured by the presence of numerous veterans, including a large contingent from the HMS Hermes Association, and especially welcome was Melanie McKay, daughter of the late Sergeant Ian McKay, postumously awarded the VC after having been killed in action with the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment in the battle for Mount Longdon in 1982.

Doncaster man and fellow 3 Para veteran, Dave Roe, described the memorial service as 'outstanding' and where veterans were met with a warm welcome.

Following a reception and tour of the Museum, a wreath laying ceremony, 2-minute silence and a brief service was conducted under blue skies at the Falkland Islands memorial, timed to coincide exactly with the same events in Stanley.

Next year's FIA Liberation Day Reception, to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the Conflict, will be held on Monday 14 June. Details will be made available to members in due course.

FIA Events

Opposite page top left: Guests at the Liberation Day reception including Baroness Winterton, FIA Chair, Melanie McKay and Falklands veterans. Opposite page top right: The Falklands memorial at the South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum with wreaths that were laid. Opposite page bottom left: A new pilot for the South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum, modelling a veterans scarf. Opposite page bottom right: The FIA ExCo Tom Swales, Deborah Northwood, Tamsin Cunningham, Russell La Forte, Nina Ashton, Karen Clapp, Bev Verwoert, Peter Pepper, Keith Angus. This page above: Para veteran Dave Roe and South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum Chairman Alan Beattie. This page right: Baroness Winterton and FIA Chairman Russell La Forte. Pics Falkland Islands Association.

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SCAN ME

Left: The Falkland Islands Defence Force march back past the Liberation Monument. Right: Ann Reid and her family wait to lay a wreath.

Liberation Day commemorated

The 44th anniversary of Liberation Day was commemorated on June 14 with the annual service and parade in Stanley.

A thanksgiving service was held in the Christ Church Cathedral which was attended by His Excellency the Governor, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and the Commander of British Forces as well as 1982 veterans, serving military and local residents before the public gathered for the parade and service at the Liberation Monument.

The parade included a marching band from the 6th Battalion of Rifles, and was formed of marching detachments representing the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force and the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

The Governor, Colin Martin-Reynolds, led the wreath laying at the monument ahead of the CBF and MLA Dean Dent, before a number of individuals and groups. A fly past of four typhoons flew above Stanley Harbour. A civic reception was held in the FIDF Hall after the service.

Above: MLA Dean Dent, His Excellency Governor Colin Martin-Reynolds and Commander of British Forces Brigadier Charlie Harmer salute the parade.

Above: wreath bearers were all members of youth groups. Clergy members delivered the service at the monument. Below: A large crowd turned up to watch. A flypast of Typhoons. Left: The band from 6th Battalion of Rifles played at the head of the parade

Poignant service at Welsh Guards Memorial

Above: the visitors at the Welsh Guards Memorial at Fitzroy. Left to right: Steve Jones, Dawn Newbury, Sian Newbury, Connor Smith, Andrew Walker, Bryan Matthews, Kevin Edwards, Katie Gibby, Jonathan Sweet, Philip Keoghane, Ben Elley, Howard Moulton-Hawkins, and Charlie Carty.

A SPECIAL service was held at the Welsh Guards Memorial at Fitzroy on March 1, to mark St David's Day.

The memorial and wreath laying was made all the more poignant for a group of visiting Welsh Guards next of kin who were on a trip to the Falkland Islands.

Katie Gibby, daughter of guardsman Mark Gibby who was killed on *Sir Galahad* on June 8, said "I was the one that made the suggestion that this time a children's trip was put together. From speaking to other children I realised they were in a very similar position I was, and felt that they also needed to come see the Islands and say their own goodbyes and hopefully gain some peace from the Islands."

The trip was organised by Falklands veteran Charlie Carty, who for a number of years, has been helping to facilitate veteran trips to the Falklands. Katie said she approached Charlie and asked whether he would consider doing a "children's trip" this year instead of a veteran's trip, "and he made it happen."

Ben Elley, son of Sergeant Clifford Elley, joined the trip as he said he had "always wanted to come to the Island and pay my respects and gain a better understanding as to what happened and how it happened. I just feel lucky to have the opportunity to be here really."

Speaking of the trip coinciding with St David's Day and the "patriotic" feeling, Ben said it "adds to the special nature" of the trip. Katie added "our fathers, and all Welsh Guardsmen, they loved their regiment, they loved their country... it's the right timing."

At just over a year old in 1983 Katie visited the Islands with her mother and relatives of her father, she said she had been able to meet with the families in the Falklands that they stayed with then.

Katie continued that the trip had been "brilliant" saying, "I never thought that I could fall in love with the country which is just associated with so much trauma and grief. But I have.

"It's really special and what's special about it is the fact that everybody's so thankful and grateful and it gives us peace to know that our fathers are remembered and their sacrifice is remembered and thanked, and it will be continuing long after we are gone as well. So that is really powerful."

Ben added that as this was his first visit to the Falklands he didn't want to "predict" how he might feel, and "kept my expectations quite low, but since arriving the trip has just provided me with so much clarity and understanding and feeling most importantly."

Seeing the trees for fallen servicemen in Memorial Wood was another special moment of the trip. Katie explained that she had given friends items to lay by her father's tree on their visits but it was "really good" to see his tree in person, and to lay items there herself, "I haven't got a grave for him, so that's like a nice grave. It's what he would have at home."

Katie is also on the committee fighting for the release of classified files from the inquiry which took place into the bombing of *Sir Galahad*. "This is a fight we've got going on at the moment and we will get to the truth. We are very determined and we've made a lot of progress.

"The next year I think is going to be very important to the Welsh Guards and setting the story straight, and for the veterans to know exactly what happened."

The most recent release of declassified files in 2024 "completely exonerated" the Welsh Guards from any blame. Tragically the officer wrongly blamed for the loss of life, Major Guy Sayle, died in 2022 before the release clearing his name was made.

