



Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

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Princess Anne Visits the Falklands



HRH Princess Anne presenting the Princess Royal's Plate to Winning Jockey, Tim Bonner.

Photo: Norman Clark

HRH Princess Anne's visit to the Falkland Islands, at the beginning of this month, could not have been more welcome. It had been planned before the visit of Princess Diana to Argentina and was not a quid pro quo for that. It was, however, another statement of Britain's continuing support for Falkland Islanders' right to choose to remain under British sovereignty. To Falkland Islanders, who have no rivals in their loyalty to the Crown, it was a source of pride and joy.

Special Royal Visit Edition

Battle Day and AGM

The weather was better this year for the annual Battle Day tribute at the Cenotaph to those who died in 1914 fighting against the Germans and in 1982 against the Argentines. The Association, Major General Mackay-Dick, The Falklands Families Association, Islanders and supporters, young and old, marched out at 11 o'clock to pay their respects.

The Colour Guard from HMS FEARLESS was led by Captain Vincent, and was followed by a cadet escort from Pangbourne College. The Rev. Peter Millam conducted the short service and wreaths were laid.

The AGM followed. Here the Association welcomed Air-Commodore Johnson as a member. He finished his tour of duty as Commander British Forces in the Falklands last year. The Association also paid tribute to Mrs. Merle Christie, the retiring Secretary to the Association, who was presented with a rose bowl to commemorate her years of devoted service.

After routine business was over, the barrel and the buffet were both rolled out.



The Colour Party, from HMS FEARLESS, led by Captain Vincent and commanded by PO Deakin.



Wreath layers: Major General Mackay-Dick, a recent commander of the British forces in the Falklands, on behalf of the Armed Forces; The Hon Mrs. Bergel, on behalf of the Falkland Islands Government; Sir Rex Hunt, on behalf of the Association; Mrs. Sarah Jones and Mr. Des Keoghane, on behalf of the Falklands Families Association; Mr. Bill Haycock on behalf of the Kent County Society and armed forces of Kent; Miss Nina Aldridge, on behalf of young Islanders.



Major General Mackay-Dick lays a wreath on behalf of the Armed Forces

Below: Association Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt, addressing the AGM



The Association AGM in Session

All Photos by P.J. Pepper

Right:
Peter Pryn
and Terry
Peck after
the AGM



Below:
Air-
Commodore
and Mrs
Johnson after
the AGM



Above: Pangbourne Naval Cadets enjoying the buffet.
Below: Young Islanders having a good time.



Battle Day in the Falklands

Battle Day, the National Day in the Falkland Islands is celebrated on December 8th. HE Governor Tatham, in one of his last official duties, took the salute and laid a wreath at the Battle Memorial. The march past was led by the Band of the Royal Marines and included contingents from HMS WESTMINSTER, the RAF, the Gurkhas, the Falkland Islands Defence Force and youth groups.



Right: The Royal Marine Band and other units marching from Government House to the Victory Monument.

Below: HE Governor Tatham Inspecting the Royal Marine Band



HE Governor Tatham lays a wreath at the Battle Memorial.
All Photos of Battle Day by Norman Clark

A Distinguished Vice-President

The former Foreign Secretary, the Right Honourable Douglas Hurd, CH, CBE, MP, has kindly agreed to become a Vice-President of the Falkland Islands Association. He has family links with the Falklands - his father, also a Member of Parliament, was a director of the Falkland Islands Company and paid several visits to the Islands with his wife in the 1950s and '60s. In 1994 Mr. Hurd was the first British Foreign Secretary to visit the Falklands. A staunch supporter of the Islanders, he has categorically upheld British sovereignty to the Falklands, made clear that Britain would be prepared to go to war again to defend them against aggression, and insisted that ownership of any oil and gas found offshore in Falklands waters belongs to the Islands.

OBE for Mike Summers

Falkland Islander, Mike Summers, a former Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association was honoured with an OBE in the New Years Honours.

Mr. Summers became Chairman of the Association in 1987, but stood down on becoming General Manager designate of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) in 1989. Mr. Summers resigned from the FIDC last year, but is staying on until April when Mr. Hugh Normand will be taking over from him.

Photo page 6.



The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd, CH, CBE, MP.

Merle Christie

At the Falkland Islands Association AGM in December 1995 Merle Christie retired as Honorary Secretary to the Association. Her work in the office is now being done very ably by Sarah Syborn.

Merle became Honorary Secretary in 1983 but her involvement with the Falkland Islands dates back to 1968 when her husband Bill Hunter Christie became Joint Honorary Secretary with Frank Mitchell at the time the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee was formed. Though not a member of the Committee her life was never the same again because the Christies' house in Chelsea became the centre of the campaign to "Keep the Falkland Islands British". Innumerable meetings, lunches, dinners and drinks parties attended by Islanders, politicians of all parties, diplomats, journalists and lobbyists followed and the burden of it all fell on Merle. Indeed, the founding party was held there. Islanders with nowhere else to stay were frequently put up at Tedworth Square. In the 1970's Leif Barton was Secretary to the Committee and lived there. Alastair Cameron also stayed at times. Governors came to be briefed and Lord Shackleton was a frequent visitor.

When the Falklands were invaded in 1982 it was natural that Merle should work full time for the Islanders. The office at Greycoat Place was full and Tedworth Square served as an annex. It was there that Bill Hunter Christie

interviewed me before I joined the team and it was at that time that I first met Merle. If she resented her house being used as a permanent office or found it difficult bringing up a family in such surroundings she gave no sign though it must surely have been so. In 1983 she became Honorary Secretary and ran the office with exemplary efficiency. When very young she had been recruited to serve in high security secretarial work during the 1939-45 war and her experiences then proved useful now. Working most days, in an entirely voluntary and unpaid capacity, she became the calm heart at the centre of the various storms that periodically swept the political horizons of the South Atlantic. She said little, missed little and was present to witness most of the important decisions and lobby campaigns relating to the Falklands over a period of thirty years. Her loyalty and commitment to the Falklands has never weakened though in the Summer of 1995 she spent some weeks in hospital after being taken ill in France.

Typically, she is now back on the Association Committee, and now that she has handed over the burdens of the Secretaryship, looks younger, fitter and prettier than ever. The Islanders owe a great deal to the quiet determination of Merle Hunter Christie. She has devoted her life to their cause and her colleagues in the Falkland Island Association join with me in paying affectionate tribute to her for all she has done during her time in office.

Robert Elgood



Mrs. Merle Christie

Postgraduate Students from the Falklands

by Rosalind Cheek

A long-term aim of the Falkland Islands must be to fill all professional jobs in the Islands with well-trained Falkland Islanders. It is this thought that has helped me through five and a half years of study in the UK to date and will encourage me in a further two and a half years. I then hope to emerge as a fully trained solicitor. This is no mean feat for the 15 year old who, after no less than a week of studies in England, decided that another minute more away from the delights of home in the Falkland Islands would be hard to bear.

Needless to say the majority of Islanders studying away from home learn to mature quickly to cope with and make the best of new surroundings. There are now wonderful opportunities of education and travel that were not available to Islanders of my father's generation. The future of the Islands relies on Islanders grasping these opportunities to better ourselves as individuals and improve our capabilities as a nation.

The Falklands are going ahead in leaps and bounds in educating the younger generation. My contemporaries are studying, among other things, to be accountants, managers, pilots, geologists, marine biologists, nurse, teachers and, finally, one brave girl is to tackle medicine. Although postgraduates from the Falklands at present are few, the increased attendance at Peter Symmond's Sixth Form College will soon start to filter through resulting in more students continuing their studies to qualify as professionals.

Despite a wide variety of positions available to be chosen as goals for current students, some concern has been voiced about the problem of students who choose a specialisation inappropriate for the Islands, or train for a post already filled. I would suggest that this problem may well resolve itself with the necessary creation of new and additional posts as the Islands inevitably develop and expand. For example recently created positions of Psychiatric Nurse, Director of Oil and Probation Officer all open up careers not previously available to those wishing to return home.

