



Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

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Industry "Yes" to Falklands Oil

In a confident and pragmatic endorsement of Falkland Islands plans for a potentially rich oil industry, major international companies have submitted bids in the first licensing round, which closed this month. Fourteen companies, formed into six consortia, have bid for ten of the exploration areas on offer. The press says they include Amerada Hess, Shell in consortium with AGIP, LASMO with several partners including Clyde and Desire Petroleum, and British Gas in consortium with YPF, the only Argentine company believed to be involved. Licence awards are

expected later this year.

Oil is never proven until it is actually struck, but companies are now putting their money on the line. There can be no surer sign that the geological data is favourable and the politics acceptable. It is a remarkable achievement just fourteen years after the Falklands War. It marks the beginning of an industry that could revolutionise the Falklands and enhance Britain's prosperity - and Argentina's, if it cares to cooperate. The Falkland Islands Association has worked for - and looked forward to this day.



Islanders proudly unveil a plaque on Saunders Island to commemorate the founding of Port Egmont in 1765 by Commodore John Byron, and his claim in the name of George III to the Falkland Islands. Seen here are the Residents of Saunders Island, HE Governor Ralph, Commodore Backus, Commander of British Forces, Falkland Islands, and two Falklands cadets. Many others were present.

Photo: Courtesy of the RAF

Lincoln's Inn Reception - Argentine rhetoric rejected

The annual Falklands Reception took place in traditional style on June 13th at Lincoln's Inn. In brilliant weather old friendships were renewed, and new friends made. Vice Presidents present included the Rt. Hon Douglas Hurd and Adrian Monk.

Many Islanders attended, including Councillors Cheek and Luxton. Also present were Tim and Sally Blake, Robin, Jene and Saul Pitaluga, and Des and Anna King.

Miss Sukey Cameron, Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, addressed the reception with a forceful statement of Falklands rights. Chairman Sir Rex Hunt proposed the loyal toast, and the band of the Scots Guards beat Retreat, with General Mackay-Dick taking the salute.



Miss Sukey Cameron condemns the recent "offensive and most unwelcome" rhetoric from Argentina, and warns that: "any Argentine who seriously believes that there is the faintest hope of gaining sovereignty over the Falklands, by the year 2,000, or at any other time, obviously lacks any understanding of the issues involved and the depth of feeling of both Islanders and the British public"



Captain and Mrs. Paddy Vincent and Mr Frank Mitchell



Association Vice-President, the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP



Harold Biley, and Islanders Diane Hall and Anna King



Commander Ranken of SWAG and Ex-Governor of the Falklands Islands, Jim Parker.



Councillor Bill Luxton and Miss Elizabeth Royce, who were married on June 22nd.

All Photos by P.J.Pepper



The Hon Mrs Bergel, daughter of Lord Shackleton, and Miss June Christie of BBC "Calling the Falklands"



Mrs Paula Shear and Mr Des Keoghane, both of whom lost sons in the liberation of the Falklands in 1982

Falklands Families Association Service

The day after the Lincoln's Inn Reception came the commemoration service for those who laid down their lives liberating the Falklands in 1982.

In the beautiful chapel of the Order of the British Empire in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral Arch-Deacon George Cassidy conducted a short service of memorial. Wreaths were then laid at the plaque in the crypt where the names are recorded.



Above: Miss Sukey Cameron lays a wreath on behalf of the Falkland Islands Government



Left: Stacey Sweet lays the Falklands Families Association Wreath. Her uncle Phillip, of the Welsh Guards, was killed on the Sir Galahad.

Royal Marine Memorial at Southsea

The memorial to the Royal Marines who made the supreme sacrifice in the Falklands War was dedicated at a service on June 26th at the Marine Barracks at Southsea.

As well as relatives of the Royal Marines who died those attending were; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, Chief of the Defence Staff in 1982, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, First Sea Lord in 1982, Admiral Sir John Woodward, 1982 Task Force Commander, Major-General Hunt, Commander of 40 Commando in 1982, Miss Sukey Cameron, Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, and Mr. V.H. Jeppson, who arranged for the memorial stones to be brought from the Falklands.



Remembering the Marines who fell. See back page for the unveiling

Theatre 2000 - Whodunnit?

Last February saw the successful FIODA "Murder Dinner" at the Malvina House hotel, when forty-eight guests had to identify the guilty party - at the same time as eating a fine meal.

In April, FIODA posed the question: what do people do in a lonely house on an isolated Indian island - Why kill each other, of course. In other words Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None".

First to perish was Anthony Marsden, played by Des O'Shea, who drank the dodgy whisky, followed by Mrs Rogers (Rene Rowlands) whose sleeping draft overdid it somewhat, etc..

The play was produced by Fraser Wallace and directed by Alan Jones, and all agreed it was another triumph for all concerned.

Theatre for Stanley

These and other FIODA events are not just fine entertainment from Stanley's thespians, but fund-raising events for the proposed Stanley theatre project.



Jane Cameron playing Vera Claythorne and Crispin Fisher as Phillip Lombard. Photographed in theatre light by *Teaberry Express*

Port Egmont Plaque Marks Historic Claim

On Friday, May 3rd, a plaque was unveiled on Saunders Island to commemorate the founding, by Commodore the Hon John Byron, in 1765, of Port Egmont, the first British settlement on the Falklands. It also commemorates Britain's claim to the Falklands then, in the name of George III.

Present were: HE Governor Ralph, CBFFI Commodore and Mrs Backus, Group Capt. and Mrs Owen, Councillors Mrs Halford and Edwards, Mr John Smith and Mrs Joan Spruce, of the museum. Miss Jane Cameron, Falklands archivist. Canon Palmer, Rector of the Cathedral, Mr Keenleyside, History teacher Nigel Shorrocks, Lindsay Sutcliffe representing the Sea Cadets and David Triggs representing the Marine Cadets. Commander Bourne RN and Major Gibbons, civil and military liaison officer were also present - as were the Pole-Evans family and all other residents of Saunders Island.

Tribute were made to David and Susan Pole-Evans and Robbie Maddox of Saunders Island, who built the cairn, and put up the flag-pole.

Speeches were made by HE Governor Ralph, CBFFI Commodore Backus. Mr. John Smith commented that it was a "very proud moment to see the Union Flag flying at Egmont again".

Sermon

Canon Palmer delivered a short sermon. He pointed out what an extraordinary man Commodore Byron had been and how he had often led his ship's company in worship himself, and always followed the first of the Articles of War to the letter. This states: "Every Commander shall cause the worship of almighty God". Canon Palmer speculated that Commodore Byron might have used Sir Francis Drake's famous prayer, which would have been particularly appropriate for the founding of Port Egmont.

He ended his sermon by reading this prayer:



Governor Tatham, now High Commissioner for Sri Lanka, seen with the plaque and Museum Curator John Smith, and Mrs Joan Spruce last year.

Photo: Norman Clark

Drake's Prayer

"O Lord when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour in any great matter, grant us to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished that yieldeth the true glory. Through him who for the finishing of thy work laid down his life, Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen".

History

Port Egmont was founded by Commodore Byron on January 12th, 1765. He flew his flag in HMS DOLPHIN, and was accompanied by the frigate TAMAR, and storeship FLORIDA. He claimed the Falklands then for George III.

Port Egmont was named after the Earl of Egmont, then First Lord of the Admiralty. The settlement there was also known as Jason's Town and the military establishment as Fort George.

Councillor Rejects "Silly" Sovereignty Claim

The Newsletter takes every opportunity to reflect the views of the Falkland Islanders -- especially its elected Government representatives. One of the newer Councillors, John Birmingham, was interviewed in London by Harold Briley.