As part of the visit the family members were taken out to the place where *Sir Galahad* was positioned, which brought mixed feelings Katie explained, "it was nice and I suppose peaceful, but it also brought up quite angry feelings seeing they were left so open... to actually see it, it did bring up a bit of anger that I find with the grief."

Ben added that it was difficult to separate the two feelings but that for himself being in the Islands "has definitely diluted the grief for me and made me appreciate aspects of this more that I thought I could."

They both said they now felt a sense of "peace" following their visit which Katie said she hoped they would find when she suggested the trip.

Concluding Ben said he really appreciated the "warmth" shown from Islanders. Katie thanked everyone for "the way that they remember, the way that our fathers are honoured... it does give a bit of peace and closure knowing they are so well respected out here."

Jessica Lee represents Islands in Australia

YOUNG Falkland Islander Jessica Lee made a powerful speech at the Commonwealth Youth Parliament in July, receiving a standing ovation in the House at the conclusion of her statement.

During her speech Miss Lee gave a brief overview of the history of the Falklands and the British claim on the Islands from the first recorded sighting in 1592.

Miss Lee continued, "through the years our population has thrived and built a community that is true to ourselves and our beliefs.

"My home at Port Howard farm has had a Lee working the land for 170 years. For me and my family we know no other home and yet I find myself here today still repeating what my people have been saying almost our entire lives.

"We have a right. A right to self-determination. A right to determine our future. Too often do people of the Islands get passed over by people of the media and by the governments.

"Well we are done staying silent. We refuse to remain silent." Miss Lee went on to quote former MLA Teslyn Barkman, saying, "my home is not a tradable rock."

Jessica speaking at the Commonwealth Youth Parliament. Pic Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Referencing the events at the recent World Cup Miss Lee continued, "my home has been pushed into the spotlight once again by the shocking and not surprising incident of the Argentine banner at the World Cup..." She referenced backlash she has experienced on social media, and that local businesses have received.

"I ask you to consider what it is like growing up as a child in the Falkland Islands" Miss Lee continued, "yes it's freeing. Yes, we grow up understanding the importance of protecting our beautiful wildlife and landscape. And yes it does involve penguins. But every parent knows that eventually they will need to explain to their children why we constantly need to reaffirm our right to self-determination."

Miss Lee referenced the 1982 war and the lives lost on both sides, concluding, "we are here. We have a voice and a right to self determination. No country can change that or take it away."

During the week long event in Australia Miss Lee joined delegates from across the Commonwealth for a full programme within the New South Wales Parliament, including caucus sessions, committee debate, and a whole-house sitting on the Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Integrity Bill 2026, alongside cultural and diplomatic engagements.

At the setting of the sun - San Carlos Portal from Scottish stonemason

A BEAUTIFUL new memorial to be known as San Carlos Portal has been created by Scottish stonemason Andrew Young while visiting his son in the Falklands.

His son, also Andrew Young, who assisted his father to erect the San Carlos Portal explained it was built on, "the historic site next to the jetty where troops landed in 1982 with locally sourced stone."

Andrew said it is positioned exactly as the sun goes down for the sunset to be directly in the centre, "in remembrance of everyone who played a part in the war in particular the fallen. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

Speaking of his father he said, "it's a lovely gesture for someone visiting the Islands to do and good to have been a part of it."

Matthew McMullen, on whose land the memorial is built, explained that the rock came from Sussex Mountain nearby and the cable drum 'mould' from Mel Lloyd.

"It probably took about five days to build so pretty fast."

He added, "it's beautiful, stunning and I feel very proud of it."

Mathew's mum June also said, "they did a good job, it's really nice."

Eventually a plaque will be attached saying 'From the sea freedom'.

Matthew also has a very large anchor he discovered on a beach that will be placed near it.

Above: The portal with the setting sun shining through.
Below: The portal takes shape.

Birdfair mural unveiled

A SPECIAL mural painted at Global Birdfair in 2025 has made its way to its permanent home at the Malvina House Hotel in Stanley.

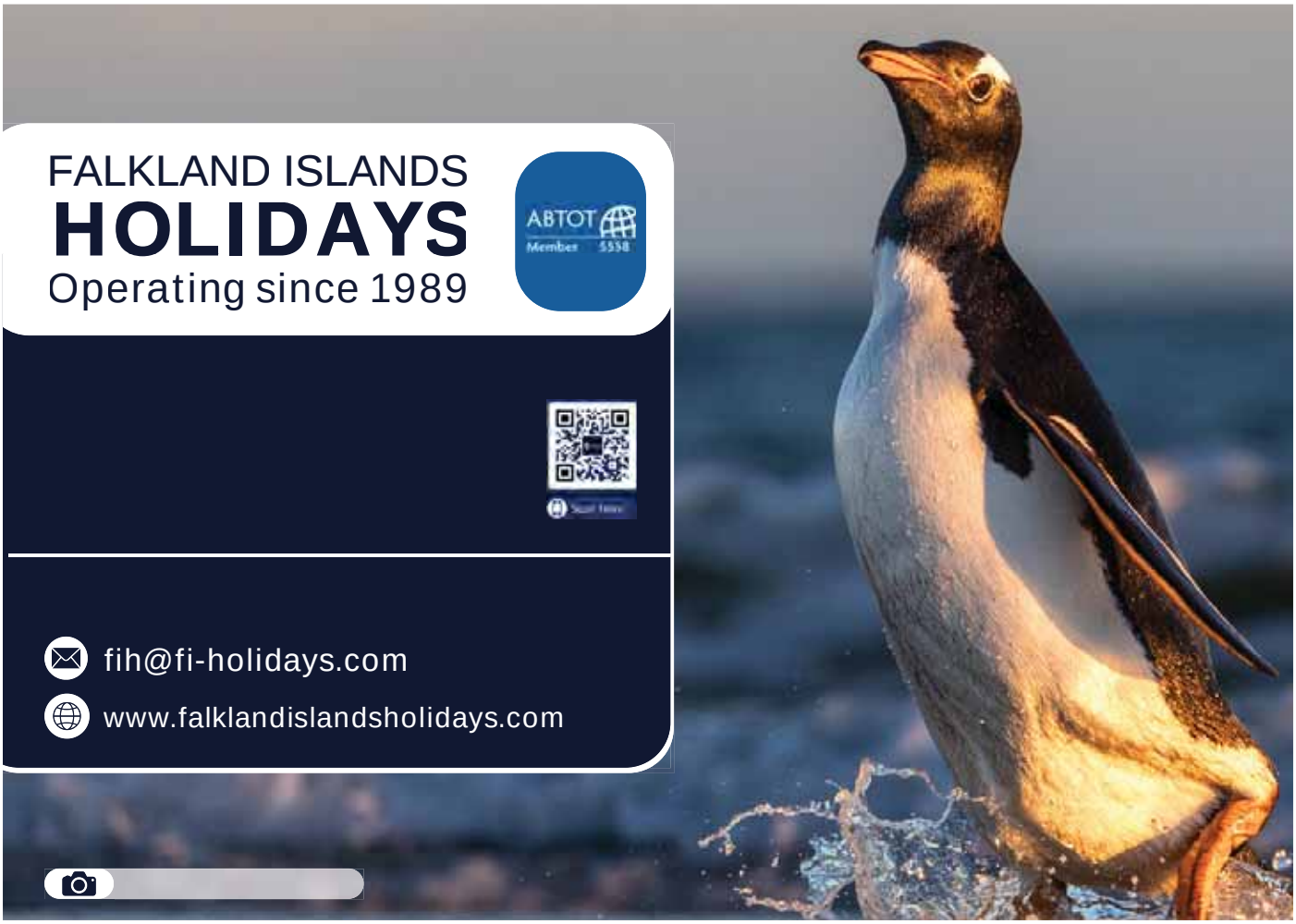
Each year at Birdfair a mural is created to support charity conservation efforts, the theme on this occasion being "safeguarding ocean species." Margaret Williams Travel Manager at Falkland Islands Holidays explained that having exhibited at the show since 2011, "it's something I've always wanted to be a part of."