Post-graduate studies do, of course, have added difficulties for Falkland Islanders. The length of time it is necessary to spend away from the Islands can mean that ties are weakened. The specialisation of postgraduate work often requires Islanders to remain away from the Islands to gain experience in their field even after the years necessary for qualification. People often ask if I intend to return home upon qualification, and others express surprise that young people might want to return to such a small and remote community after years in a busy modern country.

I certainly have every intention of returning to the Islands to take up my career and I can foresee nothing that would change my mind. My experience is that the majority of students from the Falklands have the same feelings. Every encouragement is given by the education department who fund training and provide support wherever requested. Additionally, government departments attempt to provide vacation work so more time can be spent in the Islands.

With this help I believe it is not surprising that young Islanders want to return to the Islands after studying. The Islands offer great opportunities for a relaxed way of life



Miss Rosalind Cheek

whilst at the same time offering young people unparalleled challenging career opportunities. The attractions of the bright lights of large cities soon pale when compared to the freedom, clean environment and beautiful surroundings of the Falklands. I believe the Islands have a great future ahead of them and I intend to be there to participate in any way I can. And after all, the Islands are my home, and no amount of persuasion will make me feel otherwise.

Air Service to Santiago

The long awaited Aerovias DAP Boeing 727 has finally replaced the old Twin Pioneer and King-Air aircraft on the link between the Falklands and South America. The first flight was on January 20th - with Dr. Di Tella's daughter travelling on a Swiss passport as a passenger.

The new service leaves Santiago de Chile at 1400Hrs every Thursday, it stops at Punta Arenas from 1700 to 1800Hrs and arrives at Mount Pleasant Airport in the Falklands at 1900Hrs, leaving again at 2000 Hrs and getting back to Punta Arenas at 2100Hrs.

On a Saturday the plane leaves Punta Arenas at 6.30 in the morning and stops at MPA from 0730 to 0830Hrs. It then returns to Punta (0930-1030Hrs) and finally gets to Santiago at 1330. Both these flights connect with the British Airways service to and from Santiago.

One way fares from MPA to Punta Arenas are:

Business Class	.....	£316
Y Class	.....	£158
Economy Class	.....	£140
FI residents	.....	£118

One way fares from MPA to Santiago are:

Business Class	.....	£528
Y Class	.....	£396
Economy Class	.....	Not Available
FI residents	.....	£264

Bookings may be made through the Falkland Islands Company, Crozier Place, Stanley, Falkland Islands.
Telephone (from the UK): 00-500-27600, Fax 00-500-27603

Governor Tatham Says Goodbye

Shortly before leaving, Governor Tatham made a week long farewell tour on the *Tamar* of some 20 communities, many of them on the remotest islands of the Falklands. He was sad to be saying goodbye after three enjoyable years. A public farewell reception attended by 300 people followed in Stanley Town Hall.

Tribute to Mrs Tatham

Making the farewell address on behalf of the Islanders FIG Chief Executive Andrew Gurr spoke first about Mrs Tatham. He said: She has brought a wonderful combination of gentleness and strength to our Islands. She is a real listener, a carrier of other's burdens, a comforter, a worker, and yet she seems to survive with such an air of serenity and peace... We will miss your wisdom, your sophistication, your abilities as a hostess, your love of good music, but, above all, your tangible and calm support of David.

Of Governor Tatham, Mr Gurr said: ...You, the historian, will be remembered by history... You will be remembered for two things: Firstly, The Joint Declaration between Britain and Argentina regarding our oil.... Secondly, you will be remembered for presiding over what has been the emergence of a new confidence within these Islands. A toast was drunk to the future of the Governor and his wife, and they were presented with a painting, by local artist Mike Peake, of a typical Falkland stone run.

Governor Tatham's reply

Replying to Mr. Gurr's speech, Governor Tatham began with praise for the civil service in the Islands. His words were "I as Governor have been very well served by the people who work for government, so I am very grateful to them.... I am grateful to everyone in the Islands for the tremendous support we have received while we have been here. I believe in the future of the Islands. We are not many, but we are quality not quantity.... I believe these Islands have a great future, I believe the kids here will really flourish and prosper, and they will have opportunities far beyond anything that their parents or grand-parents had. So these are your Islands. look after them take care of them, and build on them and do well. Thank you for all your help, thank you for all friendship and kindness".

We really will come back one day perhaps ... in the year 2,000 - just to make sure that the right flag is flying over Government House. Thank you all very much".

Mr Tatham, said a final goodbye personally to Councillors and others at the door of Government House on December 13th. He then flew by helicopter to MPA for his departure. A 17 gun salute was fired for him from the guns on Victory Green.

Governor Tatham's appointment as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and the Maldives (Non-Resident) has since been announced.

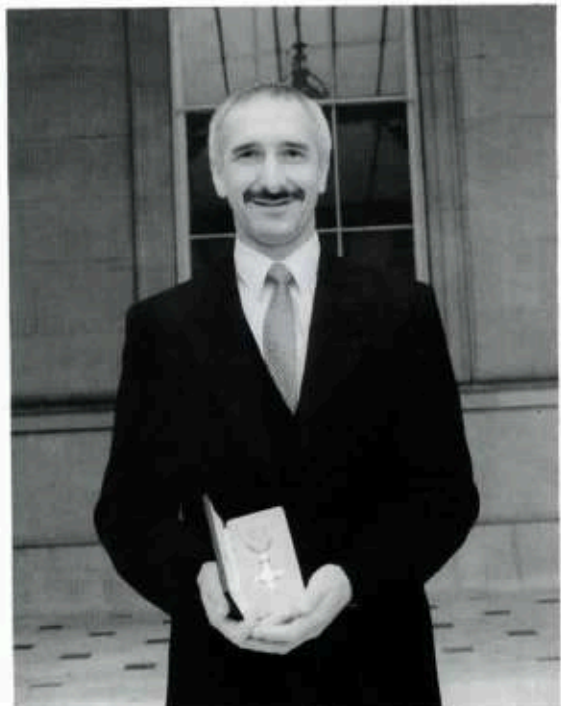


HE Governor and Mrs Tatham

Photo: Norman Clark

Below: Mike Summers outside Buckingham Palace with his OBE. Story page 4.

Photo: Charles Green



Governor Ralph Arrives

HE Governor Richard Ralph CVO arrived in the Falklands on January 5th. He was sworn in on January 8th.

Governor Ralph got an early taste of the way anything said in the Falklands is misrepresented in Argentina. In his inaugural speech he declared himself in favour of Islander self-determination. But he also said that Islanders should prepare themselves for historic change. This was greeted enthusiastically by Argentine Foreign Undersecretary Guillermo Gonzalez, who saw it as an indication of a desire that the Islanders weaken their position towards Argentina.

Interviewed later by phone on Radio Plata, Governor Ralph had to explain that: "I used the word change in my inaugural speech last Monday referring to the implications of developments over fishing and the prospect of oil strikes in the waters around the Falkland Islands. These are bound to have some impact on society and life in the Falkland Islands".

Addressing the Argentine Foreign Minister's preoccupation with opening direct communications with the Islands again, he said: "The position of people of the Falkland Islands is very clear on this. They don't bear Argentina any ill will, but they don't want to have much, or anything, to do with Argentina so long as Argentina maintains its claim to sovereignty".



HE Governor Richard Ralph CVO taking the oath of office. Photo: Norman Clark

Governor Ralph said that "The British Government wants a stable and friendly relationship with Argentina, but, as Prime Minister John Major said, this will never be at the expense of the Falkland's sovereignty".

Meeting with Foreign Office Minister

Sir Rex Hunt led a delegation of the Executive Committee at a meeting with Foreign Office Minister, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, MP on 2nd November 1995. Mr Tony Longrigg, Head of the South Atlantic and Antarctic Department, and Mr Trevor Roberts were in attendance. Accompanying Sir Rex were Association Vice Chairman, Robert Elgood, and committee members, Bill Hunter-Christie and Lewis Clifton.