Harold Briley: Fourteen years after the Argentine invasion, what have you to say about President Menem's persistence in his deadline of the year 2000 for Argentine sovereignty of the Falklands?

John Birmingham: It's a silly thing to say. It saddens me the Argentines have boxed themselves into a corner by putting the claim in their Constitution. We don't recognise any kind of claim. The Falkland Islands belong to the Falkland Islanders under British protection.

HB: How do you persuade the Argentines who don't want to be persuaded? The British Government says the issue was settled in 1982 when the Argentine invaders were driven out.

JB: As far as we are concerned, that was the end of the matter. We scored with the recent visit of the daughter of the Argentine Foreign Minister and his grandchildren. She came on a Swiss passport and had a good time, left the islands impressed by their Britishness and her polite treatment, and appears to have changed her view. According to reports, she thinks her Father is wrong and should think again.

HB: As she was so impressed, why not relax your rules to allow Argentines in to persuade them similarly? My experience is that Argentine visitors before 1982, came away impressed, saying "let's leave the Falklands to the Falklands people". Why not also take your message to the mainland to educate younger Argentines about the real facts as you know them and they don't?

JB: Perhaps the rules may be relaxed in the future - but not by the present Falklands Council because of the mandate we have. It is the one firm item all eight councillors would stand on. You could argue that in response to the Argentine "charm" offensive, we are mounting a "charm" defence. We could perhaps take our case to Argentina as two young islanders, Graham Bound and Janet Robertson, did last year (in a lecture tour), independently of the Falkland Islands Government. Their initiative was a great success.

HB: The Falkland Councillors new policy document, "The Future for the Falklands", declares that the Falklands and British Governments will work to move towards greater self-government for the Islands with the ultimate goal of "secure independence". What is meant by that?

JB: Secure independence means that we need the British defensive umbrella all the time that Argentina claims sovereignty. If, as we hope, in the future, the Argentine nation matures enough democratically and accepts the de facto status of the Falkland Islands, then no threat means that perhaps we would be able to loosen ties with our Mother Country, Britain.



The Hon John Birmingham

HB: One of your important forums in the world is the United Nations annual debate on the Falklands in the Committee of 24, the so-called Decolonisation Committee. Your argument that people should decide their own future -- the UN's own principle of self-determination -- does not seem to make impact on the UN Committee?

JB: We send councillors to address that Committee. It will be interesting this year to see what they make of that phrase "secure independence". Surely they must take on board this

is going down the right road so far as they are concerned.

HB: If, God forbid, Argentina succeeded in its claim, you would become a colony of Argentina against your wishes, whereas you are now a colony of Britain with almost unanimous support of the islanders.

JB: Our ties with Britain go back a long way. We now have seventh generation Falkland Islanders. There are not many Argentines who can say that. Argentina is a big country. They do not need more land.

HB: Oil is a big issue for the future, perhaps bringing riches beyond your dreams. You have an historic agreement now with Argentina.

JB: We consider we did very well out of the agreement. It was not so good for Argentina -- it's not the road back to Stanley they thought it was, as President Menem claimed. Oil is a wait and see attitude for us. It would make the Falkland Islands financially well off. You cannot say there is not any downside. Our main concern at present is protecting the environment, our prolific wildlife and fish, so important to the economy. We have got the best advice that can be had.

British Atlantic Turned Down

Mr. Jeremy Dixon of British Atlantic Airways told *Penguin News* in April that the MOD had finally turned down its offer to run the airbridge from Britain to the Falklands.

The reason cited is understandable enough. The MOD plan to maintain the aircraft and crews for strategic purposes. As these are to be kept, it makes economic sense for them to run the airbridge.

Falklands Dunblane Appeal

On April 1st, cheques for a total of £1,423 were handed to Governor Ralph for the appeal. £700 of this came from a team of "football ladies", more came from a charity weekend when HMS Northumberland played local teams and donated the match fees etc, as well as the proceeds of a penalty shoot out, hot dog and cakes stalls and raffles. Four children raised £180 with a fancy dress door to door appeal.

At a reception on May 21st, Jimmy McDougal, of Turners at MPA, who comes from Dunblane himself, handed another £2,800 to the Governor and Jock Sutherland handed over £230. The total appeal now stands at £4,490.

25 Years On

by The Rt. Hon. Lord Strathcona

I first visited the Falklands in 1970 on the salvage expedition of SS "Great Britain". As a result I became involved with the UK Falkland Islands Trust before the 1982 conflict. So it was a fascinating experience to visit the islands again last December. A lot has happened in the interval.

The most notable changes concern transport and communications: the twice weekly wide-bodied Tri-Star instead of the old steamer Darwin; telephone to anywhere in the world at the press of a button. New roads being built into "camp" which will doubtless reduce the demand for the delightful Islander air service which supplanted the old Beaver float planes. None of this has altered the warmth of the welcome of Falkland Island hospitality.

John Smith's remarkable collection in the museum was then little more than a gleam in the eye; whilst Britannia House did not even exist.

Fishing licence income has transformed the Islands' economy; the sense of financial independence from the mother country has bolstered Islanders' self confidence.

The purpose of my visit was to see the Trust's operations on the ground and above all to meet the individuals involved. Early on the Trust recognised that the Falklands were an agriculture-based community - not wholly unfamiliar to me whose home is a small island off the west coast of Scotland. The possibility of oil extraction from the inhospitable waters surrounding the Islands if anything emphasises the importance of defending the traditional way of life if the "oil bonanza" were indeed to come about.

So it was with particular interest that I went with the Governor to visit Malcolm Ashworth at the experimental dairy farm to see the grassland improvement trials. Then on with Aiden Kerr to look at the Binnies' experimental tree planting at Fitzroy where Jim McAdam of the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture has for several years been master-minding small scale tree trials on behalf of the Trust. The macrocarpa trees at Fitzroy, now some 4 metres high, demonstrate that trees can be grown in the Falklands, though no one pretends that it will be easy: in the face of poor soil and erratic rainfall combined with searing cold winds from the Antarctic, at best the growth will not be comparable with more favourable conditions of New Zealand, for example.

The object is to determine which species are likely to succeed in the different conditions of soil, damp and exposure and what are the most economically viable planting requirements such as protection, shelter and fertiliser. One thought, for example, is that lines of native Fachine might be allowed to grow to shelter young trees from the wind. The potential benefits of growing trees are many, aside from the appeal of their amenity value:-

Shelter to livestock which may well shift somewhat towards the less rugged meat producing breeds now that an abattoir is confidently expected.

Similarly, tree shelter assists the establishment of improved pasture demanded by the more productive breeds.

Ultimately there is even the possibility that timber producing forest trees might be established behind the shelter belts: though inevitably it will be some time before the viability of this concept can be established.



Dr. Jim McAdam measuring the growth of a lodgepole pine at the Fitzroy experimental site in 1995.

As a first step, Jim McAdam has reviewed the literature and past experience of tree planting as a guide for further systematic experimentation. Since my visit this has been followed by a silviculturist Malcolm Beatty on a government-assisted trip working with Aiden Kerr to select suitable sites and to agree details for a tree growing research project. With the support of the FIDC and the Department of Agriculture we have also agreed an accelerated programme of research to determine the key parameters concerning species maintenance to cover such questions as wind protection, fertiliser and weeding procedures.