The mural, showcasing around 20 Falklands bird species (and one butterfly) was painted by the Birdfair artist John Cox, with some help from local artists Sarah Crofts and Pamela Jelbes who also happened to be at Birdfair, "we just asked them on the stand" Margaret said, "both of them were initially a little bit nervous but then they really got into it and we got to watch their talent over the three days. And I think they really enjoyed engaging with the other artists there too." Margaret continued that to watch the mural progress was "utterly incredible."

The mural was one of three designed and painted at the event, the other two going to their homes in Fiji and South Africa. The murals are part of a wider effort of fundraising and raising awareness of different BirdLife International conservation projects. Since Global Birdfair was first founded by Tim Appleton in 1989 it has raised £44m for this cause.

The mural is on the wall at the Malvina for all to view. Margaret summed up, "I think we take the environment for granted... I think what we need to do is really focus on not only preserving the environment, but also making sure that we take note and appreciate it."

The extended Falkland Islands Holiday/Birdfair team in front of the new mural. L-R: Margaret Williams, Tonisha Courtney, Micky Reeves, Anna Connolly, Andy Pollard, Lucille Plato. Right: the new mural.



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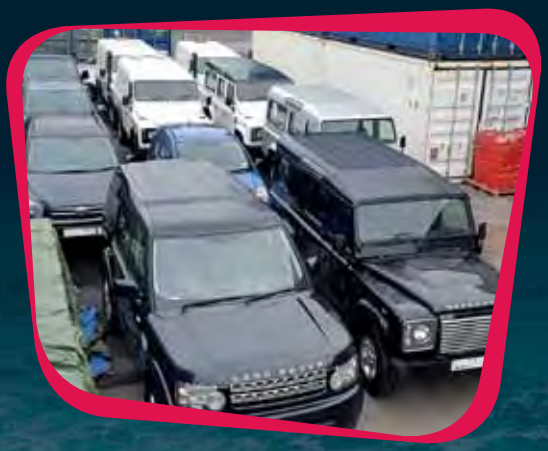

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Runway running for Marilou and Lyme disease awareness

Left: there was time to grab a quick mid run selfie on the airstrip at Spring Point. Right: Sarah Bowles, Nadia Knight, Lisa Newman, Erin Ranney and Sally Ellis - the Lyme Runway Runners - raise a toast to Marilou after completing their challenge.

FUNDRAISERS have run all the airstrips on East and West Falklands, a total of 107km between them, raising awareness for Lyme disease and over £15,000 for charities.

Sarah Bowles, Nadia Knight, Lisa Newman, Erin Ranney and Sally Ellis undertook the challenge as their friend, and well known FIGAS pilot, Marilou Delignieres is currently suffering with the disease.

Marilou thinks she has had Lyme disease for about a decade which had gone undiagnosed as overseas consultants told her it was "all in her head" before she got tested for the disease privately. Over the past two to three years the Lyme disease has been "exacerbated" Lisa explained, adding that they came up with the fundraising idea "predominantly it was to raise money for Marilou because she's funding herself but she graciously turned it down and said she's much more interested in giving it to research and helping others, and awareness was the key thing."

The Lyme Runway Runners completed the challenge over three days, starting with MPC and North Arm before travelling West and crossing off the airstrips there. Then back over on the East they finished the remaining airstrips and arrived in Stanley around 2pm on March 21 to a crowd of people joining in.

They had company on many of the airstrip runs, and those out on Islands made sure to take part by running or walking their airstrips so that the majority, if not all, airstrips around the Islands have been included.

Erin said, "I think with any type of chronic illness it's quite lonely, even if you have family support, even if you have all the support in the world, it's an everyday thing for you whereas you might not think about it every day for that person you love... seeing all the community support really shows that there is constant support and there's always someone thinking of Marilou."

Speaking of the emotions throughout the challenge Sarah said they "were all pretty choked up" when they reached Dunbar and met up with Marilou's parents, adding that the "support has been amazing" Island wide.