In response to a question over the recent bilateral oil agreement the Minister confirmed that the agreement had no effect on HMG's stated policy that sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was not negotiable. He recognised the importance of having Falkland Islands' representation on the Joint Commission and confirmed that the first preparatory meeting would be held in December. It was noted that the Islanders had chosen Mrs Phyllis Rendell to represent them. Mr Longrigg said that there was no chance of licences being issued for blocks within the Special Area until well after the end of the current licensing round by the Falkland Islands Government.

The Minister noted the Association's unease about the open-ended nature of the agreement and assured the Committee that any extension of the Special Area would be limited to blocks which straddled the putative median line

and that the British side of the Joint Commission would be in no hurry to recommend extension.

Minister Bonsor confirmed that work was proceeding on a long-term fisheries agreement, which he said was in everyone's interest and he noted the Committee's comment that diplomatic use might be made of President Menem's forthcoming visit to Britain by securing his signature to such an agreement during his stay.

Reflecting on a recently issued Central Office of Information pamphlet on the Falkland Islands, the Minister took note of the Association's comments that it had contained serious inaccuracies. Mr Hunter-Christie said that the original legal advice on the sovereignty issue had been based upon insufficient information about the historical facts, and that this had coloured Foreign Office thinking ever since.

When discussing Falkland Islands constitutional matters, the Committee expressed the view that constitutional review should be moving towards an elected Chief Minister, who would take over from the Chief Executive. The Minister took note of this idea.

Minister Bonsor was pleased that the Argentine next-of-kin visit to Pebble Island had gone well. He recognised that Argentine oil workers transiting the Falklands could cause problems, but this was a long way in the future.

Falklands News

Bravery Commendation

CBFFI's commendation for bravery goes to Captain Samuel Tompkinson, of the 1st Battalion Royal Greenjackets. He was range control officer on October 11th, and dived headfirst into a swollen river to save Rifleman Simon Green who had been swept away. Both Rifleman Green and Captain Tompkinson were weighed down by heavy packs.

The Mikado

April 1994 saw the Pirates of Penzance in Stanley Town Hall. Last November (too late for the last Newsletter) FIODA produced another successful play: The Mikado.

Director was Tony Burnett and producer Norman Black. Kevin Holland, who was music teacher at the FICS in '1993 and '94, came down to play the piano for the show. Some 55 people were involved in production.

David Lang was the Mikado, Jock Elliot, Co-Co, and a very funny Lord High Executioner, Norman Black was Nanki-poo, Crispin Fisher, Poo Bah. Mike Bowles from MPA was Push Tush, Kari Fisher, Yum Yum, Melanie Cross from MPA was Pitti Sing, Alison Blackburn was Peek Bo and Fiona Didlick the evil element, Katisha. Graham Didlick and his team handled construction, while scene painting was done by Jamie Peck. Costumes were made by 8 ladies. Make-up was done mainly by Jamie Correa, with the assistance of Anne Reid and Judith Campbell. The show opened on November 23rd with a glass of champagne for all ticket holders, and received a standing ovation. Subsequent performances were on the 24th and 25th.

Baseline Survey

The contract for the Baseline Survey was signed at Government House on December 5th, by Governor Tatham. The contract was won by Brown and Root Environmental, who will do the work with Imperial College Consultants Ltd; local participants will be Falklands Conservation and South Atlantic Marine Services. The survey will establish the existing state of the environment for the oil industry.

Falklands Land Holdings

Thirty-three to fifty percent of FHL land is to be offered for sale or subdivision during 1996. First refusal will go to existing employees. The changes will require the creation of a statutory corporation, to replace the present FHL board; proposals for the creation of this will be presented to EXCO in March. The remaining land will continue to be run by the statutory corporation for at least five years. After that consideration will be given to more sales, although cognisance will be given to the need for a model farm.

Operation Tabarin to be commemorated in the FI.

Operation Tabarin was started in great secrecy as a military operation in 1944, to establish a British presence in the Antarctic. After WW2 this became the F.I. Dependency Survey, a civilian service. Later, this became BAS, the British Antarctic Survey.

To commemorate this chain of events, which began in the Falklands, the base refuge hut put up in 1956 at Portal Point on the Antarctic Peninsular is to be given to the Falklands. It has four bunks, table and pinups etc from that

time, and will be put up next to Stanley's museum with an adjoining room to tell the story of BAS. The removal of Portal Point hut is part of the clean up of the Antarctic.

Cartmell House

Cartmell House is to be restored as an 1850s house. A lean to with the kitchen will be restored in 1920s style, under the direction of Stanley Museum. On the outside a plaque will be set up to record that it was Nutt Cartmell who donated the house to the museum, and Henry Hayburn who donated enough money to restore the interior and clad the outside.

Training Ship Visits

The Polish training ship *Iskra* (Spark) visited Stanley in December to get medical attention for an officer who injured his ribs in a storm. The *Iskra*, a three masted barquentine used as a training ship by the Polish Navy, provided a glimpse of the "customers" Stanley used to get. The *Iskra* is 49 meters long and can reach 16 knots. It was seven and a half months into a ten month round the world schedule. *Iskra* got the main prize in 1989 for the Cutty Sark Tall Ships race.

Another Serious Fire

Fire at Rincon Grande destroyed three buildings in December. The fire started when the generator developed a fault. The shed for this was attached to the garage, which adjoined the workshop. Diane and Ronald Turner and son Arthur tried in vain to prevent the fire spreading to the garage and workshop, but had to admit defeat and watch all three buildings burn down. No vehicles were lost, one being worked on nearby was towed clear. But thousands of pounds worth of parts were lost.

Education Prizes

The annual prize givings took place on December 5th both for the Falkland Island Community School and for the Infant/Junior School and Camp Education. In the FICS, the 10th Year Prize went to Luke Clarke; the Design Technology Prize to Tracy Freeman, and the Community Shield to Robbie Burnett. In the I/J School, the Alastair Cameron prize for history went to Marti Barnes. The good citizenship/helpful/considerate member of the school went to Sian Ferguson, who came in from camp two years ago. The Chief Executive's Progress Prize went to Geoffrey Loftus. There were, of course, many other prize winners.

Half Marathon

The Cape Pembroke Half-Marathon was run on December 10th and produced record times. Winner was 22 year-old Richard Thomas of MPA. Colin Simpson of the RAF was second, Hugh Marsden winner of the last three races, was third. Sarah Allan won the ladies.

Golf

The December monthly medal went to Kevin Clapp. He and John Jones had impressive 65 net scores, but Kevin won on the countback. Kevin now has a 12 handicap.

Kevin Clapp also won the Standard Chartered Bank Rosebowl at the end of November.

Soccer

Stanley's 2nd eleven beat HMS WESTMINSTER's second 3:1 in December. Goal scorers were Steve Jennings and Kim Clarke (2). But Stanley's 1st eleven went down 3:2 to HMS WESTMINSTER's 1st eleven. Paul Riddel scored both goals for Stanley and Russell Smith shone as top player.

Thyer

A mare has foaled to Thyer in the Falklands and several others are in foal. Thyer, a stud stallion, descended from Nijinsky, was the gift of Sheik Maktoum of Dubai. His progeny is expected on the racing circuit in a few years time.

£1.8 Million fine on fishing boat

The fishing vessel *Thunmus* was arrested by the fisheries protection vessel *Cordella* on December 14th for illegal fishing in South Georgia waters. It had earlier been warned out of the area by the *Endurance*.

On December 21st, in Stanley, her owners pleaded guilty to two charges of illegal fishing and were fined a total of £1.8 Million pounds. The *Thunmus* is now moored in Stanley, and latest reports suggest an appeal is likely. The Belize registered *Thunmus* is owned by a Panamanian company which in turn is thought to be owned by Spanish fishing interests. Her crew is a mixture of Chilean, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Spanish, and Portuguese men. The heavy fines were welcomed by the South Georgia Government which hopes it will deter unlicensed fishing.