The question of soil improvement and fertiliser suggests the possibility of using seaweed, one of the Falklands Islands abundant resources for this purpose since the import of "artificial" in this remote area is prohibitively expensive. Under the supervision of Robin Lee, one of our trustees, a simple Trust "digester" sent from Stanley Market Garden has been relocated at Port Howard to evaluate the benefits and to determine the most practical method of gathering kelp on a sustainable basis. We also intend to try to determine the extent to which work on the use of seaweed elsewhere in the world is relevant to the Falkland Islands. We must not "re-invent the wheel".

The expense of imported fertiliser also prompts the suggestion that there may be merit in Falklands farmers becoming "Registered organic" - a notion close to the heart of David Stickland, one of the Trust's long term consultants and a dedicated organic enthusiast. If it can be established that the market will pay an organic premium then perhaps this would be a way of converting a necessary constraint into a positive benefit.

Talking with farmers shows that one of their great dreams is to learn how to cultivate tussac grass, which could transform the problem of feeding livestock - again underlined by the prospect of a demand from the abattoir for meat producing animals. They express concern about the decline of tussac which seems to be due to something more than just over-grazing. Everyone agrees that tussac thrives in hen-runs but no one really knows why. Anecdotal evidence from

Robin Lee and others suggests that this too is not a simple matter of beneficial poultry droppings. So here too we hope to help with systematic research now being funded by the relevant Falkland Island Government departments. The first stage is to try to arrest the decline of tussac in the wild: but the real prize would be to discover ways of growing it as a crop which could revolutionise feeding livestock in the winter.

So a fascinating and enjoyable week left me with the encouraging belief that even so relatively small an undertaking as the UK Falkland Islands Trust can make a real contribution. Without, I hope, sounding patronising, outsiders who are familiar with local conditions can sometimes come up with fresh ideas on new ways of approaching old problems. Then too we can help with technical, commercial and market contacts which are sometimes hard to identify from 7000 miles away despite the great advances in communications of the last 15 years.



Trustee Robin Lee, with the pigs imported by the Trust

“The Future of the Falkland Islands” Councillors Flay Argentine Claim and Spell Out Policy

The *Newsletter* in support of the Falklands people's right to decide their own future is pleased to give prominence and wider circulation to the recent important Declaration of Policy entitled “The Future of the Falkland Islands” issued by the Islands' elected Councillors.

Government councillors representing the Falklands people have signalled that they could opt for greater self government and ultimately independence, once freed from Argentina's flimsy unfounded sovereignty claim.

In their most important policy declaration since the 1982 invasion, the councillors have clearly and unambiguously explained the historical perspective and outlined present and future policies. The message to Argentina is clear: it must drop its claims to the islands and embrace peaceful co-existence.

The document declares unequivocally: “The Falkland Islands are British and will continue to be so. Any alteration is entirely a matter of self-determination by the Islanders themselves. Change can only be brought about by our clearly expressed wish”. For the first time the Islanders have indicated publicly that they will work, in co-operation with Britain, towards greater self-government with the ultimate goal of “Secure Independence”, though they admit it will be a long-term, “very gradual process”.

They categorically reject Argentina's claim as flimsy, spurious and vexatious, founded on fantasy and ambition, lacking substance in either history or international law. “The claim”, it says, “will be rigorously resisted. All possible diplomatic efforts will be made to ensure it is withdrawn from the Argentine Constitution”. Meanwhile an effective British military presence will be necessary to deter aggression, which, it points out, costs the United Kingdom far less than is popularly assumed. The document marshals impressive facts setting out the historical perspective, rejecting Argentina's claim based on geographical proximity and succession to Spain's former colonies.

The councillors welcome the idea of “peaceful existence” between Britain, Argentina and the Falklands, so long as it does not impinge on sovereignty. In a reference to Argentine hints and promises of huge sums of money

individually to Islanders to surrender sovereignty, the document declares: “Bribes and inducements cannot form part of a fair evaluation of any sovereignty issue”. The councillors stress the importance of the strategic situation of the Islands, of the conservation of their “unique natural environment”, especially wildlife, and their “wealth of natural resources”.

And it calls for co-operation with the British Government in influencing and educating public opinion in Argentina, with the aim of removing the sovereignty issue as a vote-winner with popular appeal.

Explaining their form of government and the 1985 Constitution, the councillors underline the “reality of democracy” in the Islands. They stress the importance of putting their case annually to the United Nations Decolonisation Committee and deplore exclusion so far of the Islanders' rights to self-determination from the UN resolution which, at Argentina's bidding, regularly calls for talks over the Islands. The document demolishes the myth that “the Islanders are an oppressed people living under the jackboot of British imperialism”. “Nothing”, it says, “could be further from the truth.... Argentine sovereignty would create exactly the colonial situation that the UN Decolonisation Committee purports to condemn”.

The document details the tremendous progress made since 1982 with economic development; the creation of a valuable fishing industry, described independently as the “best-managed fishery in the world”; farming reforms; and growing infrastructure including Mount Pleasant International Airport, a deep-water harbour, new school and hospital buildings, roads, telecommunications, power and water facilities. And it outlines its policies for encouraging exploitation of potential offshore oil and gas which could produce income out of all proportion to the size and population of the islands.

All in all, it is an impressive document, spelling out important facts and dispelling myths, a success story for the Islanders with prospects of great future prosperity and development, while preserving a unique environment and way of life.

Harold Briley

Falklands News

Successful Rescue

In the early hours of Sunday 25th February, badly burned Spanish seaman, Mario Garcia was rescued from the Namibian registered trawler *Friendship* by an RAF Sea King helicopter, two hundred miles north of the Falklands.

The request for assistance came from the Spanish authorities at 11.15hrs on the 24th, but the trawler was out of range of the helicopter then. It steamed south through 20 foot waves to shorten the flying distance. A Hercules took off to locate the trawler, followed by the Sea King, which arrived at midnight. In rain and heavy seas winchman Al Smith was lowered and Mr Garcia winched up. Squadron Leader Ross, RAF senior medical officer, treated Mr Garcia en route to the Falklands, where Mr Garcia was transferred to the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Stanley.

Tragedy at Sea

The inquest opened at Stanley Coroner's Court in March into the death of Mr. Piow on the *Frio Canarias*. The court heard how the vessel had been transferring blocks of frozen squid to another ship when the weather turned. The work continued although the waves reached 6 metres and the wind force 8. The net transferring the frozen blocks was swinging with the movement of the vessel and hit the edge of the hatch dislodging a number of blocks. Mr. Piow was hit by these. He was rushed to the ship's sickbay where he died.

Recording a verdict of misadventure, the Coroner, Mr Andrew Jones, extended his deepest sympathy to Mr Piow's family in China, and recommended that safety procedures be looked at closely. He pointed out that this was the second death of this type he had had to deal with within a month.

Golden Shears Victory

In front of some 2,000 spectators, Heidi Blake of the Falklands won the Senior Woolhandling Championship at Masterton, New Zealand, and came fourth in the World Championship. Falklands pair, John Jones and Peter Mackay finished tenth in the shearing competition.

Harp Farm

Robin and Heather Smith's new house, a prefab by LMW, went to Port Howard courtesy of the MOD on the St Brandon, then by Chinook to Harp.

Seat Belts

From 31st March seat belts must be worn on prescribed roads in the Falklands. These include the Stanley to MPA and Mare Harbour Roads, Stanley by-pass and Airport road.

New Police Station and Prison

At the March Planning and Building Committee meeting, planning permission for a new police station and prison at Davis Street and Snake Hill was granted.

