



Falkland Islands Newsletter

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British Rebuke for Argentine Intimidation

Argentina's aggressive actions against the Falkland Islands have plunged relations to their lowest depths since the 1982 Falklands War ended military rule. President Kirchner's Government is regarded as the most hostile since General Galtieri. His hard line policies have been met with stern rebuke and strengthened British and Falkland Islands Governments' determination to uphold Islanders' right to self-determination and to safeguard their security. Britain's unshakeable commitment is demonstrable in the formidable forces stationed there.

Blunt messages from Falklands Councillors, the Governor and the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires have warned Argentina it is pursuing the wrong policies in the wrong way. This concerted unambiguous message impresses upon the Kirchner Government that it is totally mistaken to believe that what the Falklands Government condemns as "blatant and unprincipled intimidation" can bully Islanders into accepting unwanted Argentine scheduled flights, or lead to sovereignty negotiations. That is out of the question.

What the British Government requires is that Argentina be a good neighbour, living in peace and constructive co-operation. Instead, Argentina is a crime-ridden, corrupt, bankrupt country, which its own ambassador to Spain recently described as "on the verge of anarchy". It petulantly blocks tourist charter flights between Chile and the Falklands and harasses legal fishing in Falklands waters. These antagonistic actions are unworthy of an educated democratic nation.

Argentina's aggressive actions come at a time of economic difficulty for the Falklands. This season's Illex squid catch is the worst on record - probably because of changes in the ocean currents around the Falklands. This has caused a serious fall in Falklands income. To replace this the Government has made budget cuts and drawn on the substantial reserves it has wisely put aside in the past for just such a "rainy day".

The combination of Argentine and financial pressure will change nothing. The Falklands continue to diversify economically and will not be influenced by temporary problems.



The Normandy Band of the King's Division lead the Queen's Birthday Parade in Stanley.

Photo: D. Ford

Illex Squid Collapse

The Falkland Islands Government closed the illex fishery two months early for conservation reasons. Director of Fisheries John Barton said that commercial catches of illex were the lowest on record. Refunds will be given to licence holders. Councillor Mike Summers has said that as a result Falklands income is likely to be a total of £10 million less than expected.

Eight million from Reserves

To make up for this lost revenue, economies have been made in Government expenditure and eight million pounds has been taken from the Falklands reserves.

Loligo season

The illex squid is fished quite far out from the Islands and provides most of the Falklands licence income. But the loligo squid is less affected. This is fished more inshore. The first loligo season this year (1st March to 14th April) yielded 8,600 tons of squid. The second loligo season opened in July with a modest catch of 2,300 tons in the first week, it lasts until September 30th. Fisheries Director Dr. Barton commented "this is not going to be a big loligo year". Nevertheless, revenues of some £3.6 million are expected from loligo licences.



Above: Would that the commercially valuable Illex squid were so prominent!

A giant squid caught in April by the Fortuna vessel *John Cheek* on display. It weighed 200 kilos and is 2.1 metres long, but with its tentacles unfurled might reach ten metres. In the background are (L to R) Sasha Arkhipkin and Joost Pompert of the Fisheries Department and Stuart Wallace of Fortuna. *Photo: Penguin News*

Argentine Incursion - British Diplomatic Protest

The British Government has lodged a formal protest to the Argentine Government over the incursion of an Argentine naval Ice-Breaker, *Almirante Irizar* (photo below), into Falklands waters and the harassment of fishing vessels licensed by the Falklands Government to fish there. The ice-breaker demanded that the fishing vessels identify themselves as if the waters were Argentine.



When the British Foreign Office requested an explanation, the Argentine Government was quoted in the Argentine Press as saying the vessel "... was carrying out fishing control operations in water under Argentine jurisdiction".

The British Government rejected Argentina's explanation as unsatisfactory and lodged its formal protest "underlining the need to ensure that this type of incident does not happen

again". The British Government also reiterated that it has no doubt over UK sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. The protest was sent by the Minister with responsibility for this area, Mr Bill Rammell (photo right). He reported to Parliament on the issue and also briefed Falklands Legislative Councillors.



The incident occurred in March and the Argentine Government's reaction to it, as reported in the Argentine press, was first to ignore it and then to repeatedly insist that the waters concerned were Argentine. The Argentine Government has never given a proper explanation.

"On the Verge of Anarchy"

The "honeymoon" between President Kirchner and Argentina is now over. President Kirchner has fallen out with many of his Peronist colleagues. There has been serious trouble with Chile, because Argentina has broken gas supply contracts. Argentina has also offended Brazil by restricting its exports.

Crime is appalling, particularly kidnapping for ransom. On average, one of these occurs every day. Much crime is thought to be the work of corrupt policemen. Four purges of the Buenos Aires police have taken the total number sacked this year to 805!

Street Violence by Pickets

But street violence by gangs of unemployed Argentines, known as "pickets", is equally bad. On a daily basis these occupy businesses or block roads to extort handouts. Police stations have been occupied too, and the Buenos Aires provincial legislature building was damaged. As a result Justice Minister Beliz and the Head of the Federal Police were sacked in July. But pickets still continue their activities.

Because of all this Mr. Abel Posse, outgoing Argentine Ambassador to Spain, was quoted recently as saying that Argentina was "on the verge of anarchy".

Argentina in Antarctica

The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat opened in Buenos Aires this month. After a long campaign, Argentina finally obtained this when Britain dropped its opposition in 2001.

Argentina is now proceeding with acts to further its sovereignty claim to territory there. The Argentine Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee will hold a session in the Argentina's Antarctic base at Marambio in November.

Polls reveal that a majority of Argentines now consider "Argentine Antarctica" to actually be national territory. Mariano Memolli, Head of Argentina's Antarctic Directorate, has appealed recently for more government funds to maintain Argentine activity in Antarctica. He has stated that the Antarctic Treaty, which freezes all territorial claims, only defers discussion of sovereignty until it expires.

Argentina Stops Falklands Cricketers

The Falklands cricket team has been prevented from playing in the South American Cricket Championships in Chile. The Chilean Cricket Association withdrew its invitation to the Falklands team because of objections from the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Governor's Blunt Warning to Argentina



A blunt message condemning Argentine pressure on the Falkland Islands to force sovereignty negotiations has been delivered by the Governor, Mr. Howard Pearce (photo right). He said "Falkland Islanders are determined to maintain their right to self-determination. The commitment of the British Government to uphold that right is unshakeable. That commitment is demonstrated by significant British Forces, for which Islanders continue to be extremely grateful."

His admonishment of Argentina came in his annual Address to the Nation, in the Legislative Council. He reiterated that sovereignty "is not and will not be on the agenda," but Islanders are ready to engage in, "...constructive, pragmatic and practical cooperation with Argentina... Progress requires a stable, predictable and reliable Argentine partner equally committed to mutually beneficial cooperation."

Argentine tactics entirely counter-productive

Mr. Pearce said both parties stand to benefit from such a relationship. But that has not been made easier by Argentina's charter flights ban and the incursion by the Argentine naval vessel *Almirante Irizar* into the Falklands fishing zone. Such tactics he dismissed as "entirely counter-productive".



"We have lost Confidence"

British ambassador to Argentina, Sir Robin Christopher (left) issued a

similar warning to Argentina. He made it clear that relations with Argentina, such as airlinks to the Falklands, depended on confidence on the part of the Islanders. He said this had been lost.

Sir Robin also stated that Britain's commitment to self-determination for the Islanders was not going to change.

"Open Skies"

Britain is believed to have offered Argentina a deal allowing complete freedom for charter flights from South America into the Falklands.

This would allow Islanders to have any number of charters to support the tourist industry. It would also allow Argentina to have as many charters as it liked - for example, to visit the Argentine cemetery at Darwin. In a reply to Sir Robin Christopher, Argentine Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa was reported as saying that "Open Skies" was not in Argentina's interest.

Newsletter comment:

Remarks such as those made by Ambassador Christopher are very hard-hitting in diplomatic terms. The incident with the *Almirante Irizar* caused serious friction. Argentina has stopped all overflights of Argentine territory by charter planes from Chile to the Falklands in an effort to pressure Islanders into accepting direct regular scheduled flights from Argentina.

The Newsletter believes this is an attempt to eliminate Falklands links to Chile guaranteed by the Communications Accord of July 14th 1999. If Argentina were now to get its own scheduled flights it would be easy for it to eliminate the LanChile flights by commercial or political pressure, without formally breaking the agreement. This would leave Argentina with a stranglehold over Falklands communications to South America.

Falklands Argue Case at UN

The Falkland Islands have challenged the UN Decolonisation Committee to throw out once and for all the annual resolution for Anglo-Argentine talks on the Falklands unless it recognises the right to self determination. Nevertheless, the committee conformed to its ritual of adopting the resolution calling for resumed Anglo-Argentine talks on the dispute, which the UK and Falklands Governments consistently reject as a ploy by Argentina to pursue its sovereignty claim.

Councillors Mike Summers and Roger Edwards forcefully reminded the Committee that the regular resolution disregards this principle enshrined in the UN's own founding charter. They argued that all the Islanders want is the same basic right as anyone else to self-determination to pursue their own political ambitions and choice of sovereign status — a right recognised by the United Nations in every resolution of Non-Self-Governing Territories other than the Falkland Islands.

Councillor Summers said the Falklands are geographically, geologically, culturally, linguistically and historically different from Argentina. The international community must not tolerate those who pursue territorial disputes, while ignoring the wishes of the people inhabiting, developing and caring for the environment and communities in those territories.

Call to respect Islanders' Wishes

The Falklands are a peaceful, well regulated community, free of corruption, prejudice, poverty, deprivation or exploitation. They want continued allegiance to and close cooperation with the United Kingdom, with no concessions to Argentina

on sovereignty. Islanders had thrown off the mantle of colonialism many years ago. The UN should make sure that external authoritarian rule should never be re-imposed. New colonialism in furtherance of a territorial dispute cannot be right.

Many Argentines believe the myth that the Falklands once belonged to Argentina. It is a sad reflection on that country's approach to education and free thinking that disputed events of 170 years ago, are still dredged up and taught as fact, when they are not. "The solution lies not in arguing about history and attempting to take and to control our Islands against our wishes", Councillor Summers declared. "It lies in accepting the reality of where we are now, and having proper respect for the UN Charter, and the wishes of the people of the Falkland Islands".

Resisting Argentina's aggressive acts

He described how Argentina has encouraged large-scale fishing close to Falklands waters to destroy Falklands fish stocks; denied overflights by Chilean commercial aircraft to service cruise vessels visiting the Islands, and thus damage the Falklands tourist industry; and sent a naval vessel to harass foreign vessels properly licensed to fish in Falklands waters. Such unfriendly and irresponsible actions have been to force discussion on sovereignty. "Fortunately", Councillor Summers declared, "We are made of sterner stuff, and will resist."

Councillor Roger Edwards said relations had become much more strained because of Argentina's aggressive actions. The Islands enjoy a level of independence that many nations would be proud of, with a robust economy, high living standards, good educational system and excellent health services. **HWB**

Falklands Rebuke of Argentine Intimidation

Lincoln's Inn

The Falkland Islands have delivered a strong rebuke to the Argentine Government for what the Falklands London representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, condemned as "blatant and unprincipled intimidation".