A few people have even taken up the challenge overseas with a lady who used to work at Falklands Conservation doing a run in New Zealand, and some one else completed an airstrip run on skis.

Sarah also mentioned in particular the children who have really got involved with the campaign and running the airstrips as well, with one child, Eli, doing a presentation to classmates about Lyme disease and what to do if bitten by a tick.

Over 100 prizes were also up for grabs in a raffle the group organised to add to the fundraising appeal.

The money raised by the group was split between three charities, with the Stephen Jaffray Memorial Fund, Lyme Disease UK, and ILADS each recieving £4,000. The group also kept £3,000 to split between buying tick twisters to offer free of charge to the community and money to fund a person to attend a Lyme Disease workshop.

Marilou, who is currently in the UK, said of the event that it has been “incredibly overwhelming and deeply touching to see the pictures and videos of everyone joining in with the Lyme Runway Runners.” In a touching Facebook post she spoke of her frustration at missing out on the event, along with countless others over the years, because of Lyme disease and the impact it has. She added, “The Falklands community sure is unique, in the most beautiful way. I feel so honoured and lucky to be a part of it.”

The Lyme Runway Runners also explained that they have already had people messaging saying that they didn’t know what was causing certain symptoms but because of Marilou’s posts they’ve gone and asked for Lyme tests, “so even if it helps one person then that makes it all worth it” Erin said, explaining that Lyme disease, if caught early, can be treated with antibiotics “your outcome can be completely different... for Marilou it’s been so important that no-one else she loves or her community has to experience what she’s going through.”

Links to donate to the fundraiser can be found on the ‘Lyme Runway Runners’ Facebook page.

For information on Lyme DIsease, what to do if bitten by a tick, and symptoms to look out for, visit https://lymediseaseuk.com/

The Lyme Runway Runners at Dunbar with Marilou’s family.

Sixtieth birthday treat is Everest Base Camp for Lindsey and daughter Tiph

THE trek to Everest Base Camp is a bit more than the average hike.

Falkland Islander Lindsey May, celebrating her sixtieth birthday with her daughter Tiphanie, wrote: "It was like trekking through broken down bodies… There are people stopped all along the trek. Some are resting…. some are mentally broken and looking for that next bit of determination that will get them moving again. Someone else is crying in their partners arms."

On April 21 however the delighted but exhausted pair posted a photo with happy smiles and the Falkland Islands flag on display.

Tiphanie, who more normally works much lower altitudes with cruise ship tourists in Antarctica and South Georgia waters said, "For me I've been a bit sick as I caught a bug on the way so arriving [at base camp] was mostly relief... Mum said it felt like an achievement."

It took the determined pair eight days hiking plus two acclimatization days, so 10 in total Tiph explained.

At times it was a struggle. Coming up to 4,300 metres Tiph wrote, "It got ridiculous, the last 50 metres from the hotel I had to stop every 10 paces to catch my breath. I was getting tunnel vision and I felt I was in danger of passing out."

But the trip had become an obsession for her Mum she said, who had been the planner behind it all: "Mum started organizing 18 months ago but it was very easy. Our travel company Trekking Planner took care of everything except international flights

"Their service has been amazing. Our guide Sonam and porter Karma have been with us the whole way.

"Sonam is an ex Buddhist monk and is super knowledgeable it's been a pleasure being guided by him."

Above: Lindsey and Tiphanie with the Falklands flag and right with guides Sonam and Karma. Below some snaps from the trail. Pics L&T May.

"Mum did about two months of walking. It was recommended four months but it fell during the shearing season.

"I did 30 minutes full incline treadmill everyday plus weights session every day for about two months and before that I was hiking in South Georgia anyway."

Asked if the trail was particularly busy Tiph said: "Yes especially as you get higher. We ran into the British Army a few days before our attempt. They are attempting to summit 11 of their team."

In terms of special equipment: "Mum had to buy and hire quite a few pieces. I have all my own gear."

Tiph pondered: "We're not sure if we are the first Falkland Islanders to do the circuit or not."

Commenting on the iconic history of Mt Everest Tiph said: "I was working with Peter Hilary last year and talking about his Dad a lot. It really brings it into perspective."

The round trip from Lukla to base camp is roughly 130km (80 miles). The starting elevation is 2860 metres (9,383 feet) and destination elevation is 5,364 metres (17,598 feet).

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Above left: the stern of *Endurance* on the seafloor of the Weddell Sea. Above right: Young visitors explore FMHT's 3D digital model of Endurance at the 2025 Goodwood Festival of Speed. All pics: FMHT

'Explore, protect, inspire' the mission of the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust

By Elena Lewendon

THE Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust (FMHT) is an independent charity bringing together maritime archaeology, exploration, education and scientific collaboration to reveal and protect one of the world's most extraordinary maritime landscapes. Internationally recognised through the discovery of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Endurance in 2022, the Trust now connects the heritage of the Falkland Islands with museums, universities, research institutions and communities around the world.

The Trust's Falklands connection is reflected in its people. Chair Saul Pitaluga comes from a long line of Falkland Islanders, as does Mensun Bound, a world-renowned marine archaeologist and Director of Exploration on our expedition that discovered Endurance.

Trustee Lewis Clifton, a current Member of the Legislative Assembly, works with William Featherstone, a long-standing supporter of Falklands heritage, alongside Charles Thompson, a well-known filmmaker whose great-grandfather owned the shipyard where the iconic Lady Elizabeth was built. Together, they bring international expertise, local knowledge and deep personal connections to the Trust.

At the heart of our work are three simple ideas: Explore, Protect and Inspire.

Explore is perhaps the most obvious starting point. Our discovery of the SMS Scharnhorst in 2019 and Endurance in 2022 demonstrated what can be achieved when archaeology, science and technology come together. Long term, we plan to find and survey other deep-water wrecks around the Falklands and beyond, revealing stories that can only be discovered with rapidly improving autonomous underwater systems and

FMHT COO Elena Lewendon with the wreck of *Jhelum* in Stanley, Falkland Islands.

advanced marine robotics. However, exploration is about much more than finding the next great wreck. It's about understanding how the maritime history of the Falklands has shaped the community and how that maritime world has changed, particularly over the last 100 years.