Beach Clean-Up

Falklands Conservation annual beach clean-up took place at Whalebone Cove. 80 adults and children took part. Plastic strapping, fishing line and six-pack yokes made up 22% of the waste. More dangerous were old medical supplies from the Argentine dump on the Canache. This included syringes and empty morphine phials. Much lay under a layer

of thick green algae, leading volunteers to suggest bulldozing the beach. In total, 93 refuse sacks were filled.

Cricket

The Governor's XI, led by Mike Summers, won the Annual Test Match against CBBFI's XI. Mike described it as "a close run thing" - only four balls were left in the last over, when Craig Shelton hit the winning run.

The rules are somewhat different from those in Britain. Each side has 30 overs - and no bowler may bowl for more than three. Batsmen have to retire at 25. Four of CBBFI's team reached this, as did Andrew Gurr, Kevin Clapp and Robert Titterington. Kevin Clapp took three wickets, and would have had two more, but another local rule says you can't be out first ball.

Mount Tumbledown Run

15 year old Claudio Ross won the Mount Tumbledown Race title, with a time of 18mins, 9secs - just outside Bill Chater's record which still stands. 16 year old Kevin Ross finished second with 19mins 11 secs, but surprisingly Marti Barnes 12 came third with 20mins. He was only in his first Mount Tumbledown race, yet he had led for much of the way. Tracy Freeman was first girl home.

Horticultural Show

The 1996 Horticultural show was a great success with 1360 exhibits; up 127 on last year. There were 162 entries from children.

Michelle Evans won the Best Overall Camp Competitor prize, the Hunt Trophy. Overall winner in the Vegetable Class, the Ferguson Challenge Trophy, was Brian Aldridge. For most points in the flower section, a cup presented by Mrs. E.G. Lewis, went to Rene Rowlands. Best Working Vegetable Garden went to Derek and Sue Howatt. Best Flower Garden, the Lady Hunt Challenge Cup, went to Rene Rowlands. Overall Flower, Vegetable and Home Cooking section, the Haskard Challenge Cup, went to Michelle Evans. The Show is now thirty years old.

FIGAS Night flight

Capt. Anderson, of FIGAS, flew Dr. Fischer to North Arm by night after 7 year old Ivan Velasquez got a fish hook stuck in his finger. The flight landed at 8pm with Landrovers illuminating the strip at North Arm with their headlights. Landing lights were fitted at Stanley several years ago.

Pre-School Facility

A Pre-School facility, run by the Education Department will open in September. It will take taking a maximum of 12 children in the mornings and 12 in the afternoons. It will use one of the classrooms of the Infant/Junior school.

Oil Director

Islander Mrs Phyllis Rendell, Director of Education in the Falklands, is to be Oil Director. She attended all the meetings with the Argentines in the run-up to the Oil Agreement last year, and also forms part of the British team, together with Attorney General, David Lang, that is supervising the Special Area of Joint Cooperation which straddles the median line to the South-West of the Falklands.

Jury Bill

At EXCO in March a bill to allow a defendant the right to choose trial by judge alone was proposed for consideration by LEGCO. This is to avoid the risk of jury prejudice in a small community where everyone knows everyone else - and their reputations. A judge is normally brought in from Britain for serious criminal trials in the Falklands.

Another Vessel Flagged-In

The 11th fishing vessel was flagged-in on March 28th when Governor Ralph presented the Union Jack to Captain Jose Sanos of the vessel *Mertosa*. This is the third vessel flagged in by the Meredith Fishing Co. Managing Director Roger Edwards said they own 26% of it with Portuguese partners EPA owning the rest. Meredith flagged-in the *San Rafael*, and *Pardelhus* earlier. Governor Ralph welcomed the vessel to the "Falklands family".

Moto Cross

The last Moto Cross event of the season took place on March 24th at the MPA course. Results for the season are:

McPress Clubmans: 1st Bill Stewart, followed by Shane Blakely, Owen Betts, Shane Clarke and Dustin Clarke.

Beckside Juniors: 1st Jay Moffat, followed by Sean Moffat, Eddie Grimmer, Ian Jordan, and Clint Short.

Tool Box Experts: 1st Dereck Jaffray, followed by Arthur Turner, Andrew Alazia, Jonny Summers, and Ian McLeod.

Stanley Services Open: 1st Arthur Turner, followed by Andrew Alazia, Jonny Summers, Jan Clark and Jimmie Moffat.

Golf

The twice postponed Gordon Forbes trophy took place on March 31st, with Gordon himself on a flying visit to the Islands. A travelling bar on hole four dispensed Glen Bogle measures which lifted spirits if not scores. Winner on 38 was Marl Eglon, 2nd after a countback was Aidan Kerr, with John Teggart and Robert Titterington following.

Winter Disaster Payments

Because of the disastrous winter last year, the greasy wool clip was down from 2.5 million kilos to 2.2 million.

Emergency payments to severely affected farms is £1 for every kilo lost compared with the average clip of the last five years. Eleven farms on West Falkland, five on East Falkland and two Island farms will benefit.

New Chief Justice Arrives

New Chief Justice David Jeremiah arrived with wife Joyce in April from St Helena, where he had been working as Attorney General.

Goose Green to Stanley Run

Sgt Keith Rumbold did the run from Goose Green to the War Memorial, Stanley in 10hours 1minute. He was accompanied for most of the way by Cpl Steve Walker, and for the last 18miles, from Bluff Cove, by Marti Barnes (aged 12). The sponsored runners raised funds for the Goose Green school. Before the completion of the new road, this journey could take about twelve hours by Landrover.

Easter Shooting Prizes:

Ken Aldridge cleaned up the Easter prizes, winning the Easter Rosebowl, the RL Robson Memorial Trophy, and the

Smith Shield. Other top scores were 139. Stan Smith 136, Tim McCullum 134, Sue Whitney and Chris Harris 133.

Soccer

Victory Bar overwhelmed the FIDF, 9:1 at Easter. Martin Clarke was man of the match, with three goals, Captain Kim Clarke got two. Dale McCormik, in mid-field, Colin Buckland in defence and goal-keeper Simon Goodwin all excelled. Victory Bar wins the Cup and League.

Yomp Well Done

Four teenagers from Worth Abbey School in Sussex completed a three day sponsored yomp from Port San Carlos to Stanley following the 1982 route of 3-Para, and raising money for the Royal British Legion and Victims of Landmines. They were Michael Cataldo (17), whose mother Dwenda is an Islander (née Finlayson), Joe Thompson (16), James Crofton (16) and Ben Duke (17).

The four left PSC on Easter Sunday, reaching Hope Cottage that night through wind and rain, Estancia by Tuesday night, and Stanley at dusk on Wednesday.

New Roads Opened

Governor Ralph opened the new road from Stanley at Port San Carlos on April 22nd. Many people from Stanley made the journey to see the opening ceremony. Before the new road, this would have taken 8 - 12 hours. With the new road, it took just 2¼ hours. Governor Ralph congratulated all concerned, and champagne christened the opening.

The new road on West Falkland from Port Howard, via Chartres, to Fox Bay was completed on February 14th.

May Ball

Mandy McKay was elected May Queen, with Kelly Moffat as May Princess. James Marsh was elected Prince Charming, with Ian Jordan as runner-up.

Exchange Visit to Chile

Five Falklands students: Sarah Rowlands, Pippa Lang, Robert Burnett, Daniel Fowler and Nicholas Rendell left in May for a months exchange visit at the British School in Punta Arenas, Chile. Five students from this school had spent a month in the Community School in Stanley earlier.