She said Islanders' present difficulties pale into insignificance compared to the sacrifices of the 1982 Task Force who fought for Falklands' freedom (against the Argentine invasion). She said: "Our greatest tribute to them must be to resist bullying and intimidation – as they did.... I am certain that the positive 'Falklands Factor' will prevail and we will preserve the right to self-determination and self-sufficiency that they bequeathed to us".

Her condemnation of Argentina was applauded by hundreds of influential people attending the Falkland Government's 30th annual reception in London (on Thursday June 17th). She called this annual event "a great source of strength".

She affirmed that recent difficulties would not jeopardise investment in improving life in the Camp outside Stanley nor the high standards achieved in health and education. She declared: "In this, as in our commitment to preserve our freedom, self-determination and self-sufficiency, Falkland Islanders are united".

She condemned deliberate Argentine acts to make life more difficult for Falkland Islanders by banning charter flights over its territory to the Islands and authorising incursions to undermine the Falklands fishing industry, when the Illex squid fishery has had its worst ever year. "It is hard to imagine more blatant and unprincipled acts of intimidation", she said.

"Bullying and blackmail Counterproductive"

"Despite these provocations, our Councillors have refused to bow to bullying and blackmail and we have had robust support from the UK Government and our friends in Parliament, for which we are very grateful. These actions only reinforce Islanders' commitment to the principle of self-determination. The Argentine Government will discover in time that they are totally counterproductive".

The Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, Sir Rex Hunt, proposed a loyal toast to the Queen, and read out her message of good wishes.

The annual reception was initiated by the Falkland Islands Association in 1974. This year more than two hundred guests included influential Parliamentarians such as the Armed Forces Minister, Adam Ingram; the Conservative Party Foreign Affairs spokesman, Michael Ancram MP; and former Foreign Secretary Lord Hurd of Westwell, who is President of the Falkland Islands Association.

Also present were visiting Islanders, including Councillor Ian Hansen, Falkland Islands students, Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence officials, former Governors, chief executives and British Forces Commanders, and members of UK-based Falkland Islands groups. The Chilean Ambassador and Uruguay's Consul were also there.

Beating Retreat by the Band of the Irish Guards provided a colourful close to the event.



Falklands Government Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, greets Minister for the Armed Forces, Mr. Adam Ingram, MP.



Sukey with Baroness Williams, formerly Shirley Williams MP of the SDLP.

Below: Denise and Martin Reed, of the Canberra in 1982, who is now Chairman of SAMA 82, with Mr. Robert Headland of the British Antarctic Survey.



Harold Briley



Former Governor, Mr. David Tatham, Conservative Foreign Affairs spokesman, Mr. Michael Ancram MP and former Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, Major-General Sir Iain Mackay-Dick.



Mrs. Penny Hill, Mrs. Grizelda Cockwell and Mr. Brian Hill.

Photos by Lewis Photos and Harold Briley.

Below: Mr. and Mrs. Peter King, their daughter Roxanne and Sir Rex Hunt.



Above: Mr. Michael Ancram chats to Association President, and former Foreign Secretary, Lord Hurd.



Lives to Remember

It is sad to record that three giants of Falkland Families life, all formidable champions of Islanders' rights and defiant opponents of Argentina, have died in recent months. All three left a lasting legacy of achievement, hope and integrity. Their lives encourage us to rededicate our efforts to continue their work. All were colourful characters about whom we encourage readers to write in and tell their personal anecdotes for inclusion in future editions of the Newsletter.

We express condolences and pay tribute to Velma Malcolm, Harold Rowlands and Adrian Monk (See pages 16, 17 & 18).

Co-Editor Harold Briley recalls their kindnesses to him for his reports on the 1982 war as a correspondent. Countering criticism of what some regarded as biased BBC reports, Harold Rowlands took time in the immediate chaos of the surrender to despatch a telegram of thanks to the BBC.

Velma made Harold an honorary member of the Falkland Islands Association Stanley Committee. She left a fascinating record of her life, entitled "As Ignorant as Sheep", so that her grandchildren would know about Islanders' lives and struggles throughout the 20th century. It is well worth reading.

Her body was brought back from hospital in Chile by her daughter Ailsa Heathman. At Velma's funeral on Tuesday 10th August, Christ Church Cathedral was so packed that many mourners had to stand at the back.

Councillor Mike Summers gave a fitting eulogy remembering her tireless resistance to the various attempts by such politicians as Lord Chalfont, Nicholas Ridley and others to do a deal with Argentina that would have meant the eventual loss of the Falklands. After the service Velma was buried in the plot reserved for her alongside her late husband George.



Mrs. Jennifer Barker, widow of Captain Barker of HMS Endurance, and son Ben.

Euro Money for Falklands and Saint Helena

The Falkland Islands have been granted two million pounds from the European Development Fund to accelerate economic growth through private sector trade development in tourism, agriculture and the maritime sector. There is prospect for more funding later for marine farming training and protection of conservation areas.

The Falklands Government has signed an agreement with the European Union to secure funding of three million Euros (two-million pounds), through the 2001 Overseas Countries and Territories Agreement with the European Community.

Falklands Government External Development Officer Jenny Smith, who has been involved in the negotiations, says



this Agreement is increasingly important to make sure that, with this year's expansion of the Community, small Overseas Territories maintain access to European markets and development funding.

The Falkland Islands have a constructive relationship with the Commission that has included visits by Commission officials.

Jenny Smith (Photo Above) said: "The Falkland Islands have been particularly successful in negotiating tariff free access to Europe for our fisheries products and in obtaining funding for the development of trade-related industries under the Agreement.

The Falkland Islands are also working with several other Overseas Territories to obtain additional regional funding for marine farming training and the eradication of invasive weeds and animal pests from conservation areas and hope that we are just as successful in obtaining funding for these joint initiatives."



Falklands London Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, signs the Single Programming Document for EU funding with Mr. Athanossios Theodorakis, EU Director General of Development, in Brussels on June 21st.

St. Helena

Saint Helena has received an even bigger grant of 8.6 million Euros (5.7 million pounds) to promote economic development, improve port facilities, and improve access to this isolated mid-Atlantic island, which has no air services. Finance has long been sought to build an airport.

Islander is New Head of PWD

Islander Mr. Manfred Keenleyside (photo right) has been appointed the new Director of the Public Works Department. Manfred fought off competition from several overseas candidates after the post was advertised in London and elsewhere.



His appointment allows savings of the order of £80,000 per year, as he has been Deputy Director for 16 years and has actually been doing an excellent job as Director for five months now. This allows the post of Deputy Director to be abolished, which is important in the light of shrinking budgets.

Falklands Language School

A language school, Falkland Islands Languages Organisation (FILO), has been established in the Falklands by the Islands' former Director of Tourism and previously Education Superintendent, John Fowler, with the help of Larissa Fava, who is from Gibraltar.

Its first overseas students — from Punta Arenas in Chile — recently completed their English courses.

Teaching English to foreigners has become a major international industry. John Fowler says: "As the nearest English-speaking community to Latin America, the Falkland Islands are well placed to engage in this activity, which in other parts of the world has become a major attraction to visitors". Both John and Larissa are qualified teachers and Larissa is, of course, fluent in Spanish.

Photo Right: Celebrating the opening of FILO, the Falkland Islands Language Organisation, are Governor Pearce, Larissa Fava and John Fowler.



Farmers Benefit from Abattoir Progress

The modern Falklands abattoir opened two years ago is giving a much-needed boost to farming. It has created a new outlet for good quality organic meat by selling it to the British garrison and also exporting to the United Kingdom.



The Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo) has overcome many of its early problems. Its Operations Manager, John Ferguson, reports that sheep processed in 2004 increased by 40% to a total of 21,400 animals. More than half of Falklands' farms supplied sheep in the last season and received an average payment of £3,900, an increase of 18%. Productivity doubled to reach a record daily kill of 416.

The company cut its operating loss from £14 a head in 2003 to £4. The business sector board representative, Tony Blake of Little Chartres Farm, described the Sand Bay abattoir as a kick start for agriculture, giving farms a secondary income.

It is hoped eventually to export meat from 100,000 lambs and sheep. Meat exports could be of significant benefit if the decline in squid catches persists.

For several years, the Falklands have sold organic pesticide-free vegetables and salad to the Falklands garrison and to cruise liners.

Mineral Exploration

Falklands Minerals Ltd. carried out a magnetic and radiometric survey of the Falklands in March, April and May using a plane from Brazilian company FUGRO.

Some 10,300 square kilometres of land were covered with a grid 500 metres apart. A more detailed survey was carried out over 1,500 square kilometres where a 250 metre separation between lines was used. One area of particular interest had a grid with a line separation of only 100 metres.

The survey was nearly over when the plane (photo below) suffered a nose undercarriage failure on landing at Stanley at the end of May. No injuries were caused but the propellers and aircraft nose were damaged.



Oil Exploration

Falkland Islands Holdings (FIH) has announced the creation of a new oil exploration company: Falkland Oil and Gas Ltd., in conjunction with Global Petroleum Ltd., Hardman Resources Ltd., and with financial support from RAB Capital. The *Financial Times* said: the move was to "fund further work on the initial seismic work that suggests reserves of between 200 million and 2.5 billion barrels of oil off Falklands shores".

Director of Minerals and Agriculture, Mrs. Phyllis Rendell, described the move as "very encouraging".

Falklands Graduations

When it went to press the Newsletter had information on only some of the Falklands first degree graduations in the UK this year.

Stephen Betts (Photo Right) got a 2:1 in Biochemistry from Oxford. Pippa Lang got a 2:1 in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from York, Rodrigo Cordiero got a 2:1 in Iberian and Latin American studies. Sophie Greenland got a 2:1 in Psychology from Leicester, and came within an ace of first. Robbie Burnett got a 2:1 in English also from Leicester. Jackie Cotter got a 2:2 in Law from Glamorgan.



Director of Education, Mrs Sylvia Cole said: "We have had an unusually large number of students leaving Higher education this year. Congratulations must go to all of them on their very creditable achievement. We are proud of you and wish you every success in your future careers".

Falklands fisheries biologist, Paul Brickle, won his PhD in the zoology of toothfish from Aberdeen University last November after seven years work. Mr. Brickle first worked for CFL and then transferred to the Fisheries Department.

Falklands Government Secretary, Mr. Peter King won his masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) by distance learning late last year from Henley Management College. He attended the graduation ceremony in May.

GCSE & "A" Level Successes

In a presentation on May 20th, twenty students (Photo Below) received their GCSE certificates from Governor Pearce.

Five students were singled out for particular praise. They were: Matthew Pointing, Teraaka Middleton, Chris Cant, Emily Saunders and Zoran Zuvic Bulic. Matthew Pointing won the GCSE prize with six A* grades and two A grades!

In the same presentation Samantha Brownlee and Alexandra Cripps received their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards.

"A" Level Results

Ten students got their "A" levels this year. Top score went to Victoria Cripps with five "A" grades. She goes on to read medicine at Leicester. Ben Pointing got three "A" grades and a "B" and goes on to York to read Politics and Economics after a gap year. Claire Kilmartin got three "B"s and a "C" and goes on to East Anglia to read Politics and Economics. Sam Cockwell will read Environmental Science at Manchester after a gap year. Juliet Poole will study Primary Education at Gloucestershire.



Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Stanley



Above: CPA Delegates pose for the Penguin News camera.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) met in Stanley in February, with 21 delegates including the CPA's Secretary General the Hon Denis Marshall, QSO. HE Governor Howard Pearce opened the conference with a call to Argentina to respect self-determination.

The conference addressed a number of issues including tourism, world security and environmental concerns versus commercial development. But most relevant to the Falklands was one session entitled *The ability of small countries to defend themselves and to safeguard their independence*. Councillor Mike Summers addressed this saying: "The way we defend ourselves is through democracy".

Gibraltar

The delegate from Gibraltar, Mr. Stephen Linares, was particularly applauded for his criticisms of Foreign and Commonwealth Office behaviour towards Gibraltar. He commented that "Gibraltar and all other overseas territories have to be vigilant at all times, in our case not only with Spain, the country that wants to take our homeland, but unfortunately with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office whose policy is always ambiguous and most of the time contrary to our expressed wishes". He went on to say that Gibraltar had been better defended by the CPA and British MPs than the FCO.

Mr. Martyn Quayle from the Isle of Man took up the pressure the Falklands is experiencing now from Argentina over flights referring to Argentine "bloodymindedness". Addressing the threat to both Gibraltar and the Falklands, he said: the conference might "consider informing the British Government of this conference's profound concerns at the continued uncertainties that prevail in the light of some of the actions of the FCO and British Government and all that entails".

CPA Meeting in Canada

Councillors Richard Cockwell and John Birmingham attended the CPA Conference in Canada in September.

Overseas Territories Consultative Council (OTCC)

Councillors Jan Cheek and Norma Edwards and Miss Sukey Cameron are representing the Falklands at the 6th annual OTCC conference this month in London. This looks at the relationship between Britain and its overseas territories - all of which will be represented - and discusses issues of mutual interest. The conference is being chaired by FCO Minister Bill Rammell MP. Delegates have the opportunity to meet Ministers from other departments involved with the territories.



Above: Governor Pearce opens the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in the Falklands.

Below: The Conference in Session.



Falklands to host Red Ensign Conference

The Falkland Islands have agreed to host next year's Red Ensign Conference, for all British Territories which have merchant ships registered under the Red Ensign. Falklands Councillors approved funding of up to £21,000 to run the week-long conference, which includes three and a half days of meetings, visits to Long Island and Sea Lion Island and a dinner at Government House. Thirty delegates — excluding Falkland Islands participants — are expected to attend. Delegates fund their own travel and accommodation.

Round the World Yachtswoman Visits Stanley



Record breaker Ellen McArthur visited the Falklands in March on her catamaran *Castorama B&Q* (Above). She berthed in Mare Harbour, and was guest of honour at a Government House Reception.

She also met the Sea Cadets (below), whom she presented with Royal Yachting Association qualification certificates. In 2001, she became the youngest and fastest woman to circumnavigate the globe when she finished second in the Vendee Globe round-the-world race.



£3,000 for SAMA

The Joint Communications Unit at MPA has raised £3,000 for SAMA82, the Falklands veterans organisation, by a charity auction held at Sharkies Bar.

Photographed below, Terry Peck accepts the cheque on behalf of SAMA. PO(C) Steve Farrell, who organised the auction, described SAMA as "... a charity close to the hearts of all those who live and serve on the Falklands".



Major-General Malcolm Emslie, PO (C) Steve Farrell, Terry Peck, Gerald Cheek, and WO2 (USM) D. Thwaite.

Darwin Sports

Right: Maurice Davis collects one of the many trophies he won in the Darwin Harbour Sports Association meeting. He became Champion Jockey for the third year running.



Below: Maurice Davis wins the Cable and Wireless Trophy on his horse *Shasha*.



Gambler Flagged In

Consolidated Fisheries Ltd. has added a new vessel to its fleet. *CFL Gambler* (Photo Below) was flagged in to replace the *CFL Pioneer* in March.

The *Gambler* is a 51.6 metre purpose built Spanish longliner with a crew of forty. She was refitted in Cape Town to British standards under the supervision of Captain George Betts, Vessels Operations Manager for CFL.

The flagging in and naming ceremony took place before invited guests including Governor Howard Pearce. Deputy Governor, Miss Harriet Hall broke the champagne bottle on her.

Mr. Stuart Wallace, Chairman of CFL: said "Fishing is a high risk business and a spirit of cooperativeness and a 'can do' approach is a prerequisite for the success of the industry".



25th Anniversary of Falklands Conservation - and £200,000 for Seabird Protection!

As Falklands Conservation celebrates its 25th anniversary, protecting the exceptional wildlife heritage and environment of the Islands, the charity's efforts have been given an unprecedented £200,000 boost. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has awarded £150,000 over the next two years to its Albatross and Petrel Conservation Programme. The Falkland Islands Government has donated another £50,000, and there is a £100,000 Invertebrate Study Grant.

The British Government has also ratified an international Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), which includes the Falklands, South Georgia/South Sandwich Islands and the British Antarctic Territory.

The Falkland Islands have the biggest concentration of black-browed albatross in the world, a magnificent ocean bird, sadly in drastic decline. Falklands Conservation Director, Becky Ingham, says the funds will facilitate a complete census of albatross, southern giant petrel and white chinnetted petrel, and long-term monitoring of their numbers by Falklands Conservation "Seabirds at Sea Team". They will concentrate on six breeding sites, investigating threats posed by fire, pests, disturbance and disease introduction, and develop action plans in co-operation with landowners, tourists, farmers and anyone else using these areas. Such people have access to a new local grants scheme to carry out small environmental projects.

Campaign to Save the Albatross

Dr Ben Sullivan, also of Falklands Conservation, said the long-term survival of the black-browed albatross has been boosted by the Falkland Government's adoption of a National Plan of Action-Seabirds (NPOA-S) to reduce widespread drowning of seabirds by longline and trawl fishing boats, with advice from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Milestone in Seabird-Friendly Fishing

Dr. Euan Dunn of the RSPB said: "The adoption of the Falkland Action Plans is a milestone in protecting the beleaguered albatrosses of the Southern Ocean. They put the Falklands at the forefront of seabird-friendly fishing and have lit a beacon for other fishing nations to follow". It is hoped South American countries will adopt similar plans.

Falklands Director of Fisheries Dr John Barton hailed what he called "a major step forward" in ensuring minimal impact by the Falklands fishery on the world's seabird populations.



25th Anniversary Reception and "Insects of the Falkland Islands" book launch. L to R: Rob Still, who designed the book's layout, Richard Lewington, who painted the illustrations, UK Secretary for Falklands Conservation, Ann Brown, Dr. Alex Jones, author of the book, and Chairman of Falklands Conservation, Mr. Robin Woods.



John Ridgway in the Falklands on his round the world trip to save the albatross.

The famous ocean adventurer, John Ridgway, on a round-the-world 'Save the Albatross' voyage, supported by BirdLife International, visited the Falklands and praised its work preventing bird deaths. No other country tried harder, he said: "Thousands of albatross are drowned every year as they swoop on fish caught by longline trawlers, and are themselves caught by the hooks. Mitigation measures in recent years have led to a big reduction in seabird mortality... Poisonous algae has also killed many albatross and penguins in recent years. Changes in ocean currents and food availability may also be responsible for the dramatic decline in numbers".

The Falklands host 70 per cent of the world's black-browed albatross (photo above), which is classified internationally as an endangered species. In five years, over 87,500 breeding pairs were lost, a rate of 4% per year, or two albatross every hour.



Councillor Jan Cheek with Andrea Clausen, formerly Scientific Field Officer for Conservation in the Falklands.





Left: Falklands youngsters pose with the Falklands Conservation flag to mark its 25th anniversary. Young and old Islanders are well-known for their magnificent beach cleaning exercises.

Below Right: Dr. Jones presents his book at the Anniversary Reception.

Below Left: Mr. Julian Fitter longest serving Trustee cuts the "birthday Cake" for Falklands Conservation.

The Albatross are concentrated on Steeple Jason Islands which also has the world's second largest population of Rockhopper penguins. They are classified as "vulnerable" as 69,000 breeding pairs have vanished in recent years, reducing their numbers from 89,000 to only 30,000 breeding pairs. Steeple Jason Island is owned by the Wildlife Conservation Society of New York, to which it was gifted three years ago by philanthropist Michael Steinhardt.

Falklands Conservation Initiatives



Protecting albatross and penguins is just one of many tasks undertaken by Falklands Conservation since it was founded in 1979 by Sir Peter Scott and local conservationists Roddy and Lily Napier and Ian Strange.

To celebrate its anniversary it has intensified its encouragement of Islanders' involvement by holding regular meetings. It has a thriving junior "Watch Group" encouraging the children to protect their

unique environment. A new award scheme of the juniors in memory of the late Lynn Blake of Little Chartres Farm, supported by her family, recognises initiative and skills displayed on specially organised environmental projects. Its latest book, just published, is "Insects of the Falkland Islands" by Dr Alex Jones.

Falklands Conservation regularly conducts beach-cleaning operations. Anyone wanting to protect the Falklands wildlife heritage can become a member. You can even "adopt" a magnificent King Penguin, at Volunteer Point, for £25, under a scheme introduced by the charity's Patron, the Duke of York, Prince Andrew. Its UK Chairman is Mr Robin Woods. Its London office is run by Ann Brown (Tel/fax: +44 (0)208 3430831). Website: www.falklandsconservation.com



Falklands Conservation Patron Prince Andrew in the Falklands Photo: Nigel Hawkes



£100,000 Insects Study

Falklands Conservation has received another huge grant of £100,000 for a three-year study of land invertebrates, to be assisted by expertise from London's Natural History Museum. The grant is awarded by the "Darwin Initiative", managed by the UK Environment Ministry (DEFRA). It is named after Charles Darwin, who made the first substantial collection of insects on his famous 1834 voyage in the *Beagle*.

It is the only Darwin Initiative grant to a UK Overseas Territory, in which a key factor has been Falklands Government support. It is an aspect of Falklands wildlife previously neglected. Falklands Conservation says it will increase and develop knowledge of all types of bugs so as to understand better the Falklands' complex ecology. New endemic species are expected to be discovered.

Islanders are being invited to participate by training to identify and collecting specimens.

Antarctic Trust buys four islands

The charity, Antarctic Research Trust, is to purchase four Falklands islands - Brandy, Rum, Whiskey and Sea Lion Easterly Islands. The Trust is a non-commercial, scientific charity registered in Stanley, Falkland Islands, and Zurich, Switzerland, which carries out scientific research on Antarctic and sub Antarctic animals to preserve habitat conservation.

It will work with Falklands Conservation to conserve the islands and their unique fauna and flora in a pristine state so that they continue to be a stronghold for wildlife. It has previously researched various penguin species in the Southwest Atlantic, particularly Magellanic and Rockhopper penguins, whose populations have declined dramatically in recent decades.



Falklands Firemen tow their fire engine by hand to raise funds for charity. Over £1600 was raised for the Stephen Jaffray Memorial Fund. Governor Pearce started the pull with a shot from a starting pistol and the firemen got from Government House to the Public Jetty in only nine minutes.



The Falklands cricket team and some of their Chilean hosts photographed near Santiago where they took part in the first Santiago Cricket Festival in February.