Our digital archive allows people around the world to explore this for themselves. Now containing information on more than 200 wrecks with an interactive map, our aim is to bring together historical research and local knowledge, to make Falklands maritime history discoverable to all.

Protect means ensuring these stories, records and places are not lost. Wrecks deteriorate, memories disappear and climate change adds another layer of urgency to heritage preservation.

Thanks to the generous support of Lloyd's Register Foundation, FMHT is delivering Voices from the Edge, with support from the University of Portsmouth, the Jane Cameron National Archives and the Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust. It is a memory bank project, designed to capture the experiences and memories of people connected with Falklands maritime life, preserving them for the future before they are lost. We are seeking match funding to maximise its impact with the hope that in time, Voices from the Edge could provide the foundations for a much larger physical and digital maritime trail, connecting people and places across the Islands and bringing their maritime stories to life.

We are also pioneering new ways to protect the knowledge held within wrecks. During Endurance22, 25,000 images and laser scans created a highly detailed digital reconstruction, allowing Endurance to remain undisturbed on the seabed.

That digital twin inspired the Trust to commission the first ever 3D print of Endurance. Following its debut at the prestigious Future Labs exhibition in 2025, the model travelled to London before heading north to Discovery Point in Dundee. It has proved remarkably effective at opening conversations about Shackleton, the Falklands and maritime heritage with new audiences. Later this year, it will feature in Charting South, the much-anticipated Barbara Rae exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture in Edinburgh, from late November 2026 until January 2027.

Inspire is about taking these stories beyond the archive and exhibition space and putting them into the hands of the next generation.

Our work on Endurance has given us a remarkable platform for reaching young people, becoming one of the largest virtual education programmes

Above: Mensun Bound speaks about the discovery of *Endurance* at the Lotus Club in New York

ever delivered – surpassed only by NASA's Artemis Moon mission. We are now developing a UK-wide STEM-based education programme for primary and secondary schools, using 3D-printed handling models of shipwrecks, genuine sonar and laser data from the seabed, and interviews with subsea engineers and mariners to show how archaeology, science, engineering and technology can work together.

Over the past year we have also delivered talks and lectures around the world, from diving societies in Australia to yacht clubs in California, sharing stories of the Falklands, Endurance, the SMS Scharnhorst and the Battle of the Falklands.

My visit to the Falklands earlier this year reinforced just how inspirational these stories are. From the museum and archives to maritime organisations, government teams, the Harbour Master and Receiver of Wrecks, and from Stanley into Camp, everywhere there were reminders that maritime heritage is woven into the landscape, economy, communities and sea itself. I realised that there is still much to do: building partnerships, developing education, expanding the archive, fundraising for work in the Falklands and finding new ways to share the Islands' extraordinary maritime story.

The future

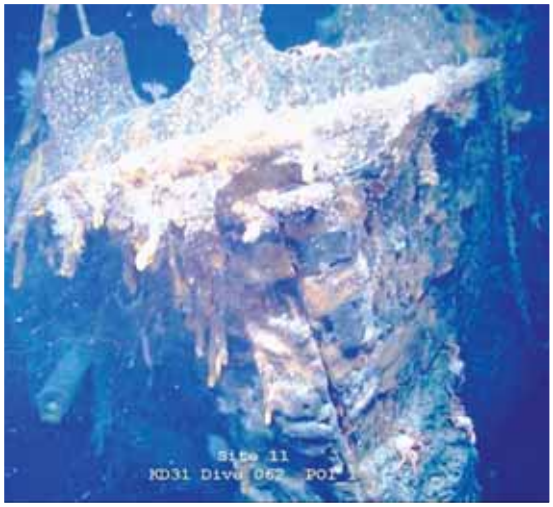
As well as delivering the memory bank project, new education programme, touring exhibitions and planning our next expedition, next year marks 45 years since the Falklands War, and FMHT is preparing to bring previously unseen interviews from the Hugh Scully Falklands War Archive to new audiences. March 2027 also marks five years since the discovery of Endurance. We are preparing a special event at the Royal Geographical Society in London so please keep the 5-7 March free in your diaries and join us for a special celebration.

Our ambition is simple: to explore the past, protect it for the future and inspire people to care about the Falklands' maritime heritage today.

Get in touch, get involved or simply find out more at www.fmht.co.uk or email info@fmht.co.uk

About the author

Elena Lewendon is Chief Operating Officer of the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, where she leads the Trust's strategic development, partnerships, fundraising and public engagement. With a background in archaeology, conservation and heritage management, she is particularly interested in how innovative technologies can help protect and share the Falkland Islands' rich maritime heritage.



Left: FMHT staff and volunteers at Future Lab, Goodwood Festival of Speed 2025. L to R Mensun Bound, Joanna Yellowlees-Bound, Elena Lewendon, Patricia Sestari, Libby Smith and Zak Yellowlees-Bound. Above: The bow of SMS Scharnhorst, lying at a depth of 1,600 metres.

Left: Sammie, Neville, and Isabel receiving their long-service awards at the Chandlery Christmas party in December 2025. Right: New Polar pulling away from FIPASS.

From fishing venture to Falklands institution, celebrating 40 years of Seafish

By Seafish Falklands Ltd

WHEN Seafish (Falklands) Ltd was established on 21 November 1986, its original purpose was straightforward: to participate in the newly developing Falkland Islands fishery through fishing licences and international partnerships. Yet the story of Seafish over the following four decades became about far more than fishing. It became a story of local ownership, self-determination, resilience and reinvestment, as Falkland Islanders gradually took control of the company and transformed it into one of the Islands' most diverse and successful business groups.

The first major step came in 1988, when Falkland Islanders were invited to subscribe for shares. That decision created something distinctive: a public company through which ordinary Islanders could participate directly in the opportunities emerging from the fishing industry. Today, with more than 260 local shareholders, Seafish remains rooted in that original vision of local participation and community ownership.