Jelly Tots Fancy Dress Competition

Dominic Jaffray won the under two's prize as Wee Willie Winkie. Vikki Collier won the 3 - 4 year olds' prize as an owl. Callum Middleton won the 5 - 6 year olds' prize as the Pied Piper. Anola Hobman won the 7 - 11 year olds' prize as a bunch of grapes. Duane and Kieran Evans won the groups competition as Noddy and Big Ears.

Susan Whitley Memorial Exhibition Prizes

Mark Gilbert won the design technology prize. Matias Short won the art prize and the Spinning Wheel Trophy, with a portrait of his grandfather. The landscape prize went to Tanya Ford. The exhibition commemorates Falklands schoolteacher Susan Whitley who was one of three civilians killed in the 1982 war and is buried on Sea Lion Island.

Mid-Winter Swim

A total of about a 100 servicemen, islanders and others took part in this year's sponsored swim. This is expected to raise more than £5,000 for various charities.

The Falklands In Photos



The new road from Stanley to Port San Carlos, which was opened by HE Governor Ralph in April. *Photo: P.J.Pepper*



Nick Hadden takes aim at a balloon at the Community School Bazaar, which raised a total of £982. £500 of this was sent via the Simon Summers Memorial Fund to the Great Ormonds Street Hospital for Children. Nearest the pin golf, the barbecue, the ice cream van and "Redfire", the Army's remote controlled mine clearing vehicle, were other popular attractions.



Governor Ralph with the winners of April's good service awards.

L to R: John Pole-Evans (2nd), HE Governor Ralph, Marie Ferguson (1st) and Gareth Goodwin (3rd). First prize was a weekend for two at a tourist lodge.



Maude McKensie gets a kiss from proud husband George. Maude, who swims as therapy for leg ailments, had just completed 64 lengths of the bath (1 mile) raising £250 for the FI Asthma Support Group.



Roy Goss and Joe Clarke competing in the Community School Swimming Gala.



His Excellency in unusual attire. Governor Ralph was absent for the sponsored mid-winter swim, but he had volunteered to suffer a week earlier with Rob Yffel and organiser Martin Cox - and raised £270 for the Overseas Games Association and the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.



Members of the Horse Owners Association arriving at Long Island for their "Weekend on the Hoof" excursion. Thirteen riders took part, and spent the weekend under canvas.



The May Ball, with the twelve finalists for May Queen



Above: Colin "Tooty" Ford, in action. He came third in the Johnnie Walker Darts Tournament. First was Lennie Ford and second, Peter Goss.



Nyree, Tony and Ailsa Heathman at the May Ball



Right: Liz Goss, Isobel Minto, Anna Luxton & Rhiannon Didlick, Stanley's top netball team

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

TOURISM UP-DATE

The number of individual visitors undertaking tours arranged by Stanley Services Ltd increased by 80% to 145. The total number of land-based overseas visitors, 236, was some 21% higher than the 1994/95 season.

A total of 18 cruise vessel visits were made to the Islands during 1995/96; 8 passenger exchanges took place. The total number of passengers was 4,738, a decrease of some 17% over the previous year.

Not all visitor returns have been received at the time of printing. Those received to date indicate a static position in the number of local, ie civilian and military, visitors making use of the lodge and self-catering accommodation available.

Provisional bookings received for overseas visitors during the 1996/97 season are encouraging.

STAFF CHANGES AT FIDC

A number of staff changes have been made at FIDC over recent months. Hugh Normand has replaced Mike Summers as General Manager. Hugh joins us from Dumbartonshire Enterprise where he was a Business Development Executive for three years; he is accompanied by his wife Carolyn, and three children. Mike Summers, who has been General Manager for the past 7 years, is now operating his own consultancy business. Mike's contribution to development during his time with FIDC has been vast but his involvement with the fisheries licensing policy is particularly worthy of mention. This has had very positive effects on the growth of capability of local fishing companies and the quality of business arrangements being made between local companies and foreign partners.

Cathy Clifton resigned in April to return to the United Kingdom with her family. Cathy was employed as Secretary/Receptionist from 1989 - 1995 when she was promoted to Operations Assistant. She has been replaced by Tom Blake who joined FIDC as a Management Trainee in August 1995 upon completion of a BA(Hons) in Marketing at Stirling University.

Tim Cotter was appointed to the newly created post of Energy Advisory Officer at FIDC in January 1996. He had previously been employed as Physics Teacher at the Falkland Islands Community School. Tim's responsibilities include the monitoring of existing energy projects as well as the development of other projects in accordance with the Renewable Energy Policy adopted by Executive Council.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1994-95

The FIDC Report and Accounts for 1994-95 was recently released to the general public. Anyone requiring a copy should contact FIDC.

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

BEEF PRODUCTION IN THE FALKLANDS

A report commissioned by FIDC and produced by Michael Gibson of Edinvale Farms, Moray, Scotland has recently been received. The report notes that at present cattle production is largely driven by the need to milk cows for personal needs, especially on remote settlements, although this practice is steadily diminishing. The other main reason for maintaining cattle is the supply of beef, with excess production being sold mainly to Stanley, either live to the butchery or as quarters to private households.

Other highlights of the Executive Summary of the report are:

- ✦ There is no coherent management or breeding policy within the Falklands with the result that there is no dominant beef breed discernible.
- ✦ Current beef prices are very low resulting in poor returns to farmers. Any raising of prices would have an adverse inflationary effect on the Islands' economy, but also might be hard to achieve due to customer resistance. It would almost certainly have to be accompanied by improved product presentation and the conformation of the carcass. Returns would also be increased by the introduction of elementary processing such as burgers and sausage production.
- ✦ To access more commercial markets ... presentation, quality and availability will all have to significantly improve. This will inevitably require investment.
- ✦ Increases in quality and production beyond the minimalist approach will require investment in breeding stock and re-seeding.

The report has been widely distributed and comments invited. A balanced opinion of the farming community will be sought through various media, including a programme of inter department/committee/farming discussion groups. The objective is to present, to Government, a proposal for the progression of this project into its next phase of development.

TOURISM / HERITAGE CENTRE

The construction of a purpose built tourism/heritage centre in the Public Jetty area has long been viewed as essential. Funding has therefore been included in the FIDC's 1996/97 Budget for the employment of an architect to design a suitable building in keeping with the general architecture of Stanley. It is anticipated that the building would include such facilities as:

- ✦ public toilets
- ✦ tourism information office
- ✦ a number of small shop units aimed at local craft producers/businesses.

Reaction from retailers and other organisations is currently being sought in order that terms of reference for an architect may be prepared.

Shackleton Fund Tops £300,000

Four More Scholarships Awarded

The Shackleton Scholarship Fund commemorating Lord Shackleton and Sir Ernest Shackleton has now topped £300,000 -- boosted by £20,000 from the Dulverton Trust, which has previously donated money to the UK Falkland Islands Trust.

The Dulverton Trust's Director, former General Sir Robert Corbett, served as Chief of Staff in the Falklands with General Sir Peter de la Billiere and Sir Rex Hunt, and came away with a love of the Islands, as did his wife Susie, a familiar figure in the Falklands on her bicycle.

The fund continues to grow, thanks to contributions from Island events and not least thanks to Rex Hunt, an indefatigable and effective champion of the fund. Recent donations include £250 from North Wales CID from a raffle by the detectives after a lecture by Rex Hunt; and £400 from the Salters' Livery Company in which Lord Shackleton's brother-in-law, Dick Homan, plays a prominent part.

Recommendations from the Falklands Scholarship Committee for four new scholarships have been endorsed by the London Committee, with grants totalling £7,000, following the first "quality of life" scholarship, which took the Status Quo group drummer, Jeff Rich, to the Falklands to teach the children to play the drums and to give concerts, a hugely popular visit, attracting 650 people to the classes and performances, more than a quarter of the population!