Flight 1312 received its new badge at Mount Pleasant Airport in April. The badge was presented by CBFSAI Air Commodore Richard Lacey to the CO of Flight 1312, Squadron Leader David Musgrave. It depicts an Upland Goose in flight and the motto "Uphold the Right" a derivation from the Falklands motto "Desire the Right". Squadron Leader Musgrave served in the 1982 war. The flight flies a Hercules transport aircraft and a VC10K refuelling plane and is based at MPA.



Wade Ford and Sinead McGill lead in the sack race at the Infants Sports Day.



Laurel and Hardy otherwise known as Regan Newman and Dylan Berntsen at the Jelly Tots fancy dress ball in June.



May Queen Tiphanie May receives her crown from Governor Pearce at the May Ball. May Princess was Tamara McCormick and Prince Charming was Jon Felton.



ANZAC Day was celebrated in the Falklands at dawn on April 25th by some 20 Australian and New Zealand residents. Above: Steve Dent, Manager of the Leisure Centre lays a wreath, as did Acting Governor Harriet Hall. The Reverend Paul Sweeting read the prayers and Paul Freer played the Last Post.



Charlie Allan a young Falkland Islander receiving treatment for cancer in the UK presents a cheque for £2000 to Consultant Dr. Kevin Windebank. The funds were raised by Charlie's grandmother Joyce who walked the half-marathon to Cape Pembroke. With Charlie are his mother Sarah and brother Freddie and nurses from the Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle.



Zoran Zovic Bulic, Matthew Pointing, Matthew Eccles and Sean Moffat pause for a moment during their three-day mid-winter trek for the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award.



Gemma Jennings and Ashley Wylie at the Senior Sports, which was just won by Fitzroy House.



Liberation Day: Above Governor Pearce inspects the scouts taking part in the ceremony.

Right: The Falkland Islands Defence Force on parade, with their distinctive red cap bands.



Many tributes have been paid to Lorraine McGill on her retirement from running Stanley House, a hostel for children who leave home in the rural areas of the Camp to attend school in Stanley. She has been a much loved surrogate mother to hundreds of children since 1982.

Her 22 years at the hostel, as houseparent and later Head of Hostel, began with the traumatic Argentine invasion a few weeks after Lorraine moved to Stanley from her home on Carcass Island in February 1982, when her children, Roy and Jane, needed full-time schooling. On the day of the invasion, faced with evacuating the children back to worried parents, Lorraine agreed to Education Superintendent John Fowler's request to accompany them to Bluff Cove, Fitzroy and Goose Green in 18 Land Rovers with volunteer drivers, to link up with Brooke Hardcastle at Darwin, then take others by the boat *Penelope* to Port Howard.

Argentine soldiers were arriving at Goose Green, and *Penelope* was buzzed by Argentine aircraft, but skipper Findlay Ferguson used Susan Nightingale's white pillowcase as a white flag and everyone got home safely.

Traumatised by war

Some of the children were left traumatised, as she explains. "Children from Goose Green had been locked up in the hall and seen their parents taken out at gun point. Others

Lorraine McGill "Mum" to Many



from the San Carlos areas had been in 'Bomb Alley'. They had made friends with British servicemen, then seen some of them killed in the bombing. As a result they would become quite aggressive and played mostly war games".

Gradually, they left those difficult times behind. The hostel, previously a stark, dingy place with no real comforts, was transformed into a bright, homely, welcoming place, with two new accommodation blocks, opened by Prince Andrew in 1985

After the surrender, Lorraine returned to be a houseparent instead of an unpaid volunteer. "You're a mum really", she explains. "Being there for the children, finding interesting things for them to do and organising their time and outings".

She became Deputy Head of Hostel in 1988 and Head in 1992. The job, she says, "was terrific. It was challenging and fun, and every day was different. There was a lot of laughter and fun and a big family atmosphere".

The most valuable aspect was the trust placed in her by parents and children. "I feel very privileged to have had that trust", she says. "Adjusting to leaving home at an early age can be difficult for the children and parents".

In war and in peace, Lorraine McGill did a terrific job, on call 24 hours a day for many years. She has earned the opportunity now to enjoy a more normal lifestyle.

Change & Challenge at Tourism

Mrs. Connie Stevens took over responsibility for Falklands tourism from retiring manager John Fowler in July.

Mrs. Stevens arrived in the Falklands in 2002, prior to which she was chairman for five years of a local government town centre management initiative in Britain. She also has experience as an executive in Virgin and the BBC.

A Call to Improve

Under the title "You Snooze, You Loose", Mrs. Stevens has made a call to arms to those involved in the tourist industry, urging higher efforts and reminding people that the Falklands are in competition with many other destinations around the world.

Also part of the current Falklands tourism effort is the construction of a new Security Zone for tourists arriving by sea at the Public Jetty (Photo below). This is now required by international regulations. Like airport security this is designed to eliminate the risk of weapons, explosives or other terrorist artefacts being carried to or from visiting cruise liners.



Above: Mrs Connie Stevens with retiring manager of Falklands Tourism, John Fowler, in April.

BFFI becomes BFSAI

British Forces in the Falkland Islands (BFFI) have been renamed British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI), with the transfer of command of the Ascension Island Base from the UK to the Falklands.

Defence Contract

Interserve has won an 80 million pound contract to provide logistics, airport maintenance, sewerage, power generation and many other services to military installations on Ascension and the Falklands for five years beginning in 2005.

Falklands at Royal Show



The Falkland Islands Government Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, Councillor Ian Hansen and Melissa McKinley travelled to Leamington Spa to represent the Falkland Islands at the Royal Show, which took place from 4th – 7th July 2004.

Even with the wild winds of day four, the stand received many visitors and positive feedback. Amongst the many visitors to the stand were HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Michael Howard MP, Leader of the Conservative Party and TV presenter Ben Fogle. Among the Islanders who called in were Roy McGhie and partner Jodie Marsh, with young Thomas and Roy McKay, Leon Marsh and Helen Slater along with many people who had either visited the Islands, lived there, served there or had some connections with the Islands.

Sukey Cameron commented "It was great to be back at the Royal; year on year we build more contacts with visitors and fellow exhibitors. It is a useful PR exercise for us and an



Above: Miss Sukey Cameron and Melissa McKinley pose with TV personality Ben Fogle, who has done so much for the Falklands. Left: Michael Howard MP, Councillor Ian Hansen and Melissa. Below Right: HRH the Duke of Gloucester signs the visitors book.

excellent way of reaching a large number of people in a relatively short time. Among our plans for next year are to create 'educational packs' of information for the large number of school kids who visit the Stand and are happy to take away the free book-marks, pencils, pads and stickers that we give them – a great way to reach the next generation!"



Commonwealth Youth Games

The Falklands will send a small team to the 2nd Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in Bendigo, Australia from 29 Nov - 4 December 2004. Some 1000 athletes, aged 18 and under, representing around 40 Commonwealth countries, are expected.

Steve Dent, Vice-Chairman of the Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association (FIOGA) will manage the Falklands team. Hannah Arthur Almond, Dion Robertson and Edward Freer are expected to swim in the shorter distance swimming disciplines. Pam Freer will coach the swim team. Roxanne Morrison, who ran in the 1,500m at last year's Island Games in Guernsey (Photo Right), will run in a middle distance event.

A concerted fund-raising programme for the games is underway in the Falklands. To date Standard Chartered Bank has contributed £3,600; Cable & Wireless £2,000; Fortuna Ltd £1,000; the Rotary Club of Stockport Lamplighter £500; and CFL £200. The Falkland Islands Government contributes to FIOGA through an annual subvention.

Other valuable assistance has come from the Falkland Islands Company who are again sponsoring the team track-suits. Energise are sponsoring the team uniforms, Piscineria are providing free accommodation while the team is in Chile enroute to Australia, Mr. Fred Clarke is donating team suit ties and Warrah Design are not charging for the Initiation of Graphics. The Committee of FIOGA have expressed their sincere thanks to all contributors.



Hull Photo Exhibition

Falklands photos were on show in Hull in May. Many were marine scenes from Dave Eynon. Others were from Falklands Conservation, and illustrated its 25 years of activity in the Falklands.

The Lord Mayor of Hull, Councillor Ken Branson, opened the exhibition at The Deep, the huge new aquarium at Hull. In his speech he revealed that he had visited the Falklands in 1973, while on a Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship refuelling there!

Guests included former Director of Education, David Langridge with his wife Pat (Photo above), Andrea and Gus Clausen and Di and Stevie Green.



Above: The Lord Mayor of Hull, Councillor Ken Branson, his wife the Lady Mayoress, and Falklands Government Representative Miss Sukey Cameron.

Scourge of the Argentines - Adrian Monk

Falkland Islanders are saddened by the death of one of their champions in their sovereignty dispute with Argentina – Adrian Monk, OBE. He died, aged 85, in Wales, where he and his wife, Norah, had a smallholding in retirement.

He had been a master mariner, expert farmer, long-time member of the Falklands Legislative Council, and a formidable opponent of Argentina's claim to the Islands. His name will be forever linked with his opposition to Argentina and its 1982 invasion. He represented the Falklands in abortive talks with the Argentines prior to the invasion and ran San Carlos Farm where the British Task Force landed to liberate the Islands.

First London Representative

He was the first holder of the important office of Falkland Islands Government Representative in the United Kingdom, created after the war, chosen by his fellow Islanders. He opened the London Office (FIGO) in 1983, coinciding with publication of the (Lord) Franks Report into events surrounding the invasion. Adrian Monk launched a media campaign on television, radio, and in press interviews. More than anyone, he was able to articulate the spirit, attitudes and wishes of the Islanders.

He was the foremost opponent of Argentina's claim to the Islands. His craggy, weather-tanned face disguised a man of great intelligence and legislative experience, an articulate and formidable debater with British and Argentine negotiators, as a Legislative Councillor in some of the most crucial talks.

He led the challenge to proposals by Foreign Office Minister, Nicholas Ridley, to solve the impasse, outlined during the Minister's ill-tempered 1980 visit to the Islands. Adrian Monk made what the Governor, Sir Rex Hunt, called a "Churchillian" broadcast on Falklands radio. The Falklands Legislative Council agreed to United Kingdom-Argentina talks seeking a "freeze" of the dispute for a specific period. Only Adrian Monk voted against, and he was one of the two Councillors to represent the Islanders at Anglo-Argentine talks in 1981.



Trusted Legislator, Master Mariner and Farmer

He was trusted implicitly by the Islanders, as a senior member of the Legislative Council, which he served from 1959 for more than 20 years. He was ineligible for re-election on becoming a Government employee as Agricultural Officer. He ran FIGO office for two arduous years until faltering health forced his retirement in 1984.

Adrian Monk had relatives on his mother's side dating back to the original Falklands settlers. His grandfather was a pioneering farmer, who had trekked over the Andes, crossed the Patagonian Plain, and sailed to the Falklands in the 1860s, to manage Darwin Settlement and become a sheep-farmer.

Adrian Monk was a man of the world who had gone to sea when very young, became a master mariner, then switched to farming, first in Wales and then the Falkland Islands, on Pebble Island, and finally at San Carlos, where he had first trained in the 1950s. He was never happier than on horseback tending his vast flock of sheep. But he was always ready to sally forth from his remote farmstead to challenge Argentina in the unfamiliar surroundings of New York conference rooms and elsewhere.