The journey was not always smooth. By the mid-1990s, changing conditions in the Illex fishery, increasing competition and limited reinvestment had left the company facing its first operating loss. However, what could have been a setback instead became a turning point.

With shareholder support, the Witte Boyd shareholding was bought out and Seafish moved fully into local ownership. The acquisition of the F/V Robin M. Lee became a defining milestone, symbolising a new era in which Islanders would build upon the foundations that had been established and chart their own future.

The late 1990s and early 2000s brought renewed energy, new partnerships and greater diversification. Seafish worked with Spanish, Japanese, Korean and later Taiwanese partners while broadening its activities beyond fishing. The acquisition of Goodwin Offshore and Frewin Chandlery in 1997 laid the foundations for what would become Seafish Chandlery and Goodwin Ltd - businesses that remain important parts of the Group today.

Above: Tiph and Merrie after doing some safety training with a jigger crew. Pics Seafish.

Fishing continued to play a central role, including the creation of Nova Seafish in 2000 and later investments in Polar Seafish, Consolidated Fisheries and Silverstream Maritime. The introduction of Individual Transferable Quotas in 2006 provided greater long-term certainty within the fishing sector and helped support continued investment and growth.

At the same time, the Group expanded steadily into commercial property, staff accommodation, hospitality, retail, homeware and travel. Businesses such as Wickham Heights, Lookout Lodge, Pro-Install Interiors, Rose's Coffee Shop, Chandlery Express and International Tours & Travel helped create a broader and more resilient Group. The opening of the Ascension Island mini-market further demonstrated Seafish's willingness to pursue opportunities beyond the Falkland Islands while supporting fellow Overseas Territories.

Now approaching its 40th anniversary, Seafish Group is a mature and diversified Falklands business operating across fishing, retail, construction, property, hospitality and travel. The Group employs approximately 130 people, has more than 260 shareholders, maintains a substantial local asset base and generates annual turnover of over eighty million pounds. Through its businesses and services, it touches the lives of many Islanders every week.

As Seafish marks this milestone, it is fitting to recognise the many people and organisations who have contributed to its success. The Group owes a sincere debt of gratitude to generations of employees, directors, shareholders, customers, suppliers, advisers and business partners who have supported and shaped the business over the past forty years. From fishing crews and shore-based staff to retail, construction, hospitality and office teams, every person has played a part in the Group's development. We are equally grateful to the many loyal customers who have chosen to do business with Seafish over the years. Their trust and support have enabled the Group to grow, diversify and continue investing in the future of the Falkland Islands.

The next chapter will bring new challenges and opportunities, from fisheries reform and vessel welfare to housing development, tourism and emerging industries. Yet the principles that have guided Seafish throughout its first forty years remain unchanged: local ownership, prudent reinvestment, trusted partnerships and a commitment to building a company that contributes positively to the Falkland Islands.

Sunshine for the 2026 Stanley Marathon

SPIRITS were high as 61 individual runners and 16 relay teams set off in the 2026 Standard Chartered Stanley Marathon in March.

Enthusiasm for the race was perhaps buoyed by the sunshine and incredibly light winds, conditions that continued throughout the day. Although ahead of the race start some complaints of it being "too warm" could be heard.

Helen Kayley, a flight attendant for AirTanker, was undertaking the race for the second time to raise funds for the Stephen Jaffray Memorial Fund. She explained that she was taking part to "give something back to the community."

After the Governor sounded the starting horn those who would eventually take the top spots pulled out a comfortable lead by the time the second loop started.

Michael Banham and Jack Freeman then pulled away from third place Barnaby Flint as the loops continued.

As the finish line approached Michael Banham finished the race first, one minute and 18 seconds ahead of Jack Freeman with a time of 3.08. Having also won the recent Cape Pembroke Half Marathon, Michael said he entered the marathon in honour of his father Ken Banham, who sadly passed away. A PTI in the Army and regular at Benfleet Running Club he said after the race that it had been "really challenging with a lot of hills." He added that for "such a small event it was really well organised."

It was an entirely 4 Para podium for the 2026 marathon. L-R: Second place Jack Freeman, winner Michael Banham and third place Barnaby Flint receive their finishing medals.

On his time Michael said he was "over the moon" as he set a new personal best, beating his previous by about 13 minutes.

Jack said, "it's a tough course, but it was good to do it as a big group. There was a quite a lot of us who came down and did it."

He explained that they have had quite a "physically demanding" week, without chance of much training so were all "pretty happy" with their times.

Third place in an impressive 3.14.59 for his first marathon entry Barnaby Flint said he had been trying to keep up with Michael and Jack at the start, which the three of them agreed was nice to be able to do.

First woman across the line in 3.15.28 was Candela Maria Cerrone, the experienced marathon runner said she was "very emotional" having crossed the line.

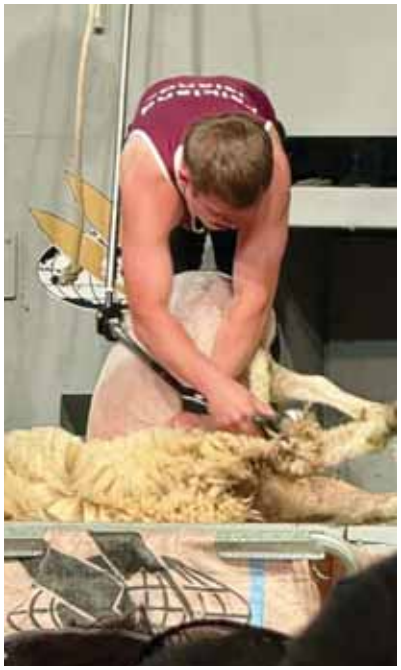
Fourth placed man and fifth overall Scott Leadbetter with 3.24.19 said he was "really happy with his time." Having won the Backyard Ultra after running for 26 hours, Scott said he found the marathon more challenging, "to be pushing yourself close to your limit for 26 consecutive miles, it's just a different animal."