Crippling Sheep Losses on West Falkland

The hardest winter this century has resulted in a 66.8% reduction in the number of Hoggets shorn on West Falkland this year. Ewe and lamb losses are not yet certain, as these have not been marked yet, but may be serious. The Council is considering emergency aid to the farmers effected.

The West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show

The ninth annual show took place at Coast Ridge farm, Fox Bay East on December 28th. There was a barbecue at midday organised by Lynn and Tony Blake, with many helpers. 22 farms sent entries, up from 16 last year. Judging was by public ballot. Prizes were given out by Acting Governor, Mr. Andrew Gurr.

Class 1, Full Wool Ram Hogget, went to Teal River Farm,
 Class 2, Full Wool Shearling Ram, to Coast Ridge Farm,
 Class 3, Full Wool Mature Ram, to Coast Ridge Farm,
 Class 4, Hogget Fleece: to Spring Point Farm,
 Class 5, Any Fine Wool Fleece Other Than Hogget, was won by Shallow Harbour farm,
 Class 6, Any "B" type Wether Fleece: by Rincon Ridge.
 Champion Ram was won by Coast Ridge Farm thus winning the Pat Luxton Trophy. Many other prizes were distributed.

New Year's Eve Shoot at Rookery Bay.

Ken Aldridge came top again with 90, Chris McCallum 88, Harry Ford 87, Tony Pettersson 86, Pat Peck 84.

Christmas Sports

The three days following Christmas were taken up by the Stanley Sports Association Annual Race Meeting. Fifty races took place, followed by a Gymkhana, and the Steer Riding. Tim Bonner was declared Champion Jockey, and his horse, Croacia, Champion Horse. Best young jockey was Mathew McMullen, best turned out horse was Tulazan.

The New Years Day Raft Race

The race, organised by the Sea Cadets, was won by the Purple Helmets, from HMS WESTMINSTER. Second was an all girl team, "The Horrors from Hillside Camp", they were judged the best fancy dress team. Third was Peter McKay's team, which was judged the best raft overall. Sea conditions were good. Ten rafts entered the race.

Papal Medals of Merit

The medals, *Bene Merenti*, have been bestowed on Marlene Williams and Norma Bowles of Stanley by Pope John Paul II - in recognition of their long dedicated service and exemplary loyalty to the Christian cause. Monsignor Agreiter said the service rendered to the community by Norma and Willie Bowles and Marlene and Gene Williams is well known, adding that St Mary's are delighted by the honour bestowed on them, and congratulated them warmly.

Fishing

A total of 247 applications were received for 1996 fishing licences. A total of 163 were issued. 7 for finfish, 17 for Loligo squid, 112 for Illex squid, 5 for Skate and Ray and 22 for Blue Whiting/Hoki.

Dramatic Rescue

Forty miles North of the Falklands, the Ketch *Maamari* was capsized by two freak waves during the early hours of January 11th. Both masts were broken and the main hatch ripped open. The owners Nick and Jill Schinas at first thought their youngest child Xoe had been washed overboard, but she was found in the bilges. The yacht's satellite beacon was activated, and the signal received at Falmouth, who alerted the RAF in the Falklands. A Hercules and a Sea King helicopter were dispatched from MPA, but these could not find the yacht until a second signal was received from the beacon at 1.30am the next day. Only then were aircraft able to locate the yacht with their night vision equipment. The family were winched aboard a Sea King and taken to King Edward Memorial Hospital, Stanley. The yacht was later towed in by the *Cordella*. See photos page 8.

Convent Declared Open

Monsignor Agreiter declared St Mary's Convent officially open on January 14th - almost a year after the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in the Falklands. Sister Dominic, the Superior of the Order, and Sister Maura, First Assistant, came down to the Falklands for the occasion.

Shearing Record

Mr. Simon Rose of New Zealand broke the Falklands shearing record at North Arm on January 24th. He sheared 432 ewes in an eight hour day - 11 more than the previous record.

Schools Broadcasts

Services Sound and Vision Corporation, manager Steve Britten, has managed to make SSSVC schools broadcasts available on the military TV network in the Falklands. Broadcasts are to start this month.

There will be daily programmes between 10.10 and 10.58am such as Book Box, Number Time, Fourways Farm, Watch, Story Time, Movable Feasts, Zig Zag, Space Ark Stop and Listen and more. Camp education have expressed their gratitude for this valuable service.

Princess Anne in the Falklands

Princess Anne arrived in the Falklands on Tuesday, January 30th. She reached Stanley by helicopter that afternoon.

Next day she visited the Liberation Monument, the sheltered accommodation at King Edward Memorial Hospital, the workshop for the Falklander sweater project and the Cathedral, where she attended a short service and re-opened the Parish Hall. That afternoon she flew to San Carlos where she visited the British War Cemetery and Blue Beach Lodge. She flew on to Goose Green where she had a buffet lunch in the Community Centre and met local residents. From there, she flew on to Sea Lion Island, where she saw the remarkable wild-life and spent the night at the Lodge.

Next day, she visited Fox Bay East, Hill Cove, where she had lunch at the home of Tim and Sally Blake, and Port Howard where she saw a sheep dog demonstration. She got back to Stanley late that afternoon in time for a public reception in Stanley Town Hall, followed by dinner with members of the legislature.

On the Friday, she visited Mount Tumbledown by helicopter, and saw the ruins of Moody Brook. She then returned to Stanley and visited the Junior School and Museum. That afternoon she attended a special race meeting put on in her honour. The first race was the Princess Royal's Plate, a 500 yard open race, for which the Princess Royal presented the prize. She flew back to Britain the next day.

Editor's Note: Princess Anne was originally going to Antarctica as well, in her capacity as Patron of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Sadly, this had to be cancelled because of mechanical problems with the aircraft that serves British bases in Antarctica from the Falklands.



Princess Anne with Canon Palmer after the service at the Cathedral
Photo: Norman Clark



Princess Anne arrives on the football pitch in front of the Community School

Photo: Norman Clark



Above:
Griz Cockwell shows the wool mill at Fox Bay to Princess Anne



Above Right:
Princess Anne watching a Falklander sweater being put together in St Mary's Hall, Stanley



Right:
Kimberley Finlayson, youngest member of the team, presents Princess Anne with a Falklander sweater.

Below Right:
Princess Anne meets Stanley's Girl Guides and Brownies.

Below:
Laying the foundation stone for the new Junior School Building.





Above:
Princess Anne pays her respects at the British Cemetery at San Carlos

Above Right:
One of Princess Anne's last appointments, a visit to Stanley's remarkable museum, where she was shown round by Curator, John Smith.

Right:
The scene at the site of the new Junior School building in Stanley, where Princess Anne laid the foundation stone.



Below:
Princess Anne meets Goose Green residents at work in the shearing shed.

All Photos of Princess Anne's visit courtesy of Norman Clark, Falkland Printz.



Much Ado About Nothing

SOUTH GEORGIA INCIDENT

Readers may have noticed minor reports in the British press on March 4th about a supposed incident in South Georgia waters involving two Argentine fishing boats which were said to have had been forced to buy fishing licences by two Royal Navy warships, and that the ensuing row imperilled President Menem's proposed visit to Britain.

This is all that was reported in Britain for the next week of an incident that was making headlines all that time in the Argentine media. The furore there was all the more surprising as - although there have been cases recently of an Argentine and other flag vessels fishing illegally in South Georgia waters - **this ugly incident simply didn't happen.**

What did happen is that one Argentine flag fishing vessel, the *Antarctic III*, was seen sailing in South Georgia waters by the fisheries protection vessel, *Cordella*, which is not a Royal Navy vessel, and is not armed. The *Cordella* radioed the *Antarctic III* to ask what it was doing in South Georgia waters. The *Antarctic III* replied that it was sailing to South Georgia to buy a fishing licence. This satisfied the *Cordella* entirely, and the *Antarctic III* did indeed sail on to South Georgia. There, on March 1st, the opening day of the fishing season, the US company that had chartered the *Antarctic III*, American Sea Foods, did indeed buy a fishing licence; one of ten issued to various vessels for Toothfish.