In 1979, he was involved in radical reform of Falklands farming which sub-divided large farms previously in the possession of the Falkland Islands Company and other owners not living in the Islands, to be sold to Islanders. It was appropriate that the remaining part of his grandfather's enterprise, Roy Cove, was sold for subdivision.

As well as Mrs Monk, Adrian leaves a daughter, Sally, and a son, Peter, a renowned Professor at Delaware University in the United States, who also lectures at Oxford, Cambridge and Reading Universities, and has two teenage daughters, Caroline and Catherine.

Adrian Monk was awarded an OBE in 1979 and made a Vice-President of the Falkland Islands Association. **HWB**

Falklands Ordination First

Falklands church history was made with the ordination of the first woman Islander, Kathy Biles of Christ Church Cathedral,



to serve as a resident minister in the Falklands. Kathy was ordained a Deacon by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, at a special service at St. John College, which is a Church of England College in Nottingham where she has been studying to become a minister.

Among those present were Colin Bazely, former C of E Bishop of Chile and his wife Barbara, Alistair McHaffie, former Rector of Christ Church and his wife Pippa, and Falklands Representative Miss Sukey Cameron.

The Rector of Christ Church, the Rev Paul Sweeting said: "Kathy, like others at the Cathedral, puts in a lot of work behind the scenes as well as leading services".

It is hoped that she will be ordained as a priest in a year's time, and be the first woman minister in the Islands.

Left: Mrs. Kathy Biles, now a Deacon, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, and Miss Sukey Cameron after the ordination service.

Velma Malcolm – Formidable Falklands Champion

The Falkland Islands have lost one of their most formidable and indefatigable champions in their resistance to Argentina's sovereignty claims.

Velma Malcolm died (on August 2nd) in hospital in Santiago, Chile, where she had been recovering from an operation. She was 74.

She was the driving force for many years of the Falkland Islands Association Local Committee and also a Vice President of the Association, for which she was a superb fund-raiser. She was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in 1976.

She was universally known in the Falklands, and a pillar of social life, as she and her parents before her owned the popular Rose Hotel in Stanley for more than 40 years, having previously had the Stanley Arms pub.

Her tough and uncompromising personality in her antipathy to Argentina masked a generous-hearted woman whose legendary hospitality won her many friends and much respect around the world, myself included.

Imprisoned in Argentine Invasion

Having for so long been in the forefront of opposition to Argentina, she was a prime target for harassment during the 1982 invasion. She was one of several of Islanders rounded up at gunpoint and incarcerated under house arrest in crowded conditions in Fox Bay for more than 50 days.

She describes how she answered a knock on the door, to be confronted by an aggressive soldier. "A big, burly, bumptious bugger said: 'You're going to Camp, you and your husband'".

As they searched her house, the soldier drew a pistol and held it to her back, "not a nice situation, knowing how trigger happy that gang were. He went on to say: 'We know all about you. We know you don't like Argentines'".

Knowing Spanish, she heard one Argentine say: "I'd like to shoot them all". Hustled into a helicopter, they did not know whether they were going to be thrown out over the sea.

She and her fellow prisoners spent much of the next few traumatic weeks, sheltering under floorboards in Councillor Richard Cockwell's house. They tracked the course of the conflict by listening to BBC World Service on clandestine radios. After the surrender, I was delighted as a BBC Correspondent to receive a letter appointing me an honorary member of the Falkland Islands Local Committee, of which she was secretary. She wrote, "Your Newsletters were a source of great comfort to us in our darkest days of the Argentine occupation". Ever since, she and her husband,

George Malcolm, could not have been kinder or more helpful.

Velma was born on February 28th, 1930, into one of the oldest Falklands families, the daughter of Beatrice Reive and Axel Pettersson, son of a shipwrecked Swedish seaman. Her great, great grandfather on her mother's side had arrived in the Falklands as a shepherd around about 1870.



Photo: Anna King

She attended Saint Mary's School and remembers how her parents looked after several wounded from the Royal Navy cruiser *Exeter* badly damaged in the 1939 Battle of the River Plate.

They were the first of many people to whom she and her family gave hospitality, including British servicemen and members of the British Antarctic Survey, many of whom became her life-long friends.

True Patriot and Fighter for Falklands' Rights

As a child she had horses on which she would ride long distances cross country when there were virtually no roads. She began work in the Government secretariat, served on the newly-formed Civil Servants' Association and ran the Girls Brigade as

its Captain. She turned down an invitation from the Governor to be the first woman member of the Executive Council.

In 1954 she married George Malcolm, who arrived in the Falklands as a shepherd. Their daughter, Ailsa, and her husband Tony Heathman, were among Islanders who gave great help to the 1982 Task Force, at their farm Estancia, the start line for crucial battles for the capture of Stanley. George died in 1996.

Velma Malcolm was a highly intelligent and energetic

lady who closely monitored and ceaselessly helped to counter the Foreign Office campaign to accommodate Argentina's sovereignty claim, aided by a prodigious memory and carefully kept records.

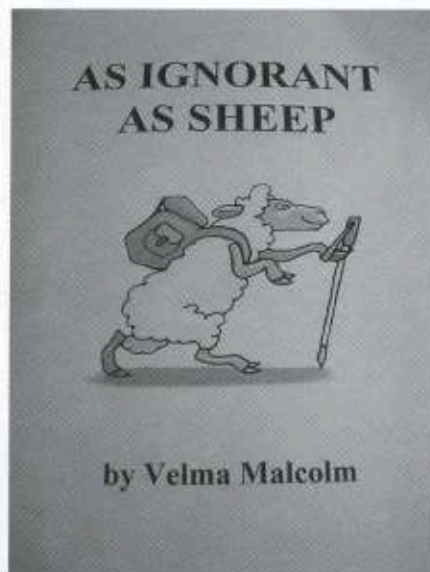
Until her final illness, she was still actively liaising with the London Committee's Ted Clapp to frustrate Argentina's campaign. She has left a fascinating account of that struggle and of life in the Falklands in a book she dedicated to her granddaughters, Nyree and Tara Heathman, entitled "As Ignorant as Sheep" which was how she felt the Foreign Office and the outside world viewed the Islanders.

The Association and her many friends will miss her greatly. She was a true Falklands patriot and a courageous fighter

for Islanders' rights to self-determination.

The Falkland Islands Association sent a wreath with the inscription: "With affection and respect to a true Falkland Islander and one of our most active Vice-Presidents".

Harold Briley



Harold Rowlands

A True Islander

Falklands legend, Harold Theodore Rowlands C.B.E. who bestowed 'The Freedom of the Falklands' and an unexpectedly big kiss on the cheek of, 'the incomparable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher' in 1983, has died suddenly, aged 72.

He was born in 1931 and rose from the humble position of selling flour and sugar over the counter of the West Store, to that of Colonial Treasurer (later titled Financial Secretary) and Commissioner for Taxation in 1972. After 40 years in Government he retired from Public Service in 1989.

Following the deportation of the Islands Governor Rex Hunt, First Secretary Michael Growcott and Chief Secretary Dick Baker by Argentine Forces in 1982, Mr. Rowlands became the most senior Islander remaining in the civil Administration. He guided the small population through the very difficult times of 1982, and remained firm, despite frequent Argentine intimidation.

He was a third generation Islander. His grandfather, Swedish born Frank Rowlands, at the age of just 16 years, was ship wrecked on Speedwell Island in 1860, while working as a seaman. He later captained ships around the Falklands.

Nick-named 'Beethoven' by Argentine Officers, because of his heavy blonde hair and resemblance to the famous German composer, Harold Rowlands repeatedly found excuses not to open the Islands vaults when Colonel Chinni, the new Argentine Treasury chief, wanted to count the Colony's cash to 'see how many pesos it represented'. With the peso to pound rate then in the region of 12,000 to one, 'Beethoven' replied that he



was, 'too old to start thinking about so many noughts'!

He was awarded an O.B.E. in the New Year Honours of 1978 and the higher decoration of C.B.E. was presented to him by Queen Elizabeth in 1988.

When he was first appointed Colonial Treasurer, the Falklands budget, which he managed, was around half a million pounds, but by 1988 it had risen to more than 30 millions, mainly due to income from fishing licenses. He insisted that some of the new income be diverted into a Reserve fund and invested. This has now risen to around 150 millions pounds.

After retiring from Government he was elected to the Legislative Council with an overwhelming majority. However after completing his four years term, he stood down in 1993 and took no further part in Falklands politics.

He began a long established rapport with British Forces of the Port Squadron soon after the Islands were liberated in 1982. A small slip-way positioned on the waterfront close to his home was used day and night as troops off-loaded materials to reinforce the Islands. He fed the soldiers and offered them accommodation in his own home over many years. On 20th July 2002 the British Forces erected a special seat on the sea-front, bearing the inscription, Harold T. Rowlands, Presented by Port Troop, "20 years of friendship".

Such was his standing throughout the Falklands that many Islanders flew their flags at half-mast, while official Government flags flew at half-mast on the day of his funeral. He never married and is survived by his sister.



Memorial at Marchwood

Such was the high opinion of Harold Rowlands among British forces that 17 Port and Maritime Regiment organised a special memorial service for him at Marchwood, the military port on Southampton Water.

The service was held at St. John's Church and attended by Sir Rex Hunt and his wife Mavis for the Association, by former Chief Executive David Taylor, and by staff from FIGO lead by FIG Representative Miss Sukey Cameron. Also present were WO1 Carl Carter, who had travelled to the Falklands to represent the Regiment at Harold's funeral, and WO2 Steve Nicholls who is seen above presenting the bench seat to Harold in 2002 as a mark of the Regiment's esteem.

With a photo of Harold on an altar draped with the Union Jack, Sir Rex and Captain LeGrande of 17 Port Squadron gave the addresses. Captain LeGrande (photo right) announced that Harold's name would be entered on the Regiment's war memorial that is about to be built as one of its own. The hymns "I Vow to Thee My Country" and "Abide with Me" were sung.

The service ended with "Hello Dolly" which was one of Harold's favourites.



The congregation with Sir Rex Hunt, his wife Mavis, and FIG Representative Miss Sukey Cameron among the principal mourners. Below Right: Other mourners outside the Church.



An Appeal From the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust

The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust (UKFIT) was set up in June 1981 by a consortium led by Major General Nigel Gribbon (Chairman until 1998). The Trust had a wide range of aims but principally it set out to: ".....promote study and research into the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, commerce, fisheries, forestry and all other industries and sciences in the Falkland Islands.....". A modest trust fund was set up and during the early years projects were funded from the proceeds from this fund. In later years, and as the Islands economy grew on the back of successful wool and fisheries industries, funds were supplemented by grants from the FIG, which eventually became the prime source of income to the Trust.

Over the years, the Trust has actively promoted the scientific and development potential of the Falklands at many key national and international events and worked on a wide variety of rural development projects, many of which have been initiated by the Trust and then taken on by FIG. These include research on kelp harvesting as liquid fertiliser; making valuable contacts for the establishment of an aquaculture industry; research on soil improvement including an in-depth study on the processing of by-products from the abattoir, the need for which has recently re-emerged; vegetable growing trials; development of the concept of both organic development and the marketing of organic products; the selection and provenance of tree species; the development of tussac as a source of animal feed and erosion inhibitor; research on calcareous base materials; research on grains and grasses; consultancy on aerial mapping; the development of a comprehensive science database for the Islands; and work on a number of civic projects including help with the Memorial

Wood, setting up of the Alexandra Wood at Port Howard, help to school projects and support to repainting of ships names on the Camber. Most recently, the Trust has investigated the potential for commercial peony production in the Islands. Our Royal Patron, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, enjoyed a successful visit to the Islands in 2000 and remains highly supportive of our work.