First place relay team was the Falkland Islands Football Team, with Kyle Biggs crossing the line just seconds ahead of the individual marathon winner. They said they were "very happy" after taking the win, commenting that second placed team Zimselect are "very, very good." Of the conditions Kyle said it was "lovely turning around and not battling against the wind.

"It was really quite enjoyable out there today."

Above left to right: Mhari Ashworth; Chloe Munro; Tyrone Henry; Tim Mean. Below left to right: First placed relay team 'the Falkland Islands Football Team of Richard Short (Jnr), George Shikanda, Kyle and Dan Biggs; Jun Kumar Pun Magar; Sally Ellis; Damien Cameron; Helen Kayley.

Islanders shine at Golden Shears



Above: Pilar and Adam focus on the job at hand despite the competition pressure. Pilar and Talia hug with joy. Below: the shearing team line up with the world's greats. Evan on the shearing stand. The Falklands team. Pictures by N Heathman and M Short

FALKLANDS shearers and woolhandlers delivered outstanding performances at the Golden Shears World Premier Shearing and Woolhandling Championship held in New Zealand, which began on March 4.

The experienced team of Talia Jones and Pilar Castro, alongside Evan Jones and Adam Dickson, brought their skills to the floor at the War Memorial Stadium in beautiful Masterton.

Their excited fans back home were not to be disappointed. News soon came through that the two women, well known for their woolhandling abilities, were managing the pressure with what appeared to be a degree of nonchalance.

In the World Woolhandling competition Talia placed mid-field, finishing 16th and then 15th. Pilar, to the delight of her teammate and those watching, took 12th place before an incredible 5th in the second round, taking her through to the semi-finals. Ultimately Pilar secured 7th place, close enough to the international finalists to leave her smiling the biggest smile ever and Falkland supporters in raptures.

In the Open Woolhandling Talia truly pulled out all the stops, taking 9th place, just one position short of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Perhaps best of all, the two women also joined forces to produce an outstanding team performance, topping things off by claiming the title of fifth place in the world.

Meanwhile on the shearing floor Adam and Evan were working hard to fulfil the expectations placed on them, with the youngster in particular keen to prove his worth.

In the World Shearing Round 1 heats Falklands fans were leaping out of their seats when it was discovered Adam had been placed second in his heat alongside some of the world's greatest shearers.

Evan comfortably took 17th place and then 16th in the second round of the World Shear. In that second round Adam once again shone, picking up 10th place.

Like the Falklands women, the men know how to work together, and in the World Shearing Pairs Final the Falkland Islands finished sixth. Certainly no shame when fifth place went to the mighty Australia, and the teams above that were New Zealand (winners) England, Scotland and Wales.

Manager Richard Short commented that the team "all thoroughly enjoyed participating in the 2026 Golden Shears World Champs, and gave it their all and as a result their hard work paid off."

He added: "Highlights were them making it to the finals in the team shearing and woolhandling.

"I'm so proud of them all, hoping they now focus on the 2029 World Champs."

Gold medals for Tom and Nick at British Transplant Games

TOM and Nick Chater have both won gold medals in Archery at this years British Transplant Games.

The competition, this year held in Sheffield, showcases how people get on with their lives after organ transplants and donations, Tom said.

He continued that, "Competition includes any age group, there are literally people from a few years old to over 90 and is one of the friendliest, warmest gatherings about with approximately 3,000 people taking part in the Donor Run on the Saturday."

They both won gold in their archery sections, which was a shoot over 18m with 36 arrows. Tom added, "Taking part is the fun bit but winning is always nice. Nick was very pleased to win as it is the first competition that he has been involved in as an adult."

The family are currently living in the UK while Nick waits for a second kidney transplant. His first was at just four years old when he received a kidney from Tom.

Nick has been on the waiting list since May 2023, and while he waits he has to have nine hours of dialysis every night. This has been taking place for over 1,000 consecutive nights. Tom added that dialysis is "effectively life support as it replaces some but not all of what a kidney does and it all severely impacts your quality of life.

Left: Tom and Nick Chater with their gold medals. Above: Nick preparing to shoot. Pics Annie Gisby

"The phone call to say there is a kidney waiting could come at any time."

During this time Nick has also completed his GCSEs and is currently awaiting A-Level results.

Tom added that if you are considering organ donation after death, "it is vital that you have informed your loved ones of your wishes... over 400 possible transplants did not happen last year due to next of kin saying no."

Tom added that while organ donation after death is not possible in the Falklands due to logistics, it is possible to be a live organ donor but it would require travelling.

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Ben Chater excels at Guernsey badminton

FALKLAND Islander Ben Chater had a successful run at a Guernsey badminton tournament over the Easter weekend, making it to the semi-finals in both the singles and mixed doubles.

The Guernsey Easter Open features the Annual Open Senior Silver tournament that Ben took part in.

He won his first match 22, 18, 21 against Alex Tapp of Guernsey - who won the tournament the previous two years.

Ben went on to win his next match 21, 19, 21 against Jiqiu Zhang, and again beat Thomas Hubscher 21, 22.

He progressed through to the quarter finals winning in two sets 22, 21.

In the semi final Ben faced Krish Mahbubani and in really close sets lost with his 20, 21, 21 against Mahbubani's 22, 13, 23.

In the mixed doubles Ben was paired with Emily Carpenter. They won all three of their matches in the opening round robin stage of the tournament and progressed to the quarter final where they won 21, 21.

In the semi final, they lost to experienced pair Andrew Jones and Anne Hubscher with a score of 17, 16.

Ben commented, "overall the trip was a success although I'm disappointed with a close loss in the singles semi final.

"It's a step towards bigger goals since recovering from injuries after the Islands Games, and two bronze medal finishes at a tournament this size isn't so bad!"

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In memory of Arlene Fullerton 1939-2025

ARLENE Fullerton (nee Jacobowitz), was born in New York on 27 April 1939 and died on 28 May 2025.