Argentine Reaction

But in Argentina, which laid claim to South Georgia in 1947, and which put this claim into its Constitution in 1994, the false version that the boat had been forced to buy a licence received massive publicity - and this was portrayed as a major act of aggression by Britain against Argentine sovereignty claims.

The Argentine Government promptly advised all its fishing boats that they should not pay any licence fees to Britain, and *La Nacion*, one of Argentina's more sober papers, said that there were 18 Argentine fishing boats in the disputed area! In fact, only the *Antarctic III* was there. Next, the Argentine Government forbade the *Antarctic III* to fly the Argentine flag, and later advised all Argentine boats not to go to the area.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry and press made things much worse by saying that CCAMLR, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, that controls conservation in the area of Antarctica, forbids the collection of fishing fees - when it does nothing of the kind. It says nothing about this at all, and the French possession in the Indian Ocean, Kerguelen, which is also in the CCAMLR area, levies fishing fees too.

The erroneous account of what had happened led to a diplomatic protest by Argentina to Britain, protests from opposition politicians in Argentina, a bitter verbal attack from Eduardo Menem, the President's brother, against Britain and the Islanders - and the promise of a law to punish any company buying British fishing licences. It also led to the withdrawal of the delegation from the Province of Tierra del Fuego, which was in Britain at the time for a series of lectures and seminars designed to promote British interest in its province (see page 17), and which has claimed South Georgia within its provincial borders since 1990.

The Solution

The incident finally came to an end when the *Antarctic III* left the area and sold its fishing licence in a private commercial deal to another fishing vessel, and this deal was approved by the South Georgia Authorities.

Needless to say even this was misrepresented in the Argentine media. On March 12th, it triumphantly reported this as Britain "refunding" the licence - an erroneous account that found its way into the *Financial Times* on March 13th.

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

Once again a non-incident has been converted into something serious by the gross nationalism and irresponsibility of Argentina's media and politicians. It is all reminiscent of the harm caused by the yacht *Malabar* on its so-called "peace mission" to the Falklands in 1992. Of course, much of the hype is just for internal consumption, but the result is the same. Anti-British feeling has been fomented, and hard-line nationalists have had a field day.

HISTORY

South Georgia was first sighted by London merchant Anthony de la Roché in 1675. The first landing there was made by Captain Cook in 1775. He formally claimed it as British territory then. Active administration began with the issue of British letters patent in 1843, which were revised and consolidated in 1876, 1892, 1908, 1909 and 1917. None of these produced any objection from Argentina. A permanent magistrate was appointed there in 1909, and Britain has been in peaceful possession of South Georgia ever since, except for six weeks during the 1982 war.

The Argentine Claim

The Argentine Government, under Peron, first formally claimed South Georgia in March 1947, in a move thought at the time to be intended to increase the pressure on Britain over the Falklands. It rejected an immediate British offer, from the Attlee Government, of arbitration at the World Court. It rejected similar offers of arbitration in 1951, '53 and '54. In 1955, Britain tried to take the case to the World Court unilaterally, but Argentina announced it would ignore the result. Argentina also claimed the South Sandwich Islands and "Argentine Antarctica" in 1947.

In 1982, Argentina used its claim to South Georgia to start the Falklands War. This is now widely believed to have had an important tactical component. By provoking an incident in South Georgia, it drew HMS *ENDURANCE* away from the Falklands. This allowed it to invade the Falklands without having to sink HMS *ENDURANCE* which the Argentine Junta are believed to have thought would have provoked an immediate British declaration of war.

In 1990, Argentina included the "South Atlantic Islands" in its new province of Tierra del Fuego - although the boundary clause for the provincialisation law concerned has still not yet been made law.

In 1994, Argentina put an "irrevocable claim" to South Georgia - together with the Falklands and the South Sandwich Islands into its new constitution when it had to change this to enable President Menem to stand for a second term of office.

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

Aerovias DAP - 727

Aerovias DAP started passenger flights to the Falkland Islands from Punta Arenas over five years ago using Twin Otter and King Air aircraft. DAP have believed for some considerable time that if they were to acquire a larger and more comfortable aircraft business would grow substantially and make a significant economic contribution to the Falklands.

To this end they discussed the possible lease of a BAe 146 aircraft (86 passenger capacity) with British Aerospace for 2-3 years. A request for assistance, in particular by way of seat guarantees, was made to FIG via FIDC in April 1995.

In July 1995 FIDC approved funds for payment of seat guarantees for the first six months of the DAP 146 project. Whilst arranging the lease of a 146 aircraft DAP also took options on two Boeing 727s as a backup. In the event, DAP signed a lease for a Boeing 727 which was located in Miami and not operational at the time. Being an older airframe the 727 is much cheaper to lease but is also more expensive to operate than the 146; the net result is, however, fairly neutral. The 727 has 120 passenger seats and very substantial freight capacity (greater than the 146).

DAP had also held lengthy discussions with British Airways with the result that their scheduled flights to the Falklands have been designed to link in with the British Airways service to Santiago on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The 727 aircraft was delivered to Santiago in early December 1995 where it underwent various inspections by the Chilean aviation authorities. Some delays were encountered in the completion of these and also in obtaining permission from Argentina for the use of the 727 in place of the Twin Otter aircraft.

It was therefore not until 20th January 1996 that the Aerovias DAP 727 made its inaugural flight to Mount Pleasant Airport.

Details of flight schedules, fares, etc are available from Aerovias DAP in Punta Arenas or their agents in Stanley, the Falkland Islands Company Ltd.



The Aerovias DAP Boeing 727 in Chile before the first of its twice weekly flights to the Falklands.

Photo: Aerovias DAP

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

Falklander Sweater Project

The Falklander sweater in its various forms went on public display for the first time in the United Kingdom at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, last December. Three representatives from the Falklands, Margaret Humphreys, Pam Summers and Dot Goss attended the stand, which was managed by Ian Cox and supported by staff from the Falkland Islands Government Office in London. Considerable interest was expressed by visitors to the display, and a number of sweaters sold - for delivery after the exhibition. Other knitwear from the Islands was also on display.

Falklander sweaters are luxury items of very high quality and command high prices. Further information about them may be obtained from Ian Cox at Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH. Telephone 0171-222-2542



The Falklander Classic on display at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Photo: Ian Cox

The Falklands In Photos



The Schinas family in the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Stanley after their dramatic night-time rescue by the RAF. Stormy seas dismasted their yacht, *Maamari*, and badly damaged the deck. Their yacht (above right) was later found by the fisheries protection vessel *Cordella* and towed into Stanley.

Photos: Norman Clark



The "Copperminers", the children of Class 9 Ross, who raised £68 for the Cancer Support and Awareness Trust.

Photo Penguin News



Tim Bonner, 1995 Stanley Sports Champion Jockey, on his horse, Croacia.

Photo: Penguin News



Androcles and the Lion, the Community School annual play: L to R are Robbie Burnett and Simon Jones

Poll Setback for Menem

A public opinion poll carried out in early December in Buenos Aires revealed that 76% of Argentines believe that President Menem will not get sovereignty over the Falklands by the year 2,000, as he has so often boasted. Only 8% thought he would and 16% were undecided.

Particularly discouraging for President Menem must be the poll's more detailed analysis. Amongst better educated Argentines the percentage of sceptics rose to 85%. Amongst the opposition Radicales, which has wide middle class support, this figure reaches 86%. Amongst FREPASO supporters, who tend to be intellectual refugees from both the Peronist and Radical Parties, it is 92%!

Only amongst the Peronists, President Menem's own party, did a majority, 60%, believe that President Menem would achieve his objective.

Dr. Di Tella in London

During Foreign Minister Di Tella's press conference in London on February 1st, he said that at the proposed bilateral meeting on March 1st Argentina hoped to advance in the difficult matter of fisheries (*a long term agreement*). He said they wanted to finalise this as soon as possible, but that it would be difficult, and was not certain.