However, despite the success of our work, the future of the Trust is not secure. Over the last three years of poor performance in the investment world both the capital and income from our small trust fund has dwindled. Additionally, and most importantly, funding from FIG has decreased markedly because of difficulties with the fisheries industry. To continue our work we need additional funds, and donations from those interested in promoting the rural economy of the Islands will be most welcome. Donations will be acknowledged individually and in our Report, published annually.

For the last 23 years UKFIT has contributed much to the development of the Falkland Islands' rural economy. Please help us to continue this valuable work by sending your donations to:

Air Commodore Peter Johnson
Chairman UKFIT
C/O Falkland Islands Government Office
14 Broadway
London SW1H 0BH

Cheques should be made payable to UKFIT

The UKFIT Committee



The UKFIT Committee. Back Row (Left to Right): Dr. Jim McAdam, FIG Representative Miss Sukey Cameron, Mr. Hugh Normand (Ex-General Manager FIDC), Mr. Alan Frost (Actuary, but no longer a trustee), Henry Robinson (Businessman and good friend of the Falklands) and Mr. Brian Hill (Ex-General Manager PWD). Front Row: Former CBFFI Air-Commodore Peter Johnson, Lord Strathcona (President of UKFIT), Sir Rex Hunt and Former Governor Mr. David Tatham.

Shackleton Scholarship Fund Achievements

Ten years after the death of Lord Shackleton in 1994, which led to the creation of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund (SSF), more than sixty scholars have benefited from its support. In return they have contributed much to academic research on a bewildering variety of topics and enhanced the quality of life of the people of the Falkland Islands.

The fund has led to the discovery of some unique species of marine and land life, helped academics to write theses and gain university degrees, enriched the activities of the Islanders with coaching expertise in art, sport, music and dancing, and produced books and a collection of paintings depicting Falklands life.

Several scholarships are awarded each year, in two categories: academic research and quality of life. More information and an application form can be found on the SSF website: www.shackletonfund.com. The application deadline is March 17th each year.

The fund was founded in memory of Lord Shackleton whose reports signposted the way to successful Falklands economic development after the 1982 war, and his father, Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer. In this progress report, we let the achievements of recent scholars tell the graphic story.

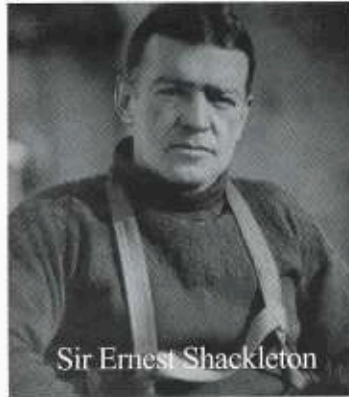
Environmental Degree for Church Canon:

The Chairman and founder of the SSF, David Tatham, a former Falkland Islands Governor, was particularly gratified to congratulate SSF scholar Canon Dr Stephen Palmer (photo right), who was Rector of Stanley Christchurch Cathedral from 1991 to 1996, playing a major part in its restoration campaign.

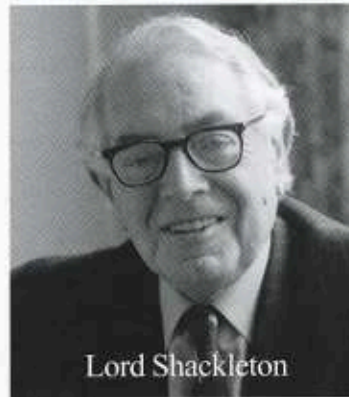
His research project into the human impact on the environmental history of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia has led to the award of a PhD from the University of Portsmouth.

His thesis is a fascinating, clear-cut and very readable account of development over the past two centuries incorporating case studies on sealing, whaling, fishing and agriculture. Appropriately, he pays tribute to Lord Shackleton for his radical 1976 and 1982 reports which led to far-reaching social, economic and agricultural reforms, the creation of the modern fishing industry, which has brought unprecedented prosperity, and investigation of the prospects for offshore oil exploration.

All these topics are covered in Canon Palmer's comprehensive researches and admirably analysed in his thesis. You can read more about his work on his website: <http://www.newportparish.org.uk/thesis.htm>.



Sir Ernest Shackleton



Lord Shackleton

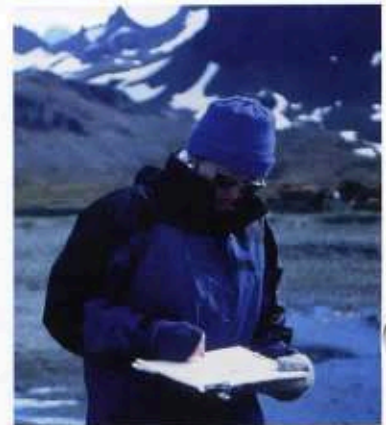
You will also learn more about his versatile activities, from birth into the fourth generation of a Lowestoft fishing family, to his Royal Navy career as a radio mechanic and a Royal Navy Reserve Chaplain and his career as a clergyman. He is now Vicar of Newport in the Isle of Wight and the Bishop of Portsmouth's ecology and environment adviser. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a Master Bee-Keeper!

Adventurous artist in Shackleton's footsteps

The latest of several artists to derive inspiration from the SSF is Molly Sheridan, an outstanding candidate who travelled furthest and produced more in publicity as well as paintings than any of her predecessors.

Her three-month odyssey took her to land and seascapes which Ernest Shackleton witnessed nearly a century earlier in South Georgia, and to isolated fjords and bays to find abandoned whaling stations and remote penguin rookeries. She braved raging seas and force-ten blizzards, sketched on the pitching deck of a small motor cruiser, gained passage on a Russian cruise ship, and painted her graphic images on canvas in the boatshed, warmed by three generators, at the British Antarctic Survey Base at King Edward point.

Her output has been prodigious – sixty oil and watercolour paintings encompassing the variety of life in South Georgia, hundreds more sketches for future work, art classes for keen BAS scientists sketching huddled out of the wind under Shackleton's memorial cross, exhibitions and extensive media publicity in the Falkland Islands, Britain, France, Germany and Norway, and sales of many paintings, with some of the proceeds and a picture generously donated to the SSF. What



Molly Sheridan

David Tatham called a "model visit and a model report" has spawned the idea of a South Georgia Government backed "Artists and Writers' Programme" to sponsor visits by photographers, painters, sculptors, writers, historians and archaeologists. It was a new dimension for an adventurous artist, who studied at Edinburgh University, has lived in Iran, Zimbabwe, and the French Pyrenees, and is married to Guy Sheridan, a commando officer and experienced ice mountaineer, who fought in the 1982 Falklands War and led the recapture of South Georgia. Her visit was greatly facilitated by the South Georgia Post-Mistress, Mrs Sarah Lurcock, her local sponsor.

"Spider Man" Unearths New Species

Scottish academic Doctor Alastair Lavery has discovered at least 21 species of spider previously unknown in the Falklands Islands, and a few previously unknown to science worldwide. This is twice the number of spiders previously

Governor to marry in Christ Church Cathedral

A fairy-tale romance for the Governor of the Falkland Islands, Howard Pearce, will lead to his marrying his bride, in Stanley's Christ Church Cathedral on October 21st.

It is believed to be a unique event, the first time a Governor has married in this, the most southerly Anglican Cathedral in the world. The Governor has invited "everyone in the Islands" to join a party to celebrate his happy day.

Howard Pearce says: "It certainly adds something extra to what was already a special posting, and of course we are both very happy". Until now, Howard Pearce has remained a bachelor throughout his long and distinguished diplomatic service. He had come to the conclusion he might remain a bachelor for the rest of his life. "I didn't expect to find my wife in the Falklands", he says. "But these things have a strange knack of happening when you least expect them".

Fortuitous meeting at Stanley Airport

He certainly did not expect to meet his future wife at Stanley Airport at ten past eight on a February morning last year. They were both waiting for a flight to Carcass Island. The Governor was taking some friends from the United Kingdom. His Dutch fiancée, Miss Carolina Thomee, was visiting an old friend there, Rob McGill, on his beautiful wildlife Island. She is a talented wildlife photographer and keen traveller, as well as an architect by profession. They met again in Stanley, kept in touch by e-mail, and together attended last year's Edinburgh Festival.

thought to be native to the Islands.

Following worldwide research to identify the spiders, some of them of South American origin, he plans to publish a guide cataloguing his work. Dr Lavery, from Kinross, has impressive expertise with a PhD degree on the ecology of Scottish spiders. He is also head of education in Scotland for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

His SSF project is his first on spiders outside the United Kingdom. It was, he says, "both scientifically success-



The Happy Couple, photographed while en route to South Georgia by Robert Napier, Governor Pearce's best man-to-be.

Carolina comes from the beautiful "Royal" town of Delft where Dutch monarchs are buried, and famous for its porcelain. She arrived in the Falkland Islands for the first time on Boxing Day in 1998 for what was to have been a two-week visit but stayed five months, returning in 1999 and again in 2003. Having first fallen in love with the Falkland Islands, she was to fall in love with the new Governor.

Shared interest in wildlife

Mr. Pearce, who is 55, also has a fascination for wildlife, not just from the Falklands, but also from a previous posting to Kenya. He was born in Twickenham and has degrees in law and international law from Cambridge University, and also attended Harvard University in the United States.

His wedding is a joyful occasion after what has been his challenging and onerous first two years in the Falkland Islands, in which he has been a formidable and articulate champion of the Islanders in combating Argentina's aggressive attitude under President Kirchner. He has deep knowledge of the Argentine psyche and their obsession with the Falkland Islands, having served in Buenos Aires as Falklands desk officer during the dangerous years of Argentina's dirty war under military rule in the 1970s. He has proved to be a popular Governor, keen to encourage democracy by devolving more responsibility to the elected councillors, with an ambition, he says, to visit every farm and settlement to get a sense of what life is like for the Islanders in their home environment and what their pre-occupations are.

Falklands schoolchildren will get the day off to celebrate the Governor's wedding.

HWB

ful and hugely enjoyable in a wild and beautiful part of the world", though, sadly, some of his carefully prepared specimens were squashed en route back to Scotland!

Invaluable Shipping Research

It is appropriate that invaluable Falklands shipping records have resulted from research by an Australian master mariner and fisheries expert, Lisa Romero (Photo Below), respected by her former employers in the youth development sail training ship "Spirit of New Zealand" as an outstanding "sea woman".

From fragile Falklands and also United Kingdom records, she has created a data base of sailing ship arrivals and departures from 1842 to 1916, the year Ernest Shackleton returned to the Falklands after his abortive trans-Antarctic expedition.



Spider Man Dr. Alastair Lavery



The Sanagasta Spider



SAMA Veterans Visit New Sir Galahad

SAMA veterans, some of them survivors of the Sir Galahad disaster in 1982 have visited her replacement at Cardiff.