After attending high school in New York, she graduated from Cornell University and took a postgraduate degree in art history at the Frick Institute of Fine Arts, subsequently working at the Brooklyn Museum as Curator of Modern Painting and Sculpture.

In 1968 she married William Fullerton, a member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and after a spell in London during which she worked in the education department of the Tate Gallery, went abroad with her husband on a series of postings overseas.

In all of these, including the Falklands, Turkey, Somalia, Pakistan, Kuwait, and Morocco she travelled widely and played an active role, becoming particularly involved in the arts.

In Islamabad she was president of the influential Asian Study Group, in Kuwait she founded the British Ladies Society and in Somalia the International Ladies Association. In the Falklands she helped to set up a photographic society and a branch of the YMCA.

She also co-authored the book Kuwait: Arts and Architecture (with Geza Fehervari) and contributed to a Smithsonian book on Somali women's handicraft traditions.

She was awarded an MBE for her invaluable work in diplomacy and the arts overseas. She will be remembered as warm hearted, vibrant and energetic, very much loved everywhere she went.

She is survived by her husband William Fullerton, her daughter Elizabeth and two grandchildren Oliver and Theo.

Arlene Fullerton (pic Fullerton family)

Tributes paid to Claudette Prior 1954-2026

TRIBUTES have been paid to the late Claudette Prior MBE.

Following news of her passing in July 2026, flags at the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly Office, Sulivan House, were flown at half mast.

Claudette was appointed the first female Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and Head of the Legislature from 1994 until her retirement in 2017.

She was then elected as Deputy Speaker for the Legislative Assembly and served two terms until she stood down at the last election in 2025.

Claudette attended many CPA and BIMR (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and British Islands and Mediterranean Region) conferences, making friends across the Commonwealth, and spreading the Falkland Islands message.

Over the years she also organised many political and Royal visits to the Islands.

In 2002 she was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen for services to the Falkland Islands.

In the July Legislative Assembly sitting a two minute silence was held and former colleagues and friends paid tribute to Claudette. Speaker of the House Keith Biles said she was, "well known and respected both locally and internationally, both through her work here and in her work with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, she served democracy in this territory with care and dedication which was recognised by her appointment as MBE.

"Claudy will be remembered fondly."

MLA Lewis Clifton having known Claudette since childhood, said, "Claudette was one of those girls who just stood out. She embraced opportunities where caution beckoned for others."

Claudette Prior (pic Sulivan House)

She left school at the age of 15 and began work as Clerk in the Secretariat. She emigrated to the UK in the 70s before returning to the Islands to work for the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service.

After the Argentine invasion in 1982 she returned to the UK where she worked in support of delivering the Calling the Falklands nightly broadcast from the BBC in Southampton.

She returned to the Falklands after Liberation and worked for the Falkland Islands Development Corporation for six years, before returning to public service as Clerk of the Legislative Council in 1994, also then becoming Clerk of the Executive Council.

MLA Clifton continued, "she diligently and faithfully served seven Legislative Assemblies and countless Executive Councils as Clerk, but also eight years of service as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly."

MLA Cheryl Roberts added her tributes to Claudette whom she referred to as a "friend and confidant." She spoke of Claudy as someone she turned to for advice which was "honest, practical, and based on a wealth of experience. She didn't dress things up or tell people what they wanted to hear. She told them what she thought, and that was one of the things I respected most about her."

MLA Roberts continued that "there were very few people who knew the workings of government and the assembly better than she did, and her experience and commitment were rightly respected.

"Claudy was very much her own person, and certainly a force to be reckoned with. The civil service were fortunate to have her and I know she will be missed by many."

Other MLAs spoke to extend their condolences to Claudette's family and loved ones.

Claudette is survived by her husband Malcolm and son Alastair.

Claudette acting as Deputy Speaker during a Legislative Assembly sitting (pic FITV)

Births, marriages and deaths

Births

25.03.2026 Micah Lael Manomano – Anesu Russel Manomano & Maria Gorreti Kamoto
29.05.2026 Empre Tatum Boyce – Soraye Boyce & Callum John Boyce

Marriages

21.02.2026 James Alexander Bruce Simpson & Erica Dawn Berntsen – Port Stephens, West Falkland, Falkland Islands
03.02.2026 Batsirai Mavatu & Spiwe Bore – The Townhall, Stanley, Falkland Islands
22.08.2026 Jomer Lasala & Jonalyn Baguioro – St Mary's Catholic Church, Stanley, Falkland Islands

Deaths

11.03.2026 Georgina Carol Anderson-Smith, Finance Clerk, Falkland Islands
16.02.2026 Xenia Mary Clements, Radio Presenter, Falkland Islands
11.04.2026 Wendy Diane Lang, Retired Auxiliary Nurse, Falkland Islands
15.05.2026 Jaqueline Nancy Davies, Retired, Falkland Islands
26.05.2026 Carl Francis Freeman, Retired, Falkland Islands
12.05.2026 Gilang Motovani, Sailor, Sae In no.5
06.07.2026 Linda Phillips, Retired, Falkland Islands
06.06.2026 Robin Perry McGill, Retired, Falkland Islands
26.07.2026 Ian McLeod, Retired, Falkland Islands

The above information is obtained from the Falklands registry.

If your child has Falklands Status at birth but was born outside of the Falklands please let us know so the FIA can include the announcement in a following edition, if that is your wish.

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For rates and other information please contact Hayley Bonner on hayleybon65@gmail.com

Any queries or article submissions for the FIA Newsletter? Contact the Editor, Katharyn Daniels, on katharyndaniels@gmail.com

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Dates for your Diary

Saturday 5th December 2026
Annual General Meeting at the RAF Club, London

Monday 14th June 2027
Liberation Day Reception at the RAF Club, London

FIA contact emails

Please note the following email addresses:

Membership queries to:
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All other queries to:
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A photocopy is acceptable to save cutting your copy of the Newsletter or forms can be downloaded from the FIA website at *www.fiassociation.com*
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