If, and only if, this can be solved, he said, two further issues could be addressed - a date for President Menem's visit to Britain and communications between the "Islands" and the "Mainland". Di Tella said this meant communications by sea and air and the movement of people and goods. He said that one hope was that the Argentine crew members of a ship doing scientific research and needing to stop in Stanley be able to disembark (and have a drink in a pub).

Argentine Seminar

Dr. Di Tella and several senior ministers and opposition politicians were in London to take part in a London University seminar entitled: "Argentina Under The Second Menem Administration". Most papers were about Argentina, but all speakers who dealt with international relations stressed the Falkland Islands "dispute". The opinions expressed by these Argentines and the one British speaker, a known member of the lobby group, The South Atlantic Council, who spoke without revealing this, were totally unacceptable to the Islanders. No provision was made at the seminar, which was partially supported by public funds, for a paper to rebut these opinions. One of the seminar organisers in London was an Argentine citizen.

Conference for Ushuaia

The private conference that calls itself the Argentine-British Conference is to meet in Ushuaia next October. Ushuaia is capital of the Province of Tierra del Fuego, that claims the Falklands within its provincial boundaries.

Argentina is eager to stress the link between Patagonia and Britain. It held an exhibition and lectures on "Patagonia: An Argentine-British Link" on March 4th and 5th at the Argentine Ambassador's Residence in London, with particular emphasis on the Welsh community in Patagonia. The intention was to show a British community living under Argentine sovereignty. The recent visit arranged for Princess Diana to this Welsh community was described in the *Independent* as a manoeuvre to demonstrate this.

Di Tella's Daughter in the FI

Dr. Di Tella's daughter, Mrs. De Gall, arrived in the Falklands with four of her children on January 20th. Mrs. de Gall, who is married to Swiss businessman, travelled on a Swiss passport.

In his press conference in London on February 1st, Dr. Di Tella said that the visit was his daughter's own idea. He had, however, announced that their visit was likely in a card sent to many Islanders as his "Christmas Greeting". This card stressed the fact that most of his grandchildren had two passports - which was thought to imply that Islanders could have dual citizenship under Argentine sovereignty.

The use of his grandchildren for political purposes at Christmas did not win Dr. Di Tella any points in the Falklands, and was thought to be intrusive.

"Incredibly British"

In the Falklands, Mrs. De Gall was treated as the Swiss tourist that she claimed to be. Nevertheless, her visit attracted considerable press attention. Speaking by phone to the *Independent* in London, she described the Falklands as "Barbaro", which is Argentine slang for "fantastic", and said how much she had enjoyed her visit. She also described the Islands as "incredibly British".

Asked by broadcaster Patrick Watts whether her father would be receptive to this comment, she said. "He's going to be receptive, but I don't think he is going to change his mind. **I don't think he knows what this is all about**". She said she was stunned by the high standard of living of the Islanders and said: "We used to think they were primitive, more rustic. (But) It was like the 21st Century"

Mrs. De Gall's visit had not been welcomed by most Islanders, who saw it as yet another manifestation of Dr. Di Tella's obsession with re-establishing direct links between Argentina and the Falklands. But, it would appear to have been something of a public relations triumph for the Falklands. On January 29th, the Argentine newspaper *Clarín* dedicated page 7 to the story and repeated what she had said to Patrick Watts. Its headline commented on her "controversial opinion". It also published a comment by Councillor Sharon Halford which when translated into Spanish read: "If Mrs Gall is going to tell her father, who is the Argentine Foreign Minister, about our extremely British way of life, that means that our policy is working".

Sovereignty

Clarín also said that the visit formed part of Di Tella's "politica de seducción", the Spanish name for his "charm offensive" and that Di Tella hoped to win the sympathy of the Islanders and thus achieve a closer relationship **so that at some time he could discuss the subject of sovereignty**.

Fishing for Access

The *Newsletter* has often documented Argentina's attempts to use fishing to obtain access to the Falklands.

On February 8th, Argentine newspaper *La Prensa*, reported Dr. Di Tella saying that he would not sign a long term fishing agreement "if crewmembers of an Argentine scientific vessel are not allowed to spend the night in the Islands. We are developing cooperation and establishing human relations. The refusal to grant permission is ridiculous". Falklands Councillors rejected his comments.

Tourism in the Falklands

Tourist facilities are available at all the sites mentioned on this page, and the *Newsletter* hopes to cover all other camp destinations in the next issue. The page opposite contains the names and addresses of all companies known to the *Newsletter* to be running organised tours of the Falklands.

Tourist information is also available from: The Falkland Islands Government Office, Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H OBJ. Tel: 0171-222-2542 Fax: 0171-222-2375.

Tourists can make their own arrangements directly, or book through Stanley Services Ltd, Airport Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands, Tel: (500) 22622, Fax (500) 22623.

BOOKINGS

The tourist season runs from October through March, but most tours are organised months in advance. Bookings for the 96/97 season can be made as early as April and May.



One of the best kept secrets of the Falklands - the palm trees of **Carcass Island**. Not included in most organised tours, but very popular with islanders, military and independent travellers. Two cottages are available and must be booked months in advance. Supplies can be obtained from an unattended "honesty shop" where buyers take what they want and enter their purchases in the record book. Landrover tours of the Island's wildlife are available.



Dunbar Head, with Death's Head Cape in the distance and one of the huge gentoo penguin colonies in the foreground. Nearby is a major colony of the black-browed albatross. Off the beaten track of many of the organised tours, but a self-catering cabin is available at Dunbar House.



Port Howard: a popular destination, visited by most organised tours to the Falklands. It boasts a fine lodge and activities such horse-riding and fishing.

All photos by P.J.Pepper



Elephant seals on **Sea Lion Island**, just ten minutes walk from the superb modern lodge. Sea Lion Island boasts the most varied wild life in the Falklands; not just elephant seals and sea lions, but an extensive penguin colony, and unrivalled bird life. It is included in most tours of the Islands.



King Penguins at "The Neck", **Saunders Island**, which is better known for its huge gentoo penguin colonies. Off the organised tourist circuit, Saunders, nevertheless, offers a self-catering cabin at The Neck itself and extensive self-catering accomodation in the settlement. The ruins of Port Egmont, Britain first settlement in the Falklands (founded 1765) are just 20 minutes walk from the settlement.

Falklands Tourist Information

ANIMAL WATCH

(Wildlife)
Granville House,
London Road,
Sevenoaks, TN13 1DL
Tel: 01732-741612
Attention: Sarah Gillem

ISLAND HOLIDAYS

(Wildlife)
Drummond Street,
Comrie,
Perthshire PH6 2DS
01764- 670107
Attn: Libby Weir-Breen

GO FISHING FALKLANDS

(Fishing)
6 Baron's Gate,
33/35 Rothchild Road,
London W4 5HT
Tel: 0181-742-3700
Attn: Maggi Smit

MAJOR R.N.SPAFFORD

(Falklands Life)
29 Queen's Road,
Weston-Super-Mare,
Avon BS23 2LH
Tel: 01934-622025

FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL

(History/ Wildlife)
Montford Bridge,
Shrewsbury SY4 1HW
Tel: 01743-850164
Attn: Anne Stephens

HOSKING TOURS

(Ornithology)
Pages Green House,
Wetheringsett,
Stowmarket, IP14 5QA
Tel: 01728-861113
Attn: David Hosking

ORNOHOLIDAYS

(Ornithology)
1 - 3 Victoria Drive,
Bognor Regis, PO21 2PW
Tel: 01243-821230
Attn: Nigel Jones.