At ten o'clock on Saturday April 3rd, veterans gathered by the ship and Captain Paul Whyte at the bottom of the gangway welcomed them all aboard. The veterans were given the liberty of the ship and many of the current crew took groups around. Tea and mouthwatering cakes and pastries were on offer and an excellent buffet lunch.

At mid-day a memorial service was held, conducted by Captain Whyte and Fr. Graeme Elmore, Chaplain to the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries. This included a minute of silence to honour lost comrades.

Emotions were high, but the spirit of sadness was gradually replaced by one of joy through remembrance and renewed comradeship. In the words of Andy Jones (See Below): "Another little victory has been achieved this day".



Above: Welsh Guards veteran Andy (Curly) Jones with the new *Sir Galahad* in the background.

Left: Denzil Connick of 3-PARA and behind him Martin Reed of the Canberra, currently Chairman of SAMA-82, beside the new *Sir Galahad*.

Photo Album for Prince Charles - and Stanley Museum

Following the successful Pilgrimage by members of the South Atlantic Medal Association in 2002 one pilgrim in particular came home to Wales with a mission. Stephen Hopkins was with the Welsh Guards during the 1982 conflict and after visiting the museum in Stanley, he noticed that there was very little reference to the Welsh Guards' contribution in 1982. He decided there and then to gather together enough photographs to complete a special album to donate to the museum.

On his return to Wales, he quickly set about establishing a website in order that Welsh Guards Veterans could contribute their personal photographs for possible inclusion into the album. The word spread rapidly and, now assisted by another pilgrim, Andy "Curly" Jones, several trips to London were made to sift through the Welsh Guards archives. RHQ Welsh Guards supplied the embossed album and the expertise of their curator Peter Pownall.

What started off as a simple idea, took a lot of hard work and commitment from all those involved and the album was completed in February 2004. During its compilation His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales most kindly offered to write the foreword. Eventually, on May 5th, the album was presented to Prince Charles for his approval. Gathering for this at Clarence House along with Stephen Hopkins and Curly was Falkland Islands Government Representative Miss Sukey Cameron, Brigadier Rickett who was Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion



Welsh Guards Veterans and others present the album to Prince Charles. See back page for large scale photograph.

Welsh Guards during the campaign, as well as other veterans and members of the Regimental HQ of the Welsh Guards.

The album is a chronological story of the Welsh guardsmen, who took part in the liberation of the Falkland Islands, many of whom did not return home. The Prince spent an hour going through it page by page with descriptions of each photograph, which in their own right tell a story, from Stephen and Curly.

All that remains now is to take the album to the Falklands and the museum in Stanley, no mean feat in itself. Stephen and Curly are having difficulty in raising the funds for this, but hope to return with other veterans to place on show the album which they have worked so very hard to complete.

Any contributions towards the trip would be very welcome and should be sent to RHQ Welsh Guards, Wellington Barracks, London, SW1E 6HQ. For further information contact SAMA Wales: samawales@btinternet.com or Tel: 01874 625125.

Leeds Castle Pays Off

Falklands guard ship *HMS Leeds Castle* has left the Falklands after a six year deployment there. To say farewell she sailed down Stanley harbour and turned opposite Government House where her crew gave three cheers. Members of the public waved her off and cheered as she then sailed back up the harbour and through the Narrows for the last time.

HMS Leeds Castle is a veteran of the Falklands War.



Murder Scene to be a Museum



ESMA (photo above) the notorious Naval Mechanical School in Buenos Aires is to become a museum.

Some 3,500 of the 20 to 30 thousand people who were murdered during the Dirty War by the military junta that later invaded the Falklands died here. Many Argentines now believe the Falklands War was an attempt by the Junta to ingratiate itself with the Argentine people for these crimes and Argentina's economic collapse then. Victims were often tortured and then either murdered here and cremated in what was known as a "parrilla" (barbeque), or taken drugged to the nearby Jorge Newberry airport where weekly flights by a Hercules took them out over the Atlantic where they were thrown to their deaths.

The handover ceremony was attended by thousands. It took place on March 24th, the anniversary of the coup in 1976 that brought the military Junta to power. Pictures of victims stretched for a hundred yards along the railings outside. Earlier that day the Head of the Argentine Armed Forces had to publicly take down the portraits of two of the junta, Generals Bignone and Videla from places of honour at the Military College at Palomar. Several officers resigned because of these two humiliations. None of this would have been possible without Britain's victory in the Falklands War.

"Belgrano Was Fair Game"

So said the Daily Mail reporting Channel Four's documentary "Secret History: Sink the Belgrano" on July 5th.

The Daily Mail went on to say the documentary, which was made by National Geographic's magazine film division, was extraordinarily well balanced. It made the point that although the order had to be made through London, the sinking was ordered by Admiral Woodward - and was not a cynical ploy by British politicians to upset last minute peace efforts, as some critics had alleged. The *Belgrano* was sailing west when it was sunk but, said the Argentines, only so she could return the following day. Earlier her approach had been coordinated with a sortie by the Argentine aircraft carrier *Venticinco de Mayo* which had been unable to launch its heavily laden bombers for lack of wind.

The film made the point too that the Argentines had been warned through the Swiss Embassy that any military vessels



"Operation Algeciras" Argentine ship attack plan in Gibraltar



A secret Argentine mission to sink a British warship in Gibraltar during the 1982 Falklands War was narrowly averted at the last minute by British intelligence and Spanish police. The plan has been featured in an Argentine documentary shown on Spanish TV and reported in the Gibraltar press.

The plan, code-named "Operation Algeciras", was hatched by Argentine Admiral Jorge Anaya, the Junta Member who also masterminded the invasion. He sent a demolition team to Spain on the coast near Gibraltar with orders to sink Royal Navy ships. They spent a month there but three planned attacks on frigates and transport ships were aborted while peace negotiations proceeded. But once the Argentine cruiser *Belgrano* was sunk with heavy loss of life, Admiral Anaya gave the order to sink a Royal Navy frigate by attaching to its hull limpet mines smuggled to the Argentine Embassy in Madrid in a diplomatic bag.

The demolition divers posed as fishermen in a rubber dinghy, floating off the Spanish town of La Linea. But they were arrested by Spanish police on the morning of the planned attack when they went to renew the hire of their getaway car. The police had been tipped off by British intelligence which had detected the plot by telephone taps on conversations between Argentina's embassy in Madrid and Buenos Aires.

that threatened the task force were likely to be attacked. Admiral Woodward is quoted as saying that the risk was to the British aircraft carriers, without which the war would have been lost. The *Belgrano* was armed with 15 six-inch guns, and 8 four-inch. These could outrange and outshoot any British ship in the Task Force. Her two escorting destroyers had Exocets as well as many guns.

Hector Bonzo, the *Belgrano*'s captain, was quoted as saying that "I already had orders to fire on any British warships that came within range... We were not just to cruise around on patrol. Our mission was to attack. Our people were highly trained - we were keen to pull the trigger".

An Argentine sailor was quoted as saying they bore no animosity to the British.

Hundan El Belgrano

It is ironic that the documentary should have the same title as the film made in Argentina several years ago: *Hundan el Belgrano*. The Newsletter has a video copy of this, and it is a hideous diatribe against Britain.

Falkland Futures

A New Look

Book Review: *The Future of the Falkland Islands and its People*, by Dr. Lyubomir Ivanov and others. Printed in Bulgaria; 95 pages.

How strange that it takes a Bulgarian mathematician to produce such an interesting and original view of the present situation of the Islands – and “its people”. But Dr. Lyubomir Ivanov is no ordinary mathematician. He has been involved in the Bulgarian Antarctic Programme, and it was a visit to the Bulgarian base at Livingston Island with his teenage daughter which led him to accept an invitation from Robert Rowlands to visit Stanley – I guess that they met on board ship going to or from the South Shetland Islands.

The invitation further kindled Dr. Ivanov's interest in the Falklands and led to the production of this short but thought provoking and well-produced study. After a charming account by his daughter Nusha of her impressions of Stanley, Dr. Ivanov prints the text of his lecture in Stanley in March 2003 which is the key document in the book on which he has invited other experts and legislators to comment. He points out that the Argentine claim is based on a misrepresentation of the events of 1820-1833 and is surprised that many British sources have accepted it so uncritically. He contrasts the democratic and human rights record of the Falklands with that of the member states of the UN Committee of 24 – among them Cuba, China, Congo, Iran, Iraq and Syria - scarcely shining examples of best practice in the field! It is reassuring to find that a complete outsider shares the view which those of us who know the Islands already hold – that they are a profoundly democratic society and one whose government is responsive and honest.

Enhanced Constitutional Framework

Dr. Ivanov has his prescription for enhancing the present constitutional framework, by:

Having an elected prime minister and a cabinet of ministers; Having native Falklands governors, nominated by the (Falklands) prime minister; Making arrangements for the Foreign Office to act on foreign policy issues; Concluding a comprehensive legal agreement to regulate the relationship between the Islands and the UK – he quotes examples from the Netherlands and the United States.

It is in his experience of these other non-British arrangements for regulating the relationship between former colonies and their rulers that Dr. Ivanov has most to offer. He brings a global perspective to the question which few, if any, in Stanley or London possess. In looking at the Falklands future he identifies two models – independence and “devolved integration”, coming down on the side of the latter because of the continuing value of the British connection to the Islands.

In a brief but very relevant comment on his first and second points, Councillor Jan Cheek points out that in an egalitarian society like the Falklands, anyone willing to stand as candidate for the post of prime minister would thereby rule himself or herself out of the job for many Islanders (and how much more so if the post were governor!). Jan also quantifies the Islands' contribution to their own defence – around £1.1 million a year - and reminds us of Councillors' offer in the Battle Day Letter of 1994 to pay much more to Britain if oil were ever to be found in commercial quantities. A second Councillor, Mike Summers, contributes a thoughtful introduction and makes the full case for self determination in the text of his speech to the Committee of 24, which is reprinted here in full.



Dr. Ivanov (third from left) launches his book at the Central Military School in Sophia, Bulgaria.

Defence Against Argentina

It is defence in the face of the threat from Argentina which is the key to the future of the Falklands and which makes their problems so different from those of other British overseas territories in the Caribbean and South Atlantic. So while the comments of Howard Fergus in Montserrat and of the Government of Saint Helena are interesting, I do not find that they add much to the debate. Far more relevant are two contributions

by Argentine writers who have a profound understanding of their own country and of the Islands.

Professor Carlos Escudé declares flatly “The Falklands will never be Argentine” and condemns the “cheating and lying” politicians of Argentina for refusing to acknowledge this. He distinguishes between the “benign lie” of for example the late Dr. Guido di Tella, that a policy of seduction might succeed, and the “malign lie”, that a tough policy will allow Argentina to reoccupy the Islands. This “malign, arrogant, macho-type lie” proposes a policy of confrontation which would be dreadfully costly to Argentina herself if implemented – alas, it is this policy which the government of President Kirchner appears to be following. Escudé offers no solution to the problem, simply noting that Argentine politicians who speak the painful truth about the Islands – that they will never again be Argentine – will always lose votes to the fantasists who play on primitive popular emotions.