The first academic bursary goes to Sally Poncet to supplement a prestigious memorial scholarship this Australian botanist and adventurer has already won at Rhode Island Brown's University in the United States. Its John Carter Brown Library houses extensive archives, enabling Sally to study the history of sealing in the South Atlantic, which of course has had significant impact on Falklands history.

Swimming, Shooting and Moto-Cross

Three Shackleton grants for bursars to visit the Falklands include a world-class swimming coach, John Hogg, a Professor of Sport Psychology at Canada's Alberta University. He has coached not only Canada's Olympic swimmers, but also the Scottish National and British Women's team. He'll work mainly with the Falklands "elite swimming squad" with an eye to qualifying for the Commonwealth Games, or perhaps even the Olympics.

A moto-cross instructor David Goddard will train moto-cross cyclists and help to design a moto-cross course in the Islands. And the Falkland Islands Defence Force Rifle Association is sponsoring a professional fire-arms coach, A.E. Clarke, to train Islanders in target rifle-shooting and maintenance of rifles.

It's unlikely the RAF will let him take his own rifles on the Tristar. As Rex recalls, when he was going to take up his post as Governor, his ceremonial sword was taken off him as a dangerous weapon by British Caledonian Airways on the flight to Buenos Aires and carried by "pilot's hand" as they say. The Argentines, on the other hand, gave it back to him in BA for his Argentine flights to Commodoro Rivadavia and Stanley.

Two pictures auctioned at the Robert Swann Royal Geographical Society lecture in London raised several

hundred pounds for the Scholarship Fund. One of them, of a mountain in Antarctica, donated by the artist, Keith Shackleton, was bought by Lord Jellicoe, for his son's home in Switzerland.

The Shackleton Fund is grateful to Robert Swan OBE for his fund-raising lecture about his pioneer expeditions on foot to both the North and South Poles -- and sends good wishes for his next expedition, "One Step Beyond". In an imaginative experiment in international co-operation, he is leading 16 young walkers from 16 nations on a gruelling 800-mile walk to the South Pole to commemorate UNESCO's 50th Anniversary, appointing them youth envoys in their own territories to promote environmental awareness. Lord Shackleton gave Robert Swann early encouragement and support.

WANTED : TEENAGE FALKLANDS EXPLORER

Another initiative by Rex Hunt is to try to get a Falklands teenager, aged between 16 and 20, on the Millennium Expedition of the British Schools Exploration Society in the Austral Summer of 1999 - 2000, appropriately to Elephant Island where Ernest Shackleton's stranded expedition took refuge eighty years ago. Rex has had discussions with the Royal Geographical Society President, Lord Jellicoe, and with the Exploration Society, who are keen to have a young Falkland Islander. The Exploration Society's President is a famous figure with Falklands' links -- Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, Chief of Staff of Britain's Armed Forces in 1982. If there is a suitable Falklands candidate, the Shackleton Fund may be able to help.

Harold Briley

Readers wishing to support the Fund may send donations to UKFIT (Shackleton Scholarship Fund), 2 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SD.

DAP Flights to the Falklands

The Aerovias DAP Boeing 727 has now altered its schedule to conform to British Airways services to Santiago.

The BA flight leaves Heathrow on a Tuesday, allowing DAP to reach MPA on Wednesday evening. The return flight leaves MPA on Thursday afternoon, stops overnight in Santiago, and reaches Heathrow early on Saturday morning.

Fares start at £1340. Reservations on 0345-222111

1996 Falklands Exhibition

Croydon

Monday 7th to Saturday 19th October
(Sunday Closed), 10am to 10pm

Falklands crafts at their best; Videos of the wildlife and Islanders; Woollen goods of all types, F.I. Aran Wool for Hand Knitters Spinning demonstrations; Fishing Information. Admission Free.

Tourism in the Falklands contd from last Newsletter

Tourist facilities are available at all the sites mentioned on this page, and at the sites mentioned in the last *Newsletter*.

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 and tourists interested in visiting the Falklands should lose no time in making their bookings.



San Carlos. Included in most organised tours, and popular with Islanders, military and independent travellers. Accommodation is available at **Blue Beach Lodge** in the San Carlos settlement, the site of one of the landings in 1982. The British Military Cemetery is there and a small museum. In addition, boat trips are available to other parts of the Bay, including the field hospital at Ajax Bay. Landrover trips are available to some of the entrenchments and abandoned Rapier sites around the valley.

Fine fishing is available in the Bay of San Carlos and at the fishing lodge on the San Carlos River.



Volunteer Point with its huge King Penguin Colony (500 birds at any one time) is usually a day trip from Stanley, but a self catering cabin is available.



Pebble Island; popular with wildlife tourists, and visited by most organised tours, Pebble is also a battlefield site where many Argentine planes were wrecked and others crashed. It boasts Landrover tours of these and the sea bird and fur seal colonies, and has a fine lodge.

Weddell Island: Two self-catering cabins are available, although one is often in use by the military. Weddell boasts some nine gentoo penguin colonies and considerable bird life. Several fine walks are available: to Loop Head Shanty, which takes you past seas filled with dolphins, up Mount Weddell and to Chatham House (another Shanty).

Falklands Experience

come with me to see the
Falkland Islands
and meet the Islanders

**UK Group 13th to 30th
January, 1997**
**North American Group
29th Jan to 13th Feb, 1997**

Write for details to
Major R.N.Spafford,
29 Queen's Road,
Weston-Super-Mare BS23 2LH

Shootings, Bombs and Threats

The use by General Diaz of the ceremony commemorating the Falklands War to justify the "Dirty War" (See "Are Attitudes Changing", opposite) produced an immediate response. Two men from a group called the "*Organizacion Revolucionaria del Pueblo*" promptly ambushed police doctor Juan Berges. He is alleged to have delivered the babies of mothers who were political prisoners during the "dirty war" and who were murdered after giving birth; the babies then being stolen by members of the military. Desperately wounded, Berges was taken to a local hospital, which was promptly threatened over the phone for treating him. He was then moved to the Naval Hospital in Buenos Aires, where a homemade bomb was discovered and successfully defused shortly afterwards.

All this was followed by some thirty bomb and death threats - from both left and right wing elements. Several schools had to be evacuated because of these and Buenos Aires internal airport had to take special security measures. Another victim was broadcaster and political cartoonist Cristian Dzwonik, who was beaten up. Nothing changes.

Misinformation - and Mischief

Last March, deliberately false accounts that Britain had forced a Argentine fishing vessel to buy a licence to fish in South Georgia waters produced near hysteria in Argentina against Britain. More allegations of British crimes in the Falklands war soon made this worse.

Next, Argentines misconstrued a proposal to add three more councillors to the Legislative Council to reflect the increased population of Stanley. They described this as a manoeuvre to increase the number of local councillors so **Islanders could outvote British Government appointees in the Legislative Council**, and so resist - what Argentina always hopes to get - the imposition of change by Britain in the Falklands against the will of the people. It isn't clear if this was just Argentine ignorance - and gross negligence - or a deliberate attempt to stir up more ill feeling against the Islanders. That is what it achieved. Crown appointees on LEGCO have not been able to vote since 1985.

As if this wasn't enough, the Argentine media then re-discovered that Islanders were lobbying for self-determination at the so-called UN "Decolonisation Committee". This is where Argentina gets a resolution tabled every year calling on Britain to negotiate the sovereignty of the Falklands with Argentina, so the Islanders are just defending themselves. More hysteria and counter-lobbying followed.