HOLT'S BATTLEFIELD TOURS

(Military History)
Golden Key Building,
15 Market Street,
Sandwich, CT13 9DA
Tel: 01304-612248
Attn: David Storrie

EAGLE TOURS

(Wildlife)
River Side,
Victoria Street,
Yoxall
Tel: 01543-472280
Attn: Charles Brown

JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA

(Wildlife)
16 Devonshire Road,
London W4
Tel: 0181-747-8315
Attn: Chris Parrot

ROXTON BAILEY ROBINSON

(Fishing)
25 High Street,
Hungerford, RG17 0NF
Tel: 01488-68322
Attn: James Naylor

PHOTO TRAVELLERS

(Wildlife)
PO Box 58
Godalming, GU7 2SE
Tel: 01483-425448
Attn: Liz Ballard.

SPORT ELITE

(Wildlife)
Woodwalls House,
Corscombe,
Dorchester DT2 0NT
Tel: 01935-891477
Attn: Tony Valdes-Scott

WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

(Wildlife)
Sandpiper Road,
Whitstable, Kent CT5 4DP
Tel: 01227-275936
Attn: Melvyn Crow

GUERNSEY PRESS

(Wildlife/General)
PO Box 57, Guernsey,
Channel Islands
Tel: 01481-45866
Attn: Tim Earl

DISCOVERY EXPEDITIONS

(Wildlife/Photography)
1 Herethoutseweg 142,
PO Box 206,
Herentals,
Belgium
Tel: 14 22 49 01
Attn: Geert Henau

CHASSE ET PECHE

(Fishing)
12 Rue de Saussere,
75017 Paris, France
Tel: 1 47 64 47 47
Attn: Guy Geffroy

ANHINGA

(Wildlife/Phyography)
35 Rue Alexandre Dumas,
69120 Vaulx-La-Cote,
France
Tel: 72 37 02 57
Attn: Yves Thonnereux

CAP NATURE

(Wildlife)
2 Rue des Moulins a Vent,
77810 Thomery, France
Tel: 1 64 70 81 60
Attn: Remy Marion

GRANDNORD-VOYAGE NATURE

(Wild/Photography)
15 Rue Cardinal Lemoine,
75005 Paris, France
Tel: 1 40 46 05 14
Attn: Dominique

OBJECTIF NATURE

(Wildlife)
Chateau de Gillevoisin,
91510 Janville sur Juine,
France
Tel 1 60 82 22 29
Attn: Alain Endewelt

DUMA NATUREISEN

(Wildlife/General)
Neckerstaden 4,
69117 Heidelberg,
Germany
Tel: 06 22 1 163020
Attn: Friedrich Neumann

HS TRAVEL

(Wildlife/General)
PO Box 1447,
6082 Moerfelden - 1
Germany
Tel: 06105 1304
Attn: Hubert Strasser

NATUR-STUDIENREISEN

(Wildlife)
Untere Dorfstrasse 12,
37154 Northeim,
Germany
Tel: 05 55 1 99470
Attn: Kerstin Sander

WINDROSE

(Wildlife)
PO Box 110349
10833 Berlin,
Germany
Tel: 30 20 17 21 0
Attn: Michaela Wenig

WOLFTRAIL

(Wildlife/Photography)
Steenbakkersweg,
PO Box 800
7550 AV Hengelo,
Netherlands
Tel: 74 478885
Attn: Roel Cosijn

AVENTYRESOR

(Ornithology)
Fleminggatan 68,
Box 12168,
S - 102 24 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: 8 654 11 55
Attn: Tomas Bergenfeldt

ABENTEUER & REISEN

(Wildlife)
Vordestockli 1,
CH - 6390
Switzerland
Tel: 41 94 24 02
Attn: Peter Pluss

ARCATOUR

(Wildlife)
Bahnhofstrasse 23,
CH - 6301 Zug,
Switzerland
Tel: 42 21 97 79
Attn: Ruedi Bless

CONTOURS TRAVEL

(Wildlife/General)
1st Floor, 466 Victoria St.
North Melbourne,
3501 Victoria,
Australia
Tel: 3 9329 5211
Attn: Vicky

LEO LE BON ASSOCIATES,

FI Tourism Representative
in the United States,
190 Montrose Road,
Berkeley,
California 94707
U.S.A.
(510) 525-8846

Obituaries

Air Marshal Sir John Lapsley, KBE, CB, DFC, AFC

Sir John Lapsley, for many years a Vice President of the UK Falkland Islands Committee, died on 21 November 1995 aged 79.

He was born in Dacca, now in Bangladesh, the second son of an official with the Bank of Bengal who died two years later. Shortly after the First World War, John's mother, Norah, married Mr A.W.N. (Pat) Vincent who had recently returned from four years of war service, mainly on the Western Front. Soon afterwards they moved with their two boys to the Falklands where Pat had been appointed to a position with the Falkland Islands Company. The family lived in Teja Cottage which was then immediately adjacent to the West Store. The house still stands, but after the Vincents left the Islands in 1933 it was moved to its present site behind the Manager's House.

John and his elder brother Dick Lapsley were very fond of Pat Vincent, and a further son, Mick (nowadays nick-named "Paddy") was born to the Vincents later. Their time in the Falklands were very happy days for the three boys and remained bright in their memories, giving them a strong affinity with the Islands to which they continued to give much support in later life.

Sadly, Pat Vincent developed a terminal illness and died at sea on his way back to the UK for treatment in 1933. The following few years were difficult for Norah with three boys to support and educate. Dick joined the Colonial Police and, after service in Palestine, moved as an Inspector to Jamaica where he died at the early age of 33. John was determined to fly and, to achieve this, he joined the RAF as an Apprentice Airframe Fitter at Halton when he was 18, winning a cadetship at the RAF College, Cranwell, the following year. He was commissioned in 1937 and achieved great distinction as a fighter ace in the Western Desert in 1940 and '41, flying initially Gloster Gladiator bi-planes and later Hurricanes. He was credited with 11 enemy aircraft and was awarded the DFC before being shot down and seriously wounded in April 1941.

After recovering from his wounds, John led a ground attack wing throughout the campaign in North-West Europe, landing over the Normandy beaches soon after D-Day. He was appointed an OBE in 1944. After the war he played an important part in the evaluation and development of the RAF's first generation of jet fighters, and led the RAF's aerobatic display team. After a number of increasingly prestigious command and staff appointments he became Commander-in-Chief of RAF Coastal Command and finally Head of the British Defence Staff in Washington.

After leaving the RAF, John became Director General of the Save the Children Fund for two years before retiring to Suffolk where he pursued many local activities including eight years of service on the Suffolk Coastal District Council, with a year as Chairman. A staunch supporter of the Falkland Islands Association as well as of the Committee, he attended the annual Lincoln's Inn receptions and Battle Day ceremonies and AGMs until prevented from doing so in recent years by ill health.

A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held at the Church of St Clement Danes in London on 23 January. The large congregation included a representative of HRH the Princess Royal (President of the Save the Children Fund) as well as Sir Rex Hunt and Mr Robert Elgood of the Association and Miss Sukey Cameron, Falkland Island Government Representative in London.

John married first in 1942, Jean MacIvor, who died in 1979, and secondly, in 1980, Millicent, widow of Lieutenant Commander T.A. Rees, RNR. He is survived by her and by his son, Peter, who is also a member of the Association and who has twice visited the Falklands recently, as well as by his daughter, Penelope. The members of the Association extend their deep sympathy to them and their families.

Reverend Albert Stevensen

Albert Stevensen, who died aged 71 on the 8th January 1996, could claim the unique distinction of being the only born Falkland Islander to be ordained into full time church ministry. Although he was only able to return home once after the end of the Second World War he took a keen interest in the Islands, was a member of the Association and attended its meetings and other reunions.

His father was a Norwegian seaman (hence the spelling of the surname) who jumped ship with a colleague and hid in the peat workings at the back of Stanley until the whaler they belonged to had left for South Georgia. Albert (Bert to most Islanders) was one of eight children and as a young teenager attended the United Free Church Tabernacle in Stanley. There through the influence of the Reverend Forrest McWhan he came to develop a deep Christian faith.