Less jaundiced is Dr. Nora Femenia, an Argentine academic who since 1996 has hosted the Falklands-Malvinas Forum website. She notes that the Forum has served as a reality check for those Argentines indoctrinated in the myth of recovery from their school days. When such people have to discuss the issues with real Islanders “few brazen attitudes survive” and this is one of the most encouraging points in the whole book. Dr. Femenia notes that the Forum would like to see some modification of the sovereignty claim by Argentina and the opening of a dialogue with Councillors rather than insisting on only talking to London.

It may take a generation to wean the Argentine people and their leaders away from the myth of recovery, but that does not mean the process is not worth starting. Islanders and their

Book Review: "A Falkland Islander Till I Die" by Terence Severine Betts

Autobiography, published by the Book Guild, 25 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2LU. Telephone 01825 723398, e-mail: info@bookguild.co.uk Hardback 572 pages, 32 photographs, price £20. ISBN 1 85776885 X.

A suggestion that the 170-year old dispute over Falkland Islands sovereignty could be solved if the Islands opted to become an independent nation is outlined in a book by a former member of the legislature, Terry Betts, now living in Portugal. This would require Argentina to abandon its claim and Britain to secede sovereignty to the Islanders, with a guarantee of security against future aggression.

He plans a "Hand of Friendship" music tour of Argentina playing and singing his own music to disabuse Argentines of their indoctrinated views and explain what Islanders are really like. He has also issued a music CD of his own composition. Ten per cent of the profits from the book and CD go to the South Atlantic Medal Association and the Falkland Islands Veterans' Association.

His speeches extolling the virtues of Falklands life now list what he calls his "ten nothings – no unemployment, no crime, no poverty, no pollution, no need to lock doors of cars and homes, no murders, no aids, no drugs, etc".

Terry Betts graphically describes the traumatic hardship of Islanders in 1982 as they endured invasion, bombardment and liberation, cleared up the mess left behind by the defeated Argentines, then welcomed their British liberators into their crowded homes.

Family at War

His controversial views are all the more poignant as he

Falklands Futures Cont:

Councillors should take every opportunity to extract *de facto* recognition from Argentina – under the fig leaf of the sovereignty umbrella, the Argentines already accept Falkland Islands Government stamps in their passports and conduct important discussions with Falklands officials on oil and fisheries. This is considerable progress and, in my view, it should be built on.

Dr Ivanov has done the Islands and their supporters a favour with this study. He sees Falkland Islanders as a distinct people with their own right to self-determination and with an admirably democratic and successful society. By looking ahead to the shape of possible future relationships with the UK, and gathering the opinions of other experts, he will stimulate discussion and encourage Islanders to take a longer-term view of their own future.

David Tatham

A few copies of Dr. Ivanov's book are available free of charge at FIGO in London. Two thousand more will be available shortly in the Falklands from Mr. Robert Rowlands, again free of charge. The book is supported by Boris Bekyarov, the Manfred Wornor Foundation and The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria.

lays bare with raw honesty the feelings of his family, one of the oldest in the Falklands, torn apart by War. His eldest brother, Alec Betts, sided with Argentina, while two brothers braved danger in the liberation of the Islands. The youngest, Peter, served in the Task Force on the oil tanker *Tidespring*, under Argentine air attack. Terry himself was one of several dozen Islanders who drove British soldiers and ammunition to crucial battles and helped the wounded return. He and Alec later confronted each other in verbal clashes in United Nations debates and other international forums. Alec departed the Falklands forever for a new life in Argentina with his Argentine girlfriend.



Terry Betts sells one of his books to Clem Harrison at his FIGO book launch.

The book is a unique record of how the Falklands emerged from a century of neglect and decline, with its workers treated almost like serfs, to become the prosperous, self-confident nation of today. Terry Betts draws on unique personal experience in versatile roles as a manager, leader of the trades union movement, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and an entrepreneur in the fishing industry.

Radical Reforms

From these diverse experiences, he argues for drastic local reforms, with severe cuts in what he regards as the swollen ranks of

the civil service, some expensively recruited from the United Kingdom. The Legislative Council should be enlarged from eight part-time members to 12 full time, with Ministerial titles and powers. He is convinced the economy would benefit from being run largely by the commercial sector, with minimum government intervention.

He dismisses Argentina's sovereignty claim as groundless and insists on Islanders' right to self-determination. But he believes the present stand-off is dangerous and untenable, with the unpredictability of Argentine action, either civil or military or both, and the risk that a future British Government may change present policy of support and guaranteed military defence, to do a deal with Argentina.

Total Falklands Autonomy

To neutralise the issue, Britain and Argentina should both abandon their sovereignty claims to allow the Falkland Islands total autonomy, with their own passports, flag and other national symbols, and to be integrated into the European Union, for trade and right of domicile. The Islands could become a member of the Mercosur trading bloc, developing commercial, political and other links with South America including Argentina, which, if it recognised the Falklands Government as legitimate in its own right, might be allowed an embassy or consulate flying the Argentine flag.

Terry Betts admits his controversial ideas are far from easy to implement, but hopes they might stimulate debate, analysis and finally judgment.

Harold Briley

Editorial Comment: The Newsletter believes it is cloud cuckoo land to think Argentina would ever contemplate such compromise. Long experience and their recent actions show that any concession only hardens their aggressive uncompromising attitude, and most Islanders prefer association with Britain to full independence.

Gordon Pickering Supporter Extraordinary

A staunch friend of the Falkland Islands, Gordon Pickering, whose death we reported briefly in our last issue, was held in such high respect by colleagues and friends that the Falklands Islands Association has benefited from donations totalling **£1,675** in a tribute to his memory. It is one of the biggest donations ever received by the Association.

Gordon had requested donations to the Association instead of flowers at his funeral. Our Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, sent condolences to his widow and the Association's gratitude for his generous bequest.

He was married to a Falkland Islander, Joyce Gleadell. In a letter of condolence to her, Sir Rex said: "We shall not forget him.... I remember the Gleadells of North Arm as one of the best families in the Falklands".

The donations included one thousand pounds from the Essex Poultry Association from a charity auction and raffle at their annual dinner, with a letter saying: "Gordon was a keen supporter of your Association".

This Essex donation reflected his life-long expertise in poultry, which began in a practical way during his Royal Navy



war service in the Falkland Islands where he set up a poultry unit in the naval barracks.

He married Joyce Gleadell in 1945 and they left the Islands in 1946 with their newly born first daughter Glenda. They had another daughter, Trudie, as well as two granddaughters, one grandson and four great-granddaughters.

After demobilisation, he resumed his career as a mature student at Harper Adams Agricultural College, attaining high qualifications in poultry husbandry. He became a lecturer at Harpers and other agricultural colleges before joining the Ministry of Agriculture as county poultry adviser for Warwickshire, then Essex.

During "retirement", he held posts as consultant, treasurer and secretary for various companies, and poultry and mushroom associations.

The Falklands were always very dear to his heart, and he and his wife regularly attended both the Lincoln's Inn reception and the Battle Day ceremony at the Cenotaph. Joyce and her daughter, Glenda, were warmly welcomed at Lincoln's Inn again this year.

Many colleagues, friends and family from all over the country attended his funeral, at which his youngest granddaughter gave a reading.

Explorer leaves £1,000 to Association

The Falkland Islands Association has been left a legacy of £1,000 plus interest from the estate of the late Quentin Keynes, a famous explorer, documentary film maker and book collector. He died this year, aged 83.

He was well-known as an African safari leader, lecturer and connoisseur of rare sports cars as well as for his collection of rare books and manuscripts. After working in the British

Embassy in Washington during the 1939-45 war, he began exploring and making wildlife films in Africa and extended his work to many other countries, including Saint Helena and the Falkland Islands, in which he had a special interest.

His grandfather was Charles Darwin, who, on his famous voyages, had visited the Falkland Islands. His father was the renowned surgeon, Sir Geoffrey Keynes, and his uncle the great John Maynard Keynes.

"Difficult to Put Down" Book Review

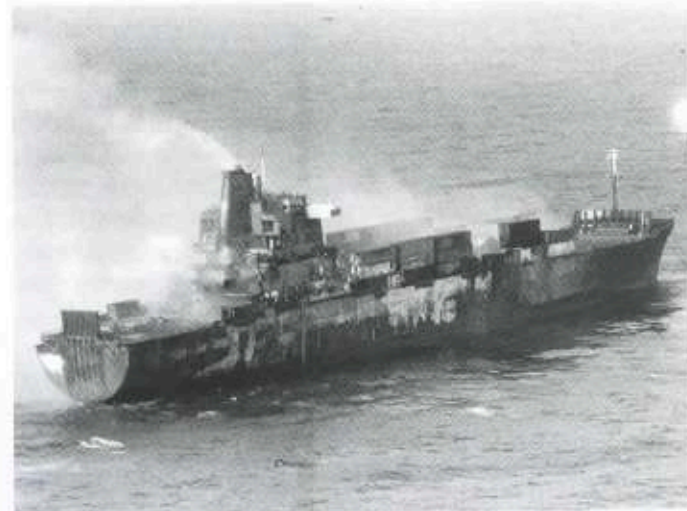
NP1840: The Loss of the Atlantic Conveyor by Charles Drought, published in 2003 by Countywise Limited, 14 Appin Road, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 9HH. Tel: 0151-6473333. ISBN 1-901231-41-0, £9.99. Softback 195 pages.

Many books have been written about the Falklands War, but this is the first I have read by a member of the Merchant Navy. Charles Drought became a junior engineer in the Merchant Navy in 1959. By 1982 he had reached the position of Senior Third Engineer with the Cunard-Brocklebank Line and was enjoying a well-earned leave at home after a five-month voyage when the telephone rang and Cunard's Personnel Manager asked if he would be willing to go on standby for 48 hours should the Ministry of Defence requisition the *Atlantic Conveyor*. The rest is history, but the author brings it all to life again by using the third person and chronicling in detail the graphic events as they happened. I found it an absorbing story and had difficulty in putting the book down.

Of the 32 crew, six including the ship's Master, Captain North, were lost, together with three Royal Navy and three Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel. Many of those who survived, including Charles Drought, returned to sea within two to three months after the sinking.

The author's friend and helper, Derek Clulow, ends the book with a moving epilogue, in which he says: "Everyone aboard the *Atlantic Conveyor* on that fateful voyage upheld all the great traditions of the Merchant Service handed down from generation to generation". Falkland Islanders have depended upon the Merchant Service since they settled there in the 19th Century and they will certainly never forget Charles Drought and his fellow volunteers on the *Atlantic Conveyor* in 1982.

Rex Hunt



The Falkland Islands Association

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

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

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

Membership Application

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

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

Name

Address

Connection with the Falklands, if any

Signature

Date Telephone

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

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

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Dates For Your Diary

**Battle Day & AGM
 Saturday 11th December**

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

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

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Editorial Committee:

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Welsh Guards veterans present the photograph album of the Regiment's actions in the Falklands War to Prince Charles at Clarence House (See page 24). Left to Right they are: Mr. Ken Dawkins, Mr. Andy Jones, HRH Prince Charles, Mr. Maldwyn Jones, Mr. Steve Hopkins and Mr. Chris Duggan. The album will shortly be presented to the museum in Stanley.



The twenty-fifth Anniversary of Falklands Conservation has been celebrated this year. Above is a photograph of what it is all about - preserving some of the finest wildlife in the World, which includes huge colonies of Albatross.