The Malvinas working group, the plan from the Radicales (see this page) and increased Argentine efforts to get support from other Latin-American countries are some of the results of all this bad publicity.

Politics before Health

At the General Session of OIE, the World Organisation for Animal Health, in Paris, Falklands vet, Andrew Coe, was asked not to attend a meeting, chaired by Argentina, on animal diseases in America. Argentina also asked for the Falklands to be struck from the list of those attending the session, backing this with a threat of "confrontation". To avoid trouble this was agreed to, but was opposed later by Mr. Coe and the British delegate. The Director of OIE is said to be seeking legal advice before compiling the final report.



The ceremony at the Malvinas Monument on April 2nd, when General Diaz made his comments. Photo Harold Briley

More Malvinas Nonsense

A plan proposed by the Radical opposition party called for Argentina to accept British administration and "exploitation" of the Falklands for twenty years "in exchange for immediate recognition of Argentine sovereignty". The plan also called for the Falklands to be incorporated into Mercosur, the Latin-American common market.

The plan called for respect for the Islanders' "interests" - but not their wishes - for guarantees from Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay for the way of life of the Islanders, and for the agreement to be guaranteed by the European Union.

Comment: This plan looks like a fantasy born out of desperation. It is so absurd, that we really publish it only for what it reveals about its proposers.

The old idea of protecting the Islanders' "interests", which would be defined for the Islanders by their enemies, is such an obvious intellectual fraud, that it has little support now even from Argentine lobbyists in Britain.

Preserving the way of life of the Islanders is a concept that has become popular with the Argentine lobby in Britain (and was incorporated into the Argentine Constitution last year). Of course, its supporters have always been more concerned about preserving their own way of life. Like preserving the Islanders' interests, it is a crude substitute for self-determination. Falkland Islanders know how to preserve their way of life - by having nothing to do with Argentina.

Argentine diplomat Andres Cisneros mentioned Mercosur and the Falklands earlier this year. He hinted that a European Union - Mercosur treaty might advance Argentina's campaign for the Falklands.

Working Group to be Set Up for Malvinas

Foreign Minister Di Tella and the Argentine Chamber of Deputies reached agreement in principle last month to create a working group of government and opposition politicians to reach a consensus on the strategy for the "recuperation of sovereignty over the Malvinas".

Church Beks Forgiveness

In a public statement last April the Argentine National Conference of Bishops apologised for the role of the Church in the Dirty War of the '70s and '80s. It said many Catholics had taken part in the systematic violation of human rights.

Are Argentine Attitudes Changing?

by Harold Briley

'Harold Briley has been back to Argentina for the fifth time since the 1982 invasion of the Falklands. He detects important changes in attitudes, especially among young Argentines, and advocates a "campaign to persuade Argentines how wrong they are over the Falklands dispute.'

There has never been a better time to mount a vigorous public relations and educational campaign to get the facts of the Falklands case over to the Argentine people and dispel their abysmal ignorance. Despite the obsession evident in their current campaign, they now seem more amenable to argument and persuasion than I have ever found in the 17 years I've known Argentina. I came away this time feeling that an effective campaign would win over many young Argentines to the view that Argentine policy is wrong and that the Falkland Islanders have right on their side.

I am amazed by how little they know. They repeat, parrot fashion, that the Islands are theirs and they want them back. But they know very little about the historical facts or the early British settlements there. They are surprised when I tell them there are seventh and eighth generation Falklands families -- going further back than many Argentines themselves, migrants from Italy and other parts of Europe.

Young Argentines' Views

Young Argentines who enjoy their own democracy are particularly susceptible to sensible discussion and argument. University students and school children told me they know nothing about the Falklands and care even less! They are not obsessed about sovereignty as the older generation have been. One girl of 15 said no Argentine she knew would want to live there. Another pragmatically asked: "Why does Argentina want the Falklands, when we have so much land in Patagonia and so few people there?" A newsagency journalist admitted her ignorance and prejudices going back to her school days were dispelled by a television documentary which convinced her Argentina's claim was nonsense.

There is much cynicism towards politicians over the depressed state of the economy and widespread corruption in politics, the police and among business leaders. Life is hard in the recession. In contrast to the outstanding schools and education available to Falklands children, Argentine schools are crowded, with up to sixty pupils in a class and so few desks they have to sit in the aisles.

The military are discredited and much reduced in strength and influence. Most Argentines say the 1982 invasion was a disastrous mistake. The War Veterans are bitter about how badly they have been treated with pitifully poor pensions. Many are out of work. They reacted angrily to 16-thousand letters sent out to them by Dr Di Tella explaining his "charm offensive" to gain sovereignty by dialogue and economic co-operation. They reject his policy as weak. A plethora of wall posters declared: "We will return to the Malvinas", but most Argentines appear to take the more practical view that they will not.

Ceremonies marking the 14th anniversary of the invasion, on April 2nd, were remarkably low key and poorly attended. I was among only a few hundred people at the main ceremony at the Falklands war memorial in Buenos

Aires. There were sad poignant moments as bereaved families laid wreaths and mothers wept.

In this quiet atmosphere of loss and remembrance, the aggressive speech by the head of the Joint General Staff, General Mario Diaz, praising the armed forces for their conduct of the "Dirty War" (in which an estimated thirty-thousand Argentines disappeared, allegedly kidnapped, tortured and killed by military death squads) struck a jarring note, causing bitter controversy and a storm of protest from opposition parties and even a rebuke from the Government itself. Hard line views such as this are even resented by other senior officers, notably the Army Chief Of Staff, General Martin Balza, who is on record as criticising the conduct of the Dirty War, in which General Diaz was implicated as a military press spokesman.

A few days earlier, in stark and graphic contrast to the low-key invasion anniversary, the twentieth anniversary of the 1976 military coup which toppled Isobel Peron, brought out huge crowds, with an estimated 80-thousand demonstrating near the Presidential Palace, re-affirming their faith in democracy and condemning six years of repressive military rule. Thousands of posters appeared, declaring "Nunca Mas" -- "Never Again".

The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo continue to demonstrate, as they have every Thursday for twenty years, demanding justice and punishment of those who murdered their children. They combine hatred of the military with contempt of the Alfonsin and Menem governments for halting prosecution and declaring an amnesty for those accused of human rights atrocities.

Tierra del Fuego

In Ushuaia, I interviewed the Governor of the Province of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and the Atlantic Isles, Jose Estabillo, whose jurisdiction Argentina claims includes the Falklands. He speaks very little English and takes no part in Anglo-Argentine talks which are left to Dr Di Tella. Predictably, looking in the direction of the Falklands a few hundred miles away, he told me he wants to set foot there as soon as possible to meet what he called "his people"! Nearer geographically he may be, but he's just as out of touch with reality as the politicians in Buenos Aires.

In contrast to Falklands prosperity and full employment, he is pre-occupied with the damaging effects of the recession which have closed half of Tierra del Fuego's 100 factories. But the Province is pressing on with a big new international airport at Ushuaia and a new port at Rio Grande capable of handling oil shipments, developments which could perhaps benefit the Falklands in a future freed from the frustrations of the sovereignty claim.

Editors' Note The inclusion of the Falklands into the Province of Tierra del Fuego in April 1990, by law 23.775 was covered in the June 1993 *Newsletter*. Readers may be interested to know that the boundary clause for this law is still conveniently stalled between the two Houses of Congress in Argentina. This provides deniability, when required, that the inclusion has taken place, and keeps the province out of negotiations with Britain.