When the garrison of the West Yorkshire Regiment left the South Atlantic in 1944, Albert was one of the young Islanders who went with them to enlist in the British armed forces. Although he had seafaring ancestors Albert was a bad sailor and felt he had been seasick the entire voyage. He joined the Royal Air Force and served in Cyprus and Jerusalem.

On demobilisation Albert decided that the service of God he had first confessed in Stanley should be his full time vocation. He joined the Salvation Army and on his entrance course with him was Madge, later to become his wife. For sixteen years he served in many parts of Britain; the family moving twenty times in those years. At the end of that period he became an ordained minister of the Church of England and the vicar of an English parish church. Part of his ministry was a full time prison chaplain but his last post was a parish one in Wandsworth. This involved the building of a new church and must have represented a considerable strain.

He had already become one of the earliest heart bypass operation successes but his health was such that in 1988 retirement was a necessity. Retirement was to Wimbledon but was not a rest cure. Albert was actively involved, preaching and pastoring, at his local church and in helping other churches in the area. His funeral service, at St Luke's Wimbledon Park, was attended by over 200 people, the friends of many years, and was a demonstration of the depth of love he inspired in all who knew him.

The Shackleton Scholarship Fund

Sir Rex Hunt

It gives me great pleasure to report that the appeal has already surpassed its initial objective of £250,000. In little over six months, the total amount raised is now over £270,000.

Much of the credit goes to the Falkland Islands Committee and the generous people of the Falkland Islands, who raised most of the money. I congratulate Mr. David Tatham and his committee for their astonishing success in raising so much from so few in so short a time.

I should like to thank all who responded to the appeal from the Falkland Islands Government, which matched pound for pound the first £100,000 and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which contributed £20,000, to the individuals who donated a mere £5. Every single donation helped us to achieve our target and I am equally grateful to all.

The response is a great tribute to Lord Shackleton and I am conscious of the responsibility that now falls on me and the committee in Stanley and London to ensure that the money is invested wisely and well and that scholarships are awarded to worthy candidates who will increase our knowledge of the South Atlantic and improve the quality of life of the people who live there.

We estimate that we shall have between £17,000 and £18,000 a year to spend on scholarships. We should like to increase that figure to £20,000 and are keeping the appeal open accordingly.



Lord Shackleton, in the Falklands before the 1982 war. On the left is Governor French.

Photo: Mrs Alexandra Bergel

Anyone who has not contributed and would like to do so can still obtain an appeal form from the Association office.

Selection of candidates will begin after the closing date for applications for this year, which is 31 March. Application forms will be printed shortly and available at the Falkland Islands Government Office in London and the Education Office in Stanley. Prospective candidates who have already applied for scholarships need not re-apply but will be sent the requisite forms if further information is required.

Sir Rex Hunt



Correction

In our last *Newsletter*, the late Miss Madge Biggs was said to be the daughter of Vincent Biggs, who was one of the earliest settlers in the Falklands. She was, of course, his granddaughter. The *Newsletter* apologises to her family for this error.

Left:
The late Air Marshal Sir John Lapsley, KBE, CB, DFC, AFC, photographed in 1950 when OC 74 Fighter and Air Fighting Development Squadron.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS JOURNAL 1995, edited by **Dr. Jim McAdam**, published by the Editor, Stanley, Falkland Islands. Softback A5, 170 pages, including Foreword, Contents, fifteen articles including the reports by five winners of the Alastair Cameron Memorial History Prizes 1994, twenty-five black and white photos, together with drawings, maps, plans and diagrams. ISSN 0256-1823. Price £8.80 (inc p.p. UK).

The 1995 Journal is a truly bumper issue. Not only is it the largest issue published so far, but its content is of unusually high standard covering a wide area of historic interest, gathered from a vast amount of original research.

Fascinating is the article "A Coincidence of Incidents" by Governor David Tatham which, accompanied by a contemporary pencil sketch, offers an insight into the personality of the first governor, the thirty-two year old Captain Richard Moody. Outranked by most ship's captains he felt unable to command the naval resources he needed to maintain the Falklands and he felt his authority undermined by a clash of personalities with the few people running the infant colony, including the hard drinking first magistrate, William Henry Moore, and his brother the colonial chaplain. In a second article, David Tatham has gathered together all the references to Antonina Roxa, one of the party of original settlers at Port Louis before the arrival of Captain Onslow in January 1833, who continued to live in the Falklands until her death in 1869. Finally she was naturalised as a British subject and became a landowner on East Falkland.

The Revd. Canon Stephen Palmer has written a well researched biography of A.G. Bennett, naturalist, whaling officer and postmaster.

The text of the speech to the Executive Council by Governor Callaghan (1876-80) is a most useful historical review of the various internal defence arrangements for the Colony from the arrival of the first detachments of Royal Sappers and Miners with Governor Moody in January 1842, replaced in turn by pensioners, then by a garrison drawn from line regiments, and finally by Marines, making some interesting comments on the difficulties encountered and the problems which arose. In his speech Governor Callaghan put the case for their replacement by a civil police force, which indeed happened for a period of time.

Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson GCMG is the early Governor (1866-70) featured in this Journal and research for the article revealed that not only was he destined to be one of the great administrators of the British Empire but also, in his time, considered a musician and composer of some importance.

Other fascinating articles include Visits to the Falkland Islands in 1910 & 1928 of Clarence Elliott, plant collector and botanist, Notes on Birds of Kidney and Staats Islands, a letter from the Falklands by a young seaman in 1908, and Journals of Captain A.W.P. Gardiner.

However, of special attention are the five articles of the school children who won the Alastair Cameron History Prizes: 9 year-old Farrah Peck has recorded the history of The Old House at Shallow Bay including the memories of six people who have known the house over a period of thirty years; 9 year-old Sarah Berntsen outlined the history of Albermarle Sealing Station; 10 year-old Daniel Biggs wrote on the history of Stanley, illustrated by some excellent photographs taken by himself; James Wallace has written a well researched history of the Camber and Tanya Jaffray has

detailed a fascinating history of Lafonia (1846 -1946), which includes the words of the old song about the mutton canning factory at Goose Green and lists of all the trades and employment in 1912.

Such excellent research leading to such well written articles promises well for the continuance of the Falkland Islands Journal for years into the future.

Copies of the Journal are available from Mr. F.R. Mitchell, 2 Egliston Mews, Putney, London SW15 1AP.

R.N.S.

THE WRECK OF THE ISABELLA, by **David Miller**, published by **Leo Cooper**, 190 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JL, 6 x 9.5 inches, hardback, 260 Pages with illustrations. ISBN 0 85052 456 3. Price £16.95

A small unimportant ship en route from Australia to Britain, the *Isabella*, was wrecked in the Falklands in 1813, by the drunken incompetence of its master. Luckily, there was no loss of life; forty-eight men, eight women and a child got ashore - to commence a terrible struggle just to stay alive.

By then the Islands were unoccupied and British and American sealers were the only visitors. It was an American, Barnard, master of the *Nanina* who first came to the rescue. This good samaritan was rewarded by treachery; his boat seized by those he had rescued and he marooned. He is one of the heroes of the tale. Sustained by his Quaker faith, he endured months of privation.

Another hero must be Captain Brookes, a passenger on the *Isabella*, but a veteran seaman. He reached the Plate estuary in an open boat - an achievement on a par with Bligh and Shackleton - and summoned another vessel to the scene, the British brig of war *Nancy*.

The tale is complicated by the war of 1812. It has everything from incompetence, cowardice and sheer evil, to decency, great courage and leadership. But good and ill alike displayed great endurance. They had no choice about that. It has a happy ending too.

Read it. It's a remarkable tale, complicated, and yet told with considerable skill.

Molly Mortimer

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"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 quarterly 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.

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Dates For Your Diary

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 Annual Reception, Lincoln's Inn

Saturday, 24th August, 1996
 Falkland Islanders Reunion, Ham,

Saturday, 7th December, 1996
 Battle Day and AGM, Whitehall.

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Editorial Committee:

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Princess Anne meets Les Morrison and Rodney Lee in Port Howard

Photo: Norman Clark