Neville French, CMG, LVO,

A former Governor of the Falklands involved in clashes with the Argentines in the sensitive 1970s has died, aged 75, after a fall. In 32 years in the colonial and diplomatic service, his stint as Falklands Governor between 1975 and 1977 proved his toughest posting, facing provocation from Argentina and criticism from some Falkland Islanders.

When an Argentine warship fired across the bows of the British survey ship, *Shackleton*, French ordered the patrol vessel, *HMS Endurance*, to force the Argentine warship to withdraw, using her helicopter to buzz the intruder. The incident led to worsening Anglo-Argentine relations and the mutual withdrawal of ambassadors for several years.

Islanders, distrustful of Foreign Office intentions over sovereignty, focused their discontent on the Governor, who for the first time in his career sought an early transfer.

No stranger to controversy, French was expelled from Rhodesia by the Smith regime for alleged spying, but was later cleared. In fact, he was sympathetic to the Smith regime and sceptical of the efficacy of British economic sanctions.

Born in a tent in Kenya where his father was an army officer, he embarked upon his career as a colonial officer in Tanganyika. He also served in Brazil and Cuba, after adventurous war service on rescue vessels in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, where his own ship hit a mine and sank. He was also a wartime intelligence officer. An intellectual, who spoke eight languages, he spent his retirement quietly in Dorset with his fishing rod and books. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, their son and two daughters. **HWB**

Falklands Moto Cross Success

Falklands moto cross riders were in the medals at the Welsh two day Enduro in June, one of motorcycling's top international cross-country events.

For the second year running Dereck Jaffray was named "Best Overseas Rider". He, Andrew Alazia and Jonny Summers won gold medals in the 250cc Clubman class. Andy Newman, like Jonny Summers, in his first appearance overseas, got a silver. Derek Jaffray led the Clubman class for the first two days, but dropped to 4th on the last day. The Falklands won the coveted "Best Club Team" prize.

Rhayader Enduro

Dereck Jaffray went on to come 2nd overall at the rather tougher Rhayader Enduro event on July 6th and 7th. Jonny Summers came 24th.

Sponsorship

Thanks go out to E.T.James & Sons Ltd., of Powys who assisted the Falklands team in many ways, providing technical backup and Suzuki motorcycles.

Sir Rex Hunt, CMG

Sir Rex celebrated his 70th birthday this month, and has been talking to BBC "Calling the Falklands" about his memories of the Falklands - the dark days of 1982 and the happier ones since then.

Few people have contributed more to the Falklands' cause than Sir Rex, and the *Newsletter* wishes him every happiness for the future.

Save the World Service

A widespread campaign has been launched to save the BBC World Service from drastic reorganisation abolishing it in its present form writes *Harold Briley*, a former *BBC WS Correspondent*. The campaign, lobbying the Foreign office, MPs and newspapers, has won strong support in Britain and from many of its 140-million listeners abroad, including political leaders and former terrorism hostages such as Terry Waite and John McCarthy, the South Atlantic Task Force Commander, Admiral Sir Sandy Woodward, and Britain's UN Ambassador in 1982, Sir Anthony Parsons.

Falkland Islanders have first-hand experience of its value in time of danger, as well as in peace. They expressed their gratitude for maintaining its unique communication life-line and boosting morale during the 1982 Argentine occupation. Sir Rex Hunt and exiled Islanders broadcast on it to good effect. Even the Argentines, who tried to jam its broadcasts, acknowledged its effectiveness and accuracy. Now the journalists at Bush House headquarters are themselves seeking help to preserve its unique character and distinctive service and would welcome Falklands support. Islanders, uniquely, have their own special programme. "Calling the Falklands" is so far unaffected by the latest proposals but has already been transferred to a new department after its old department was dismembered. Its producer June Christie and presenter, Islander Graham Bound, do a good job in cramped quarters as appreciative letters from the Falklands confirm.

South Atlantic Philatelic Auction

The St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society is holding an auction next October 24th, for the Society's 20th anniversary. Some 400 lots are on offer, relating to St Helena, Tristan, the Falklands and Antarctica. They include stamps, rare books, prints, maritime collectables, autographs and island artifacts.

Catalogues cost \$3 in N. America and \$4 elsewhere, from Michael D. Mueller, President, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society, Regent House, Suite 401, 3201 Wisconsin Ave, N.W., Washington DC 20016.

Falklands Represented at RN Association

For the first time, the Stanley Branch the Royal Naval Association, was represented at this years RN Association Conference at Portsmouth. Maurice Jones, a member of the FIA Executive Committee, invited to represent the Branch in the UK, was greeted warmly by other delegates. Discussions to sustain the Sea Cadet Unit in Stanley took place.

Falklands Shop in Wells

Brian Paul and Annabelle Spencer have been pleased to welcome many visitors to the ONLY Falklands shop in the World - outside the Falklands. Recently, Jenny Felton, Brian Harper, Dave and Pam Lewis, Earnie and Marjorie Spencer, Jane Biggs (Canada), Crispin and Luke Fisher, Maurice and Gwenda Jones, Nick Biggs (Canada), John Brookman - have been just a few of those to sign the book, as having set foot on Falklands soil. Now listed as a West Country tourist attraction, the Falklands shop is a must if you visit Wells.

Brian and Annabelle are hosting their 9th Annual Falkland Islands Exhibition at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon from October 7th to 19th (not Sunday). Everyone Welcome.

The Falkland Islands Association

President: The Rt. Hon. the Lord Braine of Wheatley. **Vice Presidents:** General Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, MSC, DL, The Hon. L.Buxton, Sir Cosmo Haskard KCMG, MBE, Sir Jack Hayward OBE, The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, CH, CBE, MP, Mr. A.Monk OBE, Mr. C.E.Needham, CBE, Major R.N.Spafford, Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley GCB, Councillor R.E.Walker.

Chairman: Sir Rex Hunt CMG,
Vice Chairman: Mr. R.Elgood.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E.C.J.Clapp.
Admin Secretary: Mrs. S.Syborn.

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 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.

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 and Trading Organisations, minimum £50, Corporate Sponsorship £500)

I enclose a cheque for payable to the Falkland Islands Association, (or use bankers order form below).

Full Name
 Address
 Occupation..... Telephone Number
 Connection with the Falklands, if any
 Signature Date

Please return to: The Falkland Islands Association, 2 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB

BANKERS ORDER

To..... Bank
 Branch
 at

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

Account Number
 Name
 Address
 Signature Date

Dates For Your Diary

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

7th to 19th October,
 Falklands Exhibition, Croydon,

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

ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the newsletter is 4,000 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, to all Members of the House of Commons, Members of the House of Lords, all British Members of the European Parliament, and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth and foreign Countries. 800 copies are distributed in the Falkland Islands. Advertising rates are as follows:

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

Discounts for 4 insertions by negotiation.

A special concession is offered to members of the Association living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

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These stones come from the areas of 'Two Sisters' and 'Mount Harriet' in the Falkland Islands. They were selected and donated by the Islanders shipped to this garden as a gift by Joppesen Heaton Ltd, and erected in memory of those Royal Marines who fell during the Falklands War in 1982.

Above: Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, who was Chief of the Defence Staff in 1982, unveils the monument at the Marine Barracks at Southsea, Hampshire, to the 26 Marines who fell in the Falklands War.

Photo: Courtesy of the Ministry of Defence

Right: His Excellency Governor Richard Ralph inspects the Falkland Islands Defence Force during the 1996 Queen's Birthday Parade in Stanley.

The FIDF is made up of volunteers from the civilian population of the Falklands who train and mobilise with the regular forces.

Photo: Courtesy of the RAF

